



THE NORTH END

REGIONAL REVIEW

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COOL-OFF AT GREENWAY FOUNTAINS



PHOTO BY MATT CONTI

There are several fountains and other places on The Greenway to cool off this summer and enjoy the other activities taking place at the popular area. Besides the great fountains the food trucks, art displays, open market, farmers market, carousel, community events, activities and much more throughout the year.

Scene North End celebrates faces of neighborhood

By Dan Murphy

When Scene North End is re-launched July 22, with a new look and focus, the magazine will honor the “Faces of the North End” with an edition that celebrates the neighborhood’s residents and their spirit and perseverance over the past four months.

“It’s our new re-launch after the virus struck, and we’re very proud of the ‘Faces of the North End’ in this first issue after the pandemic,” said Frank Depasquale, the magazine’s publisher, as well as president of Depasquale Ventures, whose North End establishments include Assaggio, AquaPazza, Mare Oyster Bar, Trattoria il Panino, Quattro, Bricco Ristorante

& Enoteca, Bricco Salumeria + Pasta Shop and Bricco Salumeria Panneteria. “We’d like to show everyone how the North End set an example for the rest of the country on how we do things, listen to the rules and regulations, follow the laws of the land and make sure all our staff and customers stay safe. The North End is the greatest neighborhood in the country, and this puts us in the league where everyone should follow our example.”

The magazine’s cover will stretch across three pages (including the inside flaps) to show the faces of 198 North End residents, business owners and people who work in the neighborhood, while the cover story will be an interview

with Father Michael Della Pena, the new pastor of St. Leonard’s Church, who will discuss growing up in the North End, as well as how his faith has helped get him through these difficult times.

“The publisher’s letter is entitled ‘Faces of the North End,’ and in it, the theme is Frank saying thank you and giving a pat on the back to all the people who live and work in this part of Boston for surviving and getting through the pandemic,” said Terri Stanley, editor-in-chief of the new Scene North End. “The North End is very important to Frank, and he wants to talk about the perseverance of the people in this neighborhood. It’s kind of a love letter

(SCENE NORTH END, Pg. 9)

Edwards calls for council to have budgetary powers

By John Lynds

Historically Boston has followed a ‘Strong-Mayor’ form of government as opposed to a “Weak Mayor” system practiced by small or mid-sized cities and towns across the country.

In the Strong Mayor system Mayor Martin Walsh is given almost total administrative authority and a clear, wide range of political independence, with the power to appoint and dismiss department heads without council approval and little or no public input.

Under this system Walsh, like Boston mayors before him, prepares and administers the city budget, although the council often must approve that budget, and has veto power over council votes.

This differs from a weak-mayor system where the mayor has no formal authority outside the council, cannot directly appoint or remove officials, and lacks veto power over council votes.

This week, City Councilor Lydia Edwards filed a proposed amendment to Boston’s city charter that would give the Boston City Council budgetary powers equal to those of the Mayor’s.

The historic proposal was filed under a provision in state law that allows local elected officials to propose amendments to city charters which have never been used before.

“I’ve spent a lot of time over the past few weeks thinking about

(EDWARDS Pg. 2)

City Winery on The Greenway opens for the 2020 season

By John Lynds

By now in the season City Winery on The Greenway near the Boston Harbor Hotel would be filled with office workers looking to unwind, have a drink after work or grab a bite with friends before heading home.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic put a hold on a lot of seasonal eateries that are usually packed by mid-summer.

Waiting out the first two phases of the state’s cautious phased reopening plan, the Rose F. Kennedy Greenway Conservancy and City Winery Boston announced the return of City Winery on The Greenway for a second season.

City Winery on The Greenway is an offshoot of the popular restaurant and acclaimed live music venue, City Winery, on

Beverly Street in the North End.

Chief Growth Officer for City Winery Avi Kent said from its inaugural season last year in 2019, City Winery on The Greenway has provided an urban oasis that serves as an elevated, fun, and friendly destination in downtown Boston.

City Winery on The Greenway opened for the season on Wednesday, July 15. The regular hours of operation are Wednesday and Friday 4-9pm, Saturday 1-9pm, and Sunday 12-8pm into the fall.

“We’re excited to be reopening City Winery on The Greenway for our second summer,” said Kent. “We can’t wait to bring our award-winning wine to The Greenway and to provide a safe outdoor gathering space downtown in partnership with the

(CITY WINERY Pg. 3)

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Going on a vacation? Pack your bags, set the GPS...and get a COVID test

By Seth Daniel

Traveling this summer will be awkward at best, but a breath of fresh air is on a much-needed getaway for residents who have been under long quarantines. However, vacationers may have to supply proof of a negative COVID-19 test in many locations.

As people begin to travel regionally – mostly in cars or trains due to the continued risk of air travel – many states are requiring that visitors to Massachusetts either quarantine at their destination for 14 days (which likely isn't happening on a vacation from quarantine), or bring proof they have received a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours of arriving. That is exactly the case for Maine, which released its new travel guidance on June 26 – opening up with some restrictions the

vacation playground once again to those from Boston.

For Maine officials, the guidance about testing is about protecting the residents there as much as it is about protecting those who are coming up to vacation – and being tested before arriving is something tourism officials there are giving a big thumbs up to.

“We feel really strongly about it and feel it's a great solution,” said Heather Johnson, commissioner of the Maine Dept. of Economic and Community Development. “When you think about tourism in Maine, you grow from 1.3 million people to 22 million in the summer months. That's a very large swing in population. This is one of the options to keep residents and tourists safe. We feel strongly about keeping residents and people coming to Maine safe.”

In Maine, the choices are to

quarantine or to test, and it's about protecting the work that has been done on containing COVID-19, while still being able to enjoy a getaway.

“States where numbers are under control need to protect that,” Johnson said. “The best available options to do that are to quarantine or to test. We decided to let visitors make that decision...For the people who want to go downtown or enjoy areas that are populated, they can go to get the test and be confident they are safe and healthy.”

That is exactly what David Belton, a health administrator in Boston, plans to do with his family before they travel to Maine later this month.

Having already had to cancel trips to Italy, Slovenia and Los Angeles in the last three months, he said he's vacation-deprived, and looks forward to some respite in Maine. However, he also wants to follow their rules and have confidence that he isn't bringing COVID-19 north.

“We're planning to go to Maine on July 11 and rent a house there for two weeks,” he said. “My plan is for us to be tested at Boston's South End Community Health Center site in advance and then head up that way. We'll get the test on Wednesday, and then leave on Saturday. I'll have my letter or certificate with my result from the health center. I'll carry

it with me so they know I'm safe and so I can present it if I get stopped or questioned with my Massachusetts license plates.”

He said if that's what has to be done, he could understand the logic.

“Our plan is for everyone going to be tested,” he said. “I want to be active and out up there. I don't want to self-quarantine for two weeks up there. We've all had enough of that.”

Belton said it's probably a response from Maine to help the vacation destination industry – which is really hurting – and to also reassure Maine residents that outsiders aren't bringing in the virus.

At the Bayside Inn Bed & Breakfast in Booth Bay Harbor, former Boston residents and Inn proprietors Peter and Kathryn Sullivan said the lodging industry was down 80 percent in April and likely just as much in May. They were only allowed to welcome guests from Massachusetts as of June 26.

Right now, in such uncertain times, they are trying to adjust to COVID-19 restrictions, new sanitary procedures and other ways of doing business. Maine issued its executive order last week allowing Massachusetts residents to come up and visit. With proof of a negative result, visitors can move about freely without any worry – especially since the Booth Bay

area only had 23 cases during the entire COVID-19 outbreak, so it's relatively free of the virus. With the certificate, Sullivan said visitors could take boat tours, hit the hiking trails and get tickets to the world-famous Booth Bay Botanical Gardens. The hope is that Boston residents will take the chance to come up north – even as many have said they will defer summer vacations this year.

“Up until last Friday, we were only allowed to have Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont residents without certification of being virus free,” she said. “As of June 26, anyone who travels here has to sign a certificate of compliance. We'd love to have more Boston people come up. It's much quicker to get here than to the Cape now, I believe. There are some great opportunities here to get outside and enjoy nature.”

