



THE NORTH END

REGIONAL REVIEW

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Sports betting begins at Encore Boston Harbor

By Cary Shuman

Encore Boston Harbor President Jenny Holaday said it all about the opening of the Wynn-BET Sportsbook Tuesday at the five-star resort/casino in Everett.

“It’s sports betting in the nation’s best sports town,” remarked Holaday. “Everyone is thrilled and excited it’s here.”

Holaday was joined by Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria, Speaker of the House Ron Mariano, State Reps. Joseph McGonagle and Dan Ryan and an array of professional athletes at the grand opening of the new sportsbook which is another step in Encore bringing a spectacular Las Vegas-style experience to Everett.

“This has been long overdue,” said DeMaria, who led the way for the Encore resort/casino to be built in the city. “People have been able to go to other states to wager on sports. We made the same argument when we were bringing the casino to Everett – why not keep



Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Speaker of the House Ron Mariano, and Rep. Jerald Parisella are pictured at the grand opening of the WynnBET Sportsbook at Encore Boston Harbor.

the money here in the community? This sportsbook is a very nice facility.”

DeMaria said he had the opportunity to chat with Johnny Damon, one of the sports celebrities in attendance at Tuesday’s event. “I thanked him for breaking the Curse of the Bambino,” remarked DeMaria.

An historic day for Massachusetts

Boston sports fans, who have enjoyed several championships by the New England Patriots, Boston Red Sox, Boston Celtics, and Boston Bruins in this century, can now legally wager on professional and college sports at Encore – and they’re excited about the opportunity.

(ENCORE Pg. 3)

Wu submits home rule petition to end urban renewal

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu on Monday submitted to the City Council a proposed Home Rule Petition to end Urban Renewal in Boston. If approved by the City Council, the Home Rule Petition would be sent to the State House for approval by the Massachusetts legislature. The proposed legislation would create new tools to meet future needs such as climate change resilience infrastructure, and retain the Boston Planning & Development Agency’s (BPDA) ability to enforce restrictions that protect community assets, such as affordable housing and open space. The proposal will also update the statutory mission of the BPDA by establishing a new charter for advancing resili-

ence, affordability, and equity. Mayor Wu today also submitted an order to the City Council requesting a two-year extension of remaining Urban Renewal plans to allow time for legislative approval of the Home Rule Petition.

Urban Renewal

The proposed Act would end the ability to make land takings based on blighted, decadent, or substandard conditions in the City. It also entitles the agency to enforce any conditions and restrictions in existing plans that protect important community benefits such as affordable housing, open space, and community uses.

New Charter

The legislation directs the BPDA

to prepare and implement plans that address three key planning principles: 1) resiliency, including climate change mitigation and adaptation; 2) affordability, including the creation and retention of affordable housing and support for local businesses; and 3) equity, in the form of community development plans that ensure the equitable distribution of benefits derived from development in the City, and redress historical inequitable policies that may have led to inequities in the City’s growth. The legislation would require that all plans be approved by the mayor.

Modernizing the BPDA

Since 2016, the Boston Plan-

(RENEWAL Pg. 3)

Wu sets ambitious agenda in State of the City Address

By Stephen Quigley

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu delivered her State of the City Address at the MGM Music Hall next door to Fenway Park last week in which the mayor noted the achievements that have been accomplished over the past year and outlined a vision for making Boston a greener and more affordable city in which to live and work by 2030.

“The state of the city is strong,” said Wu adding, “We have the resources, the resolve, and responsibility to make it even stronger.”

Wu praised city employees for making “every accomplishment and constituent service delivered, every detail of the agenda we’re sharing here tonight — this is only possible because of you.”

“Our cabinet is two-thirds people of color,” Wu noted. She singled out Boston natives Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox; Trinh Nguyen, the Chief of Worker Empowerment; and Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Development, for their commitment to Boston’s residents. “Three bus lines are entirely fare



MAYOR’S OFFICE PHOTO BY ISABEL LEON

Mayor Michelle Wu delivers remarks during the 2023 State of the City address at the MGM Music Hall.

See page 10 for Mayor Wu’s complete speech.

free,” said Wu, “and now we are accelerating over two dozen, new, dedicated bus lanes, expanding our bike network, and organizing even more neighborhood Open Streets events.”

The mayor highlighted that

(WU Pg. 2)

Wu leads annual homelessness census

Special to the Regional Review

With record setting cold weather approaching this weekend, Mayor Michelle Wu on Tuesday night led a group of volunteers, including U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development officials, City officials, State officials, homelessness services providers, and public health and first responders, in conducting the City of Boston’s 43rd annual homelessness census. The street count is part of the City’s comprehensive yearly census of unsheltered adults, youth, and families in emergency shelters, transitional housing, domestic violence programs, as well as individuals living outside. The census helps inform the City of Boston’s policy development and allocation of resources for households experiencing homelessness.

“Boston’s annual homelessness census is an opportunity to assess the need for housing across our neighborhoods and move us closer to ensuring that every resident has a safe, healthy, affordable place to call home,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “Last night’s Census is critical to ensuring that the City moves with urgency and care as we work to improve the lives of our residents and build a Boston for everyone. I am grateful for our state and federal partners and our volunteers across the city for working with us to safely undertake this year’s count and who made this year’s census possible. With this important data, we’ll continue taking action to tackle our housing crisis across city departments and ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and

(CENSUS Pg. 12)

Catholic Schools Week Special Pages
See Pages 6 - 8

NEAA Baseball registration underway

By Phil Orlandella

North End Atlantic Association (NEAA) Baseball Commissioner Ralph Martignetti said, "Baseball season is right around the corner and we are looking forward to another fun-filled program for youth 4-18 years of age."

He said, "We can't wait to enjoy the warm weather, children smiling, laughing and running around our beautiful fields."

The Instructional/T-Ball League for 4+5-year-olds will take place on Sunday mornings from 10 AM to 11:30 AM.

"This could change based on how many children that register," Martignetti said. "If we get to many, I will put the four-year-olds 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM and the five-year-olds 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM."

The Minor League (6-8) coach pitched to start and eventually player pitched, if possible, will be held Monday through Friday starting at 5:30 PM on the turf field at Puopolo Park.

"Because of the continued growth of this group, the NEAA has decided to add Fridays to the schedule," the Commissioner noted.

"Richie Perry will be the Minor League Commissioner this season," he said. "It is the first time the minors have their own Commissioner as the league keeps growing."

"Richie has been with the NEAA baseball program for a long time and he represents everything we want in a commissioner. Please support him throughout the season," Martignetti said.

The Major League (9-12) will play Monday through Friday starting at 6 PM on the grass field at Langone Park.

"In addition to playing NEAA teams, the NEAA has already scheduled games against the Hillhouse League. Home games at Langone Park, away games at the Boston Common," Martignetti advised.

John Pregmon will once again be the Commissioner of the Major League. "John does a great job and as always support of parents is critical for the league to be successful," Martignetti said.

Two teams will be playing in the Lou Tompkins All-Star Baseball League consisting of over 60 teams mostly from the Boston area and surrounding areas.

The Dodgers (13-15) will once again be coached by Kevin "Sully"

O'Sullivan. "Sully has coached this team for the NEAA for the last few years and does a great job."

This is a traveling team that plays half its games at Puopolo Park and the other half at various baseball parks throughout the city.

"This is a trial team and players must attend coach Sully's tryouts and display the attitude and skills to make the team," Martignetti pointed out. "The roster is limited to 20 players."

"The league is competitive baseball, designed for players who are trying to get ready to play for the high school teams in the fall," he added.

Dom DiCenso will coach the 16-18 Dodgers in the Lou Tompkins League. "Dom has been with the NEAA for 50 years as a player, coach and most recently an umpire," Martignetti said.

"He's done a great job mentoring and teaching young man baseball," he added.

Like the young Dodgers team, this is also a traveling All-Star team and players must try out. Players must attend coach Dom's tryout to be selected to play on the team. The roster is limited to 20 players. The league offers players a chance to get ready for high school baseball.

