



THE NORTH END

REGIONAL REVIEW

EMAIL: DEB@THEBOSTONSUN.COM
EDITOR@REVEREJOURNAL.COM

WWW.NORTHENDREGIONALREVIEW.COM

NEAA CHRISTMAS PARADE



Santa was paraded through the North End/Waterfront streets, followed by cartoon characters, bands, the North End Girl Scout Troop, the Shriners and a very large crowd of local residents during the North End Athletic Association annual Christmas Parade. See Page 6 for more photos.

North End bank robbery suspect caught

By John Lynds

The Boston man wanted in connection with a September bank robbery in the North End has been apprehended.

Just before 9:30 am on Sunday, December 19 Boston Police arrested Rolando Gala, 39, of Boston. Gala was wanted on an outstanding warrant issued out of Boston Municipal Court for Unarmed Robbery and was arraigned in Boston Municipal Court.

The incident occurred just after 9 am on Friday, September 17,

when officers assigned to District A-1 responded to a call for a bank robbery on Hanover Street in the North End.

After an investigation police detectives identified Gala as the possible suspect in the robbery. Police obtained an arrest warrant out of Boston Municipal Court for Gala on Unarmed Bank Robbery charges.

Detectives assigned to District A-1 (Downtown) and the Violent Crime Task Force continue to review the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident and are

urging anyone with information relative to this investigation or knowledge of the suspect's current whereabouts to contact (617) 343-4248.

Community members wishing to assist this investigation anonymously can do so by calling the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1 (800) 494-TIPS or by texting the word "TIP" to CRIME (27463). The Boston Police Department will stringently guard and protect the identities of all those who wish to assist this investigation in an anonymous manner.

Up for Grabs

After Edwards wins the Special Election for State Senate; a field of candidates begins to emerge for District Councilor

By John Lynds

District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edward's impressive victory over Revere's Anthony D'Ambrosio last week for the First Suffolk & Middlesex State Senate seat will spark a Special Election for her district council seat after the formality of a January 11 General Election.

With no Republican on the January 11 ballot Edwards will be heading from City Hall to Beacon Hill and her council seat, which includes the North End, East Boston and Charlestown, will be up for grabs.

Already, the city's director of the Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement Tania Del Rio has announced her intentions to run for the seat.

Del Rio, of East Boston, said she was 'all in' and has already launched an online fundraising effort for her campaign.

Before being appointed to the Office of Women's Advancement by former Mayor Martin Walsh, Del Rio served as the City of

Boston's Diversity Outreach Officer, where her work is focused on helping the City of Boston shape a workforce that is reflective of its population, and promoting diversity and inclusion among Boston's employers. Before joining the City of Boston she served as the head of the Citizen Protection and Community Affairs Departments at the Consulate of Mexico in Boston, and the head of Political Affairs and Press at the Embassy of Mexico in Colombia.

Del Rio earned a bachelor's degree in international relations from New York University and a masters in public policy from Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Del Rio was recognized by the Harvard Kennedy School with the Jane Mansbridge Research Award for distinguished research related to gender and public policy and the 2016 Outstanding Policy Analysis Exercise Award, for her paper on gender equality in the Foreign Service.

(ELECTION Pg. 3)

North End city liaison leaving his post

By Phil Orlandella

John Romano, Jr. has announced he is leaving his North End, West End, Waterfront liaison position with the City of Boston Neighborhood Service Department to take another job with the state.

"When I took this position, I had no idea how blessed I would be to work with each and every one of you," Romano said.

"I am deeply grateful for all of your time, hard work and patience with me in this role and for letting me assist you all over these nearly

two years," he added.

Romano will continue to support and volunteer with several community organizations while he remains living in the North End.

As liaison, Romano has earned the respect of the neighborhood for his positive approach to assisting the community and bringing together city resources to deal with issues and concerns of the areas he represented.

Many community residents and organizations have already noted that his services will be missed.



Regional Review wishes all a Safe & Healthy Christmas!

We look forward to seeing you in 2022

Cheers to a New Year! The next issue will be on Jan. 6, 2022



EDITORIAL

HAVE A MERRY -- AND SAFE -- CHRISTMAS

The holiday season usually is the most wonderful time of the year.

But Christmas, 2021, is anything but wonderful, even for those of us who are among the most fortunate in our society.

Our collective stress and anxiety levels are at an all-time high thanks to the recent arrival of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, which has upended the holiday plans for many of us.

Each and every day, the virus is killing almost 1300 Americans, a statistic that has become mind-numbingly routine. That figure still is well below the 3000 deaths per day a year ago at this time, but still, it translates into 500,000 deaths per year.

Hospitals once again are at full capacity in many states, with coronavirus patients filling emergency rooms and crowding-out those who have other health issues.

This was not the scenario we had envisioned a few months ago, when it appeared that we had COVID-19 under control.

For those of us who are fully-vaccinated with three shots of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines (or one J&J plus one of the those other two), the effects of the Omicron variant are proving to be fairly mild, akin to having a bad cold.

But for anyone who is unvaccinated, infection with the Omicron variant is proving inescapable thanks to its high-degree of transmissibility. And as the statistics demonstrate, the chances of becoming seriously ill are dangerously-significant.

Although the pandemic has eviscerated the usual holiday celebrations that bring together family, friends, and colleagues, adding to our mental health issues, especially for older Americans, the toned-down holiday season offers us an opportunity for reflection, a chance to reach an appreciation for the things that really matter in our lives: The health and safety of ourselves and our loved ones, as well as the urgent need to assist those who find themselves in dire straits this holiday season.

We hope that all of our readers will heed the warnings of our public health officials and that those with the means to do so will help the vast numbers of our less-fortunate fellow Americans.

We wish all of our readers a merry -- and safe -- Christmas.