Johnson said the state of Maine also is encouraging Massachusetts residents to come up north this summer, but they do want to make sure everyone is safe in doing so.

“We just don't want the back and forth of opening up and closing down,” she said. “We're looking forward to serving them. We are anxious to see them and hope they come and hope they feel safe here. We will do everything we can to protect them.”

OPINION BY PHIL ORLANDELLA

COLUMBUS STATUE AND PARK STATUS IN THE HANDS OF RESIDENTS

Resolving the issue around the replacement of the Christopher Columbus statue and the possible renaming of the park honoring the famous Navigator is still in limbo.

The statue had been decapitated twice over the years, and has been removed by the City and placed in storage for safekeeping.

During Christopher Columbus holiday weekends, the statue had been painted red with suggestive messages that were removed by the City as soon as possible.

Mayor Martin Walsh during a virtual meeting with the North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) made it clear that “residents should make the decisions” on what actions should be taken.

Several Italian-American organizations were surprised to meet with the Mayor to recertify the possible racial situation but it was called off and has been rescheduled to resolve the potential nasty situation.

Many residents and organizations are questioning how will residents made this decision?

They want to know if there is a plan being developed so they can express their opinion on the matter.

Those encouraging keeping

the statue in storage forever and possibly renaming the park have labeled the navigator a part of history of slavery.

Concerns are being raised by residents and local organizations that if they support replacing the statue and keep the park's name, they will be labeled as racist.

Letting residents make the decision is certainly the right choice but how will this be accomplished?

NEWNC/NEWRA IS STILL ACTIVE

Both community organizations North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) and North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) are doing an admirable job attempting to have neighborhood issues and requests dealt with by virtual meetings that have been highly successful through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through their notable efforts by the community watchdog groups have maintained an open venue for the neighborhood, businesses, developers, political representatives and City Hall.

NEWNC and NEWRA could have rolled over and play dead during the pandemic, however, they rose to the occasion and did what was called for and did the job they are supposed to do.... Be the voice for the community.

EDWARDS (from pg. 1)

how to answer the calls for systemic change and investment in our future,” said Edwards. “An annual up or down vote alone on the mayor's budget cannot bring about the long term change that is needed and that people are calling for. That change will not come from any one vote or annual budget. It's time to break the wheel of Boston's budget making process. This will take time, research, negotiations, and sustained conversations about what we want to invest in as a city. Until we change the budget process, we don't have an opportunity to have those conversations in a meaningful way.”

According to Edwards the proposed amendment specifically targets the budgetary powers of the City and is separate from the complete charter reform the councilor proposed earlier this year. “Boston can move forward on specific reforms to our budgetary process even as we pursue

a democratic process to examine the entire charter,” said Edwards. “That process will require much more organizing and eventually candidates will have to run for an opportunity to write the charter. I am still committed to writing a clear, accessible, complete charter but right now people are asking for direct impact and influence on our budget. We can give them that power by modernizing and democratizing the budgetary process and expanding participatory budgeting, which would give residents greater control over portions of the budget.”

Under Massachusetts General Laws, a member of the city council may suggest a charter amendment. After a hearing and final vote by the city council the Attorney General must approve the question's constitutionality and then it will be put to the voters to decide in November 2021. This proposal would be the first known charter

amendment to be implemented using this process.

If Boston voters approve this amendment next fall, the Boston City Council and the Mayor would share power over the city's budget. This includes the ability to create proposals for the city's capital and operating budgets, change line items within the proposals, allocate parts of the budget for a participatory budget process (voter direct allocation), and amend the budget for Boston Public Schools.

Additionally, this change would also give the city council tools to more quickly respond to the need for budget cuts in times of fiscal austerity and allow for public deliberation on what services could or should be reduced without lasting harm. This change also allows for earlier budgetary deliberation should either the Mayor or Council desire to do so.

COVID-19 Update for North End

By John Lynds

After reporting only a three percent increase in the COVID-19 infection rate in the North End two weeks ago the infection rate here has increased nearly seven and half percent.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on Friday the North End, as well as West End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay and Downtown the infection rate rose only 7.3 percent in the past two weeks.

On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed the North End, West End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay

and Downtown had an infection rate of 89.2 cases per 10,000 residents, up from 86 cases per 10,000 residents two week ago.

The number of confirmed cases in the area increased from 479 two weeks ago to 497 cases.

However, compared to other neighborhoods the North End, West End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay and Downtown have the second lowest infection rates among residents second to only Fenway.

The North End is also still well below the city's average infection rate of 200.9 cases per 10,000 residents.

The stats released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID-19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Last week the BPHC reported that 6,722 residents were tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that more people tested positive than two weeks ago. Two weeks ago only 1.4 percent of those tested in the area were COVID positive but last week 2.1 percent tested positive, a fifty percent increase.

Overall since the pandemic began 7.7 percent of North End, West End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay and Downtown residents were found to be COVID positive.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus rose 1.2 percent from 13,556 cases reported last week to 13,723 confirmed cases. So far 9,710 Boston residents have fully recovered from the virus.

Boston experienced no deaths from COVID-19 last week.

CITY WINERY (from pg. 1)

Greenway Conservancy.”

Kent said City Winery will be serving their locally crafted wine on tap, including a variety of reds, whites, and rosé and they have partnered with Boston-based Harpoon Brewery to offer locally-made craft beer and cider.

There will also be a menu of fresh wraps, cheese boards, and snacks to complement the wine garden experience.

Kent said consistent with guidelines from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Boston, new protocols have been established for visitor safety at City Winery on The Greenway.

The new protocols are as follows:

All guests are required to complete a wellness check prior to entering.

Guests may order at the bar, standing at a safe social distance. Guests otherwise remain seated at their tables.

Each table will seat 6 guests maximum and tables will be at least 6 feet apart from each other.

All staff and guests are required to wear a face mask until their food and drinks are at their table.

“We’re delighted to bring back City Winery on The Greenway for its second summer on Dewey Square. As Boston continues with phased reopening, the Conservancy will continue to provide the dynamic open space, contemporary public art, and local food and drink options that are essential to everyone who shares our city,” said Greenway Conservancy Executive Director Jesse Brackenbury. “During these challenging times,



City Winery on The Greenway opened for the season on Wednesday near the Boston Harbor Hotel.

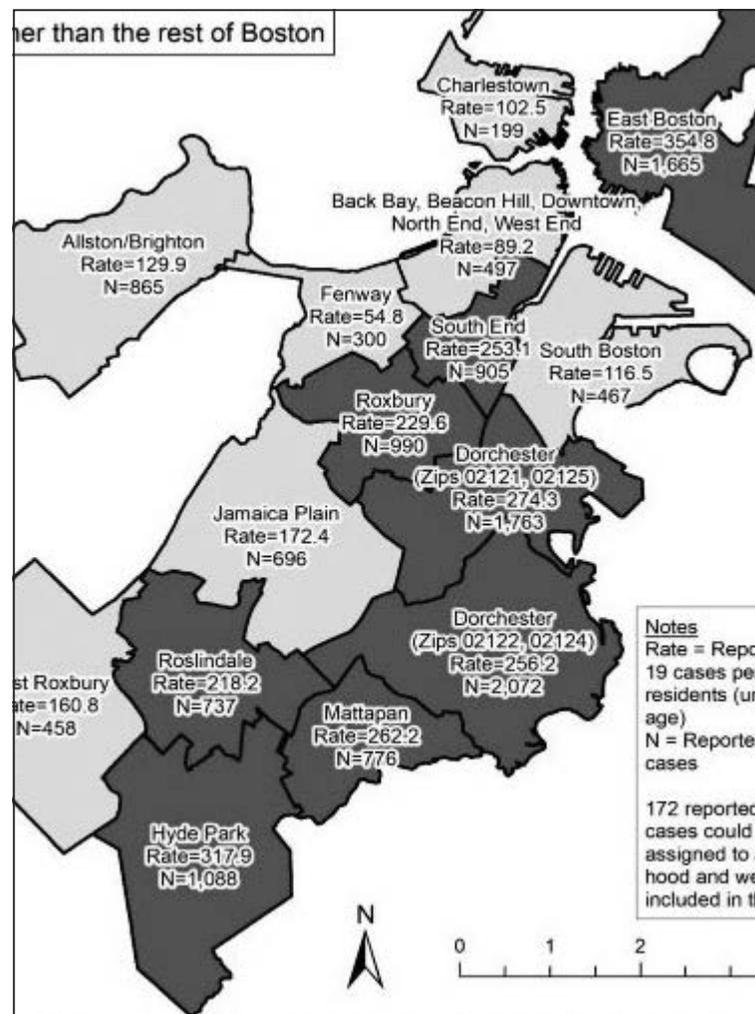
the Conservancy looks forward to welcoming visitors to safely unwind at City Winery on The Greenway this summer.”

