



THE NORTH END

REGIONAL REVIEW

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Residents mount opposition against Cross Street hotel

By Phil Orlandella

North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) has submitted a comment letter to the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) expressing major concerns and questions relating to the proposed 134 room hotel at 42 Cross Street.

Many issues have been raised by NEWRA and North End residents, especially abutters.

Some of the concerns include: lack of residential community purpose, community residents and open space impacts, the public process, blocking views and sunlight, quality of fresh air, parking, noise and more.

Plans to have two first floor restaurants and dining and a lounge on the roof-deck will affect everyone including the business community that is trying to keep their heads above water stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic.

One resident told the Review, "We don't have enough parking in the North End, especially with outdoor dining in effect, making it totally impossible to find a parking spot."

Apparently, community stakeholders have organized an opposition signature drive.

"It doesn't appear, at this time, that residents don't plan to go

(OPPOSITION, Pg. 2)



Photo by Matt Conti

A new reconfiguration of the two-halves of the Abstract Sculpture on The Greenway.

Abstract Sculpture reconfiguration

By Phil Orlandella

A crane pulled apart and reconfigured the two-halves of the Abstract Sculpture, a split rhomboid, dodecahedron, made of stainless steel and aluminum to create a new sculpture shape.

Located on the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway on the

American Heritage Park, the sculpture is symbolic of all who pulled away or were forced to pull away from their country of origin and came to Massachusetts, establishing new and different ways.

The Charles and Doreen Bilezikian Fund supports the annual reconfiguration.

Baker relaxes COVID-19 restrictions

Staff Report

On Tuesday, the Baker-Polito Administration announced that Massachusetts would reopen some outdoor Phase 4, Step 2 industries effective May 10, and put plans

in place for further reopening on May 29 and Aug. 1.

"The light at the end of the tunnel, thanks to the hard work of so many, is getting closer," Gov. Charlie Baker said at the State House when announcing the

news. "And we can start to look ahead with real optimism for the path forward."

The Administration continues to take steps to reopen the Commonwealth's economy with pub-

(BAKER, Pg. 8)

Money in City budget earmarked for local projects

By John Lynds

Earlier this month acting Boston Mayor Kim Janey Mayor Kim Janey proposed her administration's recommended \$3.75 billion Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) operating budget and \$3.2 billion Fiscal Year 2022-2026 (FY22-FY26) Capital Plan. Janey said the budget focuses on providing the resources for the city's continued robust public health response to COVID-19, making strategic investments in Boston's neighborhoods and residents, and setting the stage for Boston's equitable reopening, recovery and long-term renewal.

In the budget is money earmarked for the BCYF Nazzaro Center as well as studying sea level rise.

Janey earmarked a \$2 million increase for the Nazzaro bringing the project total to \$5 million.

In April 2019, the city picked

the North End's Mirabella Pool site on Commercial Street as the final recommended site for a new North End community center.

The city has been studying the feasibility of moving the community center by 2023.

BCYF highlighted the benefits of locating a new community center near the open space and garnering the recreational synergies of the adjacent Mirabella Pool and the open space at Puopolo Field and facilities at Langone Park. Close proximity to the new Eliot School building and the State-owned skating rink were also highlighted.

There was also \$5 million for a Climate Ready Boston Harbor study to support the development of a study that will examine the feasibility of measures along and within the Boston Harbor to reduce vulnerability of coast-

(BUDGET, Pg. 2)

NEWNC supports Monica's new closing hour changes

By Phil Orlandella

A vote to support (11-0) was taken by the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) for a request by Monica's Trattoria to change its current closing hours of 11 p.m. seven days a week, to Monday-Thursday 12 a.m. and Friday-Sunday 1 a.m. according to President Brett Roman.

Greenway Conservancy Marketing and Community Affairs Manager, Rachel Lake, updated NEWNC on the upcoming 2021 programs and public art season installation planned at The Greenway.

She noted that the Carousel,

food trucks, art markets, art installation and much more will take place this season.

The North End/Waterfront Open Space Committee Survey Managing Director of the Trustees' Boston Waterfront Initiative Nick Black discussed a recently launched survey of residents, workers and business owners to seek and learn more about community open space preference towards developing space throughout the waterfront and North End.

One open space mentioned was Sargent's Wharf.

NEWNC's next monthly meeting will be held on Monday, May 10 at 7 PM.

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or call 781-485-0588 for your Regional Review information

EDITORIAL

BIDEN'S CLIMATE CHANGE BILL: TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE?

President Joe Biden's ambitious proposal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. by 50 percent (from their 2005 levels) by 2030 marks a dramatic moment in the environmental movement.

Those of us old enough to remember the first Earth Day -- 51 years ago this past week -- know how difficult it can be to induce American consumers and businesses to adopt environmentally-friendly habits.

The first Earth Day was inspired by the images a few months before of Cleveland's Cuyahoga River catching fire when the chemical pollutants which industries poured into the river (which in turn streamed into Lake Erie) were ignited by a spark from the shore.

The shocking river fire and the Earth Day movement in turn led to the creation of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the full support of then-President Richard M. Nixon, a Republican.

The EPA soon initiated policies that began to improve America's air and waterways, most notably with the elimination of lead in gasoline.

However, despite the tangible accomplishments of the EPA over the past 50 years, our air and water -- the essentials of life for all living things -- have remained as harmful to our health as ever.

A recent study by the American Lung Association concluded that almost 50 percent of all Americans still breathe polluted air.

The 1967 movie, *The Graduate*, predicted the rise of plastics ("Benjamin...I have one word for you: 'Plastics.' There is a great future in plastics.") in everyday life. But what the movie did not anticipate was that within a few decades, micro-plastics not only would contaminate the oceans around the world, but also would be found in every major organ in our bodies.

And of course, there is the matter of global warming, which soon is set to reach a point that will make life as we know it unsustainable in many parts of the world, including our own, where rising sea levels will inundate the Massachusetts coastline.

However, what is encouraging about President Biden's plans is that for the first time, major U.S. companies are supportive of policies that are good for the environment. Although we would like to think that they are doing so for the right reasons, the reality is that these companies realize that climate change will have a catastrophic effect on their business interests.

The U.S. military has warned for the past decade that climate change poses a major threat to our national security and now private industry finally has jumped on the bandwagon. According to an article in the *New York Times* last week, "Rising temperatures are likely to reduce global wealth significantly by 2050, as crop yields fall, disease spreads, and rising seas consume coastal cities...The effects of climate change can be expected to shave 11 percent to 14 percent off global economic output by 2050 compared with growth levels without climate change, according to a report from Swiss Re, one of the world's largest providers of insurance to other insurance companies."

