



# THE NORTH END

## REGIONAL REVIEW

EMAIL: DEB@THEBOSTONSUN.COM  
EDITOR@REVEREJOURNAL.COM

WWW.NORTHENDREGIONALREVIEW.COM



North End Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center recently received accreditation from The Joint Commission for its nursing care. Pictured from left are: Medical Director Dr. Masaya Higuchi, Administrator Sami Almadi, Director of Nursing Beth Fearon and Assistant Director of Nursing Beth King. (Courtesy Photo)

### North End Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center receives certification from Healthcare Accreditation Commission

Special to the Regional Review

North End Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center announced it has received accreditation for skilled nursing care and certification for post-acute care from The Joint Commission, a leading

accreditor of nearly 21,000 health-care institutions throughout the United States.

“The Joint Commission’s accreditation is an important validation of the high level of nursing care that the North End team regularly provides to its rehabilitation

patients and long-term care residents,” said Sami Almadi, Senior Administrator of North End Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center. “We are honored and proud of our entire medical team

(HEALTHCARE, Pg. 3)

### Deer tranquilized in North End and safely moved

By John Lynds

Maybe she heard the line at Umberto’s was getting long or Mike’s Pastry was having a sale on cannolis.

Whatever the reason, a deer wandered into the North End last Friday causing some chaos as Boston Police, Boston Animal Control, Environmental Police all descended onto the neighborhood

to trap the deer.

Videos and pictures show police trying to corral the animal on side streets, in parks, between cars to no avail.

Police did their best to ensure the deer wouldn’t dart out onto a busy street and get hit by car or at the very least knock over an outdoor dining table on Hanover Street and spill a bunch of cappuccinos.

Eventually the deer was tran-

quilized and safely transported to the Blue Hills in Milton.

“On Friday, June 4, 2021, Massachusetts Environmental Police Officers responded to the report of a deer in the North End of Boston,” said the Environmental Police in a statement. “Due to the populated location and amount of activity in the area, the determination was made to relocate

(DEER, Pg. 4)

### Community meeting held for Cuttillo Park choices

By Phil Orlandella

Friends of Cuttillo Park and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department discussed design review possibilities of the public area located between Morton and Stillman Streets in the North End.

“Three meetings have been held thus far,” City Hall North End Liaison John Romano Jr. told the Review.

“The Parks Department based on community input, will develop a construction plan and once again will meet with the neighborhood residents to present the ten-

tative results for final approval,” Romano noted.

One of the differences in plans for the rehab of the public park was should the basketball court be half or full-court.

Reportedly, some residents believe half court would open up additional space in the children’s area and other areas of activities.

Cuttillo Park has a history of drug use and sales, especially on warm weather nights.

Residents believe that with proper lighting, more police patrols and community activity the problem will go away.

### Durgin recipient of NEWRA Award

By Phil Orlandella

Daniel Durgin of Fulton Street was the newest recipient of the North End/Waterfront Residents’ Association (NEWRA) “Good Neighbor” Award.

He was selected for the community award for “helping and caring for more people in the neighborhood than anyone can

imagine,” said Janet Gilardi, Chair of the Award Committee.

“He does this with all the love that his heart can hold,” Gilardi added.

“Originally from South Boston, Deann took to the North End like a trooper and is well deserving of this community award,” Gilardi noted.



Daniel Durgin and Janet Gilardi.

# EDITORIAL

## HAS AMERICA GONE FROM ON THE BRINK TO OVER THE EDGE?

With Americans emerging cicada-like from the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, one would think that this would be a time of joy as we resume participating in all of the things that make life worth living.

But rather than embracing in a positive way our newly-rediscovered freedom after 15 months of restrictions, it would seem as though we have lost our collective minds.

Fights and other outbreaks of violence, once rare in our airports and on airplanes, have become so commonplace and dangerous that two airlines, American and Southwest, have decided to halt all sales of alcohol until September.

Mass shootings are more prevalent than ever all across the country thanks to the easy access to high-powered weaponry in many states.

Drug overdose deaths soared in 2020 to record heights and show no sign of abating.

Random hate crimes, especially toward the AAPI and Jewish communities, have soared in the past year.

Our political discourse has not been this divisive since 1861, when the Confederates fired on Ft. Sumter to start the Civil War.

We finally can travel, but who wants to venture to our usual getaway destinations (especially cruise ships with unvaccinated passengers) along with the hordes of other travelers who have the same idea? It's one thing for airports and flights to be jammed, but the crowds will be huge wherever we might want to go, which only will exacerbate the new epidemic of short-temperedness that seems to be infecting our present emotional state.

Here's our theory to explain the sudden surge in the general level of unruliness among our nation's population: After 15 months of being told what to do, some people feel as though they now are entitled to do as they please with no regard for the basic rules of civility that allow us to coexist peacefully.

It's as though some Americans, in their eagerness to make up for 15 months of lost time, have forgotten how to be polite and respectful of others.

The Orange County District Attorney, speaking at a press conference about the arrests of the two suspects accused in the tragic shooting death of the six year-old boy in a road rage incident on a California freeway, put it succinctly when he stated, "...how quickly we get out of control today and take actions against others....without assuming any personal responsibility."

We may be getting COVID-19 under control, but we are failing at being in control of ourselves.

## GUEST OP-ED

### Boston needs more affordable housing

By Councilor Annissa Essaibi George

Right now, Boston's residents are struggling to pay rent, our families can't find or afford stable housing, and too many individuals are experiencing chronic homelessness. The past year has only emphasized these realities and the effects will last long after the pandemic.

Affordability and accessibility of both rental units and homes for sale is key for a thriving city. We need to ensure that everyone who wants to call Boston home has the opportunity, option and a pathway to ownership to do so. We can start by building more housing and ensuring what we build is actually affordable for Boston's residents.

Our housing stock must also be a reflection of the needs of those who call this city home. That's why I've called for a hearing on our City's existing residential unit diversity, so we can understand what units we have and what units we need to equitably house our residents and more proactively shape an inclusive and thriving city. We need to see what's out there and then act accordingly. We need to plan, then build for the realities of our residents.

