



THE NORTH END

REGIONAL REVIEW

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NEW Health accepting walk-ins for COVID Vaccine

By John Lynds

North End Waterfront Health (NEW Health) is now accepting walk-ins for the COVID-19 vaccine and, according to NEW Health's Megan Ohlson, the clinic is currently administering Moderna and Johnson & Johnson to residents 18 and older.

"Anyone who is 18 and older and is interested in getting a vaccine can visit the North End or Charlestown clinic," said Ohlson.

Pfizer is one of the three currently available COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in teens under 18. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines have only been approved for individuals who are 18 and older and these are the vaccines currently being offered by NEW Health.

"NEW Health is currently administering Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, which is not available for ages 16 and 17," said Ohlson.

The health center is providing vaccines without appointment to anyone interested. The North End vaccination clinic has moved to St. Leonard's Church at 31 Prince St., while the Charlestown site remains at NEW Health at 15 Tufts St.

Individuals interested in learning more 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

(VACCINE, Pg. 3)



Responsible Urbanites for Fido (RUFF) held another Love Your Park clean-up project at the Richmond Street Dog Run on May 1. Many volunteers masked up and followed all the public safety protocols during the clean-up, which was a success.

MassDOT to close Sumner tunnel for 4 months in summer 2023

By John Lynds

If the past is prologue, residents are preparing themselves for another traffic nightmare in 2023.

At back to back informational meetings last week, MassDOT announced it will close the Sumner Tunnel for a full four months during the summer of 2023 to complete its 'Sumner Tunnel Centennial' project.

At a recent MassDOT meeting this month, MassDOT's Steve McLaughlin said the project, which will kick off in 2021/2022 with prep and advance work, will have significant impacts.

While the project calls for week-end closures during the first phase

of the project that will last through spring 2023, it's MassDOT's plan to fully close the tunnel for four months beginning in summer 2023 that has residents on edge.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic residents dealt with daily gridlock in the neighborhood caused by what many residents felt was an ill conceived reconfiguration of the Sumner Tunnel toll plaza.

Almost every day residents spent close to an hour trying to commute into downtown with nearly every main thoroughfare jam packed with motorists from the North Shore trying to avoid

(TUNNEL Pg. 4)

Lack of candidates cancel NEWNC public election

By Phil Orlandella

Time has repeated itself, like last year. There will be no North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) community public election in 2021, due to lack of candidates to conduct a competitive election.

Only three candidates, all incumbents, filed nomination papers for the six seats available on the non-profit neighborhood Council, which was formed many years ago to be the neighborhood voice to City Hall.

Returning to the Council for two-year terms are, Tania Green, Carmine Guarino and Ashley Leo.

"There are 12 seats on the Council. Each year six seats become available for election," according to President Brett Roman. "The vacant seats will not be filled."

The Council meets once a month for 11 months, at 7 PM. Currently a virtual meeting is conducted.

NEWNC's task is to deal with issues, concerns and developments relating to North End/Waterfront areas.

Giorgio family provides meals for 40 residents

By Phil Orlandella

Forty residents at the Michelangelo Apartments received individually packed lunch meals donated by Al and Maryann Giorgio of LaFamiglia Giorgio's on Salem Street.

The meal consisted of chicken, broccoli and ziti, a Caesar salad and a cannoli for dessert.

"It's our pleasure to donate the meals again," Al said. "We know many seniors from the neighborhood and want the North End/West End Neighborhood Service

Center (NEWNSC) to have the funds back to reinvest in their programs."

The Center still cannot serve lunches in the community room due to

COVID-19, so this was welcomed and appreciated by the Center.

The Center has been delivering three meals a month in rotation to the North End and West End low-income housing buildings.

Their goal is to continue this valuable service for at least the next year until COVID regulations are lifted.



Some of the meals delivered by Al and Maryann Giorgio of LaFamiglia Giorgio's on Salem Street.

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EDITORIAL

GET THAT SHOT!

The idea of “vaccine hesitancy” is a relatively new phenomenon in our country.

For those of the Baby Boom generation, there never was any question about getting shots for all kinds of childhood and adult communicable diseases.

Vaccines, along with antibiotics, were universally accepted as wonders of modern medicine that chiefly were responsible for the increase in longevity and decrease in misery both in the U.S. and in populations around the globe.

However, the rise of baseless conspiracy theories and adherence to senseless political conformity, all of which have been amplified by unscrupulous voices on social media (including Russian disinformation), have combined to increase vaccine hesitancy to record levels during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Polls show that vaccine hesitancy spans all ages, educational backgrounds, social strata, political affiliations, and employment status.

In addition, the success of vaccines in bringing about the dramatic reduction in deaths from COVID-19 over the past two months has bred its own sense of complacency. With the pandemic on the decline and hospitalizations near zero in some places, the need to get vaccinated may seem less urgent than when the pandemic was at its peak.

However, there are three basic facts that make vaccine hesitancy a dangerous mindset both for individuals and for society at large.

First and foremost, the coronavirus still is infecting thousands and killing hundreds of Americans each and every day. Though the numbers in the U.S. are far below the peak from January, they still are unfathomably high.

In addition, across the globe, the virus is wreaking havoc from India to Brazil, where a lack of vaccines is ensuring that record numbers of people are dying every day. Vaccination is the only means by which transmission of this dread disease can be halted.

Second, all of the coronavirus vaccines being administered in the U.S. are both incredibly effective and incredibly safe. Any suggestions otherwise are being spread by self-serving groups who have no concern for the health of Americans, individually and collectively.

