

THE NAVY YARD NEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD

Summer 2010

Seasonal celebration



To welcome the start of summer on June 21, a Summer Solstice Celebration was held in Shipyard Park that evening under the auspices of the Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard, the Charlestown Working Theater and the Boston Redevelopment Authority. Music by Afro Brazil, a Brazilian percussion band, entertained attendees.

Navy Yard parking plan sparks a heated debate

Approximately 40 Charlestown residents attended the joint Charlestown Neighborhood Council/Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard Basic Services Committee meeting on June 24 in Building 114 where James Mansfield of the Boston Transportation Department outlined its parking plan for the Navy Yard.

The BTB proposed the plan after hearing from residents and the Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard that non-residents were using the unrestricted parking on non-metered streets as a commuter parking lot, causing a dangerous situation of excessive double parking in the morning and taking away spots from residents and their visitors. Residents also indicated they wanted a regular street-cleaning program implemented in the Yard.

The BTB's plan would limit non-resident parking to two hours, days and nights, all week long in designated areas on Eighth and Ninth streets and First Avenue. The current metered and handicapped spaces would remain as they are.

Boston City Councilor Sal LaMattina voiced his support for the BTB plan at the meeting. "This is the plan you want," he said. "We have installed it in several other neighborhoods, and it has worked very well."

Despite endorsements by LaMattina and Mansfield, the audience was sharply divided over whether the two-hour non-resident restriction should be in force for 24 hours or merely between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

After listening to public comments, which became

Continued on Page 4

Parking issue high on new Friends president's agenda

Constellation Wharf resident Lois Siegelman has assumed the presidency of the Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard, succeeding her neighbor Marion Dancy.

Siegelman's interest and involvement in the neighborhood were on full display even before she and her husband, Ray Siegelman, moved into the Yard two and a half years ago. The day before they took ownership of their condominium unit, the Constellation Wharf condo

association had scheduled a barbecue. The couple asked if they could attend, and Lois Siegelman quickly earned an invitation to join the Constellation Wharf book club where, she said in a recent interview with The Navy Yard News, "I met a lot of people who were active in Friends."

A year later, she was serving as a board member of the 150-member Friends group and was immersing herself in the myriad issues that remain her concern as

Friends president. At the top of her agenda is a resident parking plan in the Yard, the lack of which was the topic of a recent meeting of the Friends, a Charlestown Neighborhood Council committee and city officials. (See story above.)

The future of Pier 5, where condominiums had been planned by a developer designated by the Boston Redevelopment Authority to build the complex, is uncertain "now that the developer is being

Continued on Page 4



LOIS SIEGELMAN
Also eyeing Pier 5

Capuano's rep in Yard knows whereof he speaks, lives

Given the Charlestown Navy Yard's long history as a property of the federal government, it should come as a little surprise that the neighborhood has the close attention of its U.S. representative in Washington.

Cong. Michael Capuano, a Democrat representing this state's Eighth Congressional District, which encompasses 70 percent of Boston (including the Yard) and the cities of

Chelsea, Cambridge and Somerville, even goes so far as to employ a lifelong Charlestown resident as a top aide. And the Yard is well-known territory to that staffer, Daniel Ryan.

Born on Main Street, Ryan, 42, is the son of a former fire chief, whose area of responsibility was the city's District 2 where the Yard is located. "Once in a while," Ryan remembers of his father, "he'd take me with him for a ride into the Yard where he would inspect the buildings to make sure they were secure."

Those excursions took place in



"It's important to have groups like Friends in the district. ... We call you guys more than you call us."

*Daniel Ryan
Top aide to U.S. Rep.
Michael Capuano*

the North End. The latter three are, like the Yard, waterfront communities and, as such, pose similar challenges for Ryan in his post within federal government.

"Usually, we're called in when there is an impasse between the different levels of government," Ryan told The Navy Yard News. Those conflicts might involve real estate development, use of the waterways, transportation and the impact

of tourist traffic.

By way of example, Ryan noted that an effort to make the historic Bunker Hill Monument more accessible to out-of-town visitors could also bring that many more tourists to the nearby Navy Yard, which hardly lacks for sightseeing attractions.

"The issues that come up now continue to be the ones related to the transition [of the Yard, the North End and East Boston] from industrial areas to residential neighborhoods," Ryan said. "The city of Boston is a working port, but it's also a place to live, and it's an ongoing struggle to find a balance there." Inevitably, he added, "there have to be tradeoffs – between resident concerns and the need to preserve the harbor as a viable industrial port."

