

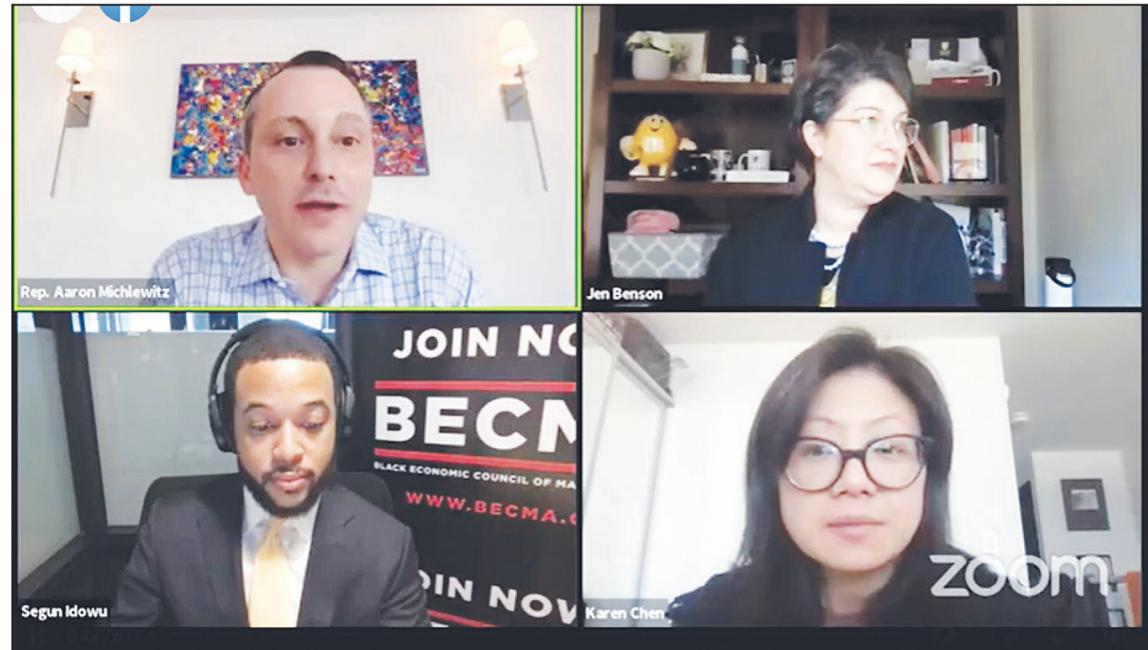


# THE NORTH END

## REGIONAL REVIEW

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Rep. Aaron Michlewitz hosted COVID Recovery Virtual Forum last week.

### Michlewitz hosts COVID Recovery Virtual Forum

By John Lynds

Last week Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, hosted the third in a series of COVID Recovery Forums.

The forum last week focused

on equity within the state's economic recovery efforts.

"When you'd see those maps (charting COVID infections) a lot of the red spots became communities of color quickly," said Michlewitz. "So now as we're building this economy back we do

we have an opportunity, from the state's perspective, to keep things afloat and trying to keep things together by plugging the holes where we can or where we need to (economically). In the same

(RECOVERY, Pg. 4)

### Project Notification Form filed for North End Hotel

By Phil Orlandella

Cross Street Ventura LLC has filed a Project Notification Form with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) to construct a 134 key boutique five-story hotel at 42 Cross Street in the North End.

BPDA is conducting a series of virtual public meetings with the Impact Advisory Group to provide ample time for the neighborhood to participate and discuss the pros and cons of a hotel in the Cross Street area.

Plans call for the hotel to have two-ground floor restaurants and a seasonal roof-top dining area with a seating capacity of 300

people.

The new hotel will be located between Endicott and Salem Streets, adjacent from The Greenway, across from the MBTA Haymarket Station and will abut Cutillo Park, which the Boston Parks Department has scheduled major improvements.

Reportedly, the developer will commit funds for the improvements of the park that has been a haven for drug use and sales.

Currently, the project site has a single-story concrete block commercial structure, formally Pace's Grocery and Maria's Pastry Shop, and a fenced off parking lot.

The structure will have a gross floor area of about 80,824 square-

feet and a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 5.36.

The project will enhance the public realm through construction of an open-air passageway connecting The Greenway to Cutillo Park and a reprogramming of the Cross Street Plaza to promote pedestrian activity and safety in this space, according to the development plans.

Both the North End Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) and the North End Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) are expected to have the developer present the hotel proposal at their monthly public (virtual) meeting.

The public comment period for this project is before April 12.

### Former Mayor Walsh sworn in as Labor Secretary by Vice President Harris

By Seth Daniel

Last Thursday, former Mayor Martin Walsh was sworn in as the 29th U.S. Secretary of Labor – and the first secretary that is also a member of a trade union – with Vice President Kamala Harris administering the Oath.

Walsh gave a short speech following the swearing in and told of his personal story and how it would shape his priorities going forward as the new Labor Secretary.

"I thought about my mother and father, who emigrated from Ireland in the 1950s," he said. "They both

worked hard, but our American Dream did not take shape until my father joined the Laborers Union Local 223 in Boston. The union was our way into the middle class. It meant a fair wage, so we could have a home and give back to our community. It meant safety on the job, so we didn't have to live in fear of an accident derailing our lives. It meant a pension, so my parents could retire with dignity. And it meant health insurance, so our family had access to quality care."

Walsh said he followed his

(WALSH, Pg. 7)

### Edwards named one of the Most Impactful Black Women in Boston

By John Lynds

Last week Get Connected!, a local business networking organization, has released its first ever list of Boston's Most Impactful Black Women and District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards was on the list.

Get Connected! CEO Colette Phillips said the honors included two subgroups, the 25 Most Impactful Black Women in Health Care and Sciences, as well as the 25 Most Impactful Black Women Pioneers.

Edwards joined a distinguished list of female Black leaders that included City Councilor Andrea Campbell, WBUR's Paris Alston, and Boston Public Schools Superintendent Brenda Cassellius.

"Black women rule right now," said Phillips. "These women have forged trails as powerful and



District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards.

impactful as early Boston activists from abolitionist Elizabeth Riley to civil-rights leader and icon Melnea Cass." It's part of the mission at Get Connected! to showcase the contributions of people of color in the state, and the list is a logical next step to promote those achievements. To see the full

(EDWARDS Pg. 10)

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# EDITORIAL

## THE MARKEY-WARREN-AOC BUILD GREEN ACT IS NEEDED

The recent catastrophic winter-weather event in Texas has highlighted the degree to which our national infrastructure (among other things) has fallen victim to the penny-wise and pound-foolish thinking that has dominated our national politics for the past 40 years.

The winter hurricane, as some have labeled it, reportedly will prove to be the most-costly natural disaster in the history of the United States. Both the public utilities and the private companies in Texas did not invest in the types of infrastructure improvements to their plants and facilities that would have allowed them to withstand a weather event that really should not have been all that catastrophic.

Much was made of the wind farms that were knocked out of service, but wind turbines all across the globe exist in far harsher conditions than what occurred in Texas and they do not experience the catastrophic failure that was seen in Texas. Texas simply had not spent the money necessary for the winterization of those turbines.

