



THE NORTH END

REGIONAL REVIEW

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THE WISHING TREE



Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway has a special wishing tree where visitors can place a ribbon to make a wish. the park is near historic Faneuil Hall between Faneuil Hall Marketplace and the North End and Boston Harbor in front of the Mercantile Building.

Councilor Edwards is now Senator-Elect Edwards

By John Lynds

Tuesday, voters in East Boston and the rest of the First Suffolk & Middlesex district went to the polls and elected City Councilor Lydia Edwards to serve as their next state senator. Once sworn in Edwards will become the first woman and the first person of color to represent the district.

“I am grateful to the people of Boston, Cambridge, Revere and Winthrop for sending me to Beacon Hill to fight for our communities,” said Senator-Elect Edwards. “I know how to fight for what you believe in, build a movement and win, and I am looking forward to continuing the work in the state house. When in 2014 we passed the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, we showed the world that nannies and house cleaners can write laws: they know as workers, as women, as immigrants and people of color, about the dignity they deserve and



Senator-Elect Lydia Edwards.

they know when our government needs to do more to guarantee their rights and wellbeing.”

Edwards continued, “Like so many in our communities, I know what it’s like to be unable to afford school lunch, to lose a job and panic about next month’s

(EDWARDS Pg. 11)

Area’s COVID positive test rate over 20 percent

By John Lynds

The COVID 19 virus continues to spread across the North End and the surrounding area with 2 out of every 10 residents tested for the virus last week turning out to be positive. Deaths from the virus

are also rising at an alarming rate citywide as Boston hospitals deal with the latest surge.

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 3,278 North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 22 percent were positive. This was a 46 percent increase from the 15.1 percent that tested positive between December 27 and January 3. The weekly positive test rate is up 127 percent in the area since December 27.

Seven hundred twenty-one additional residents have been infected with the virus between January 3 and January 10 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 6,419 cases overall since the pandemic began.

(COVID Pg. 3)

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 JR. DAY**
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EDITORIAL

WE MUST NEVER FORGET THE LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

As we were watching the recent coverage by the media of the events of a year ago on January 6, we were struck by the contrast between the Trump Mob's violent storming of the Capitol and the many peaceful marches on Washington that have occurred during our lifetime.

Perhaps the most-famous of the non-violent protests occurred on a steamy summer day in August, 1963, when more than 250,000 Americans from all across the country gathered at the Lincoln Memorial to demand "jobs and freedom," an event that was climaxed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s immortal "I Have a Dream" speech.

The March on Washington was famous not only for Dr. King's iconic words, but also because the unprecedented mass gathering of Americans was completely calm. Pundits and others had predicted rioting, but there were no arrests, no incidents, no violence -- a stark contrast to the events perpetrated by Trump's Mob.

The March on Washington and Dr. King's many other peaceful protests of that era galvanized support for the goals of "jobs and freedom," eventually resulting in laws such as the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act that ended segregation in the South and discrimination in the North.

Even though the best efforts of a revered figure such as Dr. King could not stem the tide of violent rioting that marked the 1960s, most notably Watts in 1965, Detroit in 1967, and Chicago in 1968, it is Dr. King's legacy of peaceful protest that endures today.

For those of us old enough to remember the 1960s, it's hard to believe that it has been almost 54 years since Dr. King was assassinated while he was standing on a balcony in a motel room in Memphis, where Dr. King was marching to show his solidarity with that city's striking trash collection workers.

Every school child for the past generation knows well the story of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. But an elementary school textbook cannot truly convey the extent to which he brought about real change in our country. To anyone under the age of 50, Dr. King is just another historical figure.

But for those of us who can recall the 1960s, a time when racial segregation was lawful throughout half of our country and a stealthy racism prevailed throughout the other half, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stands out as one of the great leaders in American history, a man whose stirring words and dedication to his cause changed forever the historical trajectory of race relations in America, a subject that some historians refer to as the Original Sin of the American experience.

However, as much as things have changed for the better since 1968 in terms of racial equality in our society, the events of the past year -- from the January 6 riot to the countless voter-restriction laws aimed at minority communities in Southern states -- also have made it clear that we still have a long way to go before it can be said, as Dr. King put it in his speech at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

"What would Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. do if he were alive today?" we often ask ourselves. We can't say for sure, but we do know that although Dr. King accomplished much in his lifetime, he would be the first to understand that the work for which he gave his life still is far from done.

Dr. King advocated for non-violent protest and he practiced what he preached. That's a lesson that must be re-learned by each succeeding generation. We can only hope that his courage and perseverance will continue to inspire present and future Americans to bring about a world in which all persons are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

GUEST OP-ED

The way to combat the horror of Jan. 6, is to abolish the filibuster

By Assistant Speaker
Katherine Clark (MA-5)

In 1787, upon exiting the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was approached by a group of people who asked him what kind of government the delegates had created. His answer: "A republic, if you can keep it."

On January 6, 2021, we almost lost it.

As I approached the Capitol one year ago today, rioters waving white supremacist flags were at the top of the Capitol steps. The smell of tear gas and an angry roar filled the air. For seven years, I had been coming to my Capitol Hill office, prepping for hearings, writing remarks, preparing for votes and meeting with constituents. But that day, my home away from home, our nation's democratic heart, was on fire.

I spent the next six hours alone in my office checking in on colleagues and staff. I was in disbelief that this was happening in our country and praying no one would be harmed.

Even now, I can't comprehend the violence, destruction, and mayhem of that afternoon.

But finally, in the late hours of January 6, with broken glass and blood on the floors, we certified the election of Joe Biden. A few weeks later, I attended President Biden's inauguration on the very platform the rioters had scaled. As I listened to the familiar question of the national anthem—"does that star-spangled banner yet wave?"—it took on a new poignancy and answer: for now.

The Capitol building has been repaired. But the threats we face are as real now as they were a year ago. Despite a seditious coup attempt meant to overthrow the election, not a single piece of federal voting protection legislation has been signed into law.

In fact, Republicans continue to lead a coordinated effort to push misinformation and erode voting rights. Encouraged by Republican party leaders and lawmakers, 68 percent of Republican voters believe the November 2020 election was fraudulent—even though there is zero evidence to support

this false claim. In 2021 alone, 33 voter suppression laws have been passed in 19 states across America, and more than 425 bills with provisions that restrict voting have been introduced.

Democracy cannot survive voter suppression laws that substitute the will of the people for the will of a few.

