



THE NORTH END

REGIONAL REVIEW

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CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

These East Boston Central Catholic School students will be joining their teachers and families to celebrate the school's 50 years of excellence in Catholic education on April 12. See Pages 6 and 7 for Catholic Schools Week special section.

FOCCP looking forward to another banner year

By Phil Orlandella

"Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) is grateful for our wonderful community and we have wonderful events planned throughout 2024," according to FOCCP President Joanne Haynes Rines, who said, "Be sure to mark your calendars so you don't miss a single event." Events and activities include: The Tunnel of Love, "Will You Marry Me" Valentine conversations for those who are thinking of popping the question.

The event kicks off February 1 with festive lights, romantic music and an amazing large conversation heart that makes for the perfect photo-op.

Tia's will be the site of FOCCP's annual membership social on Wednesday, May 22. "The membership social is a fun night for members, sponsors and volunteers as well as anyone interested in learning more about us," Rines said.

The very popular fun filled Independence Day Celebration, that attracts hundreds of community residents, will be held on Saturday, June 29. According to Rines, "The event is filled with magic, crafts, a parade, special visitors and more."

She said, "There is no better way to kick off fall than by stopping by FOCCP's Fall Families Festivals," and enjoy fall arts and crafts, pumpkins and other fun and activities."

FOCCP invites everyone interested to join them for their quarterly meetings.

"They are a great opportunity to learn about upcoming events, find out how to get involved and meet with friends, old and new," Rines added.

The 2024 meetings will be held on Tuesdays, February 13, May 14, August 13 and November 12 at the Mariners House, 11 North Square, 2nd floor. Elevator access available.

Greenway Conservancy announces new leadership

Special to the Regional Review

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, the non-profit responsible for the management and care of The Greenway, is pleased to announce new leadership. Hilina D. Ajakaiye, Executive Vice President of the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau, was elected to Board Chair at the Conservancy's December 12 Board of Directors' meeting. In addition, Eileen Ong, previously Assistant Director of Programs, was promoted to Director of Programs and Outreach on November 14.

Hilina D. Ajakaiye is an accomplished and dedicated Executive Vice President at Meet Boston, leveraging over 15 years of expertise in sales, marketing, and operations, accompanied by a global perspective. Originally hailing from Ethiopia, Hilina immigrated to the United States in 1987, mastering English as her second language and achieving her high school diploma and associate



Eileen Ong.

degree concurrently at the young age of 17. Her educational journey extended to the University of Massachusetts, where she pursued her undergraduate studies, and in 2017, she attained her MBA in International Marketing Management from Northeastern University.

In her pivotal role at Meet



Hilina D. Ajakaiye.

Boston, Hilina leads a variety of initiatives to expand Boston's tourism and hospitality industry. Her responsibilities encompass diverse areas, including human resources, membership development, financial strategy, leisure destination services, marketing and operations, and revenue generation.

(LEADERSHIP Pg. 11)

Coletta tapped to chair powerful committees

Special to the Regional Review

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta was named Chair of the Boston City Council's Government Operations and Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks Committee at the Boston City Council meeting on Wednesday, January 24.

"I'm honored to serve as Chair of the Government Operations and the Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks Committee," said Coletta. "This is a unique opportunity to utilize my new-found leverage to advance policies

that ensure a vibrant and equitable Boston for all residents. I have a deep respect for the City Council as a legislative body and its ability to produce better policy outcomes for my district and the city. I look forward to working collaboratively with my colleagues and the administration for a productive legislative term."

The Government Operations Committee oversees all proposed ordinances and special laws, examines ordinances for validity, and reviews the efficiency and

(COLETTA Pg. 2)



**Celebrate Catholic
Schools Week**
Pages 6-7

EDITORIAL

HOW ARE THOSE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS GOING?

All of us, consciously or subconsciously, make some sort of New Year's resolution in the hope of improving our lives and those of our loved ones.

Without a doubt, the most common New Year's resolution is weight loss, which is not surprising, considering that 72 percent of all Americans -- an astounding number -- are either overweight or obese. Excess weight has been linked to just about every disease imaginable ---- cancer, diabetes, and heart disease being among the most prominent. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, excess weight greatly increased the risk of death or serious complications from COVID-19 across all age groups.

We strongly condemn discrimination of any form against those who are overweight. Maintaining a healthy body weight is difficult for just about everyone (almost three-quarters of us, apparently) in our hurry-hurry world where the convenience of fast-food makes it all-too-easy to indulge in an unhealthy diet on a regular basis.

In addition, we are deluged with advertisements from the fast-food industry, who give us those full-screen shots of triple-bacon-cheeseburgers-with-fries-and a soft drink -- a truly deadly combination that hits all of the "bad food" buttons for high calories, saturated fat, salt, and added sugar.

It is not a coincidence that the average American male today weighs 30 pounds more than the average American male did in 1960 and the average American female today weighs the same as that male in 1960 (and no, it's not because we're all taller than our grandparents) when you consider that in 1960, there were 248 locations of a certain fast-food franchise across America, but today there are 13,340 of them. (And that's just one fast-food company!)

However, we do not subscribe to the belief that being overweight is the result of a "disease" that somehow uniquely affects Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity, or gender, compared to the rest of the world. (We rank as the most-overweight people among every industrialized nation.) To be sure, there are some individuals who genetically are pre-disposed to having an unhealthy body weight. But wherever American-style food is imported into countries across the globe, health issues that previously did not exist in those countries become epidemic.

There is no question that bad food can be addicting, whether it's those triple-cheeseburgers, infinite varieties of snack foods, etc., etc., etc. in a society where bad food is cheap, available everywhere, and pushed on us by Madison Avenue -- and where we associate overeating as a form of reward.

Our present overweight society increasingly makes the 2008 Disney sci-fi movie "Wall-E," in which the humans of the future are grossly overweight, look prescient -- except that the distant future already is here. The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health recently estimated that, based upon current trends, by 2030 86 percent of Americans will range from overweight to obese.

With the odds stacked against us to make our weight-loss New Year's resolutions stick -- which is why so few of us are successful -- it would appear that our only hope is for those new weight loss drugs to become readily-available and covered by insurance for all Americans. Societal weight-loss would be the best thing we could do to improve our collective health, both physically and emotionally. The drugs may be expensive, but if that's what it will take for Americans to shed our excess pounds, the upfront costs of those drugs will save us billions of dollars in health-care costs down the road.

OPINION BY PHIL ORLANDELLA

NEWNC/NEWRA READY FOR 2024 TASKS

The new year (2024) promises to be loaded with many community challenges, issues and concerns that could have impacts on the community in general.

Most of, if not all of the requests

or proposals on the table will find their way to both community groups, NEWNC and NEWRA, for a community opinion that reflects on how requests directly impact the neighborhood.

Based on past performances the groups have for the most, acted in the best interest of the community,

and should be ready for the tasks before them in 2024.

Protecting the welfare, lifestyle, and history of the neighborhood is a major challenging task, but when, lose or draw both groups will continue to do an admirable job that is needed to assure the neighborhood is represented.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NEW HEALTH'S NORTH END'S THIRD FLOOR IS NOW OPEN

Dear North End Patients and Community Members,

NEW Health's North End location at 332 Hanover Street is pleased to announce that the third floor construction is complete and the third floor has reopened, effective immediately.

The City of Boston Inspectional Services Department and the George Robert White Fund, that manages the building, have completed all inspections and confirmed that the building is structurally sound and safe for occupancy.

Dental, vision and podiatry departments will once again ser-

vice all patients from the North End, with appointments resuming in all departments by Jan. 22. If you need an appointment in any of our departments or have questions about your care, do not hesitate to call the health center at 617-643-8000.

We are incredibly grateful for your continued patience and cooperation during this process. We appreciate our community and look forward to seeing you again for all services at our North End location!

More information is available at www.newhealthcenter.org.

Vin Scibelli, CEO
Chief Executive Officer
NEW Health

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

To the Editor,

This letter is to acknowledge and thank you to the Friends of the North End for their generous \$300 donation in support of Saint Leonard of Port Maurice Parish.