GUEST OP-ED

Gift ideas for Christmas

Dr. Glenn Mollette

This Christmas give somebody the gift of mercy and forgiveness. Be broad with your giving and generous. We all need a lot of both. For such a joyful holiday of cheer, giving and yuletide merriment there is much to be stressed about.

Typically, people have been stressed about all the holiday parties, gatherings and Christmas scheduling. This year there is more stress related to sickness, masks, vaccinations, Omicron, natural disasters, filled hospitals, massive numbers of funerals and inflation. The last couple of Christmases have not been life as usual for most of us.

You may have watched Chevy Chase in National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. He becomes over the top stressed out when his Christmas lights won't work and he literally kicks, stomps and curses a blue streak across his yard. It's a funny scene. Mostly because in some way we've all been there a time or two.

Most of us enjoy giving if we

can. We enjoy giving to the people we love. Christmas trees, decorating, eating and gatherings are all a part of the season. However, we become frustrated when we lose sight of the big picture. The big picture includes looking around and beyond our Christmas pain. Millions of people would simply be thrilled to have the problems that some of us have. Many people are in the nursing home and will never go to the mall again. Some have a terminal disease and this may be their last Christmas. Depression will weigh heavy on many who have lost their homes, buried loved ones or experienced financial devastation from medical care or natural disasters. Most of these people would love to have a house to decorate or gifts to buy for a loved one.

Celebrate Christmas this year. Give away some special gifts. Give gifts that money can't buy or time cannot fade. Give love, give forgiveness and give some mercy. Extend these generously to yourself. If you can't give them to yourself it's impossible to give them to others.

The little baby that Christmas celebrates became a man and taught people that we should love God and love others as we love ourselves. Herein is part of the rub. Too often people stop loving themselves. Life becomes imperfect, we fail, get hurt or mad and we kick Santa or the reindeer across the yard. Unfortunately, we don't stop there. We go into Ebenezer Scrooge bah humbug mode. We don't get our groove back and miss out on some of Christmas' most wonderful characteristics- mercy and forgiveness.

The Christmas story is about a child who came to show us the way. He showed us how to love, forgive and be merciful. Some of the people in your life probably need it more than you know. Give generously and start with yourself.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FONE THANKS YOU

To the Editor:

We would like to thank all those members whose enduring devotion to the North End was demonstrated by their generosity during our second Christmas season fundraiser. The Friends of the North End has raised \$3,000 that will be distributed to eleven local organizations and charities. FONE is not solely a fraternity but a vestige of our revered Italian neighborhood. Many of us no longer live in the North End, however it joyfully lives in our hearts and memories. A testimony to that is our frequent boasting of a lifelong relationship to the community and a steadfast mission of support to many worthy North End organizations. We are all fortunate to readily recall precious memories of a boyhood that linger forever and to be able to give back in a modest way to a place we still cherish.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2022 to all the

Friends and Families.

Friends of the North End
Sonny, Sammy and Victor

WE ARE SO THANKFUL

To the Editor:

Thanks to our readers, donors, and friends, the ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NE/WE NSC) distributed 113 turkeys, 260 hot meals, 162 gift cards, and 165 bags of holiday food for the Thanksgiving holiday. We are so thankful for the care that you demonstrated to our North End, West End, and Beacon Hill neighbors.

ABCD Helps North End residents in need with food during the holidays.

We hope to surpass that goal for the December holidays! If you would like to donate or if you need assistance, feel free to reply to this email or call the office at 617-523-8125.

Maria Stella Gulla, Director

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

To the Editor:

On behalf of the North End Athletic Association (NEAA), I would like to thank you for your recent donation to our 49th Annual Christmas Parade. This event for the children and elderly of the North End, would not be possible without your generosity.

The NEAA is committed to continuing its important work to provide balance, inspiration, and opportunity in the lives of these children through the help of supporters like you.

Thank you again, for your commitment to the NEAA. Your donation has helped make Christmas a little merrier for the children and elderly of the North End Community. Next year will be our 50th year of having this wonderful event, it promises to be the best ever. Thank you again.

Robert "Ted" Tomasone
Chairman

REGIONAL REVIEW

- FOUNDED IN 1967 -

PUBLISHER: Debra DiGregorio - deb@thebostonsun.com

EDITOR AT LARGE: PHIL ORLANDELLA

REPORTERS AND CONTRIBUTORS:

John Lynds and Cary Shuman

PHONE 781-485-0588 // **FAX** 781-485-1403

INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP, LLC

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

OPINION By Phil Orlandella

WILL THERE BE A NEWNC ELECTION IN 2022?

For the past two years there has been no North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) public voting election due to the lack of interested candidates to fill the available six seats up for grabs each year.

This resulted in the canceling of the public election and every resident that filed the necessary nomination papers were automatically placed on the Counsel for two-year terms.

Apparently, unless a vigorous informational campaign is launched by the City of Boston and NEWNC to recruit residents to seek election (at least 7) for the upcoming election, it will be canceled once again.

Many years ago, residents managed to form NEWNC working with the City of Boston. The idea was to have a direct say

and involvement relating to neighborhood concerns with the City's administration.

Hopefully, this time around, more residents will decide to become candidates in the NEWNC election.

COMMUNITY NEEDS TO BAND TOGETHER ON ISSUES

Now that the holidays are almost here, the time has come to begin addressing any and all North End/Waterfront issues and concerns relating directly to the neighborhood as a united group, not just a handful of residents, only interested in their neck of the woods.

Residents must stand together on everything that affects the community, good or bad.

Let city, state and federal government know the community is not just a pocket group.

ELECTION (from pg. 1)

Locally, Del Rio is a member of the Board of Directors of the Veronica Robles Cultural Center; Partakers Inc., and Excel Academy, and contributes monthly as a columnist in El Heraldo Latino Newspaper. Del Rio was born in Mexico City and raised as a bicultural child between the U.S. and Mexico. In addition to her native Spanish, she can also speak French and Italian.

