

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

BABE RUTH BASEBALL IS BACK



With a dramatic, smoky sunset on the horizon due to the forest fires in the western United States Monday night, silhouetted Charlestown Babe Ruth catcher Caiden Collier takes ball four from the Lexington pitcher. After a year without baseball, the Town's Babe Ruth team is back this month and, above all, looking to make memories and have fun, said Coach Aaron Titcomb. See Pages 12 and 13 for more photos.

Students will likely be wearing masks on return in September

By Seth Daniel

Supt. Brenda Cassellius and Acting Mayor Kim Janey have signaled over the past week that while students will be returning full-time to the Boston Public Schools in September, they will probably be mandated to wear masks during school time.

They do not expect, however, to have to apply social distance restrictions to the school day.

Supt. Cassellius said last Friday in a communication to parents that she expects students and staff will need to wear masks during the fall inside school buildings and on school buses.

"BPS expects that all students and staff will be required to wear masks while inside school buildings and during yellow bus transportation when they return to school in September," she wrote. "We know that our students age

11 and under cannot yet be vaccinated and for ages 12 to 15 only 18% in the city of Boston are vaccinated right now. For ages 16 to 24, only 52% are vaccinated. Vaccines are the best way to protect ourselves from COVID-19, and masking is also an important prevention tool we must use. BPS does not plan to mandate physical distancing when we return to

(MASKS Pg. 3)

DA Rollins nominated for US Attorney by Biden

By Seth Daniel

U.S. President Joe Biden announced on Monday the nomination of Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins as his pick to be the next permanent US Attorney for the District of Massachusetts – a post that would include the entire state.

Currently, Acting US Attorney Nathaniel Mendell is serving as US Attorney. Rollins would have to go

through extensive Congressional hearings and have to be voted in by Congress. That likely wouldn't happen until sometime in the fall, most believe.

President Biden said her nomination, and that of seven other US Attorneys around the country, are part of larger plan nationwide to combat a crime wave that has erupted during COVID-19.

"The President has launched a comprehensive effort to take on the uptick in gun crime that has

been taking place for the last 18 months—putting more cops on the beat, supporting community prevention programs, and cracking down on illegal gun trafficking. Confirming U.S. Attorneys as the chief federal law enforcement officers in their district is important for these efforts," read the statement in the White House release on the matter. "Confirming U.S. Attorneys as the chief fed-

(ROLLINS Pg. 11)

New-FOUND-land

Harvard Kent, Constitution Museum mini-boat found in Canada

By Seth Daniel

Though bound for Europe, the HK Pride mini-boat has made a pitstop on one of the most remote coastlines in Newfoundland – and the five-foot boat built by Charlestown fourth graders in early 2020 is all the rage north of the border.

Emily Bryant, education director at the USS Constitution Museum, said the boats were part of an education partnership with the Harvard Kent in early 2020, and fourth graders at the time assembled two five-foot mini sail boats from January to March 2020. They had finished just prior to COVID-19 closures.

Last week, after being released in May 2021 off the coast of North Carolina, one of the boats – the HK Pride – was pushed off course by Tropical Storm Elsa and landed on one of the more remote parts of the Newfoundland coastline.

"For 75 days both boats travelled up the Eastern seaboard and



Photo courtesy Sherrie Feaver

Life-long Newfoundland professional fish harvester Sherrie Feaver shows off the HK Pride mini-boat that she found on the coastline on July 22. The boat landed on a very remote part of the Newfoundland coast after being out at sea for 75 days and being pushed off course by Tropical Storm Elsa.

we tracked them because there is a tracking device on them that is connected to a tracking website,"

(BOAT Pg. 11)

WEATHERFEST



WBZ Meteorologist Eric Fisher, a Charlestown resident and gardening advocate, was the headliner on Saturday, July 24, of the first-ever Gardens of Charlestown WeatherFest event. Hundreds showed up to take in the gardens and meet Fisher, who fielded questions from children and adults at the event on subjects such as hurricanes, tornadoes and why it's been raining so much in July. See Pages 8 and 9 for more photos.

EDITORIAL

YES, MISINFORMATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA IS KILLING AMERICANS

Let's suppose that someone walked into our newspaper office and told us that he had a "big story," the gist of which is that COVID-19 is a hoax.

Or that vaccines for the coronavirus are part of a plan by Bill Gates to inject Americans with microchips.

Or...insert any number of the other conspiracy theories about the virus and vaccinations that have been floating on social media platforms since the pandemic began.

The first thing we would do, as would any other responsible media organization, is to ask the person, "Where's your proof?"

And if -- and when -- the person invariably would be unable to produce the evidence for his claims, we would politely show him the door.

That's how journalism works. We try as best we can to provide facts and information to our readers, who then can make their own judgment about the issue at hand.

We don't always get it right, but we try our best.

That is not the case however, with social media platforms. They do not even attempt to determine whether the information that gets distributed on their platforms is accurate.

The result is that the millions of Americans who have social media accounts are barraged daily with all kinds of misinformation on a host of subjects, of which the outright and preposterous lies about COVID-19 vaccines are only the latest example.

A private investigative group recently reported that 65% of the misinformation about the vaccines is attributable to just 12 individuals. The reason for that is simple: Thanks to the algorithms of social media platforms, the statements of these 12 persons literally can go viral (no pun intended) along the misinformation electronic superhighway.

To put it another way, the old adage often used by Winston Churchill, "A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on," today is an understatement.

When President Joe Biden, speaking off-the-cuff in response to a reporter's question last week, suggested that the lies about vaccines on social media platforms are killing Americans, he was not wrong.

Yes, the problem of vaccine misinformation is bigger than social media companies, but they unquestionably are responsible for spreading more misinformation to ordinary Americans about the vaccines than any other source.

Our country is divided enough without the amplification of lies and misinformation that is being spread on the internet by social media. The virus, thanks to the Delta variant, tragically is spreading like wildfire across the country -- and the social media platforms, which make billions of dollars thanks to their algorithms, are throwing gasoline on the flames.

CONGRATULATIONS, RACHAEL ROLLINS

The announcement this week that President Joe Biden has nominated Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins to be the next United States Attorney for Massachusetts is welcome news for those who believe that our criminal justice system at all levels of government is poorly serving our nation.

Beyond the achievement of becoming the first Black woman to serve in that post, Rachael Rollins will bring a perspective of racial, social, and economic justice that has been lacking in the office of the U.S. Attorney.

We applaud President Biden's nomination of Ms. Rollins to this high post. We join with all of our fellow Massachusetts residents in offering our congratulations not only to Ms. Rollins personally, but also in her capacity as a trailblazer for Black women and others who for too long have been underrepresented in important offices such as this.

GUEST OP-ED

City employees deserve our gratitude and respect

By John Barro

Public service is a calling, a passion for serving your neighbors, and a drive to create a better community now and for future generations. Almost all of the 18,000 women and men who work for the City of Boston share these values. Teachers, public works hokies, park designers, public safety officials, planners, tellers, parking enforcement attendants, schedulers, building inspectors, and more -- they love their city and take pride in their work. While some distrust government and think the worst of public employees, I know how hard they work, what they are up against, and that many of them are underpaid, overworked, and unappreciated.