No goods or services were provided by the Church or its organizations in return for this donation. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Please be assured that we appreciate your kindness and generosity to our Church. You and your family are always remembered in our prayers.

Fr. Michael Della Penna, OFM
Pastor Saint Leonard of
Port Maurice Parish

COLETTA (from pg. 1)

effectiveness of City programs. As Chair, Coletta will act as the lead negotiator and last check of accountability in the Council for new legislation before it is sent to the Mayor for passage. Former Chairs of Government Operations include now State Senator Lydia Edwards, Councilor-At-Large

Michael Flaherty, and Former Clerk Maureen Feeney.

The Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks oversees all environmental issues and works to conserve and develop the City's parks while ensuring all Boston residents have access to open spaces. Coletta intends to meet with all

Environmental Justice organizations around the city. If you would like to set up a meeting, please feel free to contact her office.

In addition, Coletta will serve as the Vice-Chair for the Arts, Culture, Entertainment, Tourism, & Special Events and Rules & Administration committees.

The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.

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WASHINGTON STATUE RESTORED/RETURNED TO OLD NORTH CHURCH

Carved in 1790, the marble bust President George Washington, housed at the Old North Church and Historical Site in the North End has been recently restored to its original beauty.

A delicate cleaning and restoration were conducted by Christopher Manzi, appraiser and restoration. The famous Impreza statue is located in the church's sanctuary for viewing.

The bus was donated to the church and 1815 by Shubael Bell, a generous and active member of the congregation.

Although recognized as the first president, the figure is very difficult from how Washington is usually portrayed.

When the Marquis de Lafayette visited the church in 1824 and saw the statue he has said to have remarked, "Yes that is the man I know, and it's more like him than any other portrait, bust or picture."

BOSTON TEA PARTY TRUE STORY

An historical lecture, the true story of the Boston Tea Party, was brought to life as the Boston North End library on Parmenter Street, part of ongoing presentations sponsored by the Friends of the North End library.

Historian and President of the North End Historical Society (NEHS) Anthony Sammarco delivered the story that was planned by the Sons of Liberty, 250 years ago, noting the true facts of the historical Boston Tea Party.

NEWNC MEETING

Besides a series of committee reports, there were no agenda voting items at the January North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) meeting.

The Council discussed priorities for the new year.

NEWNC's next meeting will be held on Monday, February 7 at 7pm. Site to be announced.

LECTURE ON CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

With a sense of wit in kindness Antonio Guerriero, an accomplished professional in the field of Government and Community Relations, as well as an Educator and Professional Speaker, will

present 3 Billion Trees. The story of the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) that planted over 3 billion trees across the United States.

Hosted by the Friends of the North End Library, this was part of a restoration effort.

Learn more about the enduring legacy of President Franklin Roosevelt and how the CCC affected the lives of Americans beginning in the Great Depression through present day.

The lecture will be held on Monday, January 31 at 6 PM.

LEGACY LETTER WORKSHOP

An interesting and educational workshop writing a "Legacy Letter" was sponsored by the Friends of the North End Library.

This is an ethical will that allows the letter writer to share life lessons, express values and transmit blessings to future generations was held at the library on Parmenter Street.

The workshop was presented by Jay Sherwin who has practiced law, giving money away for free to charitable foundations and served as a hospice chaplain.

Attendees were offered advice on how to complete a legacy letter, share it with loved ones and preserve it for future generations.

ARMENIAN HERITAGE PARK VIRTUAL PRESENTATION

Celebrating Contributions: Entrepreneurial spirit a program by Friends of Armenian Heritage Park will be held virtually, on Wednesday, February 7 at 5 PM.

Making Authentic Armenian Lavish, Arman Manoukian, owner, The House of Lavash.

Welcome: Cindy Fitzibbon, WCVB-TV.

Advance Registration: ArmenianHeritagePark.org hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org.

The Friends host many activities and events at the park located on The Greenway.

LONG WHARF FLOOD PLANNING

A community Long Wharf/North End virtual workshop will be held by the Boston Planning Development Agency and the City of Boston Environment Department on Wednesday, January 31 from 6-8 PM.

The workshop features building and climate vulnerability from the Wharf through the streets of the North End, right to the parks.

IN BRIEF By Phil Orlandella

Zoom Link: bit.ly/biVvp. Toll free 833-568-8864. Meeting ID: 160-291-8077.

NOBLE JOURNEY SCULPTURE

Fundraising by the North End Historical Society (NEHS) continues to place a Nancy Schon sculpture at Saint Leonard Church in the North End, in early June.

The Noble Journey Sculpture will honor Italian immigrants and culture and allow people to walk in the footsteps of their ancestors.

Donation page: North End Historical Society www.northend-boston.org/donate.

FOCCP TUNNEL OF LOVE

Festive lights, romantic music and amazing large conversation hats are all featured at the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) 2024 presentation of the Tunnel of Love held at The Greenway trellis starting February 1.

Created by FOCCP art curator Robyn Reed and volunteer members, new this year, a Will You Marry Me? Conversation heart for those thinking of popping the question.

The Tunnel of Love has become a huge attraction over the years and has provided a great photo opportunity.

FOCCP Seeks Renewal or New Memberships

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) love creating magic in the park all year long but can only do this with membership support, according to President Joanne Haynes Rines.

"The year marks the 23rd year of FOCCP as an all-volunteer organization that depends on membership renewal and new members," she said.

"Beyond our community events, our members are hard at work all year long on the care, maintenance and improvement of the park," she added.

"From the roses and the trellis to the trees and lighting, FOCCP ensures Columbus Park is tended to and healthy," she concluded.

NEW LEADERSHIP AT CONSERVANCY

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, the non-profit responsible for the management and care of The Greenway, has new leadership in place.

Hilina D. Ajakaive Executive Vice President of the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors

Bureau has been elected to Board Chair at the Conservancy at the Board of Director's December meeting.

Eileen Ong previously the Assistant Director of Programs has been promoted to Director of Programs and Outreach on November 4.

NSC VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

Sponsored by Loft and Vine, a Valentine's Day party will be held at the ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center on Friday, February 16 at 1 Michaelangelo Street.

NEAD CHANGES TO NORTH END CARES

In order to shift its primary focus from drug use prevention and education, North End Against Drugs (NEAD) has changed to North End Cares, Inc.

The change allows the non-profit group that was founded in 1995, to community concentrated

undertakings while acknowledging the former purpose is best suited for professional health care individuals and organizations NEAD President John Pregmon explained.

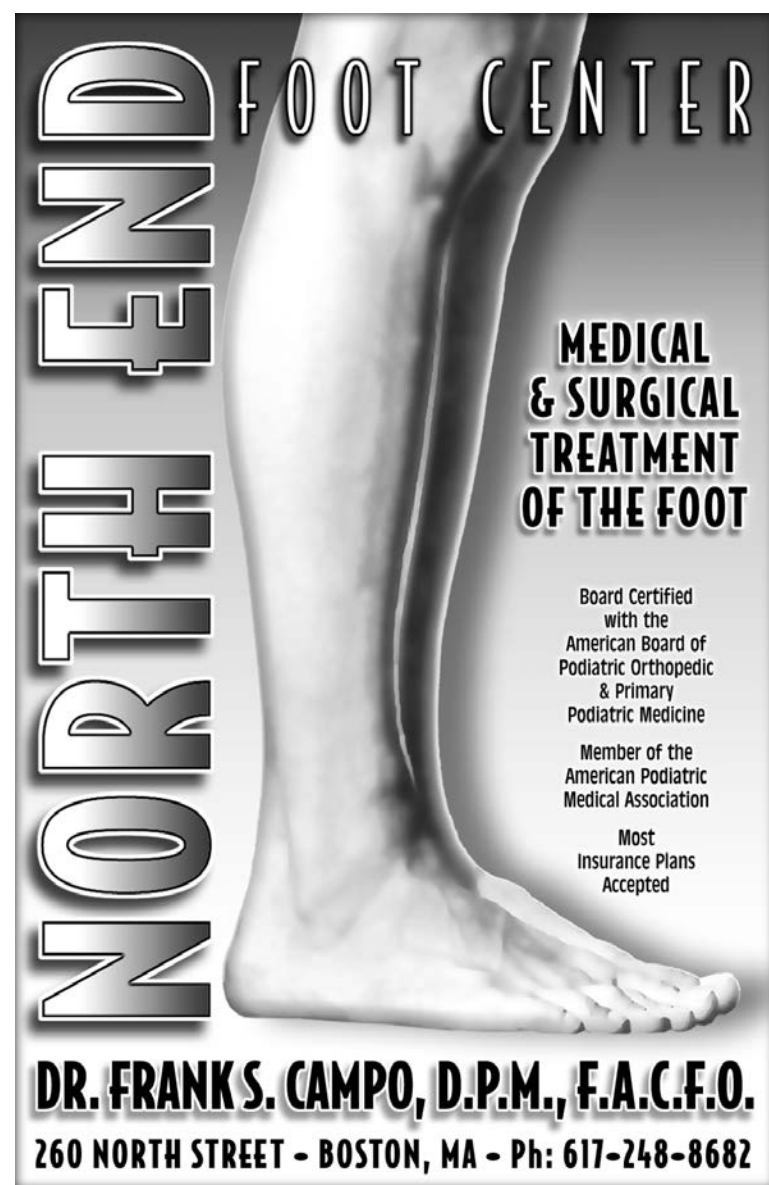
"The organization will now act as North End Cares, Inc. with a mission to serve the North End community by enhancing the quality of life of its residents," Pregmon said.