Much of our focus should be on creating housing for the many residents and families that don't qualify for subsidized housing, but still cannot afford to pay mar-

ket rate. This large gap is causing low to middle income families to fall through the cracks. We need affordable, multi-bedroom housing for our families and we need to push developers to build it. We must also look into amending and updating HUD's Area Median Income (AMI) standard for the city. The formula does not reflect the income of the many residents who need more affordable housing.

For those who do qualify for subsidized housing, the housing voucher allocation processes are not consistent and the number of available vouchers varies dramatically year to year. As Mayor, I will push for dedicated investments in public housing and extremely low-income housing and improve measures to prevent race-based and income-based voucher discriminatory behavior.

Housing production should also provide our residents more opportunities for home ownership. In order to address the affordable housing crisis and the racial wealth gap, we need to make sure our investments in affordable rental units and homeownership units are aligned. Many of the residents in our City-funded rental units are paying about 70% of AMI, which equates to \$1,400 a month for a one bedroom unit. If they are able to pay that much in rent, they can also afford and sustain a monthly

mortgage of the same amount—we just have to make home ownership accessible!

The City also has to invest more in our first time homebuyers program, which not only prepares first time home buyers looking to purchase their first homes, but also offers residents, many of whom would not be able to otherwise, the opportunity to purchase a home by qualifying to make a below average down payment upon purchase and lower monthly mortgage rates.

Finally, more must be done to encourage the creation of more senior-specific housing and ensure that those who have made Boston their home can stay here. We must support our seniors to age in the community they call home by creating more secure and accessible affordable housing options, including housing for older residents who identify as LGBTQIA+ or older residents with disabilities.

I was born and raised in Boston. I feel so fortunate that my parents were able to settle here and make this city my family's home. I'm proud to raise my children here. I want that for all of Boston's families and anyone else that loves Boston enough to choose it over any place else in this world. As Mayor, I'll work relentlessly to make this happen.

*Annissa Essaibi George, is a City Councilor, At-Large and a candidate for mayor.*

## GUEST OP-ED

### Do you need Social Security?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

In 2020 over 64 million Americans were collecting Social Security.

The National Institute for Retirement Security (NIRS) has reported that Social Security is the only income source for 40 percent of retirees over the age of 60." (Forbes.com) The study also claimed that only 6.8 percent of retirees receive income from the three-legged stool of Social Security, a defined benefit pension and a defined contribution plan.

Another study conducted by researchers at the Social Security Administration, found that only 19.6 of Americans 65 and over

received at least 90% of their total incomes from Social Security. That's a big difference from the stat provided by the NIRS.

Nevertheless, the point is that for millions of Americans Social Security is either all they have or mostly all they have. Also, there are some government employees who have their own pension system and do not pay into Social Security.

Social Security taxes take a bite of our income from every check. Employers and employees each pay 6.2 percent of wages up to the taxable maximum of \$142,800 for 2021. The self-employed pay 12.4 percent. Some self-employed struggle with paying the 12.4 per-

cent and look for creative ways to only report a small salary. This may enable you to have more cash now but your Social Security check will be much smaller when you become retirement age.

Religious objectors can often be exempted from paying the tax. I knew a minister who in his younger days did the paperwork to exempt out of Social Security. It was the one of the biggest mistakes of his life. When he became 65, he couldn't quit working. He had also drawn out most of his other pension savings for emergencies.

With meager retirement dollars he was also faced with having to buy Medicare insurance. To make

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## REGIONAL REVIEW

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**PUBLISHER:** Debra DiGregorio - deb@thebostonsun.com

**EDITOR AT LARGE:** PHIL ORLANDELLA

**REPORTERS AND CONTRIBUTORS:**

Seth Daniel, John Lynds and Cary Shuman

**PHONE 781-485-0588 // FAX 781-485-1403**

**INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP, LLC**

**PRESIDENT:** Stephen Quigley

## GUEST OP-ED

## A Chance to Safeguard Us All

By Sarya Baladi

The past year has been defined by conversations surrounding how to best contain the spread of COVID-19 and how to rethink the role of law enforcement in our communities to ensure everyone's safety, health, civil liberties, and wellbeing. While we have all been affected by these crises, the most vulnerable in our society have suffered the most, and immigrants – many of whom have lived in Massachusetts for decades, worked hard, and raised families in constant fear of their deportation or the deportation of their family members – are emblematic of the intersection of this struggle. The Safe Communities Act (S1579, H2418), which should be taken up by the Massachusetts Legislature in the current session,

should therefore be a priority for us to pass. By limiting the entanglement of local law enforcement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), we are not only protecting our immigrant neighbors but also making our communities safer for everyone.

The Safe Communities Act helps address the public health imbalance between immigrant and non-immigrant communities. While this has been an issue for decades, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light the dangers of unnecessary cooperation between ICE and local law enforcement agencies. Immigrants in Massachusetts have been some of the hardest hit by COVID-19, yet many have been afraid or unable to get the medical testing, treatment, and vaccinations they need in the current political climate, as

they fear that their information will be shared with federal authorities.

The general safety of all Massachusetts residents is also at stake. When ICE's mission is entangled with that of local law enforcement agencies, our communities are less safe for two key reasons. Firstly, police departments are spending time, money, and resources on policies that are inherently not their job, since immigration enforcement is solely a federal responsibility. Therefore, allowing local law enforcement to do the job of the federal government means that the state is actually paying to distract local law enforcement from their core mission, which ultimately makes all of us less safe. Secondly, when police departments are seen as an extension of ICE, individuals are less likely to come forward

to report a crime or serve as key witnesses. Everyone can agree that communities are safer when victims and witnesses are not afraid to come forward to report crimes, a reason many police chiefs across Massachusetts agree that local police officers should not ask about immigration status. In effect, more crime is reported and communities are safer when police departments have a strong relationship with those they serve, and entangling ICE in the police's work creates a barrier to that goal.

Our public health and safety are top priorities for most of us in Massachusetts, but the Safe Communities Act also addresses a critical human rights issue happening right here in our state. We have all seen the horrendous family separation happening along the southern border, but family separation hap-

pens here in Massachusetts every time a parent is deported. Because many Massachusetts residents come from mixed-status families, ICE's policies are devastating for citizens and non-citizens alike. When police departments collaborate with ICE, they are contributing to breaking those families apart. No child should lose a parent because local officials are dabbling in immigration enforcement – the job of the federal government.