So we applaud President Joe Biden's dramatic pro-environment policies, which incorporate many aspects of the Green New Deal put forward by our U.S. Senators, Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren, in tandem with New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

And we are heartened that American business is fully on-board with the president's proposals.

Hopefully, the shift in our national policy will not be a case of too little, too late.

On the other hand, for those of us who celebrated the first Earth Day in 1970, we have to say, "Better late than never."

OPINION BY PHIL ORLANDELLA

CONTI AN ASSET TO THE GREENWAY BOARD

Electing North End resident Frank Conti to the Greenway Conservancy's non-profit volunteer Board of Directors is an outstanding selection by the organization that manages the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway.

A highly respected and very popular member of the neighborhood, Conti will add a wealth of knowledge and experience to the planning and goals of The

Greenway Board.

Conti will be a great asset and valuable tool in helping to make The Greenway become bigger and better through the years.

NORTH END OUTDOOR DINING NEEDS TO BE MONITORED REGULARLY

Outdoor dining in the North End can only be successful if restaurant owners abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the City of Boston which must

regulate the program on a regular basis.

Eateries, have for the second consecutive year, have been given a great opportunity to generate must needed additional revenue that was lost during the duration of the Covid 19 pandemic.

However, the program will have a direct effect on the neighborhood, so it is extremely important that the City closely monitors the outdoor dining program to act quickly and correct any problems that could occur.

BUDGET (from pg. 1)

al flooding due to sea level rise caused by climate change.

"During the past year, Boston has come together like never before, and we must take that spirit of inclusiveness and compassion and translate it into real investments for the City of Boston and our residents. COVID-19 has

brought on unprecedented economic and social change for our city, and this budget proposal meets the moment and makes targeted investments to ensure that as we emerge from this public health crisis we are not going back to normal, but going forward better than before," said Mayor Janey.

"I am proud of this budget and the enormous work that goes into running our City government and providing the services Bostonians need and rely on. No one can be left behind as Boston recovers from COVID-19, and looks forward to the future."

OPPOSITION (from pg. 1)

anywhere," another North End resident said. "Enough is enough."

The developer Cross Street Ventura LSC, plans include redesigning and repurposing the Cross Street pedestrian plaza fronting the site primarily for hotel and restaurant purposes, including guest arrivals and departures, valet parking, restaurant patrons, plus delivery and waste removal.

"Don't we (residents) have enough restaurants in the North End," another resident noted.

NEWRA question the need and wisdom of removing the site from

the neighborhood's purpose when hotels have recently been completed, are under construction or are planned nearby at North Station, Government Center Garage, 88 North Washington Street and Parcel 9 adjacent to Haymarket Pushcart vendors.

The community group contends the hotel massing and the hotel and restaurant activity will impose burdens on the adjacent residential community, including Cuttillo Park.

It will create a barrier, blocking light in view, impacting privacy

and harming the owner's property value neighbors believe.

Many other concerns have been raised relating to the proposed hotel.

The developer has committed to help rehab Cuttillo Park working with the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department, create a walkway from The Greenway to the park.

They also noted that hotel project will create jobs during and after construction is completed and bolster the economy.

Fire regulations in the City of Boston prohibit open fires and charcoal and gas grills on roofs, fire balconies and fire escapes.

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IN BRIEF By Phil Orlandella

CITY TO BEGIN TICKETING

Now that the ticketing amnesty program in the North End has expired, the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) will begin ticketing and towing, for street sweeping, vehicles without appropriate resident stickers will be ticketed or towed.

Vehicles with expired inspection stickers will not be ticketed until May 31.

The amnesty program for healthcare workers has also expired, and tickets will be issued.

NEMPAC PERFORM-A-THON SETS RECORD

North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) latest virtual Perform-

a-thon has set a new record for the event, raising over \$18,000.

"The funds will be used for the NEMPAC scholarship program," according to Sheri Snow, Executive Director. "The funds allow the Center to make music education possible for students."

Students, faculty, supportive families, local businesses and NEMPAC responses made this successful fundraiser possible, according to NEMPAC.

This was the seventh annual NEMPAC Perform-a-thon that featured 85 students and faculty showcasing their talent through live and pre-recorded clips of music, during 4 ½ hours of back-to-back music performances. Music ranged from classical to rock to musical theater to folk music.

Interactive dance and theater game fun was also part of the events.

BHC DIRECTOR FOCCP GUEST SPEAKER

Managing Director of Boston Harbor Cruises (BHC), Matthew Murphy, was the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) guest speaker for the April meeting. He joined BHC in 2014.

Murphy advised FOCCP that BHC will undergo a nation-wide rebranding and become Boston Harbor Cruises part of City Experiences by Hornblower.

He noted the services being offered by BHC this season will be whale watching, Godzilla rides, Harbor Island ferries and more.

England Podcast highlights Columbus Park.

British horticulturist Phil Aireys toured Columbus Park with FOCCP members.

FOCCP President Joanne

Hayes Rines and Horticulture Co-Chair Robyn Reed were interviewed for Aireys weekly broadcast about all things gardening from Yorkshire England. Discussions ranged from gardening, nature and the environment.

Aireys recognize the park as "A real hub of the community".

PILOT LAUNCHED TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

A pilot program to support the growth of small businesses in neighborhood commercial districts has been announced by Mayor Kim Janey.

The city has launched B Local, a points-based program that offers rewards for shopping locally. The goal is to help the recovery of local businesses.

"Small businesses are the back-

bone of our economy and they need our help to recover from economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic," Mayor Janey said.

Guidelines for businesses and shoppers are available at boston.gov/reopening.

JOE'S BAR AND GRILL SEEKS CHANGE

A request, by Joe's American Bar and Grill, 100 Atlantic Avenue, to amend its new-live entertainment license in order to add three indoor/outdoor surface mounted speakers to its outdoor patio seating area was heard at the April 27 North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) virtual Zoning and Licensing Committee meeting.

No decision made by the committee was available as of this writing.

Edwards appointed Vice Chair of the Council's new Committee on COVID-19 Recovery

By John Lynds

Last week City Council President Pro Tempore Matt O'Malley appointed At Large City Councilor Michael Flaherty and District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards as chair and vice chair of the Council's new Committee on COVID-19 Recovery.

Last Wednesday, the Council unanimously voted in favor of O'Malley's motion to amend the City Council rules to add the committee. The goals of the Committee are to exercise general oversight and make recommendations on the City of Boston's distribution of state and federal COVID-19 relief funding and programs.

