



THE NORTH END

REGIONAL REVIEW

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Photo by Meredith Piscitelli and Patricia Sabbey

Pictured (left to right) Terese O'Connell, Pauline Cuoco, Robyn Reed, Meredith Piscitelli and Patricia Sabbey.

Plantings for Spring in Christopher Columbus Park

By Patricia Sabbey

Close your eyes and imagine a warm April breeze and bright yellow daffodils dancing in the sun. As the days shorten and the cold sets in, planning for brighter days gets us through the dark winter. Recently members of the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park's Horticultural Committee including Horticulture Co-Chairs Robyn

Reed and Terese O'Connell along with Meredith Piscitelli, Pauline Cuoco, and Patricia Sabbey, anticipated spring by planting 200 daffodil bulbs in the Circle Garden near Marriott Long Wharf.

Boston Blooms with Daffodils (#Bostonblooms) a program sponsored by the Boston Parks Department supplied the bulbs as part of a beautification initiative. Fifteen thousand large, robust,

Dutch daffodil bulbs were distributed to individuals and groups throughout the city for planting in public areas. The Friends of Christopher Columbus Park participates in this program as well as in Boston Strong Marathon Daffodils.

Terese is very enthusiastic about this opportunity. She said, "Daffodils are my favorite bulb to plant in the city because they reliably bloom every year and are never bothered by any critters. Their blooms are the first real colorful sign of spring and signal that it is Boston Marathon time. I hope that by the April 2022 Boston Marathon there will be thousands more planted and blooming in the city to welcome the world once again. Thank you to the City of Boston's Parks and Recreation

(PLANTING Pg. 2)



The Independent Newspaper Offices will be closed
Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26th and Friday, Nov. 27th
The deadline for Thanksgiving week issues is Friday, Nov. 20

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NEWRA requests ZBA to defer Bricco Suites hearing

By Phil Orlandella

Among the several items at the recent North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) meeting, was the review for the proposed Bricco Suites-24 executive suites conversion, the neighborhood groups' Executive Committee requested a deferral of the November City of Boston Zoning Board of Approval public meeting.

Other items on the agenda were:

Captain Robert Ciccolo Boston Police District A-1 presented a public safety update at the November 12 North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) virtual meeting.

Another update was given by the Boston Water and Sewer Commission relating to the water and sewer work in the North End.

The topics were, what is completed, what is underway and what is ahead.

Two liaisons from the MBTA also attended the NEWRA monthly meeting telling those that participated in the ritual-Zoom meeting that the T has initiated "Forge Ahead" as part of its response to low/increased ridership on several routes, potential long-term changes in service demand, and a projected budget gap resulting from COVID-19 pandemic.

NEWRA President Cheryl Delgreco reminded every one of the next NEWRA meeting scheduled for December 10.

NEWRA "Good Neighbor" Award presented to L'Osteria Restaurant

By Phil Orlandella

L'Osteria Restaurant, 104 Salem Street, owner Paolina DiPietrantonio was the recipient of the November North End/Waterfront Association (NEWRA) "Good Neighbor" Award.

She was selected because of her continued effort to help keep the

community clean by sweeping and picking up debris on the sidewalk and curb in front of her business.

"When I presented this award to Paolina, she had tears in her eyes when she saw her late husband Nick's name alongside of her name on the certificate of appreciation," NEWRA Committee Chair

(NEIGHBOR Pg. 2)



Janet Gilardi presents Paolina DiPietrantonio with the NEWRA Good Neighbor Award at L'Osteria.

Crime down 19 percent in A-1, larceny continues to be a problem

By John Lynds

In what will be the Boston Police Department's last crime stat report before the end of the year, the report shows while overall crime is down in A-1 larceny from motor vehicles, or car breaks, in the area continues to be a problem here and across the city.

Part One Crimes, the more serious crimes the Boston Police track, are down 19 percent overall

in the area when comparing Jan. 1 2020 through Nov. 8 2020 with the same time period last year.

The main culprit continues to be larceny from a motor vehicle, which is up 37 percent in the neighborhood.

By this time in 2019 there were only 185 reported car breaks but that number has increased to 253. It seems the number of motor vehicle larcenies, an opportunistic crime that only takes seconds

to pull off, is up all over Boston. Citywide the number has gone from 2,332 in 2019 to 2,932 so far in 2020, a 25.7 percent increase.

"The Department obviously takes great pride in the fact that arrests were made in all three incidents, we would, nevertheless, like to take this opportunity to remind community members to employ common sense preventative measures to protect items of value when exiting their vehicles," said the statement. "As simple as it may sound, protecting your motor vehicle from a break-in starts with locking the doors and closing windows. Simple? Yes. But, highly effective."

In fact, simple steps can often spell the difference between your car being broken into and the would-be thief moving on to another, more desirable target.

"More than anything else, thieves look for the easy score," said the police. "So, don't make it easy. If you have items of value, be it a cell phone, charger, money or iPad, take them with you when you exit your car. Because if a thief can see it, you can be sure he or she will do everything they can to steal it."

As for other Part One Crimes in A-1 there have been zero reported Homicides for 2020; Rape or Attempted Rape is down from

24 to 17; Robbery or Attempted Robbery is down from 133 to

109; Domestic Aggravated Assault is down from 21 to 18; Non-Domestic Aggravated Assault is down from 242 to 190; Commercial Burglaries are up from 52 to 117; Residential Burglaries are down from 40 to 36; other Larcenies are down from 1,283 to 862; and Auto Theft is down from 79 to 68.

So far this year there have been a total of 1,670 Part One Crimes, down from the 2,068 reported during the same time period in 2019.

NEIGHBOR (from pg. 1)

Janet Gilardi said.

"Lina's cleaning habit has been instilled in her to this day," Gilardi said. "She is a strong and dedicated business owner that cares about the neighborhood."

I'm grateful for the opportunity to present this award to a woman who cares and helps keep the community clean, Gilardi said.

PLANTING (from pg. 1)

Department for supplying and coordinating distribution of all the bulbs to the many volunteer organizations throughout the city."

For now, dream of spring! Come April plan on taking a walk in the Park and reveling in the dancing daffodils.

The horticulture group is wrapping up for the season, but anyone interested in sharing the

joys of urban gardening with an enthusiastic group of people can become an FOCCP member and join in the fun. No experience needed. Direction is given and tools provided. Just keep an eye on the FOCCP spring newsletters for starting dates. foccp.org/membership

Photo credits to: Meredith Piscitelli and Patricia Sabbey

Boston Ballet's 'The Nutcracker' to air on NBC10 Boston

For the first time, Boston Ballet will bring Mikko Nissinen's "The Nutcracker" to homes across New England through a broadcast partnership with NBC10 Boston. The beloved holiday ballet will be broadcasted as a one-hour special excerpted from the 2019 production, with featured narration by Hoda Kotb ("Today") and Colton Bradford (NBC10 Boston's "The Hub") as Drosselmeier. The broadcast also features local talent, NBC10 Boston's JC Monahan and Telemundo's Grace Gómez and Miguel García. "The Nutcracker" will air on NBC10