In response, House Democrats passed H.R. 1, the For the People Act, in March, a package of pro-democracy and anti-corruption reforms that will reduce the influence of money in politics, strengthen ethics laws, ensure accurate elections, and protect voting rights. In July, we passed H.R. 4, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, to restore key protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, modernize it, and protect voters from discrimination. And in December, we passed the Protecting Our Democracy Act to strengthen America's democratic institutions and protect them against future presidents who seek to abuse the power of their office.

But as of this writing, they are all languishing in the Senate.

The vast majority of Republicans in the House and Senate simply won't put democracy ahead of their own desperate pursuit of power. Every day, they attack our democracy by promoting the Big Lie, refusing to participate in the January 6 investigation, and supporting voter suppression laws. They have proven time and again that their political goal is under-

mining our democracy instead of standing up for its survival.

So, we must go it alone. And to do that, we must abolish the filibuster.

In the past year, it has become clear that the Senate filibuster has been weaponized against voting rights. The filibuster was designed to give the minority party in the Senate a counter to simple majority rule. In practice, a Senator could speak on the floor to stall a vote and attempt to sway their colleagues to join them in opposition by prolonging debate. In the decades since, the filibuster rule has been modified four times, changing from a rare practice that required standing on the Senate floor for hours at a time into its current form: a routine, 60-vote supermajority requirement for almost every piece of legislation.

Our country's future depends on our ability to be honest about the prospects of bipartisanship, the state of the Republican Party, and what we all witnessed on January 6. President Biden, too, has acknowledged that we can't allow the filibuster to stand in the way of passing voting rights legislation.

We must abolish the current filibuster to protect the vote and fair elections. The future of the republic depends on it.

Katherine Marlea Clark is a United States representative for Massachusetts's 5th congressional district, and as the assistant House Democratic leader.

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OPINION By PHIL ORLANDELLA

FOCCP LED THE WAY FOR GREAT FIREWORK DISPLAY

Midnight fireworks return to Boston Harbor through the efforts of the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP).

FOCCP took the lead to create New Year's Eve event for thousands of spectators that gathering at Waterfront locations to view fireworks light up in the city.

Through the work of FOCCP, Boston Harbor Now and several local businesses, waterfront organizations, the fireworks display returned to the harbor for residents and visitors to enjoy and most likely make a New Year's resolution.

FOCCP continues to provide many events and activities for the community to enjoy.

ROMANO RESIGNS CITY POSITION

John Romano, Jr., North End Liaison for Neighborhood Services has resigned to take a position with the state.

During his time with the city, John has been a responsible and

dedicated employee and a solid representative to the community.

He was well respected for his ability to be a go to person between the city and the neighborhood, resulting in a smooth and informational way of dealing with community related issues and concerns.

John will remain in the North End and has plans to continue volunteering his time with a North End Athletic Association (NEAA) and other community organizations.

JOE'S WATERFRONT SUPPORTS COMMUNITY EVENTS

Joe's Waterfront has been a major player over the years, supporting many Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) programs, activities and special events.

Along with other sponsors, FOCCP has made the park a beautiful and clean place to visit and helped create great events for local residents and visitors to enjoy.

Joe's Waterfront is a major part of the neighborhood and deserves

recognition for their dedication and constant support of the community.

BOSTON EMS PROVIDES SOLID MEDICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Boston EMS provides outstanding emergency pre-medical services on a regular basis and has received countless accolades for standing tall during the COVID-19 pandemic, and rightly so!

Under trying times, EMS have played a vital role in providing professional and much needed medical services on a day-to-day basis, and they continue to do so.

Boston EMS and its technicians are nationally recognized as the leaders in the field of prehospital emergency services. Utilizing the latest advances in Medicare and technology, EMS provide high quality services to people in need.

Well trained and committed the men and women of EMS are prepared to tackle any medical emergency they respond to.

COVID (from pg. 1)

The citywide weekly positive test rate also increased over 30 percent last week. According to the BPHC 42,254 residents were tested and 31.9 percent were COVID positive--this was a 75 percent increase from the 18.2 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on January 3. The weekly positive test rate has increased 239 percent in Boston since December 27.

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 coro-

navirus increased 23 percent last week and went from 108,336 133,501 cases to confirmed cases in a week. There were 25 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,535. Deaths were up 257 percent last week when compared to the 7 deaths that occurred in the city between December 27 and January 3.

A reminder, beginning on January 15 both patrons and employees of indoor venues in Boston—including indoor dining, fitness, and entertainment establishments—will be required to show proof of vaccination.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The North End Regional Review encourages residents to submit birth and engagement announcements, news releases, business briefs, honor rolls, social news, sports stories, and photographs for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at **385 Broadway, Citizens Bank Building, Revere, MA 02151**. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. The Independent also encourages readers to e-mail news releases to editor@reverejournal.com.

The North End Regional Review assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements, but will reprint that part of the advertisement in which the error occurs. Advertisers will please notify the management immediately of any errors that may occur.

Violent Part One Crime up 20 percent

By John Lynds

Last week the Boston Police released its end of the year crime stats that compares January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 with the same time period last year and found both Violent Part One Crime and Non-violent Part One Crime to be up in District A-1, which includes the North End, Beacon Hill and Downtown.

Part One Crimes are the more serious crimes that the Boston Police and other law enforcement agencies track and in Boston and the overall Violent Part One Crime in District A-1 was up 20 percent in 2021 when compared to the same period in 2020.

According to the statistics, there were 2 Homicides reported in A-1 through December 31, 2021. This was a 100 percent increase due to there being zero homicides in 2020.

Robbery or Attempted Robbery was up 62 percent with 119 incidents reported in 2020 and 193 reported in 2021.

Domestic Aggravated Assault was up 43 percent with 21 incidents reported in 2020 and 30 reported so far this year.

Rape and Attempted Rape was up 5.5 percent in the neighbor-

hood with 18 being reported last year and 19 reported in 2021.

However, Non-domestic Aggravated Assault dropped 6 percent with 206 incidents reported during 2020 and 194 incidents reported in 2021

Overall there were a total of 438 Violent Part One Crimes between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021. This was up 20 percent from the 364 Violent Part One Crimes reported during the same period last year.

As for Non-Violent Part One Crimes the numbers are up 10 percent in A-1. These crimes include Commercial Burglary, Residential Burglary, Larceny From Motor Vehicle, Other Larceny and Auto Theft.

According to the report Commercial Burglary was down 39 percent and went from 126 incidents reported during 2020 to 77 incidents reported in 2021.

Residential Burglary was down 17 percent and went from 46 reported incidents during 2020 to 38 incidents reported in 2021.