In order to be considered for this year's program players must visit the NEAA website: neabaseball.org and register.

The fee is \$55 and covers uniforms, baseballs, hats and equipment. Registration closes February 24 and payment is due by March 1 in order to schedule a spot in the program.

Registration fee can be paid by venmo@NEAA Boston or mailed to NEAA c/o John Romano, 30 N. Bennet Street, Boston, MA 02113.

The NEAA will never keep a player from participating due to the inability to pay for registration. If the fee is a barrier contact John Romano at 617-750-9749. All information is confidential.

Baseball ages 4-12 start April 22 and ends June 30. The NEAA typically places All-Star teams in the Mayor's Cup and the City of Boston City League offering an opportunity to continue to play into August.

Ages 13-15 Dodgers opening Day is June 21 with Championship Sunday on August 13.

Ages 16-18 Dodgers is June 21 with Championship Sunday, August 13.

The NEAA is seeking qualified coaches. Anyone interested should text Martignetti at 857-366-1213.

All coaches are CORI checked.

WU (from pg. 1)

public safety will be important, noting that 900 guns were taken off the streets and that violent and property crime are at the lowest levels in 15 years.

Bringing welcome news to many neighborhood residents who have bitterly complained about the indifference of the Boston Planning and Redevelopment Agency, Wu called for "charting a new course for growth, with people as our compass. Tomorrow, I'll sign an executive order establishing a Planning Advisory Council to fully integrate long-range planning, and begin modernizing our zoning code."

Wu noted that she aims to "sustainably" increase the population of Boston from its current number of 675,000 to 800,000.

Affordable housing also figured in her goals. Wu said that more than 3,800 housing units were permitted, including 1,300 affordable units.

Wu said "every square foot of city-owned property" has been analyzed "and we have identified several parcels that could be used for affordable housing units."

If "local builders work with us to design high-quality, affordable homes that enhance the surrounding neighborhood, we will give you the land for free. And we will provide increased mortgage assistance so our residents can afford to buy these homes," said the mayor.

Wu set a goal of 2030 to have the city's public housing developments become fossil fuel-free.

"Our neighborhoods must be climate resilient and commu-

nity-focused. This year we will launch a civic space master plan," said the mayor.

Wu also offered some examples "of the things we're doing right now to strengthen our schools, support our teachers, and do right by our students."

She pointed out the brand new Boston Arts Academy in the Fenway, and the resurrection of the decade-old plan for the Josiah Quincy Upper School in Chinatown to become the city's next state-of-the-art high school.

"This project was kicked off in 2012: three mayors and six superintendents ago. Students in the first grade when this project started will have graduated from high school by the time it is finished," said Wu.

She pointed out the early college and innovation pathways at five high schools and the partnership with UMass Boston that will provide real-life work experiences and offer college-level courses in finance, healthcare, and biotech.

Wu closed her speech saying, "Boston is a city that will never stop reaching — up toward the progress we know to be possible, and out to the community whose work makes it lasting."

District 1 City Councillor Gabriela "Gig" Coletta enthusiastically applauded Wu's vision.

"Boston has accomplished so much in the last year and I cannot wait to see all we accomplish in this year," said Coletta. "I look forward to working with Mayor Wu on housing, climate resiliency, and mobility."

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North End Local Business Series

The Friends of the North End Library invite you to a discussion with local business owner, **Tommy MacDonald.**



Tommy MacDonald has been building for over twenty years. A graduate of the North Bennet Street School, his work has been featured with much acclaim in museums, magazines, newspapers, and on television.

In 2020, Tommy's woodworking business relocated to Boston's Historic North End. There he builds custom fine furniture pieces and produces video content for Wicked Smaht Woodworking, his latest venture.

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
North End Branch Library - 25 Parmenter Street

The program is brought to you by the Friends of the North End Library

ENCORE (from pg. 1)

nity.
Mike Capone of Malden was one of the first patrons to wager after Holaday personally led the countdown to the 10 a.m. launch of the betting kiosks inside the casino.

“I bet a couple of Super Bowl props and parlays tonight for hockey, college basketball,” said Capone. “It’s fantastic to be a part of history. Encore did a great job with this. It’s really a good time.”

Artie Ells, a Chelsea resident, wanted to be a part of an historic day for Massachusetts.

“This is just another great day for the area,” said Ells. “This resort is a beautiful place. It still amazes me that it’s here. Everything here is first-class.”

Sports broadcaster Sean McDonough served as the master of ceremonies for the event. “It’s great to see so many people here as we commemorate the first sports bets in Massachusetts,” said McDonough.

Holiday told the large gathering, “I want to thank you, ladies and gentlemen, fans, for coming out to celebrate this historic moment with us. This has been a wonderful team effort, and we’re really excited to bring legal sports betting to the Commonwealth.”

Wynn Vice President of Trading Alan Berg expects the WynnBET Sportsbook to be a very successful operation. There are WynnBET

Sportsbooks in ten states.
“I think it’s going to be phenomenal,” predicted Berg. “Boston is one of the biggest sports cities in the world as far as I’m concerned. So, the pent-up demand – I think we’ve been hearing about for so long – and the excitement have reached a big pitch at this point. We’re trying to give Boston the best product possible, and I think we’re ready to do that.”

State, local officials excited about launch of sports betting

Rep. Joe McGonagle of Everett attended the grand opening ceremonies for the WynnBET Sportsbook.

“I’m excited to see the launch of legalized sports betting in Massachusetts,” said McGonagle, who supported the legislation. “Sports betting in Massachusetts will be creating more jobs, and we’re hoping they will be jobs for Everett residents.”

Rep. Dan Ryan of Charlestown supported the effort to bring legalized sports betting to Massachusetts.

“Sports betting is here. The Legislature, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, and the state’s constitutional officers have weighed this possibility with great diligence to ensure that the jobs, revenue, and entertainment created by this venture will have a positive impact on our local cities and

towns,” said Ryan.
State Rep. Jessica Giannino of Revere was also a supporter of the legislation to allow legalized sports betting in Massachusetts.

“Massachusetts residents are passionate about their sports. This legislation will allow fans to bet on their favorite teams but do so in a regulated manner that promotes responsible gaming, while bringing in millions of dollars of revenue that has previously been going to our neighboring states or to illegal operations,” said Rep. Giannino. “I was proud to serve on the Economic Development Committee under the leadership of Chairman Jerry Parisella and work on this important legislation. I am thankful for the work of Speaker Mariano and his tireless effort in getting this bill across the finish line.”

Rep. Jeff Turco of Winthrop voted in favor of the legalized sports betting bill in Massachusetts. “To be blunt, I’m sort of gaming skeptic, but the simple reality of gaming in Massachusetts is it’s here. We have the most successful lottery in the country. Our gaming industry is doing very well. It’s simply doesn’t make any sense to have all the gaming we do and exclude one of the more profitable elements, not just for the casinos, but also for the Commonwealth. The decision on gaming was made decades ago, and this is just a natural expansion of it, and I support-

ed it, and proudly so.”
Rep. Adrian Madaro of East Boston said he voted in favor of the legalized sports betting bill.

“Legalized sports betting means fans can enjoy games in a whole new way,” wagering responsibly while creating jobs and raising revenue for important state services,” said Madaro. “I was please to vote in favor of this bill. I look forward to seeing the economic growth that comes from this new industry in Massachusetts.”

Lynn City Councilor Brian LaPierre said, “This is awesome. Today is an historic day for Massachusetts. Sports wagering has been a long time coming for our state. It’s going to bring in millions of dollars in new state revenues that can go to our schools, our roads, and housing concerns throughout the Commonwealth. This is a great, one-stop shopping experience for anyone who likes to dabble a little bit on sports betting. You can bet all the games and come and have a great time at the beautiful Encore resort.”



