



THE NORTH END

REGIONAL REVIEW

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Mayor Martin J. Walsh cuts the ribbon with members of the community on the renovated Puopolo Park.

Renovated North End parks reopen

By Phil Orlandella

Several public parks, including Puopolo Park in the North End have been completely improved and reopened by the Boston Parks Department.

Both Langone Field and the Puopolo Park in the North End were among the public parks reopened.

A combination of \$21.9 million

in renovations from Mayor Martin Walsh's Capital Improvement Plan and Community Preservation Act funding was allocated to the renovation of the parks.

North End parks were designed with climate resilient features embedded throughout the project to protect the area from projected sea level rise and increased storm events as planned in Coastal Resilience Solutions for

Downtown Boston and the North End, Climate Ready Boston.

Before any renovations began the City met with neighborhood residents and the North End Athletic Association (NEAA) to plan the design of the local facilities.

Registration is already underway for several NEAA Baseball Programs.

(PARKS, Pg. 3)

Cumulative COVID-19 test rate up slightly

By John Lynds

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

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, overall since the pandemic started 43,525 North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, West End and

Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 5.9 percent of those tested were COVID positive--this was 3.5 increase from the 5.7 percent reported two weeks ago.

Last week 3,097 residents were tested and 2.4 percent were positive--a 20 percent decrease from the 3 reported two Fridays ago.

Citywide, 29,297 residents were tested and 4.8 percent were COVID positive--a 17 percent decrease from the 5.8 percent test-

ing positive two weeks ago.

At his press briefing last week Mayor Martin Walsh reminded residents that Governor Charlie Baker would increase the statewide capacity restrictions from 25 percent to 40 percent for the businesses that are allowed to be open in Phase 3 Step 1. The Mayor said that the City of Boston is aligning with the State on these capacity restrictions. The City and the State

(COVID-19, Pg. 5)

NEWRA supports Prince Street occupancy change

By Phil Orlandella

By a vote of 14-0, the North End Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) supported plans by LLC to convert the building at 81-81A Prince Street from four apartments and one store to five apartments.

The ground-floor commercial

space will be renovated and converted into a two-bedroom residential unit extended into the basement. In addition, plans call for a new roof deck.

A proposal by the City of Boston to convert State Street to a one lane road, a bike lane and

(NEWRA, Pg. 3)

MassDevelopment issues tax-exempt bond to repurpose Knights of Columbus Building for Senior Affordable Housing

Staff report

MassDevelopment has issued a \$6.4 million tax-exempt bond on behalf of 41 N. Margin Senior Apartments, LLC, an affiliate of East Boston Community Development Corporation (EBCDC) and Affirmative Investments, Inc., which is using bond proceeds to receive a

99-year lease from Ausonia Home Association for a portion of its property at 41 N. Margin Street in Boston's North End. EBCDC and Affirmative Investments are also using bond proceeds to convert the property, which has been vacant for two years and was previously the headquarters for the Ausonia Council 1513, Knights

(KOC BUILDING, Pg. 4)



Rendering of 41 N. Margin Street by architect Michael Angelo Interbartolo, Jr., AIA.

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

EDITORIAL

USE COMMON SENSE WHEN DRIVING

Perusing through the police reports these days makes it apparent that the winter season is here -- and with it, the usual array of traffic incidents and accidents.

Although we have not had any of the big blizzard-type of winter events this season (at least so far), we now are in a period of a stormy weather pattern that is sending us small snow & ice events that in reality are even more treacherous than big storms.

The number of auto accidents seems to be inversely proportional to the size of the snowfall. It's as though motorists think, "This isn't too bad," and then proceed to drive too fast for the conditions.

In addition, we would remind our readers who have all-wheel drive vehicles that four wheels on ice are just as useless as the two wheels of a rear-drive vehicle, if you know what we mean. In other words, ice is ice, regardless of what kind of vehicle you may be driving.

So during this upcoming period of stormy weather, if you do have to be out on the roads, please drive SLOWLY. There is no such thing as exercising too much caution in wintry weather

A NORTH POLE HURRICANE

Residents in Texas and along the Gulf Coast have become accustomed in recent years to a seemingly-endless onslaught of devastating hurricanes barreling up from the Gulf of Mexico.

Hurricane Harvey a few years ago dumped more rain and caused more flooding than any weather event in the region's history.

However, even with the hurricane season long-over, this part of the nation is being subjected to a weather event that has knocked out the region's power grid, leaving millions of residents without in the dark and without heat.

But instead of coming from the south, this latest force of nature has surged from the north thanks to a dip in the polar vortex from the Arctic. The result has been a cataclysmic storm that has crippled the entire region.

It's one thing to be without power amidst warm weather, but quite another to be without power when the temperatures are dipping to near-zero.

Climate change is not simply about global warming -- though it's true that the earth's average temperature has continued to climb year-after-year for the past decade.

Climate change also is about extreme weather of the sort that wreaks havoc in unexpected ways.