Finally, if enough Americans fail to get the vaccine and the virus continues to spread and mutate, the new variants may evade the protection of the vaccines, thereby establishing a vicious cycle in which we always will be a step behind and which ultimately will affect the economy.

Too many of our fellow Americans have died, too many lives have been upended, and too many of our front-line workers have made incredible sacrifices, to allow the progress we have made in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic to take a step backwards because of baseless claims that underpin “vaccine hesitancy.”

The simple reality is this: Mass vaccination is the only means by which we can defeat the virus and return to a semblance of normalcy. Both the public and private sectors need to do whatever is necessary to ensure that each and every American receives a shot -- and we urge all of our readers to do what they need to do in order to get the vaccine.

GUEST OP-ED

Developing a life plan

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Have something to look forward to every day. Work a job. Work in your apartment or house. Have an exercise or health outing of some kind. Clean out a closet. Read a book. Your goal may be to sit on the porch and watch nature or the traffic go by. We all need leisure days. If you have an idle day then plan to enjoy your time.

Work on your health, mental and physical. Occasionally do a mind check. Clean out any garbage between your ears. Your mind is where you spend your life. Do away with negativity. Get rid of any bad or resentful feelings. Forgive and love yourself and forgive others. God has forgiven you and it's time you forgave yourself. Give peace and happiness every chance possible to exist in your head. Take care of yourself physically. A good friend who will be 100 soon says vegetables and fruit are her main dishes and every day she is physically active.

Put a few dollars aside as you can. You can't take it with you when you die but you can enjoy it while you are alive. You also might be able to help others. You can build wealth if you will work and save a little every week or month. Get rich schemes and winning the lottery are like being hit by lightning, they seldom happen. Invest in your local bank's Individual Retirement Account, a 401K and buy safe stock as you can. Also, pay into Social Security. You'll need it eventually.

Work on your network of relationships. If you don't have any friends then at least try to be a friend. If you go looking for friends you probably won't find any. If you will be a friend then you'll build some long-lasting relationships. Don't give up on your family. Stay close to your relatives if you possibly can. Church and civic groups are good places to build relationships. We all need personal time but don't spend your life totally alone.

Continue to work on you. You aren't finished yet. You are still a

work in progress. Too often we point to an accomplishment or the past as the summation of our lives. What we did yesterday may have been wonderful or not so wonderful but it's in the past. Who are you today? Keep becoming a better person. We all are still growing and have room for growth.

Make your own decisions and make good ones. You and God can figure it out. Stay independent as long as possible. A friend of mine recently gave up her home and moved to a place where “others” thought she should be. I don't think she is too happy with her new surroundings. Before you do, what other people think you should do, make sure it's what you want to do.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

OPINION BY PHIL ORLANDELLA

OPPOSITION MOUNTING FOR CROSS STREET HOTEL PROPOSAL

North End residents and community organizations have registered numerous concerns regarding Cross Street Ventures LLC proposal to develop a fifty-five-foot, 134 room hotel at 42 Cross Street the gateway to the neighborhood from most of Boston.

Plans call for two ground-floor restaurants and a roof-top dining and lounge area with valet parking.

Besides the impacts relating to the hotel blocking in many res-

idential units, the proposal will also generate increased crowds, noise, traffic, parking demands, delivery and trash removal vehicles.

Residents are requesting that the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) give just as much public review and planning as the development of the project site requires.

That is not too much to ask!

SUMMER TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS EXPECTED

North End residents, the business community, and historical

sites should be planning ahead for weekend and prolonged closures of the Summer Tunnel in the spring of 2022, through 2023 for construction.

MassDOT has and will continue to conduct virtual public meetings to provide updates on the scope of the project timelines, impacts expected, traffic detours and more.

Now is the time, for the neighborhood to obtain as much information as possible from MassDOT, not when the project begins.

MassDOT is prepared to explain the project and answer all questions.

REGIONAL REVIEW

- FOUNDED IN 1967 -

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IN BRIEF By Phil Orlandella

NORTH END AGENCIES RECEIVE GRANTS

Two North End organizations have received Boston Cultural Council Grants that will support local arts and cultural programs.

North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) and Paul Revere Memorial Association were awarded funds that will support general expenses of the organizations with the goal of enhancing the quality of life in the neighborhood through the arts.

CITY WINERY OPENS ON THE GREENWAY

City Winery located at Dewey Square has opened on the Greenway according to The Greenway Conservancy.

Hours of operation for the Winery are Wednesday and Thursday 4-9 PM, Friday 4-10 PM, Saturday 1-9 PM and Sunday 11 AM to 7 PM.

The Trillium Garden located at the corner of High Street and Atlantic Avenue will open Thursday, May 20.

Regular hours are Thursday

12-8 PM, Friday and Saturday 2-10 PM and Sunday 12-6 PM.

Food and refreshments will be served at both sites.

MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL FOR TEENS

Applications to apply for the 2021-2022 Mayor's Youth Council are currently available until Sunday, July 18.

The Department of Youth Engagement and Employment and Mayor Kim Janey are seeking Boston teens to get involved in the Council's goals.

"Creating opportunities for Boston's youth is an important part of our efforts in engaging young people in the work of city government," the mayor said.

To learn more or to file an application visit www.youth.boston.gov.