NEW HEALTH THIRD FLOOR REOPENED

The third-floor construction at NEW Health's Hanover Street location is completed and is open.

Boston Inspectional Services and the George White Fund that manages the building have completed all inspections and confirmed that the building is structurally sound and safe for occupancy.

Dental, vision and podiatry departments will once again service all patients with appointments in the North End.



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Wu signs public tree-protection ordinance

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu recently signed a public tree protection ordinance, a key recommendation stemming from the City's Urban Forest Plan. The Urban Forest Plan, released in September 2022, outlines strategies to preserve, cultivate, and expand the city's urban forest. A tree protection ordinance is a critical action item in preserving existing canopy cover. Mayor Wu's enactment of the public tree protection ordinance underscores the City's dedication to environmental justice, public health, and community resiliency. The City Council passed the ordinance on Dec. 13, 2023.

"The signing of the public tree protection ordinance is a testament to our shared goal of building a city that prioritizes environmental stewardship and community well-being," said Mayor Wu in a press release. "In taking this step, we're not only preserving our urban forest but also shaping a brighter, more sustainable future

for all residents."

The Urban Forest Plan recommended changes in municipal code to protect mature trees and enhance the urban forest. By adopting a phased approach to tree protection regulations, focusing on public trees first, the City aims to lead by example before engaging with the community to extend regulations to trees on private property.

"As the department responsible for managing the implementation of the Urban Forest Plan, we recognize the importance of addressing trees on both publicly- and privately-owned land," said Commissioner Ryan Woods of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department in a press release. "Fostering a thriving urban forest that reflects the diverse needs of all stakeholders is a top priority."

The recently signed ordinance establishes comprehensive regulations to preserve trees on City-owned parks, school grounds, libraries, and public housing, aligning with Boston's commit-

ment to protecting and enhancing green infrastructure. Construction projects on City-owned land will now require a survey of all trees on the site with a trunk three inches in diameter or wider. Furthermore, healthy trees can only be trimmed or removed with adequate notice and a public hearing, ensuring community involvement in decisions impacting the urban forest.

The new ordinance will also improve the management of public street trees in Boston. It expands and clarifies the rules for the removal of healthy street trees, ensuring that they are replaced with trees of equivalent size and species in the same neighborhood. The City's Tree Warden will be responsible for replacements, advancing the Urban Forest Plan's objective of achieving equitable distribution of tree canopy. Closing the tree canopy gap among neighborhoods is crucial for mitigating the impact of urban heat islands, improving air quality for

(TREES Pg. 5)

NEWS BRIEF

THE SAN ROCCO SOCIETY OF BOSTON

Join us in celebrating our 36th annual banquet, on March, at 7:00 pm, at our new venue, Spinelli's of Lynnfield.

There will be a sit down dinner with open bar. A DJ for your dancing pleasure. A Photo Booth to capture your wonderful night.

Games to show your skills, at attempting to win a bottle or two of fine wines and of course a raffle.

The raffle consists of items donated by local businesses, individuals and members of our society.

In keeping with the benevolent spirit of San Rocco, All the proceeds from the raffle and the games, will be donated to The Make a Wish Foundation of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

For tickets email VSRBOSTON@GMAIL.COM or call Giovanni Leone 781-346-3512.

BWSC OFFERS TIPS TO PREVENT FROZEN PIPES AS SUSTAINED COLD SPELL SETS IN

With the recent cold spell and more nighttime temperatures well below freezing to come this winter season, Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) is reminding people that there are proactive steps they can take to prevent interior pipes from freezing.

- Check for open windows, air vents, and wind drafts near water pipes

- Seal leaks in the basement foundation where cold air may enter; fill holes with insulation as a tiny opening can cause an exposed pipe to freeze

- Allow a slow trickle of water to flow through faucets connected to water pipes that run through unheated spaces (the constant drip minimizes any ice buildup in the pipe, which helps to prevent pipes from bursting)

- Keep sink cabinet doors open during cold spells to allow warm air to circulate around the pipes

- Insulate pipes in unheated spaces like garages, basements, and crawl spaces; inexpensive insulation can be bought at hardware and home supply stores

- Locate the water shut off valve and know how to shut off water; if a pipe bursts, shutting off the water promptly can help minimize the damage (shut off valve is usually located by the meter)

- If your pipes freeze, use a hair dryer to thaw the lines safely; thawing will not be fast, but it will be safe: Never use an open flame to

thaw pipes

If there is no water coming through any of your taps, there may be a problem in your street or yard. If so, call BWSC's 24-hour Emergency Assistance line at 617-989-7900.

ATTENTION: VENDED MEALS COMPANIES

Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston is soliciting invitations for bid for vended meals to their Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) program site(s). The Vendor would provide meal services according to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and guidelines as well as Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office for Food and Nutrition Programs policies and guidelines.

Vendors and/or their representatives may submit bids to:

Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston
Attn: Gabrielle Witham
200 High St. Fl. 3
Boston, MA 02141

A bid packet will be available by email at gwitham@bgcb.org to all potential bidders.

Potential bidders should email questions to Gabrielle Witham at gwitham@bgcb.org by February 2, 2024. The institution will email its response to these questions by February 9, 2024. All questions will be answered in writing only and sent to everyone by February 9, 2024.

All bids must be submitted no later than 5:00pm on February 16, 2024.

All bids are subject to review by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office for Food and Nutrition Programs, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148.

The public bid opening will be at 11:00am on February 20, 2024 at 200 High St. Fl. 3, 02110. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. About Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston Boys & Girls Club of Boston holds a prominent position as the leading and most impactful youth organization in Greater Boston. It serves to catalyze far-reaching opportunities and create more equitable futures for 6 to 18-year-olds across eight clubs and YouthConnect in Boston and Chelsea. Since 1893, BGCB has focused on making the city thrive and has played an essential role for young people eager to explore their passions, find their purpose, and prepare for a life of success and impact. In partnership with

(BRIEFS Pg. 9)

IMPORTANT UPDATE

NORTH END AGAINST DRUGS IS NOW NORTH END CARES

North End Against Drugs, Inc. Board Members announce the nonprofit organization's name change to North End Cares, Inc. This change is intended to allow the group to shift their primary focus from drug abuse prevention and education to community-concentrated undertakings while acknowledging the former purpose is best suited for professional healthcare individuals and organizations. The revised objective of the organization is as follows:

North End Cares, Inc.'s mission and purpose is to serve our North End community by enhancing the quality of life of its residents. Specifically, the organization offers a wide variety of services, activities, events, and programs according to neighborhood needs and interests. The organization's members and directors also partner with local businesses, organizations, and residents to collectively promote and augment the happiness and well-being of the North End community.