Encore Boston Harbor President Jenny Holaday is pictured adjacent to the WynnBET Sportsbook area inside Encore Boston Harbor, commemorating the first day of legalized sports betting in Massachusetts.

RENEWAL (from pg. 1)

ning & Development Agency (BPDA) has been the operating name of two legal entities: the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) and the Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) of Boston. This legislation will simplify Boston’s quasi-governmental entity by abolishing the BRA and EDIC and transferring the powers and duties of those entities into a new, singular entity named the BPDA. As Mayor Wu announced in her 2023 State of the City address, the quasi-governmental entity, which will be named the the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) legally upon passage of this legislation, is envisioned to be staffed by City employees who work for a City Planning & Design Department and report to the Chief of Planning. The migration of current BPDA staff to this new City department will take place over the next 1 to 2 years.

Temporary Urban Renewal Extension

The Order submitted today, which requires approval of the

City Council, the BPDA Board, and the Commonwealth’s Department of Housing and Community Development, extends protections on 12 existing Urban Renewal plan areas beyond the current sunset date of March 31, 2023. The extension will guard land use protections currently in place and give time for the Home Rule Petition to pass. Once passed, the temporary extensions will remain in place through March 31, 2025, or until passage of the proposed Home Rule Petition.

Executive Order on New Direction for Planning and Development

In her 2023 State of the City last week, Mayor Wu announced a new direction for planning and development that ensures resilience, affordability and equity goals guide the City’s growth. Today, Mayor Wu also issued an Executive Order to ensure that direction. The Executive Order directs the BPDA to invest in reforming Boston’s zoning code and to prioritize community engagement in that planning

work. It also directs the Chief of Planning to create a coastal resilience delivery team responsible for preparing Boston for sea level rise and directs the BPDA to use its portfolio of property to advance the City of Boston’s priorities. The Executive Order also instructs the BPDA to use its existing powers to act in accordance with the Home Rule Petition filed.

Ward 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta said, “ I applaud the move by Mayor Wu to embed climate resiliency, affordability, and equity within the planning process in the City of Boston. East Boston, Charlestown, and the North End are uniquely vulnerable to sea level rise due to climate change. The creation of the Coastal Resilience Delivery team is much welcomed after months of advocacy from my office for more resources and coordination. I look forward to working with the team to realize and deliver climate resiliency for District One and the entire City of Boston.”

150TH CELEBRATION EVENT

Donatus Buongiorno Murals in St. Leonard's Church, Sacred Heart, and other Boston Churches

Please join us as we learn about this immigrant painter’s artwork in our Parish.

Presented by Janice Carapellucci
Genealogist, Historian, Descendant

Wednesday, February 8 at 7pm via Zoom*

*We may live stream the presentation in the Parish Hall if there is enough interest, please rsvp.

Please rsvp to celebrating150years@stleonard.org to:

- register
- obtain the Zoom link
- rsvp for the live streaming.

Our speaker: **Janice Carapellucci**, great-grandniece of artist

Artist tribute website: donatusbuongiorno.com
Genealogy website: feetonthegroundnyc.com
Email: janice@feetonthegroundnyc.com

Born Solofra, Avellino, Campania, Italy: 1865
Graduated from Accademia Di Belle Arte, Naples, Italy: 1886.
Artist in New York City: 1889-1920s
Died, Italy: 1935

320 Hanover Street, Boston, MA 02113

Building the Future Honoring the Past
Saint Leonard of Port Maurice Church
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St. Leonard of Port Maurice Church
150th Anniversary
1873-2023

EDITORIAL

GET READY FOR THE COLD!

We may have just finished what reportedly ranks as the fifth-warmest January on record, but by the end of this week, we'll be experiencing our coldest weather in seven years when an Arctic blast dips into the United States and delivers temperatures that will start to plummet during the day on Friday and extend through Sunday morning.

The weatherman is telling us that the temp will be at six below zero in the Boston area when we wake up Saturday morning and will reach no higher than 15 throughout the entire day.

In addition, the Arctic blast will be riding a northwest wind of 20-30 miles per hour, bringing the dreaded wind chill factor into the range of 20 or lower.

For those of us who live along the coastline, we will be treated to the eerie spectre of "sea smoke," the water vapor that forms when really cold air moves over the relatively warmer water (which presently is at a temperature of about 40 degrees in Boston Harbor).

Fortunately, this cold snap will be gone in a snap -- less than 48 hours -- with the temperatures getting back to more-seasonable levels by Sunday when the wind direction shifts from the northwest to the southwest.

Needless to say, outdoor activity of just about any kind will be impossible during the day on Saturday. While that may be a minor inconvenience for most of us, for those who are homeless, the extreme cold will be deadly, particularly for the recently-homeless who have not experienced weather this cold.

We trust that local officials and charitable organizations will do their best to get the homeless off the streets and into warming shelters during this life-threatening period.

As for the rest of us (who can turn our TV onto some golf tournament in California or Hawaii for a vicarious experience), we should make sure that all windows and storm windows are shut tight throughout our homes to ensure that cold air does not infiltrate, with the potential to cause freezing pipes. It also is smart to make sure that our thermostats are kept high enough to ensure that outside walls that have water or heating lines (and that may not be fully-insulated) are kept warm enough to prevent freeze-ups. We realize that this will increase our heating bills -- but that will be far cheaper than repairing the damage from a frozen pipe that bursts.

Ol' Man Winter has been kind to us up to now -- but this weekend he'll be letting us know that we should not take him for granted.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL IS A PUBLIC GOOD

We were pleased to see that Chelsea's newly-elected State Representative, Judith Garcia, announced last week that she has co-sponsored an Act to Advance Health Equity, a bill that aims to close the gap in health-care by prioritizing equity in state government, regulating data reporting on health equity, and improving access to and the quality of health-care for historically-disadvantaged communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought into stark contrast the disparity in outcomes between those in our society who have good health care options vs. those who do not. The COVID-19 death rates in poorer communities far exceeded those in wealthier communities (which is typical for just about every disease and illness known to man).

Based on a data analysis of more than 3,000 counties across the US, Americans in poorer counties died at almost twice the rate of those in wealthier counties at the start of the pandemic. That dichotomy became even more pronounced in the later waves of the pandemic, when death rates in economically-disadvantaged counties were three and four times the rates of more-affluent counties.

But those of us who are fortunate enough to have access to health-care should not be deluded into thinking that this is "someone else's" problem. The COVID-19 pandemic proved conclusively that what happens anywhere can have serious implications everywhere.

Communicable diseases are "communicable" because they spread and, as we learned from COVID-19, viruses do not discriminate between rich and poor. Persons in wealthier communities overall may have had better outcomes because of better access to health-care, but when viruses spread rapidly through communities without good health-care options, it is inevitable that all of us are affected (and infected).

The simple point we're trying to make is that in our interconnected world in which we rely on each other for everything, it is to the advantage of everyone to make sure that every member of our society has access to quality health-care.

This is both a moral imperative and a common-sense goal that benefits every member of society.

We applaud Rep. Garcia for sponsoring this bill and we urge the legislature to pass it forthwith.

Dr. Glenn Mollette

An Old Testament story records an overwhelming infestation of frogs throughout Egypt. There was no place in Egypt where frogs were not present in large numbers. The plague was sent in response to Pharaoh's attitude toward the Israelite people who lived in slavery under his rule. When God ended the plague there were piles of dead frogs all over Egypt. In the streets, bedrooms, bathrooms, closets, storage facilities, and places we can only imagine. It became a very stinky situation as they raked up the dead frogs and piled them up all over Egypt.

The Classified Document saga seems to be growing in similar fashion to the dead frogs of Egypt. They appear to be everywhere and they stink. The odor has to be particularly bad for Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden as well as Vice President Mike Pence.

First came the big raid of Trump's home in Florida. Late at night, FBI agents went through his home and personal items and carried out boxes of documents. Next, we hear that Biden has had classified documents in his home for years. They seem to be scattered everywhere throughout his house. Then, Mike Pence in Indiana has more classified docu-

GUEST OP-ED

Classified document stink piles

ments. What are these men doing with these documents? They are scattered out like the dead frogs of Egypt.

