



THE NORTH END

REGIONAL REVIEW

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GIVING SUPPORT



Gisella di Paola, Vice President Business Development Officer, Eagle Bank is shown presenting ABCD NE/WE NSC Advisory Board Member a donation to support meals and social service at the community organization.

NEWRA to address Prince Street occupancy change

By Phil Orlandella

A request LLC to change the occupancy at 81 Prince Street was the topic of discussion on a virtual zoom meeting held by the North End Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) and the Zoning Licensing Committee, according to NEWRA President Cheryl Delgreco.

Following the presentation, Delgreco said, "The proposal will be addressed at the February 11 NEWRA meeting and a vote will

be taken."

Plans call for a change from four apartments and a store to five apartments with the ground-floor commercial space renovations and conversion to a two-bedroom residential unit extending into the basement.

In addition, a new roof deck will be constructed over the existing ell in the rear of the property is also planned.

The property is located in a Multifamily Residential Local Services Sub-District of the

North End neighborhood Zoning District.

There are violations in place under Article 54 of the Boston Zoning Code, Section 10 (floor area ratio extensive and rear yard insufficient) and Section 21 (off street parking insufficient).

The applicant, represented by North End Attorney Daniel Toscano, pointed out that the existing floor area ratio is 3.82 and the property is 3.89.

The floor area ratio applicable throughout the District is 3.0.

Community groups support transfer of full liquor license

By Phil Orlandella

Both the North End Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) and North End Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) supported a request by Nando Trattoria, 391-395 Hanover Street (formerly Green Cross Pharmacy)

to purchase and transfer a seven-day all alcohol beverage license held by Zuma's Tex Mex Grill at Faneuil Hall Marketplace.

NEWRA President Brett Roman said, "The Council voted unanimously to support the trans-

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White new Police Commissioner

By Phil Orlandella

Boston has a new Commissioner of the Police Department, Dennis White who was the Superintendent in the Department and Chief of Staff to the Commissioner. White replaces William G. Gross who

retired on January 29.

The new top cop is a "proven leader who is trusted and respected by the community," according to Mayor Martin Walsh. "He is respected by his colleagues in the Boston Police Department."

The Eliot School welcomes Titi Ngwenya as New Director of Development and Communications

Special to the Regional Review

The Eliot School of Fine and Applied Arts, Boston's all-inclusive center for lifelong learning in craft, is delighted to welcome Titi Ngwenya as its first Director of Development and Communications. The new position is part of the Eliot School's growth in the 21st century. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Eliot School was completing a period of research into space expansion to accommodate its far-reaching programs; that effort is currently on hold, as the Eliot Schoolhouse has been closed since last March. Ms. Ngwenya will steward expanded communications and development strategy as the school emerges from the pandemic with renewed commitment to its mission.

Titi Ngwenya is no stranger to



Titi Ngwenya.

the Eliot School, having served on the Advisory Board since 2017. She

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North End COVID update

By John Lynds

Last week the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in the North End and the surrounding neighborhoods increased while the weekly positive test rate decreased for a second week in a row.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, overall since the pandemic started 43,271 North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 5.7 percent of those tested were COVID positive—a 7.5 percent increase from the 5.3 percent two weeks ago.

Last week 3,101 residents were tested and 3.2 were positive—a 8.6 percent decrease from the 3.5 reported two Fridays ago.

Citywide, 34,780 residents were tested and 6.8 percent were COVID positive—a 5.5 percent decrease from the 7.2 percent testing positive two weeks ago.

At a press briefing Monday Mayor Martin Walsh said while the numbers are moving in the right directions, residents still need to remain vigilant.

“The average number of positive tests each day was about 375, also down from the week before,” said Mayor Walsh. “Our current community positivity rate was 6.8

percent. That is lower than the week before, and down 1.6 percentage points over the last two weeks.”

The Mayor said that, throughout the pandemic, Boston has taken a cautious approach to reopening, and only moves forward with reopening if public health experts say it's safe.

“In recent weeks, we've seen some improvement in our COVID numbers,” said Walsh. “That is why we are moving into Phase 3 Step 1 today (Monday). You can go to Boston.gov/Reopening to find the list of businesses allowed to reopen.”

The Mayor also mentioned that, last week, the State moved Boston from “high risk” to “moderate risk” on their map, which is encouraging news. However, Walsh warned that we must stay vigilant.

“The numbers could change any time,” he said. “Every single person has a role to play in keeping these numbers down. Everyone can take actions on a daily basis to protect themselves and their loved ones. He reminded everyone to wear a mask; social distance; wash your hands with soap and warm water; disinfect surfaces; and avoid gatherings.”

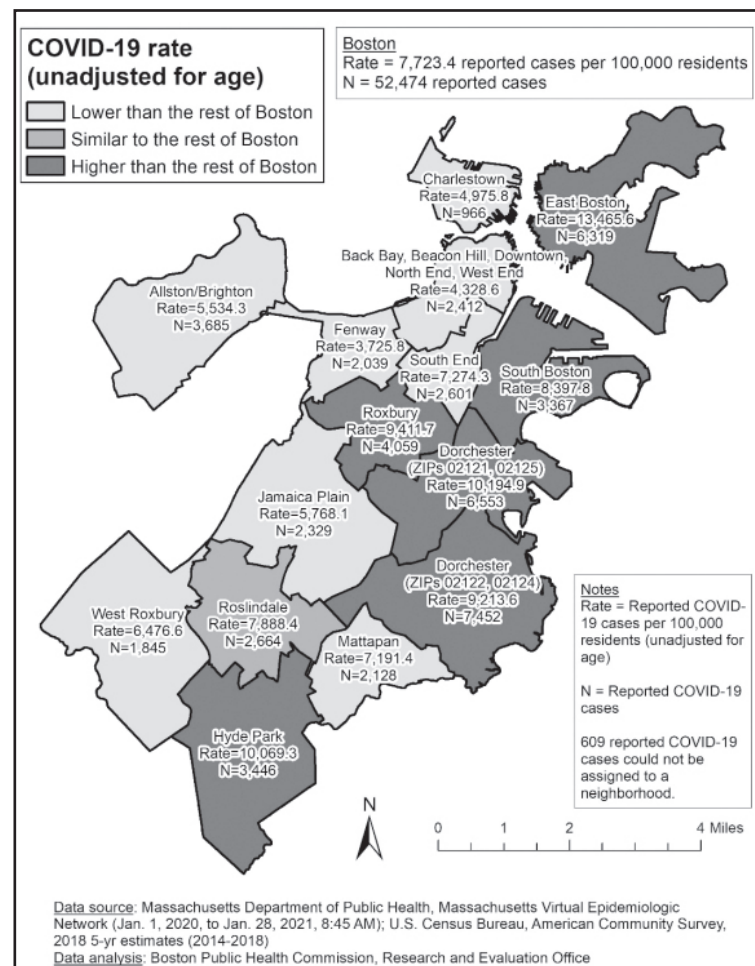
With Super Bowl Sunday coming up next weekend, he asked everyone to refrain from gathering with people outside your

household. He also reminded everyone to make testing a part of your routine.

“We have over 30 testing sites including mobile sites that are free and open to all, regardless of symptoms. Visit Boston.gov or call 3-1-1 for complete details,” said Walsh.

The Mayor ended his press briefing by recognizing that February 1, marked one year since the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Boston, and that none of us knew what to expect a year ago.