NORTH END HOTEL PROPOSAL DRAWS OPPOSITION

Opposition is mounting for a proposal to develop a 134-room hotel at 42 Cross Street in the

North End between Salem and Endicott Streets and adjacent to The Greenway North End Park.

Cross Street Ventures LLC has requested to build a fifty-five-foot hotel at the gateway to the community that has raised numerous concerns from abutting residents and several neighborhood organizations.

Plans call for two ground-floor restaurants and a rooftop dining and lounge area. Valet parking is also planned as well as a full liquor license.

If approved, the hotel will be developed on land that consists of a parking lot and space where two defunct business properties still stand.

Concerns raised included air equality before and after construction, obstruction of light and air and view, noise pollution, traffic flow, parking demands, valet parking, deliveries and trash storage and removal.

Residents are calling for the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) to take a good look at all the impacts the development will have on the community.

NEWNC members address Joe's Bar and Grill changes

By Phil Orlandella

Only one agenda item was on the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) May 10 virtual monthly meeting.

Joe's American Bar and Grill proposed changes to its non-live entertainment license from cassette/CD player, four wide-screen televisions and one radio to add three Russ sound AW 70v6-two way indoor/outdoor surface mounted speakers to the outdoor patio seating area and change the manager on record.

Voting results will be announced in the next issue of the Review.

Three incumbent candidates, Tania Green, Carmine Guarino and Ashley Leo were the only candidates that filed nomination papers for the 2021 NEWNC elections which were canceled due to the lack of candidates for the open six seats. All three will serve another two-year-terms on the Council.

"The other three seats will not be filled," according to President Brett Roman.

VACCINE *(from pg. 1)*

patient service representative will call them back.

Hours for the North End site will be Thursdays 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Fridays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The Charlestown site will be open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

There's been a lot of talk of herd immunity on the news. Herd immunity is basically what happens when a critical number of people or a critical percentage of the population gets the vaccine and gets protected from a virus.

If only a few people are vaccinated it leaves many folks vulnerable to infection. For the person who has COVID, the COVID can jump to other people very easily, especially with new more infectious strains of the virus.

However, when a large amount of people are vaccinated the virus begins to be boxed out of the population because it has nowhere to go. As more people are vaccinated the population is essentially limiting the amount of vulnerable people who can get the virus and spread it to others.

NEAA Soccer Program registration underway

By Phil Orlandella

"Working behind the scenes, the North End Athletic Association (NEAA) has coordinated a new soccer program this fall," according to Coordinator John Romano.

A group of dedicated volunteers have been working with Romano for the past five months to put this program together.

"It is still a work in progress but it continues to evolve," Romano noted.

"The NEAA is extremely excited to be going to more traditional programming with age groups, field sizes and team grouping," he said. "Now that we have a field that can accommodate these requirements, the NEAA has decided to put together a soccer program at Puopolo Park and

Langone Field.

The program will run for eight weeks starting on September 11 and run through November 13 with no games on Columbus Day weekend.

Age groups (Boys + Girls) ages 4 and 5, 6-8, 9-10 and 11-12 will make up the teams. Age cut off September 1, 2021.

"The older age groups may be rearranged depending on the number of players that sign up," Romano advised.

Games will be played on Saturday mornings starting at 9 AM, for the two youngest groups.

The 9-10 groups will follow at 10:15 AM and 11:30 AM games.

Group practices for 6-8-year-olds will be held on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 PM and on Thursdays for 9-12-year-olds.

"The 4+5-year-olds will play only on Saturday mornings for an

hour," Romano said.

Up to eight games can be played at one time for the younger groups and two games for the older players on sizable appropriate fields with new goals that fit the field.

Registration is currently underway, however, the NEAA is in the process of creating a new soccer website with all things NEAA soccer related.

In the meantime, those interested in registering can do so by emailing jromano45@gmail.com. Registration ends June 20.

Registration fee is \$55 per player and will include games, practices, a shirt, socks and a soccer ball for each participant.

Early registration will help determine team numbers, how many coaches and how many uniforms to order.

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West End cannabis dispensary now open

By John Lynds

After a soft opening a few weeks ago Boston's latest adult use and medical cannabis dispensary, Ascend, officially cut the ribbon on its Friend Street location.

Located at 272 Friend St. Ascend aims to serve customers from the West End, the North End, Beacon Hill, and Downtown.

Headed by former Suffolk County Sheriff Andrea Cabral, the Ascend team purchased the Friend Street building a few years back and transformed the aging vacant structure into the retail marijuana shop as well as Ascend's corporate headquarters. The 15,000 sq. ft. building boasts multiple floors for its retail marijuana operation that gives customers ample space and reduces the number of people that have to wait outside. The Ascend team also spent millions of dollars renovating not only the inside but also the building's facade. Like many other cannabis dispensaries there's limited signage and opaque windows to shield interior activity from neighbors and pedestrians walking by.

"At Ascend, we believe in best-in-class digital tools that allow our customers to easily browse our menus, order online and conveniently pick-up their products in-store," said Ascend in a statement. "All of our products are locally grown and meticulously tested so you can trust that you're buying the cleanest and highest-quality cannabis."

The Ascend company is a multi-state cannabis operation serving both medical patients and adult-



Boston's latest cannabis dispensary, Ascend, opened on Friend Street Wednesday.

use customers.

"We believe in offering a wide selection of products at the best prices with a consistent and convenient shopping experience," the statement continues. "Our team of passionate associates are knowledgeable and can help guide you to the best products to suit your needs."