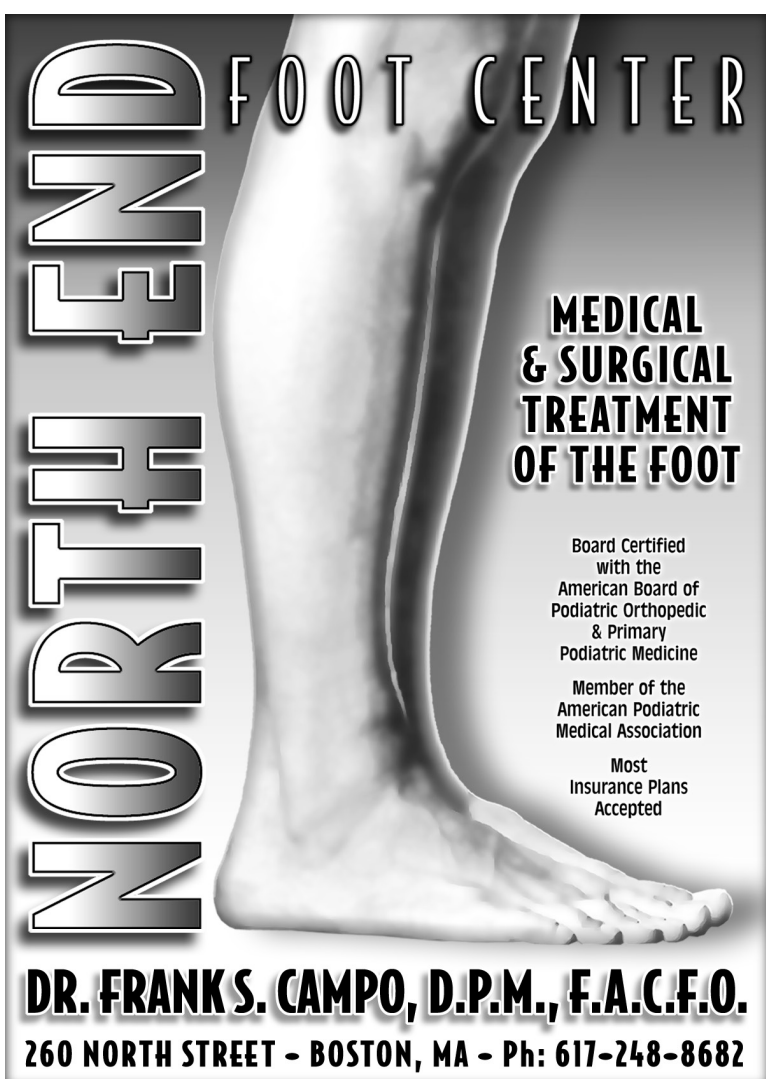
Boston starting Saturday, Nov. 28, at 7 p.m., with encore airings and on-demand viewing opportunities on NBC10 Boston, NECN and Spanish-language Telemundo. It will also be available free of charge on bostonballet.org for a limited time.

Nissinen's "The Nutcracker" is "an immediate plunge into theatrical splendor that seems to follow audiences right out the door at the ballet's end." (Karen Campbell, The Boston Globe) This version of the classic tale, created for Boston Ballet in 2012, is one of the largest builds the Company

has ever done, engaging craftspeople from across the United States. Acclaimed, award winning scenic and costume designer Robert Perdziola illustrated more than 40 sketches that were transformed into the production's larger-than-life sets that range from calm, subtle colors in the Act I party scene to vibrant colors in Act II's Nutcracker Kingdom. The production also incorporated more than 350 beautifully intricate costumes, designed by Perdziola. Lighting design is by renowned Finnish designer Mikki Kunttu. The Boston Ballet Orchestra, the second largest musical organization in New England, led by Boston Ballet Music Director Mischa Santora, performs Tchaikovsky's renowned score. Mikko Nissinen's "The Nutcracker" is sponsored by Primark. Additional support is provided by Hood Eggnog and PNC Bank.

When to watch:

- Saturday, November 28 at 7 pm on NBC10 Boston
- Sunday, November 29 at 7 pm on NECN
- Saturday, December 5 at 11 am on Telemundo
- Friday, December 25 at 5 pm on Telemundo
- Friday, December 25 at 7 pm on NBC10 Boston



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IN BRIEF By Phil Orlandella

NSC CONTINUES TO PROVIDE HOT MEALS

Staff and volunteers at the North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) on Michelangelo Street continues to work diligently to provide hot meals to needy people through its meal delivery program that offers three monthly meals.

Two meals are donated by the North End Rehabilitation and Health Center on Fulton Street. The other meal is donated by Pizzeria Regina General Manager Richard Zapato from the Thatcher Street location.

The Center is the recipient of an enhanced grant from the Age Strong Commission to fund an additional meal. As usual, staff have been making the rounds in the North End and West End to get hot meals to residents.

RUFF HOLDING THIRD MONTH OF GIVING

Responsible Urbanites for Fido (RUFF) is currently conducting its third annual "Month of Giving" during the month of November.

The neighborhood, non-profit organization wants to give back to the community by partnering with Polka Dog Bakery, 57 Salem Street, to collect donations for "Last Hope K-9", an agency that provides hope by rescuing the neediest dogs.

RUFF is hoping its members and others will come together and donate to animals in need.

A donation box has been set up at the Bakery. The Bakery will donate a bully stick for every \$25 by weight treats purchased.

NEWNC SUPPORTS TWO COMMUNITY REQUESTS

A request to legalize the existing conditions at 120 Salem Street creating nine residential units and one commercial space was supported (8-0) by the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) at their November 9 monthly meeting, according to President Brett Roman.

In addition, NEWNC supported (8-0) a request that has been filed for the use of 230-238 Hanover Street for fifteen spaces, Romano noted.

The next NEWNC monthly meeting will be held on Monday, December 14 at 7 PM.

North Washington Street Bridge (Charlestown Bridge) Construction Look-Ahead: Nov. 15-28

VIBRATORY HAMMER NOISE IMPACTS

•A vibratory hammer is being used to install the five cofferdams which will be needed to build the piers of the new bridge. Installation of each cofferdam takes about two weeks.

•The project has positioned a combination of hanging sound blankets and temporary barrier to minimize noise impacts from the vibratory hammer. These measures will be adjusted as needed and appropriate.

•Use of the vibratory hammer began on 10/6. Work hours are during the day (7 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

•Demolition of piers and center substructure, cleaning of demolition site, installation of silt curtain, north and south abutment and drain line. In addition, there will be sheeting and bracing of cofferdams.

WORK HOURS

•Most work will be done during the daytime (6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

WORK THAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED

•Prior to 11/15, crews continued to demolish the existing bridge. The bridge is 95% demolished and work on the cofferdams is 40% complete.

TRAVEL TIPS

Westerly sidewalk, Lovejoy Wharf stairs near Converse are open to the public with the opening of the temporary bridge, the adjacent section of the Harborwalk passing under the bridge remains closed.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass.

North End Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center establishes dedicated ventilator program

North End Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center announced the opening of a dedicated ventilator program led by a board-certified pulmonologist and staffed around the clock by a multi-disciplinary

team of nurses, respiratory therapists and other health care professionals.

The state-licensed, 10-bed unit at the skilled nursing center was designed to provide high-quality

care and monitoring for patients in need of long-term ventilator support, as well as physical rehabilitation and occupational and speech therapy for individuals who are weaning themselves from ventilator support.

"Our new ventilator unit works in tandem with our advanced pulmonary rehab program to develop and implement treatment programs that are personalized to each individual resident's health care needs," said Sami Almadi, Senior Administrator of North End Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center. "Our staff is focused on increasing mobility and independence whenever possible."

North End's ventilator program operates under the direction of Dr. Maher Tabba, a leading Boston-area pulmonologist affiliated with Tufts Medical Center and Melrose Wakefield Hospital, and Dr. Jin Chae, an internal medicine physician affiliated with Spaulding Hospital for Continuing Medical Care in Cambridge.

North End Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center provides the North End neighborhood of Boston and surrounding communities with the highest levels of subacute short-term and comprehensive long-term care in a compassionate and caring environment. For more information, visit www.northendrehab.com.

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EDITORIAL

VACCINES ARE COMING, BUT WE STILL HAVE A DUTY TO STOP THE SPREAD

The announcements in the past week that two vaccines have been shown to be remarkably effective in providing immunization against the coronavirus have given our nation hope that the pandemic might be brought under control.

Finally, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

However, with 250,000 Americans already dead from the virus and the holiday season approaching, this is no time for any of us to let our guard down. The virus does not take a holiday and is spreading like wildfire across the country, leading even Republican governors to issue mask mandates and resulting in additional shutdowns of businesses that already were on the edge of permanent closure.

It is estimated that if we do not wear masks and maintain physical separation, at least 250,000 more Americans will be dead in the coming months.