Former Edward's Chief of Staff and lifelong Eastie resident, Gabriela Coletta is also mulling a run for her former boss's seat.

Coletta, who left Edward's office over the summer to become the External Relations Manager for the New England Aquarium's downtown waterfront planning initiative, first joined Edwards in 2017 as her campaign manager for the Boston City Council seat and also worked on the campaigns for Rep. Adrian Madaro and interned Rep. Aaron Michlewitz.

"Thank you, for everything, Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards," said Coletta last week in a statement after Edward's win. "I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the district as your Chief and to have had a seat at the table witnessing your fearless advocacy. The fight continues for housing justice, environmental justice, and tackling education inequities. I'm taking time to talk to family and friends to consider if this is the best opportunity to serve the district I'm so proud to call my

home. Thank you to everyone who has reached out so far. I'll have more to say soon."

Coletta graduated from Boston Latin Academy and went on to graduate from UMass Boston before beginning her career in public service.

Eastie resident Jason Ruggiero, who has spearheaded the PLAN: East Boston initiative for the Boston Planning and Development, is also considering a run for the seat.

Like Coletta, Ruggiero congratulated Edwards on her victory last week saying, "I've had the privilege to see first-hand up close and personal the work that Lydia has done as the Boston City Councilor for District One, representing East Boston, Charlestown and the North End. As someone who also represents these communities at an Agency level within the City of Boston, I applaud and thank Lydia for all she has done for these communities."

Ruggiero added that while Edward's work and advocacy will transition to the State House, over the next few weeks he will be considering a candidacy to attempt to fill her "tremendous shoes" at City Hall.

"Our next City Councilor needs to put our community and the people first, be creative in how to address the complex challenges before us today, and fight for everyone with the urgency and dedication Lydia has shown over the last four years," he said. "The

ABCD reaches 6,000 toy goal for holiday drive

"Twas three weeks before Christmas and..."

The ABCD toy room was rather empty. About 400 toys rested on the distribution tables. Meanwhile requests for help were pouring in at an unprecedented rate. 6,000 toys were needed for families seeking to celebrate Christmas, Kwanzaa, Channukah and Three Kings Day.

"With the pandemic still impacting the families we serve in Boston and the Mystic Valley region – with jobs lost and soaring prices – many parents had very limited resources for buying gifts for their children this year," said ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew. "We knew we had to help them put smiles on their children's faces after this difficult year, as the ABCD Toy Drive has done for more than 50 years."

ABCD immediately launched a media outreach campaign and the press responded big time! The media was wonderfully supportive. Thank you!

"We greatly appreciate all the terrific coverage and how every-

one stepped up to help get the word out," said Sharon Scott-Chandler, ABCD Executive Vice President & COO. She noted that the organization's communications team was sometimes fielding eight or ten toy drive stories a day.

The power of the press was demonstrated quickly as toys and donations poured in. On December 15, Josh Young, Director, ABCD Field Operations, announced that the goal of 6,000 toys was met!

"We are so grateful for the immediate and effective response from a warm-hearted public," said Young. "I can't tell you what a difference it makes. We also thank the many friends and supporters of ABCD who donated, including our board and staff members."

Bianny Suncar, Director, ABCD Mattapan Family Service Center and Toy Drive Coordinator, spoke from a toy room overflowing with dolls and games, sports equipment and stuffed animals. "Thank you to everyone who helped us meet our goal and serve the families

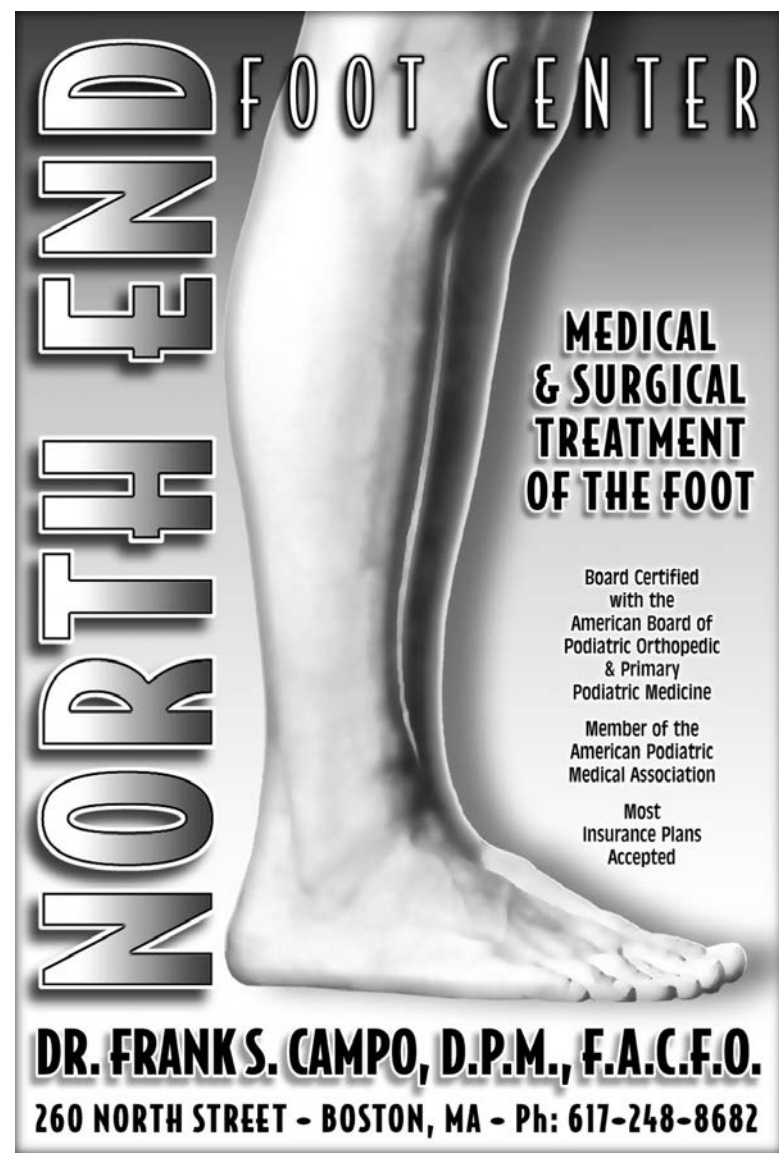
who need and deserve this help," she said.