Ascend is currently operating in Massachusetts, Illinois and New Jersey.

The dispensaries in Massachusetts include the flagship Friend Street location, which is now the largest dispensary on the East Coast. The group is planning a second location in Newton and a third store in New Bedford.

Ascend will also take part in the Last Prisoner Project and teamed up with the nonprofit through a donation match.

"While we understand and appreciate how fortunate we are to be in a position to help build and guide the future of modern canna-

bis, we are also acutely aware of the lives that have been destroyed, especially in minority communities, through decades of unjust laws and inequitable enforcement," the statement continued. "There are currently over 40,000 nonviolent criminals sitting in prison for cannabis offenses. This costs taxpayers billions of dollars per year and has done immeasurable damage to the families of the incarcerated. We think this is unacceptable, which is why we have teamed up with the Last Prisoner Project

Ascend received Boston Zoning Board of Appeals approval back in 2019

An adult-use marijuana facility proposed for Friend Street in Boston's West End was approved by the (ZBA) and later its license from the state's Cannabis Control Commission. The shop gained community and political support due to its location away from main thoroughfares like Causeway Street.

TUNNEL (from pg. 1)

Route 1A traffic.

Months after the reconfiguration MassDOT officials admitted they used outdated traffic projections that predicted traffic going into the tunnel would grow by only a half percent each year. Going on those projections traffic into the Sumner should have only grown by 2.5 percent from 2013 to 2018. However, MassDOT said that traffic exploded and there was a whopping 47 percent increase in tunnel traffic since 2013. That was nearly 45 percent more than MassDOT predicted over the same time period.

With the massive failure to foresee the traffic the plaza reconfiguration would cause, many Eastie residents have little confidence in MassDOT's plans for a full closure of the tunnel from May through September 2023.

At the meeting McLaughlin conceded that traffic was way down due to the pandemic but during 2019 there were 39,000 vehicles using the Sumner each day or nearly 200,000 trips during the work week.

McLaughlin said that as more people return to work, school and traveling the numbers will tick up once again and the four month closure will pose significant impacts.

MassDOT plans to reroute Eastie, North Shore and Logan Airport traffic through the Ted Williams Tunnel during the closure.

At last week's meeting one resident asked how MassDOT would ensure traffic is kept off neighborhood streets.

McLaughlin said MassDOT would only put detour signage on major routes but admitted that motorists using mapping apps like WAZE may prove to be a problem.

"We will be signing the main major routes, we're not signing anything on any other routes," said McLaughlin. "We will have real time monitoring so we'll know what the volumes are so that we can adjust the timing as much as we're able to to so that people don't go on to local streets. We're informing all of the mapping companies that these are the detours. However, we cannot dictate to them where they send people unfortunately."

Mapping apps like WAZE, was

cited by MassDOT as an unforeseen problem when the plaza was reconfigured. These apps help motorists avoid traffic and provide shortcuts to a commuters final destination. In the case of the traffic caused by the toll plaza project, these apps redirected many North Shore commuters off Route 1A and onto neighborhood streets adding the unbearable traffic each morning.

The proposed project consists of resurfacing the tunnel roadway including pavement and lane markings; rehabilitating the overhead arch and ceiling, including deteriorating suspended ceiling supports; restoring the historic portal facades and addressing the functional system deficiencies of the Sumner Tunnel. Once the project has been completed, the Sumner Tunnel will meet modern fire and life safety codes with fireproofing, fire standpipe, fire alarm and CCTV upgrades. The tunnel will feature new LED lighting and security systems; new utility conduits and cables under the roadway deck which will improve cell phone, GPS, and radio service inside the tunnel.

McLaughlin said the advantages of weekend and the subsequent full closure would minimize safety risks to tunnel workers and motorists; accelerates project completion; minimizes duration of disruption to local communities, businesses and road users; provides consistent detours and diversions for the traveling public; minimizes temperature and weather delays; and allows for high quality of work.

"We have a tunnel that is about 100 years old and we're not replacing the tunnel, we're rehabilitating the tunnel so that we can get another many decades out of it," said McLaughlin. "And to do this it requires some shutdowns. There will be pain but that's the nature of living in an urban environment like this. These are the types of things that we have to go through. But we think our solution is sensible and smart and safe in the long term."

The next meeting will be a virtual design public hearing on Wednesday, May 19 at 6 p.m.

For more info and updates visit <https://www.mass.gov/sumner-tunnel-restoration-project>.

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A woman with blonde hair, wearing a white short-sleeved top and a long, flowing skirt with a vibrant orange, yellow, and blue floral pattern, stands on a cobblestone pier. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. In the background, the Boston skyline is visible, featuring several tall skyscrapers, including the cylindrical Bank of America Tower. A large metal chain is visible in the foreground, and a body of water with a few boats is behind the pier.

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NEAA MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL SEASON UNDERWAY

By Phil Orlandella

Opening day, Monday, April 26, saw all four North End Athletic Association (NEAA) Minor League teams play on the newly refurbished North End Puopolo Park.

Players, coaches and the NEAA were excited to begin the 2021 baseball season. John Romano, Baseball Coordinator said, “It was really nice to see the teams playing baseball on the new field.” Opening day festivities drew a large crowd.



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Grasshoppers players and coaches

FRESH AND LOCAL

Sandwiches at home and away

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

One of the best things about the warmer weather is the opportunity to have picnics with friends. We've missed sandwiches from some of our favorite places and look forward to creating and then checking off a bucket list of the best sandwiches in the best places this spring. We'll even list the friends with whom we'd like to split those meals.