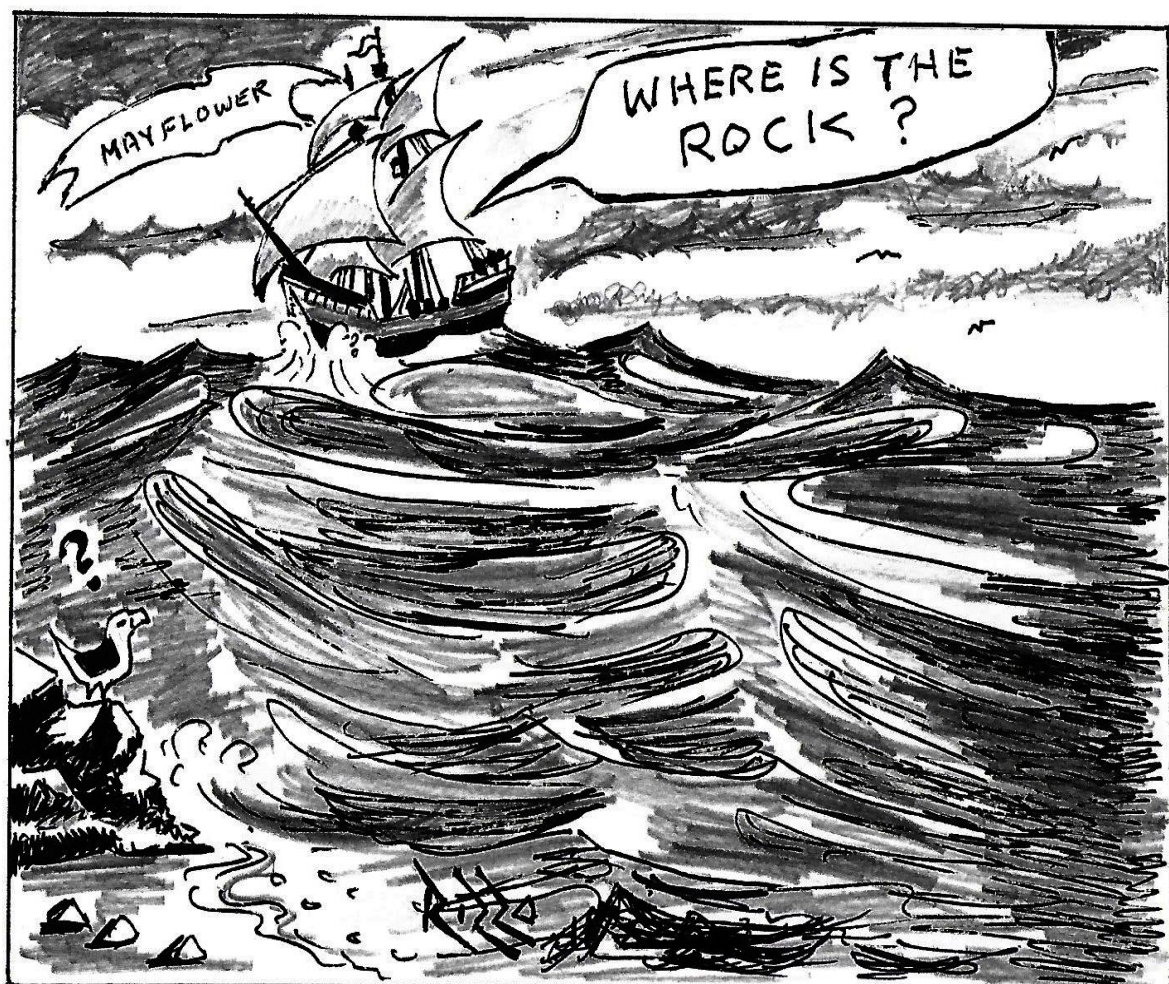
Hospitals and healthcare workers already are stretched to the limit in many states. If the pandemic is allowed to spread further, there will be a total breakdown in the American healthcare system, endangering the lives not only of healthcare employees and coronavirus patients, but anybody else who needs hospitalization from accidents, heart attacks, strokes, and cancer.

In addition, we would note that even for those who recover from the coronavirus, there can be lasting damage to the heart, lungs, and other organs.

We urge all of our readers to listen to the warnings and directives of our public health officials and to consider how we can spend the holiday season with our loved ones in a safe setting, if at all.

A small wedding in Maine in August was linked to 178 COVID cases and eight deaths -- and none of those who died attended the wedding.

Our government leaders can urge us to protect ourselves and others, but COVID-19 safety this holiday season ultimately comes down to each and every American assuming personal responsibility to observe and obey the rules.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DON'T PASS AMENDMENT NUMBER 75

To the Editor,

The Catholic Church teaches that life itself starts at conception and ends with natural death.

The Massachusetts state legislature is currently debating the annual budget to fund state government for the balance of the fiscal year. As part of that process many amendments are filed for consideration. House amendment number 759 will be considered by the full House in the coming days. This amendment would expand abortion access in the Commonwealth well beyond what is enshrined in state law.

While we acknowledge the amendment addresses some concerns that were raised about the deeply troubling provisions of the

ROE legislation, the fact remains that abortion would remain an option under certain circumstances for the full term of the pregnancy. That fact alone is in direct conflict with Catholic teaching and must be opposed.

In addition, current law requires a young woman under the age of 18 years old to gain the consent of a parent, guardian or the court to have an abortion. The amendment under consideration would decrease the age of consent to 16 years old. In its simplest terms, a 16 or 17 year old girl would be deprived of the guidance and support of an adult at the time of making this life changing decision.

Finally, although life-supporting equipment would be required to be in the room for abortions performed after 24 weeks, the specific language in the amendment is nuanced enough that the physician

would not be required to use the equipment. Specifically, it would "enable" the physician performing the abortion to take appropriate steps, in keeping with good medical practice....to preserve the life and health of a live birth and the patient.

For these reasons we urge the full House of Representatives not to pass amendment number 759.

His Eminence
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Archbishop of Boston
Most Reverend
Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester
Most Reverend
Edgar M. da Cunha,
SDV, Bishop
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NEMPAC begins to transform Tileston Street Music Center

North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) will forge ahead transforming 48-50 Tileston Street, awarded to the 501(c)(3) by the City of Boston and Mayor Marty Walsh, into a state-of-the-art music center.

Located in the North End, this 2,200 square foot public music center will offer community members both professional performances and opportunities to study creative movement, music, performing arts, theatre, and voice.

The expansion of NEMPAC's campus will triple its Boston footprint, providing the space needed to launch programming innovations, as well as additional private and small group instruction rooms.

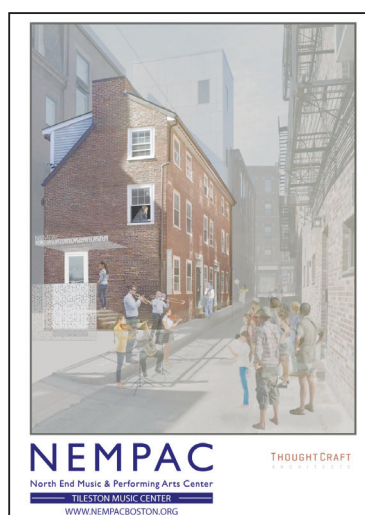
From community collaborative music nights for local musicians of all levels to adult practice hours, programming plans for Tileston Music Center will prioritize accessibility, engaging rising and professional artists alike.

Tileston Music Center will feature three floors equipped with acoustic doors and panels, STC-rated sound proofing, and recording technology:

- Third Floor: New Music Classroom and Rehearsal Space
- Second Floor: Two New Private and Group Instruction Studios | New Keyboard Lab and



NEMPAC Transforming 48-50 Tileston Street into State-of-the-Art Tileston Music Center, Tripling Boston Footprint and Expanding Campus.