Larceny From Motor Vehicles, which was a huge problem last year, dropped 11 percent with 286 incidents reported in 2020 and 255 incidents reported in 2021.

However, Auto Theft was up 57 percent percent in A-1 with 74 incidents being reported during 2020 and 116 incidents reported in 2021.

The other spike in Non-Violent Part One Crimes was Other Larcenies, which rose 16 percent during 2021. Last year there were 990 incidents reported but that number has grown to 1,145 reported incidents in 2021.

Overall there were 2,069 Non-Violent Part One Crimes, up 10 percent from the 1,886 reported during 2020.

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IN BRIEF By Phil Orlandella

GREENWAY CONSERVANCY ELECTS THREE BOARD MEMBERS

Three new members of The Greenway Conservancy's volunteer Board of Directors have been elected.

Kate Fichter, Secretary and Chief of Climate at the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

Jenny Morse, Assistant General Manager at Faneuil Marketplace.

Hilina D. Ajakaive, President of the Greater Boston Convention + Visitors Bureau.

"We are thrilled to welcome them to our volunteer Board," said Doug Husid, Chair of the Greenway Conservancy.

MICHEWITZ NEWRA GUEST SPEAKER

Developing a comment letter relating to the proposed Marketplace development and discussion on 2022 legislative initiatives by Representative Aaron Michlewitz are scheduled for tonight's (Jan. 13) North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) monthly public meeting.

Rep. Michlewitz will discuss legislative initiatives and ongoing demolition and construction at Government Center Garage.

NEWRA will comment, review, discuss and vote on a comment letter to the BPDA on the proposed expansion of Marketplace Center and The Greenway by Gazil developer.

The next NEWRA monthly meeting will be held on February 10 at 7 PM Zoom.

GOVERNMENT CENTER GARAGE NOISE PROBLEM

Overwhelming noise generated by the construction of the Government Center Garage has residents seeking relief from the situation that creates early morning and nighttime disturbances.

Representatives from the MBTA and HYM have been invited to address the noise problem at the North End/Waterfront Residence' Association (NEWRA) January 13 monthly meeting.

NEWNC APPROVES TAKE-OUT AND LIQUOR LICENSE

At its December monthly meeting, the North End/Waterfront

Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) voted to support a request by Going Bananas to change the legal occupancy at the Salem Street business to add take out and for a retail liquor license, according to President Joel Faller.

The next NEWNC monthly meeting is Monday, December 10 at 7 PM (Zoom).

NSC FOOD BANK NEEDS TO BE STOCKED

ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center food storage bank needs donations to help needy community residents.

Having food available on a regular basis is important for the Center to comply with the many needs of local families, seniors and individuals that could use some assistance.

Call the Center at 617-523-8125 to find out how you can support the food bank.

MAYOR WU SIGNS CLIMATE ORDINANCE

Mayor Michele Wu has signed her first ordinance since taking office.

This ordinance officially reflects our stance on tackling climate change and divests from companies who earn significant money from the fossil fuel industry.

The legislation sends a clear message to the rest of the nation that Boston is stepping up to fight climate change.

No longer can public funds be used to invest in companies that don't meet the criteria set forth in the ordinance.

CITY OFFERS SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

Substance abuse problem assistance is available at City Hall for those who want help.

Created in 2015, the City of Boston Office of Recovery Services, is the first municipal office in the United States dedicated to substance abuse.

The goal of the office is to raise awareness in Boston that assistance will continue to provide quality service and advice to those who need and want help for recovery.

To help build key partnerships with other related agencies to reach out and extend quality services.

PROOF OF VACCINATION AT SELECTED PLACES

People in Boston entering certain indoor spaces in the city, as of January 15, will be required to show proof of Covid 19 vaccination.

Reportedly, cases have risen and Mayor Michele Wu has issued the mandate for health reasons. "This is why we announced B Together-Boston Covid 19 Vaccination Requirement for selected indoor spaces," she said.

Thus far, the mandate covers, indoor dining, bylaws, nightclubs, indoor fitness and entertainment.

People working in these places must also be vaccinated.

BPL CARDS AVAILABLE

Anyone who lives, works, goes to school in Massachusetts can obtain a Boston Public Library (BPL) card or register for a BPL Library e-card at bpl.org/ecard.

Patrons can check out physical items by placing holds on bpl.org are on the BPL to Gr. By visiting any open branch or by calling 617-536-5400.

FOCCP 20TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR WAS SPECTACULAR

It was a wonderful year for the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) as many activities and events took place during its 20th anniversary year when everything was mainly hunkered down by the Covid 19 pandemic.

Placement of the blue trellis lights welcomed many walkers.

Transforming the Trellis into the Tunnel of Love allowed families, couples and friends to stroll under the trellis enjoying the love songs that filled the air.

FOCCP hosted a variety of events including Sunday Night movies and summer and fall festivals for children.

Park Department's landscaping crew outdid themselves with the plantings on the path to Richmond Street and along Atlantic Avenue.

FOCCP's Horticulture Committee gardens were more spectacular than ever at the Rose Garden.

A 15-foot Mammoth Mongolian Giant Sunflower and other shutter ones were surrounded by multi-colored annuals and a stunning rosebush display.

The Crescent Garden along the Harborwalk was filled with a multitude of colorful perennials and stunning ornamental grasses.



North End's Michael Bonetti was named Interim Chief of Staff for Councilor/Senator-Elect Edwards District 1 Council Office. Shown is Bonetti with Edwards.

Bonetti named Interim Chief of Staff for Councilor/Senator-Elect Edwards

By John Lynds

Last week District 1 City Councilor (Senator-elect) Lydia Edwards announced that the North End's Michael Bonetti will serve as interim Chief of Staff for the office after the departure of Ricardo Patron to the Wu Administration.

Bonetti has worked for Edwards for four years and started as her North End liaison shortly after her inauguration in 2018. He later took over the management of her schedule in 2019. He has also led the office through outdoor dining in District One and has worked closely with many other departments in that process. As director of constituent services, Bonetti oversaw all constituent cases throughout the district and managed community liaisons within the office.

"As we transition and grow as a staff I can think of no one better than Michael to navigate the changes and to guide my team. I trust Bonetti to lead, it is his time," said Edwards.

Edwards said Bonetti knows the ins and outs of city govern-

ment and works regularly to advocate for the constituents of District One.

"I am excited to take on the role as Interim Chief of Staff and serve District One in the transition of Councilor Edwards from City Councilor to State Senator," said Bonetti. "It has been and continues to be an honor to serve this great district and work to better the quality of life for every resident."