Brackenbury said City Winery on The Greenway will complement all that The Greenway has to offer.

“Visitors can explore our seven unique water features and unwind in our organically maintained lawns and gardens,” said Brackenbury. “Earlier this spring, the Conservancy announced the installation of a new artwork by Mexican-American master folk artist Catalina Delgado-Trunk and imminent installation of new artwork by renowned British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare. Delgado-Trunk’s Global Connections: Mesoamerican Myths, the Domestication of Nourishment, and its Distribution and Shonibare’s Wind Sculpture (SG) V will be on display for one year and will join four other artworks currently on display on The

Greenway.” Brackenbury added that The Greenway Open Market takes place every Saturday and first and third Sundays of the month, and the Boston Public Market at Dewey Square has returned for the season on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Greenway Food Truck Program and Greenway Carousel at The Tiffany & Co. Foundation Grove is operating with limited schedules.

“All Greenway programming features enhanced cleaning and physical distancing procedures to promote safety for our park visitors,” said Brackenbury. “You can learn more about changes to Conservancy programming in the park and response to COVID-19 in our blog post, COVID-19 - Updates from the Greenway Conservancy. This information will continue to be regularly updated; you can also sign up for regular email updates from the Conservancy on our webpage.”



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EDITORIAL

WHEN DID THE U.S. GO FROM FIRST TO WORST?

For those of us of the Baby Boom generation, it was unquestionable that the United States was “the best” country in the world.

Despite the war in Vietnam, Watergate, recessions, 9/11, and other setbacks, America continued to be a global leader in just about every aspect of world affairs.

Basically, there was the U.S. -- and then there was everybody else.

American exceptionalism was taken for granted (even if in truth we often were not all that exceptional).

However, the coronavirus has pulled back the curtain and exposed us for what we have become -- a nation that ranks among the worst by many metrics. Compared to our supposed peers in Western Europe and Asia, our response to the pandemic has been pathetic. COVID-19 death rates per capita in Western Europe are only a 10th of the death rate in the U.S. And while theirs are falling, ours is rising.

Consider these additional facts:

How can it be that we have 4% of the world's population, but we have 25% of the deaths from COVID-19?

How can it be that four months into the pandemic, we still do not have enough PPE (personal protective equipment) for our hospital and other front line workers?

How can it be that some of our states have more new cases of COVID-19 than entire countries?

How can it be that not only is the amount of our testing still woefully inadequate, but that our labs are so backed up that it is taking 5-7 days to get results -- which all but makes the testing useless because results need to be made available within 24-48 hours?

COVID-19 has revealed us to be the equivalent of a so-called Third World country.

To put it simply, we have devolved from being a global leader to that of a global laggard with the result that thousands of Americans are getting sick and dying and our economy remains in tatters -- and with no end in sight.

NAME CHANGE WAS A LONG TIME COMING

The decision this week by the Washington Redskins to change its team name was long, long, LONG overdue.

The term “redskin” is -- and always has been -- a racist reference to Native Americans.

For anyone who doubts that notion, just think about all of the western movies that have permeated our culture for almost 100 years. When the hero would say something like, “Let’s kill all of those thievin’ redskins,” (or something similar), the use of the term “redskin” was meant to dehumanize Native Americans.

It certainly was not a complimentary term.

We should point out that the obnoxious and arrogant owner of the Washington football team for years has ridiculed any suggestion that he change the team’s name.

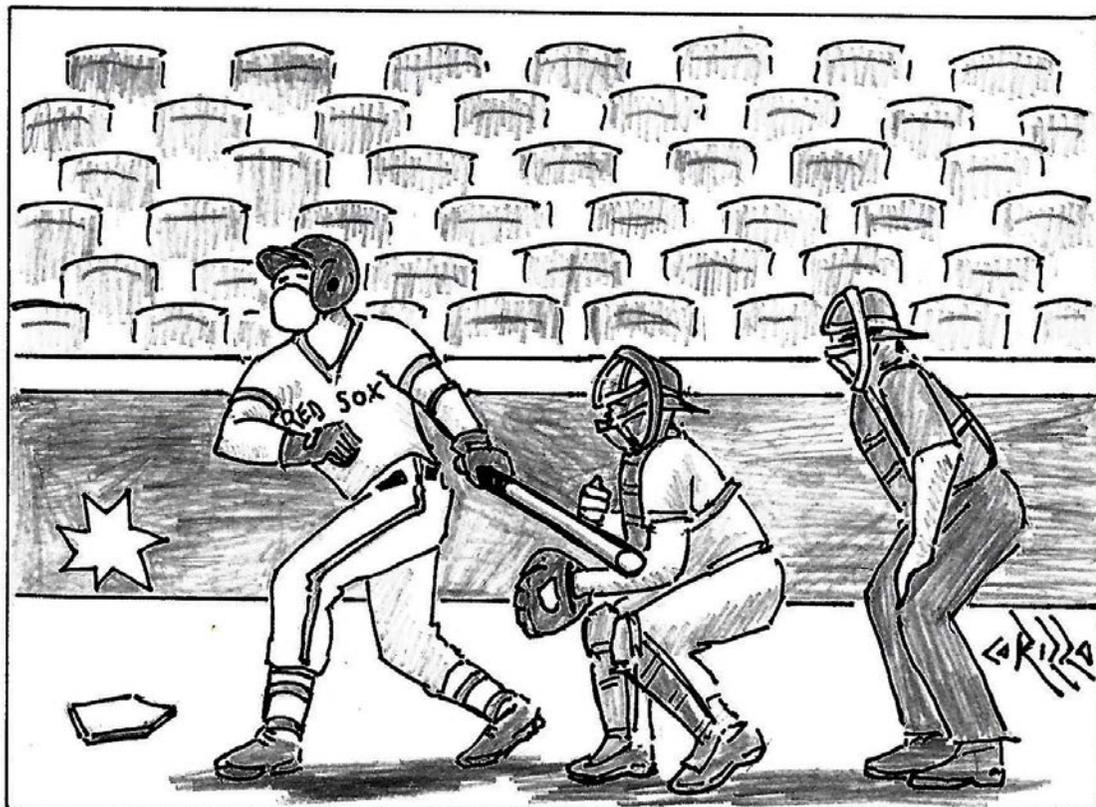
It finally was the force of economics, not a sudden surge of altruism, that prompted the team’s about-face. When various team sponsors -- who themselves became motivated to do so only in light of recent events -- threatened to remove their millions of dollars of revenue, that finally is what got the team ownership’s attention.

So we’re happy to see that yet another vestige of America’s racist past is falling. There still is a lot more to do, but changing the name of Washington’s football team is yet another step in the right direction as we acknowledge and renounce our racist and genocidal past.

To quote the Sam Cooke song:

It’s been a long, a long time coming

But I know a change’s gonna come, oh, yes, it will



LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING BACK

GUEST OP-ED

What to consider before adopting a pet

By Susan Marie

As word grew that people were going to have to shelter-in-place for an unspecified length of time, animal shelters began to empty. Thousands of people realized that they may be lonely during this time of social-distancing from family and friends. In some situations, parents came to the conclusion that their children needed a happy diversion and agreed to add a furkid to their family. Whatever the reason, shelters began to empty and animal lovers, like myself, were thrilled. However, families are seeking guidance on what dog might be right for them. Those who have already added a dog to their family are concerned with how to keep their new pet happy. Below are some points to consider, as you ponder which animal to bring home and what to do once they step their excited paws through your threshold.