"We are pleased to continue providing our annual events, activities, and offerings for kids, teens, families, seniors, and our fellow neighbors in the North End. We also will now be allowed to expand our offerings while continuing to support other various neighborhood groups and organizations as we've done throughout the history of this Board since its founding in 1995," President Pregmon said. "We look forward to receiving feedback from our North End neighbors on how to provide novel and community-building activities for all ages and members of our community including events you've enjoyed in the past and new, fun events in the future." He also noted their annual bingo event will occur on Sunday, February 4th, at the Nazzaro Center, followed by a fundraising event later in the month, as well as their annual Basketball Bonanza on March 1st at the Nazzaro Center.

Sincerely,
North End Cares Board

John Pregmon, President; Karen D'Amico, Vice President; Olivia Scimeca, Treasurer; Maria Lanza, Clerk; Board Members Kathy Carangelo, Frank Ciampa, Mikey 'Fud' Giannasoli, David Perry, Ann Fitzgerald; and Sponsor Members Maria Michlewitz and Stephen Passacantilli

North End Music & Performing Arts center welcomes new board members

The North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) welcomes two new board members to its leadership team in 2024, Clarinda Massengill and Marly I. Roche Pabon.

Clarinda and Marly have both been deeply involved in the NEMPAC organization for many years. Clarinda has been a member of NEMPAC's Finance Committee since 2019, and Marly has been an active parent of NEMPAC, with three children enrolled in our youth and teen internship programs.

"We are grateful to welcome two visionary leaders to our Board of Directors, igniting a new chapter of diversity, creativity, and empowerment within our arts organization. Their unique perspectives and history of involvement within the NEMPAC organization will undoubtedly inspire positive change and elevate our commitment to inclusivity and arts innovation," said Sherri Snow, Executive Director of NEMPAC.



Clarinda Massengill.

Clarinda Massengill is a seasoned financial professional who owns an accounting firm based in Boston. She is a graduate of Leslie University with a BS in Business Administration and has co-founded two non-profits that address food insecurity and food deserts. Additionally, her family is passionate and involved in arts programming outside of Boston.

Marly I. Roche Pabon is an Associate Director of Biology at Blueprint Medicines in Cambridge.



Marly I. Roche Pabon.

She is originally from Puerto Rico and came to Boston for graduate school at Boston University and post-graduate work at Massachusetts General Hospital. Marly became involved in the arts at an early age in Puerto Rico, explaining that "as a child, I was fortunate to grow up in a community that provided a strong influence of traditional Puerto Rican dance and music ('bomba y plena' and 'aguinaldos'), as well as to perform in school events and fam-

ily gatherings. All of this shaped my passion for the arts." Marly's children are now involved in programming at NEMPAC as well.

NEMPAC also announces the election of officers to the Board of Directors, with Mary O'Neill, resident of the North End, serving as Chair, Robin Wehbe, former resident of Charlestown, serving as Vice Chair, Tchad Cort, resident of West Roxbury, serving as Clerk, and Caroline Lamb, resident of the North End, serving as Treasurer.

NEMPAC's newly elected board officers consist of all previously serving board members. Mary O'Neill is a District Attorney for Middlesex County and has served on the NEMPAC Board of Directors for over six years. Robin Wehbe works in business development and has served for five years. Tchad Cort, who works for Boston Public Schools, is in her second year on the board, and Caroline Lamb, a scientist by trade, is a parent of two NEMPAC

students and is entering her second year on the board.

North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) is a 501(c)(3) community music school and performing arts center empowering local Boston artists of all ages and abilities. Fueled by the belief that the arts are an expression of our shared humanity, NEMPAC's mission is to enrich lives through exceptional, accessible music education and performing arts programs that are as vibrant, inclusive, and diverse as our local communities. NEMPAC is a proud affiliate of the Boston Cultural Council, Massachusetts Cultural Council, and Black Opera Alliance.

Follow us on social media for real-time coverage at professional performances, music school updates, and content curated especially for artists:

Facebook: @NEMPACBoston, Instagram: @NEMPACBoston, LinkedIn: North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC).

Emma Wilson joins The Greater Boston Food Bank's 2024 Boston Marathon Team

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) announced that Emma Wilson, of the North End, has joined its 2024 Boston Marathon Team. On April 15, 2024, Wilson will compete in the 128th running of the Boston Marathon, a historical route of 26.2 miles from Hopkinton, Mass. to Copley Square in Boston.

GBFB is proud to be a part of the Boston Athletic Association's Bank of America Boston Marathon® Official Charity Program, in which runners pledge to raise funds for a cause of their choosing.

By partnering with GBFB, runners will support its mission to end hunger in Eastern Massachusetts alongside its network of over 600 food distribution partners, as one in three Massachusetts adults – 1.8 million individuals – continue to face food insecurity. Funds raised will help provide nutritious and culturally responsive meals to



Emma Wilson.

those in need of food assistance.

Wilson, a native of Romeo, Michigan and now a resident of Boston's North End, has been running competitively since she was 13 years old. She ran cross country and track while completing her

undergraduate degree at Syracuse University, and most recently earned a master's degree in public health at Boston University with a specialization in Health Promotion & Communication.

"During my studies, I participated in projects that encompassed strategic communication, social media campaigns, project planning, and event coordination – which align well with my passion for food justice and dedication to GBFB," said Wilson. "This is my chance to embrace two elements of my identity as both a runner and advocate to make a difference in my community."

Wilson qualified for the Boston Marathon during her first marathon in Sacramento, CA back in 2022 and now is ready to take on Heartbreak Hill on April 15th. She is very excited to take after her mother, a two-time finisher of the Boston Marathon.

"We extend our deepest thanks to the incredible individuals who have decided to lace up their running shoes, embrace the challenge, and dedicate their time to running in the Boston Marathon in support of GBFB's hunger relief efforts," said Catherine D'Amato, President and CEO of GBFB. "The issue of food insecurity endures, but thanks to the dedication of our runners as well as the families, friends and other supporters who rally behind them, we'll be one step closer to a hunger-free future. We can't wait to cheer you on!"

Supporters can contribute to Wilson's campaign here, and to the full GBFB campaign here.

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) is the largest hunger-relief organization in New England and among the largest food banks in the country. As the food bank for Eastern Massachusetts, GBFB

is feeding people in 190 towns across the region, distributing the equivalent of nearly 90 million meals through a network of 600 dedicated food distribution partners and programs. A member of the national Feeding America network, GBFB's mission is to end hunger here. The organization remains committed to the belief that access to healthy food is a human right regardless of an individual's circumstances. Through policy, partnerships, and providing free, nutritious, and culturally responsive food, GBFB is committed to addressing the root causes of food insecurity while promoting racial, gender and economic equity in food access. For more information and to help us help others, visit us at GBFB.org, follow us on Facebook, Twitter (@gr8bosfoodbank) and Instagram, or call us at 617.427.5200.

TREES (from pg. 4)

all residents, and accelerating the Green New Deal for Boston.

"Healthy trees play an important role in enhancing the health and quality-of-life of residents in Boston, as the City deals with climate change, more frequent heat waves, and extreme weather events," said Councilor Liz Breadon, a co-sponsor of the ordinance, in a press release. "This ordinance will protect existing trees, create more public awareness of the benefits

of healthy trees, and help support urban forests in our diverse neighborhoods."

Since the September 2022 release of the Urban Forest Plan, the Urban Forestry Division has implemented several recommended action items. In 2023, the division expanded its workforce, responded to over 7,500 requests through the 311 system, pruned close to 3,000 trees, treated 1,165 ash trees to protect them against

the invasive Emerald Ash Borer beetle, and secured an \$11.4 million grant from the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program. In the coming year, the division will leverage funding and staffing investments to reduce response time for constituent requests, redouble maintenance efforts to preserve existing canopy, and expand tree planting efforts by partnering with community-based organizations.

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Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2024

January 28 - February 3
#CSW24

The Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2023 – 2026 theme is “Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community.” Catholic schools have an irreplaceable role in the Church’s evangelizing mission. Building on the central goal of Catholic schools to form saints, Catholic schools teach and embrace the whole person, body, mind and spirit. The fact that all members of a Catholic school community share the Christian vision of faith that Christ is the foundation of Catholic education is what unites the school as a faith-filled community. While faith is the binding element in Catholic schools, the Church reiterates that parents are the first teachers of their children. Holding this tenet, Catholic school communities expand beyond the walls of school buildings to envelop the family as an integral part of the school community. Together teachers, administrators, staff, students and parents fuel the light of faith by integrating culture with faith and faith with living.

