



# THE NORTH END REGIONAL REVIEW

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## ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR VISITS THE NORTH END



Derek Kouyoumjian photos

The Enchanted Trolley Tour made a stop at the Paul Revere Mall in the North End. Shown above, Santa and Mrs Claus pose with Allison, Thomas, and Stevie Sigsbury. While The Wallus Family, shown right, enjoy the rest of the activities. See Pages 6-8 for more photos.



## NEWRA supports full liquor license, opposes tower development

By Phil Orlandella

A request by Boncotto, 361 Hanover Street, for a full liquor license was unanimously supported by the North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) at their December meeting held at

the Nazzaro Community Center on North Bennet Street.

Co-owners Joe Bono and Warren Mustacchio, holders of a malt and wine license and a closing time of 12am, have filed papers with the City of Boston Licensing Board.

An application to transfer the all liquor from 110 Canal Street to DePasquale Ventures was referred to NEWRA's Zoning and Licensing Committee.

The license would be used at

(NEWRA Pg. 2)

## Holiday gift donation for Eliot School students

Special to the Review

On Monday, December 9, NEW Health – a community health center in the North End of Boston – joined forces with St. Lucy's Society to help families in need this holiday season. Volunteers wrapped Christmas presents at NEW Health's North End location for local students at The Eliot K-8 Innovation School. Every holiday season, NEW Health and St.

Lucy's Society give back to those in need by purchasing gifts to help ease financial stress for struggling families this holiday season. Over 30 kids will receive more than 150 gifts. Special thanks to Nathan and Sheila Barry for their incredibly generous donation and North End Cares for also making a wonderful donation to help the school. Wrapped presents will be dropped off to students the following day.



PHOTO COURTESY NEW HEALTH

NEW Health and St. Lucy's Society's annual gift donation had presents dropped off to Eliot School.



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OUR OFFICES ARE CLOSED  
**CHRISTMAS  
& NEW YEARS**  
SEE YOU IN 2025!

# EDITORIAL

## CHRISTMAS IS FAST APPROACHING, BUT THERE'S STILL TIME TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

It's hard to believe that Christmas is just a week away. We realize that the compressed holiday shopping season has put even more pressure than usual on all of us, but we hope that all of our readers can find the time to remember those in need this holiday season.

The stock market may be booming and unemployment may be near an all-time low, but there was the depressing news this past week that homelessness among Americans once again has increased in the past year and millions of American children (1 in 8) face food insecurity on a regular basis.

The cold, harsh reality for many Americans in 2024 is that the promise of benefitting from a booming economy still is only a dream, where even those who are lucky enough to work full-time are barely getting by thanks to the crushingly-high cost of housing.

And for those who cannot find a job, or who are unable to work -- and especially for their children -- the holiday joy that most of us take for granted is just an illusion.

We recognize that in our hurry-hurry world where we barely have time to think, the Christmas season brings with it the onslaught of last-minute shopping and holiday preparations. But we urge all of our readers who have the means to do so to take a brief "time-out" in order to consider doing something to make the holiday season a bit brighter for those who are less fortunate.

We can assure our readers that any gift of charity that we make, whether it be to a Toys for Tots program or to a Salvation Army Santa (the Salvation Army provided services to 27 million Americans last year) or a food bank donation, will be the most meaningful — and most satisfying — act that we can make this holiday season.

## THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE STARTED 80 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

It was 80 years ago this week that the final big battle of WWII in Western Europe -- the Battle of the Bulge -- got underway.

In brief, the Battle of the Bulge marked a last-ditch counter-offensive by the German Army against the U.S. and its allies as the allies advanced through Belgium and toward Germany. The German attack, which caught the Americans by surprise, earned its name from the "bulge" that the sudden German thrust created in the middle of the American line in the Ardennes Forest of Belgium.

The battle was immortalized in the 1965 movie, *The Battle of the Bulge*, and then 40 years later in the great HBO series *Band of Brothers*, which followed the exploits of E Company of the fabled 101st Airborne Division, including its crucial role in the defense of the Belgian town of Bastogne where General Anthony McAuliffe uttered the famous, one-word declaration word, "Nuts!" in response to a demand for him to surrender from the German commander who had surrounded the Americans. The 101st Airborne hung on, against all odds and a militarily-superior enemy, stalling the German offensive until General George Patton arrived with reinforcements.

Soldiers fought in brutal winter conditions against a ruthless German enemy that literally was taking no prisoners -- the Nazis executed hundreds of captured American soldiers during the engagement. Altogether, the U.S. Army lost approximately 19,000 men and suffered 75,000 total casualties in what became the United States' deadliest single World War II battle, which extended from December 16, 1944, to January 16, 1945. When the battle was over, so too for all intents and purposes were the Germans, whose surrender occurred less than four months later.

The reason we wish to make note of this epic battle is because in some of our sister newspapers, we write a weekly "Through the Years" column. In our Revere newspaper, it was noted that seven Revere families were notified this week 80 years ago that their sons, husbands, and fathers had been killed in action.