1. The coronavirus pandemic will not last forever, but adopting your “forever friend” is a lifetime commitment of unconditional love. The first thing to consider is your family’s lifestyle. Are you looking for a dog that is high energy that will join the kids in playful romps in the yard and long runs? Or are you looking for a less active dog who enjoys binge

watching TV while you are on Zoom meetings and the kids are in online classes? Do you want your dog to be happy with a leisurely walk after dinner and easy, quiet fun in the home or yard? A senior citizen might consider a smaller senior pup who enjoys cuddling on the sofa and healthy snacks. It is important to keep in mind your pup’s breed, size and temperament when considering what your home and lifestyle can reasonably accommodate. Though the adoption process itself may differ slightly during COVID-19, please feel free to contact your local shelter and rescue organization and they will gladly help you choose the “forever friend” that is best for your home and family.

2. Consider preparing for the pandemic as you would to prepare for a disaster, like hurricane season. Compile a first aid kit and an emergency kit and for your pet that includes at least two weeks of food and treats, medications, medical records, veterinarian(s) contact information. Also be sure to have all necessary everyday supplies, such as collars, leashes, harnesses and disposable bags. Make sure your dog has ID tags and is microchipped with your current contact information as well as that of an emergency contact outside the area.

3. How much time will you

be able to spend with your dog during and after the pandemic? More time spent at home together while you work from home is a great opportunity to bond with your furkid and also increases your availability to train. For some behavioral concerns, including separation anxiety, please contact a professional trainer who may offer online classes. When you return to work, keep in mind who will look after your pup during the day. You may decide to take your pup to doggy day care or hire a professional pet sitter to visit your home in the morning and afternoon for bathroom breaks and exercise.

4. If adopting is something that you may not be able to commit to at this time, please consider fostering a dog. Contact your local shelter or rescue organization to see if they have a foster plan that better suits your family’s lifestyle. Keep in mind adopting a pet into your family is a lifetime commitment that will change both of your lives “forever.”

For over fifteen years, Susan Marie has been spreading the word about puppy love through her national weekly radio show, *The Doggy Diva Show*. Susan is also the author of the award-winning *Miss Olive children’s book trilogy The Doggy Diva Diaries*.

Encore re-opens doors with no issues

By Seth Daniel

The sounds of Frank Sinatra music or sultry Peggy Lee tunes in the Encore Boston Harbor resort had been off since March until this past week – as employees began to return for training in the run up to last Sunday's reopening.

It was music to everyone's ears.

There had been only a handful of people in the casino for months, no restaurants, no vibe, and no fun, said President Eric Gullbrants during a tour of the resort last Thursday, prior to Sunday's opening.

"There were no flowers in here at all," said Gullbrants. "It was very quiet and lifeless and it's coming back to life. There was no music here. We just put that back on. It was definitely quiet because there was no music and no employees and the most important thing – no people. It was just a few of us really. The resort is being brought back to life now. I feel the heart and soul of our company coming back to life."

Encore had been shuttered since late March when they voluntarily closed just ahead of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) vote to close casinos, which was only lifted this month. Some 5,000 employees at Encore were not able to return to work in that time, though the company did continue to pay them into June. Two weeks ago, the company announced they would likely have to furlough 3,000 employees, but that has already been dialed back.

By opening on Sunday, 2,700 employees had been called back, and more could be brought back if things continue to go well.

"Our team members were elated and so happy to be back,"



President Brian Gullbrants demonstrates the protection of the barriers at the gaming stations. The casino floor is down about 50 percent of its stations, with 1,000 of those being at slot machines.

Gullbrants said. "I would say we're more appreciative of them than they are of us. I know we paid everyone in the interim, but I'm just grateful they are coming back. They didn't have to stay around, but they did. We have a really tremendous staff. Very few people have left...If demand is high and we can open additional areas, we will. That will only be when it's safe. I have to say the week has been like a homecoming for us."

On Sunday, there were a steady flow of guests and everyone was ready to get out and enjoy the resort again – yet another homecoming for guests who had not been able to visit the resort.

A spokesman confirmed they had a great opening without any issues.

"Other than telling a handful of people to push their mask up to cover their nose, there really weren't any issues," said Spokesman Eric Kraus. "People enjoyed the experience. Some guests actually enjoyed the Plexiglas barrier being up better than the way it used to be. People were great and they enjoyed themselves."

That was the object of the preparations for the opening all last week, with Encore taking several pages from their sister resorts in Macau and Las Vegas – which have already re-opened. They submitted a very detailed opening plan with the help of consultants from Johns Hopkins and Georgetown in May, but it has been refined over and over again in the weeks since.

Things are certainly different, and it's not the Encore of last summer, but it's slowly returning.

They have lost nearly 50 percent of their gaming stations, going from 4,540 stations to

2,449 at opening. There are no Craps, Roulette or poker games, and of the lost gaming stations, that includes 1,000 slot machines closed due to social distancing. All of the card game tables have extensive Plexiglas barriers between the dealer and the players, and players are no longer allowed to touch the cards.

"We flip the cards for them now and that's for the safety of the guest and our employees," said Gullbrants. "We followed the regulations to a 'T' with the barriers. It wasn't hard, but it was expensive. We did it in house, but it cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and some blood, sweat and tears."

Gullbrants said the cards are disposed of immediately if a guest touches them, and they are disposed of every night as part of their plan anyhow.

The Poker Room has been repurposed to have more Blackjack, Video Poker and Dynasty Games. Additionally, Gullbrants said they are working on a prototype with a plastics maker to help them be able to maybe get Poker safely up and running, if the MGC approves of it.

"We hope they will approve it in the next couple of weeks as we prove we can safely deal the current games," he said.

There is now only one entrance – at the waterfront side of the building, and only one exit as well. Anyone walking in the entrance will be scanned with a thermal imaging camera, which detects an elevated body temperature – or fever. Anyone showing an elevated temperature will be further screened. Masks are required at all times, and the hotel is actually only being used minimally.

The hotel tower is only open to guests Thursday to Sunday, and closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. That is simply because demand isn't yet back.

"That type of demand is gone in the short term," he said. "When it returns, we'll introduce the 24/7 operations. However, there isn't enough demand to fill the hotel Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday here."

Restaurants are perhaps the trickiest situation as they strive to institute greater and greater protections, while still giving everyone a top-notch experience. At this point, those open include Rare Steakhouse, Red 8, Fratelli, Mystique, On Deck Burger Bar, Encore Cantina, Lucky Dogs (new hot dog cart), Garden Cocktail Lounge, Bru, and Dunkin' Donuts.

Gullbrants said a great deal



Ready to open the resort were Doormen Rafik Chaib of East Boston, and Robert Traynham of Boston. The resort opened at 9 a.m. on Sunday, July 12.



Michelle McMahon, a table dealer, demonstrates how they will deal Blackjack under the new regulations.

of thought has been put into the dining experience, and detailed the protocols. Diners who prefer not to have a menu can call up the offerings with their cell phone using a QR Code. Then, when they enter the restaurant, they will sanitize, and everything will be cleaned and disinfected before they sit down. The silverware is rolled up and the glass is brought straight from the kitchen to ensure it's sanitized. There is even a "mask coaster" that people can place their masks on while dining – a tweak developed in Macau after they opened in March.

There is also no bar seating, but they are taking advantage of the ample outdoor patio spaces.

"We spread out every restaurant, but we're probably a little over 50 percent of capacity," he said. "That varies, but every restaurant has eliminated seats for safety. If it's busy, this will be as busy as it will ever be ... We feel the long-term implications of health and safety are paramount

and supersede everything. If we're not safe, we have no business."

Gullbrants said after spending months at home with his family – like most everyone else – he believes people are ready to come out and have fun in a safe environment.

