



THE NORTH END

REGIONAL REVIEW

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CHRISTMAS PARADE IN THE NORTH END



Photo: Matt Conti for NorthEndWaterfront.com



Photo: Matt Conti for NorthEndWaterfront.com

Photos by Matt Conti

Santa Claus arrived by helicopter on the waterfront on to the cheers of hundreds who gathered at Christopher Columbus Park for the start of the Christmas Parade. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

The Greenway Conservancy announces new leadership

By Phil Orlandella

New leadership of volunteers for the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy's Board of Directors and the election of one new member has been announced by the contemporary park in the heart of Boston.

One of the outgoing Board Member is Robyn Reed of the North End, Park Art Curator for the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park.

Linda See is the new Conservancy Board Member.

A life-long resident of Boston, See is a certified public accountant, a senior manager in Risk Management at KPMC, LLP with 10years of experience in Mergers and Acquisitions Tasks at KPMG and PWC.

New Chair of the Board is Doug Husid, John Shea will serve as Vice-Chair, Karen Johnson Treasurer, Suzanne Lavole the new Clerk.

The Greenway attracts millions of visitors annually and the non-profit is responsible for the management and care of the public park.

NEWNC supports one legal occupancy change, denies another

By Phil Orlandella

Following a presentation by guest speaker Ricky Grant, Suffolk County District Attorney Chief of Staff, the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) tackled two proposals.

A vote of support was given to change the legal occupancy at 49 Charter Street and revised plans was also support by abutters.

Plans called for a change of occupancy from a six-family dwelling to a seven-family dwelling, legalization of the existing basement space and to renovate

the building including a full sprinkler system. This was the second time the proposal was presented to the Council.

A proposal to change the legal occupancy at 14 North Bennet St. from a rectory to residential units and to erect a one-story addition with a rear roof deck was opposed by the Council the by a 5 to 4 vote.

The next NEWNC monthly meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. at the Nazzaro Community Center, 30 North Bennet Street.

NEWRA supports zoning code change

By Phil Orlandella

North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) decided to send a letter supporting a proposed amendment to the City of Boston Zoning Code to Change the Regulation of "Executive Suites" to be inserted to include

the North End.

The City has sponsored a text amendment that would change the Use Regulation and Article 8 to "Conditional."

A unanimous vote (24-0) of support was given for a proposal making a legal occupancy change at 49 Charter St. that no longer includes an earlier proposed one-story addition that NEWRA previously opposed.

However, by a vote of 3-23, the Association voted to oppose a

request for a legal change of occupancy at 14 North Bennet St.

The change called for a rectory to become gridded to eight residential units and to erect a roof-deck and complete renovations at the building which currently consists of four stories and a basement.

The next NEWRA monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. at the Nazzaro Community Center.

ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR



Photo by Matt Conti

Mayor Martin Walsh continued the neighborhood trolley tradition with a stop in the North End. Kids of all ages came out to see Santa and the lighting of the Prado tree on the Paul Revere Mall. See Page 5 for more photos.

*We wish you
good health
& great times in
2020*

**NORTH END
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**
See photos on Page 12



Forum

'Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.'

BILL OF RIGHTS, Amendment I

A NEW YEAR, A NEW DECADE

The arrival of a new year -- especially when it is the start of a new decade -- marks a time of reflection for all of us.

We pause to think back to the decade that has come and gone, and wonder too, what our lives will be like 10 years from now.

Each of us ponders the questions, "Where have I been? And where am I going?"

The latter asks us to foresee the future, which by definition is an impossible task. Though we may make our best guess to predict what may lie ahead -- and to plan accordingly -- none of us has a crystal ball. The vicissitudes of life more often than not throw us curve balls that lay waste to even the best-laid of our plans for the year -- let alone the decade -- to come.

However, coming up with an answer to the former question can be equally difficult. It requires both introspection and understanding, two qualities that are in short supply in our hurried lives. We barely have enough time to do all the things we need to do every day, let alone to try to figure out how we got to where we are, wherever it is we may be.

Life does not take a time-out. The years -- and decades -- will continue to march on. While we, individually and collectively, may have some control over our future, all of us inexorably will be swept along by the currents of time and fortune that will bring us to a destination that none of us can foresee.

In the spirit of a new year -- and a new decade -- we offer our readers the enduring words of the poet Alfred Lord Tennyson:

Ring out the old, ring in the new,

Ring, happy bells, across the snow:

The year is going, let him go;

Ring out the false, ring in the true.

HAVE A HAPPY -- AND SAFE -- NEW YEAR

Celebrating the New Year requires all of us to make sure not only that we ourselves do so safely, but also that we are vigilant regarding the safety of others.

Although most of us these days take precautions to ensure that we do not operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol (or anything else) on New Year's Eve -- whether by means of having a designated driver, or using Uber, or staying overnight in a hotel -- there still are too many among us who will get behind the wheel of a car after having had too much to drink.

The most important thing we can do at an individual level is to prevent our friends and loved ones from becoming another tragic story in the morning news by taking their keys or offering them a ride home if they appear incapable of driving soberly and safely.

New Year's Eve can be a time of joy -- it is up to all of us to make sure it does not turn into a tragedy.

We wish all of our readers a happy, healthy -- and safe -- New Year.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The North End Regional Review encourages residents to submit birth and engagement announcements, news releases, business briefs, honor rolls, social news, sports stories, and photographs for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at **385 Broadway, Citizens Bank Building, Revere, MA 02151**. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. The Independent also encourages readers to e-mail news releases to editor@reverejournal.com.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR ~ 2020

GUEST OP-ED

The New Year's Noise Diet: Why you should cut the empty 'brain calories' in 2020

By Joe McCormack

If you're like most of us, you overindulged a bit too much in 2019. No, not on calories (well, maybe those too!), but on "noise." That's the name for the dizzying onslaught of information from work emails, app notifications, the 24/7 news cycle, social media updates, and other forms of screen time that leaves us unable to focus,

listen, or do deep work.