Again, what are these individuals doing with classified documents? I used to keep a big box of comic books when I was a kid. I would read a comic and then put it in the box. Sometimes I would read them again. I definitely knew that I had them. Why would past administrations hold on to classified documents? How did they get to the locations where they were found?

The National Archives has asked all the former Presidents to check for classified documents. Jimmy Carter? Where would he have them? In his family Bible? Mixed in with old Sunday school lessons that he has taught at the local Baptist Church? I don't think so but you never know who might have picked them up, packed them in a box, and placed them on a shelf in his garage. What about George W. Bush? Could documents be under the seat of his old truck? Bill Clinton has emphatically stated he does not have any classified documents but he has made emphatic statements before. These former Presidents have said they do not have such documents.

Did Trump carry these documents out of the White House

when he and his family climbed aboard the Presidential helicopter? I've never seen Trump or Biden carry anything. Which aid picked up some boxes and tossed them into the moving van? Where is White House security when it comes to classified documents?

Only time will tell and we may never know for sure about the plethora of classified documents. We hope they aren't reading some of them in China or Russia. Who can say for sure where they are not being read? We do not know for sure whether or not someone else has them. Could another family member have a box or two somewhere? How much money would China, Russia or others pay for classified documents?

Democrats and Republicans will point fingers and scream about all this in the next election. Both sides will try to make the other side look worse but it appears there is plenty of stink everywhere.

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.

LETTER to the Editor

IN APPRECIATION

To the Editor:

The residents of Casa Maria wish to express our gratitude

to: State Rep Aaron Michlewitz, State Senator Lydia Edwards, City Councilor Gabriella Coletta for the generous donation of new chairs for our Community room.

They are a much-appreciated improvement to our space.

Casa Maria Residents
President, Michael Anzilotti

Mammograms Save Lives.

All women over 40 should have a mammogram once a year. Breast cancer found early offers the best chance to be cured. Free or low cost mammograms are available.

For more information and answers to any of your cancer questions, contact us any time, day or night.

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REGIONAL REVIEW

- FOUNDED IN 1967 -

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INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP, LLC

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

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STATE FUNDS SECURED FOR NEW COMMUNITY CENTER

Terrific news was recently announced by Rep Aaron Michlewitz and Mayor Michelle Wu relating to the development of a new community center adjacent to the Mirabella Pool on Commercial Street.

State funding to the tune of \$25 million has been secured by Rep Michlewitz to build the needed new center, once completed, will replace the long-standing Nazzaro Community Center which will probably be sold by the city for some other use.

Construction is expected to start in the spring of 2023. Once completed, the neighborhood will have a state-of-the-art facility to

enjoy for many years to come.

Some of the state funding will be used to upgrade the Nazzaro Community Center to continue programs and improve the structure of the facility (\$5 million) until the new center is completed.

Both Mayor Wu and Rep Michlewitz are being praised for providing a much-needed community center in the neighborhood.

NFPA urges added caution when using home heating equipment

The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) is urging the public to use added caution when heating their homes during the winter months, when nearly half (46 percent) of all U.S. home heating equipment fires occur. Home heating equipment is the second-leading cause of U.S. home fires and home fire injuries, and the third-leading cause of home fire deaths and direct property damage.

According to the latest Home Heating Fires report from NFPA, an average of 44,210 home heating fires occurred each year between 2016 and 2020, resulting in an estimated 480 civilian deaths, 1,370 civilian injuries, and \$1 billion in direct property damage.

“During the coldest months of the year, home heating equipment kicks into high gear, so making sure it is in good working order and used properly is critical to reducing the likelihood of fire,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. “By better understanding when and where home heating fires happen, people can take the steps to minimize associated risks and safely heat their homes.”

Home fires caused by heating equipment were less likely to occur in the overnight hours from midnight to 6 a.m. (13 percent), but they accounted for more than two out of five fatalities (43 percent), as well as disproportionate shares of injuries (22 percent) and direct property damage (20 percent).

Space heaters are most often responsible for home heating equipment fires, accounting for one-third of the fires, as well as the vast majority of associated deaths (88 percent) and injuries (80 percent).

NFPA offers these tips and guidelines for safely heating your home during the winter months:

Heating equipment and chimneys should be cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.

Keep anything that can burn at least three feet (one meter) away from all heating equipment, including furnaces, fireplaces, wood stoves, and space heaters.

Always use the right kind of fuel, as specified by the manufacturer, for fuel-burning space heaters.

Create a three-foot (one meter) “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.

Make sure space heaters are in good working order and used in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

Fireplaces should have a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container, which should be placed outside at least 10 feet away from your home.

All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.

Make sure smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are located throughout the home; test them monthly to ensure that they’re working properly.

NFPA offers a wealth of home heating safety tips, information, and resources to help better educate the public about ways to safely heat their homes. In addition, NFPA’s “Put a Freeze on Winter Fires” campaign with the U.S. Fire Administration works to promote a host of winter safety issues, including home heating.

For this release and other announcements about NFPA initiatives, research, and resources, please visit the NFPA press room.

About the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®)

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is

a global, self-funded, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit www.nfpa.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at www.nfpa.org/freeaccess.

North End business series features Tom MacDonald

By Phil Orlandella

Friends of the North End Library Local Business Series Presents: “Tommy Mac Wicked Smaht Woodworking” located at 46A Cross Street in the North End.

Tommy MacDonald is the former host of the public television series *Rough Cut* and a graduate of North Bennet Street School.

MacDonald’s work has been featured with much acclaim in museums, magazines, newspapers and television.

At his business location Tommy builds custom fine furniture pieces and produces video content, his

latest venture.

During his Wednesday night, February 15, 6 PM presentation he will discuss the process of creating furniture and other projects and answer questions concerning operating a personal business in the North End.

Representatives from the Boston Kirstein Business Library, a branch of the Boston Public Library, will be in attendance to answer general business questions.

Any North End business owners that would like to introduce their business to neighbors should contact: Info@FriendsNELibrary.org.



Tommy MacDonald in his workshop.

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Catholic Schools Week 2023

January 29–February 4

www.NCEA.org/csw

#CSW23

Catholic Schools offer students more than just an education

Staff report

For parents seeking a well-rounded education that emphasizes good citizenship and a devotion to God, in addition to a regular academic curriculum, there are a number of Catholic School options for students in the Greater Boston area.

Good Shepherd School is an independent, nonprofit Catholic preschool for children ages 2 to 5 years old located at 20 Winthrop St. in Charlestown. The school, which was formed through the leadership of Father James Ronan Ph.D., Pastor of St. Mary-St Catherine of Siena parish in Charlestown and a board

of parents, citizens, and friends, opened in October of 2009.

“Good Shepherd School prepares its students for a life of joy by growing in the love of Jesus,” according to the school’s mission statement on its website. “We seek to integrate this belief into all aspects of our educational programs.”

Good Shephard School has a range of half day, “lunch brunch,” full day, and extended day options for Toddlers, Young Preschool, and Preschool. Financial aid is available via the FACTS system.

Visit gscharlestown.org or call 617-242-8800 for more information.



Students are all smiles during an outing at St. John's School in the North End.

Immaculate Conception Parish School, located at 127 Winthrop St. in Revere, is a co-ed Catholic elementary school for pre-school through eighth grade, which has been extolling the virtues of “tradition pride, and excellence” to its students since opening in 1913. The school currently serves more than 300 students in Grades 3-8 from Revere and surrounding communities.

“The mission of Immaculate Conception Parish School is to prepare a culturally diverse student community to become responsible, well-rounded, faith-filled citizens by focusing on Catholic values and high academic standards,” according to the school’s website. “Our school celebrates its faith by practicing the ideals of peace, justice, and service to others, thereby wit-

nessing to Christ's teachings.”

