



# THE NORTH END

## REGIONAL REVIEW

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### CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH



PHOTO COURTESY THE CITY OF BOSTON

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu hosted a flag raising ceremony Monday to celebrate the start of Pride Month. "Pride Month is an opportunity to reflect on the long and revolutionary history of Pride and the struggle that brought us to this moment," said Wu. The City of Boston and Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement will be celebrating National LGBTQ+ Pride month throughout June. Visit [www.boston.gov](http://www.boston.gov) for details of events planned.

## Coletta Zapata holds second hearing on Mayor's proposed property tax classification

Special to the Regional Review

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata (District 1) chaired a Government Operations committee hearing last Thursday to discuss a petition for a special law regarding property tax classification in the City of Boston. This Home Rule Petition was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and is a temporary tool seeking to protect residents from property tax increases to mitigate potential revenue shortfalls from declining commercial valuations.

The proposal comes following recent reports highlighting a potential nationwide decline in commercial property valuations due to slow economic growth fol-



COURTESY PHOTO

City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata.

lowing the pandemic and shifting dynamics in downtown cores. The legislation would go into effect for five years and ensure that homeowners and residential property

owner's taxes would not increase by upwards of 30 to 40% in one fiscal quarter.

During the hearing, councilors once again shared concerns about the success of the proposal, potential unintended consequences and asked for additional information and data on the tax assessment for Boston.

"I foresee the main beneficiaries of this proposal being individuals that own properties that are house rich, cash poor like many of our seniors and tenants renting small properties in Boston," said Councilor Coletta Zapata. "However, I'm still concerned that increases in commercial proper-

(HEARING Pg. 5)

## Newly appointed ISD Commissioner addresses issues at NEWRA meeting

By Phil Orlandella

Newly appointed Commissioner of the City's Inspectional Service Department (ISD) Tania Del Rio and Assistant Commissioner of Constituent Services at ISD Jesse Thomas attended and address community issues at the May monthly meeting of the North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) held at the Nazzaro Center.

Residents posed questions to Del Rio relating to rodent infestation, especially in the area of Morton Street that abuts a newly renovated Cutillo Park that is about to open soon.

They also asked what attempts are currently being made by the city to deal with rodent problems in the area.

Residents contend that in the meantime, once the park is officially opened, the conditions will still threaten the environment in

the area and would most likely prevent community use of the park.

The Commissioner explained that six restaurants in the immediate vicinity have a long-time agreement with the City as part of the site cleanliness program, the businesses were allowed to place trash and oil barrels on the small sidewalks on Morton Street, that could have created a series of rodent issues in the area that has possibly spilled into Cutillo Park which also abuts Stillman Street.

Residents have apparently complained about the situation many times in the past. The Commissioner reported there is a multi-city department and state agency task force being put together to tackle the general rodent problem that currently exists throughout the neighborhood and city-wide.

She added that a top National (NEWRA Pg. 4)

## Wu to hold Coffee Hour in the North End on June 11

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will host the 2024 Neighborhood Coffee Hour Series in partnership with Dunkin'® in parks citywide. Wu will be in the North End on June 11 at Langone Park, 529 Commercial Street from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Mayor Wu's Neighborhood Coffee Hours offer a unique opportunity to speak directly with the Mayor and staff from City departments about open space and their neighborhoods. Through these conversations, and a suggestion box at each site, Mayor Wu looks forward to hearing how the City of Boston can improve upon parks, public areas, and City services.

"Every neighborhood and every resident has their own diverse set of concerns that deserve to not only be heard, but to be acknowledged and addressed," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I am excited for all of the conversations and connection that will come from Neighborhood Coffee Hours."

Leadership and staff from the Community Engagement Cabinet will be at each Coffee Hour. Community members will have an opportunity to meet their neighborhood liaisons, who will share updates on each neighborhood, including how many 311 cases have been resolved, streets repaired, as well as the City's investments in housing, local businesses, and the arts. The City

(COFFEE HOUR Pg. 4)

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# EDITORIAL

## LET US NEVER FORGET THOSE WHO WENT ASHORE ON D-DAY

Eighty years ago this week, on June 6, 1944, the United States and its allies launched the largest amphibious invasion in military history. Almost 133,000 troops, supported by 7,000 ships and 195,000 naval personnel, plus almost 12,000 aircraft, landed on the shores of Normandy, France on that fateful day.

The brave soldiers who landed on those beaches knew what was awaiting them -- batteries of German defenders who had a seemingly insurmountable logistical advantage. But somehow, the Allied soldiers overcame the odds and took the beaches, establishing their presence on the European continent. Within 30 days, a million more Allied soldiers had landed on those beachheads, and within 11 months, they had fought their way to Berlin.

However, the D-Day victory came at a great cost, with 4,415 Allied personnel killed, including 2,501 Americans, with more than twice that many wounded.

The D-Day invasion was seared into our memory as a young child when we watched the epic 1962 film, *The Longest Day*, in the Winthrop Theatre with a group of friends. Although the *Longest Day* depicted the invasion accurately, it nonetheless did not display the carnage and horror (in keeping with war films of that era, which were less than 20 years removed from WWII) that later were graphically depicted in the 1998 film, *Saving Private Ryan*.

*Saving Private Ryan* ushered in a new wave of verisimilitude filmmaking about WWII, which have included *Band of Brothers*, *The Pacific*, and the recent *Masters of the Air* on Apple TV, all of which paid homage to those who served our country and made the Supreme Sacrifice.

Today, fewer than one percent of the 16.5 million Americans who served in WWII are alive today. Ten years from now, there will be only a handful WWII veterans, if that. It is more imperative than ever therefore that, in the words of Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg, "... we never forget what they did ...and we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion."

## THE REPORTS OF SAN FRANCISCO'S DEMISE ARE GREATLY EXAGGERATED

When a journalist contacted the humorist and author Mark Twain regarding rumors that he had passed away, Twain said to the reporter, "The report of my death was an exaggeration."