Nestled in the heart of Boston’s historic North End

St. John School has educated children since 1895. Welcoming PreK-Grade 8 students, we provide a Catholic education committed to educating children in an atmosphere that fosters a spirit of community, faith, and academic excellence. Our dedicated teachers and small class sizes ensure that each student’s unique progress is celebrated.

Students enjoy a rigorous academic curriculum enriched by

integrated STEM programming, Italian language instruction, and our own in-house hydroponic garden, Tower Garden Program. The Program teaches students about mindfulness, nutrition, food production, and community service as well as traditional academic subjects. St. John’s partners with the Franciscan Food Center at St. Anthony’s Shrine to donate the produce from the garden to the hungry.

We are proud of our partnership with the Lynch Foundation Early Childhood Initiative, an extraordinary project founded by Carolyn and

Peter Lynch, for our 3 and 4 year olds. The project supports an environment that nurtures the social and emotional well-being of

students in order for robust learning to take place before the start of kindergarten.

St. John School offers student drop off starting at 7:30 a.m., after school care until 6 p.m., and an extensive summer adventure camp. (School hours are 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) Boston residents may

be eligible for free bus transportation.

Please join us on a Welcome Wednesday from 9-10 a.m. or reach out to Amy Fitzgerald at afitzgerald@sjsne.com or 617-227-3143.

East Boston Central Catholic School celebrates Catholic Schools Week

By Cary Shuman

East Boston Central Catholic School will celebrate 50 years of excellence in Catholic education at its annual gala April 12 at Spinnelli’s, Lynnfield.

In advance of that milestone event, EBCCS will celebrate Schools Week beginning Jan. 28 with an exciting slate of activities for students and their families.

There is certainly a lot to celebrate.

EBCCS Principal Robert Casaletto reports that there is an enrollment of 189 students for the current school year, which is an increase of over 20-percent from the previous year.

Casaletto said one of the reasons for the surge in popularity was the school’s high retention rate, proudly stating, “Our students and their parents who were here last year all loved it, so they all came back this year. We had a 95 percent retention rate.”

Another key to the success in attracting students to the school was its considerable outreach to different parishes in the area beyond East Boston. Casaletto credits new School Chaplain, the Rev. Dan Zinger, for helping to bring in more Catholic families.

The hiring of an assistant principal, Gabriela Twaalfhoven, has also been instrumental in building enrollment. Twaalfhoven worked directly with new families on enrollment last summer.

Casaletto also noted the Catholic Schools Foundation providing of financial support to families in need through its Building Minds Scholarship Fund.

Casaletto is in his seventh year



Students enjoying storytime in class at EBCCS.

as principal and 30th year as a member of the EBCCS faculty. His leadership of the school during the COVID-19 pandemic was extraordinary and in actuality, resulted in an increase in enrollment when the school was allowed to reopen.

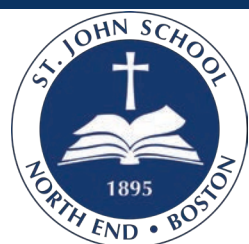
“The people affected by

COVID-19 was high in East Boston, so the Health Department wouldn’t let us open,” said Casaletto. “We opened our pre-K only for in-person learning. But we did a virtual learning program that

(EBCCS Pg. 7)

St. John School

**128 years of
value-centered
learning in the heart
of Boston's North End**



Pre K - 8th Grade

**Open House
January 31, 2024
8:30 a.m.-10 a.m.**

For additional info please contact
Amy Fitzgerald, afitzgerald@sjsne.com

9 Moon Street | Boston MA 02113 | 617-227-3143

www.sjsne.com



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2024

January 28 - February 3
#CSW24

The Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2023 – 2026 theme is “Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community.” Catholic schools have an irreplaceable role in the Church’s evangelizing mission. Building on the central goal of Catholic schools to form saints, Catholic schools teach and embrace the whole person, body, mind and spirit. The fact that all members of a Catholic school community share the Christian vision of faith that Christ is the foundation of Catholic education is what unites the school as a faith-filled community. While faith is the binding element in Catholic schools, the Church reiterates that parents are the first teachers of their children. Holding this tenet, Catholic school communities expand beyond the walls of school buildings to envelop the family as an integral part of the school community. Together teachers, administrators, staff, students and parents fuel the light of faith by integrating culture with faith and faith with living.

EBCCS (from pg. 6)

our parents were just thrilled with, and because we did such a good job surviving the pandemic, we grew our enrollment coming out of it and it’s been going up since.”

Catholic Schools Week Activities Schedule

Special student activities have been planned throughout Catholic Schools’ Week to give parents an opportunity to “join” your child’s classroom.

EBCCS Parents are invited to the following activities. Each activity will take place in your child’s classroom unless a different location is noted.

Sunday, January 28

Mass will be celebrated at St. Michael’s Parish - St. John’s Church in Winthrop at 10:00 a.m. to kick-off CSW. Our choir will sing and all families are encouraged to join.

Monday, January 29

- Kindergarten: Winter Art Project 8:45-9:30
- Cherubs, Kindergarten, 3, 4, & 5: Young Authors’ Presentation Auditorium (see Library Schedule)

Tuesday, January 30

- Grade 7: “Kahoots” Game 8:30-9:10
- Angels, 1, 2, 6, 7, & 8: Young Authors’ Auditorium (see Library Schedule)

Wednesday, Jan. 31

- Angels: Circle Time 8:30-9:00
- Cherubs: Morning Routine & Heggerty Phonemic Awareness 8:30-9:15
- Grade 3: Reader’s Theater Presentation 1:00-1:30
- Grade 1: Chicken Soup w/ Rice Activity 1:40-2:10.

Thursday, February 1

- Grade 6: Sarcophagus Design 8:30-9:10
- Grade 5: Math & Social Studies Super Bowl 9:30-10:30
- Middle School: Ice Skating Field Trip 1:00-4:00
- Grade 4: City of Snowdom Presentations 1:30-2:10

Friday, February 2

- Student Appreciation Casual Dress Day

- Grade 2: Groundhog Day Activities 9:00-9:30
 - Grade 7 & 8: Science Fair 1:00-2:15 Auditorium
- We ask all students and faculty to dress in something RED to

honor all our troops who have deployed or will deploy for their active duty assignments.



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prekinder- 8º grado!**

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Asistencia financiera disponible a través
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información, ¡llámenos!

69 London St East Boston MA

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ebccs.org



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Red Cross**

CITY OFFICIALS HOLD ANNUAL REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BREAKFAST

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Mariah Diaz Perez receives an MLK Middle School Art Award.

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. 54th annual Breakfast was held January 15, at the Boston Convention Center. The event celebrated MLK's mission of peace, justice, and righteousness.



Yaribel Marcelino Romero of Madison Park Technical Vocational High School is presented with a \$2500 MLK Scholarship Award from US Representative Ayanna Pressley and Séanne Denny Putnam Investments.



Cyrielle Marsh receives an MLK Middle School Art Award.



The Drum Major Award is given to those who have gone above and beyond for justice, peace, and righteousness. This year's recipients are, sharing an award, the Rev Richard Richardson and his wife Justina Richardson, founders of Children's Services of Roxbury with fellow recipient Greg Almeida, founder and CEO of Global View Communications with Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.



Roxbury Community College student Juan D Lopez is presented with a \$1500 Allied Health Scholarship by US Representative Ayanna Pressley and the Hon Justin A Petty of St Cyprian's Episcopal Church.



Roxbury Community College student Hawa Jalloh is presented with a \$1500 Allied Health Scholarship by US Representative Ayanna Pressley and the Hon Justin A Petty of St Cyprian's Episcopal Church.



US Senator Ed Markey with Jessica Tantin, Vikki Spruill, and Ferris Batie of the NE Aquarium.



Abdulhaleef Sotunbo of John D O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science is presented with a \$2500 MLK Scholarship Award from US Representative Ayanna Pressley and Séanne Denny Putnam Investments.