Edwards will leave the City Council to become State Senator sometime at the end of the month but her District 1 office will remain open and staffed until a Special Election is held to fill her vacant District 1 seat, which includes the North End, East Boston and Charlestown.

In addition to his job on Edwards' staff, Bonetti serves as a Master of Ceremonies for his local parish of Saint Leonard's in the North End, and is a proud member of the Saint Anthony Society that hosts the annual Saint Anthony's Feast in the North End. He is a life-long resident of the

North End and currently lives there with his family.



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HOLIDAY DISTRIBUTIONS AT THE ABCD NORTH END/WEST END NSC

Buone Feste! December was a time filled with holiday distributions for the seniors and families that the ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NE/WE NSC) serves. Although sadly due to COVID-19 there were no December holiday gatherings, staff strove to create feelings of joy and delight in some surprises as the pandemic continued. Thanks to collaboration with the Greater Boston Food Bank, Lovin' Spoonfuls, and donors such as Cushman & Wakefield, the Eliot K-8 Innovation School Lower School, Strada 234, TRIA, and West End Place, the "elves" at the NE/WE NSC organized heavy bags of food, with items such as pasta, tuna, raisins, nuts, cereal, soups, self-stable milk, spices,

and so forth, for seniors in the North End and West End apartment buildings. December included deliveries of food to the Casa Maria Apartments in the North End along with the Amy Lowell Apartments and Blackstone Apartments in the West End. (The NE/WE NSC rotates food bag and individually packaged meal deliveries among all the buildings each month.) Meal donations consisted of meals provided by La Famiglia Giorgio's, the North End Rehabilitation & Health Care Center, and Robin Sidell of North Street Grille, and Regina Pizzeria.

Luigi Natale brought festive winter bags with gift cards for North End constituents on behalf of State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, who sent

his best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season. State Representative Jay Livingstone, City Councilor Lydia Edwards, and City Councilor Kenzie Bok stopped by to visit with constituents and also came bearing supermarket gift cards. The drop-in center was cozy, warm, and festive as clients came by staggered appointments to get their gifts, and the Christmas tree glittered in the corner, snowed in by cheerful presents donated by Strada 234 for local families and picked up in time for the Christmas holiday.

Happy New Year and wishing you all health, happiness, peace, and joy in 2022! The NE/WE NSC has many exciting initiatives planned for the year ahead.



A Selfie with L-R Maria Stella Gulla, Director; Johannah Malone, Fundraising Specialist; and City Councilor Lydia Edwards. (Appreciation for the Star Market Gift Cards!)



Pizza Donation from Regina Pizzeria at Blackstone Apartments in the West End.



Food Drive Organized by the Eliot K-8 Innovation School Lower School.



Warm Scarves-Thank You, Janet Forbes, for Your Talented Knitting Efforts.



Spices Made Possible by Collaboration with the Greater Boston Food Bank and West End Branch of the Boston Public Library and Generous Community Donors.



State Representative Aaron Michlewitz Brought Winter Gift Bags and Supermarket Gift Cards for North End Constituents.



Food Bag and Gift Card Distributions for North End and West End Apartment Buildings.



Smiling First Graders from the Eliot K-8 Innovation School Lower School.



Representative Jay Livingstone (3rd from left), City Councilor Kenzie Bok (5th from left), with West End Constituents and NE/WE NSC Staff. A Warm Thank You for the Supermarket Gift Cards.

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.



Jim Luisi Presenting award and gifts to Barbara Maldero, 95 who is retiring on the committee after over 35 plus years!



John Pagliuca(L) Grand Knight Ausonia Council K of C and his brother Joseph.



Michele Morgan.



Rosemarie McAuliffe.



City Councilor Lyda Edwards.



Mary Wright and her husband along with Luncheon Co-Chair Jim Luisi. Mary received an award for her years of service on the Luncheon Committee.



Sonny Mirabella and Friends.



Fr. Mike Dellapenna Blessing the Event.



North End Music and Performing Arts Center Table with Past President Diane Royale.



Ted Tomasone and Jim Luisi presenting a Community Service Award to Traci Walker-Griffith Principal of the Eliot School, who recently celebrated 15 years at the school.

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North End Supporters who attended the event.

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NORTH END CHRISTMAS FUND HOLDS BENEFIT LUNCHEON



Ted Tomasone Presented the Uncle Fred Carangelo Humanitarian Award To Anthony Buccieri for all of his years of Service and dedication to the North End. Accepting on Anthony's behalf are committee members Patricia Romano and Kathy Carangelo



Former City Councilor Sal Lamattina with Luncheon Co-Chairs Ted Tomasone and Lim Luisi.



Luncheon Committee members presenting an award to Fr. Mike Dellapenna for his service to the North End Community.



Jim Luisi Co Chair with Rep Aaron Michlewitz.



Filippo Frattaroli -With Committee Co-Chairs Ted Tomasone and Jim Luisi. Thank you to Filippo for his generosity for helping with the luncheon.



Representatives from M.O.S.E.S. presenting Annual donation to Christmas Fund Committee



North End Against Drugs Table with President John Pregmon.



North End Seniors Table with President Deb Decristoforo.

TO PLACE YOUR AD CALL 781-485-0588

NEAA SENDS 40 TO CELTICS GAME

By Phil Orlandella

Close to 40 participants and volunteers from the North End Athletic Association (NEAA) attended the Sunday, January 2 basketball game between the Celtics and the Orlando Magic at TD Garden.

The group was treated to a Celtics overtime home team victory and a 50-point game by Celtic player Jaylen Brown.

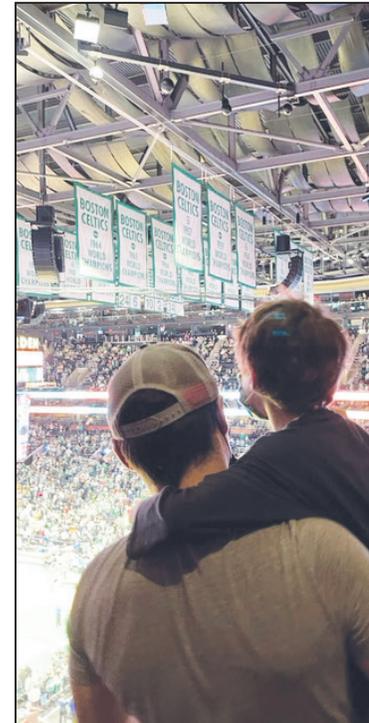
“Giving thanks to the coaches of the recently completed NEAA Fall Soccer League and the Friday Night Lights Inaugural Flag Football League, the NEAA provided tickets as part of our ongoing commitment to provide tickets to volunteers and our members who help and support the programs,” NEAA Coordinator John Romano said.