We today can only imagine the profound and deep sense of grief and sadness that enveloped entire communities all across the country as the telegrams from the War Department were delivered by the thousands to families informing them of the loss of their loved ones over those terrible four weeks.

In addition, it occurred to us that so few of the Greatest Generation, including our own uncles and fathers who served in that war, are still alive today. All of the members of Easy Company have passed away.

We do so in hopes of acknowledging the debt we owe to the brave soldiers who gave their lives in the forests and on the fields of Belgium 80 years ago, with the hope that we might fulfill the sentiments expressed by Abraham Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address: "...that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain."



### NEWRA (from pg. 1)

60-70 Cross Street for the new interior and rooftop dining area at the former Martignetti Liquor Store.

NEWRA approved sending a letter of comment to the Boston Planning Department relating to the proposed development of a 40 story, 470-foot tower on Medford, Causeway and North Washington Streets, the North Station Gateway Project.

The letter points out that NEWRA opposes the project as proposed by RMR Group LLC in the PNF for the following reasons.

- The project does not conform to Bulfinch Triangle District planning and violates the district's zoning code.
- The project is incompatible with its urban setting and will set a dangerous precedent.
- The project does not promote equity or affordability and does not mitigate Boston's housing crisis.
- The project as proposed does not minimize construction impacts.

The letter goes on to say...Redevelopment in the Bulfinch Triangle, like in the North End, should be attentive and sensitive to the historical character of the district and protect and supportive of the quality of residential life.

It notes the developer proposes a tower 350 feet higher than the Zoning Code's 100-foot limit and 300 feet higher than any of the recent developments along the south side of Causeway Street.

NEWRA claims the PNF does not assess the project's construction impacts or discuss, even in general how these impacts can be minimized through design.

NEWRA outlines many other concerns that need to be addressed.

The community group has urged the Planning Department to require significant changes than can bring the project into compliance with article 46, Bulfinch Triangle District Zoning.

There were several speakers at the meeting including Marlo D'Amato, Director of the Boston Center for Youth and Families (BCYF) updated NEWRA on the building process for a new North End Community Center that will be constructed on Commercial Street, adjacent to the Mirabella Pool.

Robert Lewis of Boston Public Works spoke about the cleanliness of the North End.

NEWRA will meet on Thursday, January 9 at 6:30pm at the Nazzaro Community Center.

*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.*

## REGIONAL REVIEW

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# Flynn calls for cancellation of the White Stadium proposal

Special to the Review

After months of opposition letters and statements during various levels of city approvals, District 2 Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn is calling on the Wu Administration to cancel the planned renovation of White Stadium in Franklin Park due to increasing concerns on fiscal responsibility, as projected costs have reportedly jumped from \$50 million to now \$91 million so far for the city. These fiscal issues are in addition to previous concerns highlighted by residents - including lack of a thorough community process, the use of public land for private organizations, and now the practicality of two professional soccer stadiums in close proximity with the New England Revolution 24,000 seat proposal in Everett, as well as other suitable options available.

Residents and organizations across the city have expressed concerns on the lack of a genuine public process that left many neighbors feeling unheard when it came to rapidly rising projections and the city's finances, reports of the ability to renovate White Stadium at a projected \$20 million for student athletes and residents, as well as displacement of students and the general public for 20 games and 20 practices annually during warmer months. Many neighbors also expressed that they were not taken seriously on quality of life issues like traffic and congestion, available parking, trash removal, and public safety. Moreover, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy reported that 140 trees would need to be cut down for the project, as well as paving over acres of grass to accommodate the construction.

From the outset, Councilor Flynn repeatedly took issue with the initial investment projected at \$50 million, and expressed concerns that the project appeared tone deaf - especially at a time when the Administration, the City Council, the Massachusetts State House, concerned residents and businesses have spent the better part of a year debating our budget and a property tax shift in the face of reports on falling commercial property values. For months, Councilor Flynn repeatedly warned that figure could easily inflate with higher cost overruns. Last month, city officials revealed at the Public Facilities Commission that the White Stadium Project is now projected to cost residents and taxpayers \$91 million. Mayor Wu publicly stated last week that, "We are going to pay our half of

the Stadium, no matter what it costs."

Councilor Flynn previously made his opposition known at both the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Commission in August and at the Boston School Committee in September, where he highlighted the need for additional community process as well as further discussion when it comes to proposals on the privatization of public space.

Beyond concerns on fiscal issues and public space, residents across the city have conveyed the need to discuss alternatives for the city to consider. There has been considerable public discussion now regarding the practicality of an agreement to potentially share a new soccer stadium in Everett between the New England Revolution and a National Women's Soccer League team, currently BOS Nation Football Club, like other major cities across the country. Portland, Oregon, and New York City have shared men and women's soccer stadiums. Finding a way to merge these proposals would also leave room to renovate White Stadium with a more responsible budget

and significant upgrades for BPS students and residents. Moreover, Boston is rich with other opportunities that could support a professional women's soccer team, like Fenway Park and other premier stadium options at our colleges and universities.