Suncar said that toys would be distributed at ABCD neighborhood centers during the week of December 20th, filling the requests made earlier by families in those neighborhoods.

A nonprofit human services community action organization, ABCD provides low-income residents in the Boston and Mystic Valley areas with the tools, support and resources they need to transition from poverty to stability and from stability to success. Each year, we've served more than 100,000 individuals, elders and families through a broad range of innovative initiatives as well as long-established, proven programs and services. For more than 50 years, ABCD has been deeply rooted in every neighborhood and community served, empowering individuals and families and supporting them in their quest to live with dignity and achieve their highest potential. For more, please visit bostonabcd.org.

family and friends. Therefore, after careful consideration, I will not be a candidate for the District 1 City Council seat. Moreover, I look

forward to providing support and guidance to whomever is elected to succeed my friend, Senator-elect Lydia Edwards."



NORTH END FOOT CENTER

MEDICAL & SURGICAL TREATMENT OF THE FOOT

Board Certified with the American Board of Podiatric Orthopedic & Primary Podiatric Medicine

Member of the American Podiatric Medical Association

Most Insurance Plans Accepted

DR. FRANK S. CAMPO, D.P.M., F.A.C.F.O.

260 NORTH STREET - BOSTON, MA - Ph: 617-248-8682

IN BRIEF By Phil Orlandella

NSC DELIVERS

ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) distributed 113 turkeys, 260 hot meals, 162 gift cards and 165 hot meals during the Thanksgiving holiday to needy residents.

The NSC is currently looking to surpass their goal for the December holiday drive.

ONE VOTING ITEM ON NEWNC AGENDA

The only voting item on the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) December monthly meeting was a request by Going Bananas, that has petitioned the City to change the legal occupancy of the Salem Street business to "take out" (use item 36A) and for a retail liquor license.

NEWNC invited the candidates for the Democratic Party Nomination flies the First Suffolk and Middlesex District to speak at the meeting before the December 14, 2021 primary.

Executive Director Nikki Stewart of the Old North Church updated the Council on the latest news and winter hours.

NORTH END CHRISTMAS FUND HOLDS BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Filippo's Ristorante Ballroom on Causeway Street was the site of the well-attended North End Christmas Fund Luncheon to benefit North End families, individuals and seniors during the holiday season.

Funds generated from the successful luncheon provided Christmas gifts to residents that would be able to enjoy the holiday season.

The Committee is comprised of membership from local human service agencies.

NSC SEEKS HOLIDAY DONATIONS

Donations are being accepted by ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) to make December holiday special for seniors due to the cancellation of the annual Christmas parties.

NSC is collecting gift cards to Stop & Shop, Star Market, Market Basket, gloves, hats, umbrellas, adult coloring books, jigsaw puzzles, soaps, shampoo, conditioners and body wash.

For more information call 617-523-8125.

GOVERNMENT CENTER GARAGE NOISE PROBLEM

Residents have expressed that the overwhelming noise from the construction of the Government Center Garage project needs to be addressed to lessen the noise impact.

The MBTA and HYM met on December 13 to discuss construction plans to mitigate what residents claim is disturbing every morning and night.

Results of the meeting will be published in the Review when a conclusion is decided.

EAGLE BANK NSC PARTNER OF THE MONTH

Eagle Bank was announced as (Partner of the Month) for November by the North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) for its generous donation of \$3,000 which will be used for NSC's meal program and social services.

The Center has extended its heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the generous donation.

TWO LEAVE NSC

Abby Cieslewisk and Anna Gallagher have left the ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NSC).

Abby was a caseworker. She said, "it's been a truly amazing experience having been a part of this great organization and serving such a wonderful community."

Anna said, "I will miss seeing seniors in the North End and will treasure the connections I have made."

NEW HEALTH OFFERS KIDS SHOTS

North End Waterfront Health (New Health) recently offered kids vaccinations and booster shots (Dec. 14) with a Pfizer Clinic for children at the Eliot School on Charter Street.

The Health Center continues to offer regular COVID-19 vaccines and testing.

NSC HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

Many families have struggled during the pandemic and the North End/West End Neighborhood

Service Center (NSC) is attempting to meet the need for the hundreds of requests for toys this Christmas for local families.

Put a smile on a child's face this holiday season by donating a new unwrapped toy for a local child up to age 12.

Email gift@bostonabcd.org, complete the donation form@bostonabcd.org/toy drive.

For more information call 617-348-6559.

RUFF HOLIDAY STROLL

Once again, Ruff has held a North End Holiday Stroll (Dec. 17) reaching out to local shops in the community who have supported the residential organizations all year by putting together a shopping stroll with special discounts.

Stroll participants included Shake The Tree, Rinaldi Dog Boutique, LIT Boutique, Uvida, Boston Bottle, Table Mercato, V. Cirace + Son, Polka Dog Bakery, Loft and Vine, Sol Optic, Martinis and Heart and Sole.

RED SOX/NEAA CELEBRATE 20TH YEAR OF JR RBI PROGRAM

The North End Athletic Association (NEAA) hasn't even dusted the bases off and already securing its baseball program for 4+5-year-olds for the upcoming season working with the Red Sox organization securing support for the Jr RBI League Program.

The Red Sox are celebrating their 20th anniversary of the program, which the NEAA has participated in for the same number of years.