Hasina Whittaker of John D O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science is presented with a \$2500 MLK Scholarship Award from US Representative Ayanna Pressley and Séanne Denny Putnam Investments.

Early NEAA baseball registration underway

By Phil Orlandella

Following another highly successful 2023 baseball season, the North End Athletic Association (NEAA) has started the ball rolling with registration for the upcoming 2024 season.

“While it might be 21 degrees outside, and some snow and ice covering the field, it’s time to start thinking baseball,” Baseball Coordinator John Romano said.

“It’s only January, well almost February, and we went to get a running start to coordinate the many baseball programs, the NEAA offers every year,” said Romano.

NEAA programs include Major and Minor Leagues as well as T-ball and a clinic that all take place at the local parks. Ages

range from 4 through 18. Ages 4 through 12 is coed. Ages 13 through 18 there is a Dodgers traveling team.

Romano proudly announced, “We have added a girls softball traveling team, ages 3 through 18.”

Registration fee for the 2024 season is \$55 per player.

However, the NEAA will not turn away anyone due to the inability to pay the fee. Call Romano at 617-750-9749 before registering, or email jromano45@gmail.com

For team and league information or questions contact Ralph Martignetti’s mobile phone 857-366-1213 email rmartignetti@nysir.org.

Registration www.neasports-bostonsportngin.comneaa-baseball.

BRIEFS (from pg. 4)

the public sector, private enterprise, related non-profits, donors and volunteers, BGCB is aligned behind investing in the region’s urban talent pipeline and making a generational impact that expands beyond the walls of its buildings and deep into the communities it serves. Helping urban youth to navigate a fast-paced global climate steeped in change, the orga-

nization is recognized for fueling the future of the city and the Commonwealth through its innovative “readiness” programs centered on three outcome areas: Academic Success, Wellness and Workforce Readiness. It is an affiliate of the Atlanta-based Boys & Girls Clubs of America, with over 5,000 Clubs nationwide serving over 3.6 million young people.

Visit www.northendregionalreview.com

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction look-ahead for the North Washington Street Bridge through February 3.

Scheduled Work

- Removal of temporary vehicle bridge and pile supports
- Demolition of old bridge structure

Work Hours

- Most work will be done during weekday daytime hours (6:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).

Travel Tips

For everyone using the east sidewalk of the new bridge, please help share the space: walk to the right, walk bikes, and be mindful of people coming from both directions, if walking in a large group.

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move

carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local police to provide awareness and manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, the following TD Garden events are scheduled during this look-ahead

period:

- CELTICS: January, 27 at 7 p.m., January, 29 at 7:30 p.m., January, 30 at 7:30 p.m., and February, 1 at 7:30 p.m.

How can I find more information?

Stay up-to-date and informed by following @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, and Mass 511 for real-time updates, visiting the project website, or emailing us with any questions.

You can also sign up to receive project updates via email by clicking this link.

Project website: Mass.gov/north-washington-street-bridge-replacement

Project email: NorthWashingtonStreet@dot.state.ma.us

Celebrate Black History Month on Freedom Trail Tours

Freedom Trail Foundation’s acclaimed African-American Patriots Tours celebrate the African-American patriots that played a vital role in the start of the American Revolution in Boston and in the formation of our country. Led by 18th-century costumed guides, tour-goers have the opportunity to view history through the eyes of these courageous men and women throughout Black History Month in February.

African-American Patriots® Tours begin on Saturday, February 3, and are held regularly in February on Saturdays and Sundays departing at 10:45 a.m. from the Boston Common Visitor Information Center. Revolutionary figures such as Crispus Attucks, Phillis Wheatley, Prince Hall,

Peter Salem, and others come to life during these 90-minute walking tours while zigzagging through the Freedom Trail – Boston’s iconic 2.5-mile brick trail leading to 16 nationally significant historic sites. African-American Patriots Tours invite visitors and residents alike to discover the immense contributions of black Bostonians during the American Revolution and beyond, as the stories unfold along Boston’s historic red-lined path. Hear about the sacrifices these patriots made, the battles they fought, and the legacies they left behind, as well as the stories of significant abolitionists and civil rights activists in Boston’s history.

African-American Patriots® Tours are ideal for groups, schools, residents and those visiting the

city. Public tour tickets may be purchased at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center at \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students, and \$8 for children under 12 years old. Tickets may also be purchased online at TheFreedomTrail.org. The African-American Patriots® Tours are also available year-round for groups as private tours.

Other events and programs celebrating Black History Month are held at official Freedom Trail sites. For information regarding Freedom Trail events and programs, tickets, reservations, group rates or questions, please call (617) 357-8300 or visit TheFreedomTrail.org.

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
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF
PETITION TO EXPAND
THE POWERS OF A
GUARDIAN
Docket No.
SU16P0946GD
In the Interests of:
Josephine Szabo
Of: Boston, MA
RESPONDENT

Incapacitated Person/
Protected 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 requesting that
the court:
Expand the powers of a
Guardian
The petition asks the court to
make a determination that the
powers of the Guardian and/or
Conservator should be expand-
ed, modified, or limited since
the time of the appointment. The
original petition is on file with
the court.
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 02/09/2024.
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 to file 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 08, 2024
Vincent Procopio
Register of Probate

01/25/24
RR

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth
Of Massachusetts

The Trial Court
Probate and Family
Court
Suffolk Probate
And Family Court

24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION
AND MAILING
Docket No.
SU23D0112DR
Jill Shantey
Brown Rosario
vs.
Moises Enrique
Rosario
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a
Complaint for Divorce requesting
that the Court grant a divorce for
Irretrievable Breakdown.

grant him/her custody of the
child(ren).
Order a suitable amount for
support of the plaintiff and
minor child(ren).
Allow plaintiff to resume the
former name of Jill Shantey
Brown
Prohibit defendant from impos-
ing any restraint on plaintiff,Ääs
personal liberty.
Allow Plaintiff to Obtain
Passports on Behalf of Minor
Children
The Complaint is on file at the
Court.
An Automatic Restraining
Order has been entered in this
matter preventing you from
taking any action which would
negatively impact the current
financial status of either party.

SEE Supplemental Probate Court
Rule 411.
You are hereby summoned
and required to serve upon:
Jill Shantey Brown Rosario 99
Brunswick Street, Boston, MA
02121, your answer, if any, on or
before 03/05/2024. If you fail
to do so, the court will proceed to
the hearing and adjudication of
this action. You are also required
to file a copy of your answer, if
any, in the office of the Register
of this Court.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 4, 2024
Stephanie Everett
Register of Probate

01/25/24
RR

Rockland Trust launches its 20th Annual Scholarship Program

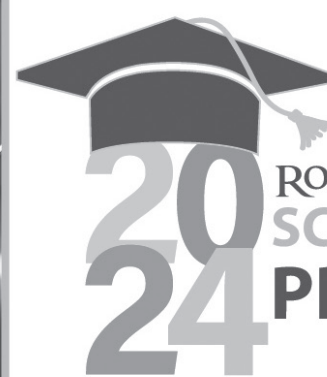
Rockland Trust is pleased to announce the launch of its 20th Annual Scholarship Program, which is open to students who are enrolling in a part-time or full-time post-secondary studies for the first time at an accredited two or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school for the entire upcoming academic year (2024-2025). Rockland Trust will award up to sixteen \$3,000 renewable scholarships this year. Applications are available online at RocklandTrust.com/Scholarship.

"For two decades, our scholarship program has enabled hundreds of local students to advance their journey through post-secondary education," said Andrea

Borowiecki, Vice President of Charitable Giving & Community Engagement. "Each year, we're inspired by the ambition and talent of the students as they work toward their goals, ultimately bettering our communities."

Applications will be considered based on financial need, academic performance, and unusual personal or family circumstances. Applicants must reside in a county Rockland Trust serves. To learn more about guidelines, eligibility criteria, and access the application, please visit RocklandTrust.com/Scholarship.

The Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation's mission is to strengthen the communities served



ROCKLAND TRUST
20th ANNUAL
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM

Member FDIC

by the Bank. We enable individuals and their families to access opportunity and improve the quality of their lives. To date, the Foundation

has distributed more than \$26 million in grants to qualified non-profit organizations in the communities served by Rockland Trust. For

information about the Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation, please visit www.RocklandTrust.com/CharitableGiving.