It is, therefore, a practical and moral responsibility for us to urge our lawmakers to vote for the Safe Communities Act to make our communities healthier and safer and to uphold Massachusetts' long tradition of standing up for the dignity of all.

*Sarya Baladi is a North End resident.*

## OPINION BY PHIL ORLANDELLA

## ILLEGAL FIREWORK DISPLAYS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE

As the Fourth of July gets closer, illegal firework displays will start occurring in the neighborhood and create dangerous situations, possibly creating serious injuries to the public, possibly fires and property damage.

The city is actively sending out a message to the general public to refrain from engaging in private firework displays in the neighborhood.

Firework displays need to be coordinated through the city for safety guidelines and permits.

Organizers of illegal fireworks displays will be liable for any negative results that could occur.

## NSC STAFF TOP-SHELF

Staff dedication and outstanding job performance is the key to the great success of the North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) located on Michelangelo Street.

NSC staff have been and will continue to be top-shelf provided in every sense of the word.

They are totally professional and truly caring about the people they provide for.

NSC staff simply get the job accomplished in a quality manner, making the Center a valuable asset to the neighborhood.

Kudos to: Director Maria Stella Gulla, Joanne Malone fundraiser, Anna Gallagher neighborhood client services coordinator, Abby Cielowisk case manager, and Husevion Serturk coordinator.

## PREGMON AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Community activists John Pregmon, current President of North End Against Drugs (NEAD) possesses great leadership and neighborhood pride.

Pregmon's outstanding work with NEAD and several other community organizations has been outstanding and dependable.

Clearly, Pregmon cares about his neighborhood involvement, always taking a hands-on approach and commitment to develop programs and activities that benefit the community.

John deserves recognition for his willingness to help make the North End a better place to live in,

be safe and to enjoy quality events and activities.

## FEASTS ARE PUBLIC EVENTS

North End feasts are traditional, religious, and social public events that attract thousands of visitors and families to enjoy the weekend festivities.

Some of the feasts have taken place in the neighborhood for over 100 years.

Feast goes flood the North End to patronize their favorite saint, engage with family and friends and enjoy what the festivals have to offer.

While attending the feasts, visitors need to respect the community and residents must be mindful that feasts are public events.

## CUTILLO PARK REHAB MADE POSSIBLE BY MAYOR WALSH

Shortly, construction for renovation of Cuttillo Park will begin with final approval from the community.

Friends of Cuttillo Park, other residents and the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department have met three times to determine the design of the park located between Morton and Stillman Streets.

Working together, a viable neighborhood park will be developed as a useful public area to enjoy.

However, let's not forget this all became possible through the efforts of former Mayor Martin Walsh and his staff.

## OP-ED (from pg. 2)

matters worse he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. At a relatively young senior adult age he had nothing with which to fight. He was tired from his long years of work. He had nothing financially saved. He couldn't stop working. Medical insurance became a dilemma and within two years he was dead.

Social Security is not a perfect world. It won't make you rich but you'll be glad you have the check and the medical insurance.

Keep this in mind the average monthly Social Security payment for 2021 is \$1,543, and the maximum you can receive at full retirement age is \$3,113 a month. If you have waited until you are 70 the amount is \$3,895.00. These figures change all the time depending on cost of living adjustments and how long you work and how much you pay into the system. Keep in mind the longer you work and the more you pay into Social Security, the more you collect at

retirement.

So, go to work and be glad for every dollar withheld from your check for Social Security.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week. In over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

## HEALTHCARE (from pg. 1)

and nursing staff for this achievement.”

The 100-bed North End Rehab provides subacute rehab and 24/7 skilled nursing care with a comprehensive suite of clinical services including cardiopulmonary care, a dedicated ventilator unit, orthopedic rehabilitation, stroke recovery, diabetic care, wound care, IV therapy, and respiratory therapy.

Accreditation and certification from The Joint Commission is a voluntary, multi-phase application process that demands participation from the majority of the insti-

tution's staff. The commission evaluates nursing homes, hospitals, doctor's offices, surgery centers, behavioral health facilities, and providers of home care services for accreditation.

North End Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center provides the North End neighborhood of Boston and surrounding communities with the highest levels of subacute short-term and comprehensive long-term care in a compassionate and caring environment. For more information, visit [www.NorthEndRehab.com](http://www.NorthEndRehab.com).

# Mass. Department of Health offers summer safety guidance

Staff Report

With summer weather approaching, and as COVID-19 related restrictions on daily activities begin to lift, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) reminds residents to take recommended precautions to keep young children safe this summer.

## PREVENT TICK BITES

Ticks can make you sick when they bite. They are most commonly found in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas. Ticks only attach when you come into direct contact with them — they cannot jump or fly. Follow these steps to help protect yourself from tick bites:

- Check yourself for ticks once a day — it's the single most important thing you can do.
- Use repellents that contain DEET on your exposed skin and those that contain permethrin on your clothes.

- When walking or hiking, stick to main pathways and the center of trails if you can. Brushing against tall grass and bushes will increase your exposure to ticks.

- Weather permitting, wear long-sleeved, light-colored shirts and long pants tucked into socks. This will help keep ticks away from your skin and make it easier to spot ticks on your clothing.

Because dogs and horses are particularly susceptible, talk to your veterinarian about the best ways to protect your animals from tick-borne disease.

**PREVENT MOSQUITO BITES**  
The 2019 and 2020 mosquito seasons were active for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Massachusetts. This mosquito-borne illness appears generally in 2- to 3-year cycles, traditionally peaking during August. The presence of EEE last year, a relatively mild winter, and historical patterns suggest an active season this year.

While the risk for human infection of EEE or West Nile Virus won't happen until later this summer, people have an important role to play in protecting themselves from these illnesses which can be very serious. To prepare for mosquito season:

- Drain standing water in and around your house or yard to prevent mosquito breeding.

- Repair window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of your home.

- Use a mosquito repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient according to the directions.

- Wear clothing to reduce exposed skin when weather permits.

For more information about preventing mosquito and tick-borne illness, visit [www.mass.gov/mosquitoesandticks](https://www.mass.gov/mosquitoesandticks).

## WATER AND POOL SAFETY

Drowning is a leading cause of death among young children, both nationally and in Massachusetts, with backyard pools posing the highest risk for children under the age of 5. To help prevent water-related injury and drowning:

- Children should be supervised in and around water at all times.

