



# THE NAVY YARD NEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD

Winter 2012

## Seaport school emphasizes collaborative learning

"We've scrapped the usual style of 'reward-consequence' learning in favor of collaboration — students identify issues and help solve problems together," says Alex Tsonas, director of Seaport Academy at Flagship Wharf. The 28 students in grades 8 through 12 come from school districts throughout the city, and beyond, to accomplish a range of skills in a close-knit environment with 15 staff members.

"We're an 'alternative' alternative high school," says Tsonas. "We have a flexible curriculum to meet the needs of students with different learning styles," from typical classroom work to the YMCA for physical education and the Commerce Center on Terminal Street where students operate a wood shop and a bike-repair shop.



Students working on their music skills outside Seaport School at Pier 5 are Evan, Dan, and Akili Jamaal-Hayes.



Seaport Academy at Flagship Wharf holds graduation for its high school students. Shown is Director Alex Tsonas presenting a diploma to Nathan.

Noisy classrooms may distract an observer from seeing a rich environment of peer learning, practicing social skills and anger management, and keen problem solving as they work toward high school diplomas; and graduating students have 100 percent MCAS success, says the director.

Located on the water side of Flagship Wharf for 15 years, Seaport Academy occupies the first floor with offices, classrooms, computer room, and a school store.

It is a unit of Schools for Children based in Arlington, which has two other schools (Dearborn Academy and Lesley Ellis School). Executive Director Ted Wilson says Seaport Academy, as a special education school, is unusual for its small enrollment exclusively of boys, and its collaborative learning approach.

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## MBTA proposals would affect Navy Yard

Proposed cutbacks in ferry and bus service have energized the Navy Yard community. The MBTA is holding public hearings to gather opinion about two alternative proposals, both to reduce service and raise fares. Specifically proposed for elimination are the Charlestown ferry, which runs between Pier 4 and Long Wharf, and Bus 92 from Sullivan Station via Main Street to Franklin Street downtown. The Friends of Charlestown Navy Yard is encouraging residents to make their views known by attending a meeting, sending email or letter comments, and contact-

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## BRIEFLY NOTED

**Street sweeping** of the Navy Yard on Thursdays will start in April and continue through November. Each street will be swept between 8 a.m. and noon on alternate sides of the street, requiring residents to move cars twice a month. Cars that have not been removed during these hours will be subject to towing. The Department of Public Works held a public meeting on January 11 to answer questions from residents and clarify towing plans. Street signs will be installed and flyers issued by March 15 to alert residents. Anyone may register to get email reminders of sweeping on their streets,

at <http://www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/sweeping/>.

**Muster House**, the octagonal building on Sixth Street and Second Avenue, was recently vacated by its main tenant and is available for lease or sale. This 1854 three-story structure, the oldest building in the Navy Yard, contains an iconic clock tower. Named for its function as the assembly (mustering) point for civilian workers to receive daily assignments, the building was restored in the 1990s and has been used for commercial space since then. Patience Bundschuh, with her late husband, under Royalston Trust, LLC, purchased the Muster House at auction about 12 years ago. Grubb & Ellis Company is offering the building, which currently rents to several lawyers on month-to-month leases, for lease or sale.

**Seaport Academy** welcomes inquiries from Navy Yard residents about its advisory board now in formation with an initial meeting planned in early spring. Contact Alex Tsonas, Director, at 617-241-3871 or <http://www.seaportacademy.org/>. See article, Page 1.



*Residing in Dry Dock 1, the World War II destroyer USS Cassin Young awaits a funding decision which will determine its future. It is open daily for tours by the National Park Service. Photo by NPS*



The Navy Yard has two drop-off locations for donated goods to nonprofit organizations: the **Dennis McLaughlin House** located in the Constitution YMCA (617-242-0251), and the **Salvation Army** with a drop-off at the Seaport Academy, Flagship Wharf (617-241-3871). The McLaughlin House especially looks for housewares and women's and children's clothing. Salvation Army seeks clothing, household goods, and miscellaneous small goods.

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For membership information, please visit the website or send an e-mail.

The organization is a 501(c)3 non-profit.

### Handy links to stay in touch with neighborhood activities:

*North End Waterfront weekly*  
<http://northendwaterfront.com/>

*BRA weekly email*  
<http://www.bostonredevelopmentauthoritynews.org>

*Mayor's hot line*  
<http://www.cityofboston.gov/mayor/24/>

*Charlestown Patch, daily newsletter*  
<http://charlestown.patch.com>

*Friends of Charlestown Navy Yard*  
[http://www.friendscny.org/](http://www.friendscny.org)

### Community airing soon for Parcel 39A proposals

Four potential developers responded to the BRA's Request for Proposal (RFP) issued in September to build on the vacant parcel at the corner of First Avenue and Ninth Street. According to BRA spokesperson Melina Schuler, "We are reviewing the four proposals... [and]

we expect a public process in February and a decision after that." The RFP calls the parcel "... a prime candidate for a development that promotes housing opportunities, economic activity, cultural and tourist amenities, or institutional uses." Parcel 39A has been the subject of several attempts at development over the past several years.