We were thinking of Twain's witticism when we visited San Francisco a few weeks ago to see our daughter. Even though Kate, who has been living there for about a year, assured us that the city is perfectly safe, we still were a bit wary, as were others when we told them that we were going there.

News reports have depicted San Francisco as a place that appears to be only slightly-less apocalyptic than one of those *Mad Max* movies (a new prequel, *Furiosa*, is now in theaters), with rampant drug use and street crime -- and that's from the mainstream media.

But we are happy to report that San Francisco is thriving, bustling -- and safe. The waterfront park near the Golden Gate in the Marina District was filled with runners, folks walking their dogs, and tourists. The famous streetcars were packed, as were the waterfront attractions at Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 39 (including the enormous sea lions who have taken up residence there), the huge marketplace at the Ferry Building, and Ghirardelli Square. The farmers markets we visited were both huge and thronged and the ferries to Sausalito and Tiburon (we visited the latter) carried hundreds of passengers to those quaint towns on the other side of the Golden Gate Bridge. Walking up and over the famous, twisty, rose-terraced Lombard St. to the North Beach neighborhood was a delight.

In addition, San Francisco's airport, similar to Logan, was a breeze, with clear signage for ride-share pickup, and with great food options for the long plane ride home.

There is one other thing about San Francisco that has to be seen to be believed: The city's famous fog that rolls in from the ocean and across the bay. Most of California was basking in the 80s during our visit, as was Tiburon, but the city itself was shrouded in fog to some degree every day (which actually made for pleasant walking). The constant fog and accompanying chill made us think of another saying often attributed (incorrectly) to Mark Twain, "The coldest winter I ever spent was my summer in San Francisco."

The reason we mention all of this is because our visit served to remind us that news reports in the national media so often are unreliable. There is no substitute for going to a place to see with your own eyes what's going on and what the real story is.

Or, to use another axiom, "Believe half of what you see and none of what you hear."

## OPINION BY PHIL ORLANDELLA

### MARIE SIMBOLI IS A TRUE COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

Six residents were recently elected to serve two-year-terms on the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC), a twelve-person group that was formed many years ago to be the community's voice at City Hall.

Once again and to no one's surprise, Marie Simboli was re-elected making her the longest North End resident to serve on the Council, twenty-five years.

A quarter of a century is a long period of time to volunteer on any local committee and stay focused.

A quite person, Marie is a tiger when it comes to protecting the best interest of the community, effectively at that.

A well known and very active community leader, Marie has been a totally reliable NEWNC member that believes actions are louder than words.

Marie is always in the forefront fighting for the neighborhood and should be recognized for her outstanding dedication to protect the community's well-being and historic value.

She has made a noticeable difference in the neighborhood that she loves and was born in.

More Marie Simboli type residents should be more active in the community. If they can be found.

### WHEN QUALITY LEADERSHIP IS MENTIONED JOANNE HAYES RINES NAME SHOULD BE ON TOP OF THE LIST

It takes great leadership to make a community volunteer, non-profit community civic organization to be successful.

Joanne Hayes Rines, a 20-year member, 15 years as president, is without question a dedicated and extremely active part of the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP).

Under Joanne's tireless leadership of the pack, the civic group has maintained two

beautiful gardens and working with the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department, the park continues to be clean for residents and parkgoers to enjoy and participate in many well-organized activities and events put together by FOCCP members.

Joanne has the ability to rally the community group to develop highly successful and enjoyable events for the community and the general public.

She handles her duties and responsibilities as president in a totally professional manner that has earned her the respect of FOCCP members, community residents and the business community. FOCCP depends on donations to make park activities possible.

Joanne's quality leadership with the help of FOCCP members, the city and the business community has made the park a special place to be and enjoy all the community events that take place in the neighborhood park.

### COMMUNITY CIVIC GROUPS GETTING JOB DONE NEED MORE INPUT FROM RESIDENTS

Two volunteer local civic groups, the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) and the North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) have been very active doing in admirable job representing the neighborhood for many years.

The goal of both groups is to protect the best interest of the community addressing issues, concerns, development and safety of the neighborhood.

In order to continue to be continually successful volunteer groups need more residents to come forward to present their points of view relating to proposals, request and developments in the community.

Residents can have a direct say on community concerns by attending a monthly meeting held by each group.

### THE GREENWAY HAS BECOME THE "GEM" OF THE CITY

Since its inception, The Greenway has provided the general public with outstanding happenings, a variety of things to do for all ages.

On a consistent basis the Conservancy has provided high quality events, activities and special things to do throughout the park that are well thought out and professionally put in place.

Working with the surrounding communities, the business community and many other establishments, the Conservancy has without question successfully managed to make The Greenway a great place to be for all ages of parkgoers to have a good time in a clean and safe atmosphere.

The Greenway has become the "Gem" of Boston.

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ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

## Jeanna Tamas officially qualifies for State Senate ballot

Jeanna Tamas has secured her spot on the ballot for the State Senate by submitting 470 certified signatures, marking a significant milestone in her campaign for the 3rd Suffolk District. This district encompasses Winthrop, Revere, East Boston, parts of Boston, and a small section of Cambridge.

As a lifelong resident of the district, Tamas brings a deep understanding of the community's needs and values. She graduated from Winthrop High School and has lived in various parts of the district, including Boston and East Boston, before settling back in Winthrop to raise her family.

Tamas decided to run for the Senate because she believes the current elected officials have lost touch with the electorate, especially on local issues. "It is clear that the elected have lost touch with the electorate. This is especially evident on local issues. I want to represent and fight for the issues that are important to this District. I am the only one of the two candidates running for this seat that understands local values," she stated.

Her campaign has received endorsements from many supporters who previously backed her opponent, Lydia Edwards. One of the major issues she highlights is the controversial MBTA 3A Rule, which mandates 892 new



Jeanna Tamas.

multifamily residential units in Winthrop, a move she believes will overburden local services and infrastructure.