- Whenever infants and toddlers are in or around water, including the bathtub, an adult should be within an arm's length at all times providing "touch supervision."

- Completely separate the house and play area of the yard from the pool area with a fence. Consider automatic door locks or alarms to prevent access.

- Remove floats, balls, and other toys from the pool after use so that children are not tempted to reach for them. After the children are done swimming, secure the pool so they cannot get back in.

- Keep rescue equipment (such as a shepherd's hook or life preserver) and a phone near the pool.

- For children who cannot swim, use a properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket. DPH, in cooperation with the USCG, has created a fit test video that can assist with proper fit testing of life jackets: <https://youtu.be/1I3VZf-NqPc>.

- Do not use toys such as "water wings" or "noodles" in place of life jackets. These are not designed to keep swimmers safe.

In public swimming areas:

- Select swimming sites that have lifeguards whenever possible, and swim only in designated swimming areas.

- Always swim with a buddy.

- Look for signage at beaches. DPH collects beach water quality data and notifies the public about bacteria levels to minimize swimming-associated illness and injury.

## WINDOW SAFETY

Falls are the leading cause of injury to children and falls from windows involving young children are especially serious. Window falls are preventable. Screens are not strong enough to protect children from falling out of windows. To prevent window falls, parents and caregivers should:

- Keep furniture — and anything a child can climb on — away from windows.

- Open windows from the top, not the bottom, when possible and lock all unopened doors and windows.

- Be sure children are always supervised.

- Install quick-release window guards which can be found in most hardware stores.

To learn more about childhood injury prevention, visit <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/injury-prevention-and-control-program>.

Additional tips on preventing falls among children can be found on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention fall prevention website.

## CAR SAFETY

The interior of a vehicle can be a very dangerous place for children left inside. In the summer months in New England, the temperature in a closed car can rise quickly and the vehicle can become a deadly place for a child, left even for just a moment.

To keep young children safe in and around cars:

- Never leave children alone in a parked vehicle, even when they are asleep or restrained, and even if the windows are open.

- Always check inside the vehicle - front and back - before locking the door and walking away.

- If a child is missing, check your vehicle first, including the trunk.

- Do things to remind yourself that a child is in the vehicle, such as placing your purse or briefcase in the back seat so you will check the back seat when you leave the vehicle.

- Always lock your car and keep the keys out of children's reach.

- Ensure adequate supervision when children are playing in areas near parked motor vehicles.

If you see a child alone in a hot vehicle, call the police. If they are in distress due to heat, get them out as quickly as possible and call 911 immediately.

Remember, all children ages 12 and under should ride in the back seat, properly restrained, even during quick errand trips. Infants and toddlers should remain in rear-facing car seats until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car safety seat manufacturer. At a minimum, children should ride rear-facing until they are at least one year old and weigh at least 20 pounds. You can find more information on child passenger safety on the DPH at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-public-health>.

## Two major North End Feast set to go starting in August

By Phil Orlandella

Two North End religious societies have filed permits with the City of Boston and will hold feasts this August.

Both the Fisherman's and Saint Anthony's feasts usually attract

thousands of visitors to the neighborhood to enjoy the entertainment, have fun, dine on food, play games, have family gatherings and participate in religious activities.

Some of the North End feasts are over 100 years old and seem to get bigger and better every year

they take place.

Reportedly, the societies are working closely with the city to manage and ensure the popular events are safe, clean and non-problematic.

Coupled with North End outdoor dining, the feast weekend events are expected to add to the neighborhood's parking woes and traffic flow problems. Crowd control and emergency vehicle access could pose a problem. Cleanup and use of toilets can be problematic.

Some residents feel that the societies and the city should send out a clear message to potential feast goers to use public transportation or have someone drop them off within walking distance of the events.

## DEER (from pg. 1)

the animal. With the assistance of the Boston Police Department and Boston Animal Control, Environmental Police Officers specially trained in the chemical immobilization of animals successfully immobilized the deer."

Police said the doe was approximately two years old and was thoroughly evaluated for injuries and found to be in good health.

"The deer was subsequently transported where it was monitored until it fully recovered from the effects of the immobilization agent," police said.

It's not that unusual for wildlife to stumble into urban areas and similar deer sightings and captures have occurred in South Boston and East Boston in recent years



The deer that made its way into the North End rests in the Blue Hills are being tranquilized and transported to the state park by Massachusetts Environmental Police.

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can be made into

cereal boxes, egg cartons, pencil barrels, grocery bags, tissue paper and many other products, including new newspapers!



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# Boston Ballet announces 2021–2022 season

Staff Report

Boston Ballet Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen has announced the return to live, in-person performances for the 2021–2022 season.

Live performances return in November with Nissinen’s “The Nutcracker.” The season includes eight world premieres including five in the female-led ChoreograpHER program and world premieres choreographed by William Forsythe, Jorma Elo, and Stephen Galloway. George Balanchine’s Chaconne and Ji í Kylián’s Bella Figura also return to the Citizens Bank Opera House stage. The season concludes with the return of Mikko Nissinen’s “Swan Lake”. The 58th season also marks Nissinen’s 20th year as artistic director.

“I am thrilled to announce Boston Ballet’s triumphant return to live performances after a challenging year. I cannot wait to be in the theater with audiences as the curtain rises again,” said Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen. “Last season, our organization adapted and innovated to create virtual content, and I am pleased to continue accessible digital performances to engage new and returning audiences.”

Live dance returns to Boston with Mikko Nissinen’s “The Nutcracker” (Nov 26–Dec 26). The annual production “...remains a masterpiece of music, movement and theatrical spectacle” (The Boston Globe) and is a cherished holiday treasure for audiences of all ages. The critically acclaimed production, featuring sets and costumes by award-winning designer Robert Perdziola, is set to Tchaikovsky’s renowned score.