"Prior to these latest reports that the White Stadium project will now cost the city \$91 million, I have repeatedly called for a genuine community process. Residents did not feel that they were taken seriously when it came to the cost for the city, other available options, the use of public property, or quality of life and environmental issues," said Councilor Flynn. "We should cancel this proposal immediately and work together with residents and stakeholders across the city to provide the best option not only for our city and supporting a professional women's soccer team, but one that incorporates the voice of our residents and student athletes as well."

For more information, please contact Councilor Flynn's office at 617-635-3203 or Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.

## City hosts rodent control webinar

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Last week, the city hosted a webinar in which representatives from the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) and Waste Reduction team discussed rodent control and how it starts with residents.

John Ulrich, the assistant commissioner of environmental services at ISD, initially spoke about what the division does regarding pest management.

First, Ulrich explained they use an integrated pest management program to keep populations low and have controls in place to reduce reliance on rodenticides.

Moreover, he spoke about the outreach that is conducted for environmental sanitation. "We allow neighbors to point to the issues that they're dealing with," said Ulrich, who indicated that an inspector responds to 311 complaints within 24-48 hours.

Ulrich expanded on what the response by an inspector looks like in that they are looking for the cause of a rodent issue. "It's mainly driven by food, but food, water, and shelter is what we're looking for," he said.

Later, Ulrich described issues that lead to more rodent activity, such as feeding birds and neglecting to pick up dog waste, and noted that dumpsters and trash were the primary food source for rodents in the city.

To combat rodent activity, Ulrich emphasized that it is essential to store trash properly,



Rat traps are one way to combat the rodent. Shown above is the dead rat in the trap.

"[Make] sure your barrels have covers, tight-fitting lids, that they don't have holes in them or cracks," he said.

Sanitation inside and outside a home was described as the most important step to prevent rodent infestations. For example, Ulrich spoke about the importance of not leaving food out and general maintenance like vacuuming.

Securing the correct amount of storage barrels for a particular household was also stressed. "If you have two barrels with covers and then you put out four trash bags, you're missing the point, and you're still contributing to rodent activity," said Ulrich.

Other critical measures to prevent rodents discussed included not leaving pet food outside, discarding unwanted items like furniture that might be cluttered,

and performing regular yard maintenance like mowing the lawn.

As the presentation continued, Ulrich provided tips on ensuring that rodents do not enter homes.

For example, he discussed re-pointing masonry, such as foundations, and sealing cracks and gaps above ground level.

As for what methods the environmental services division uses for rodent control, Ulrich described a couple.

One method is putting two pounds of dry ice in holes. While Ulrich said it was effective and helped reduce the reliance on rodenticides, he indicated they had used it less recently.

Another method is using a Burrow RX machine. "A Burrow

(RODENTS Pg.11)

NORTH END

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## NEWS, NOTES AND WHATEVER By Phil Orlandella

### TWO CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS WILL CHANGE THE VIEW ENTERING THE N. E.

Two major North End development projects will reshape the entire block from Hanover to Endicott Streets once completed.

The projects will also change the view entering the North End from City Hall, the Haymarket T Station and The Greenway.

Plans by North End restaurant owner Frank DePasquale to create a series of businesses keyed to Italian Culture on Cross Street between Hanover and Salem Streets and a proposed five-story, 134 room boutique hotel on Cross and Endicott Streets will create the new look entering the North End.

### PUPPETS RULE AT LIBRARY

It was a fun-filled Winter Puppet Show with Nicola McEldowney at the North End Library on Parmenter Street, many attendees joined the puppeteer and her puppet pal the friendly Winter Monster for winter theme stories.

Kids in the audience got to be part of the show, operating their own puppets and making up a tiny puppet show of their own.

It was an entertaining and fun-filled event hosted by the library for North End children.

### NEW HEALTH/ST. LUCY SOCIETY DELIVERY CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO ELIOT SCHOOL

Once again, NEW Health and St. Lucy Society have partnered

this holiday season to help families in need.

The Center and Society are located in the North End, joined forces to wrap presents for Eliot School students as part of their annual gift donation.

NEW Health employees and volunteers wrapped Christmas presents for the Eliot K-8 Innovation School as they have done every holiday season.

They purchased gifts to help ease financial stress for struggling families. More than 150 gifts were distributed to over 30 kids.

Nathan and Shelia Barry and North End Cares (NEC) made generous donations for the holiday gift presentations.

### HATCHLING WINTER LIGHTS RETURN TO THE GREENWAY

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy has announced the return of Hatchling Winter Lights Display has returned to The Greenway this past November.

Designed by Studio HHH, there are nine hatchlings that dot The Greenway with the largest standing at 8.5 feet tall and the smallest at 2.5 feet, each featuring vibrant arches in colorful animated lights.