Ryan said he is helped greatly in that struggle by the active involvement of community groups, including the Friends. He said that he speaks frequently with Friends Chairman Michael Parker and that Friends members' firm grasp of the issues enables Ryan and others in Capuano's district office to respond appropriately.

"When something comes up that impacts someone where they live or work, they tend to be more up on it than we are," Ryan said. "It's important to have groups like that in the district. ... We call you guys more than you call us."

the mid-1970s as the Yard, long the province of the U.S. Navy, was being transferred to the city of Boston for civilian use. The issues associated with that conversion from a military facility to a community of residences, medical institutions, offices and businesses remain front and center for Capuano and Ryan, one of three of the congressman's district representatives.

In addition to covering his home neighborhood of Charlestown (he still resides there, two blocks from where he grew up), Ryan is Capuano's point man in Somerville, Chelsea, East Boston and

THE NAVY YARD NEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF
THE FRIENDS OF THE CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD

PUBLISHER
Michael Parker

EDITOR AND SENIOR REPORTER
Barbara Rabinovitz

Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard

CHAIRMAN
Michael Parker

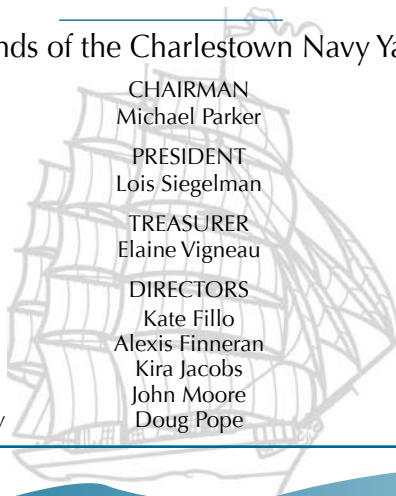
PRESIDENT
Lois Siegelman

TREASURER
Elaine Vigneau

DIRECTORS
Kate Fillo
Alexis Finneran
Kira Jacobs
John Moore
Doug Pope

Peter Borré
Richard Burt
Karen Colombosian
Marion Dancy Cullen
Karen Dempsey Carney

Terry Savage
Debra Lee Stevens
Jennifer Tegfeldt
Jean Tochterman
David Whelan



Spaulding opts to shed North Station for Navy Yard

The year 2010 marks the 40th anniversary of Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. Currently located on Nashua Street, adjacent to North Station, the hospital building, originally designed as a nursing home, appears to have reached the end of its lifespan and its ability to accommodate the needs of 21st-century rehabilitation medicine.

“The idea of rehabilitation now is very different from what it was” when Spaulding opened in September 1970 as the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Hospital, Spaulding’s communications director, Timothy Sullivan, said in a recent interview. (The 196-bed facility is named for its founder, Dr. Josiah Spaulding.)

Recognizing the need for a new building, hospital officials considered renovations as one option and a move elsewhere in Boston as another. Choosing the latter over the less cost-effective and more disruptive former option, they selected a parcel at the end of First Avenue in the Yard and have begun the task of preparing the site for the laying of a foundation this fall. The new \$225 million, eight-story building is expected to be completed in late 2013.

Why the Navy Yard? Sullivan was asked. A waterfront site was an important consideration, he explained, given the Weingarten Adaptive Sports Program offered to patients and the community at Spaulding for the past quarter-century. An outdoor program, it provides patients the opportunity to regain their strength through windsurfing, kayaking and other water-related activities as well as bicycling. “Our patients love it,” he said.

In addition to making use of the waterside location and the spacious parkland to be developed at the new site, the hospital will be designed in compli-



An architect's rendering of Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital's new building shows how the facility will make use of its waterfront location in the Navy Yard.

ance with environmental standards that will qualify it for LEED status as a green facility, ranked as the highest standard.

“We are also working closely with national experts to design this facility so it becomes a model of what is known as universal design, ensuring it is fully accessible in every area, from the public space to the signage used,” Sullivan said.

The building materials will be brick and glass, reflecting the architectural elements of so much of the Yard, and, according to Sullivan, every effort will be made to take advantage of the light afforded by the remote site, which also will reduce the power-consumption needs of the hospital.

Parking for outpatients, visitors and employees will be provided in an underground garage.