"The last thing I want to do is open a casino with no amenities," he said. "It might be fun to play at the casino a little bit, but you want to have drinks and a Chinese Restaurant, Rare and a great dining experience...I think the customers are starving for that experience. I can tell you sitting in my home with my family for weeks and months on end; it was time to get back. We developed a plan that allows us to deliver that experience in a safe manner. I think we've achieved that."

CITY PAWS

Tips for brushing and bathing dogs

by Penny & Ed Cherubino

We saw a lot of shaggy dogs during the months when grooming shops were closed. What's more, despite regular baths and at-home grooming sessions, our Poppy looked so much better after her session with Jenny, her groomer at Pawsh Dog Boutique.

While Penny has had some training in grooming a Westie, she learned more from a series of videos that Pawsh groomers recorded to help their clients care for their dogs during the crisis. Those are still available on the blog section of the shop's website.

First Brush!

Routine brushing keeps your dog from excess shedding, matting, and could prevent painful skin sores. It may also help reduce human allergy symptoms by removing dander and much of the pollen that loves to take a ride inside with your dog.

Having the dog up at a comfortable level (on a counter, has-sock, or park bench) can make brushing more comfortable for both of you. It also restricts the dog's movement. Just be sure you have everything you need at hand before you begin and put the dog back on the ground if you do have

to step away.

From the videos, we learned to work on small sections in a systematic fashion. For example, begin brushing each leg from bottom to top. Section the chest, back, and sides into small areas that you can carefully brush from the ends of the coat moving in towards the skin with each stroke. This way you can gently remove any tangles and mats.

Bathing Tips

One of the most important things you should know if you are about to give your dog a bath at home is that you should do a thorough brushing first. Tangles can become painful mats when wet.

Decide on the safest bath location. We use the sink for Poppy but have also bathed dogs in the bathtub and shower. In warm weather, an outside space, a big tub, or a kiddie pool might work. Remember though, most dogs will react better to lukewarm water and gentle water pressure.

Gather a pile of towels, a shampoo designed for dogs, a brush and comb, and expect to get very wet yourself. Begin by gently saturating the dog's coat. If your dog, like ours, has a water-resistant or double coat, this will take some time and patience.



Poppy looked great coming out of Pawsh Dog Boutique after her first professional grooming in months.

We dilute our dog shampoo with warm water in a spray bottle to make it easy to cover each area with a light but ample supply of suds. Rub away as you would rub your own head with the pads of your fingers. Here again, you might want to work on one section at a time in a sensible sequence. We always start with the dirtiest parts and work our way toward the head.

Rinse and Rinse Again, Then

Dry! Letting the shampoo sit in the coat for a few minutes can help it dissolve the dirt and oils you want to rinse away. When you think you've rinsed the dog completely, do it one more time. Both leftover shampoo and damp spots near the skin can lead to hot spots, dermatitis, and itchy skin.

That means you should dry your dog's coat rubbing it with towel-after-towel, especially on a dog with a thick heavy coat.

Check with your veterinarian or groomer to see how often your dog should need routine baths. Learning to do it yourself in a calm situation will help when you find the need to bath an extremely dirty dog or one that has rolled in something truly foul like goose poop!

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF

Millennium Park | 315 Gardner Street | Saturday, July 25 | 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

If you come to our event, please keep in mind:

- face coverings must be worn
- we don't take latex paint, and
- you must place your waste in your trunk or the bed of your truck.

For safety reasons, we won't remove materials from back seats.

This event is weather permitting. For the latest updates, visit our twitter feed [@BostonPWD](https://twitter.com/BostonPWD)

To check a list of acceptable items, visit: boston.gov/hazardous-waste



Markey and Kennedy answer questions posed by inmates in socially distanced forum

By Lauren Bennett

On July 7, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department held a Senate Forum with Senator Ed Markey and Congressman Joe Kennedy III, candidates for the US Senate in this year's election.

The forum, which was moderated by Suffolk County Sheriff Steven Tompkins, was closed to the public, but was live streamed on Facebook and included questions from men and women in custody at the South Bay House of Correction. Each candidate had their own round of questions and were not in the room at the same time, and masks were worn by everyone and social distancing was observed.

Questions ranged from concerns about transportation access to ensuring support after prison to childcare and housing.

In his opening statement, Senator Markey said that the criminal justice system needs to be "overhauled," and that resources are not currently provided to people to make sure they get the help they need before, during, and after prison. "We have to change that," he said.

"You learn a lot about a country by who it imprisons," Markey said. "We imprison the black and the brown citizens in our country in disproportionate numbers."

When asked about the necessity for access to transportation, Markey said that he and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley introduced legislation saying that public transportation should be free "so that you're able to go to your destination, to be where you have to be, to do what you have to do."

Congressman Kennedy agreed that "the obstacles that exist" for people to be able to get to and from places like work, school, and the grocery store "are massive" and possibly expanding or rethinking programs like the MBTA's The Ride could be part of the solution.

Markey was also asked why prisons and jails are becoming "de facto mental health institutions," and he said that de-institutionalizing people about 35 years ago put people with mental illness out on the streets.

"What we did was we took one program and ended it," he said, adding that the government then did not provide funding to ensure that individuals received proper health care. He said that making access to treatment avail-

able "before they do something that results in the police taking them" is necessary, as are sufficient funds for the mental health system in general.

"We criminalize low level offenses rather than give resources," he said, saying that mental health issues should be treated like the diseases they are.

Markey was also asked why he is "interested in what we have to say if we are not able to vote as inmates?" In Massachusetts, those incarcerated for a felony are ineligible to vote, but are permitted to do so again once they are released.

Markey responded with "because you're citizens; because everyone should be treated with dignity." He said that one day, "you're going to go back out there," and after leaving prison, he wants to make sure they get the help and support they need to be successful. "We have to think of you as a part of a larger family," he said, and make sure that many issues are treated as health issues, not criminal ones.

"Our country in this moment is in the midst of a massive cry for change," Kennedy said in his opening statement.

Kennedy called for fewer people in jails, and "[making] sure we aren't incarcerating folks who are sick."

On police reform, Markey said that "every police officer should have to wear a camera. There should be no circumstances of where they aren't and there should be a full recording of what took place."

He added that "any police officer that engages in conduct that violates the constitutional rights of an individual should be held accountable...in the criminal justice system."

Markey also called for more social workers, mental health resources, drug rehabilitation workers, and employment opportunities to be funded with the reallocation of resources. He said doing so will help rid of the "school to prison pipeline" in America.

"This is the moment of reckoning," Markey said. "We need police accountability" and to deal with the "racial bias that is built into the system." He talked about sentencing guidelines and the discrepancy that exists between crack and powdered cocaine.

Markey was also asked about his initiatives against gun violence, and why there is a lot of housing for people dealing with substance abuse but not those involved in

gun violence.

Markey said that despite the National Rifle Association (NRA) not wanting it, he succeeded in adding \$25 million to the federal budget for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to conduct research on the causes of gun violence. He also agreed that more assistance and funding for those involved in gun violence is necessary.

"A vision without funding is a hallucination," he said.

When asked about how he will help with racial disparities if elected to the Senate, Kennedy said "we need to be doing so much more. My efforts are obviously not enough. My commitment to you is to do everything I possibly can." He talked about filing legislation to address structural inequities, but he said showing up to communities "who have been screaming about this for longer than I've been alive" and "where people are unseen and unheard" is vital. "There is value in showing up," he said.

Kennedy said that "the way in which we approach the 'war on drugs' does not work," and it "has to change."

He said those in prison for a long period of time also need access to education and professional development programs to give them skill sets to be able to provide for their families once they are out of prison.

Markey also said he will advocate for change to the mandatory minimum sentencing system, which he said is "leading to over incarceration." Kennedy agreed that they system needs to change.

Housing was another issue brought up several times in different contexts. Markey said that making sure people do not get evicted from their homes and ensuring they have income coming in each month is important.

Kennedy said that "housing is one of the biggest roadblocks that we face here," and more money is needed for affordable housing as many people who are vital to running the city can't even afford to live in it. "100 percent, we have to do an awful lot more," Kennedy said.