Music Technology Room

- First Floor: Multi-Use Accessible Ground Floor Community, Intimate Performance, and Reception Space

"The pandemic continues to underscore the critical role of the arts in strengthening and uniting communities," said Sherri Snow, Executive Director at NEMPAC.

"Tileston Music Center is an opportunity for community members in the North End, Charlestown, and surrounding Boston neighborhoods to find hope and comfort together as

one NEMPAC family through the transformative power of the arts."

As NEMPAC kicks-off its capital campaign, the original goal was set at \$750,000. However, due to the pandemic and the need to secure the future for the arts going forward, NEMPAC has increased its goal to \$1 million.

Key stakeholders and leaders in the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts made major gift commitments to The Next Act capital campaign to fund the start of this project and get the 501(c)(3) halfway towards its goal.

These major donors, several of which purchased the naming rights of the below rooms, include the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Collin Yip, Managing Director of Rafi Properties; NorthEndBoston.com; Eamon C. O'Marah; Nolan and Jenelle Previte; William Caulder, 6M Development; Andrea & Arthur Waldstein, Mary O'Neill and Greg Krom & Family; and Carolyn and Andrew Lamb.

Naming rights are still available for Tileston Music Center's third floor rehearsal and classroom space, pianos, and stairway plaques on the second and third floor's original historic staircase.

- Mary O'Neill and Greg Krom & Family | 2nd Floor Private Instruction Room at Tileston Music Center

- Collin Yip | 2nd Floor Executive Director Office at Tileston Music Center

- Nolan and Jenelle Previte | 2nd Floor Keyboard Lab and Music Technology Room at Tileston Music Center

- William Cauldier | Private Instruction Room at Prado Studios

"NEMPAC's leadership donors empower us to empower artists of all ages and abilities," said Snow. "Their major gifts to The Next Act capital campaign, the most far-reaching undertaking since

NEMPAC's founding in 2001, exemplify their commitment to both Tileston Music Center and the longevity and succession of community-based programs and professional artists who contribute to the arts and culture of the City of Boston."

In 2019, the City of Boston awarded NEMPAC a 15-year lease to transform 48-50 Tileston Street into Tileston Music Center. NEMPAC is coordinating with its design and build team, JJ Welch Contractors and Peterman Architects, to restore this historic building into an inclusive public music center.

"We are grateful to the City of Boston for awarding NEMPAC this unique historical building, formerly known as the Pauline Agassiz Shaw House, which will give us the ability to expand educational and performing arts programs," said Dianne Royle, Board President at NEMPAC. "Mrs. Shaw was a political activist and cared deeply about the community. In 1881, she founded the North Bennet St. School and institutionalized kindergartens in Boston Public Schools."

To donate to the public phase of NEMPAC's capital campaign for Tileston Music Center, please visit: nempacboston.org/thenextact.

Happy 90th Birthday Joey Coppola



Love, your family and friends.

Visit www.northendregionalreview.com

THANKSGIVING DAY TRASH COLLECTION

There is no collection on **Thursday, November 26.**

For neighborhoods with two collections a week on Mondays and Thursdays, **Thursday is canceled.**

The next collection will be **Monday, November 30**

For more info visit: boston.gov/trash

CITY of **BOSTON**



Public Works

New boutique hotel project proposed in North End on Greenway

By Matt Conti

Cross Street Ventures LLC has filed a Letter of Intent with city officials to build a six-story hotel between Salem and Endicott Streets along Cross Street in Boston's North End. We spoke with the principal of 6M Development, Bill Caulder, who is also a longtime resident and parent in the neighborhood. Caulder previously worked on the Victor in the Bulfinch Triangle and has redeveloped multifamily units in

the North End.

Locals will know the location where the former J. Pace & Son and Maria's Pastry retail shops were formerly operating, adjacent to the current Chase Bank, where there are now two single-story buildings and a parking lot.

The site faces the Rose Kennedy Greenway on the front side and Morton Street with Cutillo Park in the rear. A key feature of the project would be to have an open-air passageway in the center of the development connecting the



Artist rendering of the proposed hotel along Cross Street.

Images courtesy of Cross Street Ventures LLC

Happy Thanksgiving!



AARON MICHLEWITZ
State Representative



Greenway side to Morton Street and Cutillo Park. Caulder is enthusiastic about bringing new activity to the park and working with the Friends of Cutillo Park group.

Preliminary plans call for a 125-140 room boutique hotel with a 50-60 seat hotel restaurant and a

second full-service restaurant of a similar size. The total building footprint will be approximately 13,363 square feet according to the LOI as filed by Fort Point Associates to the Boston Planning and Development Agency.

Caulder said, "We have been

reaching out to neighbors and look forward to continuing that as we move forward in the process." The team is currently working on renderings, including possible roof gardens, hotel amenities and Italian-style themes.

Two NEMPAC Board Members selected

By Phil Orlandella

Two North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) Board members have been named by the non-profit organization.

"I am extremely pleased to welcome Robin Wehbe and Rose Koch as NEMPAC's new Board members," said Chair Diane Royle.

Robin has three children who are NEMPAC students.

Rose has two children who are students of NEMPAC. They are also students at the Elliott K-8 innovation school.

The Board is comprised of individuals with a special interest to



Rose Koch.



Robin Wehbe.

provide counsel and guidance to direct the operation of the Center.

They also help raise aware-

ness of NEMPAC's services to the North End and surrounding neighborhoods.

Happy Thanksgiving!

DePasquale Ventures

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COVID on the rise once again in North End and surrounding area

By John Lynds

After experiencing a 24 percent drop two weeks ago, the positive test rate in the North End and surrounding neighborhoods increased by 44 percent according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

Last week the BPHC reported that 31,671 North End, Beacon Hill, West End, Back Bay and Downtown residents were tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 5.5 percent of those tested were COVID positive. This was a 44 percent increase from the 3.8 percent testing positive as reported two weeks ago. The citywide positive test rate average was 9.6 percent--a 35 percent increase from the 7.1 percent that tested positive two weeks ago.

Overall since the pandemic began 4.3 percent of North End, Beacon Hill, West End, Back Bay and Downtown residents were found to be COVID positive.

At his daily press briefing on Tuesday, Mayor Martin Walsh reiterated the City's priority in this crisis.

"To keep people safe and contain this virus, we have to follow the science and we have to follow the data," said Walsh.

What that means, the Mayor explained, is that city public health experts collect comprehensive testing data and hospital data. They analyze it to understand how and where the virus is spreading, and the impact it is having.

"We shape our responses and our guidance based on what the data indicates," said Walsh.. "And, we share the data with the public, so you can be armed with knowledge to help keep yourself, your family, and your community safe. That's a process of continual feedback and learning because, just as this epidemic evolves and its impact on our neighborhoods evolves, our knowledge about it must evolve as well. We need to adapt and update our understanding of COVID spread in the community."

The Mayor announced that, starting this week, the City will be publishing a total of six key metrics relating to test results and hospital usage. The goal, he said, is to give residents the most current and comprehensive picture of the virus as they can.

rent and comprehensive picture of the virus as they can.

"The more we know, and the more you know, the better informed and prepared we can all be," he said.

The Mayor emphasized that every metric right now is telling city officials that we are in the midst of a significant and concerning increase in COVID activity in the city.

"The daily case increases we are seeing are starting to look like numbers that we saw near our peak, in April and May," said Walsh. "Hospital admissions are not at that level, but they have increased over time. We all must be focused on turning this trend around."

The Mayor said that the City is looking closely at what steps we can take to further limit the risk of transmission.

"We have taken a cautious approach throughout this pandemic, making safety our priority," said Walsh. "We pulled back on in-person learning in the Boston Public Schools. This week we were able to bring back 150 students with the highest needs, who desperately need in-person services. The Mayor thanked the families and teachers for making that possible. We have kept our limits on gathering sizes low. Private, indoor gatherings are limited to 10 people, and private outdoor gatherings to 25 people. For events in public spaces, the limit is 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors. We've worked with the state to limit restaurant hours and retail hours, and put in place a Stay-at-home advisory for the hours between 10 p.m. and 5

a.m."