A smidgen of noise now and again is okay. (We all have our guilty pleasures!) But consuming it mindlessly, all day long, is as bad as keeping a bag of chips, a monster-size soda, and a can of frosting at our desk and reaching for them every few minutes.

Too many empty brain calories won't make you fat but they will make you mentally anemic. Noise

keeps you in a constant state of distraction. And like actual junk food, a high-noise digital diet is addictive, yet it never satisfies or nourishes you.

The real problem with giving into noise temptation isn't what you're doing; it's what you're not doing. You're tuning out what really matters. You're skimming the surface. When you're scrolling Facebook, for instance, you aren't learning a new language, refining that career-changing presentation, or engaging with your kids in a meaningful way.

The new year is the perfect time to put yourself on a noise diet. To help with your calorie count, let's take a look at what noise junk food looks like:

The irritating—yet addictive—parade of social media stock characters in your newsfeed. This band of noisemakers assaults your brain with their cries for attention. For instance:

- The humble bragger. Your college rival who subtly slips into her post that she just got another promotion at her swanky company. #blessed #gag
- The cryptic drama-stirrer.

(OP-ED Pg. 3)

REGIONAL REVIEW

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OPINION By Phil Orlandella

CENSUS 2020 IS IMPORTANT TO THE CITY

Determining the number of U.S. House of Representatives for each state is set by the U.S. Census. It also establishes the boundaries of local, state and federal legislative districts, and the total amount of funding each state receives and will be distributed to Boston.

Censuses are every ten years so it is extremely important for renters, recent immigrants, those who speak little or no English, children under age 5, people with lower incomes or people living in group spaces such as college dorms, residential treatment centers, on nursing homes can be involved in the 2020 Census Campaign.

In Boston, it will be many non-profit agencies conducting outreach programs that will hopefully encourage people to participate.

ENFORCEMENT IS THE KEY TO DRIVING BILL

Finally, a hands-off while driving bill is in the books in Massachusetts.

Hopefully, the law will go a long way to his preventing roadway accidents and deaths.

The House, Senate and the Governor deserve credit for taking positive action on this measure.

NEAA CHRISTMAS PARADE FUN FOR ALL

Christopher Columbus Park was completely filled with hundreds of local residents and others that turned out for the holiday annual activity that was fun for everyone who participated.

Santa Claus was on hand to meet and greet the children and families that made their way to the park on the waterfront to participate in the 48th seasonal event

hosted by the North End Athletic Association (NEAA).

Following Santa's arrival, a Christmas Parade made its way through the streets of the neighborhood spreading holiday cheer. Even the Grinch would have enjoyed this holiday activity.

POLICE PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING HELD MONTHLY

North End/Waterfront Public Safety neighborhood meetings are held on a monthly basis at the Nazzaro Community Center by District A-1 Boston Police in an attempt to provide valuable information, suggestions to residents and at the same time gather assistance from residents.

These meetings offer a great opportunity for the community to express opinions and make suggestions related to crime in the neighborhood.

Waiting for a crime to occur

is not the way to prevent crime in the neighborhood.

BECOME A COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

Start-off 2020 by volunteering at the many North End non-profit agencies or organizations that's that service the neighborhood.

Give them a call and they will be happy to explain what their agency performs and what their need for volunteers are.

Volunteering to help out local organizations is one special way of giving something back to the community and it's a positive experience.

ROBYN REED'S TERM ON THE CONSERVANCY EXPIRES

North End resident and com-

munity activists Robyn Reed has stepped down as a Board Member for the Greenway Conservancy as her six-year term expires.

Reed was extremely active as a Board Member focusing on community issues and the welfare of The Greenway.

She was committed to making the public park a major and productive Park of Boston.

Her dedicated services to the Conservancy was a positive one and she will be missed.

TRELLIS LIGHTING RATED #1

The Trellis Lighting at Christopher Columbus Park presented by the Friends of the Park through donations and members, was recently rated #1 out of 13 holiday decorations in the City.

This is a great tribute to FOCCP who have presented this special holiday lighting for seventeen years.

Op-Ed (from pg. 2)

That self-righteous friend who calls out people anonymously for perceived slights or makes vague "poor me" pity posts. (Cue the wave of very concerned commenters.)

- The over-sharer. We don't need a play-by-play of your colonoscopy. Thanks.

- The drop-of-a-hat ranter. Whose day would be complete without a furious recounting of how the barista screwed up your nonfat, dairy-free, double-shot, decaf, extra-hot mochaccino with extra foam? The nerve!

- The overly zealous kid promoter. Yes, yes, we know Junior is the smartest, cutest, cleverest tot around—your other 15 posts this week made that perfectly clear.

- The amateur political pundit. Do not engage...just don't.

Dumb@\$\$ shows on TV. You don't need to waste your precious attention span watching Jerry Springer, B-list celebrity lip-synch contests, or those morning talk shows. Substance-free television combined with the lure of a cozy couch can quickly turn into a lost day or evening.

The 24/7 news carousel-of-darkness. Sadly, most news is bad news, and during a controversial election year it can also be fodder for controversy, vitriol, and the loss of civility with friends,

family, and neighbors. (Hint: You don't need to totally disengage, but it's good to be discerning about what you let in—and about how often you engage in debates with the people in your life.)