The Conservancy will be hosting The Greenway's Winter Warmer on Saturday, December 21 from 2pm to 4pm at the Rings Fountain to celebrate the reopening of the Hatchlings.

The event includes a hot chocolate bar, a holiday toy workshop, a bubble house, a photo booth, live music and an instrumental petting zoo by Boston Music Project.

### FIREWORKS OVER BOSTON HARBOR/VIEWING AT COLUMBUS PARK

First Night Boston and Coventurers presents another New Year's Eve Midnight Fireworks celebration on Tuesday, December 31 starting at 12 midnight.

Hundreds of spectators are expected to fill Columbus Park to ring in 2025, made possible by locale businesses, waterfront organizations and the City of Boston.

Boston Harbor Now and the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park were part of making the firework display possible.

### NEW HEALTH #GIVING TUESDAY NETS \$5,000

NEW Health was able to meet their match and raised over \$5,000 for the health center.

The Center's friends at Gardner Resources Consulting LLC donated a gift of \$2,500 matching the \$2,500 the #Giving Tuesday fundraiser.

### NEW HEALTH HOLIDAY CLOSING HOURS

During the holiday NEW Health has adjusted its hours of operation.

Closes at 3pm on Tuesday, December 24. Closed Christmas Day and resumes normal hours on Thursday, December 26.

In addition, NEW Health will close at 3pm on Tuesday, December 31. Closed New Year's Day and resumes normal hours on Thursday, January 2.

For assistance call 617-643-8000 or 857-238-1100.

## Two men arraigned for flying drones from restricted Long Island

Special to the Review

Two men were charged in Dorchester BMC with three counts each connected to flying drones in hazardous air space around Long Island and Boston Harbor on Saturday, Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced.

Robert Duffy, 42, of Charlestown, and Jeremy Folcik, 32, of Bridgewater, were each charged with trespassing, breaking and entering, and violating a municipal ordinance or bylaw. Judge Erika Reis released the men on personal recognizance and ordered them to stay away from Long Island and to not operate drones. Both will return to court February 6 for pre-trial hearings.

Boston Police responded to the abandoned homeless and hospital campus on Long Island via patrol boat at about 10:30 p.m. Saturday to investigate reports of unmanned aircraft being flown in hazardous proximity to Logan Airport. As officers searched the site they saw a light on in a building and a person walk by a window. Officers climbed to the second floor of the

building by fire escape stairs and conducted a room search. Officers encountered Duffy and Folcik in the building. Duffy told officers he had been flying a drone and that it was in his backpack. Duffy and Folcik told officers they had been transported to the island on a boat owned by a third man. They said they did not know the man's name. Boston Police asked a State Police patrol boat unit for assistance in locating the third man but he was not apprehended.

Using data from the drone's serial number officers identified six recorded flights on Saturday and seven recorded flights on December 7.

"No trespassing" signs are posted on structures throughout the shuttered Long Island campus.

"There are many areas in Massachusetts to safely operate drones. But flying them from an area closed to the public while creating a potential public safety hazard in the process is conduct that will land people in court to answer to criminal charges, which is exactly what happened here," Hayden said.

## Wu announces expansion of the City's toy drive

Special to the Review

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that the City of Boston is expanding its annual toy drive, and will be distributing more than 1,800 toys to children and families in need. This year, the toy drive is led by the City's Community Engagement Cabinet, Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF), and the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) with support from partners Amazon, The Toy Foundation, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), and Greater Boston Building Trades Unions. Over the course of six days, Mayor Wu will join City leadership and staff, union partners, community volunteers, and The Toy Foundation to distribute toys to children ages 0-17 living in BHA housing or neighborhoods surrounding BCYF centers.

"Every single child deserves to experience the joys of the holiday season," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We are blessed to have the opportunity to partner with so many businesses and community organizations to bring the holiday spirit and some fun toys to families across our city."

"When you give a child a toy, you are giving hope and joy. We're grateful for our partners within the City of Boston, Amazon, and our toy distribution partner, World Vision, who are helping us place toys into the hands of thousands of children who need them most," said Pam Mastrotta, Executive Director of The Toy Foundation.

"Delivering smiles is at the core of what Amazon strives to do, which is why we are delighted to support the City of Boston's expanded holiday toy drive," said Jerome Smith, Head of Community Engagement for New England at Amazon. "We're proud to join with the City once again to not just distribute toys, but to deliver hope, happiness, and smiles to families throughout Boston this holiday season."

The first toy giveaway led by the Community Engagement Cabinet, BCYF, and BHA was held at the Bunker Hill Housing Redevelopment in Charlestown on December 5. Mayor Wu will distribute toys directly to residents in Roslindale on Thursday, December 12 at the BCYF Menino Community Center

(TOY DRIVE Pg. 10)

## SEND US YOUR NEWS

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# 22ND ANNUAL TRELLIS LIGHTING CEREMONY HELD

By Phil Orlandella

Mayor Michelle Wu, with the help of several children, pulled the switch to turn on the dazzling (50,000) blue lighting at the

22nd Annual Trellis Lighting at Columbus Park.