When I left City Hall in March, I worried that I was leaving my colleagues just as they would be starting to struggle through a transition with an interim mayor, against the backdrop of an election. All after a 15-month period in which City employees continued working and serving residents during a pandemic in which we

lost 1,400 lives, thousands of jobs, and hundreds of small businesses. Employees worked through emotional and mental stress while juggling childcare, at-home learning, and family responsibilities. These same people worked around the clock to permit outdoor dining, distribute food and relief grants, and help keep residents as safe as possible. In those 15 months, I saw the true character of our city's workforce.

I had conversations with many anxious employees before leaving. I told them to continue working hard and delay any decisions until the long-term trajectory of the City, under the leadership of a duly elected mayor, became clearer. Four months later, hundreds of people have left and are leaving City Hall -- a drain of talent and institutional knowledge that will have a grim impact on city services. Some were nervous about what was coming, and sought security in an environment where they wouldn't be subject to political whim. Some subscribe to the old wisdom that it's easier to find a job when you have a job. Some

moved to the private sector, making more money working fewer hours and with less stress. Many spoke of an environment inside City Hall where they felt they were not part of the team anymore.

So, I want to address City employees who are still there. I see you. I know and appreciate you. I know how much you sacrificed throughout the pandemic, and I am proud of the work we did together. I ask you to stay in place if you can, for the good of the city. If I am able to earn the honor of being your next Mayor, I pledge to listen and explore options for increased flexibility and childcare resources. I pledge to invest in the technology and tools you need to do your jobs successfully. And I promise to invest in your well-being, professional development, and your family's future. Lastly, I pledge to work with you to unify the workforce, the city, and move us all forward to Boston's full potential.

John Barros is a candidate for Mayor of Boston and former Chief of Economic Development for the City of Boston.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

North side.

I personally counted the panels to block the "LIGHT POLLUTION" on the South side, and they have 60 panels.

On the North side (office and

pond site with trees etc.), they have over 100 panels. Not too much to ask for us. Charlestown residents should have a nice view as well.

Joseph Kelley

WHAT ABOUT "OUR" VIEWS?

To the Editor:

Just thought I would respond about the recent article on Hood Park Landscape and how they are "SO" concerned about blocking out the noise and sight of I-93 for THEIR tenants.


The first issue is what faces "OUR" private homes 24/7 with lights on in open end of the garage (South side) facing Bunker Hill Community College, TILL, Essex Street, and rear Mishawum Park.

Second, Third and Fourth is what it looks like during daytime (like an unfinished construction site). The Fifth and Sixth is what faces the offices (9-5 operation times) and tenants of Hood Park.

So basically what I am asking is what about "OUR" views?

Our LIGHT POLLUTION 24/7?

It would be nice if Hood Park finished the South side of their parking garage as they finished the



CHARLESTOWN

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PRESIDENT - STEPHEN QUIGLEY - EDITOR@CHARLESTOWNBRIDGE.COM
MARKETING DIRECTOR - DEBRA DIGREGORIO - DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM
REPORTER - SETH DANIEL - SETH@REVEREJOURNAL.COM

GUEST OP-ED

Ignorance and bigotry walk hand in hand on Civil Rights in Massachusetts

By Jim Wallace

This opinion piece is in response to an editorial piece published on June 17, 2021, in the Charlestown Patriot-Bridge.

I find it more than ironic that an anti-civil rights editorial full of misinformation and flat-out bigotry appears in a newspaper with the word "Patriot" in its title. Perhaps even more so because that day's paper presented a front-page story on the celebration of Bunker Hill Day.

Other than the disparaging remarks about gun owners and the organizations they support is the complete lack of general gun knowledge. People often rant about the AR-15 like it is some modern superweapon that recently came into existence. In fact, if the rifle was a car, it would be an antique. The AR-15 has been in civilian hands for more than sixty years! It is not a military weapon, as some claim. I am not aware of any standing army in the world that has ever utilized it.

Since the late 1950's when the gun came on the civilian market, it has hardly changed at all. The action is the same, the magazines are the same, so what HAS changed. Not the gun.

Ever since Columbine, and espe-

cially since Newtown, it should have been obvious to anyone who paid attention that the core issue we are dealing with related to mass murder is untreated, and often undiagnosed, severe mental health issues. To argue about what type of tool an attacker uses to kill is simply a smokescreen from dealing with the true problem.

Purely because of politics, self-anointed "political leaders" have continually tried to convince the general public that the "thing" is to blame. As if a certain type of tool is done away with that suddenly mass murder and suicide will miraculously cease. Just as a cold hard reminder, the Oklahoma bombing resulted in 759 injured, 168 of those perished, and not a single gun was used.

An incredibly sad example of intentional misdirection was the fairly recent passing of the "Red Flag Law". This ill-conceived law was sold as dealing with people who have been thought to be suicidal or the next potential mass killer. The night the House of Representatives debated the bill was exposed for what it really was.

At the outset of the debate, the House leadership announced that all mental health amendments would not be considered for the bill. They clearly stated on the

floor that it was a gun licensing bill, not a mental health bill. Seriously, an effort to supposedly stop deranged killers and suicide is not a mental health bill? That debate represents the high-water mark of intentional misdirection in the Commonwealth.

The other willfully cruel and dangerous piece of the law is its negligence in providing any assistance to the aggrieved. According to the celebrated law, once the court has identified an individual as a potential threat to the public and/or themselves, the court revokes the individual's second amendment civil rights and sends them home. Again, seriously, we think we have identified the next mass murder or suicide victim and the answer is to send them home with no assistance, no help, no guidance or follow up. That is plainly intentional blindness and ignorance of the underlying problem.

If we are to solve these problems, we must address the most important issue and that is the human element. Name-calling, bigotry, and ignorance of the true causes of mass murder and suicide will only further divide us.

Jim Wallace is a member of Gun Owners Action League (GOAL).

Councilor Baker endorses Spillane for Boston City Council At-Large

Boston City Councilor Frank Baker (District 3) announced his endorsement of Jon Spillane for Boston City Council At-Large.

"As someone who has been acutely focused on delivering services to unhoused Bostonians and those dealing with substance use disorders, I am proud to endorse Jon Spillane for Boston City Council due to his experience creating affordable housing and leading budget and constituent service initiatives at the City Council," Councilor Baker said. "Jon supports re-opening Long Island, utilizing the Shattuck Hospital, and building bridges with our state and federal government are crucial tools in our efforts to house our

neighbors and deliver supportive services. Jon will be ready on day one to generate real solutions to the greatest issues facing our City at this critical moment."

"I am honored to earn Councilor Baker's endorsement," Jon Spillane said. "Councilor Baker has been on the front-line of addressing Boston's opioid crisis and related issues of homelessness and substance use disorders for decades, and I am ready to partner with him to ensure that the next City Council provides treatment and housing to all of our neighbors in need."

With Councilor Baker's endorsement, Jon Spillane becomes one of just two At-Large

Boston City Council candidates to earn the support of more than one sitting City Councilor. Last week, Jon announced endorsements from Councilor Kenzie Bok, Representative Jay Livingstone, and Senator Joe Boncore.

In addition to the crowded Mayoral election, five of the Boston City Council's thirteen members are not running for re-election, leaving three district council seats and two At-Large seats open. The next Council will not only play a major role in the COVID-19 recovery, but will also be in charge of re-drawing council district lines based on the 2020 census results.

MASKS (from pg. 1)

school this fall."

Acting Mayor Janey, in a statement, said she is on the same page with a potential mask mandate for students in September.

"Mayor Janey has reiterated masks are currently required for students and staff in school buildings," read a statement from the Mayor's Office. "Future school mask guidance will be informed by public health data and provided to families by BPS."