Your work email. Your boss just had to email you at 9:30 p.m.... again. The moment you jump out of the bath to write back is the moment work email becomes yet another source of noise.

Are you feeling that noise hang-over settle in? Don't worry, you can kick off the new year with a different kind of diet—one that cuts the empty "brain calories" of digital distraction and gives you what you're really craving: a more intentional life. Join my "Just Say No to Noise" Movement and tip the scales in the other direction. A few suggestions:

Try going a week without social media. (We promise, you'll survive.) A short detox from social media is a pretty painless way to unplug and reclaim a lot of lost time. When the week is over, you can see if you even want to go back to occasional scrolling.

Reduce temptation by "hiding" distracting devices from yourself. Okay, you probably can't hide your computer but you can shut the office door. As for cell phones and tablets, treat them like what they are: gateways to digital dis-

traction (and it is a very slippery slope). Find an out-of-the-way place to charge and store your devices so you're not constantly reaching for them.

Break the idiot-box "background noise" habit. It's easy to mindlessly turn on the TV when you get home. Problem is, it's broadcasting nonstop noise into your work-free hours. Instead, plan a time to watch your favorite shows. Daily exposure to the depressing litany of pain and conflict we call "news" isn't making your life better. Neither is watching the "Fatty McButterpants" episode of King of Queens for the 50th time. (Okay, we admit that one is pretty funny.)

Set some work/life boundaries with the 7-to-7 rule. The company won't crash if you stop answering emails around the clock. After 7 p.m., put away your devices for the night. Don't pick them up again until 7 a.m. the next day.

Insist on phone-free family dinners... Yes, the kids might whine at first, but soon enough they'll get used to conversing with the out-of-touch "Boomers" and "Karens" at the table.

...and screen-free family fun days. For instance, make video games and TV completely off-limits every Wednesday and Friday. Yes, even if the kids swear they

have no homework. Instead, do something fun or productive as a family. Play a board game. Go bowling or skating. Cook a great meal together. Volunteer at the local animal shelter. Heck...maybe even read.

Learn to save your "appetite" for the stuff that really matters... Your "appetite" is really your attention span, and it's your most precious resource. Filling up on headlines, emails, and social media means there's little left over for doing the deep and meaningful work that helps you reach big goals at work and in your personal life. Before you cozy into an hour of lurking on your ex's Facebook page, close the laptop and find something productive to do.

...and choose some meaningful goals to pursue. When you are able to sharpen and aim your focus, you can do some pretty impressive &%\$#. Want to start a website? Get a better job? Learn to code? These "North Star" goals are the best incentive to rethink your relationship with noise and see how your life changes.

We don't realize that very often our addiction to information is the thing holding us back from getting a huge promotion, becoming valedictorian, or training for a marathon, but that's exactly what happens as time passes. Once you

think of it this way, it's so much easier to put yourself on a noise diet. Make this the year you take back your time and use it to do something that matters.

Joseph McCormack is the author of NOISE: Living and Leading When Nobody Can Focus. He is passionate about helping people gain clarity when there is so much competing for our attention. He is a successful marketer, entrepreneur, and author. His first book, BRIEF: Make a Bigger Impact by Saying Less (Wiley, 2014), sets the standard for concise communication.

Joe is the founder and managing director of The BRIEF Lab, an organization dedicated to teaching professionals, military leaders, and entrepreneurs how to think and communicate clearly. His clients include Boeing, Harley-Davidson, Microsoft, Mastercard, DuPont, and select military units and government agencies. He publishes a weekly podcast called "Just Saying" that helps people master the elusive skills of focus and brevity.

To learn more, visit www.noisethebook.com.

NEWS AND NOTES By Phil Orlandella

AMENDMENT PROPOSED TO BOSTON TRUST ACT

A new draft of amendments to the "Boston Trust Act" has been submitted by Mayor Martin Walsh and City Counselor Josh Zakim in relations to a City Ordinance that delineates the work of law-enforcement officials in relation to federal immigration enforcement.

Originally passed by the Council and signed by the Mayor into law in 2014, the proposed amendments will further clarify the role of Boston police officers, prohibiting them from acting as federal immigration officers.

The suggested changes also prohibit police officers from sharing information with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Apparently, the Mayor and Counselor worked with the community, immigration advocates and the Police Department to update the Trust Act in a way that will clarify even further the role of

police officers on this matter.

MAYOR SIGNS CARBON STANDARD EXECUTIVE ORDER

An executive order requiring all new municipal buildings to target a zero net carbon standard in the City of Boston.

New municipal building construction will have to be below energy and fossil-free, while meeting its annual energy needs for a mix of on and off renewable energy assets.

This action aims to accelerate Boston's leadership in climate action.

TRANSFER FEE ON REAL ESTATE SALES

Months of collaboration between the Boston City Council and Mayor Martin Walsh, formal support of a proposal to implement a transfer fee of up to 2-percent on the purchase price of any

private real estate seal over \$2 million in the City, as a means to generate additional funding to create and preserve affordable housing.

The Home Rule Petition past at the Council's final meeting of the year.

GRANT AWARDS FOR CENSUS COORDINATION

Thirteen local non-profit organizations have received grants (\$5 to \$10 thousand) from the City of Boston to conduct an outreach for Census Day on April 1, 2020.

The groups will work to increase the participation in the Census through planning and grassroots strategies that will educate, raise awareness, immobilize involvement in communities at high risk.

Boston's population is important and is reflective of the City's character and reflects representation and services.

Apparently, Boston is ranked the ninth hardest City to count of the 100 largest in the country.