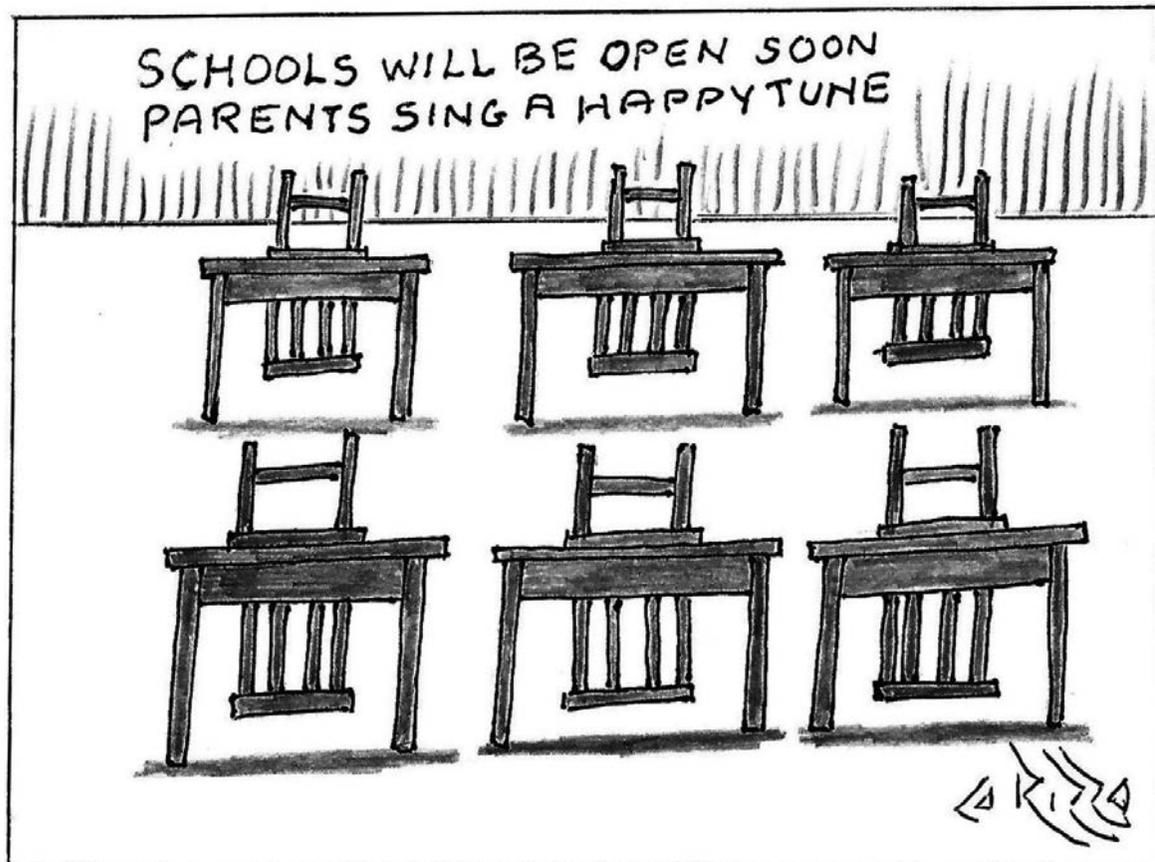
The Texas power grid was completely unprepared for the near-zero temperature conditions that have struck that part of the country, with the result that millions of people are facing a dire, life-threatening situation.

Climate change is arriving faster than anyone predicted -- and whatever window we have to reverse course is closing rapidly, if it already isn't too late.

Yes, the pandemic is demanding our immediate attention, but climate change needs to be addressed urgently -- because if we fail to do so, the worst is yet to come.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The North End Regional Review encourages residents to submit birth and engagement announcements, news releases, business briefs, honor rolls, social news, sports stories, and photographs for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at **385 Broadway, Citizens Bank Building, Revere, MA 02151**. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. The Independent also encourages readers to e-mail news releases to editor@reverejournal.com. The North End Regional Review assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements, but will reprint that part of the advertisement in which the error occurs. Advertisers will please notify the management immediately of any errors that may occur.



Walsh announces Scholarships to diversify Boston EMS

Staff report

Building on a commitment to promote diversity and inclusion among the ranks of Boston Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Mayor Martin J. Walsh and Boston EMS Chief James Hooley last Friday announced new paramedic certification scholarships for current EMS members.

Coordinated through the United Coalition of EMS Providers (UCEP), a Boston EMS affinity group dedicated to advancing equity, inclusion and diversity at all ranks, and in partnership with both the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development (OWD) and Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC), 16 emergency medical technicians are now beginning their coursework at Bunker Hill Community College to become certified paramedics. This program is designed to expand the diversity of Boston EMS members holding a paramedic certification.

"Boston is a diverse city, and it's crucial that our public safety services in Boston, including our paramedics, reflect our neighborhoods, and our values," said Mayor Walsh. "I'm proud that with this scholarship, we will continue to support diversity at

Boston EMS, and care for all those who call Boston home."

Boston EMS paramedics staff five frontline ambulances, providing advanced life-saving care during medical emergencies across the city. Paramedics are state-certified EMTs who hold an additional certification, expanding their scope of practice to include complex procedures, such as intubations and starting an IV. Boston EMS members promoted to the rank of paramedic earn approximately 36

percent more than an EMT.

"I am very proud of what UCEP was able to accomplish in just five short months, securing Mayoral support and funding, as well as coordinating directly with Bunker Hill Community College; increasing the diversity of our paramedics will result in a direct benefit inpatient care," said Boston EMS Chief of Department, Jim Hooley.

The professional development and advancement of Boston

(BOSTON EMS Pg. 3)

REGIONAL REVIEW

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BPL announces morning hours for BPL-To-Go

Staff report

On Feb. 11, the Boston Public Library announced that its branches will now offer morning hours for BPL To Go services. Starting on February 12, branches will be open on Fridays from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., giving patrons more flexibility when picking up and dropping off books, CDs, and DVDs. The new hours will be:

BRANCH LOCATIONS:

•Monday – Thursday:
2PM-6PM

•NEW: Friday: 10 AM-1PM

CENTRAL LIBRARY:

•Monday – Thursday:
10AM-6PM

•Friday & Saturday:
10AM-4PM

BPL To Go allows library card and e-card holders to “order” books, DVDs, and CDs by placing holds via: bpl.org; the BPL To Go app; or by phone at 617-536-5400. Patrons can safely pick up their items and return them using designated bins. Once returned, items are quarantined for 96



hours before returning to the shelves. All patrons are required to wear face coverings and maintain physical distancing at all times. Patrons are notified when their items are ready for pickup, and items remain on the holds shelf for 14 days.

All Branch locations currently offering BPL To Go services; the Brighton, Charlestown, Chinatown, Codman Square, Connolly, East Boston, Egleston Square, Fields Corner, Grove Hall, Honan-Allston, Jamaica Plain, Lower Mills, Mattapan, North End, Parker Hill, Roxbury, South Boston, South End, Uphams Corner, West End and West Roxbury Branches.