With 132 beds for adults and another 14 in a pediatric unity, the replacement Spaulding will be smaller than the current one. That reduction was made possible, Sullivan explained, by several

factors, including projections that inpatient rehab care could be shifted to home-based care and outpatient services. He also noted that Spaulding, as part of a larger hospital network, has the ability to transfer patients to other rehab facilities in the area where they can obtain long-term care as needed.

The planning process has been conducted with the active participation of representatives of the Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard and the Charlestown Neighborhood Council. According to Sullivan, the hospital has secured approvals from the council and the Boston Redevelopment Authority and on July 14 was granted a determination of need certificate by the state Public Health Council.

When the hospital opens, Yard residents will be welcome to use community space on the ground floor, patronize the cafeteria or swim in the therapy pool, said Sullivan, adding that the hours and other arrangements associated with that public use have yet to be determined.

Sentiment is split on parking plan for Yard

Continued from Page 1

contentious at times, Basic Services Committee Chairman Bill Galvin called for a vote. Those present voted 20-18 for the BTD's 24-hour plan. However, the committee voted 5-1 (the lone dissenter being Michael Parker, the Friends' delegate to the CNC) in favor of the 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. plan, noting that it is similar to the parking plan in place for other parts of Charlestown.

Mansfield said that the appropriate signs could be posted as soon as July, but that action could be delayed until September for full CNC approval. Galvin said

it is possible the CNC Executive Committee would vote on the measure to expedite implementation of the plan.

After the meeting, Councilor LaMattina, on behalf of residents, placed a request with the city for the much-needed street-cleaning program.

Whenever the parking plan is put into effect, residents would need to obtain parking stickers. Violators would be fined \$40 per violation.

For information on obtaining a parking sticker, residents can go to www.friendscny.org.



Residents complain that outsiders use Navy Yard streets to park their cars while they commute to work downtown or for longer periods when they travel to Logan International Airport.

New Friends president focuses on 'unique neighborhood'

Continued from Page 1

de-designated," Siegelman said. Friends is closely monitoring what might emerge from City Hall in the wake of that decision, she added.

Still another issue is the status of the marina surrounding Piers 6 and 7. "The docks have been disintegrating before us," Siegelman said. "We want to ensure they are maintained by the owner in ship-shape condition."

Siegelman looks forward to working with members of the Yard's business community, trying to involve them in Friends activities and ensuring they are good neighbors to the residents of the Yard. Siegelman would also like to see how the Friends can help the business community succeed in the Navy Yard.

Despite the weightiness of the issues confronting the Friends, Siegelman seems undaunted by the task ahead of her. She is no stranger to workplace challenges, having served as the first director of

physical therapy 40 years ago at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, soon to relocate to the Yard from North Station. (See story, Page 3.)

Indeed, she is hoping to expand the Friends with new residential and business members and piquing member interest in the organization

representing what she describes as "a unique neighborhood."

She reports she is already enjoying working with Friends Chairman Michael Parker and the group's other officers and directors, all with the goal "to enhance the quality of life for Navy Yard residents."

For his part, Parker credited Siegelman for bringing to the Friends "a strong array of management skills, coupled with a passion for our community."

"Perhaps her strongest skill is her ability to bring different perspectives together to achieve a cohesive and well-defined strategy. We're lucky to have her."

Commenting on Dancy's tenure as president, Parker said:

"Marion has led the Friends through a period of rapid growth and change. While we will miss her exuberance, vision and steady hand, I am happy that she will now have the time to pursue some of her other loves, such as sailing along the Atlantic coast with her husband, Terry."

Ex-president reviews the record

The following remarks were written by Marion Dancy, immediate past president of the Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard.

For several years serving as Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard president, I have worked closely with our chairman, Michael Parker, and the residents of the FCNY board to further our organization's image to be respected and valued by the community and by our elected and appointed officials.

Specifically, we have worked hard to reach out to team up with local organizations, such as the Charlestown Working Theater, Charlestown Mothers Association, Courageous Sailing Center, Charlestown Waterfront Coalition and local businesses, to sponsor community events, including children's dance programs and other entertainment events that made use of the Yard's wonderful facilities.

We also have reached out to the Charlestown Neighborhood Council to advocate for responsible development and encourage dialogue on controversial issues.

We have engaged our local elected officials in our challenges to gain their support and advocacy and have worked with the Boston Redevelopment Authority to activate the waterfront in the Yard.

Our website, www.friendscny.org, is a vital source of historical and current development information that is used by many.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.