“The pandemic has turned our city, and our world, upside down,” said Walsh. “Living with this virus hasn't been easy. It's been especially hard for communities who have already faced deep, historic disparities in health and economic outcomes. And we've all had to make sacrifices. But we've also seen countless examples of Bostonians coming together. And that spirit helps us keep our chins up, when times are especially tough. We need that now more than ever, because the virus is still with us, and will be with us for a while longer. But look where we are -- one year later, on February 1, 2021. Today, we're moving forward with Phase 3, Step 1 of reopening -- one step closer to helping our economy recover, and getting life back to normal. We're opening two vaccination sites: a mass vaccination site at Fenway Park, which opens today, and soon, a vaccination clinic at the Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury, which will expand into a mass vaccination site. Thousands of people have received the COVID-19 vaccine already, and we are working to make sure our most vulnerable residents get vaccinated as soon as possible. We also finally have a partner and leader in Washington who is commit-



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

ted to helping cities and states beat this virus. We have begun the process of healing. And we're going to see it through, together. Thank you, again, to everyone for continuing to do your part, day in and out, to help us get through this crisis.”

The infection rate in the North End and surrounding neighborhoods increased 6.6 percent in one week according to the latest city statistics.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 432.8 cases per 10,000 residents, up 6.6 percent from 405.9 cases per 10,000 residents.

One hundred fifty additional

residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 2,262 cases to 2,412 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 4.4 percent percent last week and went from 51,506 cases to 53,789 confirmed cases in a week. Thirty additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,163 total deaths in the city from COVID.

Concerns raised regarding State Street changes exposed

By Phil Orlandella

Concerns from the Wharf District Council and residents regarding the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) proposal to change State Street from a two-way to a one-way street with a bike path while widening the sidewalk are being reviewed.

A petition is being circulated that reads: “The redesign of State Street must benefit all residents, commuters, visitors, tourists, as well as the businesses includ-

ing hotels, restaurants and retail shops.”

BTD has held all the necessary public hearings and made several public information notices related to the street changes.

The State Street team is looking at other designs but changing to a one-way street may not be discarded according to a city source.

Changes to the current city plans come from the Waterfront District Council.

“State Street is a primary roadway going west to and from the waterfront and experiences heavy traffic volumes that cannot be

accommodated by a one traffic lane.”

The street design must be based on traffic studies showing vehicle accounts that reflect daily non-State Street utilization.

Sufficient street space for curbside activity must be part of any new design.

The lack of pick-up and delivery areas negatively impacts businesses and residents and could cause tenants and retail to leave the area.

Dedicated bicycle lanes going west must be located on the other side of the street in this area.

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NEAA baseball registration under way

By Phil Orlandella

North End Baseball 2021 season appears to be on, according to NEAA Baseball Commissioner Ralph Martignetti.

"The field looks great and I can't wait to fill it with children and teens playing baseball. We will have baseball programs for players 4-15 years of age as of April 30, 2021," Martignetti said.

He added, "Our website is open and we are accepting registration fees of \$50 per player this year."

He noted, "Practices will start in April and games will be held in May for players age 4-12." The Dodgers will start after the school season has been completed.

He carefully explained, "We need to follow any COVID-19 related restrictions, which hopefully will be very few by April."

The following programs will be offered:

Instructional leagues for boys and girls ages 4-5.

Minor League for boys and girls ages 6-8.

Girls softball ages 9-15.

Majors for boys ages 9-12.

Dodgers for boys 13-15.

Martignetti asked that "Players sign up as early as possible so the NEAA can put these programs together."

Register at neaabaseball.org.

SUPPORT (from pg. 1)

fer."

NEWRA voted 19-5 in favor of the transfer, President Cheryl Delgreco said. Nando's occupancy is approximately 42 seats (36 seats/6 bar seats).

The license calls for a 2 a.m. closure and the applicant has proposed to close at 1 a.m. on Fridays and Saturday, and midnight Sunday through Thursday

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ELIOT SCHOOL (from pg. 1)

has worked in the arts (performing and visual) for over 20 years. She believes in the value of a good arts education and the transformative power of "making things." Ngwenya earned an English degree from Yale University, a Master's in Music from the New England Conservatory, and most recently a Core Leadership Certificate from the Tufts University affiliated Institute for Nonprofit Practice. As a Boston native, she feels fortunate to have grown up surrounded by so many institutions dedicated to the arts and arts education.

"I knew I wanted to stretch beyond the visual arts world, and ultimately shift my focus to have a stronger institutional impact in terms of social justice and equity in the arts. I am thrilled to join the leadership team at the Eliot School, an institution that has developed such fine partnerships with the Boston Public Schools and an excellent curriculum in woodworking, sewing, fiber arts, drawing, painting, photography, and other crafts."

—Titi Ngwenya

Ngwenya comes to the Eliot School having devoted 10 years as Director of Communications at Fuller Craft Museum, the 2020 recipient of an Award of

Distinction from the American Craft Council. Her work at Fuller Craft spanned the tenure of three different Executive Directors including historian, writer, and artist Jonathan L. Fairbanks, who is founder and former curator of the American Decorative Arts and Sculpture department at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. As Fuller's Director of Communications, Ngwenya was PR spokesperson, digital marketer, and graphic designer all in the interest of positioning the Museum for greater awareness and support. However, there was no role she enjoyed more than engaging with the Museum visitors, members of the Brockton community, the artists, and teaching artists.

"This vibrant eco-system we call the arts community—the artists, teachers, curators, students, funders, administrators, and the individuals from the community who engage in and witness what is created—this gathering of minds has great potential for understanding each other and our shared humanity through the lens of art and art-making."

—Titi Ngwenya

Ngwenya first worked with the Eliot School in 2013, when Fuller Craft Museum and the Eliot

School joined a consortium of Massachusetts educational and cultural organizations collaborating to produce Make Speak, a popular public lecture series on craft. Since that time, she took interest in the 340-year-old institution and their mission to inspire lifelong learning in craft and creativity for all.

About the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts

The Eliot School is one of a small group of early colonial-era schools that survive today. In 1676, a group of local residents donated corn and land to support a school in Jamaica Plain. That year marked the end of King Philip's War. In 1689, Rev. John Eliot, known as Minister to the Indians, endowed the school with an additional 75 acres, with the provision that it educate Native Americans and Africans as well as colonial children. For the next two centuries, it was a grammar school, adapting to the times.

Beginning in the late 19th century, the Eliot School turned increasingly to the arts. In 1874, it left the public school system and by the late 1880s had added sewing and carpentry classes. Wood carving flourished. Plumbing, basketry, and millinery also had

their day. The school offered manual training for schoolteachers, instruction for adults, and classes for children both after school and during school time.

During this transition, neighbors Robert and Ellen Swallow Richards played a significant role. Professors at MIT, they were proponents of vocational education and home economics. Their efforts helped make "shop and home economics" staples of 20th century American public schooling. Robert Richards sat on the Eliot School board for over sixty years until he resigned at the age of 100 in 1944.

Throughout the 20th century, students attended the Eliot School "to satisfy that instinctive desire of human beings to create," and as "relaxation from their sedentary vocations."

Today, we continue to offer classes to people of all ages in fine and applied arts. We maintain an active relationship with Boston Public Schools, and still provide an outlet for people to relax from sedentary vocations and satisfy their need for creative expression and for making things by hand.

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EDITORIAL

MINIMUM WAGE SHOULD BE AT \$15

In 1971, the minimum wage across the United States, as mandated by federal law, was \$1.60.

Today, the federal minimum stands at \$7.25.

One might look at those two numbers and think that because the minimum wage has increased by more than four-fold in the past 50 years, America's lowest-paid workers are doing alright compared to their grandparents.

But the reality is far different.

In fact, had the federal minimum wage kept pace with workers' productivity in the past five decades, the inflation-adjusted minimum wage would be \$24 an hour.