The trellis will brighten the night through mid-April.

The lighting ceremony was filled with music, holiday magic, treats and special guests, Santa

Claus, Rudolph and the Blue Man Group.

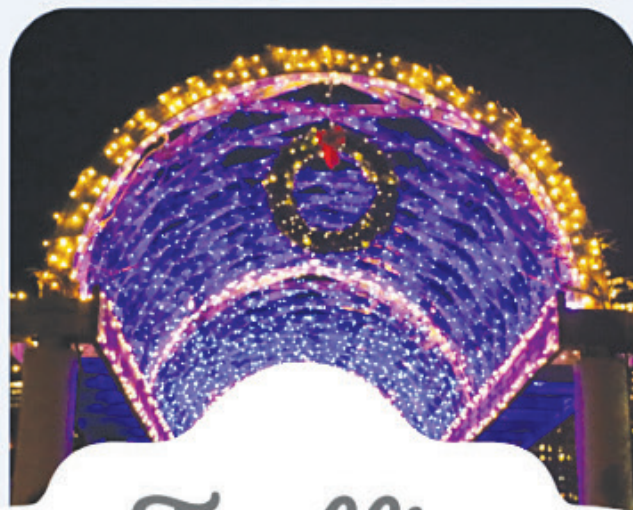
The holiday sounds were presented by the North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) children's chorus and tenor Miguel Cabrera.

The Boston Parks Department provided the entertainment for the evening and worked with local merchants to provide the refreshments.

"We're so thankful for the support of our community whose

generosity has helped the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) keep the trellis lights glowing each winter for the past 22 years," FOCCP President Joanne Hayes Rines said.

Photos by Grace Burke of the Parks Department and John Wilcox of the Mayor's Office



*Trellis*  
**LIGHTING**  
2024



# ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR VISITS THE NORTH END

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

The Enchanted Trolley Tour made a stop at the Paul Revere Mall in the North End. Hanover Street was crowded with Santa fans as he and Mrs Claus arrived with Boston Mayor Michelle Wu,

Massachusetts State Rep Adrian Madaro, City Councilors Erin Murphy, Henry Santana, Sharon Durkin, and 94.1 DJ Fast Freddy Murphy.



Boston City Councilor Erin Murphy.



Massachusetts State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu takes the stage and gets the crowd excited for Santa and Mrs Claus.



Confetti rains on the crowd as the holiday tree is lit up.



The illuminated tree adds holiday spirit to the classic ambience of the North End.



Liliana Silva with her aspiring Bruins Jake and Noah Zappala.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu with Sarah Shalek.

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# ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR VISITS THE NORTH END

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Boston City Hall Liason Ciara D'Amico with Michael Bonetti.



Daniel Gibbons, Miles Paquette and Luke Marci.



Santa makes his triumphant entrance.



The Paul Revere Mall was a family friendly place to celebrate the holiday season.



The Paul Revere Mall was filled with holiday revelers waiting for Santa and Mrs Claus to appear.

## CHRISTMAS TRASH & RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE



### Neighborhoods on a Regular Pick-Up Schedule:

- Back Bay
- Bay Village
- Beacon Hill
- Chinatown
- Downtown Boston
- Fenway-Kenmore
- Mission Hill
- Wharf District
- North End
- Roxbury
- South End
- West End

### Neighborhoods on a Delayed Pick-Up Schedule:

- Allston
- Brighton
- Charlestown
- Dorchester
- East Boston
- Hyde Park
- Jamaica Plain
- Mattapan
- Roslindale
- South Boston
- West Roxbury

*\*All delays in service begin on Wednesday 12/25*

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Public Works



WASTE REDUCTION

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# ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR VISITS THE NORTH END

PHOTOS BY MATT WEST



Malia Evans and Johanna Rios from DePascale Ventures offered complimentary pastries.



Isabela and Madeline Kim.



Jeremy, Steven, and James Knuesel.



David, Deena, and Patrick Kelly.



Elliot School students Emma and Stella did a holiday dance.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu with Kalina, Nevena, and Rada MacDowell.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

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**NORTH END CARES**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

FROM THE

**Nazzaro Community Center**



The Paul Revere Mall was filled with holiday decorations.



Boston Public Schools Superintendent for Region 1 Tommy Welch and his daughter Emi.



# How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical

Story by Marianne Salza

The Grinch relinquished the smidgen of animosity lingering between him and Santa Claus this holiday season to promote his performance in “Dr. Seuss’ How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical,” playing at the Boch Center Wang Theatre through December 23.