The spring season begins with ChoreograpHER (March 3–13). The female-led program celebrates innovative voices across the art world with five world premieres. Ballet phenomenon New York City Ballet Principal Dancer and choreographer Tiler Peck will build a brand-new work for Boston Ballet. She recently received accolades for her choreography at Vail International Dance Festival and for the film John Wick 3: Parabellum. Claudia Schreier brings her distinctive choreographic voice to Boston audiences, fusing together

er neoclassical technique with a contemporary vocabulary. She has choreographed over 30 ballets and her work has been commissioned by companies and organizations including Dance Theatre of Harlem, Vail International Dance Festival, American Ballet Theatre Studio Company, Juilliard Opera, New York Choreographic Institute, and Joffrey Winning Works. Visual artist Shantell Martin—internationally-acclaimed for her landscape of lines and existential questions—will create her first choreographic work. The multi-talented artist brings a playful approach to the stage and inspires audiences to tap into their own creativity. Principal Dancer and choreographer Lia Cirio will create her first main stage work for the Company. Cirio participated in BB@home: ChoreograpHER in 2018 and 2019. She also created the peppermint wind for Boston Ballet School’s Next Generation in 2019. Melissa Toogood brings the authentic voice of the American modern dance legacy to Boston with her world premiere. She is an award-winning dancer and choreographer of the highest caliber and represents modern dance today as no one else can. Toogood is both a dancer and rehearsal director for Pam Tanowitz Dance. She was a member of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company and has taught Cunningham Technique internationally since 2007. The program will also feature conceptual art by writer, researcher, and artist Emma McCormick-Goodhart. This program is the culmination of Boston Ballet’s ChoreograpHER Initiative, a multi-year commitment in support of emerging female choreographers. It was established in 2018 to give female dance students and professional dancers opportunities to develop choreographic skills.

The next program DREAMstate runs March 17–27. George Balanchine’s Chaconne is a work of pure ballet for 27 dancers that weaves together life, love, and transcendent movement. Creative powerhouse and movement director for The Rolling Stones, Stephen Galloway creates a much-anticipated world premiere DEVIL’S/eye. Sensual yet sensitive, vulnerable and poetic, Ji í Kylián’s

masterpiece Bella Figura returns to the Boston stage following rave reviews in London, New York, and Boston.

MINDscape (May 5–15) is a physically demanding and mentally stimulating program, featuring world premieres by William Forsythe and Resident Choreographer Jorma Elo. Continuing his long-term partnership with the Company, William Forsythe’s Blake Works I returns to the Opera House stage and is set to music from GRAMMY-nominated British musician James Blake’s album “The Colour in Anything.” Boston Ballet made the North American premiere of Blake Works I in 2019. Blake Works II will make its world premiere and will also feature the music of James Blake. Jorma Elo will create a new work, which juxtaposes classical ballet and contemporary dance in his own unique and honest style.

The season concludes with Mikko Nissinen’s Swan Lake (May 26–June 5). The classical masterpiece follows the Swan Queen Odette and Prince Siegfried in a tale of romance, sorcery, and deceit. The second act, originally choreographed by Lev Ivanov, is historically considered the finest piece of classical choreography for the corps de ballet. The production showcases the technical precision and emotional tonality of dozens of dancers, brilliantly transformed by Robert Perdziola’s impeccable costume design and set to the timeless score by P.I. Tchaikovsky. Nissinen’s production “vividly showcase[s] the company’s excellent depth and range” (Karen Campbell, The Boston Globe).

Building off the success of Boston Ballet’s first-ever virtual season, BB Virtual programming will continue this season. Featuring carefully curated works, the 2021–2022 virtual subscription will also stream full-length, season-favorite programs filmed at the Citizens Bank Opera House.

Subscriptions go on sale June 21. Single tickets go on sale September 8. Boston Ballet will follow government health and safety protocols for in-person performances, with more details released prior to each program. For more information on this season, visit bostonballet.org or call 617.695.6955.



All performances take place at the Citizens Bank Opera House (539 Washington Street, Boston, MA, 02111):

•The Nutcracker | November 26–December 26, 2021

Choreography by Mikko Nissinen

Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

•ChoreograpHER | March 3–13, 2022

\*World Premiere

Choreography by Tiler Peck

\*World Premiere

Choreography by Claudia Schreier

\*World Premiere

Choreography by Shantell Martin

\*World Premiere

Choreography by Lia Cirio

\*World Premiere

Choreography by Melissa Toogood

With conceptual art by Emma McCormick-Goodhart

•DREAMstate | March 17–27, 2022

Chaconne

Choreography by George Balanchine

anchine

Music from the opera Orfeo ed Euridice

•DEVIL’S/eye

Choreography by Stephen Galloway

•Bella Figura

Choreography by Ji í Kylián

Music by Lucas Foss, Giovanni Battista Pergolesi, Alessandro Marcello, Antonio Vivaldi, and Giuseppe Torelli

•MINDscape | May 5–May 15, 2022

Blake Works I

Choreography by William Forsythe

Music by James Blake

\*Blake Works II

World Premiere

Choreography by William Forsythe

Music by James Blake

\*World Premiere

Choreography by Jorma Elo

•Swan Lake | May 26–June 5, 2022

Choreography by Mikko Nissinen

Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

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# Andrew Biggio, veteran and founder of annual Wounded Vet Ride, pens first book

By John Lynds

Andrew Biggio's basement has been converted into a museum-of-sorts with display cases of war memorabilia, artifacts and other keepsakes he's collected since serving his tours of duty as a US Marine in Iraq and Afghanistan. Biggio, who founded the Boston Wounded Vet Ride that would roar through East Boston and Revere every year to raise money for wounded vets, is busy organizing a countertop stacked with autographs of the 22 World War II veterans that have been immortalized in his first ever book.

"There are people who got the book and want an autograph of one of the vets that appears," explains Biggio.

With a book tour and book signings on the immediate horizon Biggio says this is the best way to ensure readers get an autograph of one of the vets that appears in the book.

"We just don't know how much longer they'll be around," he says.



US Marine veteran and founder of the Boston Wounded Vet Run Andrew Biggio with the M1 Garand that was signed by dozens of WWII vets and is the subject of his first book, "The Rifle: Combat Stories from America's Last WWII Veterans, Told Through an M1 Garand".



"The Rifle: Combat Stories from America's Last WWII Veterans, Told Through an M1 Garand" is available on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/Rifle-Stories-Americas-Veterans-Through/dp/1684510791>.

According to the US Department of Veterans Affairs statistics, 325,574 of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II are alive but around 296 die every day in the US.

In a race against time, Biggio

began a quest five years ago to get as many World War II veterans on the record from across the US and from every branch of the military and tell their story.