Each community within the district faces different challenges from this rule. Revere is weary of continued development and seeks a pause, while East Boston desires more local control. Tamas asserts that these communities do not feel heard by the current senator and

are eager for change.

Tamas is also a strong advocate for women's rights and ensuring a fair playing field for women in sports, particularly in communities like Revere and Winthrop with strong women's sports traditions. She is committed to protecting women's spaces and ensuring their gains under Title IX are preserved.

Illegal immigration and the Right to Shelter Law are also central issues for Tamas. She criticizes her opponent for supporting policies she believes have led to negative impacts on local communities, including increased crime and financial burdens. Tamas is determined to prevent district facilities from being used to support these policies.

In her concluding remarks, Tamas emphasized her commitment to representing the district's wishes and needs. "The most important thing I can do is to represent the wishes and needs of this District. That is easy for me because I am and always have been part of it. I hear them and will always listen to their concerns. I will never suggest that my community or District should be crushed."

For more information or to join her campaign, visit her website at [[www.jeannaforsenatema.com](http://www.jeannaforsenatema.com)] (<http://www.jeannaforsenatema.com>).

cannot afford the increased costs of operating in Boston.

The hearing began with public testimony from Boston residents. Councilors also heard from representatives of labor unions, Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance, Urban Edge and representatives of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, Ryan, LLC, Back Bay Association, and Eastern Bank.

Members of the administration present included:

- Ashley Groffenberger, CFO of the City of Boston
- Nicholas Ariniello, Commissioner of the City of Boston Assessing Department

Councilors in attendance included Councilors At-Large Ruthzee Louijeune, Erin Murphy, Henry Santana, Julia Mejia and District Councilors Ben Weber (District 6),

John Fitzgerald (District 3), Brian Worrell (District 4), Ed Flynn (District 2), Liz Breadon (District 9), Enrique Pepen (District 5) and Tania Fernandes Anderson (District 7).

A recording of the hearing can be found here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBwBaJ8UyP4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBwBaJ8UyP4)

The home rule petition first needs approval from the Boston City Council then it would be sent to the State Legislature who also needs to approve it before it can take effect. A working session has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 4 at 2pm. More information can be found at [www.boston.gov/public-notices/16170741](http://www.boston.gov/public-notices/16170741).

For additional information, please contact the Office of Councilor Gabriela Coletta by phone at (617) 635-3200 or by email at [gabriela.ramirez@boston.gov](mailto:gabriela.ramirez@boston.gov).

## Community Service Police Officers update NEWRA on area crime

by Phil Orlandella

Boston Police Department Area A-1 Community Service Officer Frank Ciampa along with Officer Frank Wong, presented the usual update relating to the community at a recent North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) meeting held at the Nazzaro Center.

Officer Ciampa told residents that they are very fortunate to live in a safe neighborhood. He noted that one of the consistently reported issue is package theft.

He added that package theft in the neighborhood happens because the street level doors to most buildings are locked leaving packages deliveries no choice but to leave their deliveries out in the open.

The offices suggested residents a plan, if possible, with friends, neighbors and adjacent businesses to keep an eye out and maybe hold any packages they notice openly exposed to having someone steal

them.

"This may possibly decrease these far too many packages theft," Officer Ciampa said.

He reported two firearm incidents occurred during the month of April, when a New Hampshire man attempted to enter the Flamingo on Commercial Street, resulting in a shoving match with the culprit pulling out a firearm in the establishment before running to Columbus Park where police took him into custody. No injuries were reported.

He reported another firearm incident occurring in May when gunshots were fired in the early morning on North Street. One man was found suffering from a gunshot wound to his leg.

However, Officer Ciampa was unable to provide more information because the incident is still an active investigation. He did note that detectives are continuing to gather facts and information and hopefully there could be an arrest before the next NEWRA meeting in June.

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### HEARING (from pg. 1)

ty taxes, particularly on smaller commercial property owners and small businesses, will unintentionally stifle unnecessary economic growth in Boston and hurt our small businesses. We must consider the long term impacts of our changing economy and impacts the pandemic has had on workplace vacancies and tenancies. Boston must prioritize additional sources of revenue as part of a suite of solutions for a long term plan."

In an effort to protect small businesses against any unintended consequences due to this proposal, Councilor Coletta Zapata has filed an ordinance to adopt the small commercial tax exemption as a local option in the City of Boston. This ordinance would provide financial relief for small businesses, valued under a million dollars or with 10 employees or less, that



## NEWS, NOTES AND WHATEVER By Phil Orlandella

### OLD NORTH DESIGNATED SITE OF CONSCIENCE

Last year, the Old North Church and Historic Site was designated as a Site of Conscience by the International Coalition of Sites and Conscience (ICSC).

Founded in 1991, the ICSC is the only global network of historic sites, museums and memory initiatives that connects past struggles to today's movements for human rights.

The Church is also gearing up for the 250th anniversary of the famous lantern signals.

### GREENWAY OFFICIAL UPDATES RESIDENTS ON ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

An update on The Greenway was presented by Chris Cook, Executive Director of The Greenway Conservancy at

the May public meeting of the North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA).

Cook provided residents with information on current and upcoming public art, food track programs and the many activities and events that are expected to happen on The Greenway.

He expressed great interest in the Cross Street improvement project where a memorial celebrating the Italian immigrant experience is reportedly proposed.

Cook was excited about the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy and the agenda of planned events for the general public to participate in and enjoy.

### FOCCP INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION JUNE 29

One of the best community events hosted by the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) is a fun-filled and

entertaining Independence Day Celebration.

The celebration is a well-planned out family event that takes place each year at the park.

It all starts with a parade around the park with FOCCP members, families, cartoon characters and other residents. The celebration includes music, crafts, games and much more.

The event will be held on Saturday, June 29 starting at about noon.