The Charlestown-based Voices for BPS Families, a citywide group of parents focused on kids returning to school, said they support any measure, including mask mandates, that will keep kids in school full-time.

"First we commend Mayor Janey for proactively communicating to parents and stakeholders this information so families have time to prepare for September," said Erica Haydock, of Voices. "We are in support of measures that will get students back to full time in person learning in September which align with the

latest CDC guidance. The CDC just announced that 'everyone in K through 12 schools wear a mask indoors, including teachers, staff, students and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.' Children should return to full-time, in-person learning in the fall with proper prevention strategies in place."

Cassellius said CDC guidance does recommend social distancing, but if it is not possible in school district, the priority should be getting kids back to in-person learning using other safeguards like masks, hand-washing and good ventilation.

The district is awaiting more information from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), which has been slow in announcing its safety recommendations and mandates for the upcoming school year.

Cassellius said they will roll out a final plan once they have guidance from DESE and the City's Boston Public Health Commission consultants.

The City of Boston reminds you:
The legal drinking age is 21.

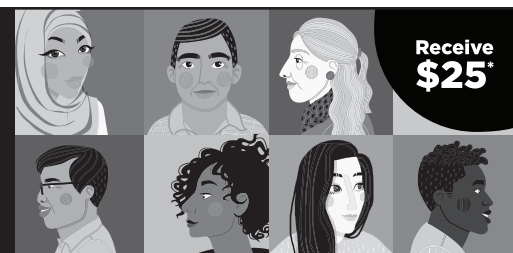


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FRIENDS OF THE CHARLESTOWN ELDERLY HOST CHRISTMAS IN JULY LUNCHEON

Sun and Santa were the theme of the day when the Friends of the Charlestown Elderly hosted a Christmas in July luncheon on Monday, July 24, in the American Legion J.W. Conway Bunker Hill Post 26. It was the first traditional senior citizen event since COVID-

19 hit, and the Hall was full with friends re-uniting and enjoying one another's company once again. The Friends said they were glad to see everyone socializing like old times. At the end of the luncheon, they sang 'The 12 Days of Christmas.'



Francis Wiemert and Santa Claus, who was enjoying the off-season vibe.



Janet Black and Pat Noonan.



Best shirts of the day went to Donna Bell and Lillian Amann.



Event organizers included Mary McGonagle, Theresa Lawton, Maureen Stillman, Mary Lacey, Mary Carroll, Peggy Carnevale, Judith Madeiros and Paul Sullivan.



Mary Doherty, Peggy Sindoris, Grace Campbell, Bernice Velez, Peggy Piper and Helen Cullity.



Rosie Ryan, Jo Donahue, Kathleen Puliafico, Helen Carpenter, and Chickie Goggin.



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Charlestown's Ryleigh Williams-Arroyo excels in Babe Ruth Softball World Series

By Cary Shuman

Charlestown's 14-year-old softball sensation, Ryleigh Williams-Arroyo, reached another milestone in her rising career with an appearance in the Babe Ruth World Series this month in Jensen Beach, Florida.

Playing for The BASE team of Boston against the top 16-under teams in the international tournament, Williams-Arroyo received offensive and defensive awards and was selected to the 2021 Babe Ruth 16U All-World Tournament Team. The BASE finished fifth in the country.

A 5-foot-1-inch, left-handed hitting first baseman and outfielder, Williams-Arroyo batted .400 in eight games and played flawlessly

in the field. At 14, she was the youngest player in the tournament.

The daughter of James Williams and Roslyn Arroyo and the stepdaughter of her softball coach, Billy Nugent, Ryleigh has been tearing it up on the softball diamond for a few years now as a player for the Charlestown team in the Middle Essex Softball League and for her AAU team, The Show.

But according to her father, James, who was scouted by the Major Leagues during his career at East Boston High School, the Babe Ruth World Series provided the strongest competition yet for Ryleigh.

"The pitching was phenomenal – Ryleigh probably faced the best pitchers she has seen to-date in Florida," said James. "The teams

came from as far away as Hawaii. It was unbelievable, a great experience for all the players. I've personally never experienced anything like that. It was awesome."

In an acknowledgment of her power-hitting capabilities, the coaches placed Ryleigh in the clean-up position in the batting order. During the tournament held in southern Florida, Ryleigh and her teammates had to contend with muggy conditions.

"The temperature most days was 96, but it felt like 108-110 degrees," said James, who made the trip to the World Series.

Ryleigh seems to have inherited the splendid baseball/softball genes of her parents. James Williams was a fire-balling pitcher and slugging third baseman for the East Boston High Jets after being the undis-

puted home run king of the East Boston Little League. Ryleigh's mother, Roslyn, who bats left (as her daughter does) and throws right, excelled in softball in the East Boston High School program and for Jack Schievink's youth softball teams in Charlestown.

Ryleigh will be taking her talents to St. Mary's High School in Lynn, where she will join a powerful Spartans team that advanced to the North sectional finals this spring. With future freshman phenom, Ryleigh Williams-Arroyo, joining the St. Mary's varsity and All-Scholastic pitcher Lily Newhall returning, the St. Mary's Spartans should be one of the favorites for the 2022 Division 3 state championship.



Ryleigh Williams-Arroyo, shown batting in the tournament in Florida, was selected to the Babe Ruth World Series 16U All World Tournament Team.

Janey names Lorena Lopera and Rafaela Polanco Garcia to Boston School Committee

Staff Report

Acting Mayor Kim Janey announced the appointment of Rafaela Polanco Garcia and Lorena Lopera to the Boston School Committee. The move follows her commitment in June to fill two vacancies and move the committee forward with greater equity, opportunity and accountability.

Polanco Garcia is a Boston Public Schools (BPS) parent and serves as Director of Parent Engagement and Organizing at St. Stephen's Youth Programs in the South End.

Lopera is also a BPS parent and Executive Director of Latinos for Education. Janey selected Polanco Garcia and Lopera from a slate of candidates presented by the Boston School Committee Nominating Panel, which worked independently to conduct the public application and interview process that attracted 23 applicants. Both women were sworn-in by Boston City Clerk Maureen Feeney right before the mayor's announcement.

"Ms. Polanco Garcia and Ms. Lopera bring incredible depth of knowledge and lived experience to the Boston School Committee," said Janey. "I am thrilled to appoint these talented new committee members, who represent so many of the residents in our city. They will both help to fill the pages to this new chapter of equity and opportunity for Boston Public Schools students and families."

"I am thrilled to welcome Ms. Lopera and Ms. Polanco Garcia as our newest members on the Boston School Committee. In the last year,



Acting Mayor Kim Janey announced the appointment of Rafaela Polanco Garcia and Lorena Lopera to the Boston School Committee during a press conference at City Hall with School Committeeman Ernani DeAraujo and Student Rep. Xyra Mercer. (Mayor's Office Photo by Jeremiah Robinson)

the Committee and I have worked together to pass important policies around student information sharing, retention, grading, graduation standards, and exam school admissions," said Boston Public Schools Superintendent Brenda Cassellius. "We remain committed to closing opportunity gaps and examining current and future BPS policies through an antiracist lens to advance student outcomes. I know that both Ms. Lopera and Ms. Polanco Garcia join us with the professional experience and community perspective necessary to contribute positively and effectively to our shared goals of equity, opportunity and excellence for every BPS student."