## THE FRIENDS CORNER

### Winter Warm-Up on March 1

Parris Landing's expansive lobby is the setting, once again, for the Friends annual meeting. The annual "winter warm-up" combines a social gathering and a time for several public recognitions. This year awards will be given to Mayor Thomas Menino and Charlestown Against Drugs (CHAD). Mayor Menino was selected because of his work over the years in keeping Boston a strong and vibrant city that has weathered the recent economic crisis better than almost every major city in the country. The award to CHAD is in recognition of the relentless work of people like the late Peter Looney and Michael Charbonnier in working on a serious problem that effects everyone in Charlestown and has improved the lives of many. Check the Friends website for details: <http://www.friendscny.org/>



*This year's winter warm up will take place again at Parris Landing. Photo by Courtney Sacco appeared in Charlestown Patch, March 2011.*

### Time to Renew Membership

January is membership month for the Friends, and this year the organization is expecting to top 200 supporters. At annual dues starting at \$20 (for individuals) Navy Yard residents help support a voice that has expressed neighborhood concerns for the past eight years. Currently, the FCNY is working to avert the MBTA's threatened ferry shutdown. Recently the board worked with the City to get regularly scheduled street cleaning in the Navy Yard.

Membership forms are enclosed in this newsletter. Checks for dues can be delivered to Navy Yard Bistro for a free appetizer with a meal or the Style

Café for a free cup of coffee. Dues may also be paid online through PayPal at : <http://www.friendscny.org/>

Residents are also encouraged to report about and comment on neighborhood issues through the FCNY website.

### Navy Yard Dogs

A recent board meeting included discussion about dogs and leash laws. As the neighborhood sees an increase in the canine population, the issues of dog clean-up and dog control come up more frequently, especially in

connection with children's play areas. The Friends have been asked to help communicate with dog owners the importance of maintaining control over their animals.

### Support for Food Pantry

Among the community support given by the Friends in 2011 is a donation to Harvest on Vine where all Charlestown residents who establish financial eligibility may receive groceries once a month. After registering, families may receive a week's worth of groceries. The organization was established by parishioners of St. Mary-St. Catherine of Siena Parish in 2003.

### Remembering Jim Brogan

*By Michael Parker, Chair,  
Friends of Charlestown Navy Yard*

We are sad to report that long-time Navy Yard resident Jim Brogan recently passed away. Jim was a loving husband to his wife Terri, and doting father to his beautiful daughter, Hannah. (He loved to refer to himself as "Hannah's dad.") Jim was a founding member of the Friends in 2004 and served ably for several years as membership chair, helping to grow our little group to over 200 members within a year. Jim was as passionate about Navy Yard issues as he was about his golf game, and that's saying a lot. He will be missed — to us, he was truly a Friend.

*Comments? Letters to the Editor? Send an email to Friends of Charlestown Navy Yard at [info@friendscny.org](mailto:info@friendscny.org)*

## Seaport Academy

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The social side of learning is hugely important to prepare the boys for post high school. Graduates move on to jobs, the military, vocational school, or college, and even graduate school, Tsonas says.

Individual school districts send and pay for the students, who have a disability that prevents them from success in their own schools. Typically a student spends two to four years of his high school at Seaport.

Currently, the school is setting up an advisory board to include Navy Yard residents, which would help design programs, guide fund raising, and advocate for the school. The school places high value on social interaction and community activities. "We have rich community service programs," says Tsonas. Students have engaged in river clean-ups, planting spring bulbs, collecting items for Salvation Army and Toys for Tots, but are not widely known. "The Y knows us, and Store 24, Flagship, and the park," says Tsonas, but he would be pleased to have the wider Navy Yard community become acquainted with his boys and their accomplishments.



*Harbor seal, a regular visitor to Pier 4 Courageous Sailing dock last fall, sleepily gazed up for a portrait.*



*Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital building was buttoned up in December, 15 months after breaking ground at Yard's End. Next year at this time, it will be preparing to open for patients.*

## MBTA

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ing public officials. The address for mail comments is: Fare Proposal, 10 Park Plaza, Suite 3910, Boston, MA 02116. Public meetings will continue throughout the region until March 6, with the hearing closest to Charlestown in the West End on February 8. More information is available from [www.mbta.com](http://www.mbta.com).



*Charlestown residents and employees may see the end of MBTA ferry service, which currently has more than 200 round trips a week to Long Wharf.*

## CALENDAR

- **February 4 – March 24:** USS Constitution Model Shipwright Guild 33rd Annual Show, USS Constitution Museum, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily
- **February 8:** MBTA public hearing on fares & service cutbacks; Shriners Hospital Auditorium, 51 Blossom Street, West End, 4:30 - 6:30
- **March 1:** "Winter Warm-Up," Friends of Charlestown Navy Yard annual meeting, 6 - 8 p.m. Parris Landing
- **June 30 – July 5:** Bicentennial of the War of 1812 celebrated with Tall Ships
- **Thursday through Sunday:** USS Constitution, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Daily:** USS Constitution Museum, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- **Daily:** USS Cassin Young in Drydock 1; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 40-minute tours at 11 a.m., 2 and 3 p.m.