And, as we begin to gather with vaccinated friends, we'll have options to pick up and share. Sandwiches are a perfect food to share at home or away since you can cut them into bite-size servings.

Belle Isle Seafood in Winthrop

We plan to meet some seafood-loving friends at Belle Isle Seafood in Winthrop. We'll take a to-go order of lobster rolls, clam rolls, and scallop rolls over to the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation and share a feast!

The Boston Common and Public Garden

A trip to the heart of the Emer-

ald Necklace offers an array of great sandwich options. If you visit around lunchtime on a weekday, you can pick up a legendary deli sandwich from Sam LaGrassa. Our regular order is one pastrami and one corned beef, both on rye with just a schmear of mustard.

Parish Cafe has reopened and is often too busy in summer to accept orders for take-out. So far this year, they can offer their hearty sandwiches for Public Garden picnics. We recommend the brisket, meatloaf, and for a vegetable option, the eggplant.

NorthEnd and Waterfront

A shopping trip to the North End will include lunch on the Greenway. While we love a good Italian panini from Salumeria Italiana, we also recommend Tenoch Mexican's tortas.

We hope that a fleet of food trucks will return to the area in the months ahead, offering a raft of sandwich options. But don't forget that James Hook and Company has always been a great place to pick up a lobster or crab roll, and they make some of the best.

Chinatown Sandwiches

Sadly our favorite Banh Mi shop in Chinatown, New Saigon Sandwich, has closed. Still, we plan to ask Jacquelyn Church, food writer, Chinatown Tour Guide, and strong advocate for the businesses in her neighborhood, for a new favorite. Maybe she'll even meet us for lunch, and we can share a couple of variations. We also have a world of filled bao options to explore with her guidance.

Gene's Chinese Flatbread Cafe grew famous for its hand-pulled noodles. However, for take-out we prefer the lamb or pork flatbread sandwiches.

A Few Picnic Tips

Remember, everyone's comfort level with unmasking is different and should be respected. Try to understand if others are slower than you to release themselves from the safety shield they've lived under for more than a year.

Bring hand sanitizer and wipes. Some of the habits we've added during the pandemic are good and should continue. Pack a cutting



Be on the lookout for sandwiches with a twist like this Mixed Mushroom Melt. It's a panini with roasted mushrooms, gruyere cheese, and caramelized onions from Flour Bakery.

surface and knife if you plan to cut and share sandwiches. You can also ask most places to cut a sandwich in four instead of two.

If everyone brings a chair and the host provides a picnic ground cover and perhaps a lightweight table for its center, it will help keep

a safe social distance when you remove your masks to eat.

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

Donations needed for North End Against Drugs scholarship fund

By Phil Orlandella

North End Against Drugs (NEAD) is once again offering scholarships to local students and

is soliciting donations toward the fund, according to President John Pregmon.

"NEAD's annual Raymond and Michelina Costa Scholarship will

be awarded to North End students," Pregmon said.

"Named in honor of the parents of one of our longtime board members, Olivia, this program has

awarded more than 100 student scholarships totaling over \$43,000 in the past eight years alone," Pregmon said.

Last year, in the middle of the pandemic, NEAD was able to award more than \$3,000 through generous donors and sponsors.

"This year we are hoping to double this amount to match or exceed the pre-COVID-19 distribution amount," he added.

"These scholarships cannot be provided without the generosity of our multiple donors," he added. "Scholarship donations are typically given in \$500, \$750 and \$1,000 amounts," according to Pregmon.

However, any amount is accepted and can be made in the

memory of a loved one, a business name, a family name or in honor of someone.

"Scholarships are usually awarded in the summer at a NEAD Family Dinner at the Nazzaro Community Center, but state and local guidelines may necessitate another virtual event," Pregmon noted.

"Thank you in advance, for your continued support and generosity toward NEAD," Pregmon added.

For information, questions or concerns contact Pregmon at 570-466-5536 or through email at NorthEndAgainstDrugs@gmail.com.



Virtual Public Meeting

Central Artery Parcel 2 Park Design

Wednesday, June 2
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/Parcel2ParkDesign
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 820 2047

Project Description:

The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA), in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the Greenway Conservancy, invites community members to the final public meeting for the Parcel 2 Park Design process. Through four previous community meetings, the design team finalized the Parcel 2 Park design in 2020. Construction of the Parcel 2 Park will begin in late-Spring of 2021. This meeting aims to provide community members with an overview of the construction process and schedule. The team will also be available to answer questions and hear concerns about the construction process.

mail to: **Kennan Rhyne**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.446.3412
email: kennan.rhyne@boston.gov

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

DID YOU KNOW? Recycled newspapers can be made into

cereal boxes, egg cartons, pencil barrels, grocery bags, tissue paper and many other products, including new newspapers!



UNIQLO donates 75,000 AIRism face masks to BPS

Staff Report

This week, global retailer UNIQLO donated 75,000 AIRism face masks to Boston Public Schools (BPS). These protective face coverings will be distributed to BPS students, as well as teachers and faculty to provide a safe, healthy and productive learning environment. UNIQLO's donation of AIRism face masks will provide the community with the personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to maintain their wellbeing throughout the summer and beyond.