However, the Mayor cautioned, if these case numbers continue to go up, the city will have to go further but added that he is mindful of the impact that restrictions have on the local economy and small businesses.

"But we must put the health of our community first because, in the end, there is no economic recovery without public health," he said.

The infection rate in the North End and surrounding neighborhoods increased 11.7 percent in one week according to the latest city statistics.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed North End, Beacon Hill, West End, Back Bay and Downtown had an infection rate of 165.8 cases per 10,000 residents, up from 148.2 cases per 10,000 residents.

Nearly 100 additional residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 826 cases to 923 cases as of last Friday.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 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.

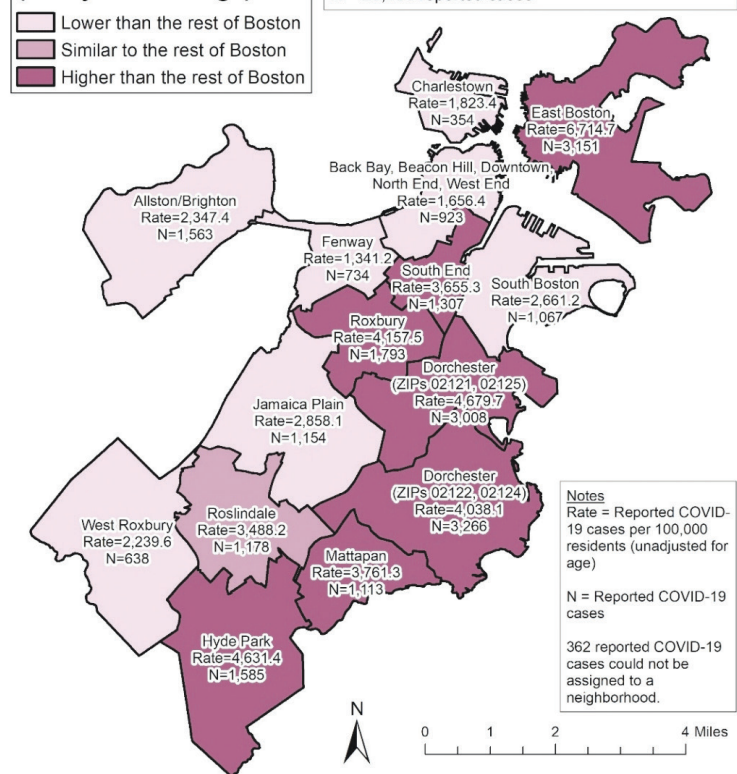
Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 1 percent last week and went from 24,159 cases to cases. 24,393

Five more Boston residents died from the virus and there are now 889 total deaths in the city from COVID.

COVID-19 rate (unadjusted for age)

- Lower than the rest of Boston
- Similar to the rest of Boston
- Higher than the rest of Boston

Boston
Rate = 3,414.1 reported cases per 100,000 residents
N = 23,196 reported cases



Notes
Rate = Reported COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents (unadjusted for age)
N = Reported COVID-19 cases
362 reported COVID-19 cases could not be assigned to a neighborhood.


Data source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan. 1, 2020, to Nov. 12, 2020, 11:20 AM); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 5-yr estimates (2014-2018)
Data analysis: Boston Public Health Commission, Research and Evaluation Office

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

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PLEASE
RECYCLE

FRESH AND LOCAL

Paw and nail care

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

'Tis the season to pay attention to your dog's paws and nails. If you've adopted a dog during the pandemic, this may all be new to you. Your first task is to train your dog to let you touch, examine, and work on their feet.

Once you've made your pup comfortable with paw work, take note of the condition of the pads, interdigital spaces, and nails. Knowing what your dog's paws look like when they are healthy will help you spot redness, cracking, and other signs of winter damage.

Winter Woes

For any barefoot walker, rinsing any salt off paws when you reach home is a good habit. Jake Tedaldi, DVM, author of "What's Wrong with My Dog?" and founder of www.vetcall.com

recommends rinsing, "...because the various forms of ice-melting salt can be quite irritating to dogs' paws, causing them

to lick and/or chew those paws to relieve the irritation."

He went on to explain when that irritation may be a more serious matter, "Excessive licking/chewing of the paws, pads or toes, or swelling, redness or bleeding from any part of the paws would be good reason to seek a veterinarian's advice."

A quick dip of each paw in a bowl of water after a winter walk is a great way to prevent problems. Use your fingers to separate the toes and gently remove salt, sand, and grit from the interdigital space.

If your dog begins to lift a paw or limp because salt is hurting her feet while you are out on a walk, you can use clean snow to wipe away the salt and discomfort.

Nail Care

Whether you clip or file your pet's nails yourself or have your groomer perform that service, you should make sure your dog's nails are not too long. Overgrown nails force the dog to walk on the backs

of their pads and splay the feet. You can make a quick appointment with a vet tech or groomer for a nail trim in many cases.

Ask your veterinarian or groomer to give you an introductory lesson in nail trimming and buy the equipment you might need to clip a nail in an emergency. You should also learn the signs of more severe nail problems like interdigital cysts, infection or inflammation of the tissue around the nail, or abnormalities caused by other conditions or auto-immune disorders.

First Aid

Finally, be prepared to perform first aid and determine if you need professional help. Paws and nails can bleed profusely when injured. You need to be ready to stop that bleeding. We keep blood stop gauze pads on hand.

Try to determine what caused the bleeding and if it is mild, moderate, or severe. If you think it is anything but mild, contact a vet to determine if you need an emergency visit. If it's a small bleed,



Winter takes a toll on paws, but a bit of knowledge and care can prevent painful irritation, infection, or injury. (Photo by Engin Akyurt)

and you can see the cause, try to clean the injury, gently wash out any small, loose foreign material, and apply some blood stop, a sterile bandage, and gentle pressure to stop the bleeding.

Don't remove any large foreign object like a piece of glass or large splinter. That should be done by a professional. Even with a small

cut, there's a chance of a secondary infection. Monitor it carefully and see your vet if the injury shows any redness, discharge, or is not healing quickly.

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

FOCCP host The Great Pumpkin

By Phil Orlandella

It is probably a little late for pumpkin stories however, the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) put together a successful "The Great Pumpkin" event at the park.

While social distancing prevailed, it did not stop FOCCP from presenting its first "Pop Up Pumpkin Patch-Find a Pumpkin Take a Pumpkin" outdoor event.

"Colorful decorations filled the west lawn and tiny pumpkins were scattered about for tiny hands to pick up," FOCCP President Joanne Hayes Rines said. "It was a three-hour event."

FOCCP Vice President and event Chair Ann Babbitt said, "It was busy but never got crowded, that is just what we wanted."

FOCCP Art Curator Robyn

Reed designed and fabricated the Giant Pumpkin which was featured in the Rose Garden delighting children and their families as they watched Reed inflate the pumpkin.

"They could get a close look-up at the special pumpkin and pose for photos," Reed said.

Ed Rocco, General Manager of the Long Wharf Marriott provided his ballroom. "We needed a really large space and could not have constructed the giant inflatable pumpkin without assistance from the Marriott," Reed said.

The pumpkin returned to the park on Halloween evening much to the surprise and delight of everyone who saw it," Hines noted.

"FOCCP has canceled many events this year but we're still finding ways to entertain our neighbors," Hines added.