BPL To Go hours at the Central Library in Copley Square remain unaffected.

The library has adjusted BPL To Go hours in an effort to remove barriers to access for patrons who may not be able to visit their branches in the afternoons.

For more information on BPL To Go services visit bpl.org/take-out.

NEWNC approves occupancy change

By Phil Orlandella

There was only one voting agenda item on the February monthly meeting of the North End Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) and an update on the status of the North End Music and Performing Arts Center

(NEMPAC) progress relating to the new site on Tileston Street.

NEWNC voted to support a request by North End LLC, d/b/a Giacomo’s Ristorante, for an occupancy change on the second level of the property to the existing restaurant use to the second floor at 353-355B Hanover Street, (for-

mally the Green Cross Pharmacy) for additional guests.

NEMPAC’s Sheri Snow and James Smith of the City of Boston presented an update on the status of the new site on Tileston Street that will provide additional needed space for classrooms for students.

Outdoor Dining plans presented by City

By Phil Orlandella

Implications of Outdoor Restaurant Dining in the North End was discussed on January 27 with NEWRA and NEWNC hosted by the City of Boston Neighborhood Services and chaired by John Romano NE/WE Liaison.

The public meeting was held to engage the North End community on the 2021 Outdoor Dining Program details including the dates of the dining season, Thursday, April 1 through December 1, weather dependent, according to Romano.

Outdoor Dining program will allow businesses to have approved application to operate from Sunday through Thursday until 10 PM (patrons out by 10:30 PM) and Friday through Saturday until 11 PM (customers out by 11 PM)

“Currently, no entertainment will be allowed and music cannot emanate from the licensed premises,” Romano said. “North End permits will not be issued due to the density of the area,” he added.

Enforcement of the regulations and standards of the program the Licensing Board will hold emergency hearings on Mondays if needed. “Outdoor Dining approval may be revoked at any time without a hearing,” Romano noted.

Physical size of the dining area will be spray-painted. All applications will need a site plan on premises with an approval letter to be provided upon inspection.

The safety of these areas for pedestrians and diners must be established and the vehicles in the area are of priority with increased safety standards for barriers and site plans needed to be implement-

ed to obtain a license.

Romano said, “There will be additional precautions in the North End to assist parking enforcements.”

He added, “A parking alternative is still in progress and will be disclosed before the program is implemented.”

If approved, this will be the second consecutive Outdoor Dining program held in the community.

Street traffic flow will remain the same, no streets will be blocked off.

Commercial loading areas will be determined by the number of businesses that apply for licenses to serve outdoors.

Elected officials, NEWRA and NEWNC representatives participated in the community meeting.

Reportedly, there were no problems stemmed from the public meeting.

BOSTON EMS (from pg. 2)

EMS members have been ongoing department priorities. Boston EMS has worked with multiple paramedic training programs and colleges to reduce barriers for all interested personnel to advance their education.

Boston EMS has maintained a longstanding commitment to hiring candidates that reflect the racial, ethnic and linguistic diversity of Boston’s neighborhoods. While 40 percent of personnel hired in the last three years are women and 36 percent identify as Asian, Black or African American, Latinx or more than two races, persons holding the rank of paramedic just are 6 percent persons of color and 19 percent women. The paramedic certification, which can cost over \$10,000 to secure, can be cost-prohibitive for members, making it difficult to build diversity at this rank.

“The Boston EMS members selected for the paramedic UCEP scholarship are 75 percent women (12 of 16), 37 percent bilingual (6), and 94 percent (15) people of color. Eligibility for selection

included UCEP membership, open to all members of Boston EMS, and a commitment to promoting equity and inclusion,” said Deputy Lee Alexander, who leads Diversity, Recruitment and Engagement for the department and is a board member of United Coalition of EMS Providers.

In the wake of George Floyd’s murder and the events of 2020, members of Boston EMS hosted a listening session for personnel to talk about their own experiences with racial discrimination in the spring of 2020.

This work with OWD is an expansion of their ongoing partnership with Boston EMS to help city residents secure necessary training to meet the EMT hiring prerequisites through their EMT City Academy program.

“We are fully committed to the equitable access of education and training for all Boston residents,” said Trinh Nguyen, Director of OWD. “It’s not only a priority value of this city, but it is an amazing investment for our business and economy.”

NEWRA (from pg. 1)

widened sidewalks was presented to the Council for informational purposes only.

Susan Laviorie of the Wharf District Council advise the Council of the possible impact the project would have on the neighborhood.

A progress report on the status of construction being done on the new Tileston Street North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) was given by

Executive Director Susan Snow and James Smith of the city.

The facility could open this coming March.

Boston based architectural firm Arronstreet, a non-profit design group, which has been granted funding from the city for a community engagement project was seeking to find ways of engaging with the large community to discover things about the neighbor-

hood.

A letter was distributed to members outlining new procedures and the process of the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) stemming from a plan to reform the ZBA.

NEWRA responded with a letter asking for the ZBA to participate in the Council’s next meeting (March 11) to discuss their concerns.

PARKS (from pg. 1)

Soccer and softball are also included in the non-profit plans for usage of the park which will also be used for many other community events and activities.

“I am proud of our construction that builds resiliency into our coastal Langone Park and Puopolo Playground,” Mayor Martin Walsh said. “This is vital as we face the effects of climate change.”

This is the first project within the Boston Parks system to interrogate the standards set forth by the City of Boston Climate Resilient Design Standards and Guidelines for Protection of Public

Rights-of-Way, according to the City.

In addition, the Parks Department, built and interrogated seawall internal system to the park, which overlooks the seating on an elevated boardwalk, which can be raised in the future to increased flood protection.

The design Incorporated structural elements to elevate the park 7 feet without affecting adjacent structures, properties and the existing seawall.

Storm water and infrastructure protection strategies have been implemented to allow for projected flood pathways and faster

recovery of the park and neighborhood after storms.