The damage to the state's infrastructure left millions of Texans and residents of other states without power and clean water, causing billions in damage to individual homes (when their pipes froze), as well as the tragic loss of life that now numbers 111 persons.

In addition, the shutdown of oil refineries and petrochemical plants that were damaged by the storm has created shortages across the country that will drive prices needlessly higher for everybody.

And here's the thing: The winter storm would not have been a big deal in most of the rest of the U.S., where governments and business are prepared for such weather events.

But in Texas, keeping energy costs as low as possible was a priority for state regulators. The end result of not spending a few billion dollars upfront to weatherize the state's power grid resulted in tens of billions of dollars in post-catastrophe costs.

This sort of shortsighted thinking is not confined to Texas, however. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of our nation to public health emergencies because we have become entirely dependent on foreign manufacturers for all sorts of critical medical supplies, from drugs to masks to mechanical equipment -- all in the name of "efficiency" and "cost-cutting."

Similarly, we have under-invested to such an extent in our roads, bridges, airports, dams, water supplies, and power grids -- everything -- that we have plummeted to the level of a Third World country. We no longer are a world leader --we're a world loser.

Our refusal to acknowledge and address the impending impacts of climate change have set us up for even more catastrophic weather-related events in the near-future. The proverbial "100-year" flood, wildfire, or storm has become commonplace.

The Build Green Act sponsored by our U.S. Senators, Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren, and House member Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez seeks to remedy the twin problems of our crumbling infrastructure and the looming climate crisis.

The time to take action is running short. Hopefully, elements of the Build Green Act will be included in President Biden's forthcoming national infrastructure plan, which needs to get going as soon as possible.



HAPPY EASTER

GUEST OP-ED

## Goodbye and thank you, Boston

By Former Mayor Martin J. Walsh

I left Boston City Hall for the final time as mayor. I packed up the last of the photos on my desk, say goodnight to the security guards as I've done a thousand times before, and head home to Dorchester.

It's been almost three months since I got the call from President Biden asking me to serve as secretary of labor, and the truth is I haven't had much time to reflect. My team and I have continued working around the clock on the response to COVID-19 and coordinating with the incoming administration to make sure city operations continue seamlessly. But now the Senate has confirmed my nomination, and a new team of leaders, both new and familiar faces, will take the reins at City Hall. All that's left to do now is to say goodbye and thank you.

I've been thinking about my mother, Mary, and my late father, John, who met in Boston after each immigrated from Ireland. They worked their entire adult lives to make a good life for my brother, Johnny, and me. They found friendship and solidarity among our neighbors in Dorchester, at St. Margaret's Church, in the immigrant community, and in the labor community. And it was community that helped me sur-

vive childhood cancer and get into recovery for alcoholism as a young adult.

Boston taught me at a young age that a supportive community is the greatest blessing, and serving that community is both a responsibility and a privilege. That's why I decided to run for mayor in 2013. After representing Dorchester for 16 years in the State House, and winning victories for marriage equality, LGBTQ rights, women's rights, disability rights, and immigrant rights, I knew that change was possible. I wanted to play a bigger role in making the American Dream a reality for more of my fellow Bostonians.

That's what we've done, together, as a city.

We created 140,000 new, good-paying jobs, fought for workers' rights, and built more pathways into the middle class. We invested more in public education than at any time in Boston's history. We built record numbers of affordable homes. We fought the stigma around substance use disorder and got more people into treatment. We invested millions of dollars in arts and culture. We've risen as a national leader in environmental justice and women's pay equity.

Over the last four years, especially, Boston has shown what we stand for. As the Trump adminis-



Former Mayor of Boston  
Martin J. Walsh.

tration launched attacks on immigrants, Muslims, and women, Boston made it clear that we reject racism, xenophobia, sexism, and bigotry. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Boston has rallied to support people in need and put public health first. And responding to calls for racial justice, Boston took action through powerful community investments, police reform, and cultural change. For all of this, I am tremendously proud and grateful.

If the last four years have taught us anything, it's that we cannot be passive observers of history. We

(OP-ED Pg. 3)

## REGIONAL REVIEW

- FOUNDED IN 1967 -

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**Op-Ed** (from pg. 2)

must never take for granted public health, human rights, and our very democracy. Unless we fight for these principles, we could lose them.

Now is the time to invest in community health and well-being. We must address the inequities that made some people more vulnerable to the health risks and the economic devastation of COVID-19. This is the only way to emerge from this crisis stronger than we were before.

We also need to increase civic engagement in all levels of government and decision-making. This past November, we saw record voter turnout, but those numbers should be higher. We need to end voter suppression and show people why their votes matter. And voting is only one piece of the puzzle.

Now is the time for everyone to consider how they can best serve their community and their nation, all year round. That doesn't have to mean running for office necessarily; you can make just as much of an impact on your community by reaching out to your neighbor when they need it most, attending a community meeting to offer a fresh perspective, or becoming a positive influence on a young person's life. Our nation needs more people from more backgrounds to share their ideas and their creativity as we work to build back better.

This is a commitment I will carry with me as secretary of labor. As I fight for the rights, protections, and dignity that all working people deserve, I will seek input from people of all backgrounds. I will continually work to become a better and more collaborative leader. I will also bring Boston's values with me. I'll fight for immigrants, for people struggling with addiction,



October 13, 2019 - Mayor Martin Walsh participated in a parade through the North End neighborhood of Boston. (Mayor's Office Photo by Isabel Leon)

and for young Americans who dream of a better future.

I may be heading to Washington, D.C., but Boston will always be my home, and my heart. I'll be back often, but for now, I'll just share some advice.

To all of Boston's emerging leaders: In every decision you make, think about the impact it will have on the next generation, 10, 20, and 30 years from now. Always put the needs of the most vulnerable people first. Always ask yourself and other people in power, "Does this help everyone, or just the few?" And fight until the answer is everyone. Lifting up working people, and creating better opportunities for those who have the least, is the best way to create positive change. It will be hard; you'll have to make very difficult decisions, and own the outcome, good or bad. A true leader learns, grows, and becomes more connected to the community they represent as time goes on.

To the young people of Boston: I honestly believe there is no limit to what your generation

can achieve. I have learned so much from conversations I've had with young students about racial justice, climate action, LGBTQ rights, workers' rights, and more. You have helped me grow as a leader and as a member of the community. You are the most passionate generation I've ever seen, and you're challenging old notions of identity and societal roles. You have the power to change the world for the better. Focus on your education; trust your ability to make a difference; and be kind to yourself if you make mistakes or if life doesn't go according to plan. I'm proof that there are many paths to success. Don't let anyone tell you different.

Despite how difficult the past



August 31, 2014 - Mayor Walsh speaks with former North End resident, 94 year old Anna Santorelli, during the annual St. Anthony's Feast in Boston. (Mayor's Office Photo by Jeremiah Robinson)

year has been, it also showed us how fast things can change, for better or for worse. Right now, we have an opportunity to enact swift, powerful, and positive change. The more people who are empowered to contribute, the more successful our recovery from COVID-19 will be. So this is my call to all Bostonians to consider how you will get involved in your community. Just as important, think about how you will encourage and empower others to get involved too. You can

make a difference, so don't hesitate. Just take it one day at a time.

