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New playground at Yard’s End

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Marina (Continued from page 1)

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Shipyard Quarters Marina makes small repairs

Shipyard Quarters Marina, at Piers 6 and 8 (SQM), is feeling the heat of local and state authorities to make repairs and maintain SQM and the HarborWalk under its control. In December 2012, the Boston Conservation Commission issued to SQM an enforcement order to make necessary repairs or face daily fines up to $25,000. Also, the Boston Inspections Services Department filed a complaint against SQM in Housing Court in July 2013; this matter is unresolved and has been continued several times. In addition, the Attorney General’s office has apparently exercised its jurisdiction and has become involved. City Councilor Sal La Mattina has been an especially vocal advocate for the community, appearing at several hearings on its behalf.

Despite all the regulatory pressure, little work has been performed at SQM on the HarborWalk. For example, the breakwater dock on Pier 8 has been closed for two years since pilings fell down and the dock was declared unsafe. Friends of

Handy links to stay in touch with neighborhood activities:

North End Waterfront weekly
http://www.northeawardwaterfront.com
BRA weekly email
http://bostondevelopmentauthoritynews.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

(Continued on page 4)
NEWS BRIEFS
Cassini Young moves temporarily to East Boston

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The ship entered dry dock in August 2010, but by last summer, it was clear that major repairs were needed. When federal funding was acquired, the hull was made ready for moving. Meanwhile, her berth at Pier 1 is being repaired; it will be ready for her move back to Charlestown Navy Yard later this summer. Dry Dock 1 will be ready for USS Constitution’s overhaul next year, a project expected to take up to three years.

FRIENDS CORNER
Watch for FCNY email notifications

For the past few months, FCNY has been using email to great advantage to announce public meetings and important and timely Navy Yard news. To get on the mailing list, send an email to info@friendscny.org, and please sign up for annual membership while you are at it.

Summer events entertain all ages

“The Singing Trooper” and Magician Marc held forth for about 100 people, at Shipyard Park on August 15. The concert with magic show was hosted by the Friends and Charlestown Mothers Association. Other Navy Yard events are planned:

- Three concerts sponsored by the National Park Service at the Commandant’s House with musicians from Berklee College of Music on July 11, playing jazz; July 18 with bluegrass; and July 25 presenting Latin music.

- Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital will have an open house and “family fun day” on July 20.

- Harvard Alumni Jazz Band will play at Shipyard Park on August 15.

- Fireworks over the harbor will be launched on August 31.

Voter turnaround anemic

Overall voting in the special senate election was predictably low – only about 20 percent. Charlestown Navy Yard is part of Ward 2, Precinct 2, where 530 people voted. Edward Markey won in the precinct with 63 percent to 36 percent for Gabriel Gomez. He will be seated soon as the new Massachusetts’ junior senator.

UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT
Starboard Place, a/k/a Parcel 39A

The Kavanaugh Advisory Group has proposed a four-story rental building on the long-vacant land at First Avenue and 99th Street to house 54 units. In community meetings over the winter, key objections were to the lack of on-site parking, Kavanaugh and the BRA plan for parking at the MGH garage on Third Avenue. No further public information has been issued since the CNC approved the plan in February. Stay tuned.

Shipyard Park splash pad

The fountain at Shipyard Park stopped flowing last summer due to BRA concerns regarding safety. A fence was installed to keep people and dogs out of the untreated water, and a promise was made to replace the water feature. As of the end of June, a revised proposal to locate a new 30’x30’ diamond-shaped children’s splash pad next to a sandbox at the park, was presented to the community. The community was divided over whether the splash pad is preferable to fixing the fountain.

Friends Corner (Continued from page 2)

Winter Warm-Up recognizes leadership

FCNY holds an annual wintertime event to recognize people for their contributions to Charlestown and the Navy Yard. This year board member Jennifer Tegfeldt was recognized for 10 years of legal effort to extend HarborWalk behind Building 114. Michael Parker, FCNY chairman, recognized her tenacity and her legal talent. The result this spring is a cantilevered walkway which doubles as the aquatic center for Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital.

After listening to arguments from both sides, the Charlestown Neighborhood Council (CNC) approved the proposal. The BRA predicts that the splash pad will be ready in time for next summer.

Proposed Rope Walk building development

A developer has presented plans at recent community meetings for the rehabilitation of the Rope Walk building into rental units. Frontier Enterprises, led by Joseph Timilty, received BRA tentative designation and has proposed to market townhouse rental units and a small museum. The developer’s proposal to cut multiple doors in the walls would appear to compromise the building’s historical value.

According to Cassius Cash, superintendent of Boston National Historical Park, the building is one of only four rope walk buildings remaining in the world, and the only one in the United States. The building runs for a quarter of a mile inside the Navy Yard fence on Chelsea Street. Vacant since the Navy left in 1976, the Rope Walk is a National Historic Landmark that carries restrictions to protect the building’s historic value. It is currently owned by the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) but is subject to the requirements of historic properties as mandated by National Park Service (NPS) legislation.

All parties would like to see it used rather than decay, but the challenges are formidable. Most residents focus on the lack of available parking; the NPS requires that historic integrity be maintained; the BRA supports economic development. Despite the plans to alter the Rope Walk, the developer is expecting to receive federal and state historic tax credits.
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She’s left Charlestown for a while! USS Cassin Young was moved to East Boston while repairs on her Navy Yard berth were being done. Dry Dock 1 is being readied for USS Constitution in 2014.

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Safety discussed in Navy Yard

Four speakers invited to discuss safety in the Navy Yard on June 20 reported that Charlestown is one of the safest neighborhoods in the city.

The speakers were Sergeant Tom Lemil, District A-1 Community Service Supervisor, from the Boston Police Department; Rebecca Colburn, Manager of the MGH Police and Security in the Charlestown Navy Yard; Mark Dowdle, Chief Park Ranger from the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); and Daniel Grossman from the Sector Boston Coast Guard.

To maintain continued vigilance and encourage self-defense classes to be held in the Navy Yard sponsored by FCNY and the Kennedy Center.

For membership information, please visit the website or send an e-mail.
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Spaulding's Aquatic Center and HarborWalk to Chelsea Street, top; Spaulding cyclist on HarborWalk, middle; "Journey to Epidaurus" granite art by Sterling McMurrin, bottom.

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