The result was "The Rifle: Combat Stories from America's Last WWII Veterans, Told Through an M1 Garand", which was released on Amazon last week and quickly became the #1 best selling United States Military Veterans History book on the website.

The idea from the book stemmed from his experience returning home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I served in Iraq and Afghanistan and I came home and I'm pretty confident I'm okay, I'm fine," said Biggio. "What bothered me was coming to Winthrop every day and seeing that Andrew Biggio Square sign. It's not dedicated to me, but to my grandfather's brother, who was killed in World War II and I'm named after him. So to see a sign that says Andrew Biggio Memorial Square just made me feel really bad for that Andrew Biggio. So I began to ask, What happened to him that didn't happen to me. I really started asking questions about this poor 19 year old kid from Winthrop who was killed in Italy in 1944."

Biggio remembered his grandmother saying she had saved letters from her late brother-in-law that he wrote home before he was killed.

"So I went into a shoe box at their bedside and began reading the letters," said Biggio. "One of the first letters he talked about how much he enjoyed the M1 Garand rifle. So I immediately ran out and bought one because I wanted to hold it. I want to connect to this long lost relative

and feel what he felt holding that rifle."

While showing friends and relatives his new purchase Biggio said they didn't seem that impressed with the World War II relic so he had an idea.

"I figured I'd do one better and bring it to a Marine I knew who lived in West Roxbury," said Biggio.

Biggio headed over the Westie with the rifle to visit 91-year-old Joe Drago.

"So I knocked on his door and I noticed he had gotten really skinny, his legs were atrophied and he was bound to a recliner, like most men in their 90s," he said. "But when I put the rifle into his hands to show him what I got, I got a totally different reaction than everyone else. He puts it to his shoulder, he's waving it around, he's aiming and he's talking endlessly about the rifle, So that's what I knew I was on to something because I just saw this 91 year old man become a 19 year old kid again."

So Biggio had Drago sign the rifle's stock because he didn't want to ever forget the moment.

"We talked about his participation in the Battle of Okinawa for about two hours and after I left his house I looked down at the rifle and I was hooked," said Biggio. "I decided right there and then I wanted to get as many signatures on this rifle as possible. If Joe Drago was a little taste of the Pacific I wanted to get a guy who fought in Europe next and then Italy."

For the next five years, with the rifle in tow, Biggio visited every corner of the US seeking WWII vets willing to talk about their experiences in the war and sign

the one thing that bound them all together.

"I was very careful to let them know this wasn't going to be a book that glorifies war," said Biggio. "Some of the guys signed the rifle but wouldn't hold it because they vowed they'd never hold a gun again after the war and those are some of the stories I wanted to hear. I wanted to hear the reasons why they felt that way because the younger generation of vets coming home can really learn a lot from this generation that is getting smaller and smaller by the day."

So now that his research and work is complete and the book published after years of work, Biggio said he was really surprised by the reaction as it shot to #1 in its category on Amazon.

"Before it was released there was a lot of anticipation and anxiety," said Biggio. "I knew I was doing good by bringing a lot of light to WWII veterans but to put a physical book out there that's going to be looked at by other historians and authors who've already written multiple books about WWII was a little nerve wracking. But what makes my book a little different is that it's really just a bond between a young veteran and the veterans of WWII. And for us, the young veterans, it's really a way for us to learn from the older generation about the costs of war and life after war. Many in the book definitely hit bumps in the road but they bounced back, raised families and went on to live long, successful lives after war. Ultimately, it is proof that if they can go through the hell and carnage they went through and live as long as they did--we all can."

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	70	75	80	85	90	95
0	70	75	80	85	90	95
10	89	94	99	104	109	114
20	99	104	109	114	119	124
30	104	109	114	119	124	129
40	108	113	118	123	128	133
50	111	116	121	126	131	136
60	113	118	123	128	133	138
More than 1 hour	115	120	125	130	135	140

Jan Hall, CCM, Department of Geosciences, San Francisco State University

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# North End COVID update listed

By John Lynds

Last week, the North End's weekly COVID-19 positive test rate was still under 1 percent for a fourth week in a row according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

According to the weekly report released last Friday 1,061 residents were tested and 0.04 percent were positive. This was a 90 percent drop from the 0.4 percent of residents that tested positive according to the BPHC.

Overall since the pandemic started 52,890 North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data

shows that 6.7 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 continues to decrease. According to the BPHC 13,064 residents were tested and 1 percent were COVID positive--this was a 9 percent decrease from the 1 percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

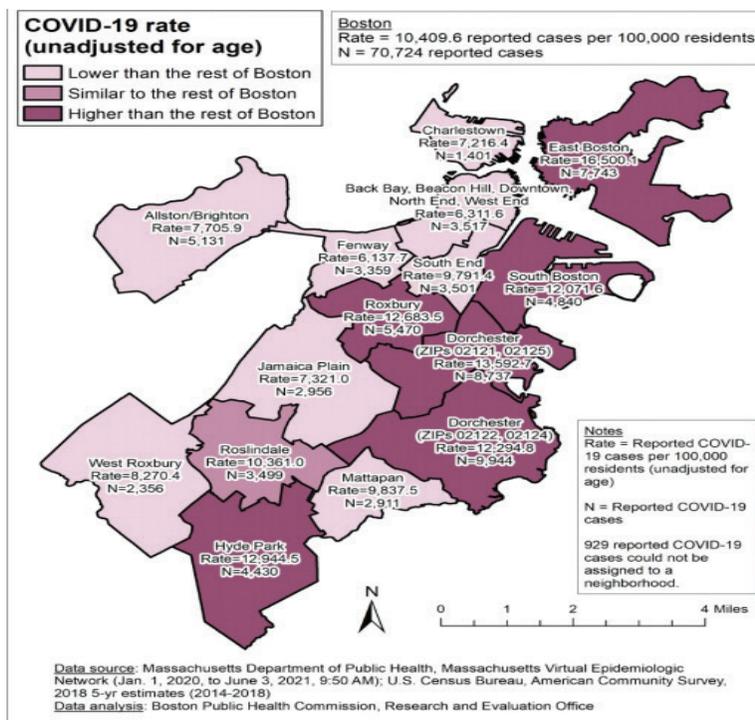
The BPHC data released last Friday showed North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 631.1 cases per 10,000 residents, up 0.08 percent from the 630.6 cases per 10,000 residents reported two weeks ago.