With the city poised to receive hundreds of millions of dollars in federal support Edwards said the new committee makes perfect sense for oversight and transparency.

"This new committee will really help concentrate all of the conversations about COVID recovery, and the hundreds of millions of dollars that's going to come to the City of Boston," said Edwards. "Normally as federal grants come in we have them go to the assigned relevant committees and then we have a hearing about it and a vote. But here comes hundreds of millions of dollars and the question is how do we make sure we're concentrated on COVID recovery and this funding doesn't just get washed away on other things."

Edwards said the committee

will work to strategically direct federal dollars so they can be used appropriately.

"I don't want this funding to be used to fill the normal gaps that have to be filled," said Edwards. "That's not how this is going to work. We want to make sure we're talking about real structural changes that need to happen--specifically, aid to individuals and to our businesses because they were hurt in a unique way for a long time by this pandemic. It's hard enough for people to track where taxpayers' dollars are going so the idea is if we have one committee where all of the COVID related dollars are going then it's easier for us to be held accountable and be more transparent to the public. What we want to make sure we are not filling in budget gaps with these funds but really doing something new. If we're not dedicating a majority of our efforts to bringing people who lost everything back, bringing jobs back, bringing homeowners and tenants back and just dedicating our efforts to business as usual we will fail the city and its citizens."

With her home neighborhood of Eastie hit harder than nearly every other neighborhood in Boston by the pandemic, Edwards is in a unique position to bring some insight to the committee on how funds should be targeted.

"I have never been more proud of my neighborhood and district than during this pandemic and I know that we're going to

swing back stronger than ever," said Edwards. "I really think I'm uniquely positioned because my district has been hurt the most by this pandemic. So I want to help navigate a lot of these conversations towards how the funding can help the most and have the biggest impact on the lives of residents."

These federal funds will support a national vaccination program, small businesses, provide emergency relief and resources for schools' safe reopening.

"The purpose of the Committee is to elevate incoming federal and state funds, while ensuring there are community voices throughout the entire process ensuring that these funds are distributed equitably, fairly, and effectively," said O'Malley. "As the city recovers from COVID-19's devastating inequitable impacts on public health, housing, and the economy, we will work toward building a more resilient future for every Bostonian."

While Flaherty said, "A critical benefit of having a stand alone committee focused on reviewing this funding is that the Council can now provide a singular public forum for residents to provide input on how the funding is spent. I am looking forward to engaging residents and stakeholders from every neighborhood in our City to make sure that this funding will have the greatest impact on the programs, services and communities that need it most."

Aside from Edwards and Flaherty, committee members include Councilor Ricardo Arroyo, Chair of Public Health Committee, Councilor Kenzie Bok, Chair of

Ways and Means Committee, and Councilor Ed Flynn, Chair of City and Neighborhood Services Committee

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Rockland Trust will acquire East Boston Savings Bank

By John Lynds

East Boston Savings Bank and Rockland Trust announced last week that the two banks have inked a merger agreement for Rockland to acquire EBSB's parent company, Meridian Bancorp., thus acquiring EBSB in a \$1.15 billion deal.

Under the agreement each Meridian stockholder will receive 0.275 of Rockland common stock for each share of Meridian common stock.

According to the two banks the merger is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2021.

EBSB President and CEO Richard Gaveganao said last week this transaction brings together two strong banks with a long and rich history serving and investing in local communities.

"We are excited to join a like-minded organization dedicated to creating exceptional customer experiences, built on trust and quality service, while also providing an attractive return to our stockholders," said Gaveganao.

Rockland President and CEO Christopher Oddleifson added this merger is consistent with

Rockland's strategy of acquiring banks in overlapping and adjacent markets who share his bank's "relationship-focused style of banking".

"East Boston Savings Bank has been committed to building meaningful connections with their customers since 1848 and we are excited to work alongside them to deepen those relationships with expanded products, services, and technology," said Oddleifson. "At the same time, we look forward to increasing our presence in and around the city and reinforcing our position as the Boston area's premier community-focused commercial bank."

EBSB currently has 42 full-service locations, one mobile branch and three loan centers in the greater Boston metropolitan area.

As of March 31, 2021 Meridian had \$6.5 billion in total assets, \$5.3 billion in loans, and \$5.1 billion in deposits.

"Following this merger, Rockland will have approximately \$20 billion in assets," said Oddleifson. "In addition to the market leading commercial lending capabilities, this acquisition will further enhance our core

deposit franchise value and allow for the expansion of Rockland's broad financial product set to an expanded business and consumer customer base."

The boards of directors of each company have unanimously approved the transaction. The transaction is subject to certain conditions, including the receipt of required regulatory approvals, approval by the stockholders of both EBSB and Rockland and other customary conditions.



EBSB and Rockland Trust announced last week that the two banks have signed a merger agreement that will allow for Rockland to acquire EBSB in a \$1.15 billion deal.

NEAA opening day baseball season off and running

By Phil Orlandella

Baseball season officially opened in the North End on Sunday, April 25 at Puopolo Park with one Little League (Majors) and two Minor League games, according to North End Athletic Association (NEAA) Baseball Coordinator John Romano.

Five baseball programs have been organized by the NEAA for

the 2021 season, Majors, Minor League, Instructional League, Dodgers traveling team and girls' softball.

Little League sponsors are: Regional Review, Saint Anthony's Feast Society and Saint Agrippina Feast Society.

Minor League (ages 6-8) teams and sponsors are: The Grasshoppers, North End Against Drugs (NEAD); The Raptors, North End Rehab and Nursing Home; The Muck Dogs, Bobby and Maria; and the Mud Cats, The Tomasone Club.

The Minor League will play a 12-game season starting at 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

Girls' softball (age 9-14) program will play games at 2 p.m.. Two teams will complete the Lady Cubs and the Lady A's. Sponsor is North End Boston Food Tour, Robert Agrippino. Teams will play 12-14 games and possibly additional games as the season progresses.

The Instructional program sponsored by the Boston Red Sox Foundation (boys and girls ages four and five) starts on Sunday, May 2 at 10:30 AM and runs for 8 weeks.

The NEAA Dodgers (13-15) traveling team will begin in mid-June and play throughout the summer participating in the very competitive Lou Tompkins Baseball League.

The Majors will have a two round playoff series starting in mid-June to crown the 2021 champions and the season will wrap up with the annual All-Star Game on June 26.

Once again, the Commissioner of the NEAA is Ralph Martignetti.