The mostly reformed Grinch has been parading around Boston and surrounding areas, disrupting the peace in Faneuil Hall Marketplace, commandeering the Spirit of Boston vessel, and jumping on luxury hotel beds. He made an appearance at the opening night of ZooLights at the Stone Zoo, received a holiday basketball jersey from the Celtics during one of the games, and even celebrated the lighting of the Boston Common Christmas tree, so his devoted fans could marvel at him.

“I’d much rather have positive attention and love than be by myself,” admitted The Grinch,

who finds himself to be hilarious and witty.

Hearts will grow three sizes watching this classic tale of mischief, cheer, and forgiveness as the scheming Grinch discovers the true meaning of Christmas. “How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical” is an 85-minute-long show with no intermissions, and is narrated by The Grinch’s stalwart dog, Max.

“For those living under rocks or don’t finish books, the Whos are very annoying, and I tried my best to take away their favorite thing from them,” said The Grinch, about the jubilant residents of Whoville who he tried stealing Christmas away from. “I was very successful at it; however, they still love Christmas, being around each other, and holding hands.”

Although The Grinch had convinced himself that he valued his solitude, he admitted that on Christmas Eve, the night of the Yuletide theft, he was feeling particularly alone.

The Grinch considered it “one bad night,” explaining that his reasoning for committing the crime was that the Whos’ Christmas had become too commercialized. He was astounded by the over-consumption, and rejected the glitter and commotion.

“Although I took every physical thing away from them, they still had it in their hearts,” The Grinch explained about the Whos’ Christmas spirit.

Soon, he realized that Christmas is more than gifts – it is about togetherness. He learned that life is more meaningful when shared with those one loves.

“My heart grew,” shared

The Grinch, who expressed his remorse. “I stole Christmas and gave it back. It was very kind of me. Their forgiveness and kindness helped me realize that they’re the best people. I can tolerate them.”

“How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical” is a transformative story of redemption from “bad banana” to holiday savior.

“I stopped the villain within me, became a hero on the outside, and am now a beloved Christmas icon,” boasted The Grinch. “The only thing I steal now is attention.”

The formerly conniving Grinch now embraces his past, and cele-

brates his growth and the community that he has gained. Changing his rotten behavior has proven difficult at times, but The Grinch has no intention of stealing Christmas from the Whos again.

The Grinch encourages families to join him at the Boch Center Wang Theatre for “How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical,” so they can appreciate his solo performance in “One of a Kind,” when The Grinch dances in a one-man kick line.

“That’s my favorite part of the whole show,” noted The Grinch. “It’s a wonderful time. It’s amazing.”



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LAST

The Grinch in the Boston Common, where he was chasing pigeons.



PHOTO BY JEREMY DANIEL

The Grinch stealing Christmas from the Whos.



PHOTO BY JEREMY DANIEL

The Grinch cutting the roast beast on Christmas.

# Old North Church undergoing paint conservation and restoration project

Special to the Review

An interior revolution is underway at Boston's Old North Church and Historic Site. On Sept 30, a 6-month paint conservation and restoration project began to uncover 18th-century painted angels hidden beneath layers of white overpaint on the balcony arches in the church's sanctuary. I invite you to join renowned paintings and murals conservator Gianfranco Pocobene for the multi-step process that has begun at Old North Church in Boston's North End and will continue through late March.

The angels at the center of this work were painted by John Gibbs, an accomplished decorative painter and congregation member, who completed Old North Church's first major interior decoration, including the painting of 16 angels, between 1727 and the 1730s. The angels are depicted as cherubs, with round childlike faces and wings.

While Old North Church once boasted a colorful interior filled with intricate and ornate designs, all of this artwork – including Gibbs's angels – was painted over with white paint in 1912. However, a paint study conducted in

2017 revealed that the lost cherubs still exist. Expert craftspeople painstakingly removed layers of white paint to partially uncover one of the angels painted in 1727. Old North's team nicknamed this angel "Howard" in honor of a beloved advocate and supporter of the church.

The 2024-2025 paint restoration project is restoring more of Gibbs's work: the rest of the angels and decorative festoons between them. In order to uncover the angels, lead conservator Gianfranco Pocobene and his team apply a solvent gel similar to a paint stripper that softens the layers of white paint, manually remove the overpaint with a plastic scraper, and then do additional cleaning with a cotton swab covered in solvents. An exciting discovery has been that Gibbs's angels do not have identical faces; each one was designed to be unique. Watch this video interview with Gianfranco to learn more.

"The timing of this project is particularly exciting. As we approach the 250th anniversary of Old North's signal lanterns and Paul Revere's midnight ride in April 2025, visitors to the church will get a glimpse of the sanctuary

as Revere knew it," said Nikki Stewart, Executive Director of Old North Illuminated.

This project will be done in two phases:

- Phase 1 (through Dec.): Gianfranco and his team will work on scaffolding in the rear of the church while they conduct the work and test solvent mixtures on small areas of paint. The winning solution will be used on the surface to swell and dissolve an estimated three to four layers of paint, which will be delicately stripped away to reveal 8 of the hidden angels. The project will then pause as scaffolding will come down for holiday services in the church.