One of the women said that many inmates do not trust elected officials like Kennedy because "you haven't had our background." She said that when she gets out, she wants to fight for women inmates, and suggested that hiring people like her would be a huge help to elected officials. "People that don't know what it's like to be arrest-

ed" shouldn't be the ones making decisions on related topics, she said, adding that she believes former inmates acting as consultants could be beneficial.

"I think it's a great idea," Kennedy said. "Government is the way we as a collective respond to challenges."

In closing, Markey reiterated his commitment to working on the lack of funding for substance abuse and mental health issues, which are "making it difficult for people to reincorporate into society," he said.

"I promise you that I will fight

with every ounce of strength which I have to overhaul this criminal justice system; this policing system," he added. There are "too many people behind bars who shouldn't be there."

Kennedy said that "our normal...isn't good enough. We have a chance to actually reset the trajectory of our country." He called for "policies that meet people where they are and say 'let's do something about it.'"

The full Senate forum can be viewed on the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Facebook page.

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A public service message from the U.S. General Services Administration.

DPH offers summer outdoor safety tips for residents

With the arrival of summer weather, and as COVID-19 related restrictions on daily activities begin to lift, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) reminds residents of the recommended precautions to keep families, including young children, safe this summer.

Prevent Tick Bites

Ticks can make you sick when they bite you. They are most commonly found in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas. They only attach when you come into direct contact with them — they cannot jump or fly. Follow these steps if you live, work, or spend time in areas where ticks are present:

- Check yourself for ticks once a day — it's the single most important thing you can do.
- Use repellents that contain DEET on your exposed skin and those that contain permethrin on your clothes.
- When walking or hiking, stick to main pathways and the center of trails if you can. Brushing against tall grass and bushes will increase your exposure to ticks.
- Weather permitting, wear long-sleeved, light-colored shirts and long pants tucked into socks. This will help keep ticks away from your skin and make it easier to spot ticks on your clothing.

Because dogs and horses are particularly susceptible, talk to your veterinarian about the best

ways to protect your animals from tick-borne disease.

Prevent Mosquito Bites

The 2019 mosquito season was an active season for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Massachusetts. This mosquito-borne illness appears generally in 2-3 year cycles, traditionally peaking during August.

While the risk for human infection of EEE or West Nile Virus won't happen until later this summer, people have an important role to play in protecting themselves from these illnesses which can be very serious. To prepare for mosquito season:

- Drain standing water in and around your house or yard to prevent mosquito breeding.
- Repair window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of your home.
- Use a mosquito repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient according to the directions on the label.
- Wear clothing to reduce exposed skin when weather permits.

To learn more, watch this 3-minute video narrated by State Epidemiologist Dr. Catherine Brown about the mosquito-borne virus and how to protect yourself and your family. For more information about preventing mosquito and tickborne illness, visit www.mass.gov/mosquitoesandticks.

Water and Pool Safety

Drowning is a leading cause of death among young children, both nationally and in Massachusetts, with backyard pools posing the highest risk for children under the age of 5. To help prevent water-related injury and drowning:

- Children should be supervised in and around water at all times.
- Whenever infants and toddlers are in or around water, including the bathtub, an adult should be within an arm's length at all times providing "touch supervision."
- Completely separate the house and play area of the yard from the pool area with a fence. Consider automatic door locks or alarms to prevent access.
- Remove floats, balls, and other toys from the pool after use so that children are not tempted to reach for them. After the children are done swimming, secure the pool so they cannot get back in.
- Keep rescue equipment (such as a shepherd's hook or life preserver) and a phone by the pool.
- For children who cannot swim, use a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket. Do not use toys such as "water wings" or "noodles" in place of life jackets. These are not designed to keep swimmers safe.

In public swimming areas:

- Be sure to practice social distancing from others before and after you swim and wear a cloth face covering or mask when you cannot maintain 6 feet of distance from others.

- Select swimming sites that have lifeguards whenever possible, and swim only in designated swimming areas.

- Always swim with a buddy.

Window Safety

Falls are the leading cause of injury to children, and falls from windows involving young children are especially serious. Window falls are preventable. Screens are not strong enough to protect children from falling out of windows. In order to prevent window falls, parents and caregivers should:

- Keep furniture — and anything a child can climb on — away from windows.

- Open windows from the top, not the bottom, when possible and lock all unopened doors and windows.

- Be sure children are always supervised.

- Install quick-release window guards which can be found in most hardware stores.

Additional tips on preventing falls among children can be found on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention fall prevention website.

To learn more about childhood injury prevention, visit the DPH injury prevention and control program website.

Plastic Bag exemption extended

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced the City of Boston's executive order to exempt all establishments from the plastic bag ban ordinance will stay in place until September 30. This transition period will allow stores to use up any single-use plastic bags that they have purchased during the emergency. The five-cent per bag fee will also not be in effect.

"In March, we suspended the City's ban on plastic bags and the 5-cent fee for paper bags in order to give both stores and customers more flexibility during this difficult time," said Mayor Walsh. "While we're extending that suspension to best serve businesses and residents, I want to be clear that the Boston Public Health Commission and the state

Department of Public Health have said that reusable bags are safe and people should feel free to use them."

On October 1, all provisions of the plastic bag ban ordinance will come back into effect. This includes the elimination of most single-use plastic bags and the requirement for the five-cent fee. The ordinance still allows the ISD Commissioner to grant exemptions on a case-by-case basis. Residents in Boston are now able to use reusable bags if they would like to.

More information about the City's plastic bag ban is available on boston.gov. The City's previous guidance on allowing plastic bags during the COVID-19 health emergency is available on boston.gov.

Ferry service to Spectacle Island is now running

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, National Park Service, Boston Harbor Now, and Boston Harbor Cruises announced that a public ferry service to Spectacle Island, one of the 34 islands and peninsulas in Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park, began for the season.

Public ferry service to other islands remains closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Spectacle Island boasts some of the most magnificent vistas of the Boston skyline and is only a 20-minute ferry ride away from downtown Boston. With ferry services beginning for the summer season from Long Wharf, the island will be open and accessible to visitors. Safety measures including enhanced cleaning protocols on island and onboard the public ferry vessels have been instituted. Reduced ferry capacity, revised boarding procedures, touchless

ticketing and instructional signage supporting physical distancing — will be in place in compliance with Governor Baker's reopening plan. Facial coverings will be required while onboard the ferry and visitors are strongly encouraged to continue to wear their facial coverings while exploring the Island.

Although the visitor center will remain closed, restrooms, hiking trails, the swimming beach, moorings, and the marina will be available for public use. Physical distancing and COVID-19 guidelines will remain in place while on the island and onboard the ferries.

"With physical distancing extending throughout the summer, public outdoor spaces like Spectacle Island are critical to the mental and physical health of our communities, and to keeping people feeling connected to each other and to nature," said Kathy Abbott, President and CEO of Boston Harbor Now. "We look forward to a fantastic summer for visitors of all ages to safely experience and enjoy Boston Harbor

and its islands."

Michael Creasey, General Superintendent for National Parks of Boston, agreed, "As we navigate the impacts of COVID-19 on our daily lives, I am mindful of what a gift it is to live so close to the water's edge where we have access to such an incredible system of island and peninsular parks. Whether exploring peninsular parks on the south shore like Worlds End and Webb Memorial State Park, or taking the ferry from Long Wharf to Spectacle Island for 360 degree views of Boston Harbor, it's outdoor, open air places like these and the experiences they offer that enliven our communities and contribute to our vitality and resilience."

Ferry service to Spectacle Island is provided by Boston Harbor Cruises. For more information on ferry schedules, pricing, and amenities, visit <https://www.bostonharborislands.org/> or <https://www.bostonharborcruises.com/harbor-islands/>

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North Washington Street Bridge marks another major milestone

By Dan Murphy

The new North Washington Street/Charlestown Bridge will mark another major milestone in construction later this month when traffic moves to a temporary bridge to allow for the demolition of the more than 100-year-old existing structure.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the new \$180 million new bridge will replace the century-old truss bridge that connects Charlestown to the North End over Boston Harbor and include two 12-foot-wide sidewalks, with an additional two 7-foot lanes serving as dedicated cycle-tracks. Nearly 40 percent of its width will accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists, making it the

city's first truly multi-modal bridge and one of the most innovative bridges in that regard nationwide. Offering spans up to 200 feet, the new bridge will also feature curved overlooks and open space at its center navigation span with seating, a shade structure and landscaping, which will allow visitors to enjoy views of both the harbor and city.