House unanimously passes bill to prevent abuse and exploitation

The Massachusetts House of Representatives last week passed legislation that combines several separate legislative initiatives into one bill that will help to prevent abuse and exploitation, while also enhancing protections for survivors. The legislation addresses teen sexting and image-based sexual assault, commonly referred to as "revenge porn;" expands the definition of abuse to include coercive control for the purposes of obtaining a restraining order; and extends the statute of limitations for certain domestic violence offenses from six years to 15 years.

"This legislation modernizes our criminal laws by ensuring that those who share explicit images of others without their consent face punishment, while also educating minors on the dangers of sharing explicit images of themselves rather than imposing some of the criminal justice system's most severe conse-

quences," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "I'm also incredibly proud of this legislation's bolstered protections for survivors, including the added consideration of nonphysical forms of abuse for those seeking restraining orders from their abusers. I want to thank Chairman Day and the Judiciary Committee, along with each bill sponsor and all my colleagues in the House for prioritizing this vital legislation."

"The House has heard the urgent call of survivors to enhance protections and ensure that our laws keep up with technology. But the House doesn't just listen, we act," said Representative Michael S. Day (D-Stoneham), House Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. "It's critical that these reforms pass into law quickly so that victims of coercive control, adolescent sexting and revenge porn aren't left without relief."

Currently, minors who possess, purchase, or share explicit photos of themselves or other minors are charged with violating Massachusetts child pornography laws and are required to register as sex offenders. The legislation passed today instead authorizes commitment to the Department of Youth Services (DYS), but also allows minors to be diverted to an educa-

tional program in lieu of criminal punishment. A district attorney, however, is allowed to petition the court to bring criminal charges in extreme cases.

The educational diversion program, to be created by the Attorney General in consultation with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), DHS, and the District Attorneys Association, would provide teenagers with information about the legal and nonlegal consequences of sexting, which would be made available to school districts. DESE should also encourage districts to implement media literacy programs in their schools as a prevention measure.

"This legislation represents a coordinated effort and a holistic approach to address an increasingly prevalent behavior and provides mechanisms to protect individuals victimized by those who threaten, intimidate, and harass the subjects of these images," said State Representative Jeffrey N. Roy (D-Franklin), a lead sponsor of the bill. "The sexting provisions provide law enforcement officers with a middle ground that will allow them to educate kids about the consequences of their actions without ruining their lives. It will have a tremendous impact on people who have become entangled in the web

and transmittal of images that can cause traumatic and lifetime harm through a diversion program that will educate them about the legal and personal consequences of this behavior."

In addition to teen sexting, the bill addresses the nonconsensual distribution of explicit images by adults by establishing a penalty in the existing criminal harassment statute, including up to two and a half years of prison time and/or a monetary fine of up to \$10,000. The bill increases the upper limit of the fine for criminal harassment from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Under this bill, a victim may also petition the court for a harassment prevention order against a person who has violated this statute.

The bill passed today also adds coercive control to the definition of abuse. Coercive control is a nonphysical form of abuse which includes a pattern of behavior, or a single act intended to threaten, intimidate, harass, isolate, control, coerce or compel compliance of a family or household member that causes the family or household member to fear physical harm or to have a reduced sense of physical safety or autonomy. Examples of coercive control include threatening to share explicit images, regulating or monitoring a family or household member's communications and access to services, and isolating a family or household member from friends or relatives.

The legislation passed today also extends the statute of limitations for assault and battery on a family or household member or against someone with an active protective order from six years to 15 years. This change brings the Massachusetts statute of limitations for these domestic violence offenses in line with the statute of limitations for

rape, assault with intent to commit rape and sex trafficking.

"Massachusetts can and should be granting restraining orders for coercive control, but we know that for so many survivors, their emotional and psychological trauma is not given the same seriousness as physical violence. And the reality of that barrier can be deadly," said Representative Natalie M. Higgins (D-Leominster), a lead sponsor of the bill. "I am incredibly grateful to the Speaker and my House colleagues for taking a critical step forward in protecting our neighbors by codifying coercive control in the Mass General Laws and extending the statute of limitations so that survivors of domestic violence can build more safety and supports to come forward and report domestic abuse to law enforcement."

"Domestic violence is not always physical violence, sometimes it's much more insidious. During my time as a legal services attorney, I represented many survivors who suffered emotional trauma and financial devastation through fear and manipulation. Survivors and the courts need our help to update our laws to make it clear that coercive control is a type of domestic abuse that will not be tolerated," said Representative Tram Nguyen (D-Andover), a lead sponsor of the bill. "I want to thank Speaker Mariano, Chair Michlewitz, and Chair Day for advancing this transformative and bipartisan legislation. I am also grateful for the partnership of Rep. Higgins, who co-filed this legislation with me, and the survivors and coalition advocates who spoke up for the thousands of women, men, and children in our Commonwealth who would be better able to take back control of their future if this bill is signed into law."

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history on guided
walking tours

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BostonByFoot.org



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A juried exhibition inspired
by the change of season.

StoveFactory Gallery - Charlestown
March 22- April 14, 2024. Enter by March 7.

Use QR code or visit:

www.artistsgroupofcharlestown.com



Healey-Driscoll Administration announce new opportunities for veteran-owned businesses

The Healey-Driscoll Administration last week announced that the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO), which is responsible for bringing fairness to the state's bidding and procurement process, has entered into a new partnership that will help veteran-owned businesses bid on contracts across the state.

The SDO is partnering with the National Veteran Owned Business Association (NaVOBA), an independent nonprofit that certifies businesses owned by veterans and service-disabled veterans. Both organizations will work together to increase contracting opportunities with veteran-owned businesses.

"Our Supplier Diversity Office does incredible work every day to expand opportunities for diverse and small businesses to win contracts with the state, which makes our businesses, our economy and our communities stronger," said Governor Maura Healey. "Our veterans have sacrificed so much in service to our country, and we take the responsibility of supporting them very seriously here in Massachusetts. We are proud to launch this new partnership that will lower barriers for veteran-owned

businesses to bid for contracts and do business with the state."

"This new partnership is an important step in our administration's efforts to bolster support and services for Massachusetts veterans under the leadership of Secretary Jon Santiago," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We look forward to working with NaVOBA to cut red tape and streamline the process for veterans to do business with Massachusetts."

"This is an important step toward removing administrative burdens on veteran-owned businesses to becoming certified, opening up tremendous opportunities for these individuals who have served our country to bid on state contracts and grow their businesses here in Massachusetts," said Secretary for Administration and Finance Matthew J. Gorzkowicz. "I am proud of the work SDO has been doing to expand opportunities and look forward to continuing our efforts to help small businesses thrive."

"The SDO has been successful in helping bring fairness in the state's bidding process through our cross-certification partnerships, such as with the Greater New

England Minority Supplier Development Council, Center for Women's Enterprise, City of Boston, Disability:IN, and the National LGBTBE Chamber of Commerce," said SDO Executive Director William McAvoy. "We expect our partnership with NaVOBA to help business owners who have served their country."

"NaVOBA is thrilled to join forces with the Supplier Diversity Office in this impactful collaboration," said Matthew Pavelek, President and CEO of NaVOBA. "Our partnership exemplifies a shared commitment to advancing opportunities for veteran-owned businesses. We aim to empower veterans to thrive in the business world by streamlining the certification process. We appreciate the Executive Office of Veterans Services for their support and commend the Supplier Diversity Office for their dedication to fostering an inclusive and thriving business environment for our nation's heroes."

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the SDO and NaVOBA, the SDO will grant certifications to businesses already certified with NaVOBA. Typically, businesses need to apply

and undergo an investigation from the SDO before they receive certification. This agreement streamlines the process, making these businesses able to receive the benefits of SDO certification, such as the ability to bid on state contracts and attend SDO trainings and networking events. Certified businesses are also included in the SDO's listing of certified businesses used by prime vendors and state agencies looking for vendors.