The challenges before us at a national level are enormous. But Boston has taught me that nothing is impossible if we work together and open the door for more people to get involved.

From the bottom of my heart, Boston, thank you.

Martin J. Walsh is the former Mayor of Boston and the new U.S. Secretary of Labor.



February 14, 2017- Mayor Martin Walsh pays a visit to Seniors at the Nazzaro Center in the North End. (Mayor's Office Photo by Isabel Leon)

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# City Councilor Michelle Wu calls for steps to improve Boston's vaccine equity at hearing

City Councilor Michelle Wu held a hearing today on ways to improve equity in the Covid-19 vaccination progress in the City of Boston. Amidst an inequitable and confusing roll-out, Michelle Wu has called for easily accessible vaccination sites with convenient hours for working Bostonians, linguistic and digital appointment access, and a regular release of information on vaccination progress by racial, ethnic and other demographic information. She has also proposed an ordinance extending paid sick time to City employees to receive the vaccination and, if necessary, recover

from any possible side effects.

At the hearing, Councilor Wu also proposed opening vaccination sites to walk-in appointments, modeled after a successful pilot in Philadelphia that resulted in a dramatic increase in the proportion of Black and Latinx residents receiving the vaccine.

"Boston's communities of color have been most impacted by COVID-19, and must be prioritized in the vaccine rollout," said Michelle Wu. "The City of Boston has immense healthcare resources, and we must make it easier for every community to access vaccine appointments at hours and loca-

tions that work for them, coupled with a full outreach plan. We need to have trust and confidence that the vaccine rollout is fair, effective and works for every Bostonian."

Though some strides have been made in equity, white Boston residents are still more likely than any other racial group to have received a shot, despite Black and brown communities being disproportionately affected by COVID-19. As Boston prepares for statewide vaccination guidelines to extend eligibility to all adults on April 19, it's essential that City officials plan proactively for equitable next steps.

## RECOVERY (from pg. 1)

breath we are also trying to look at long term visions about what is viable or doable. In terms of a legislature standpoint, or even from a city government and a federal government standpoint, we want to ask what we can be doing better. What should we be doing better? What things can we be looking towards to try and provide better equity as we move forward."

Michlewitz said he and his staff had the idea to host these series of forums in order to connect with the community on some of the most pressing matters related to the state's rebound in the face of the pandemic.

"I'm grateful for everyone for making the time to participate in this conversation, and I look forward to a meaningful dialogue about inequities in our system that have already existed, became exposed during the pandemic, and then were exacerbated throughout the crisis," said Michlewitz said from testing to economic relief to the vaccination rollout, every aspect of the pandemic and subsequent recovery during these difficult times has forced many leaders to reexamine why certain communities had greater access to service than others.

"The goal we've laid out here is to create an open dialogue and to

hear from some of our community's leading experts who have been working on these issues throughout the pandemic day in and day out," said Michlewitz.

Members of the panel during last week's forum included Jen Benson, President of the Alliance for Business Leadership, Segun Idowu, Executive Director of the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts, and Karen Chen, Executive Director of the Chinese Progressive Association. "As we hear their experiences and recommendations for what an equitable recovery can and should look like

Idowu was on hand to advance the economic well being of black owned businesses, organizations, and the black residents of the Commonwealth throughout the pandemic. He talked about how COVID has hampered some efforts by minority business owners but also has presented some opportunities for businesses as well.

Benson participated and discussed the impacts of the COVID crisis has had on women in the workplace.

"We have seen so many reports coming forward about lack of childcare and the pressure this puts on women," said Benson. "We've lost over 2.3 million women from

the workforce since February 2020. So one of the things that we need to be focusing on is to build back better support for women and families in the workplace."

Chen focused on the Asian American Community's struggles during COVID--including housing issues and Anti-Asian sentiment due to the pandemic.

"I think, very much like other communities of color, we're very much impacted by the pandemic especially when it comes to housing, access to housing and affordable housing and allowing residents to be able to stay in Chinatown," said Chen. "But one thing that's particular to the Asian American community is really the Anti-Asian sentiment. It shows up in forms of violent incidents but also in economic disparity. When this pandemic started we knew that the longer the pandemic went the harder it would be for Asian businesses to recover."

The hour long forum continued to expand on these important topics with Michlewitz pledging to address each issue the best he can when drafting or sponsoring ongoing legislation that helps support the state's COVID recovery plan.

## OPINION BY PHIL ORLANDELLA

### OFFICER TEDDY BOYLE WAS AN ASSET TO THE COMMUNITY

Boston Police Officer Frederick "Teddy" Boyle, following 35 years on the force has retired.

Boyle was the District A-1 Community Service Officer and Liaison on to the North End.

He participated in numerous neighborhood public safety committee meetings providing crime statistics, safety information and responded to concerns of residents and to the business community, making himself available on a consistent basis.

Boyle is a long-standing board member of North End Against Drugs (NEAD), coordinating many community events and activities.

He also helped put together the annual Boston Police Public Safety event in the neighborhood.

Boyle was previously honored for his significant contributions to the community, receiving a humanitarian award from the North End Christmas Fund Committee, for his contribution

towards making the event a success each year.

He also received recognition from the Nazzaro Community Center Youth Program for volunteer services to the youth of the community.

Officer Boyle's commitment, dedication and services to the neighborhood were totally outstanding.

### FOCCP CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

This April, the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) will celebrate their 20th anniversary.

FOCCP has helped maintain the park and provided many activities, programs, events and special programs that residents and visitors have enjoyed over the years.

Working closely with the Boston Parks Department, the non-profit community, all volunteer organization, has made the park assessable, clean and active on a consistent basis.

FOCCP is truly a neighborhood minded organization.

## IN BRIEF BY PHIL ORLANDELLA

### FOCCP CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) in the North End will celebrate their 20th anniversary this year.

FOCCP, over the years, has hosted many fun events in the park and hopes they can celebrate the occasion in style and 2021.

"If COVID-19 safely restrictions are relaxed, FOCCP would like to present more activities in the park like movies and special events," FOCCP President Joanne Hayes Rines said.

"Our horticulture work will hopefully go on so the gardens will be filled with spring and summer flowers," she said.

### STILL OPENINGS FOR SOME NEAA BASEBALL PROGRAMS

Facing the unpredictable situation relating to the Covid 19 pandemic and the possibility of its effect on local sports activities, the North End Athletic Association (NEAA) took the bull by the horns and put together a 2021 baseball season for several age groups.

"There are still openings available in three of our programs," he said. "Little League (Majors) ages 9 to 12, girls softball ages 9 to 14 and the boys traveling team

(Dodgers) ages 13 to 15," Baseball Coordinator John Romano said.

He confirmed, "Two programs for youth ages 4 to 5, the Instructional League and the Minor League ages 6 to 8 are already full but there is a waiting list."

Registration is still ongoing for openings mentioned above at [neabaseball.org](http://neabaseball.org). A fee of \$50 per player is required.

Practice for the Majors will begin the first week of April. Minor league and Softball will start the last week in April.

The Instructional League is scheduled to start Sunday, May 2.

The traveling team will begin playing games once High School is completed.