On Thursday, May 6, BPS, in partnership with Boston After School & Beyond, announced a

series of programs for students to access support services, academic recovery and acceleration initiatives, and other enrichment activities over the summer. These summer learning opportunities will be school-based, partner-based, and activity-based while serving all neighborhoods and offering a mix of in-person and remote opportunities. The AIRism face masks will be provided to students and staff at BPS summer learning sites.

"Boston Public Schools is providing enriching learning opportunities this summer to keep students engaged and to continue supporting their social and emotional well-being. We also remain committed to promoting the physical

health and safety of our community members," said BPS Superintendent Brenda Cassellius. "I am so thankful for this gracious donation from UNIQLO. The immense challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic require support from both the public and private sectors, and these 75,000 masks will help to ensure the safety of students and staff all summer long."

UNIQLO's award-winning AIRism face masks, which have received national and global attention since the product category's launch in 2020, employ a triple-layer structure with the brand's innovative AIRism mesh fabric enclosing a filter at the center of the masks. The AIRism face

masks are machine-washable and available in three sizes to fit both children and adults.

"It is UNIQLO's honor to support Boston Public Schools in helping to ensure that staff and students are safe and healthy," said Daisuke Tsukagoshi, CEO of UNIQLO USA. "With this donation of AIRism face masks, and our commitment to ongoing support of local community, we look forward to continuing to serve the needs of our Boston friends and supporters with apparel that is designed to benefit people's everyday lives."

UNIQLO was introduced to BPS through its relationship with City of Boston Disability Com-

missioner Kristen McCosh, with whom the brand has worked with on the Commission's annual hiring initiative called Disability Mentoring Day. "UNIQLO has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting persons with disabilities," Commissioner McCosh said. "We look forward to reconnecting with them as businesses in Boston continue to reopen."

Globally, Fast Retailing has provided close to 17.7 million surgical masks, 1.4 million isolation gowns, 472K AIRism innerwear, 2.3 million AIRism masks and close to 800K essential items free of charge.

North End COVID update listed

By John Lynds

Last week the North End's weekly COVID-19 positive test rate decreased for a third week in a row and fell to 1 percent after posting a 5.8 percent increase towards the end of April.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, 1,878 residents were tested and 1 percent were positive--this was a 66 percent decrease from the 3 percent reported by the BPHC two Fridays ago.

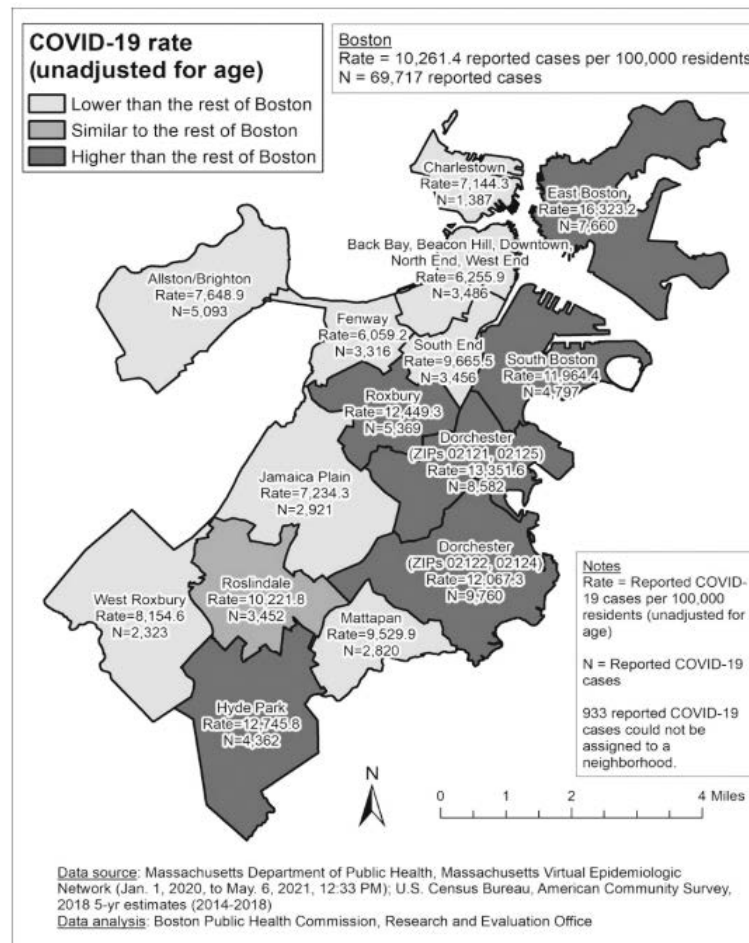
Overall since the pandemic started 51,097 North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 6.9 percent of those tested were COVID positive. This was the same percentage reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate decreased once again.

According to the BPHC 20,721 residents were tested and 2.4 percent were COVID positive--this was a 31 percent decrease from the 3.5 percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 625.5 cases per 10,000 residents, up 0.7 from the 621.1 cases per 10,000 residents reported two weeks ago.