In the past, this event has attracted a large group of residents that have praised FOCCP for an enjoyable family event.

### NEMPAC MUSICIANS PERFORM JAZZ CONCERTS ON THE GREENWAY

Every Thursday, starting July 11 and running through August 15, The Greenway hosts a terrific "Jazz Concerts in the Park" at the North End side of the park on

Cross Street.

Musicians from the North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) will perform excellent Jazz Music for the general public to enjoy.

The annual event has drawn large numbers of music lovers who stopped and took a break to listen to some great jazz music.

### FRIENDS OF LIBRARY HOLD LECTURE

Another successful author lecture was hosted by the Friends of the North End Library, Boston's Black Heritage Trail and the North End.

Boston's Black Heritage has always extended beyond the trail on Beacon Hill into the North End's history that builds on that truth.

Local historians, residents and generous researchers have contributed to the compilation of this history in the North End dating

back 100 years.

North End resident Ann Moritz narrated the lecture.

### PARKS DEPARTMENT OFFERS MANY SUMMER PROGRAMS

This summer, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department has a wide-range of programs, events and activities for city residents to participate in and is offering a complete guide of scheduled free events for all ages.

Activities throughout Boston's parks include concerts, movies, fitness classes, sports centers, watercolor and printing workshops and many fun activities for children.

Guides are available at City Hall, and selected Boston Center for Youth and Families (BCYF).

Visit [boston.gov/parks](http://boston.gov/parks) to view the summer guide in a PDF version or visit the department office at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 3rd Floor to pick up a copy.

### NEWRA *(from pg. 1)*

rodent expert, Bobby Corrigan, is in the process of developing an action plan and recommendations on how to deal with this problem.

In the meantime, residents feel unless something is done immediately in the area, they may not be able to use Cuttillo Park.

Waste management is the key issue in this battle, according to Commissioner Del Rio. She also made it clear she fully understands the depth and scope of this quality-of-life issue.

Commissioner Del Rio also addressed concerns related to construction site inspections, building

permits and regulations of short-term rentals.

According to ISD, building inspectors are present in the community Monday through Friday, for six hours a day.

ISD said one of their responsibilities is to visit construction sites on a regular basis to ensure that contractors are complying with their permits.

The Commissioner went on to explain some permitting regulations. She also addressed questions on short-term rentals and enforcement.

## Wu announces Jones as Executive Director of the Public Facilities Department

Mayor Wu announced the appointment of Carleton Jones as the Executive Director of the Public Facilities Department (PFD) and Rohn MacNulty as Deputy Director. Carleton succeeds Kerrie Griffin who served as Executive Director from February 2021 until May 31, 2024. PFD supports other City of Boston departments in the planning, design, construction, and major renovations of City-owned buildings. Under Director Griffin's leadership, PFD helped execute on the Mayor's capital plan, opening new buildings and renovating aging ones, such as the Boston Arts Academy, BCYF Mattahunt Community Center, Engine 42 Fire Station, EMS Training Facility, and Faneuil Branch of the Boston Public Library. Carleton and Rohn will continue this dedication to ensure every resident in every neighborhood has access to state of the art facilities and City services.

"Kerrie's leadership over the last few years has transformed beloved city buildings in need of repair into modern community spaces for generations to come," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "From pools to police stations, PFD's work touches so many aspects of our residents' daily lives. I'm confident Carleton and Rohn will continue the ongoing work to make our municipal buildings more accessible, enjoyable, and sustainable."

"I am deeply grateful for Kerrie's many contributions and steadfast

leadership. Her fierce dedication, integrity, and tireless commitment to bettering the City's infrastructure will be sorely missed," said Dion Irish, Chief of Operations. "We are excited to announce the appointment of Carleton Jones, former Deputy Director, as our new Director, and Rohn MacNulty as Deputy Director. We are confident that Carleton and Rohn's extensive experience and proven expertise will continue to drive our projects forward and build on the strong foundation laid by Director Griffin!"

Carleton Jones has over 30 years of public service. Most recently he served as Deputy Director of PFD and prior to that he served as Assistant Director of PFD from 2017 to 2023. Jones has more than a decade of experience leading the Boston Public Schools Capital, Strategic Planning, and Facility Management teams. He also served as Chief Operating Officer for the Providence Public School Department from 2009 to 2012. Jones is a veteran of the United States Air Force, vice-commander of the Massachusetts Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, and is an FAA certified private pilot.

"I am thrilled and grateful to be appointed as the Director of the Public Facilities Department for the City of Boston," said Carleton Jones, Executive Director of PFD. "It is an honor to have the opportunity to lead such a dedicated and talented team with the sup-

port of Rohn MacNulty as Deputy Director. I am committed to continuing our work in enhancing our city's infrastructure and advancing our 43% of the City's \$4.7 billion capital plan. Our 120+ capital projects will help over a dozen City departments better serve the residents and families of Boston. Thank you to Mayor Wu and Chief Irish for entrusting me with this tremendous responsibility and to our prior Executive Director Kerrie Griffin for her trust and guidance! I'm wishing her great success in her new role!"

Rohn MacNulty will assume the role as the Deputy Director of PFD. MacNulty has been with PFD since 2019 and most recently served as Assistant Director. He is a registered architect with a Masters of Architecture from Washington University, and is also a certified construction manager. Prior to joining PFD, MacNulty worked at Graham/Meus Architects and for 10 years for the Massachusetts Port Authority where he received numerous awards for projects at Logan Airport and the South Boston Waterfront Transportation Center.

Jones and MacNulty will work with Chief Irish and across various city departments on several ongoing renovations and construction projects of city facilities, including the new Carter School, Josiah Quincy Upper School, Boston Fire Engine 17, and White Stadium.