Baseball Coordinator John Romano has met with the Red Sox seeking their assistance to provide the informational/learning experience for North End kids.

"The Red Sox have always supported the Jr RBI Program by providing Red Sox hats, shirts, equipment and many opportunities for the kids to participate in many Fenway Park events including games," Romano said.

"Through the Red Sox generosity, the NEAA has been able to provide a terrific baseball educational program for the young kids of the community," he said.

"The program is well attended and plays a critical role for the participants to learn the game of baseball," he added.

The late Robert "Bobby D" DeCristoforo, a Red Sox employee from the North End, played a key role in securing this program for the neighborhood, 20 years ago.

North End, surrounding area's weekly COVID infections increase

By John Lynds

With the Omicron COVID variant now the most prevalent variant sweeping across the US—making up nearly 75 percent of all new cases—the North End and the surrounding areas's weekly COVID positive test rate rose once again ahead of the Christmas Holiday.

With COVID infections spreading like wildfire Boston Mayor Michelle Wu announced Monday a new initiative to require vaccination in certain indoor spaces in the city, including indoor dining, fitness, and entertainment establishments. The new "B Together" initiative will begin January 15 and will phase in second vaccine doses and youth vaccination requirements. Both patrons and employees of indoor venues will be required to show proof of vaccination and the indoor mask mandate remains in effect.

"Vaccines are the most powerful tool we have to fight this pandemic. Vaccination saves lives, and closing vaccination gaps is the best way to support and protect our communities, businesses, and cultural institutions during this pandemic," said Mayor Wu at a City Hall press conference Monday. "The vast majority of COVID-related hospitalizations are of unvaccinated individuals, which is impacting our entire healthcare system and compromising the health of our communities. Today's steps to protect community members in certain indoor establishments and throughout our city workforce will help ensure that everyone in Boston will be safe. City government must take down barriers and direct our resources for easy access to testing and vaccination to protect our city and all of our communities."

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 2,693 North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 6.2 percent were positive. This was a 29 percent increase from the 4.8 percent that tested positive between December 6 and December 13. The weekly positive test rate is up 100 percent in the area since December 6.

However, the citywide weekly positive test rate remained the same last week. According to the BPHC 30,754 residents were tested and 6.7 percent were COVID

positive--this was the same percentage reported by the BPHC on December 13.

In all, 167 additional residents have been infected with the virus between December 13 and December 20 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 4,846 cases overall since the pandemic began.

"COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are on the rise in Boston. The B Together initiative is just one component of a multilayered, comprehensive strategy that the city has implemented to address COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Boston residents," said Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission Dr. Bisola Ojikutu. "We must also ensure that every Bostonian has easier access to vaccines and boosters, and we will be rolling out new sites across the city."

Starting January 15, 2022, patrons of covered businesses will be required to show proof of vaccination upon entering the premises. The order states that individuals can demonstrate vaccination by showing their CDC vaccination card or a photo of their card, any official immunization record or digital image from a pharmacy or health care provider, or on any COVID-19 vaccine verification app. The city also announced plans to create its own app, modeled on the successful Key to NYC app that has supported the vaccine requirement effort in New York City.

Businesses included will also be required to post a notice at all entrances. The city will begin a weeks-long campaign to educate residents and businesses about the new policy, utilizing city outreach workers and inspectional services. Businesses found not in compliance will receive verbal and written warnings. Repeat offenders may be subject to fines.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 4 percent last week and went from 92,170 cases to 95,790 confirmed cases in a week. There were 15 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,493.

PLEASE RECYCLE

LYDIA EDWARDS STATE SENATE VICTORY PARTY

Last Tuesday, District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards won the Special Election Primary for the First Suffolk & Middlesex seat.

After her historic win supporters, friends and family gathered at Spinelli's in Day Square to celebrate her victory.



Laura Lakin and Louis Vasco.



Juan Jaramillo and City Councilor-elect Ruthzee Louijeune.



Lydia Edwards with her mom, Bridgett.



Goldie, Phil, Corina and Joe Boncore with Lydia Edwards.



Myer Segal, Lydia Edwards, Dan Ryan, Marian Callahan and Elaine Donovan.



Michael Bonnetti, former Senator Joe Boncore and Gabriela Coletta during the victory party.



Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Mayor Michelle Wu, Rep. Adrian Madaro, and Councilor Ed Flynn.

**Thank You for all of
your support
throughout this race**
Lydia Edwards
★★★★★



32BJ SEIU congratulates Edwards on historic victory in State Senate Race

The following Statement is attributable to Roxana Rivera, Executive Vice President of 32BJ SEIU:

On behalf of the airport workers, cleaners, and security officers of 32BJ SEIU throughout Massachusetts, I am overjoyed that Lydia Edwards has been elect-

ed as State Senator in the primary election. This historic win is long overdue; when she is officially sworn in after the general election in January, Senator Edwards will be the first Black woman to represent this heavily BIPOC district where over 2,000 of 32BJ workers live and thousands more work.

Lydia Edwards is a fierce advocate for social justice, and has been one of workers' strongest allies throughout her time on the Boston City Council. She has stood shoulder to shoulder with airport workers in their fight for better working conditions, a union, and raises for these

essential workers ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic, and with her help, these airport workers have won significant change. She has already made positive change as a City Councilor through her housing and transportation advocacy work, and we know she will continue to get the job done for

Boston and the entire state.

As we face another pandemic winter, inflation, and inequity, we need to keep electing change-makers like Senator Edwards into office. The members of 32BJ SEIU will enter 2022 with a more hopeful view due to Edward's victory!

Visit www.northendregionalreview.com

NEAA HOLDS LARGEST CHRISTMAS PARADE EVER

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian and courtesy of the City of Boston

By Phil Orlandella

One of the best North End Athletic Association (NEAA) annual Christmas Parade was held this season, with hundreds of residents enjoying and participating in the holiday event, that featured Santa Claus arriving by helicopter at Christopher Columbus Park.