An additional 25 residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from



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

3,461 cases to 3,486 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 less than one percent last week and went from 69,441 cases to 69,998 confirmed cases in a week. Four additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,374 total deaths in the city from COVID.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING WEBINAR

Project File No. 606476
A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed Sumner Centennial project in Boston, MA.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

WHERE: <https://virtualmeeting.link/sumner-dph>

Passcode: 321308

Webinar ID: 880 0481 6749

Dial in option: 888 788 0099

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing webinar is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Sumner Centennial project. All views and comments submitted in response to the webinar will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of resurfacing the tunnel roadway including pavement and lane markings; rehabilitating the overhead arch and ceiling, including deteriorating suspended ceiling supports; restoring the historic portal facades and addressing the functional system deficiencies of the Sumner Tunnel in an accelerated manner to minimize the overall duration of impacts

to the travelling public and surrounding communities. Once the project has been complete, the Sumner Tunnel will meet modern fire and life safety codes with fireproofing, fire standpipe, fire alarm and CCTV upgrades. The tunnel will feature new LED lighting and security systems; new utility conduits and cables under the roadway deck which will improve cell phone, GPS, and radio service inside the tunnel. A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the webinar. Right-of-way plans can be made available to affected property owners upon request.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 606476. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after

the hearing is posted to the MassDOT website listed below. This hearing 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 and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (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 sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings. JONATHAN GULLIVER HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR
PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

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Residents mount opposition against Cross Street hotel

By Phil Orlandella

North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) has submitted a comment letter to the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) expressing major concerns and questions relating to the proposed 134 room hotel at 42 Cross Street.

Many issues have been raised by NEWRA and North End residents, especially abutters.

Some of the concerns include: lack of residential community purpose, community residents and open space impacts, the public process, blocking views and sunlight, quality of fresh air, parking, noise and more.

Plans to have two first floor restaurants and dining and a lounge on the roof-deck will affect everyone including the business community that is trying to keep their heads above water stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic.

One resident told the Review, "We don't have enough parking in the North End, especially with outdoor dining in effect, making it totally impossible to find a parking spot."

Apparently, community stakeholders have organized an opposition signature drive.

"It doesn't appear, at this time, that residents don't plan to go

(OPPOSITION, Pg. 2)

Abstract Sculpture reconfiguration

By Phil Orlandella

A crane pulled apart and reconfigured the two-halves of the Abstract Sculpture, a split rhomboid, dodecahedron, made of stainless steel and aluminum to create a new sculpture shape.

Located on the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway on the

American Heritage Park, the sculpture is symbolic of all who pulled away or were forced to pull away from their country of origin and came to Massachusetts, establishing new and different ways.

The Charles and Doreen Bilezikian Fund supports the annual reconfiguration.

Photo by Matt Conti

A new reconfiguration of the two-halves of the Abstract Sculpture on The Greenway.

Money in City budget earmarked for local projects

By John Lynds

Earlier this month acting Boston Mayor Kim Janey Mayor Kim Janey proposed her administration's recommended \$3.75 billion Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) operating budget and \$3.2 billion Fiscal Year 2022-2026 (FY22-FY26) Capital Plan. Janey said the budget focuses on providing the resources for the city's continued robust public health response to COVID-19, making strategic investments in Boston's neighborhoods and residents, and setting the stage for Boston's equitable reopening, recovery and long-term renewal.

In the budget is money earmarked for the BCYF Nazzaro Center as well as studying sea level rise.

Janey earmarked a \$2 million increase for the Nazzaro bringing the project total to \$5 million.

In April 2019, the city picked

the North End's Mirabella Pool site on Commercial Street as the final recommended site for a new North End community center.

The city has been studying the feasibility of moving the community center by 2023.

BCYF highlighted the benefits of locating a new community center near the open space and garnering the recreational synergies of the adjacent Mirabella Pool and the open space at Puopolo Field and facilities at Langone Park. Close proximity to the new Eliot School building and the State-owned skating rink were also highlighted.

There was also \$5 million for a Climate Ready Boston Harbor study to support the development of a study that will examine the feasibility of measures along and within the Boston Harbor to reduce vulnerability of coast-

(BUDGET, Pg. 2)

NEWNC supports Monica's new closing hour changes

By Phil Orlandella

A vote to support (11-0) was taken by the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) for a request by Monica's Trattoria to change its current closing hours of 11 p.m. seven days a week, to Monday-Thursday 12 a.m. and Friday-Sunday 1 a.m. according to President Brett Roman.

Greenway Conservancy Marketing and Community Affairs Manager, Rachel Lake, updated NEWNC on the upcoming 2021 programs and public art season installation planned at The Greenway.

She noted that the Carousel, food trucks, art markets, art installation and much more will take place this season.

The North End/Waterfront Open Space Committee Survey Managing Director of the Trustees' Boston Waterfront Initiative Nick Black discussed a recently launched survey of residents, workers and business owners to seek and learn more about community open space preference towards developing space throughout the waterfront and North End.

One open space mentioned was Sargent's Wharf.

NEWNC's next monthly meeting will be held on Monday, May 10 at 7 PM.

Baker relaxes COVID-19 restrictions

Staff Report

On Tuesday, the Baker-Polito Administration announced that Massachusetts would reopen some outdoor Phase 4, Step 2 industries effective May 10, and put plans in place for further reopening on May 29 and Aug. 1.

"The light at the end of the tunnel, thanks to the hard work of so many, is getting closer," Gov. Charlie Baker said at the State House when announcing the news. "And we can start to look ahead with real optimism for the path forward."

The Administration continues to take steps to reopen the Commonwealth's economy with pub-

(BAKER, Pg. 8)

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FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

COMMUNITY NEWS

NEWNC MONTHLY MEETING

The next North End Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) monthly virtual public meeting will be held on Monday, June 10 at 7 p.m.

NEWRA MONTHLY MEETING

The next North End Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) virtual monthly public meeting will be held on Thursday, June 13 at 7 p.m.

MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL

Applications are available for teens to apply for membership in the Mayor's Youth Council. Deadline is Sunday, July 18.