The reality of the \$7.25 minimum wage, which has been at that level since 2009, is that a person working a full-time job at the minimum wage officially falls below the national poverty level, a reality that would be laughably absurd if it were not so harmful to millions of Americans.

President Joe Biden has proposed increasing the minimum wage across the country to \$15.00 by 2024, essentially bringing it into line with Massachusetts and a few other states that already are near or at that level. (The minimum wage in Massachusetts presently stands at \$13.50 and will increase incrementally here and in seven other states to \$15.00 within the next two years.)

Raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025 would raise wages of up to 27.3 million workers -- almost 20 percent of American workers -- and lift 1.3 million families out of poverty, according to a report by the Congressional Budget Office.

Some on the political spectrum speak exultingly about the dignity of work.

But they ignore the other side of the equation, which is that it is below the dignity of anyone to work for wages that amount to not much better than slave labor.

The time has come to raise the minimum wage and yes, to Make America Great Again -- for everybody.

OREGON LEADS THE WAY ON DRUGS

For more than 50 years, America has been fighting the "war on drugs," an endeavor that began under the administration of President Richard M. Nixon, who had the avowed purpose of arresting and incarcerating as many Blacks and other minorities as possible, especially for simple possession of marijuana.

The war on drugs has been a failure by any measure. Not only have we spent hundreds of billions of dollars on failed law enforcement efforts both in this country and around the globe, directly leading to the destabilization of many nations that has had profound effects both for those countries and ours, but it is fair to say that the drug war has destroyed the lives of more individuals, families, and communities than the drugs themselves.

Thanks to the war on drugs, the prison population in the United States exceeds every other nation on earth, both in terms of sheer numbers and based on population.

At long last, after 50 years of fruitless and costly failure, things are about to change.

Voters in the State of Oregon recently approved a ballot question that decriminalizes the possession of illegal drugs. Instead of throwing people in jail, the state will view drug use as a health issue, offering addicts treatment instead of prison time.

In Portugal, this approach has been used for 20 years. The result has been stunning. Drug overdose deaths and HIV and other drug-related infections have decreased dramatically. In addition, the removal of criminal penalties did NOT increase the rate of drug use.

The time has come for our society to acknowledge that the war on drugs, which was based on racism to begin with, must come to an end.

Oregon is leading the way -- and change is coming none too soon.



THE ECONOMY IS A TWO WAY STREET

FROM OUR READERS

ANNUAL NORTH END BENEFIT LUNCHEON A HUGE SUCCESS

To the Editor,

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and not being able to hold our Annual Christmas Fund Luncheon, the North End Christmas Fund was able to meet its fundraising goal and send out checks to over 200 families, seniors and children this Christmas Season. "Thanks to the generous donations from the business community, friends, neighbors and community organizations as well as our local elected officials we were able to help everyone on our list," stated Chairmen Ted Tomasone.

The North End Christmas Fund committee is made up of members of several North End Human Service and non-profit Agencies such as the North End Athletic Association, Nazzaro

Center, North End Against Drugs, North End Waterfront Health, North End Seniors, ABCD - North End/West End Service Center, and the Ausonia Council Knights of Columbus.

Thank you again to all who

contributed to make this year very successful and allow us to help so many people in need. We plan to resume the luncheon in 2021.

John Romano
Committee Member

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Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2021

January 31 -February 6 #CSW21

This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service." Catholic schools have a specific purpose to form students to be good citizens of the world, love God and neighbor and enrich society with the leaven of the gospel and by example of faith. As communities of faith, Catholic schools instill in students their destiny to become saints. Academic excellence is the hallmark of Catholic education intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Finally, service is fundamental to Catholic education and the core of Catholic discipleship. Service is intended to help form people who are not only witnesses to Catholic social teaching, but also active participants through social learning.

A blessing to be in school

St. Anthony's of Everett keeps in-person learning at forefront this year

By Seth Daniel

Counting one's blessings is a daily exercise at St. Anthony's School of Everett, but never did the school community think one of those counted blessings would be actually going to school in person.

However, that has been the case as the Pre-School to Grade 8 Catholic School in Everett has stayed in person most every week since September using some reconfigured routines and strict COVID-19 protocols. It has been a great and wonderful things for the children, and the families, said Principal Maria Giggie.

"We've been in school since Sept. 16," said Giggie, now in

her 15th year at St. Anthony's. "We recently did a partial re-opening after Christmas in phases of 1, 2 and 3 because the cases in Everett were so high. Now everyone is back this week...Everybody is back physically in the building this week. Remote is okay, but over a long period of time, it becomes impossible for students and parents."

St. Anthony's is participating in Catholic Schools Week throughout next week and will have special, COVID-19 conscious, celebrations – such as a Mass and other fun things like a Pajama Day. Meanwhile, prospective students and parents are encouraged to come in-person to their Open Houses

from Feb. 1-3 after making an appointment. The Open Houses are generally between 9-11 a.m. on those days, but Giggie said they are flexible.

Keeping away from all-remote has been very helpful to students and families, Giggie said, and has been a highlight of the year for them while their counterparts in the public schools have remained online this entire year.

"Remote is hard," she said. "If people have to go to work, especially with younger children, you have to worry about getting them up on the screen. Nobody needs this kind of stress. Getting everyone back in school is best and of course, keeping necessary precautions

in place when they are here is essential."

Giggie said they have moved desks six feet apart in all classrooms, and now have four lunch sessions per day with two children at each table. There are a lot of other guidelines they've picked up from the best practices, such as having teachers come to the older students, instead of having students switch classrooms each period. That keeps them at the same desk all day and keeps them from having to move about the school and having contact with others.

"We've been blessed in this," she said. "The teachers are a treasure and have gone above and beyond during school and after school. It is beyond what a

teacher's job description would be. They are always on. It's been an amazing effort."

The school has also been smart about utilizing the new technology as well. Some students have chosen to be at home, and teachers have quickly adapted to teaching in person and remotely at the same time – carrying around a technology cart to each classroom that doubles as the remote computer link for students at home. Likewise, on a few occasions, they have chosen to go all remote when the percent positive case numbers in Everett have soared far beyond 8 percent. In addition, some of their special occasions,

(St. ANTHONY Pg. 6)

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CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021

In-person learning at St. John School in the North End a success

By John Lynds

In its 126 year history St. John School arguably has never faced a crisis quite like the COVID-19 pandemic that has turned the world upside down.

However, the staff and students at St. John School have successfully returned to 'in-person' learning for the 2020-2021 school year.

Principal of the parochial school, Claire Cassidy, said since September 9 St. John School has been open for in person learning five days a week. The school has also been offering an eLearning program for students whose families do not wish to have them attend school in person.

Cassidy said so far the school year has been a success and teachers have worked extremely hard to seamlessly integrate eLearners into the classroom daily and to redesign lessons to ensure they are successful in a socially distant classroom and digital environment.

"It has really been phenomenal," said Cassidy. "It's been such a privilege to witness the way in which our students came back to school. They seamlessly came the door in September and have been washing their hands, wearing their mask, sanitizing, and social distancing--as is the norm now. Our teachers have done the most amazing job of making the integration of our in-person learners and our eLearners



A young student at St. John School in the North End during an in-person lesson. The school successfully reopened in-person learning in September.

just look so easy. They've really worked hard to shift lesson plans and activities so that classroom discussions are between a student who is in-person and a student who is an eLearner and you see the way in which it continues to bring that beautiful sense of community that St John's School is known for."

Cassidy said St. John School has been very fortunate that the school building lends itself to staff and students being able to do in-person learning successfully.