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# Wu launches youth central online sports directory across the city

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the debut of the City of Boston's first online Youth Sports Hub, including a central, online directory of youth sports organizations across the city. This new resource empowers families to find accessible sports opportunities in their neighborhoods and serves as a one-stop-shop to learn about youth sports offerings and resources the city offers to sports providers. Creating easier access to athletic opportunities is a part of Mayor Wu's Connect, Learn, Explore, her initiative to ensure Boston's youth are empowered to find and pursue their passions. Mayor Wu also announced the City's first Youth Sports Initiative Manager and an investment of \$100,000 in mini-grant funding to support neighborhood sports leagues. These initiatives aim to support the goals of the Mayor's Youth Sports Initiative strategic vision and making Boston a home for everyone.

"The Mayor's Youth Sports Initiative is about making youth sports accessible and inclusive for all our city's families," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This initiative is not just about increasing participation, but also about breaking down barriers and ensuring that every young person in Boston has the opportunity to engage in sports. With the Youth Sports Hub and our dedicated Youth Sports Initiative Manager, we are taking significant steps to make this vision a reality."

While Massachusetts is a leading state for youth sports participation, Boston's high school student involvement (34%) lags significantly behind the state average for youth aged 6-17 (63%). Throughout 2023, the Mayor's Office and the Human Services Cabinet engaged with internal and external partners to assess the city's youth sports ecosystem and develop strategies for a comprehensive youth sports initiative that can decrease this participation gap and build community across neighborhoods. With the Youth Sports Hub live, the goal is to make it easier for more families and children to get involved with sports. These announcements align with the City's commitment to fostering a vibrant and inclusive youth sports community.

"This hub will centralize key information for families, making it easier than ever to find and participate in youth sports programs," said José F. Massó, Chief of Human Services. "We are committed to creating a seamless experience for families and providers alike."

The Youth Sports Hub will serve as the new landing page for Parks and Recreation and BCYF sports programs, showcasing highlights from the city's accomplished athletes, and hosting the Youth Sports Directory with information about over 100 sports programs. This searchable directory allows families to find sports opportunities by neighborhood, age, sport, and other criteria, including registra-

tion instructions for each program. Program representatives not yet listed in the directory are encouraged to fill out this form.

"The Youth Sports Directory is a critical outreach tool for our youth programs," said Charlie Cofield, a community sports leader and dedicated parent who has mentored numerous Boston youth by creating city-wide sports programs and events. He adds, "Recognizing the need for this resource is a win-win for the community and the City of Boston as a whole."

Mayor Wu also announced the hiring of the City's first Youth Sports Initiative Manager, Tyrik Wilson. Wilson serves as a liaison between youth sports providers and the City of Boston, working to create more city-wide opportunities for youth athletes and spotlighting their accomplishments.

"I am excited to take on this role, and appreciate the opportunity to find new ways to invest in programs for our young athletes that I wish I had while growing up in Mattapan and around the city," said Tyrik Wilson, Youth Sports Initiative Manager. "Our goal is to invest in our youth and build stronger connections in our community. The vision is to eventually create a better bond between our families, local sport organizations, and the schools"

Before this role, Wilson has worked with youth for the past 15 years in a variety of roles, as a coach, mentor, counselor, and developmental trainer. Starting in

2013, he also worked as a WIC Program Specialist for the USDA-Food and Nutrition Services Program (FNS) for 10 years coordinating programs in three different states. During his time, Wilson also served as the Lead Diversity and Inclusion Specialist where he hosted cultural events locally and nationally. Prior to joining the City in February 2024, Wilson also served as a consultant for Thacher Montessori School, where he worked with youth with a variety of organizational and behavioral challenges.

"This role is crucial because it specifically focuses on the youth," said Jaylen Hunter-Coleman, sophomore point guard for the Charlestown High School basketball team. "There needs to be more events to celebrate the youth, and the Boston Youth Sports Hub is great because it helps the community connect with each other and with Boston more."

"It's essential to have a role dedicated to providing kids with the resources they need to be successful," said Tony Darocha, Track Coach and founder of the Boston United Track & Cross Country Club. "Investing in youth is key to building a successful city."

The Hub can be found at [boston.gov/sports](https://boston.gov/sports), the Directory at [Sports.boston.gov](https://Sports.boston.gov).

The City of Boston's Community Engagement Cabinet recently awarded 40 grants for up to \$5,000 totaling \$100,000 as part of the Mayor's Youth Sports Grant. This grant is an extension of the Mayor's efforts to improve access to youth sports for Boston Public School (BPS) students and provide fiscal support to non-profit organizations to enhance sports programming. The Mayor's Youth Sports Grant was funded by the Massachusetts State budget for FY24. Learn more about the Mayor's Youth Sports Grant.

## COFFEE HOUR (from pg. 1)

is again releasing a Community Input Survey, which provides an opportunity for constituents to ask questions and inform what will be presented during Coffee Hours with the Mayor. Last year, this proved to be a success, allowing constituents to hear directly from the Mayor and City leaders as they addressed concerns and answered constituents' questions at each Coffee Hour event.

"Coffee Hours with the Mayor is an intentional effort to meet community members in the heart of their neighborhoods," said Brianna Millor, Chief of the Community Engagement Cabinet. "I encourage residents, including our youth, seniors, civic organizations, business owners, and local leaders to attend this neighborhood-centered event. Boston 311 will be present to connect residents to essential city services."

Dunkin' will be on-site with freshly brewed Iced Coffee and MUNCHKINS® donut hole

treats. Dunkin' will have lawn games and gift card giveaways. Residents at each event will also be eligible to win a raffle prize from Dunkin'. Individuals in attendance will receive a free flowering plant provided by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, while supplies last. Fresh fruit will be provided by Star Market.

"Mayor Wu's Neighborhood Coffee Hours are vital for community engagement, allowing residents to share their thoughts directly. We're grateful for their participation," noted Ryan Woods, Commissioner of the Parks and Recreation Department. "These events not only foster dialogue but also mark the kickoff for our exciting summer calendar of events. From outdoor concerts to movies to arts and crafts workshops for kids, our programming breathes life into our parks, fulfilling our core mission of creating vibrant spaces for all to enjoy."