All NEAA programs will take place at Puopolo Park until renovations at Langone Field are completed in 2022.

### ZLC REVIEWS RESTAURANTS TIME CHANGES

Boston Zoning and Licensing Committee held a zoom meeting on March 30 to discuss a request by Monica's Trattoria, 67 Salem Street to amend its current closing hours from 11 p.m. (seven days a week), to Monday through Thursday 12 a.m. and Friday through Saturday 1 a.m..



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# Mayoral candidate Annissa Essaibi George meets with local business owners

By John Lynds

At-Large City Councilor and Boston Mayoral Candidate Annissa Essaibi George recently made a campaign stop in the North End and Downtown to meet with businesses owners struggling through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Restaurants have been hit particularly hard by the pandemic and were forced to recalibrate their entire business model in order to survive. Some decided to pack it in for the winter and reopen when the warmer weather returns to New England and the infection rates decline.

As part of her "Get Boston Back to Business Tour", Essaibi George visited Artu in the North End and Cafe Bonjour, One Gig and Sam LaGrassa's in Downtown to discuss with local owners and staff about the resources and support needed to recover, rebuild and thrive post-pandemic.

"Many of the small businesses in the North End are local, family owned places that make this community a vibrant destination," said Essaibi George. "It was important to me to be on the ground in this neighborhood, visiting these restaurants and speaking directly with owners and staff about how we can improve things like outdoor dining, parking, and takeout and delivery services in order to get Boston back to business."

Essaibi George added that the businesses in Downtown have

been hit hard by this pandemic and they face unique challenges as they look to reopen and recover.

"It's critical to hear directly from these business owners and staff about their experiences and perspectives, so that their voices are reflected in our plans to get Boston back to business," she said.

Essaibi George said since launching the tour two weeks ago she's heard directly from small businesses about the real challenges they've faced before and during this crisis.

"Of course we're talking about recovery, but we're taking it a step further and really getting at the root issue of redesigning our economy to work for everyone," said Essaibi George. "I look forward to continuing these important conversations with small businesses and employees in every single neighborhood of Boston."

As a former Boston Main Streets Director for Fields Corner and a small business owner herself, Essaibi George previously visited small businesses in East Boston, Dorchester, Roslindale, West Roxbury, Chinatown, South End, Jamaica Plain, Allston and Brighton.

Before entering the political arena, Essaibi George taught Economics, Business Management and Health and Human Services to juniors and seniors at East Boston High School and served as the school's assistant softball coach for 14 years.

In 2015 Essaibi George decided



At-Large City Councilor and mayoral candidate Annissa Essaibi Georges visited small business owners in the North End and Downtown recently. As part of her "Get Boston Back to Business Tour" Essaibi George visited Artu in the North End (pictured) as well as Cafe Bonjour, One Gig and Sam LaGrassa's in Downtown to discuss with local owners and staff about the resources and support needed to recover, rebuild and thrive post-pandemic.

to run for Boston City Council and was part of a wave of change that ushered in a new era on the council. That year Essaibi George and Andrea Campbell ousted two incumbent councilors and doubled the number of women on the council with their victories.

## Clinical Research Study for Healthy Men and Women

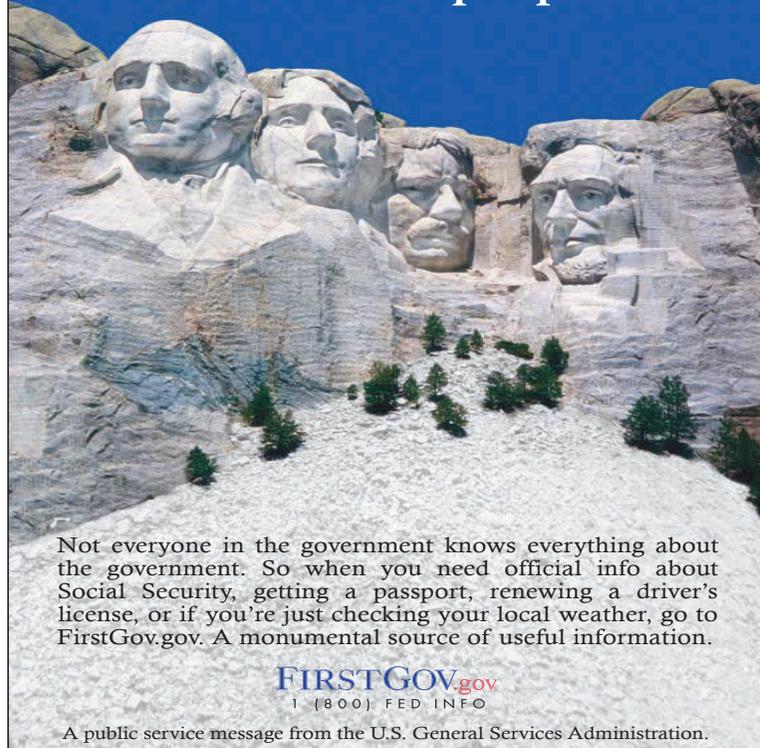
Are you a healthy man or woman without any chronic illness? Are you age 45 or older?

If yes, you are invited to participate in a research study at the Brigham and Women's Hospital that is looking at the effects of a dietary supplement  $\beta$ -nicotinamide mononucleotide, (a dietary component found in various food products) on metabolism, muscle performance, and physical function.

- Participation includes up to 12 study visits
- Financial compensation of up to \$1700 is provided
- Free parking and meals are also provided.

For more information, please call: 617-525-9193 Or Email: [nozimek@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:nozimek@bwh.harvard.edu) Or Visit: [https://rally.partners.org/study/nad\\_booster](https://rally.partners.org/study/nad_booster) \* <http://hormonesandaging.bwh.harvard.edu/mib/>

You'd think at least one of them could tell you how to renew a passport.



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## Virtual Public Meeting

### North End Cross Street Boutique Hotel

Wednesday, April 7  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: [bit.ly/3tj87U0](https://bit.ly/3tj87U0)  
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864  
Meeting ID: 160 225 9642

**Project Proponent:**  
Cross Street Ventures LLC

#### Project Description:

The BPDA is hosting a Virtual Public Meeting for the North End Cross Street Boutique Hotel located at 42 Cross Street in North End. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Project Notification Form (PNF)'s recent filing. The meeting will include a presentation followed by Q&A and comments from the general public. Cross Street Ventures LLC (the "Proponent") proposes to construct a new 134-key boutique hotel with two ground-floor restaurant uses and seasonal rooftop dining with a total seating capacity of approximately 300+ persons.

mail to: **Lance Campbell**  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201  
phone: 617.918.4311  
email: [lance.campbell@boston.gov](mailto:lance.campbell@boston.gov)

**Close of Comment Period:**  
4/19/2021

# Wishing You Well this Easter

the Boston Center for Youth & Families  
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Happy Easter

North End Athletic Association  
NEAA



# Happy Easter!

North End

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NEAD

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# Happy Easter



State Representative  
**AARON MICHLEWITZ**

# Happy Easter

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# Happy Easter

The Riccio Family  
North End



WALSH (from pg. 1)

father into the trade unions, joined the same union and worked on job sites all over Boston. He noted that it was this union that provided him his first job, but it was also that union that provided health insurance so he could be treated for cancer as a child, and for alcoholism recovery as a young adult.