"The spaciousness of our classrooms has meant we are able to allow 6 feet or more of space between students," said Cassidy. "We have also limited class size to give students addi-

tional space. We do have enormous windows in our building, all of which are open and have between 800 to 1,000 square feet for most of our classrooms. We were able to purchase air purifiers for our classrooms too. We also had plumbing work done over the summer to add additional sinks to our buildings so our students had more places to wash their hands. With all of those things in place we've been able to successfully open and remain open since September."

Cassidy said extra precautions include a cleaner who is present throughout the day to clean all high touch surfaces. The school also expanded its nursing program hours to ensure nurses were available throughout the day as well as staggered arrival and dis-



The St. John School building layout has lent itself to the school being able to successfully return to in-person learning this year. The classrooms are between 800 and 1,000 sq. ft. which allows for proper social distancing.

missal times to promote student safety.

"I do think that having the privilege of being able to open for in-person learning and to be able to continue is really important," said Cassidy. "Our students are very grateful and they tell us how excited they are to be at school each day. Our families are as well and they see the joy that their children get from coming to school."

Cassidy added that with appropriate adjustments St. John School has been able to continue with its Tower Garden program and to date has grown over 60 pounds of food that is donated to the Arch Street Shrine. The school has even been able to hold

private socially distanced school mass each week since school started in the fall.

In the end Cassidy said St. John School has also been very blessed that school parents have been tremendously supportive since school started.

"They have done a great job of reinforcing the routines that we have here with their children," said Cassidy. "They've also kept their kids home when they are sick, which I know is a strain for a family, and tested and quarantined their kids as needed. All the parents have been extremely supportive of our school policies and worked with us to ensure our school community remains healthy throughout the year."

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ST. ANTHONY (from pg. 5)

have been moved online – like this year's Christmas Play that was put together in a video celebration that was widely proclaimed as one of the best in years.

Needless to say, it is the in-person learning that has retained students this year, and increased the numbers of students in the older grades, Giggie said.

The student population has remained at around 200 this year, but that comes with fewer students in the pre-school and kindergarten, while more in the older grades.

"We did see an uptick in the older grades, quite a lot actually," she said. "Because we provide on-site in school sessions, we have seen an increase in the numbers because we're open."

She said the younger children have also impressed her with their ability to adhere to the COVID-19 guidelines after teachers stressed them as part of the education plan this year.

"Honestly, I am impressed," she said. "It's unbelievable to see the 3 and 4-year-olds keeping their masks on and following the instructions. They have been so well-behaved."

However, Principal Giggie said it has been an effort of every administrator, student and teacher in the building to keep school going in-person and to avoid any pitfalls brought on by COVID-19. It has simply been a blessing to be counted, she said.

"We're blessed with our teachers, to see what they do every day," she said. "Everybody is in it together because the most important thing is that we keep everyone in the school and provide an opportunity for parents to send their kids to school in person. We have been continually blessed by that."

To schedule an appointment for the Open House next week, call the office of the school at (617) 389-2448.

CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021

MC girls hockey records its first-ever victory

By Cary Shuman

Head coach Guy Angiuoni and the Malden Catholic High School girls hockey team have earned their first victory in school history.

Playing with only eight skaters and one goaltender on its roster in the second game of its first varsity season, Malden Catholic defeated Saint Joseph Prep, 2-1, last Tuesday at the Warrior Ice Arena in Brighton.

Freshman defenseman Juliana Angiuoni of Wilmington, daughter of the head coach, scored the first goal on a shot from the point. Saint Joseph tied the game at 1-1 in the second period. Freshman center Antonia DiZoglio of Wilmington netted the tie-breaking and game-winning goal with 1:24 left. Sophomore goaltender Danielle DeJon of Cambridge had 25 saves.

The historic victory drew notice from the hockey community with Malden Catholic gar-

nering headlines on the Hockey Night in Boston and Mass. High School hockey Web sites and in the Boston newspapers.

"It was all over the Twitterverse that this upstart team with just nine girls won a game," said Angiuoni. "It was a great victory. The girls played so hard. It was amazing."

This past Sunday, Malden Catholic lost a tough one, 3-2, to Bishop Feehan (Attleboro) Sunday. Dizoglio opened the scoring with a nifty end-to-end rush in the 2nd period. Angiuoni pulled the goaltender with two minutes left and Susan Hobart scored the game-tying goal. But Feehan scored the game-winner in the final minute of play. Danielle DeJon made an incredible 45 saves on 48 shots. MC has a 1-2 record.

"We've had three exciting games," said Angiuoni. "The girls have worked hard. We've been practicing for six weeks. Not one girl has missed a single practice the entire season. That



Pictured at the Warrior Ice Arena after the Malden Catholic girls hockey program's first-ever victory on Jan. 20 are, from left, Susan Hobart, Sadie Bowen, Erin Smail, Juliana Angiuoni, Antonia DiZoglio, Amelia Hansen, MK Zablocki, Danielle DeJon, and Lexi Engvaldsen.

shows the girls' commitment to the program."

The MC players have been logging plenty of minutes. Defensemen Mary Katherine "MK" Zablocki of Revere and Juliana Angiuoni are the lone defensive tandem and rarely leave the ice. DiZogia, an elite player and a future star, has three goals and three assists through three games.

Alexia "Lexi" Engvaldsen of Wilmington scored the program's first-ever goal against Shawsheen on opening night. The other members of the first-year Lancers are Susan Hobart of Ipswich, Sadie Bowden of Malden, Amelia Hansen of Melrose, and Erin Smail of

Stoneham.

Guy Angiuoni, 50, became the program's first-ever head coach when Athletic Director Bill Raycraft brought him on board in November.

"I have two great assistant coaches – Craig Edwards (Andover) and Steven Hunt (Wilmington)," said Angiuoni. "I'm really blessed to have two coaches that are so talented and emotionally invested into our program."

The unsung hero of the MC girls hockey program has been AD Bill Raycraft, a former football coach and athletic director at Windham High where he built one of New Hampshire's most successful athletic pro-

grams.

"Anything that I have asked of our athletic director, he's gotten it for our players," credited Angiuoni. "We have NHL-replica game home and away jerseys. He also got us practice jerseys in four different colors. We have just as much ice time as the boys team. Everyone from the admissions office, to the finance department, to the headmaster, to the athletic director – the school has been 100 percent supportive. It's really been an amazing experience."

Malden Catholic plays its home games at Valley Forum in Malden.

Malden Catholic HS girls winter sports program off to a terrific start

By Cary Shuman

The Malden Catholic High School girls basketball team, under the direction of head coach Jay Keane, is in its third year of existence, and its second at the varsity level.

Because the girls division (Malden Catholic School for Girls) began three years ago, Keane's first-year team was made up entirely of ninth graders competing at the sub-varsity level.

Last season, the Keane Contingent, consisting of freshmen and sophomores, jumped up to varsity and qualified for the MIAA Tournament with a 15-5 record. The Lady Lancers defeated Snowden in their first tournament game before falling to eventual champion Matignon in the Division 4 North Sectional semifinals.

Can you say instant success story?

Aided by a strong freshman class this season in addition to seven juniors and two sophomores, Malden Catholic has a 2-1 record and is ranked among the top teams in the division by the Boston newspapers.



Jay Keane is the head coach of the Malden Catholic High School girls varsity basketball team.

Malden Catholic is continuing as an independent team with no league affiliation for the 2020-21 season.

"We were hoping to join a league this year, but with COVID-19, it just didn't materialize with anybody," said Keane.

(MALDEN Pg. 9)



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CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021

East Boston Central Catholic School's hybrid learning model a success

By John Lynds

While the 2020-2021 school year has looked a lot different for students and staff at East Boston Central Catholic School (EBCCS) due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Principal Robert Casaletto said the reopening plan at Eastie's remaining Parochial School has been smooth as can be.