NEAD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

North End Against Drugs (NEAD) is seeking donations for its annual scholarship fund that are awarded to North End students. For details contact President John Pregmon at 570-466-5536 or email northendagainstdrugs@gmail.com.

MASSDOT CONFERENCE

Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) will hold its Transportation Conference (virtually) on May 25, 26, 27.

The purpose of the conference is to showcase the latest technologies and equipment and to discuss trends in the industry.

NEWENSC DRIVE

The North End/West End Neighborhood Services Center (NEWENSC) is organizing a drive to celebrate all the mothers they serve. For details call 617-523-8125.

PARK GIVING DAY

Armenian Heritage on the Rose Kennedy Greenway is seeking donations to support the Park's care this year.

Donors will be acknowledged at the Park's Giving Day on Thursday, May 20. Donations can be made at Armenian Heritage Park.

CELEBRATING WHAT UNITES US

A special virtual cooking and wine pairing program will be held, tonight, Thursday, May 13 by the Friends of Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway starting at 5 p.m.

TUNNEL CLOSURES

Work by MassDOT for the full restoration of the Summer Tunnel will begin with weekend closures in the spring of 2022 and prolonged disclosures in 2023.

BOSTON'S FOOD PROGRAM

Boston's Food Access Program for 2021-2022 has been generated to help better serve the needs in the City. For more details call City Hall.

FOCCP GARDENING TIMES

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) has started its a group gardening times, holding sessions twice weekly on Sundays 9:30 to 11 a.m. and Wednesdays 8 to 9:30 a.m. For details email info@foccp.org.

T REQUIRES MASKS

Facemask continues to be required on MBTA vehicles, stations and platforms. This includes those that have been fully vaccinated for Covid 19.

FATHER AND SON TUNNEL CONTACTS

The father and son, John Romano and John Romano, Jr. are the Summer Tunnel reconstruction projects community contacts. Senior Romano for MassDOT and the Jr. for the North End.

NEWRA ELECTION CANCELED

Lack of candidates has canceled the North End Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) 2021 public elections.

SCHOLARSHIP DRIVES

North End Against drugs (NEAA D) is planning for its annual Scholarship Drive and credit card gifts.

EXTENDED STICKER REGISTRATION

The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has extended certain expired inspection stickers to the end of May.

Vehicle owners with March and April expired stickers have through May 31 to obtain new stickers.

EMERGENCY SICK TIME

Legislation that allows all state workers to access five days of emergency paid sick time for Covid 19 related sicknesses, quarantine, caregiving and vaccination is now in the books.

FOCCP BEGINS GARDEN PROJECT

Last year, Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) had to abandon their group gardening times. Everyone came to work on the garden when they could.

This year, FOCCP is comfort-

able and familiar with social distancing, so the group is going back to the twice-weekly garden times on Monday mornings 8 to 9:30 a.m. and Sunday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.

If interested call Robyn Reed, Horticulture Co-Chair at info@org. All tools and guidance will be provided. Wear closed toed shoes.

COVID 19 TESTING

NEW Health, 332 Hanover Street is testing for Covid 19 on Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Enter on North Bennet Street side. Must make an appointment by calling 617-643-8000.

FREE ONLINE EVENTS

The Boston Public Library (BPL) is offering free online events. For details call 617-536-5400.

RMV EXPANDS HOURS

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has expanded designated Wednesday appointment hours for seniors 65 or older during April.

STREET CLEANING UNDERWAY

Street cleaning in the North End has started and will be enforced by ticketing and subject to towing.

Expired inspection stickers and vehicle registration will also be enforced.

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.

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NEAA INSTRUCTIONAL BASEBALL PROGRAM STARTED



The North End Athletic Association (NEAA) Instructional League Baseball Program has drawn numerous participants in 2021. Players are being taught the basics of playing the game of baseball, under the watchful eyes of coaches and volunteers. “The instructional program is a great way to keep baseball alive and well in the North End,” Baseball Coordinator John Romano said. “This is our feeder system for the Minor and Major League programs.”

NEWRA meeting tonight-May 13

By Phil Orlandella

North End Waterfront Residents’ Association (NEWRA) will hold its monthly virtual meeting set for May 13 at 7 p.m.

Only one item is on the agenda for voting.

Joe’s American Bob + Grill seeks to amend its non-live entertainment license to add three indoor/outdoor surface mounted speakers to the outdoor patio seating area.

NEWRA’s Mayoral Candidate Series featured Boston Mayoral candidate and current City Counselor At Large Annissa Essaibi George will present her platform and vision for the City of Boston and take questions from residents.

Architectural Firm Arron-Street, a non-profit environmental design group, will present community feedback and ideas to engage visitors and residents to discover the North End.

NEWRA will officially welcome Chris Cook, the new Executive Director of The Greenway Conservancy.

Rachel Lake, Marketing Manager, will update upcoming summer programs that will take place on The Greenway.

The next NEWRA virtual public meeting will be held on Thursday, June 10 at 7 PM.



RED SOX PROVIDE BASEBALL EQUIPMENT TO NEAA

The Boston Red Sox Foundation has donated hats, shirts, face masks, baseballs, hand sanitizers and other supplies to the North End Athletic Association (NEAA) through the Jr. RBI program.

“The NEAA and the Red Sox have been collaborating for many years to help out with our baseball programs,” Baseball Coordinator John Romano said. “We are happy to continue our relationship in 2021.”

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