Total tuition and fees for Preschool (3-year-olds) and Pre-K (4-year-olds) is \$7,315; total tuition and fees for Kindergarten is \$6,315; and total tuition and fees for Grades 1-8 are \$6,015 for one child, \$11,330 for two children, and \$16,645 for three children. Families who can provide

(EDUCATION Pg. 8)

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH SCHOOL

A Preschool to Grade 8 Catholic School in Revere

New student registration for 2023-2024 begins on February 6th



Tradition | Pride | Excellence



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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.ICREVERE.ORG OR CALL 617-933-9230



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Contact Rebecca Griffin, bgriffin@sjsne.com to set up a tour

PreK3-8th Grade

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Catholic Schools Week 2023

January 29–February 4



www.NCEA.org/csw

#CSW23

Wonderful to be together again at St. John School!

By Rebecca Griffin

Nestled in the heart of Boston’s historic North End, St. John School has educated children since 1895. Welcoming students in PreKindergarten Three through Grade Eight from over thirty five zip codes, we instill Catholic values while focusing on Faith and academic excellence.

In September 2020 during the pandemic, St. John School remained open. Every child continued to learn either in-person or through remote learning. We were able to remain open without closure throughout the past two years, while also continuing to focus on students’ academic and spiritual growth because of the exceptional hard work of our entire community. Through diligent planning and execution, we kept our school healthy, safe, and open. To be able to remain open, our ages did not mix, our families did not come into the building, and we did not gather as a community.

This past Christmas Season,



Photo by George Martell

Student hard at work at our in house Hydroponic Tower Garden.

it was such a joy to bring everyone back together again as our greater St. John School Community. It was wonderful to celebrate through several school wide events:

Our Advent Angel initiative matched older students with younger students to spend time together, share snack times, and to create a multi-week nativity craft. Our very own art teacher, the amazing Mr. Barber drew our nativity scene that St. John School students added to each week of Advent. At the conclu-

sion of this initiative, our older Advent Angels accompanied our younger Advent Angels, and sat together at our whole school Christmas Mass at our beautiful Parish Church, St. Leonard’s Church. (St. Leonard’s Church is celebrating 150 years this year, www.saintleonardchurch-boston.org/150thcelebration). It was wonderful to see friendships develop and flourish across grade levels through this initiative.

(St. JOHN Pg. 8)



Advent Angels from grades Kindergarten and Sixth Grade working together on their Nativity Scene crafts.



Good Shepherd School

Located in Charlestown, the Good Shepherd School follows a school year schedule and serves children 20 months - 4 years. We prepare our students for a life of joy by growing in the love of Jesus.

Applications for the 23-24 School Year are available online: gsscharlestown.org

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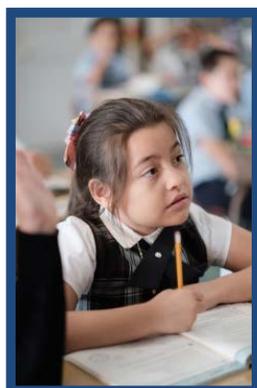


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Discover our:

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- Safe Environment
- Academic Excellence
- Vibrant Community
- Financial Accessibility

Visit us at ebccs.org



ST. JOHN (from pg. 7)

It is wonderful to be together again at St. John School!

Rebecca Griffin is Director of Advancement and Enrollment (bgriffin@sjsne.com or 617-

227-3143) at St. John School in Boston, Massachusetts, a PreKindergarten Three through Grade Eight school serving 200 students from over 35 zip codes.



First, Seventh and Eighth graders from St. John School at Quincy Market. They are pictured on their walk to St. Anthony's Franciscan Food Center to deliver fresh produce food donations and Christmas Cards that the students made.

LUNCH AND DINNER

"Antonio's is a treasure for anyone who happens upon it."

—Boston Globe

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EDUCATION (from pg. 6)

the necessary factual documentation are eligible for financial aid.

An Open House takes place on Wednesday, Feb. 1, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., and on Thursday, Feb. 2, from 10 to 11 a.m., at the school.

For more information on Immaculate Conception Parish School, call (617) 933-9230, email dtracy@icrevere.org, or visit ICREvere.org.

St Pius V School is a coed Catholic elementary school for pre-K through Grade 8 located at 28 Bowler St. in Lynn. The Sisters of Saint Joseph founded St. Pius V School in cooperation with the Parish of St. Pius VI in 1945. The school was initially based at a former public school building on Maple Street and served only two grades before relocating to its current Bowker Street home in 1959 and expanded to serve pre-K to Grade 8.

"Education at St. Pius V School is a 'Lived Experience' and focuses on developing the whole child according to the gospel of Jesus Christ," according to the school's mission statement on its website. "The school provides a unique, comprehensive, quality education with particular emphasis on Catholic values, fundamental skills, critical thinking, technology, and the fine arts."

St Pius V School has financial aid available via the FACTS system, but there is a \$25 non-refundable processing fee for each

application.

An Open House will take place on Sunday, Jan. 29, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the school.

For more information, visit stpiusvschool.org, email info@stpiusvschool.org, or call 781-593-8292.

East Boston Central Catholic School is a faith-based school serving Pre-K through Grade 8 located at 69 London St. in East Boston. The school was established in September of 1974 as a multi-parish, collaborative elementary school serving Our Lady of the Assumption, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Most Holy Redeemer and Sacred Heart Parishes.

"East Boston Central Catholic School is committed to strong basic skills development within a solid Christian Framework," according to the school's mission statement. "The curriculum at all times is geared to foster the growth of individual self-worth; to develop a love and commitment to our faith; to encourage knowledge and pride in one's heritage; to develop an appreciation and respect for cultural diversities; and to develop a commitment of service to others."

Full-rate tuition for 2023-2024 is \$6,200 for one child; \$9,900 for two children (\$2,500 savings); \$11,600 for three children (\$7,000 savings); and \$12,600 for four children (\$12,200 savings). Discounted tuition rates and financial aid are also avail-

able.

Visit ebccs.org, call 617-567-7456, or email dgotierrez@ebccs.org for more information.

St. John's Prep, an inclusive Catholic school for young men in Grades 6 through 12 located at 72 Spring St. in Danvers, was founded by the Xavierian brothers in 1907.

"Our rigorous academic and extensive co-curricular program encourages students to develop their spiritual, intellectual, moral, physical, and creative potential, and inspires them to honor the diversity that enriches both our school community and the world beyond St. John's," according to the school's website. "We challenge our young men to grow in faith and wisdom, to promote human dignity, to act with compassion and integrity, to pursue justice and peace, and to live lives of service to society."

The 2022-2023 tuition for Grades 6, 7, and 8 is \$27,885, and the tuition for Grades 9 through 12 is \$29,150. Around 36 percent of students received needs-based tuition assistance, while St. John's meets 99 percent of families demonstrated need using the services of Blackbaud Financial Aid Management to process and determine need for all tuition assistance applications.

Visit stjohsprep.org or call 978-774-1050 for more information on St. John's Prep.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION STUDENTS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Some students from the Immaculate Conception Eighth-Grade class, Mrs. Tracy, and parent chaperons joined together with many others from the Archdiocese of Boston, traveling to the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. previously. The trip included attending a Christian rock concert called "LifeFest," followed by adoration, Mass, and the March itself. It was a memorable experience for all. Students accompanying the Archdiocese this year will be leaving on Jan. 28 to participate in the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

IN BRIEF By Phil Orlandella

LUISI RECEIVES AWARD

Former Executive Director of the North End/Waterfront Health Center Jim Luisi was the recipient of the Fred Carangelo Humanitarian Award.

Ted Tomasone, Chairman of the North End Christmas Fund Luncheon presented the award to Luisi.

MORAN RECEIVES NEW HEALTH AWARD

Michelle Moran was honored by NEW Health with an Appreciation award at the North End Christmas Fund Luncheon.

Center Executive Director Vincent Scibelli presented the award to Rosemary McAuliffe in Morgan's absence.