EBCCS kicked off the school year in September with 'in-person' learning for some students and 'remote' learning for others but recently switched to 'hybrid' learning.

"Everything has been going really well at EBCCS," said Casaletto. "We have had our PreSchool and Kindergarten students in five days per week since September and we just transitioned grades 1-8 to hybrid learning when we returned from Christmas break. That is going

very well so far."

Casaletto said EBCCS's hybrid schedule offers two days per week of in-person learning and three days of remote learning for all students.

"Group A has in-person learning on Monday-Tuesday, all students are remote on Wednesday, and then Group B has in-person learning on Thursday-Friday," said Casaletto. "Our students have been fully engaged on their remote learning days and times, and we are not noticing any learning loss or feelings of isolation. In fact, when given the option to return to in-person learning, many of our families elected to remain fully remote because they are happy with both the teaching and learning that has occurred so far this year during our fully remote days."

EBCCS has added some additional safety precautions for the

2020-2021 school year like staggering arrival and dismissal times to limit the gathering size outside the school.

"We also added sinks and air purifiers to every classroom," said Casaletto. "Each student has their own individual desk sneeze guard, individual sanitizer provided by East Boston Savings Bank, the use of a Chromebook, and over six feet of space separating them from the next student."

The school also created a "Care Room" in the event a student or faculty member becomes sick while in the building with disposable gowns, safety glasses, gloves, and KN-95 masks.

EBCCS also purchased webcams, live streaming cameras, microphones, speakers, a ZOOM licence, and privacy walls for the teachers to keep the staff safe and allow them to teach to both in-person and



EBCCS teacher Lauryn Rozzi in her classroom. EBCCS began a hybrid learning model after the Christmas break.

remote students at the same time.

"We just opened re-enrollment and new enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year,"

said Casaletto. "Families can visit ebccs.org for more information. We will have virtual tour videos up on the website next week."

Immaculate Conception School goes above and beyond amidst pandemic

By Donis Tracy,
Academic Coordinator

The past ten months have been challenging for all. Schools forced online; students learning from home; fear of contagion abounding; civil unrest erupting in various places in the country.

Navigating it in order to provide a safe, healthy school

has been no small task. But according to Juan Velasquez and Kimberly Orellana, parents of two daughters at Immaculate Conception Parish School in Revere, their children's school has done it and more.

Velasquez and Orellana reflected on the past year and how her daughters, grades five and three, have been helped by their Catholic education.

"I did not feel comfortable that the mandatory homeschooling was going to be the only option for a long period of time," Orellana stated, thinking back to last spring when all the schools in the state were put on lockdown. "We all know the importance of social interaction at this age."

Velasquez agreed, but added that he was incredibly impressed

with the school's ability to continue teaching in spite of the chaos last spring. He noted that the school only missed one day of learning before transitioning to a full-remote model. "It was very impressive," he said. Although at first it seemed "IC Online" would only last for a few weeks, reality quickly set in that the school building would be closed for the remainder of the year. Even the prospect of opening in the fall seemed to be in question.

However, the school continued to thrive, Velasquez said. He pointed to several school-wide traditions that were re-thought in order to fit a full-remote model. STEM projects were uploaded and shared; the school's art show became a Virtual Showcase. Students continued to thrive.

As summer began to come to an end, the uncertainty of whether or not the school could open for in-person learning was looming, Velasquez recalled, noting that Revere and its neighboring communities were among the worst affected by the pandemic.

In late August, the school sent out a document detailing its Re-Opening Plan, and allowing families to choose whether or not to send their children to school in-person or virtually.

"After reading through the [Reopening Guide], I realized that the school was going above and beyond to ensure the safety of the kids and staff," Orellana said. Together the couple decided to opt for in-person learning.

"IC has definitely provided a safe environment for my girls," she said. She praised the school's ability to re-think many of the fun school activities in order to make sure that students are also developing socially and spiritually.

Agreeing, Velasquez pointed to the recent Christmas Bazaar -- a longstanding tradition at Immaculate Conception School and a school event that seemed impossible to pull off with social distancing and other health and safety restrictions. Although it was not the same as other years, Orellana praised the teachers and the administration for creating a safe, healthy alternative and retaining the fun that was at the heart of the tradition.

"IC school has been a second home for my girls," Orellana said. "The relationships they are making are very important. Having families that share the same spiritual values and beliefs that we do is something that we appreciate and are deeply grateful."

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MALDEN (from pg. 7)

"We were able to schedule 11 games with schools that were in the same boat as we are."

MC has games scheduled with Catholic Conference schools Notre Dame Academy (Hingham), Fontbonne Academy (Milton), and Ursuline Academy (Dedham), along with Catholic Central League powerhouse St. Mary's (Lynn). There are also plans for a season-ending Catholic schools' tournament.

Not many coaches get to build a varsity program from the ground floor, but Jay Keane was given that opportunity when MC became a co-divisional school (Boys and girls do not attend academic classes together at the school and are situated in a separate half of the same school building).

"My original plan when I applied for the job was that in Year 3 we'd be varsity," said Keane. "But we had a really good freshman class with a lot of good pieces, and I knew since we were independent, I'd make my own schedule and we were very lucky – a 15-5 record is pretty respectable for a first-year program with only sophomores and freshmen."

Athletes from several nearby communities are playing varsity basketball, including freshmen Luna Murray and Marcella Bonfardeci of Revere and Mary Turco of Winthrop.

Malden Catholic has added junior varsity and freshman teams. Jess Popken is the junior varsity coach while Mike Gioia is the freshman coach. There are 38 players participating in the program.

A retired Somerville district fire chief, Keane formerly served as the head girls basketball coach at Wilmington High School for eight seasons (2005-13). He played high school basketball at St. Mary's, Cambridge.

"My senior year, we were undefeated and played Cathedral in the (Division 3) North finals at

the old Boston Garden," recalled Keane. "Cambridge Rindge and Latin was undefeated and played Don Bosco right after us, so all the Cambridge fans were rooting for us. We had a pretty good rooting section."

Keane is happy that his Malden Catholic team is competing in a season amidst the concerns and challenges of the coronavirus. Coaches and players must wear masks during games and practices.

"We're just lucky to be playing basketball," he said. "We talked about it with the kids how fortunate we are to be in the gym. It's been a challenging year but it's just good to get them in the gym and have some sense of normalcy."

Malden Catholic Director of Athletic Bill Raycraft is being lauded by coaches, players, and parents for being so supportive of the program and giving it resources it needs to be competitive.

"He's really done a great job, especially this year with all the changes and craziness that's been surrounding schools and sports," said Keane. "He's been great at expanding the entire girls' athletic program."

The future is certainly bright for the MC girls' basketball program.

"No. 1, the school has outstanding academics and our athletes love being at the school," said Keane. "Girls' sports are starting to take off. We were the first girls' team [at MC] to go varsity last year. The school really rallied around us and now this year the other programs are scheduling varsity games."

Perhaps as early as next season when the MIAA Tournament hopefully returns, the MC girls basketball players might realize the incredible experience that their coach Jay Keane enjoyed many years ago: playing a championship game on the famed parquet floor of the Boston Garden.

South End artist proposes monument to 'Star Trek' icon and native Bostonian Leonard Nimoy

By Dan Murphy

A South End resident is proposing to build a monument in the city's West End that would pay tribute to one of that neighborhood's favorite native sons, Leonard Nimoy, while also honoring Mr. Spock – the character he immortalized on "Star Trek" and whose signature Vulcan hand salutation (along with its accompanying spoken expression of well-wishing, "Live Long and Prosper") ranks among the most indelible and instantly recognizable images from the classic 1960s TV series.