Polanco Garcia is an immigrant who lives in public housing in South Boston and has a back-

ground in law and bilingual advocacy. Her activism on behalf of the Latinx community in education includes working on the 'No on 2' campaign in 2016, helping to pass a sanctuary schools resolution, and passing the Student Opportunity Act. Since 2015, she has served as the Director of Parent Engagement and Organizing at St. Stephen's Youth Programs in the South End.

"As an Immigrant from the Dominican Republic, it is a great honor for me to represent English Language Learner families on the Boston School Committee," said Polanco Garcia. "As a single mother of a Boston Public Schools student, I feel committed to my community. I know that many families will be able to identify with me and together we will be a voice in the school district."

Lopera is a Jamaica Plain resident and veteran of local organizations focused on expanding educational access for Latinx youth and students of color, including Mission Hill-based Sociedad Latina, La Vida, Inc., and Building Excellent Schools, as well as national organizations such as City Year and the Posse Foundation. Most recently, she was the Executive Director at Latinos for Education, New England, the first Latino-founded and led national organization dedicated solely to creating leadership pathways for Latinos in education. She is currently co-chair of the Hurley K-8 School Site Council in the South End.

"My own educational experience and my experience as a Boston Public Schools parent is what will guide my decisions on

the Boston School Committee," said Lopera. "I'm honored by this opportunity, and ready to roll up my sleeves to co-design solutions with families, educators, and community members so all students within Boston can succeed."

In addition to the member appointments, Mayor Janey announced plans to extend Racial Equity and Leadership (REAL) training to all members of the Boston School Committee.

More than 40 percent of Boston Public Schools students identify as Latinx, while approximately 10 percent of enrolled students live in Boston Housing Authority developments. Mayor Janey's appointments expand representation for these communities and were met with enthusiasm and support from community stakeholders.

"I am thrilled to learn about Mayor Janey's selection of Lorena Lopera and Rafaela Polanco Garcia as members of the Boston School Committee," said Dr. Vanessa Calderón-Rosada, chief executive officer of Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción, a corporation dedicated to empowering individuals and community development. "Both Lorena and Rafaela bring an unwavering commitment to equity in Boston Public Schools, both as parents and as advocates; and as immigrants, both of them will bring an important perspective to the School Committee deliberations. I am grateful to Mayor Janey for bringing these two strong Latina leaders to the Committee!"

The new members will attend their first School Committee meeting on August 4.

ZBA approves 48 units of affordable senior housing at Zelma Lacy House

By Lauren Bennett

The Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) on Tuesday approved the renovation of the Zelma Lacy House from 66 assisted living units to 48 units of income-restricted units for seniors.

Attorney Kevin Joyce said that the Zelma Lacy House is “on the verge of foreclosure,” and that 70 percent of the 66 existing assisted living units are currently vacant.

He said that services will still be provided to residents of the apartments by “third party providers overseen by the management of the property.”

ZBA Chair Christine Araujo asked what would happen should a resident need more assistance than this building would provide. “Does the proponent have a next step place for them?” she asked.

Joyce said that if a resident

needs further assistance, then they will receive help being placed elsewhere and relocation costs would be paid for the resident.

John Romano from the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services said that this project has gone through an “extensive community process,” and that the Mayor’s Office is in support. He also said that a letter from the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency in support of the project has been received, as well as that the Mayor’s Office is aware “that the business had some financial concerns and constraints” that they hope will be resolved by this project.

Councilor Lydia Edwards said in a written statement she does not support the change of use, but she cannot oppose it and watch the facility close altogether.

“Given the community out-

reach and the need for assisted living, the Councilor cannot support this proposal, however, given the financial constraints that Mr. Joyce mentioned, and the financial reality that the Zelma Lacy House faces, she can’t oppose this, either,” said Ricardo Patrón, chief of staff for Lydia Edwards. “We would like to see as many of the current residents remain at the location as possible and for the developer to commit to working toward making that a reality. We’d also like to see that decision to be led by the current residents, their family, and their doctors, and not by the development team.”

Prior to the meeting, Edwards told the newspaper she wanted protections for those that wished to stay in the facility, and for those that are moving during construction.

“The City, state and federal gov-

ernment, to an extent, have let us down in providing the resources to run and maintain an assisted living facility,” she said. “I am asking the developer to make a firm commitment that no one would leave without a careful decision and that decision would be between them, their doctor and the family only. This is the fight to bring our elderly home. I want everyone who has to leave to know they always have a home in Charlestown. I am very aware how painful this is for many people.”

State Rep. Dan Ryan said the financial model of an assisted living home is no longer viable. He said he will work for a seamless transition to the new model for the existing residents.

“This week’s ZBA approval is a significant step in the transformation of Zelma Lacy House to 100 percent affordable elder-

ly housing,” he said. “Although originally visioned as a mixed-income assisted living facility; that business model never quite lived up to financial expectations. The goal of providing affordable housing with services, for Charlestown residents in their golden years, is still obtainable under a different model. I will continue to work with the proponents, government agencies and most importantly the residents to assure as seamless a transition as possible.”

Councilor Michael Flaherty’s office was in support, but said that they are “echoing the sentiments of Councilor Edwards’ office.”

The ZBA voted to approve the proposal with BPDA design review, and urged the developer to consider current residents and ways to keep them in the building.

Seth Daniel contributed to this story.

House passes sports betting legislation, likely no quick action in the Senate though

By Seth Daniel

The race is on in the State Legislature on sports betting as the House voted last Thursday to approve a wide-ranging sports wagering bill after years of state government trying to get passage of some sort of sports betting bill.

However, don’t expect to be laying down any sport wager this fall during football season or the World Series, as the timeline would suggest no legislation would make it through both houses of the Legislature and be signed into law until early next year.

In the summer, typically, the Senate doesn’t bring matters to the floor in a short period of time and August is historically a slow time on the legislative calendar for that body. It is likely that the Senate might pick up the matter in the fall for hearings and, potentially, a Conference Committee.

While passage by the first of the year would miss most of the football season and the World Series, it would allow the industry to pick up heavy-betting events like the Super Bowl and the NCAA basketball Final Four tournament – not to forget the regular season games for professional basketball and hockey.

State Rep. Dan Ryan, probably the elected official that lives closest to Encore Boston Harbor where sports betting would occur, said it’s a logical next step for expanded gaming.

“Legalizing sports betting is a

logical step for Massachusetts,” he said. “Due to increased accessibility to betting apps and online resources the Commonwealth is losing millions of dollars of gaming revenue every year to other states. There are warranted concerns about problem gambling. Safeguards are in this bill to address gambling and other addictions. To bring sports betting out of the shadows and make it accessible to the casual fan will hopefully change the culture around gambling while generating jobs and revenue for worthwhile programs.”

Most of the industry, including Encore Boston Harbor, has been in favor of the sports wagering bills in Massachusetts – and particularly coming out of costly COVID-19 shutdowns last year. Wynn Resorts is in the midst of a large expansion of its Wynn Interactive venture that was launched last October, and would by all accounts be ready almost immediately for sports wagering online and in-person were any bill passed in Massachusetts.

Gov. Charlie Baker submitted sports betting legislation many years ago, and his proposal could never grab any traction in either side of the Legislature. Last year, in the Economic Development Bill, the House included sports betting as a part of that, but it was cut out in the Senate.

Late last week, the House passed a wide-ranging bill that includes college sports (that had been cut out in previous years)

and electronic apps and platforms – as well as traditional sports betting at casinos like Encore Boston Harbor.

The House passed the bill 156-3 Thursday evening.