“In my 20s, because of the same benefits that enabled my cancer treatment as a child, I was able to seek treatment for my alcoholism,” he said. “I am a proud member of the recovery community.”

Those personal details were something that Walsh indicated would shape his policy objectives as he moves into his new role. His five objectives laid out in the speech include:

- Ensuring all workers have fair pay, health care, unemployment benefits, safe workplaces and a secure retirement.

- Ensuring equal access to good jobs.

- Ensuring workers have a seat at the table in shaping workplace

conditions and policies.

- Bolstering career education and job training.

- Increasing access to mental health and substance use treatment.

“These are not just policies to me — these are real, tangible needs for millions of Americans, and I will continue fighting for them as I begin this new role,” he said, noting that record numbers of Americans are seeking unemployment benefits, vaccine rollout is still underway and so many continue to suffer from the pandemic.

“I believe we must act with urgency to meet this moment, to strengthen and empower our workforce as we rebuild,” he said. As secretary, I pledge to work in partnership with workers and businesses; states, cities and tribal territories; employees in every agency of the Department of Labor; and President Biden and Vice President Harris to help working families build back better.”



Former Mayor Martin Walsh was sworn in as the 29th U.S. Secretary of Labor on March 25 by Vice President Kamala Harris, as his partner Lorri Higgins looks on. He outlined five areas he will focus on that were shaped by his time in Boston.

## Mayoral Candidate Michelle Wu responds to Atlanta shooting, violence against Asian Americans

By John Lynds

Here in the North End nearly 3 percent of our neighbors are Asian Americans and while they make up a small minority of our overall population they contribute greatly to the fabric of the community as business owners, parents, students, and activists.

The recent trend of violence against Asian Americans has been shocking and the shooting in Atlanta that killed six Asian Americans at three spas last week has shaken us all to our core.

City Councilor Michelle Wu, who is vying to become Boston's first Asian American Mayor of Boston, responded to the recent uptick in violence towards the Asian American community across the US as well as the Atlanta shooting.

“I join our Asian American community in mourning and solidarity following the senseless shootings in the Atlanta area,” said Wu in a statement. “It's heart-breaking and appalling to see the anti-Asian harassment, violence, and now mass murder that has accelerated over the past year — part of a long history of racism in America that we all must fight to end. And all too often, the most silenced members of our community — Asian American elders and women working in invisible industries — have borne the brunt of these attacks.”

Wu said the unconscionable



City Councilor and Mayoral Candidate Michelle Wu

blaming of Asian American communities for the devastation from the COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the sense of invisibility and perpetual foreigner status that so many have known their entire lives.

“Growing up as the daughter of immigrants from Taiwan, some of my most vivid childhood memories involve racist encounters with strangers,” she continued. “People who knew nothing about me except for my appearance feeling empowered to pull eyes into slits or chant ching chong sounds. That constant feeling of needing to be aware, ready, on guard whenever out in public. Since before COVID-19 was spreading in the United States, Asian American

communities have been on edge, reeling from the impacts.”

Wu said Boston has not been immune to these incidents and in every city across the country, we must build community to protect and celebrate intersectional identities.

“We will stop Asian hate and combat racism by meeting this moment, by building a city for everyone, by transforming our systems to see and value every life,” she said.

Wu also encouraged residents to support the Asian Community Emergency Relief Fund.

“Today, we're asking for you to make a donation to support the Greater Boston area's Asian Community Emergency Relief

Fund to help provide direct financial support to Asian and Asian American Boston residents who are having trouble meeting their basic needs,” said Wu. “If you can, please chip in to the Asian Community Emergency Relief Fund. Your donation will go towards providing aid to those in our city's Asian American community who need it most.”

The fund can be found at [https://donorbox.org/covid19-relief-fund?utm\\_campaign=mf-b&utm](https://donorbox.org/covid19-relief-fund?utm_campaign=mf-b&utm).

Asian Americans account for 6 percent of all the COVID 19 cases and 8 percent of all the deaths in Boston. While countless communities are severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Asian American community in Greater Boston is being hit harder than

most. Many are immigrants who work in food, hospitality, home care, and child care sectors that have been closed. Consequently, these workers have lost their incomes. Because of language barriers and immigration status, not everyone can access public benefits like unemployment and the new stimulus dollars. These families are in jeopardy of not having enough money to buy basic necessities and pay for housing.

So far the fund has raised and distributed over \$350,000 and helped 327 families, totaling 946 individuals and 55.5 percent of the fund went to families with undocumented members, and the remaining fund helped families that were ineligible for other public benefits because of their immigrant status.

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**Class act: More students return to in-person school**

*By Seth Daniel*

With teachers fully vaccinated and many families ready to get back to the “real” classroom, students in grades 4-8 returned to the Eliot School on Monday, March 15, to join students from the K-3 classes that went back on March 1.

The students are in a hybrid in-person mode, meaning they will go to school in person for two days, and then go remotely for three days – which is the plan at the moment and Boston Public Schools could change it next month to five days a week. Some families, however, have opted out of in-person learning and will remain remote for the rest of the year due to safety concerns.

Eliot Principal Traci Griffith Walker, a Charlestown resident, said the return of the Eliot is significant on its own, but even more so because it was the first school to close as the COVID crisis began to descend on Boston one year ago. As such, returning a full contingent of kids in grades K-8 to the campus felt like the easing of a long and hard-fought war against the pandemic.

“It’s a big day,” she said. “It’s been one year last week. When we first closed, we thought it would be a few weeks of remote and then we’d all be back together...Our staff was vaccinated last weekend. We’re really excited and everyone feel great to return.”

Outside on Monday, it was nearly in the single-digit tempera-

**Outdoor dining to return April 1 in the North End**

*By John Lynds*

Numerous North End restaurants are expected to take advantage of the City of Boston’s 2021 outdoor dining program set to begin on April 1. The program will begin for the rest of the city on March 22.

Last year dozens of restaurants that line the North End’s Hanover Street and others tucked down the neighborhood’s side streets received a special permit from the city that allowed them to set up outdoor patios on roadways and sidewalks throughout the neighborhood. The program helped restaurants increase capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic while keeping customers and staff safe.

Last year, North End restaurants like Bricco, Aqua Pazza, Quattro, and Trattoria Il Panino took part in the city’s outdoor dining pilot program.

With the success of last year’s program Mayor Martin Walsh said the city will continue many of the successful initiatives from last year’s program, such as streamlined permitting. Applications for

(DINING, Pg. 3)

**Finders Keepers Consignment opens a new location in Lynn**

*Story & Photo by Marianne Salza*

For those who may not be able to shop in Copley Square, Boston, for chic high-end items at full-price, Finders Keepers Consignment provides the opportunity to add

luxurious accessories to their closet. Finders Keepers, which carries previously-owned designer fashions in exquisite condition, celebrated its grand opening at 495 Eastern Ave.

(FINDERS KEEPERS, Pg. 4)



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# FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

# North End restaurants start patio dining April 1

April 1, will be the first day of patio dining on the North End's Hanover Street this year. This will be a great impact to North End restaurants, especially Easter taking place this weekend. Area restaurants are setting up and preparing the patios for business.