Like many Bostonians, Tom Stocker, the artist and Northampton Street resident who is spearheading the effort, was unaware of the actor's connection to the city before viewing "Leonard Nimoy's Boston" – a half-hour special that first aired on WGBH-TV in 2014 in which Nimoy, accompanied by his filmmaker son, Adam, returned to his native city to reminisce about growing up in the old West End as the son of Jewish immigrants from Ukraine.

In fact, his ties to the city ran so deep that Nimoy, who died in February of 2015 at age 83, revealed in his autobiography "I Am Not Spock," that he based the Vulcan salutation, which comprises a raised hand with the palm forward and thumb extended while the middle and ring fingers are parted, on a rabbinical blessing he saw performed during a religious service at an Orthodox synagogue he accompanied his grandfather to as a boy.

The name of the synagogue has unfortunately been lost to history, Stocker said, and while it was certainly located within the old West End, even its approximate whereabouts remains murky, since at that time, the neighborhood extended beyond its current boundaries to include what is now the North Slope of Beacon Hill.

Stocker, meanwhile, began his effort to memorialize Nimoy in earnest in March of 2015 – one month after the actor's death – and it was around this time he wrote a letter to Sebastian Smee, then with The Boston Globe. Smee reprinted Stocker's letter in the Globe soon afterwards while further proclaiming that erecting a monument to Nimoy in Boston would be most "logical" in a nod to what is likely Mr. Spock's best-remembered catchphrase.

Surprisingly, Stocker doesn't consider himself a diehard "Trek-kie," although he regularly watched the series in reruns in the '70s and even saw "Star Trek: the

Motion Picture" upon its theatrical release in 1979.

Instead, Stocker's true appreciation for Nimoy came from learning of the former West End resident's enduring love for Boston.

"I was very moved by his love for city, and that he always came back here...as well as his charitable work for the Boys & Girls Club he attended as a boy on Blossom Street," Stocker said of Nimoy, who also received an honorary Doctorate of Human Letters degree from Boston University in 2012 – one day after he delivered a commencement speech to graduates of the school's College of Fine Arts, which he concluded by saying "Live Long and Prosper."

(Nimoy took summer classes at BU before relocating to Los Angeles to pursue his acting career.)

While Stocker settled on the West End as the most fitting location for a monument to Nimoy in the city, he didn't know what form it would take until he walked past the New England Conservatory in June and had what he described as a proverbial "Eureka" moment.

Situated on the lawn across from Jordan Hall was "Scrolls" – a 16-foot-high sculpture by Boston-area artist David Phillips" crafted from perforated stainless steel to resemble the form of a violin and illuminated from within via LED lighting.

Drawing inspiration from "Scrolls," Stocker envisioned the memorial to Nimoy as a 20-foot sculpture depicting the Vulcan hand salutation crafted from stainless-metal lattice and similarly illuminated from within using LED lighting.

Stocker called Phillips out of the blue to pitch him the idea soon afterwards, and while Phillips was a fan of "Star Trek" who also regularly watched the series in reruns in the '70s, he was unaware of Nimoy's connection to Boston and the West End until Stocker filled him on that salient detail.

Phillips also enthusiastically embraced Stocker's idea of the sculpture taking the form of the Vulcan hand salutation. "A symbol like that would resonate a lot with the public and the millions of 'Star Trek' fans out there," he said.

City Councilor Kenzie Bok, whose district includes the West End, is also on board with the idea of memorializing Nimoy in the neighborhood he once called home.

"I'm always excited about ways that we can do more to acknowl-



A concept sketch by Boston-area artist David Phillips of the monument to Leonard Nimoy proposed for the West End.

edge West End history, in partnership with current West Enders," she told this reporter in October. "Obviously Leonard Nimoy is a major cultural icon, and I think the fact that the famous Vulcan salute is based on a sign of blessing in the West End synagogue of Nimoy's childhood is a lovely West End legacy. I'm looking forward to talking more with the proposer and with neighbors about the idea."

Late last June, Stocker launched a grassroots fundraising campaign on Facebook to finance the cost of building the memorial to Nimoy, which exceeded its modest \$3,000 benchmark by more than \$1,700. As evidence of the image's globe-spanning appeal, one woman from India donated \$5 to the cause, while Stocker gifted one of the small, original acrylics he painted of the Vulcan hand salutation to more than half of the campaign's donors as tokens of his appreciation.

The estimated cost of the project now hinges on modifications of materials and the final design, but Stocker has been encouraged by the response the project has so far received.

And above all else, Stocker hopes that a monument to Nimoy in Boston would raise the iconic actor's lifelong bond with the city in the public consciousness.

"While many people know, he's from the Boston area, not many know he was from the West End so instead they'll ask me: 'was he from Somerville?'; 'was he from Newtown?'; 'was he from Brookline?'; 'was he from the North End?'" Stocker said. "It's amazing that people from Boston don't know this, and for that reason alone, they need to be educated."

To lend your support to this ongoing effort, contact Tom Stocker via email at stocker.tom77@gmail.com.



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Essaibi-George announces campaign for Mayor of Boston

Says she brings the right skills for the City's "rebirth"

By Seth Daniel

At-large Councilor Annissa Essaibi George has announced that she will be a candidate for mayor this year, putting her city-wide political network in play and bringing more than a decade of experience in the classroom to the table.

George, who has been on the Council since being elected in 2015, and has focused on many issues – particularly education and homelessness/substance abuse/mental health issues. She is the chair of the Education Committee and the former chair of the Homelessness, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee.

She said she believes her record on the Council, her experience running a small business in Dorchester (she owns the Stitch House on Dorchester Avenue) and having 13 years in the classroom at East Boston High give her a unique skill set that will help the City in its post-COVID rebirth.

"I am running for mayor," she said this week. "I spent the last few weeks talking with family, friends and supporters and pulling together what's good for the City and how can I contribute. This is the answer. I believe as mayor of Boston I have the experience and skill set to be the leader this moment needs. We think about this crisis and this pandemic, but we need to also think about getting to a period of recovery that can be a sustained period of recovery and growth for the City. I believe my skill set and work on the Council makes me the person to do the job of mayor."

Again, she said her experience will be key in the rollout of her administration, if elected, and her skill set as a teacher, mother, small business owner and elected official are just what the City will need.

"My experience and experience as a teacher and small business

owner and the City Councilor whose been able to get a lot of work done, those are the pieces I think will provide an opportunity to have a successful administration," she said. "Having an Essaibi-George administration for me is one that will provide that opportunity for a sustained recovery. I hope for a rebirth on the other side of that recovery for the City of Boston. I think I can best position the city for that rebirth."

One key piece of her campaign will not be about concentrating on the other candidates out there – two of which are currently her colleagues on the Council. Instead, she'll focus on what she is bringing to the table. One thing she quickly brings as an attribute is a defined, citywide political network that she said she has worked hard to build as an at-large councilor. While others might not have that network, she said it will be something she leans on in the coming election.

"I've worked really hard as a city councilor to make sure every community feels my support and my presence and knows I'm responsible to the work that's important to them," she said. "That's in every single neighborhood. There is no community that is not important enough to be paid attention to as part of my work."

One strong issue for Essaibi George is her involvement in the homelessness and drug abuse issues over many years, a former chair of a former Committee that addressed those issues. She said it is important to remember they are issues that affect the whole city and not just the South End and Mass/Cass. She said she would treat it as a citywide issues, including efforts at decentralization.