Coaches:

Instructional League:

Ralph Martignetti

Janine Martignetti

Trinity Martignetti

Carl Hall

Brad Scioletti

David Bilodeau

Tom Ryan

Minors Baseball:

Muckdogs Head Coach

Richie Perry

Muckdogs Assistant

Brian Trojan

Grasshoppers Head Coach

Rick Martignetti

Grasshoppers

Kevin O'Sullivan (Sully)

Raptors Head Coach

Matthew Krattenmaker

Raptors Assistant

Jim Gibbons

Raptors Assistant

Chris Filberto

Mudcats Head Coach

Brett Roman

Mudcats

Bruce Rosendahl

Girls Softball:

Lady Athletics Head Coach

Chuck Bilikas

Lady Athletics Assistant

Janine Martignetti

Lady Athletics Assistant

Carl Hall

Majors Baseball:

Indians Head Coach

John Pregmon

Cubs Head Coach

Jordan Bednar

Cubs Assistant

Tyler Hess

Cubs Assistant

Eric Howard

Cardinals Head Coach

Michael DelloRusso

Cardinals Assistant

John Pezzuto

Pre-Majors Clinic:

Chuck Bilikas

Dodgers Tompkins 15U

Kevin O'Sullivan (Sully)



Virtual Public Meeting

Central Artery Parcel 2 Park Design

Wednesday, June 2
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/Parcel2ParkDesign
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 820 2047

Project Description:

The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA), in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the Greenway Conservancy, invites community members to the final public meeting for the Parcel 2 Park Design process. Through four previous community meetings, the design team finalized the Parcel 2 Park design in 2020. Construction of the Parcel 2 Park will begin in late-Spring of 2021. This meeting aims to provide community members with an overview of the construction process and schedule. The team will also be available to answer questions and hear concerns about the construction process.

mail to: **Kennan Rhyme**

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Jesse Brackenbury bids farewell to Greenway Conservancy

By Dan Murphy

Jesse Brackenbury, outgoing executive director, bid farewell to the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy Monday after serving with the nonprofit for more than a decade.

Brackenbury joined the Conservancy as its Chief Operating Officer in 2009 and had led the organization since 2013. His most notable achievements with the organization, which became a “leader in park management and placemaking” under his leadership, according to its website, include “negotiating an \$18-million landmark multi-party agreement that increased and diversified foundational funding for the Rose Kennedy Greenway and led to the establishment of the Greenway Business Improvement District (BID).” Moreover, Brackenbury marked his tenure with the nonprofit with the openings of the Greenway Carousel at The Tiffany & Co. Foundation Grove, the nationally recognized Greenway Mobile Eats Program, and the city’s first park beer garden.

“The Greenway has been so important for my family,” Brackenbury wrote in an official statement. “I’ve worked at the Conservancy longer than any other job I’ve ever had. When I joined in 2009, I had a 1-year-old son;



Jesse Brackenbury, the Greenway Conservancy's outgoing executive director (at right), is seen at the organization's 2019 Gala on The Greenway, with honoree Gov. Charlie Baker and co-chairs, Beacon Hill resident and Conservancy Board Member Alli Achtmeyer and her husband, Bill.

a year later, when my twins were born, I was the first person to take parental leave from the young nonprofit organization. I've been at the Conservancy for 11½ years; the park is 12; and my kids are 12, 10, and 10 – so we've all grown up together.”

Moreover, Brackenbury added: “Thank you to all of you who've made it a really special experience. I feel very lucky to have met and

worked with some incredibly talented people. I will miss all of the staff and Board and volunteers and community members who have given so much to make this a sustainable, vibrant, innovative park.”

Of the indelible impression Brackenbury made on the Conservancy over the years, Doug Husid, chair of its Board, said: “No goal was more central to the vision of



COURTESY OF THE GREENWAY CONSERVANCY

Jesse Brackenbury, the outgoing executive director of the Greenway Conservancy, at the nonprofit's 2019 Gala on The Greenway.

the Big Dig than reuniting the core of the downtown to the neighborhoods, the neighborhoods to each other, and all to the waterfront. The creation of The Greenway was at the heart of that vision. Over the past eight years, through Jesse's extraordinary leadership, the successful fulfillment of that vision has been enhanced as The Greenway continues to evolve into a multidimensional urban oasis. Jesse will leave an indelible mark on the City of Boston, and we are

extremely grateful for his adroit stewardship of this regional treasure and national model of excellence in urban park management.”

Brackenbury has left the Conservancy to become President and CEO of The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation in New York, while his replacement will be Chris Cook, the city's former environment, energy, and open space chief, who, according to The Boston Globe, is set to assume the position in May.

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 β -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 Or Visit: https://rally.partners.org/study/nad_booster • <http://hormonesandaging.bwh.harvard.edu/mib/>

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North End Golden Girls are first NANDO customers

By Phil Orlandella

Newly opened NANDO Restaurant, on Hanover Street, at the former site of the Green Cross Pharmacy, first customers were “The Golden Girls” of the North End.

“The restaurant was absolutely European,” said North End resident Janet Gilardi. “The atmosphere, food, service, comfort and price were great.”

Gilardi said, “We wanted to show the Giangregorio family that we appreciated all the years of

service and dedication at the pharmacy for North End residents.”

She added, “They gave the community so many years of solid service in the group wanted to show support for the newly opened restaurant.”



The Golden Girls of the North End were the first customers of NANDO's Restaurant.

Rising musicians at NEMPAC help raise \$18,040 to fund youth music scholarships

The North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) and the community celebrated their commitment to music together on Saturday, April 10th, 2021, at their 7th annual Perform-a-thon with four and a half hours of back-to-back music performances to benefit their Youth Music Scholarships Fund.

This event was possible thanks to 85 NEMPAC students and faculty who performed, and to their families, friends, local businesses, and sponsors who came together to support quality and accessible music education for all.

A total of \$18,040 was raised for the NEMPAC Scholarship Fund, supported by 273 performer pledges, dozens of raffle items donated by local businesses, and our event sponsors, the Charlestown Mothers Association (CMA) and the North End Athletic Association (NEAA). 85 students and faculty passionately showcased their talent through live and pre-recorded clips of music that ranged from classical, to rock, to musical theatre, and folk music, all collecting pledges with one single purpose: to support and further NEMPAC's cause!

"A special congratulations to our top pledge raisers this year! These students worked so hard to collect the most pledges for their performances - first place was Jax Raukohl, second place was Harper Racine of Charlestown, and third place was a tie with Madelyn & Jacob Litofsky of Charlestown!" - Allie Meek-Carufel, NEMPAC Educational Director

Spotlights included performances featuring students from the NEMPAC ensemble programs such as the Eliot Music Ensemble, Music Theatre Troupe, Music Theatre Intermediate Class, and Young Dancers Class. The event also included interactive dance and theatre game fun with two favorite NEMPAC faculty members, Amanda Teneriello Yazinka and Sarah Rogers. The full program can be seen here.