“Massachusetts has the opportunity to generate job opportunities and bring millions of tax dollars annually by legalizing an industry that already exists, but in the black market and other states,” said Speaker Ron Mariano. “Once again, the House of Representatives has passed legislation that would make our state competitive in this industry in which dozens of states have already gotten a head start. I thank Chairs Michlewitz and Parisella for their work in making this important piece of legislation happen, and all our colleagues in the House for their work in the final product.”

The legislation authorizes the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) to grant in-person licenses at gaming establishments, including casinos like Encore, racetracks and simulcast facilities, as well as mobile licenses through mobile applications or digital platforms. It was estimated that the legislation would generate \$60 million in annual tax revenue for Massachusetts, in addition to collecting up to \$70 to \$80 million in initial licensing fees, which must be renewed every five years. The revenue collected will be distributed to municipalities, and for economic, workforce, education, and public health priorities.

“This legislation will provide

much needed economic development to the state while allowing our residents to enjoy sports betting right here in the Commonwealth,” said Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means (D-Boston). “A significant portion of the revenue generated from this bill will go towards helping low-income communities and vulnerable youth and young adults get the skills and opportunities they need to get stable employment and wage growth. Our cities and towns will also see a significant amount of this revenue, as will after school and out of school activities among others.”

“An Act regulating sports wagering” (H. 3977) includes a 12.5 percent tax on in-person wagering and a 15 percent tax on mobile wagering, with an additional 1 percent for games played in Massachusetts going to a fund that will then be distributed to each facility for the purpose of sports wagering security and integrity.

The House legislation creates the Workforce Investment Trust Fund, the Youth Development and Achievement Fund and the Players Benevolence Fund, which will receive 40 percent, 20 percent, and 1 percent, respectively, of the revenue generated by the taxes and licensing fees. The rest of the funds will go to the existing Gaming Local Aid Fund (33 percent) and the Public Health Trust Fund (6 percent).

•The funds in the Workforce

Investment Trust Fund will be used to develop and strengthen workforce opportunities for low-income communities and vulnerable youth and young adults, including to promote stable employment and wage growth.

•The funds in the Youth Development and Achievement Fund will provide financial assistance to students enrolled in and pursuing a program of higher education, and for after school and out of school activities.

•The Players’ Benevolence Fund will recommend to the Gaming Commission a schedule for the distribution of funds that benefit current and former professional sports players or their charitable foundations.

The legislation will also allow betting on college sports, but not wagers on the performance of individual college athletes, and betting on eSports. People must be 21 years old or older to bet. As directed through this legislation, the MGC will be conducting a study into the feasibility of allowing retail locations to operate sports wagering kiosks. An amendment offered by Representative Orlando Ramos (D-Springfield) expands the focus of the study to include the potential economic impact of retail licenses on communities of color, as well as a larger study on ways to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion are considered in this rapidly expanding industry.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

GARDENS FOR CHARLESTOWN WEATHERFEST

Photos by Seth Daniel

The first-ever Gardens for Charlestown WeatherFest was an unbridled success on Saturday, July 24, with the gardens at their peak bloom and WBZ Meteorologist Eric Fisher on hand to answer questions about weather-related topics.

Fisher, who grew up and got his start on television in Western Massachusetts, is a resident of Charlestown with his family, moving here several years ago from the North End. He said he and his family enjoy the neighborhood,

and he also said he is an avid gardener – though this year his tomato plants are suffering like everyone else’s. The Gardens for Charlestown decided to stage a family-friendly event this summer coming out of COVID-19, and seemed to hit the mark with WeatherFest.

Organizers Chris Schiavone and Amy Kennedy-Slesar said they were hoping to do more activities in the coming months and years like WeatherFest.



Gardens for Charlestown officers Chris Schiavone and Amy Kennedy-Slesar with WBZ Meteorologist Eric Fisher on Saturday.



Michael, Tam, Hunter and Avery Benjamin took time to investigate the flowers around the Gardens.



Sara and Isla Cline enjoyed a weather cookie.



Grace Gambling was busy looking for butterflies amongst the flowers in the Gardens.

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Christian Kerr smiles at WBZ's Eric Fisher after investigating the Weather Mobile.

Dylan Malone shows off her rainbow weather cookie.

Providing the weather cookies for everyone was Jody Petersen.

GARDENS FOR CHARLESTOWN WEATHERFEST



Brothers Chase, Oliver and Reed Anderson enjoy a ‘weather’ cookie and listen to WBZ’s Eric Fisher tell them about Tropical Storm Elsa.



Hazel, Henry and Jack Wright were excited to get a new pair of sunglasses at the event.



Both Graham Parkinson and Nolan Lynch were excited to meet neighbor and meteorologist Eric Fisher.



Gardens for Charlestown volunteers Mary McCarthy with Diane and Gerry Foley.

Parks Department hosts Willie O’Ree Street Hockey Clinic Series

Staff Report

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is teaming up with the Boston Bruins Foundation to host the Willie O’Ree Street Hockey Clinic Series for boys and girls ages 12 and under at five Boston parks. Learn or hone your street hockey skills at these free clinics featuring giveaways with all equipment provided. All clinics begin at 3 p.m.

Nearby dates and locations are as follows:

- Tuesday, August 17
Langone Park
529 Commercial Street, North End
- Tuesday, August 24
Noyes Playground
86 Boardman Street, East Boston

To register, call Damien Margardo at (617) 961-3083 or email damien.margardo@boston.gov, or Mavrick Afonso at (617) 961-3039 or mavrick.afonso@boston.gov.

The rink at Smith Playground in Allston is named in Willie O’Ree’s honor. The first Black player in the NHL, O’Ree was recently named

to the Hockey Hall of Fame. Hailing from New Brunswick, Canada, he became the first Black player to compete in the National Hockey League when he took the ice for the Boston Bruins on January 18, 1958. Despite losing the sight in his right eye at a young age, O’Ree went on to play professional hockey for 21 years.

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QUARTER

Malden Catholic students have completed the coursework required for the fourth quarter of the 2020 - 2021 school year. The school has three categories for outstanding academic performance honors: Headmaster's List (90 - 100 in all classes,) First Honors (85 to 89 in all classes) and Second Honors (80 to 84 in all classes.)

The following students have been named to the Honor Roll: Daniel Bethlendy - Headmaster's List

Andrew Blake - Second Honors
Emily Parker - Second Honors
Nora Reilly - Second Honors

Since 1932, Malden Catholic High School has shaped emerging leaders in our community, claiming a Nobel Laureate, a Senator, two ambassadors and countless community and business heads among its alumni. Annually, graduates attend some of the nation's most renown universities including Harvard, Georgetown, Brown, Cornell, Tufts, Georgia Tech, Boston College and Amherst College. Foundational to student success is Malden Catholic's codivisional model which offers the best of both worlds, single-gender academics during the day and integrated social and extracurricular opportunities after school. Malden Catholic is known in the community for its rigorous academics, SFX Scholars Program and

award-winning STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with electives such as Robotics and Engineering Design. Malden Catholic curriculum is designed to improve individual growth mindset, leadership principles, success outcomes along with integrating the Xaverian values of trust, humility, compassion, simplicity and zeal. <https://www.maldencatholic.org/>

UW-MADISON

ANNOUNCES 2021

SPRING GRADUATES

Just over 7,600 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison on May 8, including Ilana Mack of Charlestown who studied School of Human Ecology, Bachelor of Science-Consumer Behavior and Marketplace Studies, Consumer Behavior and Marketplace Studies, Graduated with Highest Distinction,

There were two live ceremonies at Camp Randall, one for undergraduate graduates and one for all graduate degree candidates. Graduating were 5,493 undergraduate students, 1,266 master's degree students and 871 doctoral candidates.