- Phase 2 (mid-Jan. through late March): Scaffolding will go back up in the front of the church to continue the stripping process. Eight more angels will be revealed. In early 2025, visitors will see half of the work complete and the other half in progress, making it an ideal time for media coverage. The grand reveal, when all 16 angels will be uncovered, will be in April.

"The step-by-step uncovering of the angels at Old North Church is revealing fascinating aspects of John Gibbs's painting tech



A worker painstakingly removes layers of white paint to partially uncover one of the angels painted in 1727.



The angels are depicted as cherubs, with round childlike faces and wings.

## TOY DRIVE (from pg. 4)

alongside City staff and partners. The toy giveaways are open to Boston residents who live in Boston Housing Authority sites and in neighborhoods surrounding BCYF centers.

"It's wonderful to have so many partners come together to make the holidays a little brighter for BHA families," said Boston Housing Authority Administrator Kenzie Bok. "By delivering toys to children in our communities, we're not only spreading joy and hope but also creating cherished memories that will last a lifetime."

The upcoming 2024 holiday toy giveaway dates are as follows:

Thursday, December 19  
BCYF Gallivan Community Center

61 Woodruff Way, Mattapan  
Friday, December 20  
BCYF Johnson

68 Annunciation Road, Mission Hill  
Saturday, December 21  
Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building

2300 Washington St, Roxbury  
"AFSCME Council 93 leaders and members feel fortunate to

have the opportunity to work with Mayor Wu to make the holiday season brighter for Archdale Families," said Council 93 Executive Director Mark Bernard. "Given the work that the Mayor, her team and the AFSCME Boston leadership has accomplished together to improve the lives of our members, it's nice to work with her directly on something good for our community as a whole."

"Bringing holiday cheer to children and families directly to neighborhoods is essential to continuing to meet constituents where they are," said Community Engagement Cabinet Chief Brianna Millor. "BCYF and BHA have always been a place of gathering for residents. We are grateful for their partnership to help spread joy this season."

"The Mayor's Toy Drive is truly a community event, and we're thrilled to be part of it," said Boston Centers for Youth and Families Commissioner Marta Rivera. "We're especially grateful to the donors who join with us in making sure all families can bring joy to children this holiday season."

In an effort to ensure all residents who do not live in BHA housing or close to a BCYF community center will have toys for their children during the holidays, the City of Boston's Equity and Inclusion Cabinet will host a Boston Give Back event on Saturday, December 21 in Roxbury at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building. Free toys will be distributed to children in the community. This event is supported by partners Fidelity Investments, Boston Public School Custodians, Artists Initiative for Revolution (AIR), Russell Paulding, Ocean State Job Lot, and TD Garden / Delaware North / Boston Bruins.

"The holidays can be a beautiful and complex season for many of our residents, and at the City of Boston we are aware of this reality because many of us have lived it, too. That is why we close the season of giving with an event called Boston Gives Back, a day filled with holiday magic, food, and toys," said Equity and Inclusion Cabinet Chief Mariangely Solis Cervera.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### NORTH END REHAB SUPPORTS ANIMAL SHELTERS WITH 'OPERATION SANTA PAWS'

North End Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center in Boston, where residents often benefit from animal-assisted therapy visits, has launched "Operation Santa Paws" to collect pet supplies and donate them to the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

Through Dec. 22, the skilled

nursing facility at 70 Fulton St. welcomes donated items such as blankets and towels, dog and cat beds, unopened pet food/treats, pet toys, grooming products, collars and leashes, and food/water bowls.

Therapy animals play a vital role in long-term care residents' lives, particularly those living with dementia and Alzheimer's. Benefits of animal therapy for seniors include emotional uplift, increased self-esteem, improved social skills, and reduced risk of depression and anxiety.

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## FRESH AND LOCAL

## Full of beans!

By Penny &amp; Ed Cherubino

The expression “full of beans” is more directly food-related than you might think. According to the Oxford Language Club, this “...is an idiomatic phrase that has been used for generations to describe individuals who exude liveliness, enthusiasm, and boundless energy. This expression originated in the early 20th century, with ‘beans’ symbolizing vitality and vigor. The phrase likely emerged from the idea that beans, a staple food and a significant source of sustenance, provided essential nutrients and fuel for the body.”

Lately, everyone, from dietitians to food writers, has been promoting the use of more beans in our diets. There are excellent reasons why so many food cultures have beans or legumes as a staple. Dried beans are filling, easy to store, nutritious, high in protein, and contain soluble and insoluble fiber. Soluble fiber lowers our glycemic index, cholesterol, and triglyceride levels. Insoluble

fiber improves the work of our digestive tract and reduces the risk of colon cancer.

## Buying Beans

As we all try to use less processed, more local, sustainable, fresher, and diversified food products, you may not realize that the humble bean is all of these.