"At NEMPAC, we aim to increase our scholarship award allocation each year to meet the growing demand for need-based support. Thanks to our talented students and faculty, this is possible! We are grateful for their participation in the #PledgeMe campaign and Performathon event - and also thank our sponsors,



the local businesses who donated, and neighbors who support our raffle!" Sherri Snow, Executive Director.

Special to this year's performathon was the start of NEMPAC Milestone awards for students and faculty. The following students and faculty received awards: Cameron Esposito, Annabella Sandy-Roche, Anna Magno, Dinero Jelley, Melinda Sandy-Roche, Xiaolan Ruan*, Dan Raney*, and Jaime Castellanos* (*denotes faculty). Awards included Youngest Performer, Oldest Performer, and Student(s) that have been taking lessons with NEMPAC the longest.

The NEMPAC 2021 Virtual Perform-a-thon was generously supported by Bronze Level Sponsors North End Athletic Association (NEAA) and Charlestown Mothers Association (CMA). Thanks to the generosity of all the donors who pledged students; and thanks especially to the local businesses who contributed

to our raffle prizes! Those businesses are listed here.

For more information about NEMPAC and the NEMPAC Scholarship Fund, please visit www.nempacboston.org

In the last fiscal year 2019-20, NEMPAC awarded \$19,061 in total scholarships, with \$8,316 awarded from the Geraldine Marshall Scholarship Fund. The fund provides need-based scholarship support giving children or teens equitable opportunities to participate in high-quality after-school or extended music and performing arts programs. Students receiving scholarships use support to take private or group music lessons, enroll in after-school dance, theatre, music classes, or experience week-long intensive summer music workshops. The fund aims to spark a creative, artistic interest in students who may not otherwise have the opportunity. Scholarship applications are accepted several times throughout the year and are

available in English, Mandarin, and Spanish. The demand for financial support to participate in NEMPAC educational programs has never been greater, as families continue to face unprecedented challenges due to COVID-19 and as NEMPAC's partnerships with Boston Public Schools expand.

North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) is a 501(c)(3) community music school and performing arts center empowering greater-Boston artists of all ages and abilities. Fueled by the belief that the arts are an expression of our shared humanity, NEMPAC enriches the North End, Charlestown, and surrounding Boston neighborhoods with affordable, high-quality performances and programming.

In 2001, five North End mothers launched NEMPAC out of their homes to give their daughters and sons the opportunity to pursue private piano instruction. By listening to, empathizing with,

and meeting a community need for youth instrument lessons, the nonprofit's female founders banded together to make music an approachable art form for the children of Little Italy.

Fast forward nearly two decades later, and NEMPAC continues to flourish at the intersection of arts education and professional performance. NEMPAC's community music school nurtures the next generation of artists through in-house education courses, private and group music instruction, as well as on-site arts programming in area schools.

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

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

Visit www.northendregionalreview.com

Future of Chiofaro's Harbor Garage skyscraper uncertain after court ruling

By John Lynds

For years now the Chiofaro Company run by developer Don Chiofaro has been trying to replace the Harbor Garage on Boston's waterfront with a 600-foot skyscraper.

The Proposed Project would include approximately 865,000 square feet of residential space with up to 200 units, offices, ground-floor retail and other uses to activate the streetscape.

However, a recent court ruling has thrown the entire project in doubt after the state's

Last week Superior Court judge Brian Davis ruled against the state in a lawsuit regarding the Downtown Municipal Harbor Plan for Boston and the proposed skyscraper's place within the plan.

Davis ruled that the state's municipal harbor planning process unlawfully ousted the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as the exclusive agency for determining how to balance public and private rights on the waterfront, making those decisions political rather than regulatory.

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs signed off on the project, which opened the doors for Chiofaro's skyscraper to get off the ground.

However, in 2018 the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) sued, arguing state officials ignored decades-old rules governing public waterfront access and sidestepped the DEP.

Prior to the lawsuit Chiofaro was poised to get his development going but this worried many environmentalists that such development would harm the public's access to the city's waterfront.

The public's right to access waterfront areas has been protected under Massachusetts law and Davis ruled that the DEP is the only trustee authorized to protect and advance those public rights.

CLF argued that the planning process for waterfront development had arbitrarily abandoned DEP's development principles that have been in place since 1990, particularly that waterfront buildings step down in height and provide meaningful public open space.

Davis noted in his ruling that DEP rules are clear that buildings



An artist rendering of the proposed Harbor Garage tower.

can only be 55 feet high within 100 feet of the shore.

"Public access to Boston's beautiful waterfront won today," said Peter Shelley, Senior Counsel at CLF. "State officials acted unlawfully in coming up with the Downtown Municipal Harbor

Plan and handed private developers a free pass to create new rules to benefit themselves. The judge saw right through this effort and affirmed that only the state's Department of Environmental Protection can make decisions that protect the public's centu-

ries-old right to access the water and waterfront."

Per Davis's ruling the DEP will now have to revise its tidelands regulations to reflect the judge's ruling that it has exclusive, final authority over all development proposed for on tidelands.

BAKER (from pg. 1)

lic health metrics continuing to trend in a positive direction. This includes drops in average daily COVID cases and hospitalizations. Massachusetts remains first in the nation for first vaccine doses and total doses administered per capita, among states with more than 5 million people. The Administration will also relax the Face Coverings Order for some outdoor settings, effective this Friday, April 30.

•Face Coverings Order:

Effective April 30, the Face Coverings Order will be relaxed for some outdoor settings.

*Face coverings will only be required outside in public when it is not possible to socially distance, and at other times required by sector-specific guidance.

*Face coverings will still be

required at all times in indoor public places. Face coverings will also continue to be required at all times at events, whether held indoors or outdoors and whether held in a public space or private home, except for when eating or drinking.

*At smaller gatherings in private homes, face coverings are recommended but not required. The \$300 fine as an enforcement mechanism will be eliminated.

•Phase IV, Step 2 Industries and Gathering Changes:

On March 22, Massachusetts loosened capacity restrictions and advanced to Step 1 of Phase IV of the reopening plan. Since then, case rates dropped by 20%. The positivity rate has dropped to the lowest levels recorded since last summer.