Other improvements and amenities include a high-performance turf baseball field, a multisport synthetic turf field, a universal access playground, a memorial garden, bocce and basketball courts, plaza space allowing for expensive harbor views, access to the water edge and an open and inviting connection to the neighborhood.

Funding has been dedicated (\$95,000) from the Emily Pugliano Trust Fund to improve the recreational area around the municipal pool and bathhouse.

Annual Tunnel of Love at Columbus Park

By Phil Orlandella

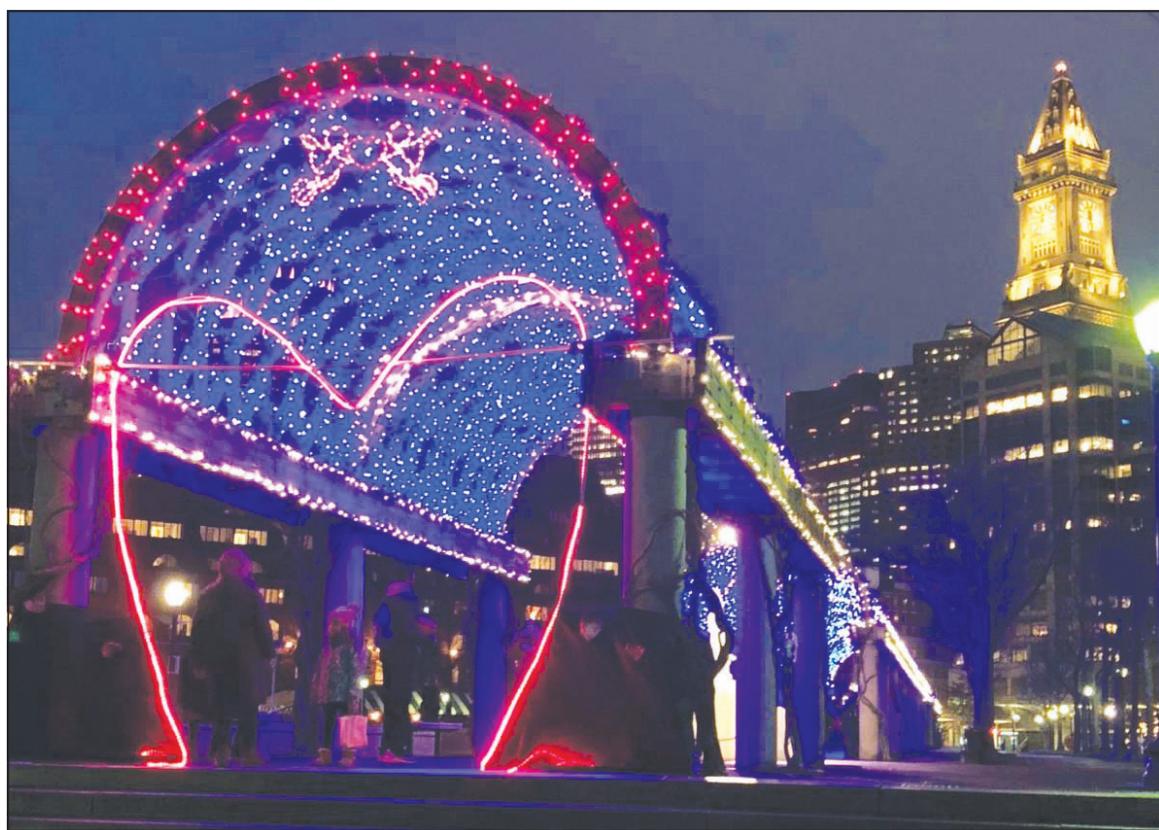
Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) for the fourth consecutive year have produced the very popular "Tunnel of Love" at the waterfront park.

"We're delighted to be able to bring back the Tunnel of Love with its illuminated red hearts on each side of the Trellis, cupids

in the air, whiz Michael conversational hearts and love songs playing every day from 4 PM to 10 PM", President Joanne Hayes-Rines said.

FOCCP suggests taking a social stroll under the Trellis and take fun photos with the conversation hearts.

The Tunnel of Love is available to the public through February 21.



The Friends of Christopher Columbus Park brought back the famed trellis' "Tunnel of Love" for Valentine's Day.

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KoC BUILDING (from pg. 1)

of Columbus, into the Knights of Columbus Apartments that will feature 23 one-bedroom units of affordable senior housing to be rented to households earning no more than 60% of the area median income. The project includes renovating the building, adding two floors where the housing units will be located, and constructing a 1,600-square-foot addition that will serve as the new quarters for Ausonia Council 1513, Knights of Columbus. Eastern Bank purchased the bond.

"MassDevelopment is proud to help bring affordable senior housing to one of the most historic neighborhoods in Boston, through East Boston CDC and Affirmative Investments, Inc.," said MassDevelopment President and CEO Dan Rivera. "The Knights of Columbus headquarters played such an important role in the life of the neighborhood so we are honored and excited to see the property continue its legacy as a safe and affordable home for many area seniors."

"This project will help to create much needed affordable senior housing in the heart of Boston's North End," said Pamela Feingold, Senior Vice President and Head of Community Development Lending at Eastern Bank. "Eastern Bank is proud to provide the construction and permanent financing for this project, and we thank MassDevelopment and the entire group of funders for expanding secure and stable housing to the elderly."

In addition to the tax-exempt bonds, MassDevelopment assist-

ed the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development with the approval of federal low-income housing tax credits, which will provide approximately \$4.7 million in equity for the project.

"The members of Ausonia Council 1513, Knights of Columbus, are excited to work with East Boston CDC, Affirmative Investments, and state and city governments to provide 23 affordable, elderly apartments to give residents an opportunity to remain in the neighborhood," said John Pagliuca, Grand Knight of Ausonia Council 1513, Knights of Columbus. "We believe that using Ausonia Home Association's property to address the shortage of affordable housing in the North End fulfills our charitable mission to improve the quality of life for people in need."

East Boston Community Development Corporation (EBCDC) is a nonprofit community development corporation dedicated to enhancing the life of low-income residents of East Boston through community services such as elderly housing, affordable and accessible housing, economic development programs, and support for residents of public housing facilities. EBCDC has developed or co-developed more than 1,000 units of subsidized housing and manages 700 subsidized rental apartments.