Selection of North End patios opening on April 1:

**Mare Oyster Bar-**

Patio open daily from 4 until 11

p.m.

223 Hanover Street (behind Bricco)

[www.mareoysterbar.com](http://www.mareoysterbar.com)

**Trattoria il Panino-**

Patio open daily from 11a.m. until 11 p.m.

11 Parmenter Street

[www.trattoriailpanino.com](http://www.trattoriailpanino.com)

**Bricco-**

Patio will be open M-TH from 4 until 11 p.m./FRI-SU from 12-11 p.m.

241 Hanover Street

[www.bricco.com](http://www.bricco.com)

**Quattro-**

Patio will be open M-TH from 4 until 11 p.m./FRI-SU from 12-11 p.m.

264 Hanover Street

[www.quattro-boston.com](http://www.quattro-boston.com)

**Assaggio-**

Patio will be open from Th-SA from 4 until 11 p.m.

29 Prince Street

[www.assaggioboston.com](http://www.assaggioboston.com)



The patio at Mare Oyster Bar.

# Boston students and parents call for substantial state funding as schools reopen

By John Lynds

With the promised funding from the landmark education bill that was signed into law before the COVID pandemic hit is still up in the air, Boston students and parents called for the state to fully fund the Student Opportunity Act Funding (SOA).

During a virtual press conference hosted by the Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance last week students, parents, and school committee members from cities across Massachusetts discussed their school funding needs, their perspectives on in-person school reopening this spring, and their aspirations for education this

summer and during the upcoming school year.

Boston Public School parents Rafaela Polanco and Suleika Soto testified at the virtual press conference and shared their thoughts.

At the press conference, which was held over Zoom, Polanco and Soto joined students, parents, and school committee members from Revere, Chelsea, Lawrence, Lowell and Randolph to discuss safety measures, social/emotional and educational supports, and other resources they're looking for from their public schools as well as the need for substantial state funding to support those needs.

"I'm a parent of two Boston Public School students and a parent organizer for the Boston

Education Alliance" said Soto. "We as parents, students, teachers and community members have asked to be heard about fair and high quality education. Low income communities have been disproportionately affected by COVID so we need fully funded schools that are fair and just in our budget—one where every student has access to what they need, including safe school buildings. Black and brown families continue to be disproportionately affected by COVID and a fully and equitable funded state budget can put us on the right track."

The SOA overhauled the state's education funding formula to ensure equity for all students, especially those in low-income areas.

Because the state has not updated its education funding formula since 1993 to reflect districts' real health insurance and special education costs, the amount of aid being provided to cover those costs had been too small for decades.

In January 2020 Governor Charlie Baker signed S. 2412, An Act Relative to Educational Opportunity for Students, or the SOA, which would have boosted investment in public schools by \$1.5 billion annually when fully phased in over the next seven years.

However, when COVID hit in March 2019 budget shortfalls pushed SOA spending to the wayside. Boston Public Schools were expected to receive millions in

SOA funding.

The state legislature's Ways and Means Committee met last Tuesday to begin reviewing the Governor's proposed FY22 budget.

At the press conference students and parents plan to keep pushing for a true commitment to fully fund public school and call for putting the state's commitment to public education funding back on track.

One demand by the group Tuesday is that the state delivers at least two of the seven years of promised funding increases under the SOA in the next state budget.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### NEAA PUTS TOGETHER BASEBALL SEASON

A sizable 2021 baseball season has been produced by the North End Athletic Association (NEAA), despite the Covid 19 pandemic's attempt to strike out the popular program for the use of the neighborhood.

The NEAA took the lead and never looked back.

### FREE ONLINE EVENTS

The Boston Public Library (BPL) is offering free online events. For details call 617-536-5400.

### FOOD STOCK EXPANDED

Funds raised during NEW Health's holiday greeting card fundraiser has filled the stock shall for the Stable Ready Food Patients program.

### N.E. OUTDOOR DINING

North End restaurants will begin outdoor dining on April Fools' Day (April 1) and continue through December, weather permitting.

### STORY SUBMISSION

Story and news submissions relating to the North End/Waterfront can be sent to Phil Orlandella at [regionalreview1945@gmail.com](mailto:regionalreview1945@gmail.com).

### PLAY BALL!

The North End Athletic Association (NEAA) Majors (Little League) baseball season is scheduled to start in late April at Puopolo Park. Registration is still available at [neaa.com](http://neaa.com).

### RMV EXPANDS HOURS

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has expanded designated Wednesday appointment hours for seniors 65 or older during April.

### COVID 19 TESTING

NEW Health, 332 Hanover Street is testing for Covid 19 on Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Enter on North Bennet Street side. Must make an appointment by calling 617-643-8000.

### OLD NORTH OPENING

The Old North Church and Historic Site is reopening to visitors on April 16, 17 and 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will be moving to a fuller schedule in the summer.

### NEWNC ANNUAL ELECTION

Nomination papers to become a board member of NEWNC are currently available at the Nazzaro Community Center or online at [newncboston.com](http://newncboston.com).

Deadline to return papers is May 1. Ballot positions will be determined by the luck of the draw. There are six of twelve seats available.

Candidates must secure forty signatures of residents to be placed on the ballot.

### RUFF WINTER SERIES

RUFF's winter walk series continues on April 3 and April 17. Meet at Starbucks, 2 Atlantic Avenue at 10 a.m.

RSVPs are required as spots are limited for proper social distancing requirements. Masks must be

worn and all dogs must be leashed.

### NEWNC MEETING

The next North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) monthly meeting will be held on Monday, April 12 at 7 p.m. Virtual.

### LANTERN 2021

Lantern 2021, a benefit event for the Old North Church and Historic Site will be held on Sunday, April 18 at 7 p.m. Virtual.

The annual lantern lighting will take place at the conclusion of Lantern 2021.

For more information email [development@oldnorth.com](mailto:development@oldnorth.com).

### CANDIDATE NIGHT

NEWRA and NEWNC are planning a candidate's night with those that are possibly seeking to become Mayor of Boston. Date to be announced.

### RENEWAL OF INSPECTION STICKERS

Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles reminds customers

to renew expired inspection stickers.

Almost 600,000 active vehicle registrations currently need annual emissions and safety inspections.

### AMERICAN HERITAGE PARK FULL OF DESIGN

American Heritage Park on The Greenway is full of innovative designs that features things for viewing.

The Abstract Sculpture, a split Rhomboid, a reflecting pool that washes over the inside and reemerges as a single jet of water at the Labyrinth's Center.

The Labyrinth, a circling winding path paved in grass and inlaid stone, art, service, science and commerce are etched around its circle.

### NEWRA MEETING

The next North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 8 at 7 p.m. Virtual.

# Councilors Edwards and Wu file expanded parental leave ordinance

Boston City Councilors Lydia Edwards and Michelle Wu have filed an ordinance that would codify the recent change to city policy expanding paid parental leave for city employees from six weeks to 12 weeks. The ordinance would also replace the word “stillbirth” in the policy with “loss of pregnancy” to encompass any situation in which someone has lost a pregnancy regardless of how that loss came to pass.