The new bridge is the brainchild of Miguel Rosales, a longtime Beacon Hill resident and president and founder of the Boston architectural firm Rosales + Partners who also designed the adjacent Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge; the design of the new bridge's elegant piers and overall architecture is inspired by the iconic, cable-



CREDIT: Courtesy of Rosales + Partners

A rendering of the new North Washington Street/Charlestown Bridge.

JRI Health wins nearly \$1 million federal grant

JRI Health will receive nearly \$1 million from the federal government to support its work to help Suffolk County youth who are at risk of substance abuse and HIV/AIDS.

The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration will grant JRI Health nearly \$200,000 a year for five years for the JRI Positive Pathways Project.

The Project will work with racial and ethnic minority youth, ages 13 to 29, with a focus on LGBTQ youth, as well as those who inject drugs, have HIV, and are experiencing housing instability, mental illness, and/or sexual exploitation.

The assistance will range from environmental strategies, such as

online awareness and educational campaigns, to one-on-one interventions addressing HIV and substance use disorder and care.

JRI Health, a division of Justice Resource Institute (JRI), is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of underserved individuals and communities living with and at risk for HIV and hepatitis C. They offer a continuum of services to mitigate the social and health determinants while incorporating state-of-the-art best practices and standards of care.

JRI is a social justice organization that works in partnership with individuals, families, communities, and government to pursue the social justice inherent in opening doors to opportunity and independence.

For more information about the JRI Positive Pathways Project, contact Mio Tamanaha, mtamanaha@jri.org.

JRI is a social justice network of organizations that help underserved individuals, families, and communities with compassion and dignity. JRI provides foster care, help for children who have suffered trauma as a result of abuse and neglect, shelter for homeless families, assistance for people with disabilities, education and residential services for youth in crisis, and a range of other services.

stayed Zakim Bridge, according to Rosales.

"As bridge designer for the new North Washington Street/Charlestown bridge, I am very pleased that the project is reaching this milestone," Rosales wrote. "The new iconic bridge for the City of Boston will visually complement

the Zakim Bridge in which I was also involved as designer. The new harbor crossing will substantially improve pedestrian, bicycle and bus access into the city from the north. It will also create an impressive destination along the historic Freedom Trail. I am looking forward to its completion."

The new bridge is slated to open in 2023, which also marks the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Zakim Bridge.

To view an animated 3-D video on the new bridge, visit <https://youtu.be/i5PFRfHIQr0>.

SCENE NORTH END (from pg. 1)

to the neighborhood." Prior to Depasquale recruiting Stanley, whom he has known for around 30 years, to work at the magazine, she served as executive editor of Boston Common magazine for more than three years before launching the Emmy-award winning TV show "Style Boston," which debuted on NECN in the fall of 1990 before moving to WCVB-TV (Channel 5) and finishing up its run on WBZ-TV (Channel 4) in 2013.

"Frank brought me on a couple of months ago to re-launch and re-vamp the magazine and move forward with a new Scene North End, with new writers and expanded coverage that is connected very specifically to Italy and the Italians, such as travel, fashion and food," Stanley said.

Working alongside Stanley at the helm of the new Scene North End is its editor-at-large, Carol Beggy, who along with Mark Shanahan, previously served as a Names columnist for The Boston Globe.

"The neighborhood's connection to Italy is going to be very obvious in upcoming issues, but we'll cover other events and stories

around Boston as well," Stanley said.

In the meantime, Scene North

End will be updating its presence on social media, as well as its website at scenenorthend.com.

Happy 55th Birthday Edie-Jo Our Angel

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Baker recently tours MBTA Blue Line work

By John Lynds

Last week Governor Charlie Baker used the Maverick MBTA station as the backdrop to his daily Covid-19 press briefing and to highlight the accelerated infrastructure work on the Blue Line that wrapped up Sunday.

Baker was joined by Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack, General Manager Steve Poflak, and other officials and toured the Blue Line work.

The project began on May 18 and the MBTA fully closed down the Blue Line from Airport to Bowdoin stations for 14 days and ran shuttle busses instead of train service until Sunday.

The goal was to allow for accelerated track and infrastructure work to take place while ridership and traffic is at an all time low due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The work was originally going to be spread out over a longer period of time and only on weekends.

"This Blue Line work is part of our administration's plan to invest \$8 billion in a safer and more reliable MBTA by replac-

North End restaurant owners await city guidance for reopening

By John Lynds

Dozens of restaurants line the North End's Hanover Street and many are tucked down the neighborhood's side streets and survive on the bustling foot traffic as tourists descend on Boston in the summer months.

As the state released its Phase II guidelines for restaurants to start reopening on May 29, owners of restaurants here are anxiously awaiting further instructions from the City of Boston on how they can safely reopen.

Because Boston has been a COVID-19 hotspot, Mayor Martin Walsh has been cautious in applying the state's phased reopening plans to the city. For example, during Phase I Walsh waited until June 1 to start allowing some offices and businesses to reopen at limited capacities.

According to administration



Gov. Charlie Baker, joined by Sen. Joseph Boncore, City Councilor Lydia Edwards and Speaker Robert DeLeo, talks with MBTA workers.

North End/West End City Liaison hired

By Phil Orlandella

Former North End resident John Romano appears to have all the tools and energy to become an asset to the 3 neighborhoods he will represent as the new liaison for Boston Mayor Martin Walsh.

John's turf will cover the North End, Waterfront and West End replacing Maria Lanza.

If the name sounds for me year, it should, he is the son of community activist John and Patricia Romano who are very active and NEAD, NEAA, Nazzaro Community Center and other organization.

The new liaison has been extremely active in the community

Lack of candidates cancel NEWNC election

By Phil Orlandella

It didn't come as a surprise that there wouldn't be enough (7) candidates to make a competitive contest for the yearly North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) election.

For the past three years the same situation has occurred and every candidate that filed nomination papers with 40 signatures from Ward III, Precincts 1, 2, 3 and 4 were automatically placed on the Council for two-year terms.

One reason for the lack of candidates was attempting to get the signatures during the stay home suggestions and the closure of many neighborhood organizations, making it a real challenge to secure the proper signatures.

"NEWNC waited as long as possible before canceling the election," President Brett Roman stated.

NEWNC apparently did everything possible to conduct a public community election to no avail.

Another obstacle was the availability of the Nazzaro Community Center, NEWNC's usual polling site, is closed and there was no word from the city when and if it would be open in time for a September 19 election.

The candidates that did take the time to secure the necessary signatures to become Council members by default are: Marie Simboli, Joel Faller, Rory Harrington, Kevin Drew and Kevin Fleming.

NEWNC has elected officers and committee chair.



John Romano.

when he was younger, volunteering with North End Against Drugs (NEAD) of which his father is President.

He is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Lowell with a Bachelor's Degree (BA) and Mathematics and Higher Education Administration graduate and in 2016 and 2018.

The 25-year-old told the Review he is, "Passionate about community engagement and can't wait to attend neighborhood meetings to introduce himself and work with residents, organizations and the business community once things begin to reopen."

Currently, John is sending out emails on the status of the virus as it affects the neighborhood in general, as well as general community news.

John can be reached at 617-635-4987.

Visit www.northendregional.com

Email stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com or deb@bostonsun.com or call 781-485-0588 for your Regional Review information

FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

COMMUNITY NEWS

IN BRIEF By Phil Orlandella

IRISH HERITAGE MONTH OBSERVED

Friends of Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway held a special virtual program of celebration, a collaboration of old days, age friendly Boston and Friends of the park featuring cooking with chefs and old ways celebrating Irish Heritage month.

