



November News Briefs

11.22.2017

New Charlestown city councillor

In a vigorous campaign, Lydia Edwards won a seat on the city council in a contest with Stephen Passacantilli by more than five percent out of 13,000 votes. She will represent District 1 (East Boston, the North End, and Charlestown), a seat which has been held by Sal LaMattina. Edwards is from East Boston and Passacantilli is from the North End, leaving Charlestown as a decisive voting field. Unofficial results show that Edwards won four of Charlestown's seven precincts and overall received 54 percent of the votes to Passacantilli's 46 percent. Voter turnout for the Navy Yard was just 28 percent, the lowest of Charlestown precincts. (The Navy Yard is a large part, but not all, of precinct 2.)



Councillor-elect Lydia Edwards

Pier 5 found to be badly deteriorated

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) reported to the Navy Yard community last week that an engineering study determined that the southwest portion of the pier was sufficiently degraded that it needs to be separated from the remainder of the pier (with a trench) to prevent total collapse. The staff just received this news and has not had time to create a plan for next steps. Because of this finding, the passive recreation use the agency had hoped for will not be possible in the near term.



Pier 5, in front of Flagship Wharf

Boardwalk improvements delayed

BPDA and Charlestown Marina owner Chuck Lagasse reported at the November 14 community meeting that the state permit has been stuck over design of a small section of boardwalk next to Pier 6 restaurant. Agency staff are hopeful for a resolution soon enough for construction of docks at Pier 6 and the boardwalk to begin in time for the 2018 summer season.

FRIENDS OF THE CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD

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Marion Dancy Cullen

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Kira Jacobs

Terry Kennedy

Jim Lister

Patricia MacAlpine

Barbara Mackey

John Moore

Megan Mulligan

Doug Pope

Marie Richards

Alexis Finneran Tkachuk

Jean Tochterman

Fall festival honors Sal LaMattina

On a bright Indian Summer day, the Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard (FCNY) joined with the Charlestown Chamber of Commerce to host their first annual Fall Festival. The centerpiece of the gathering was a ceremony to recognize Sal LaMattina's public service. He will retire from the City Council in January. Mayor Marty Walsh declared October 1 to be Sal LaMattina Day in the City of Boston.

In Sal's honor, FCNY made a donation to Harvest-on-the-Vine and gave him a pen crafted from wood of the USS Constitution. State Representative Dan Ryan presented Sal with a sailor's hat and a compass while humorously suggesting that Sal begin a water taxi service to advance his advocacy for improved waterfront transportation.

Food and drinks were contributed by Navy Yard Bistro, Warren Tavern, Pier 6, Blackmoor, Brewers Fork, and Monument; activities and support were provided by the Boston National Historical Park, the USS Constitution Museum and "e" inc.



Councillor Sal LaMattina, Barbara Babin, Representative Dan Ryan, Mayor Marty Walsh, Judy Evers

Harbor dredging on view from the Yard

Since September, barges and cranes can be seen from the Navy Yard where dredging has begun to deepen Boston's shipping channel. The project will total \$350 million in federal and state funds. Phase 1 of the project will create a "confined aquatic disposal cell" (CAD) in Charlestown for later disposal of sediment from the outer harbor channel. The main harbor deepening will take place in the outer harbor channel, the main shipping channel, and the reserve channel, which accesses the Conley Container Terminal. There, larger vessels which now pass through the enlarged Panama Canal can be accommodated.



Above: Harbor dredging begins in Charlestown, in front of Spaulding

Other development projects

The Ropewalk and Chain Forge projects are proceeding, with financing nearly in place and site preparation scheduled for coming months. The Ropewalk is the quarter-mile-long Navy building behind the fence along Chelsea Street, which is expected to be rehabilitated into 90 rental units. The Chain Forge (Building 105) will be designed for a 230-room hotel with off-site parking. It is located on First Avenue between Ninth and Thirteenth streets.

Building 108 is the former power plant in the Navy Yard on Second Avenue between Eighth and Ninth streets, which has been suggested by community members for a parking garage. The BPDA recently completed an engineering study that estimated a \$5 million cost to remediate and reuse the site. The agency expects to proceed soon with a plan for specific development and a timetable.