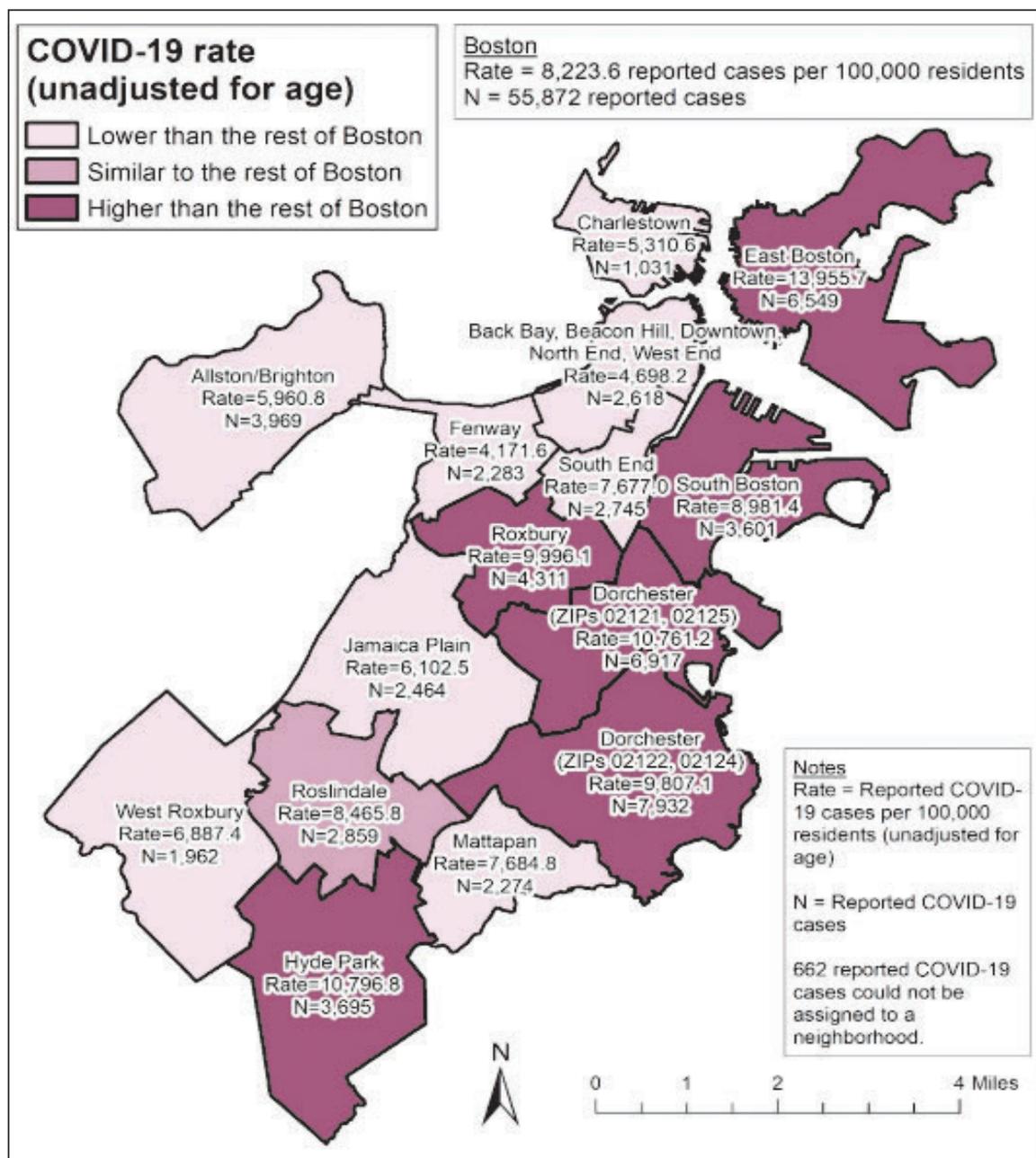
"EBCDC, AI, the Knights of Columbus, MassDevelopment and the City of Boston have, once again, formed an exciting partnership that will result in affordable

housing that will create an opportunity for those senior citizens who have long ties to the North End to remain in the community," said East Boston Community Development Corporation President Albert Caldarelli.

Affirmative Investments, Inc. partners with mission-driven organizations by contributing its real estate finance and development expertise to expand housing opportunities and deliver critical services in low-income communities. Since its founding in 1984, Affirmative Investments has facilitated the financing and development of \$921 million of affordable housing nationwide, representing more than 6,200 units and 81 New Markets Tax Credit deals totaling 4.5 million square feet of space with development costs of \$2 billion.

"We are so pleased to move forward with this exciting project for the North End community and cannot thank the Knights of Columbus enough for their generosity and vision," said Affirmative Investments President David Ennis. "And MassDevelopment is a great and supportive partner."

MassDevelopment, the state's finance and development agency, works with businesses, nonprofits, banks, and communities to stimulate economic growth across the Commonwealth. During FY2020, MassDevelopment financed or managed 341 projects generating investment of more than \$2.69 billion in the Massachusetts economy. These projects are estimated to create or support 10,871 jobs and build or preserve 1,787 housing units.



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

COVID-19 (from pg. 1)

are now currently in Phase 3, Step 1 of reopening. The limit on gatherings remains at 25 people outdoors, and 10 people indoors. This applies to both public and private spaces.

The Mayor encouraged residents and business owners to visit Mass.gov/reopening for a more detailed list, as well as industry-specific guidance.

Walsh said that the improvement the city has seen in its num-

bers is encouraging, and means the measures the city has taken are making a difference.

“It does not, however, mean that anyone should let their guards down,” said Walsh. “Instead, everyone must do their part to keep the numbers going down so that certain activities can stay open, safely.”

The Mayor said that throughout this crisis, Boston has taken a cautious approach.