Santa was paraded through the North End/Waterfront streets followed by cartoon characters, bands, the North End Girl Scout Troop, the Shriners and a very large crowd of local residents as Santa spread joy throughout the neighborhood.



NEMAPC'S COMMUNITY SING EVENT AT THE PRADO

Hundreds of community members gathered last Thursday for the North End's Community Sing event—an incredible, spirited evening to celebrate the holidays together.

After a Covid19-related hiatus the North End Music & Performing Arts Center's (NEMAPC) traditional Holiday concert, which includes the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah, was brought back.

NEMAPC's concert was reinvented as a family-friendly outside gathering at the Paul Revere Mall Prado. Throughout the event

performances from NEMAPC's Community Holiday Choir, Youth Vocal Ensemble, and Rock Band Ensemble were featured. Caroling lyric booklets were also provided, along with LED candles, hot chocolate, and cookies to keep carolers and audience members warm and festive.

The "Community Sing" event was made possible with the support from Mayor Michelle Wu, the City of Boston Office of Special Events, and contributions from State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Table Caffé, and Mike's Pastries.



NEMAPC's Community Holiday Choir performs.



North End residents line up for some hot chocolate, and cookies during last week's NEMAPC Community Sing event at the Prado.



NEMAPC's Youth Vocal Ensemble during the Community Sing event.



NEMAPC's Rock Band Ensemble was also featured during the festive event.



Caroling lyric booklets were provided, along with LED candles, hot chocolate, and cookies to keep carolers and audience members warm and festive.

Celebrating over 60 years serving the Boston area
Family, cosmetic & implant dentistry

Call us or visit our website for specials
Cleaning, whitening, implants, invisalign & more

BOSTON PREMIER DENTISTRY
GOVERNMENT CENTER
617-523-2459

CONSERVATIVE, GENTLE DENTAL CARE
www.bostonpremierdentistry.com Emergencies Welcome






Put yourself in the driver's seat.

The MBTA is hiring. Your next job could be the start of a lifelong career.

It seems like there's never been a better time to be looking for a better job. And what makes this even more important is that for some it won't just be a better job. It will be a job that leads to a career that ultimately leads to a better life. That's the opportunity the T is offering as we hire new operators. A regular salary with paid vacation and sick time, plus solid benefits, tuition reimbursement, and established paths for growth. Best of all, operating a bus means you'll be helping tens of thousands of people achieve what they need to do every day.

Join the T. Get started today. It's easy. Visit [MBTA.com/Apply](https://www.mbta.com/Apply)



LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT
TO G.L. C. 190B,
§5-304
Docket No.
SU21P2593GD
Suffolk Probate and
Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
In the matter of:
Alberte Mervil
Of: Boston, MA
RESPONDENT Alleged
Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and
all other interested persons,
a petition has been filed by
Mass. Department of Mental

Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Alberte Mervil is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 01/27/2022. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this

matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 17, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate

12/23/21
RR

FAMILY CHANUKAH NIGHT AT BOSTON SYNAGOGUE



In the spirit of the holiday season, these are scenes from the recent family Chanukah celebration at the Boston Synagogue in our Downtown neighborhood. Stay tuned for other family events. For more information about upcoming family events: office@bostonsynagogue.org. A wonderful spirit is alive at The Boston Synagogue! We are a warm, friendly, pluralistic small, neighborhood community in Downtown. Welcome to people of all Jewish denominations-- singles, couples, as well as interfaith couples and LGBTQ.

Leftover safety: Extending your holiday meals

Enjoying terrific food is one of the highlights of the holiday season. However, all good things must come to an end, including the holiday celebrations. But holiday meals often bring leftovers and leftovers can help stretch out your holiday cheer. According to Mystic Valley Elder Services Registered Dietician Candace Quigley, it's important to assess the safety of the foods that are leftover. "If perishable foods, such as meat, poultry, cooked foods, cheese, cut up fruits and vegetables, were out for more than two hours, they should be discarded," she says. "The last thing your winter season needs is a bellyache—or worse—caused by improperly stored leftovers. And after the holidays, you may find yourself with a particularly full refrigerator."

To keep your food tasty and free of nasty bacteria, follow these food safety tips (adapted from the Federal Food Safety Service):

Keep food out of the danger zone: Bacteria grow rapidly between the temperatures of 41°

F and 140° F. After food is safely cooked, hot food must be kept hot at 140° F or warmer to prevent bacterial growth. Make sure to refrigerate the food within 2 hours of cooking food or after it is removed from an appliance keeping it warm.

Cool food rapidly: To prevent bacterial growth, it's important to divide large amounts of hot food into shallow containers so it reaches the safe refrigerator-storage temperature of 41°F or below as fast as possible. Cut large items of food into smaller portions to cool. Cut turkey into smaller pieces and refrigerate. Store turkey and stuffing in separate containers.

Wrap leftovers well: Cover leftovers, wrap them in airtight packaging, or seal them in storage containers. These practices help keep bacteria out, retain moisture, and prevent leftovers from picking up odors from other food in the refrigerator. Immediately refrigerate or freeze the wrapped leftovers for rapid cooling.

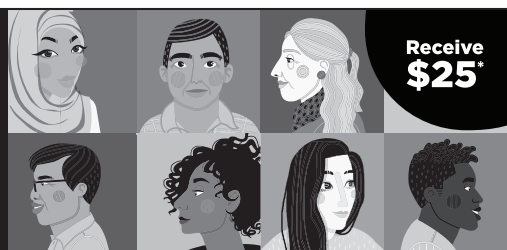
Store leftovers safely: Leftovers can be kept in the refrigerator for 3 to 4 days (gravy should be used within 1-2 days) or frozen for 3 to 4 months. Consider marking your leftovers with the date.