An additional three residents

became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 3,514 cases to 3,517 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.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 0.25 percent last week and went from 70,628 cases to 70,810 confirmed cases in a week. Three additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,386 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.

# Blood donations desperately needed for cancer treatments

The American Red Cross and the American Cancer Society have teamed up this June to encourage people across the country to Give Blood to Give Time and help ensure loved ones have the strength and support they need as they undergo cancer treatment.

According to the American Cancer Society, many patient visits and procedures were forced to delay or cancel early in the pandemic to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19. With procedures resuming, blood donations are critical for cancer treatments. Unfortunately, the Red Cross is seeing fewer blood and

platelet donors give as the nation begins to climb out of this pandemic. This downturn comes at a time when the Red Cross continues to see strong demand for blood products, including platelets, by hospitals, causing concern for the sufficiency of the blood supply this month and throughout the summer.

The Red Cross currently has an emergency need for eligible donors in the area to make an appointment now to give platelets to ensure critical patient needs are met. Platelets, the clotting portion of blood primarily given to cancer patients during treatment,

must be transfused within five days of donation and, therefore, are always in great demand.

“Many cancer patients, especially those going through chemotherapy, will have a need for blood products during treatment,” said Dr. Baia Lasky, medical director for the Red Cross. “When someone donates blood or platelets, they may not only help prevent life-threatening bleeding that can cause stroke or relieve some symptoms, like shortness of breath and headaches, but also give patients and their families the time and hope they need to fight back.”

Some types of chemotherapy

can damage bone marrow, reducing red blood cell and platelet production. Other times, the cancer itself or surgical procedures cause the need for blood products. About six blood products are needed every minute to help someone going through cancer treatment. Yet only 3% of people in the U.S. give blood. It is vital that more people donate blood and platelets regularly to meet that need.

To schedule a blood or platelet donation appointment, visit GiveBlood ToGiveTime.org. As a special thank-you, those who come to donate through June

13 will receive a limited-edition Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

“The need for blood in cancer treatments is an important and untold story,” said Howard Byck, senior vice president of corporate and sports alliances, American Cancer Society. “The American Cancer Society is excited to be working with the Red Cross on Give Blood to Give Time. Through this partnership, we want people to know there are multiple ways they can help and make a meaningful difference in the lives of patients and their families.”

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Mayor Kim Janey

#BOSCanHelp

BOS:311

## IN BRIEF By Phil Orlandella

### FRIENDS HOLD 49TH REUNION

Friends of the North End will celebrate its 49th reunion at the Sons of Italy Hall in Winchester on Saturday, October 9 from 12 to 4 PM.

Many North End boyhood friends will gather to dine and reminisce about growing up in the close knitted neighborhood.

Those not on the Friends mailing list that would like to participate in the reunion should email Sam Viscione at sammyviscione@icloud.com or call Arthur "Sonny" Lauretano at 617-293-6173.

### NEIGHBORHOOD FIREWORK DISPLAYS DANGEROUS

The City of Boston Fireworks Task Force is calling on residents to avoid dangerous neighborhood firework displays, especially during the Fourth of July timeframe when they usually occur.

Conducting neighborhood firework displays are not only illegal, but could start fires and cause serious injuries to the organizer or bystanders.

### QUINTET AT HERITAGE PARK

American Heritage Park on The Greenway recently presented a Boston Pops Esplanade Brace Quintet performance featuring selections from classical to jazz, traditional Pop's repertoire to top 40 hits.

### REGINA PIZZERIA DONATES PIZZAS

North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) has acknowledged Richie Zapata, Manager of the Pizzeria Regina as its Partner of the Month.

The Regina has been sponsoring monthly pizza for seniors since 2018, especially during the pandemic.

Fresh, hot cheese pizza has been provided to residents of the North End and West End housing developments.

### NEAA MAJORS ALL STAR GAME/JUNE 26

One of the most exciting and enjoyable baseball games in the

neighborhood is the North End Athletic Association (NEAA) annual All-Star Game for Little Leaguers (Majors).

The game offers players an opportunity to participate on the big stage of local baseball at this level.

It also recognizes them for their top notch playing during the regular season.

Many parents, friends and other spectators are expected to attend the game scheduled for Sunday, June 26 about 7 PM.

The NEAA is attempting to conduct several other events relating to its 2021 baseball program during the day.

### FOCCP PLANS INDEPENDENCE DAY FOR CHILDREN

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) will conduct an early celebration, that is free and open to the public, on America's Independence Day for Children on Saturday, June 26 from 12-2:30 PM.

Residents can join Uncle Sam and Baby Shark for a fun filled event at the park.

The Committee is also plan-

ning and experience full of activities for families as well.

All participants can march around the park, creating a Festival of Flags.

Peter the Magician and Big Joe the storyteller will entertain the attendees.

### GARDEN GATES WILL BE UNLOCKED IN JULY

The garden gates at Christopher Columbus Park will be unlocked since an irrigation system was replaced in the center bed and FOCCP volunteers are planting new roses and annual flowers at the site.

Right now, for the protection of the plans, FOCCP is eliminating visitor hours inside the fence to times when volunteers are at the garden.

The plants need some time in order to grow large and be strong enough to survive in the park.

Gates will be unlocked during the day starting in July.

Currently, Sunday's 9:30 AM to 11 AM and Wednesdays 8 AM to 9 AM the garden is open for volunteers to work in the garden.

FOCCP has added a new rose-

bush to the center of the Rose Kennedy Garden. In addition, other flowers are being planted so that the park will have a cutting garden that will last through the summer.

### NSC CONTINUES TO PROVIDE FOOD AND MEALS

During the ongoing pandemic, the ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) celebrated the month of May with meals and food deliveries and fun giveaways for seniors.

The Center is planning to do the same during the month of June.

In addition, NSC is collecting items for shoppers at the food pantry who have furry friends in their homes. The site is seeking items for cats and small dogs. For a list of items requested call 617-523-8125.

A bounty of fresh sandwiches and produce was donated by Lovin' Spoonfuls to the North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) to support NSC's food distribution and meals program

# Boston Black Hospitality Coalition launches Black Restaurant Month

By John Lynds

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted black communities at a disproportionate rate. During this devastating public health crisis, black business owners were forced to grapple with an economic crisis that disrupted their livelihoods and significantly undermined the financial security of the most vulnerable community members.