All coffee hours will be held

from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., weather permitting. Visit [boston.gov/coffee-hours](https://boston.gov/coffee-hours) for more information.

For more information and updates on possible rain locations, please contact the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at (617) 635-4505 or @boston-parksdept on X, Facebook, or Instagram, or by visiting [boston.gov/parks](https://boston.gov/parks).

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PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER THURSDAY

# 2024 Calendar

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
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# BEACON HILL ART WALK 2024

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

Artists and visitors from Beacon Hill, the Back Bay, South End, and the Greater Boston area gathered on June 2 for the Beacon Hill Art Walk, with live music performed throughout the nooks and crannies of displays.

“It’s a unique event because it’s all original, fine art,” said Jenn Matson, organizer. “It’s mostly 2D: paintings, photography, and collages. People get to meet the artists in gardens, backyards, and courtyards – spaces not normally

available to the public.”

Matson began exhibiting her photography in the Beacon Hill Art Walk in 1999; and started to help coordinate the event some 20 years ago. It is a tradition that she is passionate about.

“I think it’s an awesome event. I want it to exist,” smiled Matson, who also helps run The Boston Arts Festival. “The neighborhood loves it. The visitors love it. It’s a fun event. We’re having a fantastic day and a tremendous turnout.”



Tracy Levesque, displaying her chromatic acrylic paintings of nature and the cosmos, and Peter Zimmerman.



Hsiu Chang and Russ Marotta playing Americana, pop, jazz, and folk music.



Arlene Greenspan showing her oil on watercolor painting to Dan Zuch.



Beacon Hill resident, Erik Barth, watercolor artist and architect.



Chloe Jackson, Eliza Rakaseder, Abi Hodgdon, Beacon Hill resident, and Abby Perschon, admiring Surfside Ceramics porcelain crystal-line-glazed pottery.



Fredrik Holmstedt and Gisela Nilsson, Beacon Hill residents.



Julia, Cid – with her realistic floral impressions – and Etgar Nerenberg.

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# BEACON HILL ART WALK 2024

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZ



*Vivian Rosalee explaining her gouache painting, "Psychedelic Octopus," with Amemi Mehrez, Jack Whitten, and Madison Desmond.*



*Kat Romanik with her oil and acrylic paintings, on Rollins Place.*



*Beacon Hill resident, L.E. Sommerville, with her acrylic and watercolor paintings.*



*Jenn Matson, event organizer.*



*Torsten, Laura, Clara, and Felix enjoying the Beacon Hill Art Walk.*



*Bernice and Eureka Wilcox with acrylic painting, "Twin Island."*



*Rob and Kathy Jacob.*

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# BEACON HILL ART WALK 2024

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Alonso Villasmil and Kush Badshah, who enjoy pastiche and surrealist pieces, admiring art on Primus Avenue.



Artists and visitors gathering on West Cedar Street for the Beacon Hill Art Walk on June 2.



Izabella and Bernard Djevalikian, and his oil on canvas paintings .



Jim, and Cynthia Ade looking at watercolors by Pram Townsend.



Jordana and Justin Morse, Daniel Zuch, and Janani Ramachandran, in a display of watercolors by Willow Road.



Irene Zhao, Hua Tian, and Lulu Shao, with Kimchi.



## SPEAKEASIES, BOOTLEGGERS, AND JAZZ AT THE WEST END MUSEUM

Special to Regional Review

Back in the days of Prohibition, there were speakeasies all over Boston...including Beacon Hill and the West End. Emily Sweeney, Boston Globe journalist and author of several nonfiction books, including 'Boston Organized Crime' and 'Gangland Boston,' notes that a speakeasy known as the "Lighted Lamp" was located in the basement of a building at the corner of Myrtle and Grove streets. On the night of Jan. 22, 1921, explains Sweeney, officers from the Joy Street police station raided the club using sledgehammers to break down the doors. There were more than 50 young people partying there that night. Police found a half dozen empty whiskey bottles, a half-empty bottle of brandy, and took several flappers away in a patrol wagon.

Just a short walk from Beacon Hill, the Club Garden on Causeway Street epitomized the clandestine speakeasies that thrived in the West End during Prohibition. Beyond mere drinking spots, these venues symbolized defiance against the era's restrictive laws. Intricate entry rituals, including passwords and secret knocks, infused the experience with an aura of mystery and thrill.

Enforcing Prohibition posed considerable difficulties. Despite

extensive endeavors by law enforcement, including federal agents, to suppress illicit alcohol activities, speakeasies persisted. The irresistible appeal of alcohol, alongside the substantial profits from bootlegging, sustained a thriving underground economy. Figures such as Charles "King" Solomon seized upon this demand, emerging as influential figures in Boston's criminal underworld. Solomon's vast empire, featuring establishments like the Coconut Grove nightclub, epitomized the convergence of vice industries during this era.

The eventual repeal of Prohibition in 1933 with the passage of the 21st Amendment marked the end of this contentious era. The repeal reflected a shift in public sentiment, as many Americans grew disillusioned with the unintended consequences of Prohibition, including the rise of organized crime and the erosion of civil liberties.

On June 23, you can delve into the clandestine world of bootleggers, bathtub gin, peepholes, and secret passwords that defined this fascinating period of Boston's history at a high-spirited program at the West End Museum that blends historical storytelling and live music. Cool cat jazz musicians Justin Ouellet (violin) and Justin Piper (guitar) will take the



COURTESY PHOTO

Prohibition agents are seen destroying barrels of alcohol.

stage performing prohibition-era standards by greats such as Duke Ellington and Irving Berlin, and Emily Sweeney will share her expertise on the rise of speakeasies, the influence of organized crime,

and the societal impacts of Herbert Hoover's "noble experiment." Your admission includes a "Bees Knees," a popular cocktail of the era, courtesy of our friends at The Tip Tap Room. You won't want to

miss this unique and multi-faceted experience which is sure to be the cat's pajamas!