Reheat leftovers safely: When reheating leftovers, be sure they reach 165° F as measured with a food thermometer. Reheat gravy, sauces, and soups by bringing them to a rolling boil. When reheating in the microwave, cover and rotate the food for even heating. Arrange food items evenly in a covered microwave safe glass or ceramic dish, and add some liquid if needed. Be sure the covering is microwave safe, and vent the lid or wrap to let the steam escape. The moist heat that is created will help destroy harmful bacteria and will ensure uniform cooking.

OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper. Includes photo. No word Limit. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

All of Us
RESEARCH PROGRAM



Why have some communities not been a part of medical research?

You can help researchers develop new and better treatments that benefit all of us.

Many groups of people have been left out of research in the past. That means we know less about their health. When you join the *All of Us* Research Program, you'll help researchers learn more about what makes people sick or keeps them healthy.

JoinAllOfUs.org/NewEngland
(617) 768-8300

*All participants will receive \$25 after completion of their visit. To complete the visit, participants must create an account, give consent, agree to share their electronic health records, answer health surveys, and have their measurements taken (height, weight, blood pressure, etc.), and give blood and urine samples, if asked.

All of Us and the All of Us logo are service marks of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

All of Us
New England



To place a memoriam in the
North End
Regional Review, please call
781-485-0588

SERVICE DIRECTORY

JOHN J. RECCA
PAINTING
Interior/Exterior
Commercial/Residential
Fully Insured
Quality Work
Reasonable Rates
Free Estimates
reccapainting@hotmail.com
781-241-2454

At Boston Premier Dentistry, patients are like family

By Dan Murphy

What sets Boston Premier Dentistry, PC (formerly Ficociello and Ficociello D.D.S, PC) apart from the competition, according to Dr. Kourosh Asha, DMD, the owner of and one of the practitioners at the longstanding downtown dental office, is the warm, familial kinship they share with their patients, who are often kin themselves.

"We're a family practice in that we treat the whole family – kids, adults, and seniors – and the second part of this is that we treat our patients like family," said Rose, the office manager. Dr. Asha, affectionally known to his patients as "Dr. A" who added the feeling seems to be mutual judging from the many invitations from to weddings and other family events he and his staff have received from their patients.

The dental practice got its start in 1958, when, upon graduating from Georgetown Dental School, Dr. Ralph Ficociello began his professional practice in at 102 Prince St. in the North End, the neighborhood where he grew up. When his brother, Michael Ficociello, graduated from Georgetown Dental School in 1973, he too signed on with the practice, and they relocated their office to 1 Bullfinch Place in Government Center. Ficociello and Ficociello D.D.S.

PC continued at that location for 21 years, until Dr. Ralph Ficociello retired from the practice in 1994. Afterwards, Dr. Michael Ficociello moved to their current home at 10 Tremont St., Suite, #402.

Several years ago, when Dr. Michael Ficociello wanted to find another dentist to join the practice, he interviewed many potential candidates, looking for someone he was comfortable leaving entrusting his patient with, before he found the perfect candidate in Dr. Asha.

Dr. Asha, who earned a Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry from Tufts School of Dental Medicine, and is a member of American Dental Association, Academy of General Dentistry, and Massachusetts Dental Society, said he is "a firm believer in the concept of family dentistry with a strong focus on ethics and providing quality care for the patients and the community." With his genuinely gentle and caring manner, he focuses on building relationships with all of his patients, explaining each individual case in detail and keeping his patients well informed and comfortable during every dental procedure.

Additionally, Dr. Asha, who is certified in nitrous sedation, digital dentistry, Invisalign, and dental implants, uses the lat-

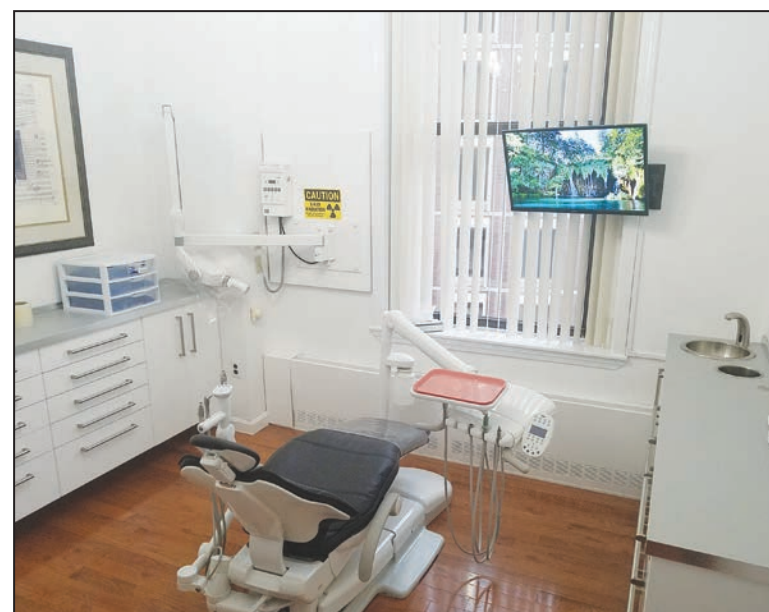
est state-of-the-art technology, as well as the most advanced dental materials available. He remains truly devoted to his profession and often attends specialized courses in surgical and cosmetic dentistry.

In September of 2018, Dr. Asha bought the practice formerly known as Ficociello and Ficociello D.D.S from Michael Ficociello and rebranded it as Boston Premier Dentistry, PC, which now boasts the latest in state-of-the-art machinery, including digital intra-oral cameras and a cone beam CT scan machine.

"Our philosophy is to offer conservative and gentle dentistry," said Dr. Asha. We're here to treat and help people." Boston Premier Dentistry also continues to welcome new patients, he added.

And above all else, Boston Premier Dentistry always focuses on its patients' oral health as an ongoing commitment, rather than simply performing dental procedures on a one-off basis. "We not only treat the teeth, but we also go step by step with the patients and try to help the patients improve their oral health," said Dr. Asha.