MASSDOT AWARDS IRAP GRANTS

Nine grants, totaling more than \$2.7 million from the Industrial Rail Access Program (IRAP) have

been granted to enhance rail and freight access, economic opportunity and job growth by MassDOT.

IRAP is a competitive state-funded public-private partnership program that provides financial assistance to eligible applicants to invest in industry-based rail infrastructure access improvement projects. Applicants must match public funds with private funds, with private funds paying at least 40% of the project's total cost, and several of today's awardees will match more than the required minimum.

"This funding will help the state-wide rail and freight industry build and repair infrastructure," said Gov. Charlie Baker. "These public-private partnerships will help expand and increase efficiency of operations, providing long-lasting benefits for local economics and the state as a whole."

LOCAL WETLANDS ORDINANCE SIGNED

Taking another step to protect Boston against the impacts of climate change, Mayor Martin Walsh and the Boston City Council have signed the City of Boston Local Wetlands Ordinance.

The ordinance gives the City greater authority to protect wetlands, which are crucial to con-

trolling flooding and protecting neighborhoods and green space.

It also directs the Boston Conservation Commission to consider future climate impacts like rising sea levels and applications for new developments, constructions or special projects.

MINIMUM WAGE RAISED TO \$12.75

Low-wage workers in Massachusetts, in 2020, will get a raise as the state's minimum wage will raise from \$12.00 to \$12.75 an hour.

This is the second of five annual increases laid out in legislation passed in 2018 that will eventually bring the minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour in 2023.

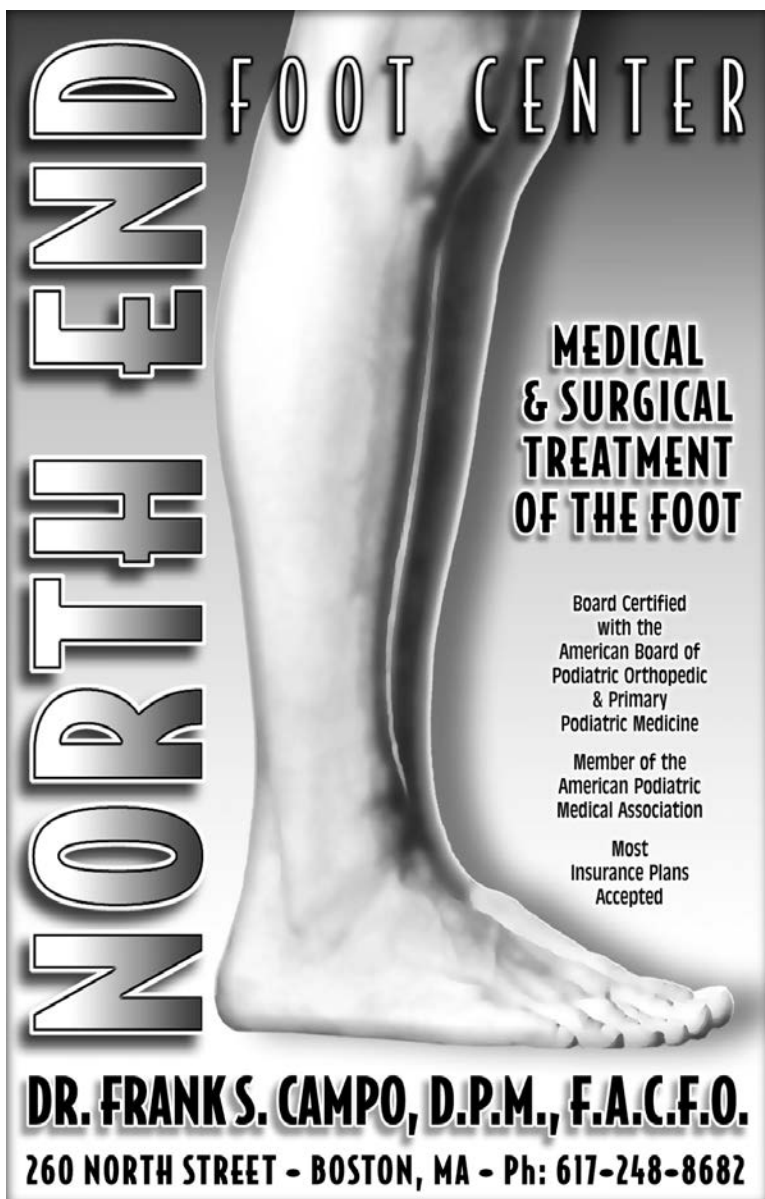
In 2017-2018 the Raise Massachusetts Coalition collected 346,000 signatures to qualified paid leave and \$15 minimum wage questions on the ballot.

In June 2018, the Legislature passed it and the Governor signed it into law.

The bill will also raise the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers to \$5.55 in 2021, \$6.15 in 2022 and \$6.75 in 2023.

Reportedly, nearly one million Massachusetts workers, more than a quarter of the state's workforce will benefit from the full increase.

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Public Meeting

155 Portland Street - Onyx Hotel

Wednesday, January 15
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Boston City Hall
9th Floor BPDA Board Room
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02210

Project Proponent:

Back Street Boston Holdings, LLC

Project Description:

The Proponent proposes to develop a nine (9) story hotel addition to the existing 112-room Onyx Hotel at 155 Portland Street. The addition will be developed on the 5,478 SF parking lot immediately abutting the hotel. The Project will add approximately 40,725 gross square feet, providing approximately seventy-seven (77) additional hotel rooms, ground floor flexible retail/restaurant space, proposed rooftop amenity space and improved operational space along the Friend Street elevation. No additional parking will be provided at the Site in connection with the Project. The Project will also involve a reconfigured, improved first floor lobby layout within the existing hotel. In total, the expanded hotel will contain approximately 189 guest rooms and will comprise approximately 91,000 square feet of gross floor area.