Tickets are available at [west-endmuseum.org](http://west-endmuseum.org) and [crescendo-productions.com](http://crescendo-productions.com).

## Wu announces applications now open for the SPARK Boston Council

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu announced applications for the 2024-2025 SPARK Boston Council are now open and available online. The SPARK Boston Council is a volunteer leadership and civic engagement council made up of 20 to 35 year olds charged with spearheading the City's efforts to engage Boston's young adults. Applications are due Friday, July 5, 2024.

"SPARK Boston is an invaluable way to get involved in city government and have your voice heard about the top issues impacting you and your peers," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I look forward to getting to know the new SPARK Boston Council, and thank the outgoing one for their hard work in representing all corners of our city."

Under the direction of the SPARK Boston Director Aidan McDonough, the 2024-2025 Council will create programming and advise Boston's leaders to help the city grow as an inviting, connected, culturally rich, and sustainable home for young adults. Throughout the SPARK Boston

Council term, participants hear from key members of the Mayor's administration, leaders within City Hall, and community organizations about topics like climate resilience, education, housing, nightlife, and civic innovation.

"SPARK Boston is an opportunity for young adults interested in getting more civically involved and engaged in our local government process of helping Boston residents," said SPARK Boston Director Aidan McDonough. "By applying for the SPARK Council you are gaining a network of like minded peers and will be in rooms with decision makers and shakers who work towards creating a better Boston for everyone!"

Past council members have come from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds including public service, higher education, and scientific research. The SPARK Council meets on the first Monday of each month. Council members are encouraged to attend one community meeting and one SPARK event or subcommittee meeting a month. Applicants must reside in Boston, and be willing to commit 15 hours monthly to the

SPARK Boston program. SPARK Boston and its previous iteration ONEin3 have now been serving young adults and the City of Boston for over 18 years.

"SPARK Boston Council members are changemakers in our city. I am so proud of the work of our current Council for their leadership this year," said Chief of Community Engagement Brianna Millor. "If you are a young adult and interested in deepening your service within Boston, I encourage you to apply to become a member of the 2024-2025 SPARK Boston Council."

The 2023-2024 SPARK Council will be continuing their work through the end of their term this August, but have already taken part in several opportunities including attending Mayor Wu's State of the City, volunteering during the Office of Civic Organizing's Civic Summit, and organizing thousands of toys for Toys for Tots. The 2023-2024 council has continued legacy & signature programming such as: Neighborhood Socials, which are events designed to bring City Hall staff and local leaders into spaces young people already patronize; Chief Chats, fireside discussions

with cabinet leadership; and Pint with a Planner, an event series in partnership with the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA).

"If you're looking to grow your perspective and meet people you would otherwise not, then SPARK Boston is for you," said Samantha Montano, State Representative and SPARK Boston alum. "I had an amazing experience learning from my cohort and seeing our city through their eyes. If I had the opportunity to rejoin, I would defi-

nately do it again!"

"SPARK Boston provides members with opportunities to engage with civic leaders including reconnecting with alumni," said Long Tong, current SPARK council member. "The most impactful activity I worked on was coming up with a way to create voter turnout maps of Boston which allowed residents to see how engaged each neighborhood of Boston is with the City, and how engaged the City should be with each neighborhood of Boston."

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# Artist LaRissa Rogers Announces Open Call for Soil

Special to the Regional Review

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, in partnership with artist LaRissa Rogers, announces an Open Call for Soil as part of Going to Ground, a new sculpture coming to The Greenway's North End parks this August. The sculpture responds to and invites viewers to engage with the history of Zipporah Potter Atkins, the first-known Black woman to own a home in Boston in 1670. Her home was on land now cared for by The Greenway at Cross and Hanover Streets in the North End.

As part of this project, Rogers is hosting an Open Call for Soil – an invitation to Boston's communities to contribute soil from spaces meaningful to them. The collected soil will then be used to create adobe soil bricks which will form the foundation of the sculpture.

To participate, Rogers asks community members to fill out the Open Call for Soil form, find a



Photo courtesy Lee-Daniel Tran. Graphic design: Chen Luo

*An Open Call for Soil box installed in downtown Boston as part of artist LaRissa Rogers' upcoming project, Going to Ground.*

site that is significant to them, dig and gather soil in a vessel fitting for them, add a note about their site of soil or any other thoughts, and finally, address and mail the package to Zipporah Potter Atkins, care of The Greenway.

Participants can also drop soil contributions off at one of two public "soil boxes" installed for the project, and pictured above.

"Going to Ground directly borrows from scholar Vanessa Agard Jones' 2021 Loophole of Retreat

lecture," says Rogers. "Agard Jones advocates for the liberatory practice of going to ground, emphasizing its relevance for those prioritizing survivance, sovereignty, and freedom. Our project engages with Agard-Jones' invitation to shift our focus towards the fertile and generative potential of groundedness through spaces for both emotion and thought. Soil has the capacity to hold histories of trauma, and also produce life."

"In the sculpture, the home becomes a liminal structure, where the awning of the home is adorned with a scarification pattern that provides only partial shelter from the elements. As the sun moves throughout the day, the shadow of scarification is cast onto the landscape, transforming the sculpture itself into a sundial. The artwork's foundational layer will be built using adobe soil bricks, made with soil collectively sourced through our community Open Call for Soil, and from The Greenway

where Potter Atkins' home was located."

Community members can drop off their soil in the soil mailboxes located at City Hall Plaza or at The Greenway Offices at 185 Kneeland Street, Boston, MA 02111. There is also the option to mail in soil in a watertight container free of charge; visit this webpage for more information.

"Rogers' Going to Ground is the first project in what will be a continuing site of engagement for contemporary artists and a larger community dialogue around honoring Zipporah Potter Atkins' legacy and Boston's public history(ies) as a whole," said Audrey Lopez, Director & Curator of Public Art at The Greenway.