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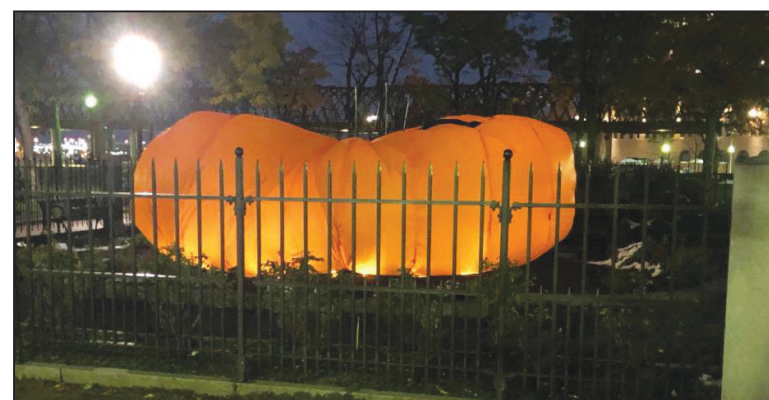
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PLEASE RECYCLE



The FOCCP hosts its first "Pop Up Pumpkin Patch-Find a Pumpkin Take a Pumpkin" outdoor event.

COMMUNITY NEWS

DOG KENNEL COUGH

There has been several reports of Kennel Cough and Pneumonia. RUFF suggests refraining from using the Prince Street Dog Park or dog socializing.

RUFF COSTUME CONTEST

RUFF held a highly successful virtual Halloween dog costume contest that everyone enjoyed.

KEEP DOGS LEASHED

RUFF suggests keeping dogs leashed until getting inside the park. While some dogs out friendly, others are not.

PARK WINTERIZATION

Winterization of the North End Dog Park has taken place. The water has been turned off so users should take their own water until spring.

NEMPAC REGISTRATION

All families must register and create a new account with the North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC). A new system has been developed. For details visit www.nempacboston.org.

Robyn Webber and Rose Koch are the newest NEMPAC Board Members.

NEMPAC PROGRAMS

North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) programs are available virtually online and in person under health safety guidelines. For more details call 617-227-2270.

NORTH SQUARE FILM

The premier of the North Square Film was recently shown on YouTube and Facebook and will be available to check out on the Boston Preservation Alliance site.

MBTA SERVICE CHANGES

The MBTA is proposing service changes to new ridership patterns. No fare changes are included in the proposals and service adjustments are not permanent.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPLICATIONS

The Citizens Nominating Committee is accepting applications for two positions on the

Boston School Committee.

Applications must be received by Wednesday, November 25 by 11:59 p.m. Send applications to scnominatingpanel@boston.gov.

NEWRA MEETING

NEWRA will hold its next meeting on Thursday, December 10 at approximately 7 p.m.

NEWNC MEETING

NEWNC will hold its next monthly meeting on Monday, December 14 at about 7 p.m..

RMV EXTENDED APPOINTMENTS

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has extended designated appointments for customers 75 years of age or older.

License renewals will be available on Wednesdays in November and December. For details: MassDOTRMVSeniors@dot or call 857-368-8005.

RENTAL RELIEF FUND

Mayor Martin Walsh has announced the reopening of applications for rental relief fund for at risk of eviction. Up to \$4000 in rental assistance. For details visit: RentalReliefFund/Boston.gov.

COMMUTER RAIL CHANGES

The MBTA has introduced a new schedule change to the Commuter Rail system in response to changing ridership patterns as a result of the pandemic. Schedules are available at mbta.com.

CHARLIE CARD STORE REOPENED

The Charlie Card Store at Downtown Crossing has reopened according to the MBTA.

In person transactions will take place Tuesday through Friday. Tuesday and Thursday hours 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday and Friday 12:30 to 5 p.m.

Visit mbta.com/charliecard-store.

NORTH END/WATERFRONT PLANS RELEASED

Boston Mayor Martin Walsh has put forth plans to enhance the Waterfront and to protect the North End from rising sea levels and coastal flooding due to climate change for his Climate Ready Boston program.

HELP FOR SENIOR HEATING

The City of Boston has re-launched the Senior Save Program to help them replace failing heating systems to ensure they are ready for winter. For details call 617-635-4663.

GET FLU SHOT

Health leaders are urging residents to get a flu vaccination during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SPONSOR A BENCH OR TREE

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) have launched its sponsor a bench or an oak tree that lines the Trellis. For details visit FOCCP website: foccp.com.

PUPPY TRAINING CLASSES

RUFF will soon begin offering a free series of puppy socialization and training classes in the park located at Prince Street.

Proof of vaccination licensing must be provided. Tune-in to the RUFF social channels for updates and dates.

DOG BARKING PROBLEMS

The influx of new dogs and puppies has created an uptick in complaints due to barking in the local dog park.

RUFF asks owners to attempt to curb their dogs barking or remove them from the park.

RFI RELEASE

A Request for Information (RFI) has been released for community organizations and Boston residents to share a vision of a racism-free Boston by the Boston Health Commission. For details email mreid@bphc.org.

SMALL BUSINESS HELP AVAILABLE

Mayor Martin Walsh has released a request for proposal for next round of technical assistant programs for small businesses. Program runs through Friday, January 31, 2023.

NEMPAC RENOVATIONS

NEMPAC has made reservations to the Prado and Hull Street space to embrace creativity in vibrance for all ages and abilities.

NEW GREENWAY INITIATIVE

A new initiative that will increase visitor's engagement with The Greenway through interactive Geo Visualization-Blown Tractor that allows exploring the park online. Learn more by visiting www.rosekennedy.greenway.org/blooms.

NEWRA MEMBERSHIP

North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) members can renew their memberships online at www.newra.org/membership.html.

BPL HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE

Boston Public Library Homework Assistance Program (HAP) has transitioned to online learning offering students free after school support throughout the school year. For details visit www.bpl.org/homework.

MBTA SERVICE CHANGES LOWERED

MBTA customers Fall 2020 service changes are now being offered. Charlie Tickets and Cash Fare have been lowered to Charlie Card levels. For information visit www.mbta.com/servicechangers.

NEW HEALTH OPERATORS VIRUS TESTING

COVID-19 testing is being provided by NEW Health on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Nazzaro Community Center parking lot on

North Bennet Street. For appointments call 617-643-8000.

GREENWAY FITNESS PROGRAM

The 2020 Greenway fitness season, presented by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts includes in-person and virtual offerings from yoga to conditioning every Monday through Thursday and Saturday.

New safety precautions are in place for the park class

NEW HEALTH PROVIDES FOOD ASSISTANCE

Beside the COVID-19 testing NEW Health is providing, in the Nazzaro Community Center parking lot, they are also providing support facing food insecurity.

Residents who are unable to purchase necessary groceries can receive supermarket gift certificates through NEW Health.

Call 617-643-8000 for testing and information on food assistance.

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.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS DELAYED

NEWRA has delayed its annual election of officers until April 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic has reduced the number of members that can participate.



You'd think at least one of them could tell you how to renew a passport.

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

Walsh announces Boston will publicize new COVID metrics

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Martin Walsh and his administration announced on November 17 that they would be releasing more COVID-19 metrics to the public moving forward, as well as adjusting the metric on positivity rate.

Walsh said that in Boston as of Monday, there were 239 new cases reported and four deaths since Friday.

"We're going to continue to monitor the data that we have," said Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez, but data will now be released to the public twice a week using six metrics.

The metrics include new positive tests for COVID-19 in Boston residents, which Martinez told reporters on Tuesday "tells us how many new cases we're seeing each day and how quickly COVID-19 is spreading in Boston." Each of these metrics comes with a threshold of concern as well, and in this case it would be 339.6 cases per day or 50 cases per 100,000 residents per day.

Another metric is positivity for COVID-19 in Boston residents, which shows the percentage of tests that are returning positive out of all those who are tested in a specific period of time. Martinez

explained that a high positivity could indicate widespread infection in a particular community and/or "only a subset of the community at greatest risk for COVID infection is being tested." In this case, the threshold of concern would be a positivity rate of 5 percent or higher or four or more Boston neighborhood rates above eight percent.

"Up to now, Boston has used a person-level approach using a cumulative time frame that looks back to the beginning of the epidemic," the presentation said, "meaning each person is only counted once, even if they have been tested repeatedly."

Moving forward, a hybrid model will be used that includes person-level and test-level positivity, and will not include college testing, though that will continue to be monitored separately, he said. He said the reason for this is to get a better look at positivity at the neighborhood level without college data skewing it.