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Close of Comment Period:
1/31/2020

ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR COMES TO THE NORTH END

By Matt Conti

Mayor Martin Walsh continued the neighborhood trolley tradition with a stop in the North End on Sunday afternoon. Kids of all ages came out to see Santa and the lighting of the Prado tree on the Paul Revere Mall.

"I'm excited to start the season by making stops throughout the City for the annual trolley tour and tree lightings. This week-end-long celebration is a great family tradition for all Bostonians to come out and enjoy," Mayor Walsh said.

Young musicians and singers from the Eliot School played carols for the large crowd gathered at the Paul Revere Mall.

Joining the Mayor were City Councilor Lydia Edwards, State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Boston Police Commissioner William Gross and Boston Fire Commissioner Joseph Finn.

Now in its 24th year, the Enchanted Trolley Tour is a Boston holiday tradition of lighting holiday trees throughout the city. The trolley made 16 stops throughout the city. The event, sponsored by Bank of America, includes visits with Santa, holiday performances and tree lightings.



Photo: Matt Conti for NorthEndWaterfront.com



Photo: Matt Conti for NorthEndWaterfront.com

photos by Matt Conti



Photo: Matt Conti for NorthEndWaterfront.com

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SANTA ARRIVES BY HELICOPTER AT COLUMBUS PARK FOR CHRISTMAS PARADE



By Matt Conti

Santa Claus arrived by helicopter on the waterfront to the cheers of hundreds who gathered at Christopher Columbus Park. This is the first year the Santa landing was at Columbus Park because Langone Park and Puopolo Fields are under renovation.

The event is dedicated in memory of James "Jimmy" Pallotta and sponsored by the North End Athletic Association, Taste of the North End, Nazzaro Center, North End Against Drugs and Mayor's Office of Tourism and Special Events.



Photos by Matt Conti



Photo: Matt Conti for NorthEndWaterfront

SANTA ARRIVES BY HELICOPTER AT COLUMBUS PARK FOR CHRISTMAS PARADE



NEMPAC presents first concert of 2020

By Phil Orlandella

North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) will present its first concert of the year 2020 as part of their Winter Concert Series with "Seeking Sanctuary", a viola piano chamber recital celebrating Black Artistry through music.

Subscribers will have the opportunity to arrive early (6:30 p.m.) for a wine and cheese reception and meet and greet with artists and members of NEMPAC.

The concert will take place on Friday, Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m. at the Wingate Hall of North Bennet

Street School, 150 North Bennet St.

The special Concert features two performers who are local landmarks in the classical music city scene, Ashleigh Gordon, violinist and pianist Joy Cline Phinney.

NEMPAC is excited to present its first concert of the 2020 season which promises to be an exceptional program.

The first concert is made possible in part by Presenting Sponsors Alex and Rumena Senchak and Co-Presenting Sponsors Peter and Elizabeth Greene.

For details call 617-227-2270 or visit nempacboston.org.



A. Gordon



J. Cline Phinney



N.E.A.D. AND B.C.Y.F. NAZZARO CENTER'S FAMILY TRIP TO OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE

By John Romano

North End Against Drugs and the Nazzano Center recently ran a Family Fun Night Trip to Old Sturbridge Village.

A bunch of families from both agencies traveled down to

Sturbridge to enjoy Christmas by Candlelight at Old Sturbridge Village.

Thanks to both agencies and the North End Athletic Association the group traveled by motorcoach, eat pizza before the trip and enjoyed a fun-filled enchanted evening at

the Village.

Pictured are some photos of the awesome evening enjoyed by all who attended. Special thanks to N.E.A.D. board member and B.C.Y.F. Nazzano Center's Executive Director Steven Siciliano for organizing the trip.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

LOCAL FRESHMAN MAKES BOSTON LATIN VARSITY HOCKEY TEAM

Fourteen-year-old Richard Bova of the North End and a Freshman at Boston Latin High School has made the Varsity hockey team.

Richard is the son of Joe and Lynn Bova and the grandson of Richard and Maryanne Longo and Maria Bova.

FUEL ASSISTANCE

ABCD Fuel Assistance Program can help families stay warm this winter by covering some or all your heating needs this winter.

Qualifiers could receive up to \$1440 for their fuel bill. For info call 617-423-9215.

ADMIRABLE JOB

Both the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) and the North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) have done an admirable job in representing the community during 2019.

NEMPAC PRESENTS "SEEKING SANCTUARY"

North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) will present its first concert of the new year, "Seeking Sanctuary" on Friday, January 10 at 7:30 PM at the Windgate Hall

at North Bennet Street School, 150 North Street. For details visit www.nempacboston.org.

NSC OFFERS MANY ACTIVITIES FOR SENIORS

There are many ways for seniors to stay safe, enjoy a hot meal and participate in a variety of programming at the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Center, 1 Michelangelo Street in the North End this winter.

The Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM and offers arts and crafts, movies, exercise classes, games and hot lunches starting at 12:30 PM.

DONATIONS NEEDED

The North End Historical Society is seeking donations to preserve and tell the history of the neighborhood. For details email northendhs@gmail.com.

NEAD BINGO

North End Against Drugs (NEAD) will hold its annual Bingo on Sunday, January 26 at 1 PM at the Nazzaro Community Center. Doors open at 12 noon. For details call 617-605-6142.

EAGLE BANK DONATES TO CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Eagle Bank made a sizable donation to the North End

Christmas Fund Luncheon which benefits North End families and elderly. Robert "Ted" Tomasone accepted the check for the holiday event.