The MOU also allows the SDO to access NaVOBA's membership database to reach out to members about becoming SDO certified.

"Partnerships like the one between the Supplier Diversity Office and NaVOBA ensure veteran-owned businesses play a pivotal role in our economy. This collaboration marks a significant step in fostering their success," said Secretary of Veterans Services Jon Santiago. "The Executive Office of Veterans Services strongly supports initiatives streamlining certification for veteran-owned businesses in state contracts, and we commend the Supplier Diversity Office and NaVOBA for their dedication to empowering our veterans."

"NaVOBA is thrilled to join

forces with the Supplier Diversity Office in this impactful collaboration. Our partnership exemplifies a shared commitment to advancing opportunities for veteran-owned businesses. We aim to empower veterans to thrive in the business world by streamlining the certification process. We appreciate the Executive Office of Veterans Services for their support and commend the Supplier Diversity Office for their dedication to fostering an inclusive and thriving business environment for our nation's heroes."

The announcement marks the SDO's latest effort to aid veteran-owned businesses. Recently, the Commonwealth's Municipal Construction Affirmative Marketing Program (MCAMP), part of the SDO, released new guidelines mandating that certain construction projects must allocate at least three percent of its funding to Veteran-owned Business Enterprises (VBEs) and/or Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises (SDVOBEs). This is a first for the Massachusetts construction industry.

LEADERSHIP (from pg. 1)

Her current initiatives focus on partnership strategy, workforce development, supplier diversity, eco-tourism, and sustainability.

Prior to her role at Meet Boston, Hilina accumulated over 15 years of invaluable experience at Ahold Delhaize, a prominent international grocery retail giant. Managing 150+ direct reports across 22 stores, she led a team of 3,600+ employees and oversaw an annual revenue budget of \$805 million. Her exceptional leadership skills earned national recognition, solidifying her position as a trailblazer in the industry.

Beyond her professional achievements, Hilina is deeply committed to initiatives promoting women's empowerment, particularly in underserved communities. She actively serves on prestigious boards, including her new role as Chair of The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, The Network of Executive Women (NEW), and the Woodward School for Girls. Currently, she co-chairs the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee for Destination International. Her contributions have garnered widespread acclaim, leading to her induction into the Big Brothers Big Sisters "People We Admire" program and the honor of being named the 2019 "Rhode Islander

of the Year" by Rhode Island Monthly for founding the R.I.S.E. Women's Leadership Conference. She actively engages with community-driven organizations such as Boston NBC and Telemundo Community Council, The Boston Arts Academy Foundation, and Save the Harbor.

Hilina also treasures moments with her husband and two children, indulging her passion for travel.

"As Chair of the Rose Kennedy Greenway in the vibrant city of Boston, I am dedicated to nurturing a park environment that not only flourishes with natural beauty but also stands as a testament to our commitment to inclusivity, welcoming everyone regardless of race, culture, or economic background," says Ajakaiye. "This urban oasis, recognized as a tourism gem, invites visitors to explore and connect with the heart of our city."

"Hilina has brought enormous energy, talent, and resources to the Conservancy since she joined us", said Doug Husid, former Board Chair of the Conservancy. "Her enthusiasm and deep commitment suggest nothing but great things ahead."

For a complete list of the Greenway Conservancy's Board of Directors, visit www.rosekennedy-

greenway.org/board.

Eileen Ong joined the Greenway Conservancy in November 2016 as Earned Income Manager - a new role to develop revenue-generating programs to support the Conservancy's funding and mission. Throughout her tenure at the Conservancy, she has grown her responsibilities, established innovative partnerships, and diversified programming. Eileen introduced new entrepreneurial activations such as the beer and wine gardens, expanded the Greenway food truck program, supported the Conservancy and partners rebound from the impacts of COVID-19, and piloted exciting, diverse, and unique events. Eileen remains passionate and dedicated to creating opportunities that connect people to each other through a dynamic community space in downtown Boston. She came to the Conservancy after managing multi-million dollar oil and gas projects at ExxonMobil. Eileen grew up in Bangkok, Thailand and holds a BS in Civil Engineering from Rice University.

"Eileen brings years of experience at the Conservancy to this role," said Chris Cook, Executive Director of the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy. "I am thrilled that she will continue to connect people and communities

through this incredible park."

The Greenway is the contemporary public park in the heart of Boston. The Greenway welcomes millions of visitors annually to gather, play, unwind, and explore. The Greenway Conservancy is

the non-profit responsible for the management and care of The Greenway. The majority of the public park's annual budget is generously provided by private sources.

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FRESH AND LOCAL

World central kitchen cookbook

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The first recipe in José Andrés' "World Central Kitchen Cookbook" is for the Fireman's Chili that the World Central Kitchen (WCK) serves to those fighting wildfires. It is a great introduction to what this book is all about. The recipe is presented in two versions, one for 4 to 6 people and one for 100 people.

How to Scale a Recipe

Despite the hundreds of cookbooks in our library, we have seldom seen instructions on how to scale a recipe. Yes, in some cases, you can double or halve it, and it will work out fine. However, this is not always the case, and the pantry chapter ends with tips on scaling a recipe. This is extremely useful whether you are making something from the book or scaling up your grandmother's goulash recipe for a family reunion.

Feeding People Is About More Than Food

The recipes in the book were created to meet vital criteria that align with the core values of the organization: empathy, urgency, adaptation, hope, community, resilience, and joy. For the home cook, those values translate into learning how to make nutritious, economical meals that are great as leftovers, that shed insight into other cultures, serve well for family or community gatherings, and bring joy to those you feed.

Topics

"Empathy" is the heading for the chapter on braises and long-cooked food. It includes great classics like Beef Rendang, Pork al Pastor, and a simple Stewed Chicken.

"Urgency" provides ideas for food for people on the go. Unlike WCK, you may not be feeding first responders. However, you may have occasions when hand-held

food like tacos, arepas, flatbreads, and sandwiches fit the bill.

The "Adaptation" chapter talks about what you can make ahead and how to cook larger quantities using a sheet pan or make Arroz con Pollo in a large paella pan if that is what you have. WCK calls adaptation "the ultimate unteachable skill." Over the years, we've learned the benefit of adaptability in the kitchen.

The section on "Hope" is filled with recipes for soups, stews, and other warming meals. Every culture has a version of a soup that brings relief and hope to those who need something to look forward to at that moment. The chapter on Joy includes sweets and dessert and the importance of moments of lightness in any stressful situation.

"Community" contains recipes created by people from the food world who support WCK at every level. This includes people from the location being served and famous chefs who designed recipes for WCK to use.

"Resilience" covers WCK's efforts to support the local foodshed as a way to rebuild in a disaster area. This is the same kind of help a home cook can give to their



José Andrés' World Central Kitchen Cookbook is more than a collection of recipes. It's a manual that inspires home cooks to discover new ways to think about food.

local food producers by shopping at farmers' markets and choosing local options when at other sites.

To Wrap It Up

We'll let José Andrés have the last word about his book. He wrote, "So I am here to encourage you to get motivated by this book, however, it inspires you. Whether it means you are cooking a meal for a neighbor in need, volunteering at your local food pantry, joining our Relief Team as we respond to a disaster somewhere in the world—or simply making dinner for your family and learning about where that dish came from."

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

THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP

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Registration opens Feb. 1 for Summer Sports Centers

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to announce registration will open on February 1 for the 2024 Summer Sports Centers at White Stadium in Franklin Park, Almont Park in Mattapan, East Boston Memorial Stadium in East Boston, Garvey Playground in Dorchester, and Ronan Park in Dorchester. For more information or to register online please visit boston.gov/sports.

Each location offers instruction in several popular sports from July 8 through August 16. All Summer Sports Centers are offered free of charge to Boston residents and open to children ages 7 to 14. Parents may register their children for just one week or the entire summer.

East Boston Sports Center
East Boston Memorial Park
143 Porter Street
East Boston

Please note that lunch will be provided but participants must provide their own transportation. Pre-registration is required for both groups and individuals.

Call (617) 635-4505 or email parks@boston.gov for more information. To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements

in Boston parks, visit Boston.gov/Parks, join our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails, and follow our social channels @bostonparks-dept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

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