FREE VIRTUAL EXERCISE CLASSES

Boston Parks and Recreation Department is hosting virtual dance party classes on Monday and Thursday evenings. Contact Jennifer.Widener@boston.gov.

BCYF SUMMER PROGRAMS

The Boston Center for Youth and Families (BCYF) including the Nazzaro Center is offering teens some virtual programming.

Registration has opened for a variety of programs, designed and operated in accordance with the current public health guidelines.

Apply at Boston.Gov/BCYF.

DOGS NEED TO GET OUT

A reminder from Responsible Urbanites for Fido (RUFF).

Dogs just like humans need to get out the house, get some exercise and fresh you.

Keeping canines active during the stay at home advisory is important to their health.

There are many walking areas in the North End on nearby that owners can venture to with their pets.

NEW ARTWORK ON THE GREENWAY

New artwork has been recently installed on The Greenway by the Rose Kennedy Greenway

Conservancy, featuring works by Mexican American Master Folk Artist Calalina Delgrade-Trurk and British Artist Yirka Shonihare.

Artwork will be on display for one-year and will join 3 others already on display.

THE GREENWAY OPEN MARKET OPERATING

The Greenway Open Market, operated by New England Open Markets, is currently in operation taking place every Saturday of the month and the third Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Market is a vibrant open-air artisan market.

PUBLIC MARKET OPEN ON THE GREENWAY

Boston Public Market at Dewey Square on The Greenway is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. throughout mid-November as a resource for fresh and local foods.



Photo by John Wilcox

New accessibility ramp

ACCESSIBLE RAMPS AVAILABLE FOR OUTDOOR DINING

Restaurants that have been granted a temporary license to seating in a parking space or on the street are eligible to request a portable ramp to increase accessibility to outdoor dining.

The Boston Commission for

Persons with Disability working with the Licensing Board and the Boston Transportation Department and other city departments worked together to ensure that new dining spaces are accessible and that the path of travel on sidewalks and not obstructed.

"It's important that as we reimagine our streets to accommodate outdoor dining during our reopening process, we do so in a way that is equitable to everyone who uses our roads and sidewalks, including those with disabilities," Mayor Martin Walsh said.



Leslie Horn and Ted Wallus were married on June 27 at Saint Stephen's Church despite the pandemic, but their venue reception was canceled.

However, they did social distancing cheers in the Paul Revere Mall (Prado) but it rained the entire time. They had fun anyway.

"Who can say they had their first dance in the Prado," Leslie said.

Leslie is a North End resident and is the President of RUFF that was founded the North End Dog Park in DeFilippo Playground.

FOCCP CANCELS EVENTS FOR SUMMER

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park have canceled several events: July 18-September 12 lawn games, July 19-August 23 Sunday Night Movies and August 18 Sunset Harbor Cruise.

MORE SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS DISTRIBUTED

Many small businesses throughout the City of Boston have received debt free grants through the Boston Business Relief Fund, federal and private resources.

Funding was awarded to industries most impacted by closure, policies or general loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Small businesses are the heartbeat of our economy and they provide residents with the services they depend on every day," Mayor Martin Walsh said.

"Funding will help businesses stay open, pay employees and strengthen our local business district," he added.

FOCCP TREE PLANTING AND CARE EXCEPTIONAL

A common question heard from those who walk past Christopher Columbus Park on Atlantic Avenue is "What is that fragrance?" according to Friends of Columbus Park.



Linden pic with Meredith and Ann; You can't miss the aromatic trees thanks to the signs posted by FOCCP members Meredith Piscitelli (left) and Ann Babbitt, FOCCP vice president.

"The fleetingly fragrance experience of honey, vanilla and citrus is from the blooms of the Little Leaf Linden tree," FOCCP noted.

There are five Little Lindens in the park of which three bordering Atlantic Avenue. Near the Rose Garden there are two more that filled the air with fragrance.

"These trees in Columbus Park provide wonderful shade on a hot summer day and we care for them every year," FOCCP President Joanne Hayes-Rines explained.

"This year for example we'll have a landscaping company prune and fertilize more than 20 trees including the large oaks along the Trellis, the birch trees near the shed will get soil injections to treat a blight that is causing the tree to lose the leaves," she added.

"FOCCP spends an average of \$7,000 a year on planting new trees and caring for existing ones," she noted.

COLUMBUS PARK SECURITY LIGHTING ENHANCED

Lighting is critically important for security and all public places according to Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP), that have added three additional floodlights in two areas.

Two new lights on a timer have been added to the north trellis, illuminating the Crescent Garden.

A solar powered floodlight has been placed at the shed to light up the path to the playground which has been a dark space.

The new lighting cost was \$2668.

In addition, FOCCP is planning to have more security lighting installed under the horizontal beams of the Trellis.

A couple of years ago, FOCCP replaced the decades old lighting. It was determined to replace them to enhance the park's lighting.

City issues Phase 3 reopening guidance for indoor fitness, outdoor events, and tourism industry

Staff report

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced last week the City of Boston has issued industry-specific reopening guidance for several businesses included in Step One of Phase III of the four-phase Reopening Massachusetts plan, which began on Monday, July 13 in the City of Boston. An interdepartmental working group has published a framework for reopening for indoor fitness businesses, outdoor events, theater and

performances, and tourism and cultural businesses in the City of Boston, which include guidance on event capacity limitations, social distancing, operational requirements, and health and safety guidelines.

Beginning Monday, the City of Boston will allow for the issuance of permits for up to 50 participants for outdoor events on City property and events requiring Special Events Committee review and approval. The Boston Parks Department will also issue per-

mits for low and moderate contact amateur sporting events, such as baseball and softball, with a maximum of 50 participants including players, coaches, and observers. Permits for high-contact sports such as basketball, lacrosse, and football will be authorized at a later date per the Commonwealth's four-phased reopening plan. In addition to following the City's capacity cap, outdoor events and amateur sports must follow all other existing permitting and licensing requirements. Public

health metrics will dictate any future adjustments to the capacity limitations.

"Due to Boston's unique needs and challenges, we used this additional time to ensure Phase III of our reopening guidance is accessible and prioritizes public health and safety," said Mayor Walsh. "As I have said, we are seeing disturbing numbers in many parts of the country right now. As we implement a safe, cautious, phased-in reopening strategy, this is not the time to let up, either in

our collective risk management or in our personal precautions."

These operational recommendations incorporate the Commonwealth's Sector-specific Workplace Safety Standards and supplements them with recommendations based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and industry associations to offer best practices for preparing and returning to the physical workplace, preparing the workforce, and ensuring continuity of operations.

SAVE THE DATE!

Taste of the North End 2020



We're very excited to announce the

2020 Taste of the North End

will take place virtually on Wednesday, September 9th, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.!

We're taking the annual festival virtual this year, but it will certainly remain a celebration of North End culture, food and restaurants, all while benefiting neighborhood organizations and charities, including NEW Health, Eliot School, St. John School, Harvard-Kent School, North End Against Drugs, North End Athletic Association, and North End Music and Performing Arts Center.

Due to the immense challenges our longstanding restaurant partners have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, a portion of this year's ticket, raffle and auction proceeds will support our local restaurateurs as they safely reopen, covering critical costs including bringing staff back to work, PPE and cleaning supplies.

Stay tuned as we share details and ticket information on the new event. In the meantime, we hope you're enjoying the indoor and outdoor dining experience with our partnering restaurants throughout the North End.

Aqua Pizza

Artu

Arya Trattoria

Bencotto

Bricco Ristorante

Carmelina's

Caffe Paradiso

Domenic's

Forcella

La Summa Cucina

Italiana

Lucca Restaurant

& Bar

Massimino's Cucina

Italiana

Mamma Maria

Mike's Pastry

Modern Pastry

Neptune Oyster

Pagliuca's

Pauli's (takeout)

Prezza

Ristorante Limoncello

Rocco's Cucina

Restaurant & Bar

Strega North End

Tony & Elaine's

Taranta

The Sail Loft

If you're interested in sponsorship opportunities for the event, please email us at info@totne.org.