BWSC AT LIBRARY

Boston Water and Sewer Commission will be at the North End Library, 25 Parmenter Street on Thursday, January 2 and Thursday, February 6 from 10 AM to 12 PM to assist its customers and to pay water bills. For more information call 617-989-7000.

NEWNC MONTHLY MEETING

North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) next monthly meeting will be held on Monday, January 13 at 7 p.m. at the Nazzaro Community Center.

NEWRA MONTHLY MEETING

North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9 at 7 p.m. at the Nazzaro Community Center.

NO DECEMBER FOCCP MONTHLY MEETING

The Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the

Mariners House, 11 North Square 2nd Floor.

PEACE POSTERS ON DISPLAY

Eliot School Peace Posters are on display at the North End Library, 25 Parmenter Street, for the community to enjoy. The theme was "Journey of Peace".

BABY STORYTIME

Baby Storytime is held each Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the North End Library.

RUFF HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Responsible Urbanites for Fido (RUFF) North End Dog Group has released its Holiday Giving Guide on its website www.ruffboston.org/holiday-gift-givingguide.

DOG PARK WATER SHUTOFF

RUFF advises that the water in the dog park at DeFilippo Playground will be turned off for the season. In addition, a few more park cleanings will take place before the snow falls.

NEMPAC YOUTH CHOIR

The North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) is seeking members of their Youth Choir to learn and participate in many of their

upcoming performances. For more details call 617-227-2270.

COMPUTER ASSISTANCE

One-On-One computer assistance for adults is being held at the North End Library, by appointment only. Call 617-227-8135 to reserve a spot.

NSC ARTS AND CRAFTS

Every other Thursday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. the North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NSC), 1 Michelangelo Street conducts arts and crafts.

DOG PARK CANINE VISITORS NEED TO BE REGISTERED

Responsible Urbanites for Fido (RUFF) reminds dog owners that all dogs need to be licensed to visit the dog park in DeFilippo Park.

The City of Boston has made this quick and easy by completing the registration online.

SENIOR ART CLASSES

Seniors are enjoying art classes at the North End Neighborhood Center. The daytime classes are taught by Silke Evans.

HOMEWORK HELP

The North End Library, 25 Parmenter Street will provide homework help for kindergarten through grade six on Wednesdays from 4-6 p.m.

North End Public Safety Meeting December report

By David Marx

Boston Police District A-1 provided North End / Waterfront residents an update on recent neighborhood crime incidents, summarized below, at the December 2019 North End Public Safety Meeting.

Crime in District A-1 is down 7-percent year-to-date.

Larcenies (5)

- Nov. 9 at 9:23 p.m. (CVS - 218 Hanover St.): Hanover Street pharmacy reported a male suspect stole \$600 worth of merchandise (razors, etc.).

- Nov. 20 at 2:30 p.m. (CVS - 218 Hanover St.): Hanover Street

pharmacy reported a male suspect stole \$428.98 worth of merchandise (Dunkin' K-Cups, Dunkin' coffee beans, 10 bags of pistachios, etc.).

- Nov. Nov. 19 at 2:47 p.m. and 2:59 p.m. (11 Wiget St.): Owner of a Wiget St. building reported two separate package thefts. Landlord stated that two unknown males at different times stole unknown contents of delivered packages to the building. Suspects were observed on the landlord's video camera footage.

- Nov. 16 at 2 a.m. (Cooper & Salem St.): Victim accidentally left a bag on the sidewalk. When she returned, it was gone. The bag's

contents included a wallet, tablet, credit card, etc. The credit card was used to make \$200 in fraudulent charges before it was reported stolen and cancelled.

- Nov. 23 - Nov. 24 between 3 p.m. and 9 a.m. (North Bennet Court): An eco-rider electric scooter (valued at \$1,000) was stolen from an unlocked basement.

Assault and Battery (1)

- Dec. 3 at 3:20 p.m. (CVS - 218 Hanover St.): Store employee was punched in the face by a shoplifter.

Arrests (2)

- OUI: Snowhill and Charter St. - Wrong-way driver. Driver was found to have a large open

container of vodka on the passenger seat next to her. Driver was unsteady on her feet, and crashed into nearby cars.

Fire Department had tried to move her car. Driver was sent to the hospital.

- Assault and Battery 209A: Domestic violence incident. Female suspect was arrested.

David Marx hosts the monthly Public Safety meeting with Boston Police District A-1. North End Public Safety Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month, 6 p.m. at the Nazzaro Center, 30 N. Bennet St. All are welcome to attend and bring their questions.

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Fire regulations in the City of Boston *prohibit* open fires and charcoal and gas grills on roofs, fire balconies and fire escapes.

CRWA, CLF settle lawsuit with EPA

Special to the Regional Review

Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) and Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) have reached a proposed settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) regarding the Massachusetts municipal stormwater permit.

The two organizations intervened in the permit appeal process to ensure that the permit's pollution reduction requirements were in line with current science. The groups fought to require nature-based solutions for stormwater management in new and redevelopment projects and push for stronger protections to defend waterways from polluted runoff that causes toxic algae blooms. The proposed settlement was published in the Federal Register on Dec. 27 before undergoing a 30-day public comment period.

The permit governs stormwater runoff from cities and towns along the Charles and requires a greater reduction in the polluted runoff that ends up in the river. During rain or snowmelt, water from urban streets, parking lots, and construction sites carry oil,

grease, sediment, phosphorus and other pollutants into the river. This can cause toxic algae outbreaks like the ones seen this summer, which choke plants and wildlife and make the river unsafe for humans and pets.