FOCCP MEMBERSHIP

The new calendar year signals a new membership drive for the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP).

This is the 22nd year as an all-volunteer non-profit organiza-

tion. FOCCP's mission and focus has not wavered maintaining the vibrancy and safety of the park. The group provides many programs, activities and events at the park.

FOCCP PLANNING LONG-RANGE SCHEDULE

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) has a full year of events planned for the neighborhood.

Featured at the park is the Tunnel of Love through the month of February, and Independence Day celebration, Sunday Night Movies, a Fall Festival, a Halloween event and much more.

NEW HEALTH VACCINATIONS

A vaccination clinic was held at NEW Health in the North End. All vaccines were available to accommodate every patient's needs.

NEW Health provided breakfast, hot coffee and hot chocolate to patients that got vaccinated.

NEHC MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY

The North End Historical Society (NEHC) that has documented North End in many shapes and forms is seeking donations to keep the Society's research and information flowing.

Donations are \$20 for one person and \$30 per family. For more info email North End Historical Society @ gmail.com. Tax deductible.

THE GREAT MOLASSES FLOOD

January 15 marked the anniversary of the Great Molasses Flood which killed twenty-one people, dozens of horses, destroyed property and damages the steel girders of the elevated railway that had trains running on it down Commercial Street, pushing everything in its Brown path also injuring over 100 people.

The actual words and description of this catastrophe as witnessed by actionable North Enders in Anthony Riccio's book stories:

Streets and Saints.

For more details or to purchase the book email: northendhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

OUTDOOR DINING DECISION

The Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion (OEOI) will make the final decision to change the outdoor dining policy for the City of Boston to include the word streets before and if outdoor dining can take place in the North End or other parks of Boston.

NEAA BASEBALL REGISTRATION

The North End Athletic Association (NEAA) 2023 baseball registration is underway offering programs for players 4-18. Age is determined by how old the player is on April 30, 2023. All baseball age 4-12 programs will be co-ed.

Registration fee \$55 can be paid by venmo@NEAABoston or a check made out to the NEAA and mailed to NEAA, c/o John

Romano, 30 N. Bennet Street, Boston, MA 02113.

ESPLANADE FITNESS CLASS

Through March 5, the no member Project 261 Fearless Club New England and Lynx New England will hold around one class per week at the Esplanade with some of Boston's most popular fitness instructors.

This is the fifth free season of the Frost Winter Series presented by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts.

For more details and dates visit www.FrostFitLaunch2023.eventbrite.com.

VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY FEBRUARY 14

Many North End/West End residents will enjoy Chinese food and festive desserts at the upcoming Valentine's Day Party at the ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) on Michelangelo Street. RSVPs are encouraged.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300

CITATION ON PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Docket No. SU22C0573CA

In the matter of: Alice Liao-Gold A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Alice Liao-Gold of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Alice Liao Gold IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at:Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/01/2023.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: January 27, 2023 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

2/2/23 RR

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. SU23P0076GD Suffolk Probate and Family Court

24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 In the matter of: Claudio Fontoura Of: Boston, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Claudio Fontoura is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve 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 03/16/2023. 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: January 26, 2023 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

2/2/23 RR

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Division 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU23P0120EA Estate of: Marcelle Monica Willock Also known as: Marcelle M. Willock Date of Death:

10/12/2022 To all interest persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will has been filed by Elindio R. Ortega Martinez of Boston, MA and Yvette A. Willock of Inglewood, CA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Elindio R. Ortega Martinez of Boston, MA and Yvette A. Willock of Inglewood, CA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/8/2023. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this

proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: January 25, 2023 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

2/2/23 RR

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.

Mayor Wu's State of the City Address

Mayor Wu delivered her first State of the City Address on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at MGM Music Hall. The following is her speech:

Good evening, Boston! Tonight we're at the beautiful new MGM Music Hall, and I want to thank the Red Sox and Fenway Music Company for hosting us, and for your commitment to our city.

I'm grateful to be joined by partners in public service: Council President Flynn and Boston City Councilors, Chair Robinson and the Boston School Committee, Mayor Janey, Ambassador Flynn and Mrs. Flynn, Governor Healey, Senate President Spilka, Attorney General Campbell, Treasurer Goldberg, State Representatives and Senators, US Attorney Rollins, county officials. Thank you so much for being with us. And to our interpreters, thank you for helping us reach all of our residents this evening, in seven languages.

A year ago this week, I was bundled up for my first snowstorm as mayor, riding shotgun with our Superintendent of Streets, Mike Brohel, as he drove the dark, icy roads before dawn, and worked with his team to salt, scrape, and win back the pavement from the snow. By the time we got to City Hall, Al Vilar was already hunkered down in the Traffic Management Center, lunch packed for a long storm, monitoring eight gigantic screens for anyone who might need help on the roads. As the rest of our city slept, Boston's 311 and 911 call-takers answered phones throughout the night, to send services where needed, while emergency management crews, EMS, police, and fire stood ready.

Our city is carried by so many people whose faces most of us never see. Who aren't on the news, or on stage accepting awards, but after a full day of serving our constituents, still find time to coach softball at Charlestown High Field or pack meals for new immigrant families in Mattapan Square.

That's why, on your way in tonight, you saw the beautiful portraits of just a few of these civic heroes. To all our City Workers: Every accomplishment and constituent service delivered, every detail of the agenda we're sharing here tonight—is only possible because of you. I'm so proud to work alongside you.

It's been three years since we've been able to celebrate—and reflect on—the State of our City in person. And we've all felt the collective toll of these years and the continued impact on our hearts and minds, on local businesses and



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY ISABEL LEON

Mayor Michelle Wu delivers remarks during the 2023 State of the City address at the MGM Music Hall.

household budgets.

Boston has always been resilient.

But when resilience goes from a strength that we call on, to a constant state of being, it's time to stop hardening ourselves against the world, and start changing the world we live in.

Real change comes from community, so I knew my first and most important job as mayor was to build the team Boston deserves. That team is here tonight. Our Cabinet is two-thirds people of color! We're BPS parents, and graduates. We speak Spanish and Arabic, Vietnamese, Haitian Creole, and more. We speak honestly about Boston's past, present, and future, because we've lived the challenges and shared the dreams of the families we now get to serve.

The young man who started as a lifeguard in our community centers, now oversees them as our Chief of Human Services: José Massó.

The school lunch lady's daughter, who found her calling as a teacher, then launched a nationally recognized high school in Dorchester, is now our Boston Public Schools Superintendent: Mary Skipper.

The boy from Roxbury who wanted to serve and protect, who—against all odds, and over nearly three decades—rose through every level of leadership at the Boston Police Department, is now our Boston Police Commissioner: Michael Cox.

The girl who watched her refugee parents wash dishes at restaurants so their kids could lead a better life—now leads our efforts to ensure that all workers, no matter where they were born or what language they speak, have health,

safety, and dignity on the job, as our new Chief of Worker Empowerment: Trinh Nguyen.

The toddler who took his very first steps in City Hall daycare, grew up to hold city leaders accountable for vast racial disparities in city contracting as President and CEO of the Black Economic Council of MA, and is now our Chief of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion: Segun Idowu.

Just like our communities, this team refuses to accept that things must be how they've always been. We're taking on the hard, complicated issues our residents face, no matter how deeply entrenched or politically fraught.

When we took office with winter looming, and hundreds living in unsafe, unsanitary encampments—we didn't look away: We built a new model for housing and services so tents could come down and people could heal. And through the Newmarket BID's Back to Work program, folks who were once living at Mass & Cass are now part of the team working to keep the area clean and safe for everyone. Some of those leaders are here tonight. Mike, and Mike, Tim, Carlos, and Melissa: we are honored to be doing this important work together.

When Omicron spiked and pushed our hospitals to the brink, we didn't turn away: taking decisive action for public health, because, no matter the backlash, Boston will never compromise on protecting our people. And I want to thank everyone at the Boston Public Health Commission, Executive Director Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, and all of our public health and healthcare workers.