Martim Garcez.



Steve and Sage Holt.



Henry Hurley has a birds-eye view of the game.

Residents can now access clean energy and save on electric

Residents within Eversource's service territory now have the option of locally produced, clean renewable energy through the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) Program. Located 1 hour south of the city on Cape Cod, two new community solar farms, totaling 7 MW, will produce enough energy annually to power 960 homes.

Both homeowners and renters are eligible to subscribe to this project through RooflessSolar™ with no long-term commitment, upfront costs, or cancellation fees. This is a completely free program for area residents. Once subscribed, residents can expect to save up to 10% on their electric utility bills. The average customer saves \$176/year!

Community solar is the answer for those who do not wish to install solar panels on their property, rent and don't own a home, or would like the option to take their solar with them to their next home. The electricity generated by the solar farm is delivered into Eversource's power grid and then distributed to subscribers in the form of on-bill credits.

To see your estimated savings and subscribe, please visit boston.rooflessolar.com/. Space is limited, so act fast!

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

公聽會通知
波士頓重建局 (商業名稱為波士頓規劃與發展局「BPDA」) 根據波士頓分區法規 (「法規」) 第 80A-2、80B-5 和 80C-5 節, 特此通知將於 2022 年 1 月 13 日下午 6:00 舉行遠程公聽會, 以考慮由 HYM Investment Group, LLC 代表 Bulfinch Unit A Owner LLC 和 Bulfinch East Parcel Owner LLC 對於波士頓市中心政府中心車庫專案的 96 號規劃開發區提交的擬議開發計畫第一修正案, 並考慮擬議的 Bulfinch Crossing East Parcel 作為一項開發影響專案。公聽會將在波士頓城市電視台 (Xfinity 第 24 頻道、RCN 第 13 頻道和 Verizon Fios 第 962 頻道) 進行電視轉播, 並在 boston.gov 進行視訊直播。市民可在 <https://bit.ly/JanuaryBPDA> 註冊或透過電子郵件將證

詞寄至 BRABoard@boston.gov 來參與本次公聽會。透過電子郵件發送的證詞將在公聽會上宣讀。擬議專案可在以下連結查看 <http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/government-center-garage-redevelopment> Teresa Polhemus, 執行董事/秘書
波士頓重建局

962 頻道) 並在 boston.gov 現場直播, 考慮對 HYM 投資集團公司代表 Bulfinch A 單元業主公司和 Bulfinch 東地塊業主公司提交之 Government Center 停車場項目 96 號規劃開發區域開發計畫的第一次提議修正, 並考慮將 Bulfinch Crossing 東地塊項目視為開發影響項目。公眾參加這次公開聽證會將有兩種形式: 可以通過在 <https://bit.ly/JanuaryBPDA> 註冊, 或將您的證言用電子郵件發給 BRABoard@boston.gov。使用電子郵件發送的證言將在聽證會上朗讀。可通過鏈接 <http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/government-center-garage-redevelopment> 查看提議的項目。Teresa Polhemus, 執行主任/秘書
波士頓重建局

LEGAL NOTICE

公開聽證會通知
波士頓重建局現在以波士頓規劃與開發署 ("BPDA") 的名義, 依據波士頓分區法規 ("法規") 第 80A-2、80B-5 和 80C-5 節的規定, 在此通知: 將於 2022 年 1 月 13 日下午 6:00 舉行虛擬聽證會, 聽證會將在波士頓市電視台播出 (Xfinity 24 頻道、RCN 13 頻道和 Verizon Fios

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Elisabeth's experience caused her to redirect her own career aspirations. Inspired by the medical professionals who helped her reclaim her active lifestyle, she changed her major to study physical therapy—a profession where her own experience could help other patients prevail through difficult recoveries.

We tell Elisabeth Marra's story here to illustrate two of the most profound messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If reading it inspires just one more person to achieve something special, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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Councilor Edward's Chief of Staff Ricardo Patron to become Mayors Wu's Press Secretary

By John Lynds

District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edward's Chief of Staff Ricardo Patron has been appointed by Mayor Michelle Wu to serve as press secretary. Patron took over duties as Wu's press secretary on Monday.

Patron first joined Councilor Edwards' staff shortly after her inauguration in 2018 as her East Boston community liaison and took over as Director of Communications in 2020.

"Ricardo brings a proven knowledge of and passion for our City's residents and media landscape," said Mayor Wu. "I am delighted to have him lead our Press Office, and work to promote transparency and collaboration by uplifting the stories of all Boston communities across our neighborhoods in this new role."

Patron then replaced Gabriela Coletta as chief of staff after Coletta left Edward's office to work for the New England Aquarium last summer.

"Working for Lydia Edwards the last four years has been a life changing experience," said Patron.

"I can't thank her and the rest of the team enough for everything they've taught me. I've loved being a part of this team that worked so hard to represent the residents of East Boston, Charlestown, and the North End and helped bring so much change to Boston. I'm incredibly excited and humbled by this opportunity to join Mayor Michelle Wu's administration and can't wait to get started."

Edwards had nothing but praise for her chief of staff and wished him well in his new endeavor.

"Congratulations to my dear friend Ricardo Patron," said Edwards. "I am filled with joy and amazement at his growth, intelligence and immense potential. He started as a part time liaison then became Chief of Staff and now he is the voice for the Mayor of Boston. Along with being bilingual, he is loyal, an advocate, professional and kind. Naturally he is suited to be the voice of our Mayor. He knows so much about being new to our country and city and exemplifies the dreams and experience of so many immigrants. Ricardo really makes us all proud. Speak now, for the Mayor,

to all of us. We are listening and so excited that you made history. It's rare that you bond so much with staff that they become friends. It's even more rare that they are like family. Ricardo, on behalf of District 1, job well done."

In addition to his job on Edwards' staff, Patrón serves on the board of directors of the East Boston YMCA, Maverick Landing Community Services, the Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH), and the North Suffolk Mental Health Association. He lives in East Boston with his wife Kathleen and their dog Mau.

Patrón serves under Jessicah Pierre, who was appointed Chief Communications Officer for the Wu administration in December. Pierre oversees the City's press, speechwriting, digital, and photography teams.

"I am thrilled to welcome Ricardo to our team," said Pierre. "I am beyond confident that his community-building skills, lived experience, and expertise will be an invaluable asset to our mission of bringing City Hall into every neighborhood in Boston."



East Boston's Ricardo Patron has been tapped by Mayor Michelle Wu to serve as Press Secretary after serving three years in City Councilor Lydia Edward's office. Shown is Patron with Councilor Edwards.