Effective Monday, May 10:

*Large venues such as indoor and outdoor stadiums, arenas and ballparks currently open as part of Phase 4, Step 1 at 12 percent will be permitted to increase capacity to 25 percent.

*The Commonwealth will reopen some outdoor Phase 4, Step 2 industries including amusement parks, theme parks and outdoor water parks that will be permitted to operate at a 50-percent capacity after submitting safety plans to the Department of Public Health.

*Road races and other large, outdoor organized amateur or professional group athletic events will be permitted to take place with staggered starts after submitting safety plans to a local board of health or the DPH.

*Youth and adult amateur sports tournaments will be allowed for moderate and high-risk sports.

*Singing will also be permitted indoors with strict distancing requirements at performance venues, restaurants, event venues and other businesses.

•Effective May 29:

*Subject to public health and vaccination data, gathering limits will increase to 200 people indoors and 250 people outdoors for event venues, public settings and private settings.

•Subject to public health and vaccination data, additional Phase 4, Step 2 industries will be permitted to open including:

*Street festivals, parades and agricultural festivals, at 50 percent of their previous capacity and after submitting safety plans to the local board of health.

*Bars, beer gardens, breweries, wineries and distilleries, will be subject to restaurant rules with seated service only, a 90-minute limit and no dance floors.

*Subject to public health and vaccination data, the restaurant guidance will be updated to eliminate the requirement that food be served with alcohol and to increase the maximum table size to 10.

•Effective Aug. 1:

*Subject to public health and vaccination data, remaining industries will be permitted to open including:

*Dance clubs, and nightclubs

*Saunas, hot-tubs, steam rooms at fitness centers, health clubs and other facilities

*Indoor water parks

*Ball pits

*All industry restrictions will be lifted at that time, and capacity will increase to 100 percent for all industries, with businesses encouraged to continue following best practices. The gathering limit will

be rescinded.

*Depending on vaccine distribution and public health data, the Administration may consider re-evaluating the August 1 date. The Department of Public Health will also continue to issue guidance as needed, including guidance to still require masks indoors.

In Boston, however, acting Mayor Kim Janey's administration announced it would delay most of Gov. Baker's reopening plans by three weeks (i.e. public gathering of 200 people indoors or 250 outdoors won't be permitted in the city until June 19 while road races, indoor singing, and certain youth and adult sports tournaments can resume on June 1, as can street festivals and parades on June 19 at 50 percent of the events' 2019 capacity.)

"In every aspect of Boston's reopening, we will take the right measures, at the right time, to protect our people and businesses," Janey said. "As we look ahead to better days, we must remember that the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Reopening our economy does not remove our personal and collective responsibility to remain vigilant."

For more information on the state's reopening plan, visit [mass.gov/reopening](https://www.mass.gov/reopening).

DID YOU KNOW?
Recycled newspapers
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FRESH AND LOCAL

The salmon family

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

as the salmonids.”

We recommend the www.seafoodwatch.org site or their phone app as the best way to make decisions about purchasing any seafood item. It is essential for something as popular and variable as salmon. You can put salmon into the search box, and the result will tell you what is safe to buy and what you should avoid. This site is updated when conditions change.

If you'd like a short answer, consider this advice from chef, author, and sustainable seafood expert Barton Sever, “When it comes to taste, fresh wild salmon is the way to go, no doubt, and Alaskan salmon is the best choice. There are five types commonly available: King Salmon is the richest, sockeye the gamiest, coho the most balanced in flavor, pink the lightest in flavor, and keta the most similar to good-quality



Salmon cakes made from a can of wild-caught Alaskan salmon have been a welcome addition to our protein supply during the pandemic.

farmed Atlantic salmon.”

So Many Ways to Cook Salmon & Kin

You see salmon on so many menus because this family of flavorful fish is adaptable to cooking methods and styles. It's there because people like it and will order it. In some cases, it is an inexpensive alternative to other seafood. When dining out, you don't know if that salmon was farmed, frozen, or imported unless the menu is specific. We see more Arctic char offered by chefs who want to set their menu apart while still keeping a salmon-like option.

Penny long ago decided that we should enjoy perfectly grilled or seared salmon dishes when we dine out rather than in our tiny home with its wimpy kitchen exhaust fan. That said, salmon and its kin are often on our dinner table.

We like to cook our selection in an oven, steamer, or parchment package. All three methods can result in one-pan meals where you cook the fish with vegetables. We might put shredded carrots, thinly sliced leeks, and julienned ginger under pieces of salmon or char fillet in a baking dish, cover it, and pop it in the oven for 10-15 minutes or until the salmon is cooked to our taste. After that first meal, we still have the makings of a salmon curry or green salad with flaked salmon for a day later.

Often we buy and cook salmon for more than one meal. Besides health benefits from its abundant

supply of long-chain omega-3 fatty acids, it can save time because leftovers can be served hot or cold and added to salads, stir-fries, and other dishes in need of protein.

Canned salmon is always in our pantry. We can turn that into our favorite salmon cakes, salmon hash, or a salmon pate to serve to guests at a moment's notice.

Choose canned salmon with care as you would for fresh or frozen. Keep your health, the environment, and the sustainability of this favorite food in mind.

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

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
 COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU21P0702GD

In the matter of: William J. Foley RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person Of: Boston, MA To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that William J. Foley

is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/18/2021. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In

addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: April 06, 2021 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

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City addresses North End outdoor dining and parking

By Phil Orlandella

When the City of Boston officially announced that for the second consecutive year that outdoor dining has been authorized in the North End until December, residents expressed some concerns about the project.

Like last year, concerns were expressed relating to noise, safety, traffic flow, social distancing, closing hours and especially replacement parking due to the loss of spaces created by the program.

Before outdoor dining began, the City held a virtual public meeting to inform the community of the proposed plan and action taken related to concerns raised.

"Residents received a complete update on outdoor dining that has started," North End Neighborhood Services Liaison John Romano, Jr. told the Review. "Like last year, the City has devel-

(OUTDOOR, Pg. 4)

HELPING OTHERS

Chicken Parm and Pasta from Saraceno's was delivered hot and fresh to the Ausonia Apartments. An Enhancement Grant made this donation possible from the Age Strong Commission.

NEWRA opposes new restaurant closing hours

By Phil Orlandella

A request for a change in hours by Monica's Trattoria, 67 Salem Street was voted against (10-15) by the North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) at its April monthly meeting.

The current closing hour is 11 PM, seven days a week. Requested changes Monday through Thursday 12 AM and Friday through Sunday 1 AM.

A negative response by residents for the development of a hotel at 42 Cross Street, North End was indicated at the meeting.