"Mass and Cass is central to that conversation although homelessness and addiction and those dealing with SUDs are felt across our city and not just Mass and

Cass," she said. "Mass and Cass is just a part of the city we focus on because of the large numbers of services available, which brings a lot of individuals there who are suffering from the area. It is a crisis of the whole city and certainly beyond... As an at-large councilor I've worked to respond to the needs of all of those communities whether it's responding to the challenges of poverty, the need for higher-quality education, or the need to de-centralize (social) services because the impact of homelessness on a particular community."

Another key issue for her is the public schools. While she is a former teacher and chair of the Education Committee, she is also a mother of children that attend BPS schools. With those three things in mind, she attends most every School Committee meeting – some of them going into the wee hours of the next day. It was in the wee hours of one of those School Committee meetings last fall when Essaibi George had a "moment."

When the former chair of the Committee seemed to be mocking the names of some Asian American parents, it was Essaibi George that was the first to call it out, and push to hold the chair accountable. That has led to the resignation of the chair, and a sincere re-training by the Committee through anti-racist seminars. Essaibi George said she hasn't been afraid to call out such things, and if elected mayor, will continue to challenge those who show bad behavior.

"I am not afraid to hold people accountable for acting inappropriately or for being offensive and for not representing what we here as a city are all about," she said. "As someone who has a different name; I have an ethnic name. I have an Arab name – Annissa Essaibi – I took great offense in that mocking of ethnic names by the former chair and called him out on it. I think that's important. I think elected officials should call out bad behavior and hold others responsible for that bad behavior. That's what I did in that case."

Her forthright style is something that she believes will differentiate her from the supposed pack of candidates, and she believes it will be a breath of fresh air – something her supporters already know about and something she hopes others in the city will become more



Councilor Annissa Essaibi George announced this week that she will be a candidate for mayor - bringing to the table 13 years of teaching experience, many years of being a small business owner and a proven record on the Council.

familiar with.

"Voters know my style," she said. "I am very direct and very clear. I speak very simply and opening about my thoughts and hopes and desires for this city. The work that remains undone is so important and I look forward to doing it."

But if she were mayor, would it end her reputation as a die-hard hockey mom – one who often posts videos of her kids playing sports at far-flung ice rinks or nearby baseball diamonds? That, she said, will never change.

"I will still be a hockey mother," she laughed. "You will still find me banging on the ice and the glass on occasion as mayor of Boston and continuing to horrify my children when I do so. You'll find me at the baseball field, the lacrosse field, the football field – there will be a sport underway and I am proud of being my kids' greatest cheerleader on the field of play and in the classroom."

Councilor Essaibi George announced her candidacy on Thursday morning, Jan. 28, in front of East Boston High School – where she spent 13 years as a teacher and coach.

STATE REP. SANTIAGO STILL CONSIDERING A RUN FOR MAYOR

As more candidates announce their intentions to run for mayor – some who are in and some who are out – this week South End State Rep. Jon Santiago said he is still in the "consideration" stages.

In a letter to his supporters on Tuesday, Jan. 26, he said he is still considering running for mayor, and will decide based on conversations he has with constituents and residents of Boston in the coming days and weeks.

"While I am seriously considering running, I have not yet decided," he wrote. "This is not a decision I will make lightly and it will be influenced by conversations with many of you over the coming days and weeks."

He said that since he announced his interest, he has had an outpouring of support, with many longtime supporters urging him to run.

"I am humbled and honored that colleagues and friends throughout Boston believe that I have what it takes to lead our City," he said.

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Walsh announces new ZBA tracker

By John Lynds

For the past decade Boston has experienced a development boom that can be hard to keep track of for the average resident.

Unless you attend community group meetings regularly held each month in the neighborhood it can be difficult to keep abreast of development projects in the North End until now.

Mayor Martin Walsh announced a new Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) project tracker that will allow residents to gather information about ongoing projects.

The new online tool that can be found at https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c019ba9a25cb-4f33bb6cdd2f69b543d4/page/page_0/ fulfills the requirements set forth in Mayor Walsh's Executive Order Relative to the Zoning Board of Appeal.

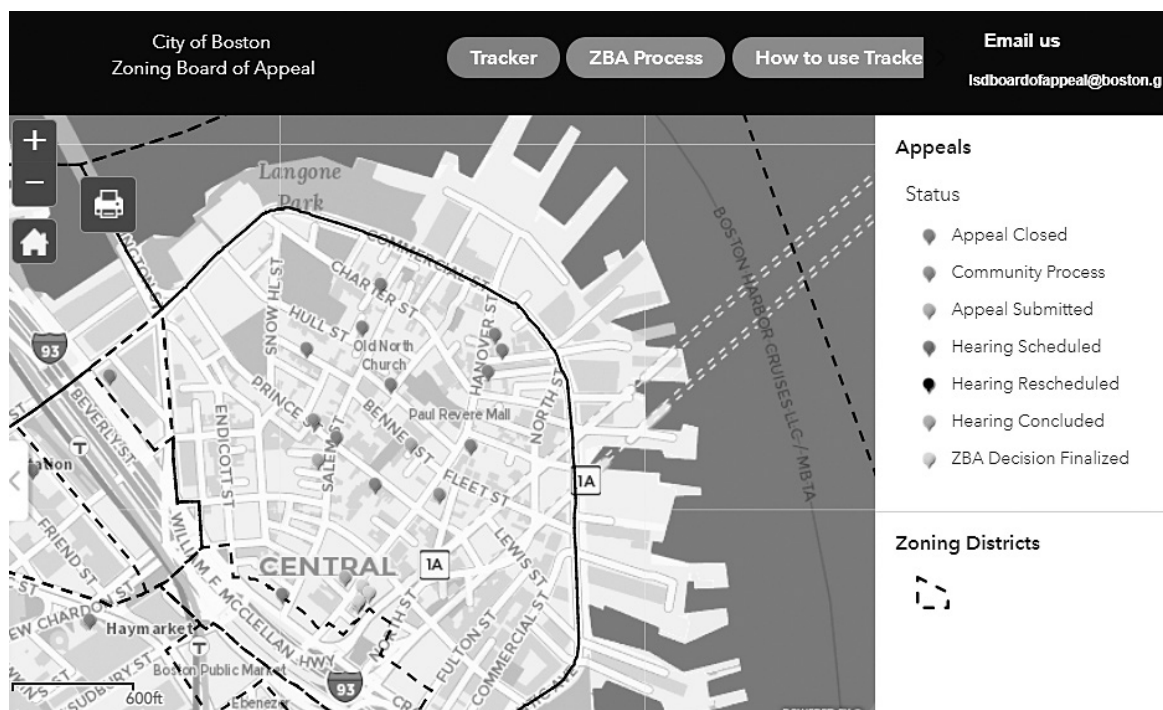
Walsh said this new tool will increase access to information related to proposed projects seeking relief from the ZBA. The tracker is designed for anyone to quickly search for a specific appeal that has been submitted to the ZBA, or to search for appeals based on criteria such as location or applicant, in order to identify the status of the appeal.

"Increasing access to the workings of municipal government is important for our residents to

have access to resources about the city's role in the development and livelihood of our residents," said Walsh. "The Zoning Board of Appeals' online tracker will increase our city's transparency and our residents' understanding of our neighborhoods."

The North End Regional Review took a look at the new, easy to use ZBA Tracker Monday. The new feature allows viewers to use an interactive map of the North End or other Boston neighborhoods to view projects seeking relief or by typing in the address which provides the following additional details for each proposed project: The status of the appeal; Community process; Date and location of an appeal application; Hearing scheduled; Address of the proposed project; Status of project; Deferral date; Hearing result; Application numbers; Zoning district; Contact information; Appeal type; and Date of submission.