The sculpture will open in August 2024 with a community picnic and performance. Follow the project website or The Greenway's Public Art Instagram (@greenwaypublicart) for updates and further details.

## 2024 North End Feasts Schedule

**Sunday, June 2 - Santa Maria Di Anzano Procession**

**Thursday, August 1, to Sunday, August 4 -**

**St. Agrippina di Mineo Feast**

**Friday, August 9, to Sunday, August 11 -**

**Madonna Della Cava Feast**

**Friday, August 9, to Sunday, August 11 -**

**Saint Rocco's Feast**

**Thursday, August 15, to Sunday, August 18 -**

**Fisherman's Feast of the**

**Madonna Del Soccorso di Sciacca**

**Thursday, August 22 & 23 - Saint Lucy's Feast**

**Friday, August 22, to Sunday, August 25 -**

**104th Annual Saint Anthony's Feast**

**Date TBD - Saint Padre Pio Procession**

**Date TBD - St. Joseph Procession**

**Date TBD - Santa Rosalia di Palermo**

## Advent School welcomes Sean Harlow as new Director of Development

Advent School is thrilled to announce Sean Harlow as the School's new Director of Development, effective May 2024.

"I'm excited to have Sean's perspective on the team," says Advent's Head of School Nicole A. DuFauchard P'20. "He has dived into the Advent community at the recent Art Stroll and worked alongside outgoing director Washawn Jones for weeks to fully continue Washawn's great work."

Sean brings over two decades of experience in educational advancement to Advent, having served in leadership roles at prestigious institutions such as Harvard Law School, Rice University, St. John's Prep, Washburn University School of Law, and Tabor Academy. Sean has fostered strong connections with alum, secured annual gifts, championed major and deferred gifts, and expertly managed volunteer programs throughout his career.

A distinguished academic, Sean holds a Juris Doctor from Washburn University School of Law, a master's degree from the University of Alabama, a bachelor's degree from Hamilton College, and a Thayer Academy graduate.

Sean is eager to connect with Beacon Hill and surrounding communities to understand how The Advent School complements the city's legacy of being a global leader in education.

"Advent is a School with a mission and a team that I have long admired," says Sean. "I look forward to working with Advent's many champions – students, faculty, parents, guardians, alumni, and friends – to set the School up for success today, tomorrow, and well into the future."

The Advent School serves children in grades ECC (Early Childhood Center) through Sixth Grade from over 40 Boston-area neighborhoods.

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# VFW POST 144 HOLDS MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

The VFW Post 144 held a Memorial Day ceremony at the Prado for all those who served in the Armed forces, followed by a Mass at St. Leonards.

Courtesy photos



Shown are scenes from the VFW Post's Memorial Day ceremony.



## NEW HEALTH PARTICIPATES IN MASS LEAGUE'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER DAY AT THE STATE HOUSE

North End Waterfront Health (NEW Health) participated in Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers' Community Health Center Day at the State House on Tuesday, June 4th. NEW Health was among dozens of non-profits and health centers educating legislators, state officials and the community on the importance of health and hygiene. The focus at the NEW Health table was dental hygiene, showcasing NEW Health services such as implant restorations. Dental Director Erika Omansky and Dental Practice Administrator Laura Rivas were joined by other NEW Health staff members to speak with people about their services including oral surgery, pediatric dentistry, root planting and more. Pamphlets, hand sanitizer, pill containers, toothbrushes and toothpaste were also provided to attendees. Dental products and machines such as a

scanner and whitening strips were on display. In addition to dental services, NEW Health also provides primary medical care, along with vision, behavioral health, obstetrics, gynecology, laboratory services and x-ray services. Photos with proper ID are attached to this email and available for your use. Thank you for your consideration! As a federally qualified health center and an affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital and Boston Medical Center, North End Waterfront Health (NEW Health) extends its world-renowned healthcare services to people who live and work in and around Boston's North End, Waterfront and Charlestown neighborhoods. NEW Health is committed to improving the quality of health and life for those it serves by providing high quality health care that is consumer oriented, culturally appropriate, neighborhood-based, affordable,

and produces positive outcomes. NEW Health is a 2023 Health Center Quality Leader (HCQL), the only Massachusetts health center to receive a Gold badge from the Health Resources and Services Administration, among the top 10% of health centers nationwide. NEW Health has been serving the North End of Boston and the surrounding community since 1971. In addition to primary care services for all patients, many specialty services are also offered including dental, vision, behavioral health, obstetrics, gynecology, laboratory services and x-ray services. NEW Health is a private, non-profit corporation that is governed by a community-based Board of Directors and licensed by the Department of Public Health. More information at [www.newhealthcenter.org](http://www.newhealthcenter.org), on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



NEW Health staff members (left to right) Vincenzo "Vin" Scibelli, Laura Rivas, Dr. Erika Omansky, Kristen Simonelli, Nancy Meredith, and Danny Coakley.

Visit [www.northendregionalreview.com](http://www.northendregionalreview.com)



# FOCCP MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL ATTRACTS A FULL HOUSE

By Phil Orlandella

It was a full and spirited house at Tia's on the Waterfront, site of the annual Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) annual membership social.

The all-volunteer, non-profit civic organization was formed many years ago to encourage, promote, enhance and coordinate efforts to improve, maintain and utilize the 4 1/2 acres of land on the Waterfront, abutting the North End.

Through the efforts of resi-

dents, neighbors, area residents and community organizations and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, The Greenway has become a viable neighborhood park that is well cared for and the site of numerous events for the community to enjoy in more ways than one.

"The social was terrific," FOCCP President Joanne Hayes Rines boasted. "We had Tia's terrace all to ourselves."

She added, "More than 90 neighbors attended to support our efforts in and for the park."



Shown are scenes from the FOCCP annual membership social.