Eliot School parents circulating petition to Mayor Wu over exam school entrance plan

By John Lynds

Parents at the North End's Eliot School are fuming over the introduction of the so-called '10-point' penalty placed on some high performing Boston Public Schools in order to level the playing field for entrance to Boston's exam school like Boston Latin, Boston Latin Academy and the O'Bryant.

The Eliot, which serves many students from the North End, Beacon Hill, Charlestown, Back Bay and East Boston, has for years enjoyed a high success rate of students getting into one of the three exam schools.

Eliot School parents are now arguing the introduction of what they are calling the '10-point penalty' will hinder their child's ability to get into the top Boston Public High Schools.

The Eliot, and five other schools have been deemed high performing schools with a lower percentage of low-income students than most other BPS schools, so a student at the Eliot getting straight As in 6th or 8th grade hoping to get into an exam school will get 100 points in the exam school admissions system. This score will be used to determine the students' eligibility for an exam school seat. The other schools are the Lyndon and Kilmer Schools in West Roxbury and the

BTU Pilot School in Roslindale.

However, at all other BPS schools straight A students will receive 110 points. Not only will Eliot School students rank below all other straight A students at other BPS schools, they will also receive fewer points than any BPS student who receives an A- average.

Kelsey Barrett, a parent at the Eliot School, began an online petition hoping to get 1,000 signatures. Once the petition receives 1,000 signatures it will be sent to Mayor Michelle Wu.

"Because of this 10 point penalty, the top achieving students at the Eliot and four other Boston Public Schools will have no access to Boston Latin School, Boston Latin Academy or the O'Bryant," said Barrett. "The original justification for these 10 points was to offset the higher performance of privileged students on the BPS entrance exam. However, no entrance exam was given last year due to the pandemic. Therefore, for this year's 6th and 8th grade students, only the GPA will be used. In the absence of an exam, adding 10 points to the GPA scores of all BPS students except those attending five BPS schools serves only to penalize these BPS students. It will unfairly limit the academic opportunities of these

students compared to students of similar socioeconomic status at the other BPS schools. I am a single mother with mixed race children in the Boston Public School system, including a 6th grade student. I am writing this petition, together with other concerned BPS parents, asking you (Mayor Wu) to act immediately to suspend the plan to apply a 10 point penalty to the 6th grade students attending five BPS schools that are being alienated by this year's BPS exam school admissions process."

Barrett argues the 10 point penalty introduces a systematic bias against the students attending the Eliot and the other four BPS schools.

"The 6th and 8th grade students at these five BPS schools are being penalized because fewer than 40% of students at these schools meet the definition of low income," she said. "Students at these five BPS schools come from a range of socioeconomic and racial backgrounds. Their access to a middle and high school education at Boston Latin School (and other exam schools) is being blocked by BPS itself, even though BPS, through its lottery system, assigned these students to these schools. This 10 point penalty sends a clear message to my daughter and all students at these

5 BPS schools that the city of Boston cares less about them than the students attending other BPS schools."

The online petition, which can be found at www.change.org/p/mayor-wu-no-10-point-penalty-for-students-at-boston-public-schools, has already gained over 600 signatures.

"I'm signing this because equity means helping the dreams of marginalized students to provide equal opportunity but it does not mean squashing the dreams of exceeding hard-working students regardless of background in the process," said Rose-Marie Gomez who signed the petition.

Chris Coche said, "I'm signing because of the lack of transparency in pushing this change in admission through and intentionally

putting barriers against students from a handful of schools-schools that due to a lottery system they had no control over where they get assigned."

Kathleen Chardavoyne, who has closely followed the School Committee proceedings on the new exam school assignment process said BPS knows that the distribution of the 10 bonus points will be unfair.

"Their own simulations show that 568 of the students receiving the 10 high-poverty bonus points are not economically disadvantaged while 131 students who are economically disadvantaged do not receive bonus points (just because they attend the Eliot or one of the other four BPS schools," she said.

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

Gabriela Coletta announces her bid for District 1 City Councilor

By John Lynds

East Boston's Gabriela 'Gigi' Coletta officially announced her candidacy for her former boss's District 1 City Council seat at the end of December. Coletta, who served as District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards's Chief of Staff for three and a half years, will join a growing field of candidates for the district council seat that includes her home neighborhood of Charlestown as well as the North End and East Boston. Edwards recently won the state primary for the First Suffolk & Middlesex senate seat and will soon head from City Hall to Beacon Hill. A special election for Edward's vacant seat will most likely take place in the spring.

Coletta, who left Edward's office over the summer to become the External Relations Manager at the New England Aquarium, has been leading efforts to ensure the downtown waterfront remains resilient, inclusive, and accessible for all Bostonians by expanding access to the Aquarium and its home on Central Wharf for BIPOC and non-English speaking individuals and families.

"District One faces unique challenges and this moment requires an experienced leader to tackle our most urgent issues," said Coletta Monday. "We are dealing with a housing affordability and displace-



Gabriela Coletta officially announced her candidacy for District 1 City Council.

ment crisis, inequities in our public education system, and a significant threat to our waterfront communities due to sea-level rise and climate change."

Coletta said she is running because she will be a "bold" and "effective" advocate the district deserves.

"I will fight for the community's best interest and protect the vitality of our neighborhoods from day one," she said. "I will hit the ground running to best represent a broad coalition of residents and utilize my experience to push for bold policy solutions while prioritizing constituent services to improve the quality of life for all residents."

Coletta said she intends to utilize her lived experience as a public

servant, lifelong East Bostonian, and renter as anchors for her campaign.

"Over the last decade, I've seen my neighborhood become developed with units that many individuals in this district can't afford. As a renter in this community, I was rent-burdened up until last year when I moved into an apartment with my partner, Sebastian," said Coletta. "The real estate market is increasingly out of reach for many who would like to plant their roots and grow in this district and is displacing many of our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet. Homeownership feels so far away to me and so many people in all three communities and across Boston. Whether your family has lived here for four generations like mine, or you just arrived four days ago, you should have access to affordable options for both homeownership and rental opportunities."

Coletta said she intends to also focus on her campaign on creating and maintaining equitable access to an excellent education for all children across the district, prioritizing excellent city services by reforming Boston's 311 for better transparency and accountability, and pushing the City of Boston

for greater investments in coastline resiliency to protect the district from the dangers of flooding due to climate change.

Ahead of her announcement Coletta has been garnering broad support from voters in the North End, Charlestown, and Eastie.