For example the ZBA denied four separate North End zoning applications last month. On January 13, the ZBA denied the applications for 239 to 243 Hanover St. Boston, 2 Board Alley, 11 Board Alley, and 1 to 4 Mechanic Crt. All four requested zoning relief from the ZBA to change the occupancies at the addresses from either a restaurant, bakery, retail and apartments to executive suites.



A screenshot of the new ZBA tracker tool launched this week by the Walsh Administration. The tool allows residents to track development projects in various stages of the community/ZBA process.

"This newly developed tool will further Mayor Walsh's commitment to increase transparency to department processes and community development," said Inspectional Services Commissioner Dion Irish. "ISD will continue to create digital tools that will provide real time information related to permits."

All permits issued after January 1, 2021 will display a QR Code which will allow passersby to access detailed information of the property in question on their smartphone.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TUNNEL OF LOVE AT COLUMBUS PARK

Christopher Columbus Park's well-known Trellis has been transformed into a Tunnel of Love for Valentine's Day with music from 4 to 10 p.m. through February 21.

WINTER HATS AND GLOVES DRIVE

North End Friends of St. Francis Houses collecting donations to purchase winter hats and gloves for the needy. For information call John Romano at 617-750-9749.

FOOD PROGRAM DONATIONS

Donations are being accepted for the Food Insecurity Program at the NEW Health. Over 100 families per month are served including children from the Eliot School. For details call 857-238-1176.

PUBLIC SKATING AT N.E. RINK

Public skating at the North End Steriti Rink on Commercial Street is now available at different hours. Schedule can be picked up at the rink.

STORIES OF THE OLD NORTH

Looking to the future, the Old North Foundation is aiming to create a site wide interpretation plan in 2021 that reflects the rich and diverse stories of the past.

MBTA POLICE OFFERING FACE MASKS

MBTA Transit Police have started offering face masks to transit riders in need of face covering.

TOUR LOCAL CENTER

For a tour of the North End Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, 70 Fulton Street, North End call 617-843-5001.

OLD NORTH SEEKS PROGRAM SPONSORS

The Old North Church Foundation of Boston, Inc., is seeking sponsors to continue to provide programs to students and teachers throughout the country, as they prepare for a mostly virtual 2020-2021 school year. This year, there is a need due to the pandemic and the foundation's dependency on tourism revenue.

The Old North will shift to a virtual strategy with engaging content that combines a core history curriculum.



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Love your children Roseann, Ralph, Karen Vita and John, your grandchildren Joey, Gianna, Danielle, Vitianna, Ciara, Serina and John John, and all your family and friends.

OBITUARIES

Effective Jan. 1, 2021

All obituaries and death notices
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Use all your senses

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Want a great topic to throw out at your next virtual meet up? Try, "What are your favorite food aromas?" For some, it might be walking into a bakery. For others, it could be Sunday gravy simmering away in a grandparent's kitchen.

We commonly use the sense of smell as an aid in cooking. Cooks will use a hand to waft the steam from a pot under their nose to evaluate the current state of a dish. Good cooks will sniff a spoonful of food as a first step in tasting it for seasoning. A good nose is so vital to their work that some chefs have isolated themselves to avoid the possible loss of smell that can be a side effect of COVID-19.

Sensory Education

For the past month, Penny has had her nose stuck in two books that explore how our senses interact with food – "The Flavor Equation: The Science of Great Cooking Explained in More Than 100 Essential Recipes" by Nik Sharma and "Nose Dive: A Field Guide to the World's Smells" by Harold McGee.

These men are scientists, food lovers, and excellent writers. They've conducted extensive

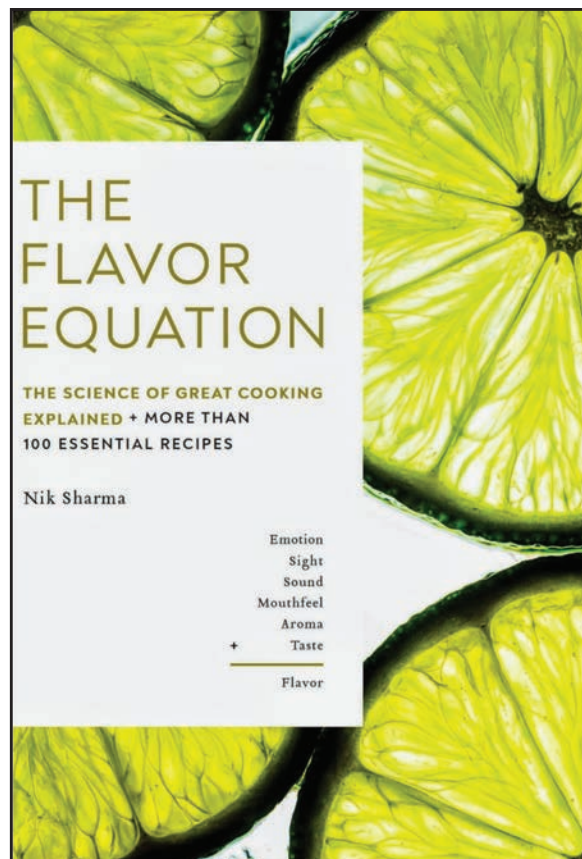
research on their topics sharing what they've learned in a way that educates those of us fascinated by the sensory aspects of cooking and eating.

In "The Flavor Equation," Sharma talks about the components that make up his equation for flavor. They are emotion, sight, sound, mouthfeel, aroma, and taste. As diners, we may not be using all these senses to enjoy all aspects of a bite of food. As cooks, we may not be tuning in the entire sensory team to refine our dishes.

As a cook, you can listen for the sound of a pan that goes quiet when the onions you are sweating switch into browning mode. You can taste a sauce to correct the seasoning and to gauge the mouthfeel to decide if it has reduced to the right consistency. You have to trust your sight to stop the cooking at the right moment to create a perfect caramel. And, many cooks learn to test when a steak is done by touch.

Recent discussions on comfort food during the pandemic have linked our cravings to the emotional appeal of specific foods from happier times. And, the ability of aromas to evoke memories has been widely studied.

FRESH AND LOCAL



For an education on the sensory aspects of cooking and enjoying food, we suggest two books: "Flavor Equation" by Nik Sharma and "Nose Dive" by Harold McGee.

Nose Dive

A Field Guide to the World's Smells

Harold McGee

Author of
On Food and Cooking

McGee's, "Nose Dive" is a fascinating compendium from a decade of research on the olfactory system and our response to the smells in our world. He discusses how a great cheese may smell of stinky feet or how wines may tell our noses we are smelling berries, vanilla, or old leather. This book is a deep dive and we'll return to it again and again as we explore the aromas in our lives.

Protect Your Sense of Smell

Should you need one more reason to take every possible precaution to avoid a case of COVID-19, we'll share the results of a recent study to determine the rate at which olfactory dysfunction (OD) or losing your sense of smell occurs. The study summary concludes, "OD is a prevalent disorder in COVID-19 patients with a higher prevalence in patients with mild forms of the disease. At the

2 months of follow-up, 75% to 85% of patients recovered olfaction according to subjective and objective olfactory evaluations. Future studies are needed to determine the long-term recovery rate of COVID-19 patients."

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through Feb. 6

This is a brief overview of construction operations and impacts for the North Washington Street Bridge Replacement Project.

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 ham-

mer began on 10/6/20. Work hours are during the day (7 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

- Installation of north and south abutment haunch, installation and maintenance of silt curtain, installation of drilled shafts, and 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 1/24/21, crews continued preparatory work

to build the new bridge. Cofferdam installation is 88% complete.

TRAVEL TIPS

The 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.