Under the Clean Water Act, municipalities and other public entities that discharge stormwater into rivers and streams must comply with the "MS4" (short for "municipal separate storm sewer system") general permit, which is issued by US EPA. Stormwater is the largest source of pollution in the Charles River, and the MS4 permit requires municipalities to reduce stormwater pollution by removing illicit sewer connections to storm drains and taking other steps to reduce the amount of nitrogen, phosphorous, bacteria, and other toxins into drains.

US EPA first issued an updated permit in 2016 that was more stringent than the previous permit yet delayed the permit's effective date. CRWA and CLF filed suit against US EPA to force the agency to carry out the Clean Water Act. Other parties, including the National Association of Home Builders, also sued US EPA, seeking to weaken the permit.

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Community Meeting

Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee

Friday, January 6
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

Bolling Building
2300 Washington Street, 6th Floor
Roxbury, MA 02119

Event Description

On behalf of the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee (RSMPOC), the January 6 RSMPOC Meeting is being postponed to February 3, 2020. On February 3rd, the BPDA will be providing a debrief on the P3 Development Process.

For more information on the upcoming meeting, including the draft agenda and all materials from previous RSMPOC meetings, please visit bit.ly/theRSMPOC.

Contact:

Muge Undemir
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201
617.918.4488 | mugzy.undemir@boston.gov

NEAD SCHEDULES ANNUAL BINGO

North End Against Drugs (NEAD) Super Bingo with all proceeds benefiting the non-profit organization's programs, events and activities for the year 2020, has been scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 26 at the Nazzaro Community Center starting at 1 p.m. according to NEAD President John Romano.

"The bingo is the Sunday, before the Super Bowl, it's a bye week," he added.

Details: Cost will be three cards for \$25, additional cards \$5 each. Nineteen games plus a coverall will be played. Each game will be \$50 or more, with a coverall prize of over \$100.

Free refreshments and door prizes with each paid admission. Doors will open at noon.

Participants can register at

Second Boston Common Master Plan open house announced

Special to the Regional Review

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Friends of the Public Garden invite the public to the second Boston Common Master Plan Open House on Wednesday, Jan. 15, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Josiah Quincy School Auditorium, 152 Arlington St.

The entrance for the meeting is located at the corner of Arlington Street and Marginal Road, with an

IN BRIEF By Phil Orlandella

the Center or call 617-605-6142. Must pay in advance to hold a spot. A free extra card will be given if paid by Jan. 21.

NEW ACTION PLAN ON EVICTIONS PROPOSED

Eviction executions have declined 10.1 percent over a three-year period in Boston and the City has presented new goals to further reduce that number through goals and a commitment to employee new strategies to preserve and create affordable housing and prevent displacement and neighborhoods, according to Mayor Martin Walsh and his Eviction Prevention Task Force.

An Action Plan to Reduce Evictions in Boston presents the recommendations of the task force

reportedly details the current landscape for evictions in the City and recommends expansion of the programs and services that have made an impact in preventing an increase in the number of evictions in the City, despite the competitive current housing market.

Nationally Boston is ranked 178th in eviction execution rates for large U.S. cities.

"As Boston continues to grow and with new residents and new opportunities, we must continue our hard work to ensure that our current residents are able to remain in the city they call home," Mayor Martin Walsh said.

The plan, sets a goal of reducing evictions by 33 percent in subsidized housing and 25 percent in private housing for the next five years.

accessible entrance located to the right. Off-street parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Public transportation is available via Tufts Medical Center station on the Orange Line.

As "America's First Public Park," Boston Common is an oasis in downtown Boston and one of the most treasured green spaces in the world. The goal of the Master Plan is to create a Common that will serve the people of Boston and visitors alike while protecting this special place for decades to come.

During this open house, attendees will have the opportunity to hear an overview of the Boston Common Master Plan project and receive an update on the work that has been accomplished to date, hear a summary of the extensive public feedback that has been received, hear a discussion about user needs and infrastructure needs, consider initial concepts for improving the Common, and learn about next steps.

Interpretation and translation services for this event are available at no cost by contacting Laura

Cawley of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at Laura.Cawley@boston.gov or by calling 617-961-3013.

The Open House format will include a slideshow presentation, question and answer period, and an opportunity for active participation within small breakout groups. Park users, abutters, and other stakeholders are urged to attend this important Open House as continued participation is needed in order to plan the brightest future for Boston Common.

Over the past several months, project proponents have been deeply engaged in a conversation about the future of Boston Common and the level of engagement has been significant: 4,340 people have completed an online user survey; nearly 1,200 people have engaged in constructive dialogue at 10 "Mini Common" pop-up events held in neighborhoods around the city; and 140 people attended the first Open House on Oct. 29, to generously share their observations, hopes and aspirations for this amazing place.



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NORTH END LIBRARY PROGRAMS

By Phil Orlandella

The new year has begun at the North End Library with a full schedule of events and activities for all ages this January.

Events include: Friday films, computer activities, a Mah Jongg club, a reading club, podcasts and popcorn and book discussions for adults.

Children's events are: Little Grove Family Concert, toddlers storytime, baby storytime, kids' crafternoon, tween Tuesdays, Lego club, homework help, mindful minus and a teen creative writing workshop.

For more information call 617-227-8135.

EVENTS FOR ADULTS

Friday Films: Cuning Computers and Rogue Robots
Friday Jan. 3 1:00 p.m. Her Robot and Frank
Friday Jan. 10 1:00 p.m. The Colossus: the Forbin Project
Friday Jan. 24 1:00 p.m. Bladerunner
Friday Jan. 31 1:00 p.m. Westworld

One-on-One Computer Assistance for Adults by Appointment

Call 617.227.8135 to reserve a 30-minute spot for personalized assistance with PC computing, laptops, iPads, tablets, the BPL catalog, and online resources. Laptops are available to use or you can bring your own.