"Gabriela has been an effective advocate on issues related to Boston's waterfront both in City

Hall and at the New England Aquarium," said North End Waterfront resident Cheryl Delgreco.

"She understands the urgent need for Boston to develop a comprehensive plan to invest

resources into coastline resiliency to protect us from sea-level rise due to climate change."

Coletta comes from a well known family of activists, volunteers and community leaders. Coletta's father, Ed, was the editor of the former East Boston Sun Transcript in the 1990s before heading to work at the Mass. Department of Environment Protection. For years Ed has been involved in the East Boston Kiwanis Club where he touched the lives of countless families through volunteerism and community service.

Coletta's mother, Nina, is the director of East Boston High School's Family Outreach Center where she's worked as an advocate for parents and students for a long time.

Coletta said she grew up attending civic association meetings, neighborhood events, and even multiple protests against airport runway expansion with her mom back in the early 2000s.

This upbringing helped shape Coletta's decision to dedicate her entire life working in service to others and giving back to what she calls, "a beautiful and diverse neighborhood that has given her so much",

Prior to becoming Edward's Chief of Staff, Coletta led Edward's successful and historic campaign in 2017 as campaign manager. As Campaign Manager Coletta activated and mobilized a grassroots campaign consisting of a broad coalition of residents, unions, volunteers, and advocacy groups numbering over 500 people - all of whom felt disenfranchised by the political establishment. In the end Coletta's work helped elect Edwards as the first African-American woman to represent District 1.

After the election Coletta was appointed by Edwards as her Chief

of Staff. There she centered and amplified the lived experiences of those systemically overlooked in every policy discussion, constituent case, and civic engagement initiative. She spent the entirety of her tenure in the neighborhoods of Eastie, the North End and Charlestown, understanding constituents' concerns to build bridges between differing populations.

"This enabled me to help ensure resources were available and policies were appropriately crafted to solve some of the hardest, long-term problems residents faced," said Coletta. "I'd like to think I exemplified collaborative leadership when tackling some of our district's biggest challenges like housing affordability and development, inequities in our public education system, and the impacts of climate change on our coastlines."

Prior to Edward's 2017 victory, Coletta was Rep. Adrian Madaro's Community Liaison where she sat shoulder-to-shoulder with community members for years listening and learning about their priorities. She served as Madaro field director during his successful and contentious 2015 special election campaign.

Coletta was elected as the Democratic State Committeewoman for the 1st Suffolk and Middlesex district in 2016 and to the Ward 1 Democratic Committee in 2020.

She was also the Associate Director of the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus (MWPC), where she furthered MWPC's mission to recruit, elect, and train women to run for office across Massachusetts while creating strategies to elect endorsed candidates for its Political Action Committee. She has become a frequent guest trainer for Emerge Massachusetts, where she advises women seeking to run for office or manage campaigns for female candidates.

Coletta said she is a "proud" product of five Boston Public Schools and graduated from Boston Latin Academy. She received a degree in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts at Boston as well as a minor in Human Rights.

She currently lives in East Boston with her partner, Sebastian Zapata, and in her spare time loves to cook dishes that honor her Italian and Mexican heritage.

For more information on her campaign visit Facebook at @GigiforDistrictOne, and Twitter @Gigi4District1.

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SENIOR CHRISTMAS LUNCH



On December 16, the North End seniors were gifted with a luncheon from Massimino's on Endicott St. in the North End. Owner Paul D'Amore generously donated salad, pasta and meatballs for the holiday celebration. Our seniors are so very lucky to have business owners like Paul who continuously give back to the neighborhood. We are extremely grateful for his generosity.

EDWARDS (from pg. 1)

rent, to live each day breathing in air pollution and to worry about tomorrow as the sea levels continue to rise. Together, with our pain and purpose, we will fight for laws and the social conditions that protect people, communities and our planet. I am excited for the journey ahead."

The election took place across the district during Tuesday's frigid state general election and included Wards and Precincts in the North End, Eastie, Beacon Hill, Bay Village, Chinatown, the South End, Revere, Winthrop and Cambridgeport. With no Republican challenger on the ballot Edwards's win was all but guaranteed Tuesday.

Edwards beat Revere School Committee member Anthony D'Ambrosio during the December 14 state Democratic Primary to fill the seat left vacant in the fall by Joe Boncore.

Edwards won every Precinct in the North End and beat D'Ambrosio nearly 80 to 20 in the rest of Boston's Wards and Precincts. While D'Ambrosio won his hometown of Revere handily Edwards was able to pull out

a victory in the hotly contested Town of Winthrop—winning all but one Precinct in the town.

Edwards is a career advocate, activist, and voice on behalf of society's most vulnerable. She was raised all over the world by her military mom but chose to make Eastie her home.

Prior to her public service, Edwards worked extensively in the legal field and on workers rights. She worked as a public interest attorney with Greater Boston Legal Services focusing on labor issues such as fighting for access to unemployment insurance, back wages, fair treatment for domestic workers, and combating human trafficking. At GBLS, she proudly became a member of UAW 2320. She coordinated a statewide campaign to pass the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights in 2014 - and won.

She was subsequently appointed the founding Deputy Director of the Boston Office of Housing Stability and worked to prevent evictions and foreclosures in Boston, to strengthen local and state laws and to resolve landlord-tenant disputes.

In 2017, she won election to the Boston City Council. As a councilor, she wrote and advanced legislation to protect low-income renters and elder homeowners, combat discrimination, divest from fossil fuels, and protect civil liberties. She also partnered with state leaders to introduce legislation and passed a new state law prohibiting the naming of minors in eviction proceedings.

In addition to legislation, Edwards spearheaded a ballot initiative to reform the 1909 Boston Charter by enabling a more open and participatory budgetary process—an initiative which passed with over 68 percent of voters casting a ballot in support.

Edwards was raised by her mother, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. Lydia graduated from American University Washington College of Law and received a LL.M. in taxation from Boston University School of Law. She lives in Eastie and loves to run along the waterfront, practice martial arts, and sometimes, she even skydives.

OBITUARY

Joyce Anne (Lenkiewicz) Dabene Of South Weymouth

It is with our deepest sadness that we announce Joyce Anne (Lenkiewicz) Dabene, 66, of South Weymouth, MA, gained her angel wings on January 5, 2022, hand in hand with her two loving children after a tough battle with Covid-19. Her passing was unexpected but we will cherish in our hearts the fond memories that we all have shared with my mother, Joyce. The impact that she made on our lives throughout her time on this earth will forever live on in each one of us.