When we learned the MBTA would finally make major repairs

to the Orange line—but with just two weeks' notice—we didn't back away: every City department stepped in to keep Boston moving and proved that a more connected, coordinated system is possible. Tonight, I'm renewing my call for the people of Boston to have a seat on the MBTA Board.

Under extraordinary circumstances, our team has refused to settle. Over the last year:

We made three bus lines entirely fare-free. Now, we're accelerating over two dozen miles of new dedicated bus lanes, expanding our bike network, and organizing even more neighborhood Open Streets events.

We worked alongside residents in Egleston Square and business partners to secure a Community Peace Garden on Washington Street; and helped 40 artists in Uphams Corner go from facing eviction to owning their own building—the Humphreys Street Studio is here to stay. And, this year we'll make Boston's largest investment ever in artists and the arts.

We made the spaces and services of our City more accessible: opening a new, fully-accessible City Hall Plaza and senior center in Orient Heights, partnering with the City Council and our Disability Commission to require closed captioning on public TVs, connecting 19,000 seniors to services; and making our 311 app multilingual for the first time, in eleven languages. We reopened a newly renovated Roslindale Branch library...this year we will reopen the Faneuil Branch in Oak Square, and begin design in Fields Corner and the South End.

Our Office of Early Childhood made dozens of new Pre-K classrooms free for our littlest learners and launched a professional development program to help early educators teach in Boston, debt-free. We fought off a state takeover of Boston Public Schools, onboarded a new district leadership team, and just welcomed our first electric school buses at the Readville bus yard.

Our police officers took nearly 900 guns off our streets and worked with community to achieve the lowest level of Part One, violent and property crime in 15 years. I want to thank Commissioner Michael Cox for coming home to Boston, Superintendent-in-Chief Greg Long for your service over 18 months as Acting Commissioner, and all our officers for your hard work.

We are looking to end community violence with new strategies to

address trauma and provide essential supports—from our Youth Safety Task Force, to an alternative crisis response program with EMS and behavioral health services. And, this April, we will launch a Fire Cadet Program thanks to the leadership of our new Fire Commissioner, Paul Burke.

We also graduated our first class of students from Boston's PowerCorps program, training young people from our neighborhoods for great jobs in the green economy. Many of them are here tonight.

We've invested in longstanding Legacy Businesses and are helping new entrepreneurs fill vacant retail spaces to revitalize our neighborhood commercial districts. And we're excited that Lego is building their North American headquarters in Boston this fall. We made progress on closing the supplier diversity gap, awarding contracts worth more than \$100 million—from school lunches to snow removal—to businesses owned by women and people of color. Thanks to legislation passed by the City Council and approved by the state legislature last month, we'll be able to do even more. And we did all this on top of filling 5,000 potholes, collecting more than 500 tons of curbside composting, and plowing through 53 inches of snow last year.

In so many other cities, none of this would have been possible. But Boston has never let anyone else define our possibilities.

It's thanks to the people of Boston that I can stand here tonight and say—the state of the City is strong.

And we have the resources, the resolve, and the responsibility to make it even stronger. As we look to the year ahead, our administration is focused on building a green and growing city for everyone.

Doing so will require that we reckon with—and rebuild—the systems that got us here. When the "Boston Redevelopment Authority" was created nearly 70 years ago, its purpose was singular: to clear the way for new development, even if that meant displacing tens of thousands of working class, immigrant, and Black and brown residents.

Since 2016 it's been called the Boston Planning and Development Agency, or "BPDA," but the focus on building buildings rather than community has held back the talent of its staff and deepened disparities in our city.

Over the last decade, Boston

STATE OF THE CITY (from pg. 10)

saw the largest building boom in generations: cranes in the sky and jobs on the ground. But that growth wasn't harnessed for the benefit of all our communities. Not planning for community stability meant that even as our population grew, many were squeezed out. Not planning for affordability, and transit, meant that housing prices soared, and traffic snarled. Not planning for sustainability meant that as new development reshaped our skyline, public infrastructure continued to age: subway tracks and school buildings, pools and community centers.

Now, stronger storms and hotter summers raise the stakes. The pandemic has thinned our usual Downtown crowd, and inflation has forced many workers to balance two or three jobs just to keep milk in the fridge or make rent. In this moment of need, we have an opportunity and an obligation to change how we plan for Boston's future.

Under the leadership of our Chief of Planning, Arthur Jemison, we're charting a new course for growth, with people as our compass. Tomorrow I'll sign an executive order establishing a Planning Advisory Council to fully integrate long-range planning, and begin modernizing our zoning code. It will be led by Chief Jemison and consist of Cabinet chiefs in capital planning, transportation, climate, housing, and the arts.

Over this next year, we'll shift planning efforts from the BPDA to a new City Planning and Design Department—to expand planning and urban design as a coordinated effort that guides our growth. Our vision is for Boston to sustainably reach our peak population of 800,000 residents with the housing and schools, parks and public transit to support that growth.

Next week we'll file a home-rule petition to formally end the decades-old urban renewal mission of eradicating so-called "blight and urban decay," and instead rededicate our resources toward Boston's urgent needs today—resiliency, affordability, and equity. Together, these changes will, for the first time since the 1960s, restore planning as a central function of City government.

I've also charged our team with improving the uneven and unpredictable approval process that frustrates community members and developers. Next month, we'll form a steering group of real estate and community leaders to recom-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

Rep. Aaron Michlewitz with Suffolk County Sheriff Steven Tompkins.

mend changes to our Article 80 development review process. We'll simplify and accelerate timelines so that good projects get shovels in the ground faster. We'll also transfer compliance and enforcement from the BPDA to the Office of Housing so our communities can be confident that we're always getting the full benefit of development agreements.

Of course, we can't grow sustainably unless our residents are secure in their homes. Our housing crisis displaces children and families, drives down enrollment in schools, hurts local businesses, increases homelessness, and strains our public health and safety systems.

So, our housing plan must be just as comprehensive. We'll deploy every tool, every strategy, and every resource to create more housing that residents can actually afford. We will prioritize keeping residents in their homes, and closing the racial wealth gap by boosting home ownership.

Last year, our Office of Housing permitted 3,800 housing units—the most since 2018, including 1,300 affordable units—the most in a generation. And we'll do even more by directing the bulk of our federal recovery dollars to housing. In the coming weeks, we'll be sending the City Council a Home Rule Petition on rent stabilization to end rent gouging, and protect our families from eviction and displacement.

And we're putting City land to work. We've analyzed every square foot of City-owned property and identified several parcels that could generate thousands of affordable housing units. We also have 150 vacant lots in our neighborhoods ready for housing. Local builders: work with us to design

high-quality, affordable homes that enhance the surrounding neighborhood, and we'll give you the land for free. And we'll provide increased mortgage assistance so our residents can afford to buy these homes. We'll accelerate zoning changes for predictability and equity in our growth. Our team will update zoning for squares and corridors across the City, and complete neighborhood planning processes to bring thousands of new homes and support the small businesses, retail, and jobs that make Boston a vibrant cultural hub.

Our neighborhoods must be climate resilient and community focused. This year we will launch a civic and green space master plan, and begin design for new community centers in Grove Hall and the North End.

And, we'll help residents invest in retrofitting older homes, like triple deckers, to save money on utility bills and protect against flooding and heat. And we'll walk the walk with municipal buildings, too.

Meeting our climate goals starts with ending our use of fossil fuels, so I'm signing an Executive Order requiring all new City construction and major renovations in our schools, municipal buildings, and public housing, to be entirely fossil-fuel free.

And because "green" and "affordable" go hand in hand, together with the Boston Housing Authority, by 2030, we will end the use of fossil fuel in the City's public housing developments. This will mean unprecedented investments to modernize these buildings and meet Governor Healey's ambitious goals for heat pump deployment—ensuring that the families with greatest need, benefit first—from healthier homes, and lower energy costs.