Mah Jongg Club

Thursdays - 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Come and play the American-style variant of this tile-based game that originated in China and requires skill, strategy, and calculation. Beginners are welcome. No sign up is required.

30-Minute Reads Club

Thursdays - Jan. 9 and 23 -

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Short on time but still want to enjoy meaningful writing? Then 30-Minute Reads Club may be for you! As fun as fiction but full of facts, long-form journalism articles are substantive reads on a wide variety of current topics, accessible online, and take 30 minutes or less to read. We will meet every other Thursday to discuss them. Articles will be accessible through longform.org. Email jhawes@bpl.org to sign up. Once you sign up, the link to the week's article will be emailed to you.

Podcasts and Popcorn

Wednesday Jan. 22 - 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Are you curious about podcasts? At Podcast and Popcorn, you'll listen to a podcast episode or audio story and discuss it with a group, guided by a facilitator. It's a book club for your ears! You'll walk away with a deeper appreciation for audio and some practical approaches for creating your own podcast or audio project.

Adult Book Discussion Club

Wednesday, Jan. 15 - 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Jan.'s selection is Daniel Keyes's 1958 novel Flowers for Algernon. Books may be picked up and checked out at the library's front desk.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Little Groove Family Concert

Saturday, Jan. 18, 10:30-11:00 a.m.

Families sing, dance, and make music together with Little Groove. Ideal for families with babies, toddlers, or preschoolers.

Toddler Story Time

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:00 a.m.

Listen to stories, sing songs, and learn together through movement and play. This story time is ideal for little ones who have started walking and moving on their own.

Baby Story Time

Tuesdays, 11:00-11:30 a.m.

Enjoy gentle stories, songs, and lap bounces for pre-walking babies and caregivers.

Kids' Crafternoons

Every other Monday, Jan. 13 and 27, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Use different art supplies to create a project to take home. Ideal for kids 3-8 years old.

Tween Tuesdays

Tuesdays, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Explore science, engineering, technology, or art through different hands-on activities. For kids 10-12 years old.

LEGO Club

Wednesdays, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Drop in after school to build whatever you can imagine with LEGOs and DUPLOs. For kids of all ages.

BTU Homework Help

Wednesdays, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

The Boston Teachers Union sponsors a Homework Helper program in each of the Boston Public Library branches. The BTU provides a teacher to help children with their homework for free.

Mindful Minis

Thursdays, Jan. 9 - Feb. 13 (6 weeks), 3:30-4:00 p.m.

Join Mindful Minis teacher Lauren after school for a stress-reducing and wellness-promoting activity! Activities will include breathing exercises, mindful coloring, yoga, emotional awareness, and sensory description exercises! For kids 5-7 years old.

Teen Creative Writing Group

Fridays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. (starting Jan. 10)

Use writing prompts to spark new ideas or work on your own creative writing project. Share your writing if you choose, and get feedback from other teen writers in a supportive, pressure-free space.

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617-635-4408

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51 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139-1732
617-349-4396

CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES
21 Grand Street, 4th Floor
Hartford, CT 06106-1561
860-541-3400

MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
51 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
207-624-6050


MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION
One Ashburton Place, Room 601
Boston, MA 02108-1599
617-994-6000

RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
180 Westminster Street, 3rd floor
Providence, RI 02903-3768
401-222-2661/62

VERMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
135 State Street, Drawer 33
Montpelier, VT 05633-6301
802-828-2480

NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
2 Chenell Drive
Concord, NH 03301-9053
603-271-2767

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NORTH END CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

By Matt Conti

It was a full house at the 2019 North End Christmas Fund Luncheon as hundreds came together for the annual charity event.

Receiving honors this year were:

Toni Gilardi - Uncle Fred Carangelo Humanitarian Award

John Fiumara - Private Ernest J. Natale Community Service Award

The committee also thanked two longtime supporters who have been very

generous in supporting the Christmas Fund luncheon over the years.

Filippo Frattaroli - Christmas Fund Luncheon Appreciation Award

Susan Pascucci - Christmas Fund Luncheon Appreciation Award

The tradition raises thousands of dollars enabling the group to send out over 200 checks to North End seniors, low-income residents and families in need during this Christmas season. State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz and City Councilor Lydia Edwards joined with the committee to celebrate and honor those who serve the community.

The Christmas Fund Committee is led by Robert "Ted" Tomasone, John Romano of the North End

Athletic Association and James Luisi of North End Waterfront Health. The committee includes members from local non-profit agencies: North End Athletic Association, North End Against Drugs, Nazzaro Community Center, North End Waterfront Health, North End Seniors, ABCD Head Start Program and North End / West End ABCD Service Center.

For the last several years the luncheon has been held at Filippo's Ristorante and the committee would like to thank the Frattaroli Family for all of their help and support in making the luncheon a huge success.



NEAA donation to Toys for Tots with honoree Toni Gilardi, Councilor Lydia Edwards and BPD Superintendent Chuck Wilson.



Honoree Sandra Pascucci with (L-R) Ted Tomasone, NEW Health CEO Jim Luisi, Councilor Edwards, Rep. Michlewitz and John Romano.



Fred Carangelo Humanitarian Award honoree Toni Gilardi with (L-R) Janet Gilardi, NEW Health CEO Jim Luisi, Ted Tomasone, Councilor Edwards, Rep. Michlewitz and John Romano.



Massachusetts Organization of State Engineers and Scientists (MOSES) donation to the Christmas Luncheon.



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