"We think it more accurately depicts recent positivity due to a tighter time frame for testing," and "provides a more accurate depiction of unique new positives," Martinez said.

He said for those people who get tested multiple times a week,

only one negative test will be counted, but any positive results get counted once every 90 days to prevent repeated reporting of the same positive test.

Martinez said that the current positivity rate in Boston as of November 12 using this metric is 5.4%, and the only one of the six metrics that has gone into the threshold of concern.

The third metric has to do with the number of COVID-19 molecular tests performed, which "helps us to understand whether we are performing a consistent amount of testing among Boston residents," the presentation said. The threshold of concern here is a decrease in testing for three or more consecutive weeks, he said.

The final three metrics have to do with hospitals, and include "emergency department visits to Boston hospitals, the availability of adult ICU and adult medical or surgical beds at Boston hospitals, [and] percentage of non-surge adult ICU beds occupied at Boston hospitals," according to a slide presented.

These metrics help the city understand hospital capacity so they can come up with a plan to increase capacity if need be,

So far, Martinez said that

although there has been increased positivity, it has not turned into a high number of hospitalizations so far.

There is also a focus on equitable impact, Martinez said, including taking a hard look at data to find where inequities lie and "ensure that understanding was incorporated into these metrics," as well as making sure more data by race, ethnicity, and age is available "given the disproportionate impact over the duration of COVID, and use these metrics to ensure equity across testing, isolation, and prevention messaging in the communities hit hardest by the virus.

Dr. Jennifer Lo of the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) said it is difficult for many people to pinpoint where exactly they contracted the virus, but household contacts have been a major cause for more cases, as one family member or roommate brings it home to the rest of the household.

She also said that there have been a number of cases from workplace spread where people might have relaxed COVID distancing rules in the break room where masks are off for eating. She also said that vehicle sharing has been another cause of spread.

She said the BPHC is "moni-

toring those patterns," and added that one person who may be particularly social could be just as quick of a spreader of the virus as super spreader events if they visit with multiple groups of people.

We are seeing it across the board," Martinez said, between small gatherings, essential workers, people who travel—"it's not just a couple scenarios," he said.

"It's important to us that our residents understand that the public health team is really focused on understanding what we're seeing," he said, and what that means and how the city can intervene to stop the numbers from getting out of control.

"If numbers continue to accelerate, we're going to have to do more," Walsh said at a press conference on Tuesday morning. "We're going to put health and the health of our community first... there is no economic recovery without public health."

He also announced that this week, 150 of the city's highest-needs students were able to return to in person learning, but all other Boston Public School students continue to learn remotely.

For more information on COVID-19 and to view the data, visit boston.gov/coronavirus and bphc.org.

ABCD kick off fuel assistance program in North End with plea for additional funding, donations

By John Lynds

With temperatures in the North End expected to dip into the 20s at night this week and not exceed 50 degrees for the next few days many residents and seniors will find it hard to pay their heating bill this winter.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused even more uncertainty in the neighborhood as job loss, food insecurity and loss of income has become more prevalent in recent months.

However, there's relief from paying those high New England heating costs for hundreds of low-income residents in the neighborhood.

At the beginning of November, Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) kicked off the annual Fuel Assistance Program at ABCD's 1 Michelangelo St. office in the North End and workers say that the program is in full swing and are encouraging residents to sign up.

ABCD administers the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for income-eligible residents in Boston, Brookline, Newton and seven communities north of Boston. Last year ABCD provided fuel assistance to more than 25,000 households.

According to ABCD President John Drew, this year the need for

heating assistance is greater than ever as COVID-19 continues to take a huge toll on low-income neighborhoods and communities of color where long-standing health disparities make residents highly vulnerable to the virus

Drew said escalating unemployment has led to mounting distress as many make the decision to either buy food, heat their home or pay for necessary medications.

Drew said on November 5, the federal Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) released \$3.36 billion to fund LIHEAP nationwide. Massachusetts received \$123 million – up about \$9 million from last year. Federal CARES Act funding designated for fuel assistance increases the Massachusetts allocation to \$150 million.

Right now the maximum fuel assistance benefit is \$600 for North End families, with benefits scheduled to be increased soon. Last year the maximum benefit was \$1,140.

"We thank our Congressional delegation for their tireless advocacy for fuel assistance and appreciate the work of HHS in getting the funds released as bitter cold descends on America's northern tier," said Drew. "With COVID-

19 surging and no sign of Congress passing a second sweeping virus relief bill that would keep unemployed workers and small businesses afloat and make it possible for struggling families to survive, the elders and families served by ABCD face a desperate situation."

ABCD's Fuel Assistance Program opened for applications on November 1 and takes applications through April 30. There is a wide range of eligibility based on income and number of household members. The eligibility guidelines can be found at <https://www.masscap.org/eligibility-requirements-heating-assistance/>.

For example, a North End family living at or below the federal poverty level of \$26,200 for a family of four would receive the maximum fuel assistance benefit of \$600. A person living alone at or below the federal poverty level of \$12,760 would receive that same benefit.

But those with incomes above poverty level are also eligible.

Drew said years ago the state expanded eligibility levels in order to keep those slightly above poverty from slipping through the cracks. For example, under the current benefit levels, a family of four earning 60 percent of the

state's median income or \$75,200 can receive \$430 in fuel assistance. A single person earning \$39,105 also receives \$430.

"Home heating assistance is vital to keeping disadvantaged individuals, elders, and families healthy by preventing hypothermia and subsequent hospitalization," said Drew. "And it keeps them safe; too many would otherwise opt for dangerous alternatives such as space heaters or ovens."

ABCD also offers qualifying families a comprehensive range of energy services to keep families warm, safe and healthy including repair and replacement of inoperable or highly inefficient heating systems, utility discounts, weatherization, programs to improve energy conservation, and much more.

ABCD is grateful for any private donations to home heating fuel assistance or the ABCD COVID RELIEF NOW campaign. Donations can stop a family from turning to dangerous heating substitutes, prevent illness, and dramatically improve the quality of life. To donate, please call 617-348-6559, email give@bostonabcd.org or visit bostonabcd.org/donate.



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Are you descended from a Mayflower passenger? Finding out just got easier

It is estimated that there are more than 35 million living descendants of the Pilgrims around the world. Proving family connections to this group used to be a daunting task, but no longer. American Ancestors and its partners—the General Society Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) and FamilySearch International—have introduced an online resource that makes the question “Am I descended from a Pilgrim?” easier to answer than ever before, a timely offering in this 400th anniversary year of the Mayflower’s arrival in America.

Today, American Ancestors|New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) announced the release of a new online database on its website at AmericanAncestors.org/Mayflower-Family that contains authenticated lineages of passengers on the Mayflower who left descendants. These family histories are compiled from names and dates of approved membership applications to the Mayflower Society (GSMD). The earliest application dates to 1895. The searchable database is available to members of American Ancestors|NEHGS, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting family history. In coming weeks, the database will be available to all active members of the Mayflower Society.

“Descendants of famous Pilgrims such as William Bradford, John and Priscilla Alden, and

others, can now easily search for and find family histories spanning as many as 13 generations,” said Brenton Simons, President and CEO of American Ancestors|NEHGS. “It’s a huge step forward for Mayflower family historians, and a useful research tool for anyone interested in family history and genealogy.”

According to Don LeClair, Associate Director, Database Search & Systems at American Ancestors, “Linking your name to someone on a tree in this database may more quickly identify a Mayflower line, and aid in your application process to the Mayflower Society.” American Ancestors assists hundreds of its members each year with making a formal application to the Mayflower Society for membership.

In addition to the searchable database of more than 4.5 million names, family trees—built on the application known as American Ancestors|NEHGS, a proprietary program of American Ancestors—will display valuable information for any individual interested in researching a possible ancestral connection to a passenger on the Mayflower. A complete tree has been created of the 24 Mayflower Pilgrim families who are known to have left descendants, a complete tree has been created. Where previous online Mayflower databases offered information on generations one through five of a Pilgrim, this new database now expands the online resource to include up

to the 11th, 12th, or possibly the 13th generation descending from a Pilgrim family—through the year 1919. Due to privacy restrictions, no name or data has been included of any individual on a GSMD membership application who was born after December 31, 1919.