“We only move forward if the public health data says that it’s safe to do so, and the City has been enforcing safety protocols,” said Walsh. “Most restaurants in Boston have been doing a great job, and I thank them for that, but that the City is also taking swift action when establishments do not meet safety protocols. The Inspectional Services Department continues to work with Boston Police, Boston Fire, the Licensing

Board, and Boston Public Health Commission on enforcement. They are in constant contact with our business owners to make sure they understand the regulations. They’re providing restaurants with the tools they need to get up to code. These departments work together to investigate and address violations.”

If residents have concerns about a property, they can call 3-1-1 or the BPD’s party line at 617-343-5500.

The Licensing Board has instituted a weekly standing emergency hearing on Mondays to address any violations that come up over the weekend. Those hearings have resulted in immediate closures, when necessary.

City agencies responded to about 2,500 complaints in 2020. Most were dealt with immediately, and all of them were dealt with within 24 hours.

For example the City recently got a call from a patron who had dined at a restaurant that was not adhering to capacity restrictions. That same night, BPD conducted an inspection and confirmed that there was a violation. By Monday morning, that Licensee went before the Licensing Board, and had their license suspended.

“Nobody wants to shut restaurants down,” said Walsh. “We’re doing everything we can to help local businesses with grants, helping them procure PPE, and loosening restrictions for things like

outdoor dining. But the health and safety of our residents always comes first. We will continue to take swift action whenever there’s a violation. Again, I thank the vast majority of restaurants for doing a great job under difficult circumstances.”

The infection rate in the North End and surrounding neighborhoods increased 4.3 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 469.8 cases per 10,000 residents, up 6 percent from 450.6 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 107 residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 2,511 cases to 2,618 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 2.6 percent last week and went from 55,236 cases to 56,711 confirmed cases in a week. Thirty-eight additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,232 total deaths in the city from COVID.

LEGAL NOTICE

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COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
Docket No. SU19P1417EA
Estate of: Rose Marie Duplessy
Date of Death: 10/19/2016
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by City of Boston by its Public Facilities Commission by the Dir

of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.
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ing. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 03/19/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections

within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
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VFW NORTH END POST 144 VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY



Photo courtesy of Michele Morgan

The North End Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 144 held their annual ceremonies to honor and remember the U.S. military veterans of the North End. Prayers, wreath laying, and remembrances took place on the Paul Revere Mill (Prado) and at the Iraq-Afghanistan Memorial behind Old North Church. Following the ceremonies, the veterans attended mass at St. Leonard Church with Fr. Michael Della Penna. Photographer Michele Morgan was on hand and shares this photo gallery.

Outdoor seating on private property extended, Public Space program ends

By John Lynds

Mayor Martin Walsh reminded owners that outdoor dining on private property was extended indefinitely without the need for further permits.

However, the city's "Public Space" program expired Tuesday. Restaurant owners in the North End trying to increase business by providing an outdoor dining option will now have to start packing up their outdoor tables, chairs, heating lamps and barriers and rely solely on limited indoor dining throughout the winter months if they don't have private space for outdoor dining.

The Public Space program allowed restaurants throughout the North End to use city sidewalks, streets, parking lots and to set up tables, chairs and other amenities for outdoor dining.

"For restaurants, we have plans to continue our outdoor dining option," said Walsh last week during a press conference. "The public space ended on December 1. But, outdoor dining may continue on private property indefinitely. In addition, we are working on an outdoor dining program for the spring."

North End restaurateur Frank DePasquale told WGBH last week, "To tell you the truth, I'm a little scared. The weather is changing and there goes our outside seating, and honestly, I see tough times."

The North End and Boston's restaurant industry has been hit particularly hard by the ongoing pandemic. Tough regulations for indoor dining and other restrictions imposed by the state during the latest COVID spike made the Public Space program a godsend for some.

To offer some relief the Walsh Administration launched the Public Space program last spring

(OUTDOOR SEATING-19, Pg. 7)

North End Christmas Fund needs your support

Staff report

For more than 40 years the North End Christmas Fund has been providing help to families and seniors at Christmas time. The program was started by Uncle Fred Carangelo working with the various social service agencies in the neighborhood to help those who may have lost their job, had a health crisis, financial need or maybe just needed some cheering up at the holiday due to loneliness or loss of a loved one during the past year. This tradition is carried on by a committee of about a dozen people led by Robert "Ted" Tomasone and agencies like the North Health Center, North End Athletic Association, Nazzaro Center, North End Against Drugs, A.B.C.D. - North End/West End Service Center, North End Seniors and Ausonia Council Knights of Columbus.

Each year a fabulous luncheon is held at Filippo's Restaurant and with the generosity of the Frattaroli Family, a fantastic raffle and many donations, we raise approximately \$15,000. For the last several years more than 200 checks per year have been distributed to those who need our help.

As one can imagine, due to COVID-19, the annual luncheon was not held, however the need is anticipated to be greater than ever! Friends and neighbors are needed to make a contribution of any kind to help support this great institution and carry on the tradition started by Uncle Fred more than 40 years ago.

Donations made out to the North End Christmas Fund can be mailed to:

North End Waterfront Health
c/o North End Christmas Fund Committee
332 Hanover Street
Boston, Mass. 02113

Thank you in advance for your generous, continued support of the families and seniors of our beloved neighborhood and may you and your families have a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season.

COVID update for North End and surrounding area

By John Lynds

After experiencing a 25 percent increase two weeks ago, the positive test rate in the North End and surrounding neighborhoods decreased by nearly 60 percent last week according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on Friday.

Last week the BPHC reported that 32,056 North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents were tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 2.8 percent of those tested were COVID positive. This was a 59 percent decrease from the 6.9 percent testing positive as reported two weeks ago. The citywide positive test rate average was 5 percent—a 50 percent percent increase from the 10.2 percent that tested positive two weeks ago.

Overall since the pandemic began 3.4 percent of North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents were found to be COVID positive.

At his daily press briefing Tuesday, Mayor Martin Walsh said that in the two weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, Boston's numbers went in the right direction.