Stillman Street residents and others expressed concerns relating to noise, parking, traffic flow and the suggested 55-foot structure (which meets the height requirements).

Residents also complained about the public process with one person suggesting the return of Pace's Grocery and Maria's Bakery Shop. Apparently both the city and developer have made every effort to conduct regular public meetings.

The developer has submitted and expanded PNF to the BPDA.

Comment for the present proposal is April 19.

Plans call for two-ground-floor restaurants, a roof-top dining area on multi-parcels of land including a parking lot.

NEWRA has sent a comment letter to BPDA.

Nick Black, managing Director of the Trustees Boston Waterfront Initiative discussed a recently launched survey of residents, workers and business owners that seek to learn more about community preference to a developing open space along the Waterfront in the North End.

Rose Kennedy Greenway names Chris Cook as new Executive Director

Special to the Regional Review

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy has announced the selection of Chris Cook as its next Executive Director.

"Chris' deep local experience in open space, parks, and community engagement is a tremendous asset for both the Conservancy's and The Greenway's next chapter," said Doug Husid, Chair of the Greenway Conservancy Board. "We are delighted to have Chris at the helm as we emerge from the pandemic and continue to strengthen our community connections, world-class horticulture, and remarkable art programs that are the hallmarks of The Greenway."

"The Greenway represents one of the greatest transformations of urban space in American history," said Cook. "I am honored to join the Conservancy to continue to contribute to and expand on The Greenway's success and thrilled by the opportunity to focus deeply on such an important public park and resource."

The Greenway is a park like no other. It has transformed downtown Boston and delivered on the promise of the Big Dig to create a vibrant green space that is filled with thought-provoking experiences and connections. The nonprofit Greenway Conservancy has sole responsibility for managing all aspects of The Greenway and utilizes that responsibility to create year-round beauty, robust and inclusive programming, and artistic experimentation. Cook is a local expert with deep community connections who can hit the ground running; under his leadership, the Conservancy is well-positioned to engage with and lift up the diverse communities across Boston and the Commonwealth

(Cook, Pg. 3)

Chris Cook named as the next Executive Director of The Rose Kennedy Greenway.

Visit www.northendregional.com

Email stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com or deb@bostonsun.com
or call 781-485-0588 for your Regional Review information

FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

COMMUNITY NEWS

CUTILLO PARK RENOVATIONS

Renovation plans for Cutillo Park on Stillman Street have been approved by the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department.

NANDO OPENS

The newest North End Restaurant, NANDO has opened on Hanover Street at the location of the former Green Cross Pharmacy.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

A community garden is under construction at DeFilippo Park on Prince Street, residents can plant food and vegetables once the garden is complete.

SCHOLARSHIP DRIVES

North End Against drugs (NEAA D) is planning for its annual Scholarship Drive and credit card gifts.

OPEN SPACE SURVEY

A North End open space survey is being taken by the Trustees' Boston Waterfront Initiative, One Waterfront.
To take the survey go to north-endopens.surveymonkey.com.

LANTERN CEREMONY TAKE PALCE

The Old North Church recently held its annual hanging on the Lantern Ceremony as a virtual event.
Proceeds from Lantern 2021 will support the Old North Church's Foundation virtual and on-site programs.

EXTENDED STICKER REGISTRATION

The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has extended certain expired inspection stickers to the end of May.

Vehicle owners with March and April expired stickers have through May 31 to obtain new stickers.

NEWRA MAY MEETING

The next North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) monthly virtual meeting will be held on Thursday, May 8 at 7 PM.

NEWNC MAY MEETING

The next North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) monthly virtual meeting will be held on Monday, May 10 at 7 PM.

CITY SUMMER JOBS

Applications are now available for SuccessLink Summer Youth Jobs in the City of Boston.
The City's website www.youth-boston.gov is open through May 9 for teens ages 15-18.

EMERGENCY SICK TIME

Legislation that allows all state workers to access five days of emergency paid sick time for Covid 19 related sicknesses, quarantine, caregiving and vaccination is now in the books.

ROUTE 1 RIGHT LANE CLOSURE

MassDOT has advised the temporary right lane closure on Route 1 Southbound through Friday, May 7. Closure is needed to facilitate work on the Tobin Bridge/Chelsea Curves rehabilitation project.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM REPLACED

At the beginning of May, the Boston Parks Department is having the irrigation system replaced for the central bed of the Rose

Fitzgerald Kennedy Garden. FOCCP will be able to plant 10 new rosebushes on the central bed.
The new irrigation system should secure the rosebushes survival.

FOCCP BEGINS GARDEN PROJECT

Last year, Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) had to abandon their group gardening times. Everyone came to work on the garden when they could.
This year, FOCCP is comfortable and familiar with social distancing, so the group is going back to the twice-weekly garden times on Monday mornings 8 to 9:30 a.m. and Sunday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
If interested call Robyn Reed, Horticulture Co-Chair at info@foccp.org. All tools and guidance will be provided. Wear closed toed shoes.

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.

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.

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.

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.
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.

FREE TAX HELP

Residents that earn \$57,000 or less per year can receive free tax assistance preparation through the Boston Tax Help Coalition.
Qualified residents must call 311 or visit www.bostontaxhelp.org for appointment.

FREE ONLINE EVENTS

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

RMV EXPANDS HOURS

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

STREET CLEANING UNDERWAY

Street cleaning in the North End has started and will be enforced by ticketing and subject to towing.
Expired inspection stickers and vehicle registration will also be enforced.

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North End COVID update, Acting Mayor Janey announces updates reopening guidance

By John Lynds

Last week the North End's weekly COVID-19 positive test rate decreased after posting a 5.8 percent increase three weeks ago.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, 2,145 residents were tested and 3.1 percent were positive--this was a 3 percent decrease from the 3.2 percent reported by the BPHC two Fridays ago. The area experienced a 17.2 percent and then a 5.8 percent increase week over week since the beginning of April.

Overall since the pandemic started 49,923 North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 6.8 percent of those tested were COVID positive. This was the same percentage reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate decreased for another week and is now well below the 5 percent threshold.

With COVID numbers declining Acting Mayor Kim Janey announced Tuesday that the City of Boston will move into a modified version of the state's current phase of the Reopening Massachusetts plan, effective Friday, April 30.

However, according to Janey, Boston will delay most of the state's reopening guidance by three weeks, in an effort to accommodate the unique preparations needed by the City.

In late March, the City announced that it would not move forward with additional reopening steps until the citywide positivity rate remained at or below 2.75 percent for two consecutive weeks. It is currently at 3.6 percent.