The commencement speaker was actor and singer Andre De Shields, who graduated from UW-Madison in 1970. He invoked the pandemic and the police killing of George Floyd in his video keynote address to undergraduates, encouraging graduates to transform the world with their talent.

Essaibi George nabs first spot

on mayoral Preliminary ballot

By Seth Daniel

The City Elections Commission held a lottery on Friday afternoon to draw the positions for the Sept. 14 Preliminary election – including the position for the eight mayoral candidates and the 17 at-large candidates.

Drawing out of a little gold tumbler, reminiscent of a basement church bingo session, Election Commission Chair Eneida Tavares first drew for the office of mayor, where eight candidates have qualified for the ballot even though only five are routinely talked about.

One candidate, State Rep. Jon Santiago, qualified for the ballot and was drawn for the 6th position, but has already halted his campaign and is likely to officially withdraw from the race and take his name off the ballot.

The top of the ballot and the last spot on the ballot are two of the more time-honored and preferable positions amongst campaign insiders, and the top spot on the Mayoral Preliminary went to Councilor Annissa Essaibi George.

The Essaibi George campaign said they were happy with the ballot position, but are more excited to keep talking with voters ahead of the Preliminary.

"We are excited about our position on the ballot and even more excited to continue connecting with the voters across the city who will cast their ballots on September 14," read a statement from the campaign.

The last spot on the ballot went to John Barros.

The Preliminary will whittle the eight candidates down to two for the final election in November.

The order on the September ballot for mayor will be:

- Councilor Annissa Essaibi George, Dorchester
- Richard Spagnuolo, North End
- Councilor Andrea Campbell, Mattapan
- Councilor and Acting Mayor Kim Janey, Roxbury
- Councilor Michelle Wu, Roslindale
- State Rep. Jon Santiago (who is out of the race), South End
- Robert Capucci, East Boston

•John Barros, Dorchester
The longer part of the afternoon was choosing the ballot position for the 17 at-large Council candidates that made the ballot. The 17 will be narrowed down to eight for the November election. The top four vote-getters in November will receive at-large seats on the Council.

- The order is as follows:
- Carla Monteiro, Dorchester
 - Althea Garrison, Dorchester
 - Bridget Nee-Walsh, South Boston
 - Said Abdikarim, South End
 - Ruthzee Louijeune, Hyde Park
 - Kelly Bates, Hyde Park
 - David Halbert, Mattapan
 - Councilor Julia Mejia, Dorchester
 - Roy Owens, Sr., Roxbury
 - Nick Vance, Hyde Park
 - Councilor Michael Flaherty, South Boston
 - Jon Spillane, Beacon Hill
 - James Colimon, Roslindale
 - Erin Murphy, Dorchester
 - Donnie Palmer, Allston
 - Alexander Gray, Jamaica Plain
 - Domingos Darosa, Hyde Park

Charlestown Mayor's Coffee Hour moved to North End

Staff Report

The Mayor's Coffee Hour series has been a welcome event each summer in Charlestown, an event whereby for years the mayor of the City has dropped by a public park or school to give residents direct access to himself or herself, and also key City staffers.

Hundreds typically attend the event, which takes on a party-type atmosphere with a few gripes and complaints volleyed at the same time to the mayor and staffers. And in a Municipal Election year such as now, it's typically a keystone summer event for candidates of all types.

However, this year, Charlestown residents will have to get a boat, some SCUBA gear, or maybe even Paul Revere's horse, and head to the North End for the Charlestown Coffee Hour.

For the first time in many years, Charlestown has not been included on the coffee hour tour, but instead will be part of the North End coffee hour, along with East Boston.

With all coffee hours cancelled last summer due to COVID-19

restrictions, a spokesperson for Acting Mayor Kim Janey said they were bringing them back with a limited schedule on a regional basis.

"Mayor Janey is pleased to bring back the Mayor's Coffee Hour series, after its cancellation last year," said the spokesperson. "As the city recovers and reopens, the new series will cover all 10 city regions. In addition to coffee hours, the 2021 summer season will also include Arts & Crafts Workshops, Neighborhood Concerts, Concerts at the Golf Courses, Summer Fitness Classes, and Mayor Janey's Movie Nights."

The North End regional coffee hour will be for Charlestown, East Boston and the North End at Puopolo Park on Monday, Aug. 9, at 10:30 a.m.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER	ADDRESS	PRICE
Figueiredo, Jeffrey	Kaufman, Noah J	1 Tremont St #1	\$1,025,000
Franciosi, Ellen	Cox, Elizabeth S	4 Wallace Ct #3	\$1,150,000
Oliveira, Francisco F	Bernstein, Megan	90 Baldwin St	\$1,650,000
Macha, Martha D	Ross, Colby J	73 Chelsea St #303	\$625,000
Dolan, Matthew T	Reisz, Claudia	50 Green St #A	\$625,000
AHR Goldman RET	Marie Tringali LT	139 High St	\$1,265,000
Arturo, David	Hayden, Lenore E	100 Main St #2	\$620,000
Bramhall, Harrison	Thomas, William W	11 Parker St #3	\$460,000



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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through August 7

This is a brief overview of construction operations and impacts for the North Washington Street Bridge Replacement Project. MassDOT will provide additional notices as needed for high-impact work and changes to traffic configurations beyond those described below.

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

Building the piers:

- Pier 1 (closest to the North End): Hammer Head V-Pier formwork
- Pier 2: V-Arms formwork
- Pier 4: Remove cofferdam sheet and concrete pour
- Pier 5 (closest to Charlestown): Remove cofferdam sheet and concrete pour
- Installing, moving, and maintaining silt curtains and barges in the water
- Installing permanent fender

piles and temporary bent

WORK HOURS

- Most work will be done during the daytime (6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

WORK THAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED

- Prior to 7/25
- Pier 3: V-arms concrete placements

DCR RECREATIONAL ADVISORY

- New Charles River Dam Pedestrian Walkway: On Monday, 7/26, starting at 6:00 a.m. until Wednesday, 7/28 at 4:00 p.m., the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will implement a closure of the New Charles River Dam Pedestrian Walkway in the City of Boston to accommodate facility maintenance work. Pedestrian patterns will be clearly

marked.

TRAVEL TIPS

The sidewalk over the temporary bridge and the Lovejoy Wharf stairs near Converse are open. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass.

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

BOAT (from pg. 1)

said Bryant. “We expected they would make it to Europe because that’s where the Gulf Stream goes. That was the goal. About a couple weeks ago Tropical Storm Elsa knocked them both out of the Gulf Stream and they began to travel towards Newfoundland. HK Pride made landfall on July 18 at a remote cove in Newfoundland. We took to social media and hoped that someone there might get word of it and go out and retrieve the boat.”

Enter John and Sherrie Fever, of the very off-the-grid town of McCallum – a fishing village of about 30 people only accessible by boat.

Feaver heard about the mini-boat on social media from a relative, and said everyone in their town was excited. “We were going to try yesterday but it was a bit windy,” she said in an interview with the Canadian Press on July 22. “I didn’t even sleep last night because I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, I wonder where we’ll find it.’”