Together, we can build a Boston that's more green than concrete. Where housing is a given, not a godsend, and mobility is the minimum, not a miracle. Where the things we build inspire—but don't define—us; and where each generation shines brighter than the last.

Which brings me to the next generation. As mayor, and as a mom, fighting for the future that my two boys—and all our kids—deserve is what drives the urgency behind all that we do.

Like our approach to planning, Boston's approach to education has been deeply shaped by our history. The story is one that many of us know well—and it deserves

telling—but that's for next year's State of the City. Tonight, I want to share a few of the things we're doing right now to strengthen our schools, support our teachers, and do right by our students.

I'll start with the spaces where learning happens: we know what world-class school facilities feel like. Just around the corner from here, is the brand new Boston Arts Academy—it's beautiful, energy efficient, meeting the needs and the possibility of our young people. But we haven't been moving fast enough. The Josiah Quincy Upper School in Chinatown will be our next brand new, state-of-the-art high school, but the project was kicked off in 2012: three Mayors and six superintendents ago. Students in 1st grade when this project started will have graduated from high school by the time it's finished.

We're making changes to speed up not just individual schools, but our whole district. Our school design study will take a full year off the planning process for every new school in the City, and we'll get more projects going at once than ever before.

Of course, our vision for our students goes beyond facilities: Superintendent Skipper and I won't settle for anything less than academic excellence across all our schools, accessible to all our students. Under newly created leadership roles focused on academics and getting resources down to the school level, we're investing in staff, professional development, and curriculum—for the equitable literacy foundation that empowers rigor and engagement across all subjects.

We'll follow through on our landmark agreement with BPS teachers to co-design and transform how we serve students with disabilities by investing \$50 million in inclusion so every student gets the education they deserve.

at five high schools across BPS where young people get real work experience and take college level courses in fields like finance, health care, and biotech. Tonight, I am announcing that—in partnership with UMass Boston—we'll build on that foundation by piloting a Year 13 program at Fenway High School. This will give our students an additional full year of college-level courses debt-free as they transition to college and accelerate toward a degree.

If we expect our young people to be the leaders our world needs, then it's on all of us to take every step to ensure they have the skills and experience to meet this moment.

We recently celebrated the creation of our new Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement—that's right, OYEA—with a group of students from the Blackstone School and they didn't hold back. They asked about plans for after school programming and when the pool would reopen. And a third grader in a pink puffy coat wanted to know: "Como se siente ser alcaldesa? How does it feel to be mayor?" And I didn't know what to say. "Ocupada," I told her. "Busy." Which is true. But it's also so much more than that.

It can feel surreal and stressful, exhausting and empowering—it feels like the most important work in the world. But more than anything, it feels like a gift: To be able to get up every day and go to work for the city I love with people who love it, too. People unafraid to do things differently—willing to meet crises with creativity, and reach deep in the dirt to pull up the roots of the challenges that block our view of the sky. Boston is a city that will never stop reaching—up toward the progress we know to be possible, and out to the community whose work makes it lasting.

Thank you, and God bless the City—and people—of Boston.

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CENSUS (from pg. 1)

non-repeating in Boston.”

This year, more than 200 volunteers canvassed 45 areas after midnight, covering every city neighborhood, Logan Airport, and the transit and parks systems. Volunteers canvassed assigned areas, identified those sleeping on the street, conducted a short survey, and provided individuals with important safety information and items to help keep warm. The surveys will be closely analyzed to ensure accuracy, and then cross-checked and combined with the results of a shelter count. The annual homelessness census required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Develop-

ment (HUD) is a key component in Boston receiving more than \$38 million in federal grant funding for housing and services for households experiencing homelessness in Boston.

“Every year, cities and towns across America are required by HUD to do their Point-in-Time count, an assessment of homelessness on one night in January,” said Richard Cho, HUD Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Housing and Services. “But this is about more than numbers – it is an opportunity to come together to understand that behind each data point is a human being who is struggling to survive and ultimately find their

way back home. I applaud Mayor Wu and the City of Boston for their commitment to this issue and their continuous work to find solutions to the most pressing housing needs for their citizens.”

In 2021, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) launched House America, a new federal initiative that invited mayors, city and county leaders, tribal nation leaders, and governors into a national partnership. House America made investments provided through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to address the crisis of homelessness through a “housing-first” approach. As part of the House America initiative, the City of Boston committed to rehouse 1,100 households experiencing homelessness and build over 650 units of housing for people facing housing insecurity by the end of 2022. The City exceeded the goals set by HUD by housing 1,161 individuals and creating 739 units of housing.

“The homeless census brings together government, non-profit organizations and community volunteers to understand the needs of our unsheltered neighbors and to renew commitments to solve this critical issue,” said Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing. “The City remains committed to ending homelessness through the creation of permanent supportive housing, providing services that assist our most vulnerable residents and tracking our progress. Boston has the lowest number of unsheltered individuals in the country, but even one person on the street is one too many.”

The City of Boston and its partners continue to work to end chronic and veteran homelessness using the Housing First approach, an evidence-based approach to ending homelessness that uses principles such as the philosophies that everyone is “housing ready” and everyone deserves permanent and stable housing without preconditions like sobriety or treatment. City agencies and community partners have dramatically redesigned the way services are delivered to homeless individuals, increasing resources devoted to housing and deploying new technologies to match homeless individuals with housing and services.

“The annual census is an important tool that shows our progress toward ending homelessness in Boston,” said Lyndia Downie, President and Executive Director, Pine Street Inn. “We are proud that Boston’s street numbers are very low, especially in



Richard Cho, HUD Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Housing and Services talks to the group conducting the census as Mayor Michelle Wu looks on.

comparison to many cities across the country. However, as long as there is anyone on the street or in shelter, our work is not done. We must continue to focus on strategies to move vulnerable individuals off the street, out of shelter, and into the safety and stability of permanent housing.”

In September 2022, the City of Boston submitted a grant proposal of \$41 million to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support Boston’s homelessness programs in 2024, through HUD’s McKinney Homeless Continuum of Care program.

“Homelessness is a public health crisis that significantly increases the risk of poor health outcomes,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. “The Boston Public Health Commission will continue to work with Mayor Wu and the City of Boston to improve access to housing and provide critical wraparound services to support the health and wellbeing of our residents who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability.”

In June 2022, Mayor Wu announced that the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Boston on the night of the census decreased by 2.4 percent, from 1,659 individuals in 2021 to 1,545 individuals in 2022. This reduction builds on a decrease of 24.7 percent from 2020 to 2021, which was due in part to a coordinated effort by city agencies and homeless service providers to create alternative housing, shelter, and healthcare options that concentrated shelters during the first wave of the pandemic. It also

reflects sustained and successful efforts in housing individuals experiencing homelessness and at-risk individuals, and diverting individuals from emergency shelter to safe alternatives when possible. Additionally, in 2022, with the support of many City agencies and partner organizations, more than 470 individuals formerly living unsheltered in the Mass/Cass area have been connected with low-threshold, supportive housing.

The results from this year’s homeless census will be available in the coming months.

The Mayor’s Office of Housing is responsible for housing people experiencing homelessness, creating and preserving affordable housing, and ensuring that renters and homeowners can obtain, maintain, and remain in safe, stable housing. The department develops and implements the City of Boston’s housing creation and homelessness prevention plans and collaborates with local and national partners to find new solutions and build more housing affordable to all, particularly those with lower incomes. For more information, please visit the MOH website.

The Boston Public Health Commission, the country’s oldest health department, is an independent public agency providing a wide range of health services and programs. It is governed by a seven-member board of health appointed by the Mayor of Boston. The mission of the Boston Public Health Commission is to protect, preserve, and promote the health and well-being of all Boston residents, particularly the most vulnerable. For more information, please visit www.bphc.org.



Lyndia Downie, President and Executive Director, Pine Street Inn helps with the homeless census.

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