Farmers markets or high-quality food shops may sell Baer’s Best Beans grown in Massachusetts. This farm produces about 20 varieties of heirloom and specialty beans. We suspect that more farmers will add beans to their crop list. Beans add goodness to the soil, which is a win-win for farmers.

Rancho Gordo is a West Coast company that preserves food diversity with heritage beans. The website’s store locator lists some local sources: Formaggio Kitchen, Dave’s Fresh Pasta, and Bocco Wine and Cheese.

We highly recommend the company’s bean cookbooks. Another favorite source for bean recipes is Joe Yonan’s “Cool Beans: The

Ultimate Guide to Cooking with the World’s Most Versatile Plant-Based Protein.”

## Adapting Your Body to Beans

If you’re not in the habit of eating beans, your body will take time to adapt to the fiber load they provide. You can start slowly by adding a small dose of beans to a soup or salad and increasing your intake over several weeks.

You may have heard the expression, “Beans, beans, the magical fruit, the more you eat, the less you toot!” In your lower digestive tract, beans are fermented by healthy bacteria, and gas is produced as a by-product. You may have fewer digestive issues as your microbiome and gut health improve. In Mexico, cooks add the herb epazote to their beans, while in India, asafetida is used to ease digestion.

Another tip is to rinse canned beans (without sauces) to reduce flatulence and the high sodium in the canned product. Some experts suggest that several changes in the

soaking water can remove some gassy fiber if you start from dried beans.

The funniest suggestion we’ve read was from Mairlyn Smith, author of the book “Peace, Love & Fibre.” In an article in Food and Wine, she was quoted as saying “...that she and her husband go for ‘fart walks’ most nights after dinner about an hour after they’ve eaten. We eat a lot of fiber, so we have gas, and you fart when you

walk.”

The Rancho Gordo website offers more information about beans and an exploration of their heritage bean offerings. To continue your education, sign up for their newsletter and receive a monthly dose of “beanology.”

*Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.*

## RODENTS (from pg. 3)

RX machine is a machine that uses carbon monoxide to pump into the burrows and kills the rat inside the burrows,” said Ulrich.

“There’s no risk of secondary poisoning with rodenticide, and it’s very effective.”

After Ulrich provided an overview of rodent control requirements for construction sites and the city’s site cleanliness ordinance, Dennis Roache, the city’s superintendent of waste reduction, took the floor.

After providing an overview of the waste reduction team, Roache explained why Boston is a “perfect storm city” for rats.

First, Roache discussed the city’s age. It has 150-year-old sewer systems, alleys, and street corners that are rat-friendly, as well as densely populated neighborhoods.

He also pointed out that the city does not have containerization rules on trash day. “This basically leads to a free dinner buffet,” said Roache.

To combat rodent issues, Roache recommends that residents always store trash in rodent-proof bins. He also noted that the city is looking at what New York is doing regarding requiring containerization.

Roache also reemphasized other strategies that were presented by Ulrich, such as maintaining cleanliness and sealing cracks around homes.

Residents of buildings with six or fewer units were also urged to sign up for the city’s free food waste collection program.

“It’s a way to separate your food waste into a container,” said Roache. “You can separate your food waste out of your trash and keep rats off of your property.”

For more information and to sign up for the food waste collection program, visit <https://www.bostoncomposts.com/>.

Tips for bigger buildings were also provided, such as offering educational programs for residents, dropping food waste off

at free Project Oscar Bins, using a commercial trash service, and more.

For more information about Project Oscar Bins and their locations, visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/project-oscar>.

To close out the presentation, Ulrich provided more information about the Boston Rodent Action Plan (BRAP), which he described as a “new initiative to reduce rodent population across the City of Boston.”

The plan, which involves numerous city agencies, was accompanied by a report from Dr. Bobby Corrigan, an urban rodentologist who made recommendations that fall into six categories: coordination, trash management, data and technology, community engagement, integrated pest management, and sanitation.

For example, some of these recommendations call for improved communication between city departments, policy improvements for trash storage and collection, communication with

## LEGAL NOTICES

## LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND  
FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate  
And Family Court  
24 New Chardon St.  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 788-8300

CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION

Docket No.  
SU24P2650EA  
Estate of:  
Helen J. Novick  
Also Known as:  
Helen Novick  
Date of Death:  
10/28/2024

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Laurie J. Hall of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Laurie J. Hall of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond unsupervised administration.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/21/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 10, 2024  
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.

## Register of Probate

12/19/24  
RR

## LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND  
FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate  
And Family Court  
24 New Chardon  
Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617)788-8300

CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION

Docket No.  
SU24P2639EA  
Estate of:  
Joseph R.  
Bankowski  
Date of Death  
07/23/2024

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy has been filed by Judith A. Bankowski of Westford, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner

or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/21/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 10, 2024  
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.,  
Register of Probate

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**State Representative Aaron Michlewitz**