“The General Society of Mayflower Descendants is honored to once again partner with NEHGS,” said Jane Hurt, Governor General of GSMD. “As the custodian of family lines going back fifteen generations or more from founding families in America, being able to share our information with American Ancestors will help us identify additional descendants, find undiscovered lines, and welcome new members to our society.”

A partnership makes challenging research easier

The new database is the result of a three-year collaboration between American Ancestors|NEHGS, the General Society Mayflower Descendants (GSMD), and FamilySearch International, a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The historic membership applications from the archives of GSMD were digitized by FamilySearch International to create a storehouse of images of each page of an application. Names were meticulously indexed for search functions online. American Ancestors then created a searchable family tree for each Pilgrim on its American Ancestors|NEHGS platform, using the

new indexed data and merging it with data from an earlier project done with GSMD for its renowned Silver Books collection.

American Ancestors CEO Simons stated, “This is an unprecedented collaboration between three of the ‘greats.’ FamilySearch is a giant of the field and brings the best technologies to bear. The Mayflower Society (GSMD) is one of the most esteemed hereditary societies, and it champions the story of the Pilgrims. And American Ancestors is the public face of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the founding genealogical society in the world and best known for maintaining the highest standards in the field of genealogy.”

Simons emphasized that free online access to the documents and lineages from the verified GSMD member applications sheds new light on one of America’s founding legacies. In the year commemorating the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower’s landing, many of the planned events marking its significance have been postponed. But investigating one’s possible ancestral connection to the iconic Pilgrim family may take place comfortably at home and at any time through the use of new resources such as the database announced today.

The Mayflower Society (GSMD), one of the leading lineage societies

General Society Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) started tak-

ing applications for membership in 1895. It currently has more than 30,000 active members. This year, with attention being given to the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage in 1620, more individuals have sought recognition of their ancestry by submitting an application for membership to be verified by GSMD.

Scholarship undertaken by the GSMD over the years has resulted in publication of 30 volumes of the Silver Books, known as such for the color of the covers. The books incorporate genealogical data covering generations one through five of a Pilgrim. That data was indexed by American Ancestors from 2017 to 2018 to create an initial online database called “The Mayflower Families Fifth Generation Descendants.” That has now been merged with the information contained in the more than 100,000 Mayflower Society applications utilized in this project, respecting the privacy of data of anyone born after December 31, 1919.

To view the new database, “General Society of Mayflower Descendants Membership Applications, 1620-1920,” and explore its content, visit AmericanAncestors.org/Mayflower-Family. Many other resources pertaining to Mayflower research may also be viewed at Mayflower.AmericanAncestors.org.

Walsh announces new COVID-19 relief funds for small businesses

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced the launch of three new funds totaling \$6.3 million that will support small businesses within the City of Boston that have been affected by COVID-19, focusing on commercial rent relief, supporting certified women, minority, and veteran owned small businesses, and restaurant payroll and rental relief. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Boston has allocated more than \$15 million toward direct grants to small businesses.

“Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been listening closely to the needs of our small business community,” said Mayor Walsh. “These conversations are crucial to ensuring a safe and equitable recovery for our City. The new funds we are announcing today will address those needs to better support the small businesses who have been hardest hit by the pandemic.”

The application period for

these three new funds opens on Monday, November 16, 2020 and will remain open for a period of one week, closing at 9:00 am on Monday, November 23, 2020. Small businesses may not apply for more than one of the three new relief funds. Previous recipients of the Small Business Relief Fund and Reopen Boston Fund, including restaurant fall and winter relief, may apply to any one of these funds:

1. Commercial Rent Relief Fund:

Provides up to \$15,000 in commercial rent relief for the period between April 1 - December 31, 2020. Priority is given to small businesses in industry sectors in Phase 3, Step 2 and Phase 4 of the state’s Reopening Massachusetts plan, and those industries and neighborhood commercial areas hardest hit by COVID-19. Both a commercial landlord and small business tenant must participate in order to apply.

2. Certified Business Relief Fund:

Provides up to \$15,000 in direct grants for small businesses currently certified with the City of Boston as women, minority, or veteran owned small businesses (MBE, WBE, MWBE, VOSBE, SLBE). The City’s Certified Businesses Directory can be found here.

3. High Road Kitchens Restaurant Relief Fund:

In partnership with the One Fair Wage program, High Road Kitchens, and Councilor Lydia Edwards’ Office, this fund will provide \$15,000 in direct grants to restaurants for COVID-19 relief, in order to commit to provide a \$20 minimum wage for all restaurant workers by 2026. The Fund will directly provide wage reimbursements to restaurants to retain or rehire their employees or other food service employees who have lost employment or been underemployed due to COVID-19. Use of funds may include both rent

and payroll. Priority will be given to independently owned small and local restaurants, as well as restaurants owned by immigrants, women and people of color.

“It’s important that we don’t forget about restaurant workers when we talk about the struggles of the industry. Without restaurant workers there would be no restaurant industry. I’m proud to have partnered with the administration, One Fair Wage, and High Road Kitchens on the development of this program that will provide relief to restaurants that commit to good labor practices,” said City Councilor Lydia Edwards.

These new small business relief funds are supported the federal CARES Act Relief Funding, along with philanthropic funding. In accordance with the regulations, the project must provide resources or assistance to mitigate effects on health and/or provide economic support.

Mayor Walsh will further

expand the Reopen Boston Fund to offer an additional \$1,000 in grants to other small businesses. To be eligible, businesses must have already applied for the Reopen Boston Fund and must include a description and updated budget of how the business plans on using the funds to further their reopening during the Winter. Applicants will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are not guaranteed funding. Businesses must have all proper documentation and permits if operating in outdoor spaces. Interested businesses can reapply on boston.gov/reopen-fund and click on Winter Fund. The Reopen Boston Fund, which remains open, has issued more than \$2.65 million in grants to 1,471 businesses. Applications are accepted at boston.gov/reopen-fund.

City Realty donates new Chromebooks to the Eliot School

By John Lynds

Last week the City Realty Group continued its longstanding partnership with local schools by providing new Chromebooks to the Eliot School in the North End.

City Realty, known for several development projects in the area, has a nonprofit offshoot called City Kids in areas where the devel-

opment team works and conducts business.

The team stopped by the Eliot earlier this month and donated ten new Chromebook laptop computers. City Kids and City Realty Group were joined by former District 1 City Councilor Sal LaMattina to personally deliver the Chromebooks to Eliot School Principal Traci Walker Griffith



Former District 1 City Councilor Sal LaMattina, City Realty Managing Partner Stephen Whalen, Eliot School Principal Traci Walker Griffith, and City Realty Group Vice President of Operations Jimmy Caruso with Eliot students.

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and students who need them for at-home learning.

"The Eliot School community is grateful for City Realty's generosity to our students and families and their unwavering commitment to supporting our students' virtual learning journey with new Chrome books," said Principle Griffith.

The donation comes at a time when Boston Public Schools has paused reopening plans due to rising COVID-19 rates. This means more at-home learning and more

urgency to help students-in-need to ensure they have the proper resources to participate in school from home.

City Realty has been donating Chromebooks throughout the city to local schools during the COVID pandemic.

City Realty Group Vice President of Operations James Caruso said the donations are a way City Realty can do their part to help children remain engaged and capable of continuing their studies at home.

Stephen Whalen of Boston, Managing Partner at City Realty Group and founder of City Kid, said his company has been a long-time supporter of area schools and afterschool programs.

Since landing in Boston and developing projects in the neighborhood, City Realty's City Kids, has been looking for ways to give back to the community. A few years ago City Realty donated ChromeBooks to a Boston Public School's Autism Strand classroom.

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Mayor Martin J. Walsh

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