Boston Premier Dentistry is located at 10 Tremont St., Suite, #402. For more information, visit bostonpremierdentistry.com, call 617-523-2459, or email info@bostonpremierdentistry.com.



COURTESY OF BOSTON PREMIER DENTISTRY

A look inside the offices of Boston Premier Dentistry at 10 Tremont St., Suite, #402.

Columbus Park a great site to view fireworks display

By Phil Orlandella

One of the best places to enjoy the upcoming fireworks display, over Boston Harbor, is Christopher Columbus Park on New Year's Eve.

Many residents were pleased to learn of the return of fireworks over Boston Harbor and plan to attend., Waterfront and the City of Boston

"Working with Boston Harbor Now the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP), took

the lead role to bring back the New Year's Eve fireworks display over Boston Harbor," FOCCP President Joanne Hayes Rines said.

The nearly 40-year-old tradition returns through the generosity of local businesses, waterfront organizations and the City of Boston.

Columbus Park and other waterfront sites are expected to be crowded for the special event to start off the New Year.



Virtual Public Meeting

Government Center Urban Renewal Community Meeting

Wednesday, January 12
6:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3F6srEj
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 467 0002

Project Description:

The Boston Planning and Development Agency is inviting the surrounding neighbors of the Government Center Urban Renewal Plan Area to a community meeting to gain feedback on a request to extend the terms of the plan. Translation/Interpretation will be available upon request with 7 day advance notice.

mail to: **Christopher Breen**

Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.4202

email: chris.breen@boston.gov

FULL TIME - ASSISTANT DOCKMASTER Constitution Marina

General indoor/outdoor maintenance and office skills required. Must have Exceptional Customer Service & safety skills. Min. 2 yrs marina exp. Benefits included.

Looking to be part of an exciting fast-paced environment?

Send Resume to: Peter@Bosport.com

617-241-9640

ST. AGRIPPINA'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



The Boston Celtics Dancers helped Santa with some of the pictures.

St. Agrippina's membership held its 26th annual Christmas Program for North End children on Sunday December 12th. The program once again, was a huge success! Santa Claus arrived at St. Agrippina's Chapel via fire engine with plenty of toys for all the good boys and girls. There were many families anxiously waiting for his arrival, while holiday music played. Santa Claus took an individual picture with each child, gave him or her an age appropriate

gift, a balloon and a gift bag filled with school supplies and candy treats for many children. The Boston Celtics Dancers made a special guest appearance to help Santa Claus! A very merry good time was had by everyone that attended.

The membership would like to thank the following for their continued support of the program. The VFW Post 144 North End, Bencotto Resterant, Mikes Pastry, Umberto's Pizzeria, North

End Fire Station, Ballons Over Boston, Hill Side Press and The Boston Celtics.

The membership of St. Agrippina's Society is very proud of our annual Christmas Program for North End Children. Our membership would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. We thank everyone for their participation and we look forward to seeing everyone at our next annual feast. Viva St. Agrippina!!!!!!!!!!



Santa and the Boston Celtics Dancers greeted everyone who attended.



Many families anxiously waiting for his arrival of Santa Claus.

Happy Holidays

The Corner Café

87 Prince Street • North End
Boston • 617-523-8997

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM THE

**Nazzaro
Community Center**

MassDOT issues advisory on holiday travel

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is encouraging members of the public

to plan ahead for the holiday travel period in the coming weeks. Traffic volumes and public transporta-

tion are anticipated to be higher than normal. Drivers and public transportation ridership customers should use available real-time tools and resources for current travel conditions on major roadways such as dialing 511, visiting www.mass511.com or using the GoTime mobile app, and check MBTA

schedule information available at mbta.com/holidays and the weather forecast before leaving home.

"During this holiday season, we are reminding drivers to expect more people traveling by car, public transportation, and in airports and to plan for any trips by checking conditions ahead of time

and building in extra time," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Jamey Tesler. "Make sure to drive sober and hands free, follow speed limits, and be patient as more people return to traveling this season."

The Highway Division is taking several steps to ensure safe and efficient travel on state-owned roadways. There will be no construction work on major arterial roadways from 5:00 a.m. on Friday, December 24, 2021, through the normal start of business at 5:00 a.m. on Monday, December 27, 2021, and from 5:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 30, 2021, through 5:00 a.m. on Monday, January 3, 2022.

In addition, the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane located on I-93 between Boston and Quincy will extend its afternoon hours by opening from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 23, 2021, and on Thursday, December 30, 2021. The HOV lane will be closed on Friday, December 24, 2021, and on Friday, December 31, 2021. Also, due to increased travel in and out of Logan Airport, the Sumner Tunnel swing lane will not be deployed on Friday, December 24, 2021, and Friday, December 31, 2021.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM THE
RICCIO FAMILY
NORTH END

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

**North End Athletic
Association**

Serving the Community for 59 years

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

**North End Against Drugs
NEAD**

It's All About Family!

Happy Holidays!

DePasquale Ventures

The Tradition keeps on going

Maré

Seafood, Crudo
& Oyster bar



Bricco

Boutique Italian Cuisine
Trattoria Il Panio

Boston's 1st

Original Trattoria

Quattro

Grille, Rosticceria
& Pizzeria



Bricco Panetteria

Homemade

Artisan Breads

Sfizi

Mediterranean
Topas Bar

Bricco Salumeria

& Pasta Shoppe

Voted Best Sandwiches



Gelateria & Cannoli

Factory

Homemade Gelato

& Cannoli

www.depasqualeventures.com



FRIENDS OF THE NORTH END
50 YEARS

1972

2022



MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

HAPPY NEW YEAR



***Have a Very Merry Christmas and a
Great New Year! Celebrate Safely***

State Representative Aaron Michlewitz