Joyce was born to the late Florence (Covino) and Edward J. Lenkiewicz on September 9, 1955 in Chelsea, MA. Joyce is a devoted and loving mother to Nicole Ashley Dabene and Paul Dabene, Jr., both of Boston. She was married to her husband, Paul Dabene, of Weymouth, for 35 years and is survived by her sister, Paula Lenkiewicz, of Chelsea, and her brother, Edward Lenkiewicz, of Everett.

Joyce graduated from Chelsea High School in 1973 and began working at the Federal Reserve Bank. Following that, Joyce worked for the Department of Social Services in Boston where she met her husband, Paul, who was installing phones in the office. After getting married, the two lived in the North End of Boston for a few years before relocating to Weymouth, MA, to raise their two children. Once her first child arrived, Joyce went on to perform her one true calling of being a devout and dedicated stay at home mom. There was truly no one more suited for this job and no one more passionate. She lived for her kids; all the dreams that she held in her heart for them will forever live on in their spirits.

Joyce was the most selfless person; she always put everyone else's needs and wants ahead of her own. Everything she did was for everyone else and her hands worked without fail, day and night. Whether she was sewing a pillowcase, making a bow for a gift, or serving up breakfast, lunch, dinner, or dessert for her kids, she truly never stopped. The meals and treats she made were always gourmet, yet effortless, for her.



I have yet to figure out how she could whip up something amazing out of barely nothing. And while her Italian cuisine can't be outshined, Tuesdays will never be the same without her tacos. Above all that, she lived for her kid's happiness and success. She dedicated herself to giving her kids the best life she possibly could, and it was perfect. Mom was and always will be our biggest cheerleader; she never once missed any event or adventure that we wanted to take, and always had flowers and a smile on her face as she watched us grow into the people that we are today. I can't think of one soccer game, let alone practice, that she didn't attend. Mom put forth her best self in everything she did and she wouldn't stop until she knew that what she was giving was truly perfect.

Joyce will forever be remembered for her heart; not only did it put forth so much love, it was so perfect that up until the last second of her life, her heartbeat was unflawed. You truly only had to meet my mom for two minutes to know how much love she had to give and how kind and caring of a woman she was. The memories, life lessons, and the ways in which she touched each and every one of us will allow for my mom to live on in our hearts and spirits. To have known my mom is to have loved my mom.

Always and Forever.

Arrangements for Joyce Anne Dabene will be posted in the coming days.

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

Mayor Wu swears in City Council, noting the diversity of the governing body

By John Lynds

On Monday, Jan. 3, in one of the shortest and perhaps the coldest Boston City Council inaugurations in recent history, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu swore in returning and new members of the Council outside City Hall.

Due to the rising number of COVID cases the event was moved outdoors for safety reasons and with a brisk chill in the air the entire inauguration was over in less than a half hour.

After swearing in the 12 members of the Council, Mayor Wu addressed the body and noted the historic significance of the day.

"This year marks 200 years since the Town of Boston officially became the City of Boston and created its very first city council 200 years ago," Mayor Wu began.

"Those first 55 city councilors looked different from the body that we have just inaugurated today. One hundred years after the city council was created there still were no women and no people of color serving in the City of Boston. So as we mark this new year, it's truly not just about the passage of time, but the progress that the city has seen, and that we will continue to rush into in this time of great consequence. I'm so excited to join my colleagues and celebrate our five new city councilors."

At-large Councilors include sitting Councilors Michael Flaherty and Julia Mejia, along with new Councilors Ruthzee Louijeune and Erin Murphy. Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, and 9 will be represented by sitting Councilors Lydia Edwards, Ed Flynn, Frank Baker,



Mayor Michelle Wu administers the oath of office to the Boston City Council. At-large Councilors include sitting Councilors Michael Flaherty and Julia Mejia, along with new Councilors Ruthzee Louijeune and Erin Murphy. Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, and 9 will be represented by sitting Councilors Lydia Edwards, Ed Flynn, Frank Baker, Ricardo Arroyo, Kenzie Bok, and Liz Breadon, respectively. Brian Worrell is a new Councilor who will represent District 4, Kendra Hicks is a new Councilor who will represent District 6, and Tania Fernandes Anderson is a new Councilor who will represent District 7.

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Ricardo Arroyo, Kenzie Bok, and Liz Breadon, respectively. Brian Worrell is a new Councilor who will represent District 4, Kendra Hicks is a new Councilor who will represent District 6, and Tania Fernandes Anderson is a new Councilor who will represent District 7.

Wu said the incoming Councilors sworn in during Monday's historic ceremony represent many key milestones.

"Tania Fernandes Anderson is the first African and first Muslim City Councilor who brings experience and service and creativity that shines through with every action and statement she makes," said Wu. "Kendra Hicks is the first woman of color to represent District 6 and she is an activist, organizer, artist and inspiration and I'm so excited to work alongside her. Ruthzee Louijeune is the first Haitian-American City Councilor and someone whose love of Boston has been clear from the very earliest days growing up in the city, who gave tours celebrating the beauty of Boston and has now brought her experience in law to serve her community. Erin Murphy, a BPS teacher, single

mother, and advocate for those struggling with addiction and substance abuse is already starting to fight for you and Brian Worrell, a small business owner and the first Black man to serve on the Council since 2017 who is already a great partner."

Wu added that she knows the deep responsibility that constituents placed upon her and the Council and knows first hand the power of the Boston City Council to make sure the city is moving forward on the issues.

"So as our new colleagues join alongside our returning colleagues, those who have been proud and honored to serve alongside for many, many years, I know the progress that we will continue to see in the city," she said. "At this moment our constituents and our community expect us to move with urgency to open doors for everyone and to deliver results. We're ready to partner in every way."

Wu then addressed the surging Omnicron variant of the COVID-19 virus that is spreading like wildfire across the city with nearly 2 out of every 10 people tested last week in the city were found to be

positive.

"We are all here at an inauguration that looks very different from the one we expected even a couple of weeks ago," said Wu. "Sitting here outside in the cold we must let this be a reminder of what so many in our city have to live with every single day. Our residents who have been standing outside in the cold for hours waiting for a test to make sure they can keep their family safe. We must do better. Our residents who are living unhoused in tents at Mass and Cass and across the city, we're taking action and we must do better. And for so many residents who have been outside in the cold because of systems that have not seen and valued every single one of our community members we are going to do better and I look forward to the collaboration with the City Council to make that happen. With this new year, let us find warmth in each other even as we face stiff headwinds. We will make progress and make sure that we are always holding the light of our Boston residents in front of us and build that community that we need and we deserve in 2022."

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