Janey said the latest modified update will support Boston's economic recovery as COVID-19 health metrics continue to improve.

"In every aspect of Boston's reopening, we will take the right measures, at the right time, to protect our people and businesses," said Janey. "As we look ahead to better days, we must remember that the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Reopening our economy does not remove our personal and collective responsibility to remain vigilant. Thank you to all Bostonians for your continued efforts and cooperation as we reopen our city."

Below are the modified plans that go into effect this week:

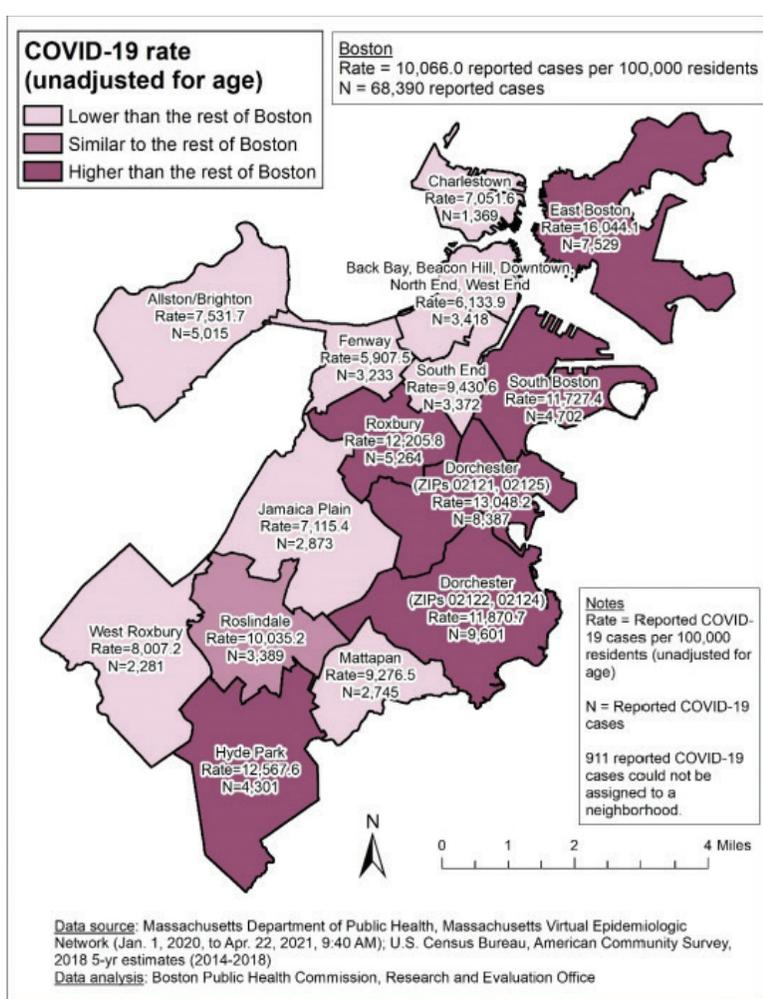
Effective Friday, April 30, the City of Boston will align with Commonwealth's updated Face Coverings Order. This states that face coverings will be required at all times at indoor and outdoor venues and events, except when eating or drinking. Face coverings are recommended to be worn both inside and outside during small gatherings at private homes. Face coverings are not required outside in public spaces when individuals are able to remain at a safe distance from others.

Also effective April 30, public gatherings in Boston may increase to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors, in alignment with the Commonwealth's previously announced limits. In Boston, all private gatherings and events in private residences will remain subject to current capacity limits of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors. However, public and private gathering limits will increase to 200 people indoors and 250 people outdoors on June 19 in Boston, three weeks after the higher limits go into effect in other parts of the Commonwealth. The City of Boston and the Boston Public Health Commission will continue to closely monitor public health data and adjust reopening plans as necessary.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 613.3 cases per 10,000 residents, up 2 percent from the 601 cases per 10,000 residents reported two weeks ago.

An additional 69 residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 3,349 cases to 3,418 cases as of last Friday.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 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.



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

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 1.7 percent last week and went from 67,685 cases to 68,885 confirmed cases in a week. Four additional

Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,364 total deaths in the city from COVID.

Community Garden construction underway at DeFilippo Park

By Phil Orlandella

Construction of a community garden at DeFilippo Park is currently underway.

Once completed, North End residents, who have been cooped up at home, due to the Covid pandemic, can get out and grow their own fruits and vegetables, according to the North End Waterfront (Parents) Association of Boston (NEWMA).

"A community garden will allow residents and others to get outdoors, get exercise, connect with nature and do something good for themselves and the planet," the group noted.

The outdoor garden will be located near the large stone walls in the park.

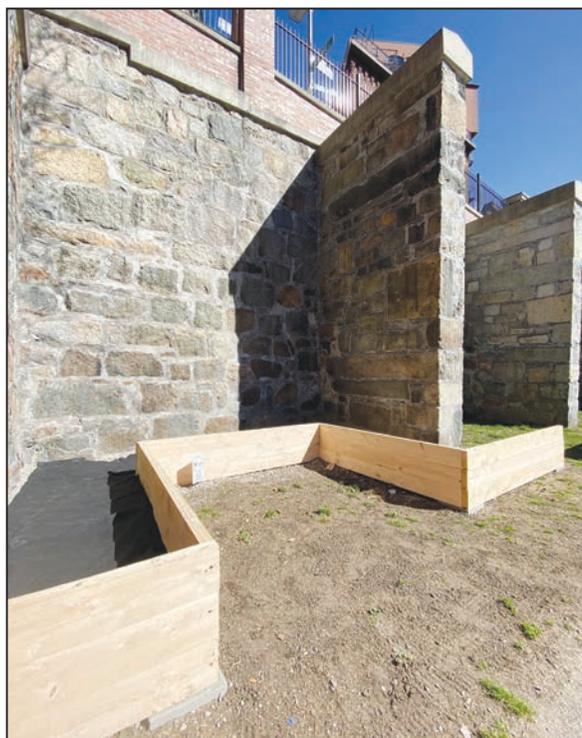
Raised garden beds

will be built with fencing installed around them to protect the plants.

NEWMA is also planning to purchase flowers, trees and perennial plants to enhance the beauty of the park.

Friends of DeFilippo Park are raising money to develop a community garden. Funds are being accepted to continue the project. For more information email newma@googlegroups.com.

Friends of the Park, Jason Aliuia, Michael D'Elia, Michael Bonetti, John Romano and Camdele Construction were recognized for their efforts to develop the outdoor garden.



Community garden construction at DeFilippo Park is currently underway.

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