"But, we expect to see an increase when the impact of Thanksgiving activity makes it into the testing data," said



(COVID-19, Pg. 2)

Visit www.northendregional.com

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FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

COMMUNITY NEWS

NEWRA MEETING

The next North End Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) monthly meeting will be held Thursday, March 11 at 7 PM.

NEWNC MEETING

The next North End Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) monthly meeting will be held on Monday, March 8 at 7 PM.

RMV EXTENDS HOURS

Appointment hours for 75-year-old drivers or older have been extended by the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) through March offering additional opportunities for this age bracket take care of title registration and license renewal at many locations on designated Wednesdays.

For details call 857-368-8005 or visit www.Mass.Gov/RMV.

NEHS MEMBER JOINS IAA

North End Historic Society (NEHS) member Tom Damigella has become a new member of the Italian American Alliance, Inc. (IAA) the largest Italian American organization in New England consisting of almost 40,000 members.

RESTAURANT BUSINESSES HOURS

EXTENDED

North End Restaurants got a shot in the arm when Governor Charlie Baker extended the hours of operation to regular closing hours.

Eateries are looking for the capacity cap to increase and outdoor seating to once again be approved.

NSC VALENTINE' DAY

The ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) held a special Valentine's Day for seniors. Donations were collected to give to seniors.

RUFF VIRTUAL EVENTS

Upcoming RUFF events:

- February-Share your #1 Love Stories with RUFF by tagging in the first picture taken of your pet.

- March-St. Patrick's Day virtual photo contest by tagging in photos of your pet dressed up for the holiday and use #Lick of The Irish to be entered for a chance to win a great prize.

- April-Play along with the virtual Easter Egg Hunt for a chance to win a prize.

NEAA BASEBALL REGISTRATION

The North End Athletic

Association (NEAA) has opened registration for the 2021 baseball season for youth ages four to fifteen.

Program includes clinics, Majors and the Dodgers team.

For more information visit www.neabaseball.com.

FREE TAX HELP

Residents that earn \$57,000 or

less per year can receive free tax assistance preparation through the Boston Tax Help Coalition.

Qualified residents must call 311 or visit www.bostontaxhelp.org for appointment.

NEW Health kicks off North End vaccination program

By John Lynds

Last Tuesday NEW Health (North End Waterfront Health) kicked off its community COVID-19 vaccination program for eligible Massachusetts residents at the historic Old North Church and NEW Health's Charlestown site.

The program is currently open to North End and Charlestown residents ages 75 and older.

According to Mary Zanon on behalf of NEW Health the kick off was part of Phase 2 of the Commonwealth's COVID-19 vaccination rollout. The health center, an affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital and Boston Medical Center, will now be providing vaccines to eligible patients and residents of the North End

and Charlestown ages 75 and older.

The vaccination clinics hours in the North End will be Tuesdays 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. NEW Health's 15 Tufts St. Charlestown site hours will be scheduled based on need and vaccine availability.

Zanon said appointments are required and individuals must be registered with Mass General Brigham. Individuals interested in making an appointment can reach the dedicated phone lines by calling 617-724-8725 for the North End location and 857-238-1141 for the Charlestown location, where they will be prompted to leave a message with their information and a patient service representative will call them back to

schedule. Individuals who are not yet registered with Mass General Brigham should call 866-211-6588 to register.

As a federally qualified health center NEW Health extends its healthcare services to people who live and work in and around Boston's North End, Waterfront and Charlestown neighborhoods. NEW Health is committed to improving the quality of health and life for those it serves by providing high quality health care that is consumer oriented, culturally appropriate, neighborhood-based, affordable, and produces positive outcomes.

NEW Health has been serving the North End of Boston and the surrounding community since 1971.

33 Day Consecration to St. Joseph at St. Leonard's

Special to the Review

Learn from the man closest to Jesus, the man whom God himself chose to be the father of Jesus.

There are three activities which you can participate in:

1) A daily reflection for you to meditate on, about one of St Joseph's titles, will be posted for 33 days at the St Leonard website.

2) You are invited to an optional weekly zoom discussion about an aspect of St Joseph's life. Discussion days and time.

Monday February 15 at 6:00 pm - Kick off discussion

Wednesdays:
February 24 at 700 pm
March 3 at 700 pm
March 10 at 700 pm
March 17 at 700 pm

3) March 19th, you are invited to a mass and consecration to St Joseph. The mass is 7:00pm at St Leonard and will also be

Livestream on our Facebook page.

To join a discussion, go to the St. Leonard website page, click on the "Happenings" page and then click on the "Join Discussion" option. You will also need the meeting ID 9622319710 and passcode 3S02y6 to join the discussion.

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The Massachusetts Department of Transportation invites you to a Virtual Public Information Meetings for the Sumner/Callahan Vent Building Upgrade Project



North End: Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021 at 6:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85605805265?pwd=OW4xWTVlQjR0TDdycGExcE1HNXNM2Zz09>
Webinar ID: 856 0580 5265
Passcode: 449231
Call in option: 888 788 0099 (Toll Free)



East Boston: Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021 at 6:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89302028638?pwd=amptMm5leHEyU01TUxkrVgorL0Vydz09>
Webinar ID: 893 0202 8638
Passcode: 563022
Call in option: 888 788 0099 (Toll Free)



These meetings will provide an opportunity for the public to hear an overview of the Sumner/Callahan Vent Building Upgrade Project including project overview and schedule and community and traffic impacts. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and offer comments. The project entails an upgrade to the tunnels' dated pump stations and vent buildings to improve system reliability and safety and to minimize future maintenance while extending their service life. The project will also provide backup power by adding generators to power life-safety systems during loss of utility power. This work will require 20 overnight Sumner tunnel closures and frequent overnight lane reductions to the Sumner and Callahan Tunnels starting in 2021.

All residents, abutters, local business owners, and interested commuters are invited to attend. All attendees who sign into the meeting and provide an email address will be entered into the project's email database to receive construction updates. Please note the presentation will be the same at both meetings. Spanish interpretation will be available at both virtual meetings and meeting materials will also be available in Spanish.