Bryant said that later on July 22, John and Sherrie Feaver set out and found the HK Pride on a rocky beach in Kent Cove.

“The great thing about Canada is they all rallied around this,” said Bryant. “They got the boat and the government Department of Marine Fisheries picked up the boat on Tuesday and will take it to a populated area. They will get some students there to come and open up the boat. The Harvard Kent students left a message in a bottle in the boat and we’d love for Canadian students to open it up. The goal will eventually be to get the HK Pride back out into the Gulf Stream and we believe the Canadian government will help us with that.”

HK Pride is currently in the town of Hermitage, awaiting Canada’s Department of Fisheries and Oceans to take possession. Hermitage is a small town on the south coast of Newfoundland, Canada. USS Constitution Museum is contacting schools in

and near the area to work with educators and potentially students to relaunch HK Pride on its journey.

In a fortuitous twist in keeping with this “message in a bottle”-type of outcome, both mini-boats actually contain messages from the Harvard-Kent students and the students who send HK Pride back to sea will get to add their own as well.

“We are so thankful for the efforts of Sherrie, John, the people of McCallum and Hermitage, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans,” said Emily Bryant, Education Manager at the USS Constitution Museum. “With their support, we look forward to relaunching HK Pride on her journey.”

Bryant said she believes the HK Pride has experienced some really good luck. That’s probably because of the christening that was given to the boat in October by the USS Constitution sailors and the Harvard Kent students, and also the care taken when they were released in North Carolina by a crew there.

“You never know what will happen to a boat when you launch it,” she said. “It could overturn, not report on the tracker or just come back to shore. It has been out at sea for 75 days and is still reporting and made it through a tropical storm and landed upright on a very rocky coastline and didn’t get smashed. I’d say it has some good luck going with it.”

The second boat, Tea Turtle, is still sailing out at sea, said Bryant. While it was also headed towards Nova Scotia, a cold front emerged and pushed it back out to sea this week. It is now being tracked as it sails in the open ocean eastward.

Bryant said with the excitement of the program now, they hope to continue the mini-boat building and oceanography partnership with the Harvard Kent this coming school year as well.

To track the boat, go to www.usscm.org/miniboats.

ROLLINS (from pg. 1)

eral law enforcement officers in their district is important for these efforts.”

Rollins would be the first Black woman to be the Massachusetts US Attorney.

“These individuals—many of whom are historic firsts—were chosen for their devotion to enforcing the law, their professionalism, their experience and credentials in this field, their dedication to pursuing equal justice for all, and their commitment to the independence of the Department of Justice,” the release stated further.

In a short statement on Monday night, Rollins said she was humbled to have received the nomination, which had been hinted at or postulated about since last fall.

“Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins is incredibly humbled by the great honor of being nominated by President Biden to be US Attorney for the District of Massachusetts,” read the statement. “She remains focused on doing the hard work of keeping the residents of Suffolk County safe.”

Councilor Lydia Edwards said she was happy for Rollins and would support her when the time comes for Congressional confirmation hearings.

“I would like to congratulate DA Rollins on her historic nomination,” said Edwards. “I look forward to supporting her when the Nomination hearings kick-off in the fall so she can be our next

US Attorney.”

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley said Rollins has a track record of transforming the legal system, and is a great choice for US Attorney.

“Congratulations to my sister in service, D.A. Rachael Rollins, on her historic nomination,” said Pressley. “Throughout her time in office, she has fought tirelessly to transform our legal system and address the hurt and harm inflicted on Black and brown communities through generations of policy violence—prioritizing racial justice, de-carceration, and reimagining public safety in Massachusetts.

“She has been a true partner in our collective work to fulfill the promise of justice for all, and she is an excellent choice to serve as next U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts. I applaud President Biden for nominating D.A. Rollins to this role,” she continued.

State Rep. Dan Ryan said Rollins has changed the way the county looks at prosecution, and he believes she would take that passion to the US Attorney’s office as well.

“District Attorney Rollins is an accessible public servant with a clear vision of how she would approach her position in the DA’s office,” he said. “She followed that vision with passion and vigor; forever changing the way we look at prosecution. I applaud her nomination as US Attorney as much as her successes, thus far, as

District Attorney. I look forward to continue to work with DA Rollins in her current capacity and wish her well in this honorable endeavor to serve in the Biden Administration.”

Rollins was elected District Attorney for Suffolk County, Massachusetts in 2018. She grew up in Cambridge and lived in Medford until she was elected District Attorney, living in Roxbury since taking office. Rollins served as the Chief Legal Counsel to the Massachusetts Port Authority from 2013 to 2015, and as the General Counsel to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation from 2011 to 2013 and contemporaneously to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority from 2012 to 2013. Ms. Rollins was an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts from 2007 to 2011. From 2002 to 2006, Rollins was an attorney at Bingham McCutchen LLP, and from 1999 to 2002, she was a Field Attorney for the National Labor Relations Board. Rollins began her legal career as a clerk to Judge Frederick Brown of the Massachusetts Appeals Court from 1997 to 1998. Rollins received her LL.M. in labor and employment law from Georgetown University Law Center in 1999, her J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law in 1997, and her B.A. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1994.



Harvard Kent students in early 2020 constructing the HK Pride in Charlestown via a program with the USS Constitution Museum.

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After a year of no baseball, Charlestown Babe Ruth sets out to have fun this summer

By Seth Daniel

Everyone likes to win, but coming out of COVID-19 and not having Babe Ruth baseball last summer, perspectives on the game have changed.

Coaches and players strive their hardest to win the game, as the Charlestown Babe Ruth team did on Monday against Lexington, in a 3-0 shutout, but more important these days is creating a place for kids to cement friendships and make great memories, said new Coach Aaron Titcomb.

“I’m here because I played Little League and Babe Ruth and Charlestown baseball was really good to me,” he said. “I wanted to give back and give kids an opportunity this summer to play against other cities and towns. We have a lot of great talent and some kids that have never played baseball, but came out because they wanted to be with their buddies. They’re all out with their buddies having fun. Playing a competitive sport with your friends is about making good memories and you don’t get them back. They didn’t get that opportunity last year.”

So far, the team – made up of 13 to 15 year olds from the Town



Brady Poole connects, but pulls it foul in the late innings of the 3-0 win.



Pitcher Steven Chiappa has been an ace this year, and got the shutout win on Monday night.

The Beacon Hill Times - beaconhilltimes.com
The North End Regional Review - northendregionalreview.com
The Boston Sun - thebostonsun.com
The Charlestown Patriot-Bridge - charlestownbridge.com

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– has a record of 3-3-1 with a great win on Monday night, and a tremendous comeback against Arlington, scoring nine runs to tie it up and get the tie.

This year, Titcomb – joined by Coaches Gregg Poole, Jordyn Tanguay and Zuskin Gambaro – said they have a rotating lineup where everyone gets to play, and the mood in the dugout is very upbeat as everyone remembers not even being able to take the field last year.

So having any kind of game is not an expectation, but a gift, and a chance to have fun.

“The game against Arlington was just a fun game to be involved in,” said Titcomb. “We didn’t even tell them the score until after the game. The kids are having fun together. Every kid is going to get to play, and every kids is going to get their time to bat and play in the field. It’s not just a couple of kids. The way they have come together is great. Some of them didn’t even know each other before, but they’ve all become friends now.”

The team plays in the B Division of Babe Ruth, and frequently plays teams like Arlington, Medford, Lexington, and Watertown.