“These amendments codify a modernized paid parental leave policy into law and expand

protections for City of Boston employees to take either partial or full paid parental leave,” said Councilor Edwards. “Policies can be good, but they can also be easily changed. This would ensure city workers have these protections in place for good. I’m excited to have this conversation and move our city forward.”

“Six years ago, as a new City Councilor and a new mom, I was proud to introduce Boston’s first ever paid parental leave ordinance,” said Councilor Wu. “Our leadership at the city level set the

standard for employers throughout Boston and pushed momentum for protections at the state level. Today, I’m excited to join Councilor Edwards in proposing to go further—to codify the city’s expansion for twelve weeks of paid leave into law and expand the city’s leave policy for anyone facing a loss of pregnancy for whatever reason, including miscarriage or termination. Our city must be a place of compassion where every person has the time off they need for their emotional, economic and mental health.”

The proposal was praised by NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts executive director Rebecca Hart Holder.

“For many families and pregnant people, pregnancy loss can bring unimaginable pain and grief. Supporting people coping with pregnancy loss by allowing them to take the time they need to grieve and heal is critically important. Reproductive freedom is the ability to decide if, when, and how to have a family and for those who experience pregnancy loss, it is the ability to mourn and care

for themselves and their family. We applaud Councilor Edwards and Councilor Wu for embracing the full-spectrum of reproductive freedom and creating a policy that will ensure greater equity for women and pregnant people,” said Rebecca Hart Holder, Executive Director, NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts.

The ordinance will be formally introduced during Wednesday’s council meeting and assigned to a committee for a hearing to be held.

## Eliot School announces Neal Widett Scholarship Fund



Neal Widett, master craftsman, woodworker, and sign-maker, at work.

Eliot School of Fine and Applied Arts, in the North End, is proud to announce the Neal Widett Scholarship Fund.

The late Neal Widett was a master craftsman, woodworker, and sign-maker in Boston for more than 40 years. He created the distinctive hand carved signs you will find on Charles Street, which continue to be emblematic of the charming character of the Beacon Hill neighborhood.

Widett grew up in Newton, and several of his childhood friends got together to commemorate him by starting a scholarship fund in his

name at the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts. This scholarship fund will be used to pay the tuition of at least two students each year for the Eliot School’s Summer Program for a period of ten years. The fund will also provide for a Widett Master Woodworking Class.

Eliot School is honored and humbled to steward the commemorative scholarship of such a well-loved and accomplished artist. Widett is a powerful example for young people and lifelong learners of how handcrafted work may contribute to the character or feeling of a community.

### EDWARDS (from pg. 1)

list, take a look at the video below.

Edwards, who was elected as District 1’s first African American woman to serve the district, which includes the North, East Boston and Charlestown, said honored by being included on the impressive list.

“Obviously, I am humbled because I assumed I would need to be a little bit more older and have some more victories under my belt,” said Edwards. “I just felt very much congratulated that people feel like I’m doing a good job and that makes me feel wonderful.”

Being part of a really impressive group of women, Edwards said she was honored just to be nominated.

“To be in that group was really the honor because many of these women included busted down doors and barriers,” said Edwards. “This list has a lot of incredible women who have done some incredible so I took the nomination as an incredible compliment and now being listed among them is amazing.”

Edwards said the honor has

inspired her to keep going, keep fighting, keep thinking and keep challenging.

“I hope I’m making a difference but sometimes you don’t see that,” said Edwards. “When you’re in the middle of some many different things sometimes you don’t know your true impact but I hope I’m making people’s lives better.”

Edwards’s work on ensuring equitable development at Suffolk Downs, increasing community affordability through proposed development projects and her initiatives to overhaul the ZBA and address housing issues and displacement has made her a champion of her working-class constituents.

“I think those are the little victories sometimes but I don’t forget that a lot of these decisions are permanent and impacting our community,” said Edwards. “I’m hopeful people understand how hard I work to get to those decisions. I’m just so honored to represent my community and I’m so grateful, especially to North End residents who put me on the map and I hope to continue to make

my entire District proud.”

Edwards has spent her entire career as an advocate, activist, and as a voice on behalf of society’s most vulnerable. She served as the deputy director within the Mayor’s Office of Housing Stability where she was responsible for developing and delivering innovative solutions to fight displacement and brought together all stakeholders: landlords, management companies, housing authorities, and tenants.

Before becoming elected Edwards worked as a public interest attorney with Greater Boston Legal Services focusing on labor issues such as fighting for access to unemployment insurance, back wages, fair treatment for domestic workers, and combating human trafficking. She served as the statewide campaign coordinator for the Massachusetts Coalition for Domestic Workers, which advocated for the passage of the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. In 2015, she was named Bostonian of the Year by the Boston Globe.

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# North End COVID update posted

By John Lynds

Last week the North End's cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate and the weekly positive test rate both remained the same while the rest of the city has begun increasing.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, overall since the pandemic started 47,686 North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 6.4 percent of those tested were COVID positive. This was the same percentage reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Last week, 2,533 residents were tested and 2.9 percent were positive--this was also the same percentage reported by the BPHC two Fridays ago.

However, positive test rates were also on the rise citywide. According to the BPHC 25,845 residents were tested and 4.2 percent were COVID positive--this was a 16.6 percent increase from the 3.6 percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Acting Mayor Kim Janey, the Boston Public Health Commission and the Office of Health and Human Services announced the Vaccine Equity Grant Initiative last week that will target communities hit hard by the pandemic like Eastie.

Janey said the program provides funding to non-profit orga-

nizations working to increase vaccine access and awareness for communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant applications will open Wednesday, March 31, 2021 and the deadline to apply is April 9, 2021. With a total of \$1.5 million in available funding, grant awards will range from \$100,000 to \$250,000 to be used by organizations over four months.

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, we've known that certain neighborhoods and communities have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19," said Janey. "Creating this grant initiative will fund organizations closest to the individuals most affected, helping the City respond on a local, community-based level. I look forward to working with the grantees to further our efforts in vaccinating our more vulnerable communities."

Applicants will develop strategies to target equitable vaccine access in specific ethnic communities, Boston neighborhoods, and other groups experiencing higher rates of COVID-19 positivity. Applications should also target outreach for communities facing barriers in obtaining the vaccine. These include Black/African American, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous, and immigrant communities; persons with disabilities; individuals over the age of 65; and the neighborhoods of East Boston, Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, Hyde Park, Roslindale and Chinatown, where positivity rates have consistently been higher

and vaccination rates have been lower than the citywide average.