Note: This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity & Civil Rights Officer by phone at (857) 368-8580, TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email to MASSDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us. Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including signlanguage, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the meeting.

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Si necesita información en otro lenguaje, favor contactar al especialista de MassDOT del Título VI al 857-368-8580. 如果需要使用其它语言了解信息, 请联系马萨诸塞州交通部 (MassDOT) 《民权法》第六章专职人员, 电话 857-368-858. 如果需要使用其它语言了解信息, 請聯系馬薩諸塞州交通部 (MassDOT) 《民權法》第六章專職人員, 電話 857-368-8580.

Former State Sen. Ben Downing announces candidacy for Governor

By John Lynds

Last Monday was a busy day for Western Mass native Ben Downing, who served 10 years as a State Senator from Pittsfield before stepping down in 2017 to work full-time in renewable energy.

Downing, who now lives in East Boston with his family, has been on the phone all morning tapping into his network of supporters, potential donors, friends and family.

Last Monday morning, Downing released a video announcing he is formally entering the 2022 race for Governor of Massachusetts.

“Growing up in Pittsfield, I lived what it meant to be an afterthought in the state’s political power circles,” said Downing. “Now, as an East Boston resident, I’m part of a new community just as familiar with being written off. From one side of Massachusetts to the other, I have spent my life in communities that have had to fight harder than they should to get fair representation, equitable access to resources, and attention from Beacon Hill. So I know what a difference state leadership makes. And I know we need better than what we are getting right now.”

Downing was one of the youngest state senators ever elected in Massachusetts history in 2006 at the age of 24. During his tenure at the State House Downing emerged as a leading climate advocate.

Downing moved to Eastie five years ago with his wife, Micaelah Morrill, and are raising their two young sons Malcolm, age 3, and

Eamon, age 9 months, in the neighborhood. However, Downing’s roots in Eastie are strong and the family got their start in the neighborhood at the turn of the last century. In fact, there’s a hero square on the corner of Sumner and Cottage Street in Jeffries Point that was dedicated by Mayor Martin Walsh in 2019 in honor of Downing’s great great-granduncle Albert Henry Downing of Eastie who died during World War I.

While living in Eastie Downing has seen first hand the inequities that have existed for quite some time but have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I think the major issues right are going to be the COVID response and the lessons we’ve learned from COVID,” said Downing. “What did it expose? What did it show? I think what it showed was something a lot of us already knew existed. We have these widening economic and racial gaps in Massachusetts around income and wages, around wealth and gaps between communities in parts of the state that have grown and have benefited from economic growth in recent decades. So the focus will be how do we close those gaps, how do we address economic and racial justice and, while doing that, take the urgent steps that we need to take to address climate change. We know that the most scarce resource when it comes to climate change is time. We only have really a decade here to take the steps we need to build a sustainable society and I don’t think our actions at the state level have reflected that.”

Downing argues that most of the urgency over climate change has

percolated up from members of the legislature, there needs to be more sense of urgency from the executive branch of government.

“We need more of a sense of urgency,” said Downing. “We know communities like East Boston, Chelsea and even Pittsfield were targeted for the development of fossil fuel infrastructure and have the asthma rates and other public health indicators to reflect that. We know a transition to a clean energy economy and the spillovers from that are positive. We have more jobs to create by putting solar on roofs, building energy storage, doing energy retrofits of homes, building offshore wind--there’s a lot of jobs there.”

Since 2017 Downing has served in a leadership role at Nexamp, a leading renewable energy company. In that role, Downing led efforts to improve accessibility within the green economy, expand to new markets outside of the northeast, and deploy cutting-edge energy storage solutions here at home. He serves on the board of the Environmental League of Massachusetts and is a leading advocate for climate action in the Commonwealth.

“I’ve come away from Nexamp more optimistic,” said Downing. “The naysayers will say, ‘Oh it’s big pie in the sky stuff’ and it’s not going to really do anything with the economy. I think the most exciting thing for me is to see the solutions that we have to climate change that are at our fingertips--whether that’s solar energy efficiency, battery storage, offshore wind--they’re there to be tapped. What’s been missing is leadership that’s ready to tap into that potential and set a higher stan-



Ben Downing speaks with constituents on the Campaign trail.

dard for all of us. All too often you see Governor Baker echo talking points from the real estate lobby and others who say these will cost too much and slow down development. We’ve heard those concerns every step along the way when it comes to the climate change debate in Massachusetts. But every step along the way those talking points have been proven wrong. Yes, there are costs but the benefits far outweigh the costs. We’ve seen that time and time again and the great thing about these jobs is they will be done in Massachusetts, the work has to be done here, and they’re good blue collar jobs that can be done in every corner of the state.”

Another focus said Downing will be to invest in transportation that can help cut down on carbon emissions.

“A big part of addressing climate change issues is making transit more reliable and you look at governor Baker’s record; it’s a record of cutting the budget at the MBTA,” said Downing. “We need to increase ridership and make it more reliable but we need to do the same with the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) because the BRT just isn’t relevant but we need it to be. We need people to see that as a

viable option that gets them out of their cars. It is a significant undertaking but it’s that much tougher to do without leadership from the corner office.”

As a state Senator, Downing represented the largest district in the state, comprising 52 cities and towns. Over a decade in office he led legislative efforts to accelerate our clean energy development and respond to climate change, rebuild our urban and rural economies, reduce poverty and hunger, strengthen our state ethics laws, and expand protections for transgender individuals.

“I’m running for Governor to build a fairer, stronger Massachusetts,” said Downing. “I believe there is no limit to what we can accomplish here. But the leadership needed to unlock this potential is sorely lacking. As we recover and reimagine our future in the months and years to come, we need a Governor who sees, feels and understands the gravity of this moment and how we got here; who is not content with accumulating power but who is ready to use that power to respond boldly to the dire impacts of the pandemic, rising racial inequality, and the urgency of climate change.”

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Mayor Martin J. Walsh

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