CHARLESTOWN BABE RUTH



Shortstop Augie Groh gets ready to throw out a Lexington runner.



First baseman Travis Gillen gets a comfortable lead before stealing second base.



Seamus Sullivan scores one of the three runs recorded in the win on Monday night.



Caiden Collier recorded a clean night behind the plate as catcher during the shutout win.



The 2021 Charlestown Babe Ruth team: (Front, L-R) Quinn Rockhill, Caiden Collier, Harry Jackson, Brady Poole, Aiden McCue and Seamus Sullivan. (Back, L-R) Coach Gregg Poole, Coach Aaron Titcomb, Augie Groh, Travis Gillen, Michael Doe, Steven Chiappa and Coach Zuskin Gambaro. Not pictured are Jake McGrath, Joe Brienze, Roman Powers, Joe Neilon, Collin Kelleher, Brian Allen and Coach Jordyn Tanguay.

Charlestown Babe Ruth is back on the field.

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Climate Ready Boston ready for Phase 2 in Charlestown

By Seth Daniel

The Climate Ready Boston initiative is preparing to take its Phase 2 process to the public next month with an online open house on Aug. 3 at 6 p.m. to discuss the preliminary recommendations for Phase 2 planning – a phase in Charlestown that focuses on future flooding events and sea level rise in the Navy Yard and around Little Mystic Channel/AutoPort.

Phase 2 is looking at a variety of issues to address the areas further east than what was addressed at The Neck and Schrafft's Center back in 2017 – a first-step project that resulted in a major plan to raise the Main Street/Bunker Hill Street intersection three feet and build other remediations within the Rutherford/Sullivan Re-Design project.

"This is the second phase of

Climate Ready Charlestown and East Boston," said Project Manager Cat McCandless, City of Boston's Climate Change and Environmental Planning Project Manager. "The first phase concluded in 2017 and looked at the Harbor facing areas in East Boston and in Charlestown at a part of the Mystic River (at The Neck). In the second phase we're looking at three different areas in East Boston and in Charlestown we're looking at the Navy Yard and the Little Mystic Channel."

The second phase of the project – which looks at the effect of storm surge accompanied by sea level rise as far out as 2070 and recommends strategies to lessen the impacts – kicked off last fall and established a Community Advisory Board (CAB) made up of 10 Charlestown residents and 13 Eastie residents. With the CAB they have developed some ideas, and plan to bring those to the

community on Aug. 3, along with getting input about where residents would like to see flood mitigation strategies put in place – as well as what those might look like.

"So far the collaboration between the CAB and the different stakeholders has been really strong," said McCandless. "We've convened our Steering Committee two times and they've also had individual opportunities to weight in. We want to know the future plans for the stakeholders and merge them with what we're working on...It's been a lot of conversation so far. We've talked with neighboring municipalities, and public and private landowners to make sure everyone with a stake in this has a voice at the table – to know what they want and maybe don't want."

The Open House will feature a video production showing modelling of sea level rise predictions, and what those predictions would

mean when there are typical Nor'easters, 100-year storms and 1,000 year storms. At the peak of the modelling in 2070, such large flooding could impact about 4,500 resident and would potentially inundate the Navy Yard, and create a flood corridor in the Bunker Hill Housing development and NewTowne Apartments – as well as circling around to Thompson Square via Rutherford Avenue.

Getting resident input is key because they said while they have identified the many existing and future flood gateway points in the Little Mystic and the Navy Yard, they'd like to know what kind of mitigation measures would seem best for those living there.

That could come in the form of a seawall, quite simply, or an improved HarborWalk that also handles flood storage, or even a resilient park like the new Puopolo Park in the North End.

"We're definitely looking at opportunities to increase the amount of open space and viable open space there," said McCandless.

She also stressed that while such potential changes to the climate are quite scary in the modelling the City sees this as a great opportunity to help future generations and create amenities for today.

"Climate change is clearly a huge threat to this neighborhood, but we see it also as a way to create amenities and add accessibility to the waterfront," she said.

The meeting will feature language access options, with interpretation in Spanish and Cantonese.

The meeting will be online Tuesday, August 3, from 6-7:30 p.m. Please register in advance at the Climate Ready Boston website.

EBT/SNAP benefits expanded to online purchases

By John Lynds

During the height of the pandemic most Charlestown residents were doing their food shopping from the comfort of their home.

While the online grocery delivery service industry exploded because many were not comfortable venturing into crowded grocery stores, it exposed a significant inequity for those who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

Many who received benefits found that many online food shopping services lacked the ability to checkout online and pay using their SNAP/EBT cards, especially on grocery delivery platforms like Instacart.

Last week, the Baker-Polito Administration closed that loophole and announced that residents who receive SNAP/EBT benefits can use their cards to buy fresh food and pantry staples online from a variety of participating stores for same-day delivery and pickup via Instacart, including Price Chopper, ALDI and newly added Stop & Shop and Hannaford. Walmart and Amazon are also federally approved SNAP online retailers in the state.

Massachusetts first launched the SNAP online purchasing program on May 29, 2020. To date, Massachusetts residents have spent over \$75 million in SNAP benefits in online grocery purchases across retailers. Similar to using SNAP/EBT benefits to purchase food in a

store, benefits can be used to buy SNAP-eligible foods online, including fresh produce, frozen foods, dairy and eggs.

"SNAP online purchasing is one of several tools the Administration has employed, alongside the state's national leadership in Pandemic EBT and continuation of SNAP Emergency Allotments, to combat food insecurity for Massachusetts individuals and families," said Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders. "SNAP remains an important tool as we start to recover from the public health crisis by putting money to buy healthy food directly into the hands of hundreds of thousands of households and supporting our local communities."

The Department of Transitional Assistance Commissioner Amy Kershawa said as a result of the economic fallout of COVID-19, the state has seen a historic increase in SNAP participation, with 100,000 more households now utilizing the program for a total of approximately 550,000 households.

"Massachusetts has heavily invested in IT changes and maximized federal flexibilities to make it easier than ever to apply for SNAP and conduct convenient business with the agency 24/7 online and over the phone," she said. "In addition to these changes, SNAP online purchasing is another tool bringing greater equity to how residents can utilize SNAP."

Residents can shop for groceries

from Stop & Shop, Hannaford, Price Chopper and ALDI via the Instacart online site and mobile app. Once an Instacart customer profile is created, customers can enter their EBT/SNAP card information as a form of payment. Customers can enter their zip code to determine if they are near a participating retailer, and begin shopping for retailers' EBT-eligible products. Once items are added to their cart, customers will be able to select how much of their benefits they would like to allocate to the order. Orders for delivery and pickup can be placed by customers

for receipt in as fast as an hour or scheduled several days in advance.

To help subsidize costs for SNAP/EBT participants, Instacart will waive delivery or pickup fees through September 16, 2021, on up to the first three orders for each customer with a valid EBT card associated with their Instacart account. For more information on EBT/SNAP on Instacart, visit: <https://www.instacart.com/ebt-snap>.

"Providing people access to the food they love is at the core of Instacart's mission. We're proud to partner with Price Chopper,

ALDI and now Hannaford and Stop & Shop to provide more families in Massachusetts with a convenient and accessible way to get their fresh food and pantry staples," said David Healy, Retail Partnerships at Instacart. "Expanding EBT/SNAP to reach same-day online grocery delivery and pickup is important to help people access the food they need, and we look forward to expanding this payment integration to even more retailers across Massachusetts."

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