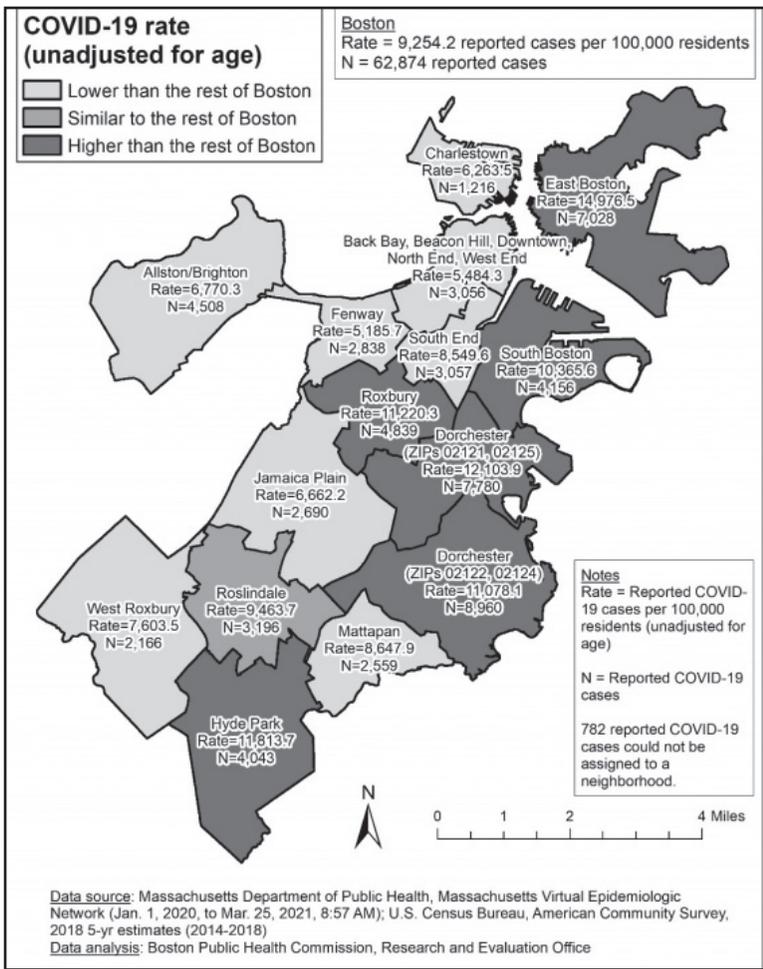
"In Boston, we are committed to continuing to prioritize local access and equitable planning when developing strategies to bring the COVID-19 vaccine to all of our residents," said Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez. "The grant program will build on our community partnerships and help ensure every Bostonian who is eligible has the necessary support needed to get vaccinated."

The BPHC data released last Friday showed North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 548.4 cases per 10,000 residents, up 2.4 percent from 535.5 cases per 10,000 residents reported two weeks ago.

An additional 72 residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 2,984 cases to 3,056 cases as of last Friday.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID-19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 2.9 percent last week and went from 62,170 cases to 63,993 confirmed cases in a week. Fourteen additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,341 total deaths in the city from COVID.



On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

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Salonen, Ari J	Yang, Jing	65 E India Row #33E	\$1,415,000
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## FRESH AND LOCAL

### Second act hero: Fried rice

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

One dish that showed up on many cooking video sites over the past year was fried rice. Food educators like Jamie Oliver, Kenji López-Alt, and others helped us find ways to make meals out of what we already had on hand. Fried rice fits perfectly into a thrifty kitchen since you make it with left-over rice plus whatever you want to add.

Sam Sifton of the New York Times called fried rice, "... a bril-

liant and addictive way to use up leftovers that comes together in about 20 minutes. It can accommodate practically any vegetable languishing in your refrigerator, and adding leftover cooked chicken, pork, beef, shrimp or tofu isn't a bad idea either."

Second acts are meals made from the food you didn't finish on its first appearance or food you made or ordered more to use for a second meal. The next time you order a take-out meal with rice or cook rice, plan for extra to make a

meal of fried rice the next day.

#### About That Rice

If you have leftover rice that has dried out a bit in the refrigerator, you're ready to go. Many recipes call for jasmine rice. Kenji uses sushi rice. We've used leftover brown rice since that's the rice we usually have on hand. However, we've also used pre-cooked rice from a package and microwaved packages of frozen rice. They all work with a little attention from the cook to fluff and dry the rice as it sizzles in the wok or pan.

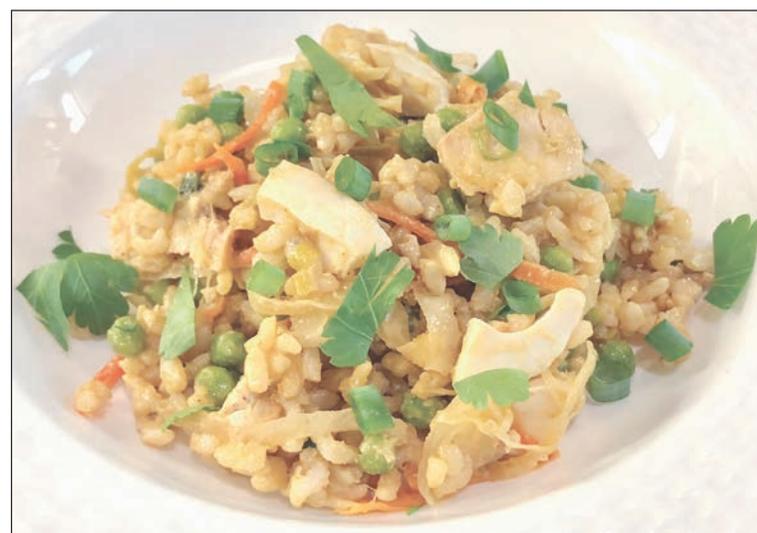
#### Lots of Additions or Just a Few

Our standard version of this dish is a clean-out-the-refrigerator effort. We usually start with the typical wok food base of garlic and ginger. Next, we add whatever we found in the refrigerator.

Some days it looks like the inside of an egg roll with cabbage and carrot. Other days it serves to clean out the remains of bags of frozen peas, corn, or broccoli. If we have a bit of meat, fish, or other protein, we'll add that as well. If not, we'll add an egg.

We recently discovered a simplified version to add to our quick lunch options. It is made by pre-heating a wok or fry pan, adding oil, then a beaten egg which you stir and cook quickly. Scoop the egg out onto a plate and set it to wait until you are ready to add it back to the rice.

Next, add your day-old, slightly dried-out rice and stir fry. When



We made this dish of fried rice with leftovers including: brown rice, hard-boiled eggs, shredded chicken, celery, onion, cabbage, ginger, carrot, frozen peas, and herbs.

you are ready, slip in the egg breaking it into the rice as you fluff it. Finally, add a dash of oil if needed and a splash of soy sauce to taste. As Jamie Oliver would say, "Easy-Peasy!"

#### Fancy Fried Rice

Fried rice is also a dish where you can add a small splurge. The video channel Chinese Cooking Demystified describes the ultimate version of this dish as, "Yangzhou Chaofan, one of the most popular fried rice dishes in the world."

Their version contains eggs, dried shiitake mushrooms, dried scallops, ham, pork loin, chicken,

shrimp, peas, and bamboo shoots. Your take on this dish might include fresh scallops, lobster, country ham, fresh mushrooms, or whatever takes your fancy. You might see this dish on Chinese American menus as Special Fried Rice, Yang Chow Fried Rice, or Yang Zhou Chao Fan.

Simple or fancy, made from leftovers or featuring special treats, fried rice can be whatever you need it to be to feed one person or a crowd!

*Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your suggestion.*



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Acting Mayor Kim Janey

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