A recent H&R Block survey of small businesses found that 53% of Black business owners saw their revenue drop by half, compared to 37% of White owners, since the pandemic started.

"Black-owned businesses play such an important role in improving local economies and uplifting communities everywhere," H&R Block Vice President of Small Business Ian Hardman said in a statement. "Clearly there's a grave need to support small business owners, especially those hit hardest by the pandemic."

It's no secret that the restaurant industry was one of the most

heavily impacted industries during the pandemic with many owners forced to cut staff, reduce capacity and, in many cases, close indoor dining for long periods.

In order to start boosting a return to Black-owned small businesses the Boston Black Hospitality Coalition, founded by Nia Grace and Royal C. Smith, who owns District 7 Tavern in Roxbury, launched Boston Black Restaurant Month in honor of the Juneteenth Holiday.

The Juneteenth Holiday commemorates the ending of slavery in the U. S. and is celebrated each year on June 19. The holiday gives the community at large a chance to learn about the positive contributions African Americans have made to society and the Coalition's event hopes to bring more people back to Black-owned restaurants throughout Boston.

Throughout the month of June Bostonians can celebrate food, culture, and community with Boston's Black-owned restaurants.

"Discover the traditional flavors that proudly showcase a rich and resourceful heritage,"

the Coalition said in a statement. "Experience the hospitality of over 70 eateries and cocktail bars while enjoying a variety of specials, promotions, and events throughout the month of June. Treat your taste buds and share in our history by planning a visit today."

Local Downtown restaurants featured throughout the month of June include Savor Restaurant and Lounge at 180 Lincoln St. in the Leather District and Larry J's BBQ at 600 D St. down at the Seaport.

Savor offers the perfect combination of authentic Southern comfort cuisine with delectable Caribbean influences while Larry J's has been serving up traditional Texas slow-smoked BBQ for years at the Seaport.

You can check out the full dining guide of Black-owned restaurants across Boston at BostonBlackRestaurants.com.

"Our businesses play a critical role in community and economic development," said the Coalition. "Highlighting this we seek to ensure a prolonged future for our Black-owned institutions."

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## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through June 12

This is a brief overview of construction operations and impacts for the North Washington Street Bridge Replacement Project. MassDOT will provide additional notices as needed for high-impact work and changes to traffic configurations beyond those described below.

V-arms formwork, rebar installation, and concrete placement.

- Installing, moving, and maintaining silt curtains in the water.

- Installing permanent fender piles.

- Pavement line striping and expanding median at City Square intersection.

- \*Pier 3: Curing column.

- \*Pier 4: V Arm concrete placements.

#### TRAVEL TIPS

The Westerly sidewalk, Lovejoy Wharf stairs, near Converse are open to the public with the opening of the temporary bridge, the adjacent section of the Harborwalk passing under the bridge remains closed.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass.

#### WORK HOURS

- Most work will be done during the daytime (6 a.m. – 6 p.m.)

#### WORK THAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED

- Prior to 5/30:

- \*Pier 1 (closest to the North End): Mass-footing rebar installation.

- \*Pier 2: Mass-footing rebar installation.

#### DESCRIPTION

##### OF SCHEDULED WORK

- Building the piers:

- \*Pier 1 (closest to the North End): Column rebar installation and concrete placement.

- \*Pier 2: V-arms formwork.

- \*Pier 3: V-arms formwork.

- \*Pier 4: Installing precast beams.

- \*Pier 5 (closest to Charlestown):

## May revenue collections total \$4.002 billion

Staff Report

Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) Commissioner Geoffrey Snyder last week announced that preliminary revenue collections for May totaled \$4.002 billion, which is \$2.264 billion or 130.3 percent more than the actual collections in May 2020, and \$2.109 billion or 111.4 percent more than benchmark.

FY2021 year-to-date collections totaled approximately \$30.451 billion, which is \$5.689 billion or 23.0 percent more than collections in the same period of FY2020, however, historical comparisons should consider the impact of COVID-related tax filing timing changes. Year-to-date collections are also \$3.938 billion or 14.9 percent more than the year-to-date benchmark and exceed the full year benchmark by \$1.360 billion.

“May revenue included increases in most major categories, particularly personal income tax return payments,” said Commissioner Snyder. “However, historical comparisons to last year and previous years should be viewed with caution due to COVID-related timing changes to the 2020 and 2021 tax filing season as well as responsive measures undertaken to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.”

Examples of COVID-19 response measures include, but are not limited to:

- The extension of last year’s

income tax filing and payment deadline from April 15, 2020, to July 15, 2020.

- The extension of the April 15, 2020 income tax estimated payment installment to July 15, 2020.

- Penalty waivers for certain corporate excise returns and payments due in 2020.

- The extension of this year’s income tax filing and payment deadline from April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021.

- The extension of the payment deadline for certain regular sales tax, meals tax and room occupancy excise payments.

Details:

#### Preliminary May Revenue Collections

- Income tax collections for May were \$3.020 billion, \$1.986 billion or 192.1% above benchmark, and \$1.897 billion or 169.0% more than May 2020. Due to extensions of filing and payment deadlines in both this year and last year, income tax collections in May 2021 and May 2020 are not comparable.

- Withholding tax collections for May totaled \$1.167 billion, \$206 million or 21.4% above benchmark, and \$46 million or 4.1% more than May 2020.

- Income tax estimated payments totaled \$58 million for May, \$36 million or 161.4 percent more than benchmark, and \$32 million or 127.3 percent more

than May 2020.

- Income tax returns and bills totaled \$2.141 billion for May, \$1.993 billion more than benchmark, and \$2.067 billion more than May 2020. Due to extensions of filing and payment deadlines in both this year and last year, income tax returns and bills in May 2021 and those in May 2020 are not comparable.

- Income tax cash refunds in May totaled \$345 million in outflows, \$248 million or 255.8 percent more than benchmark, and \$248 million or 255.1 percent more than May 2020. Due to the late start of this year’s tax filing season and recent tax law changes, including the extension of the income tax filing deadline from April 15 to May 17, income tax cash refunds in May 2021 and those in May 2020 are not comparable.

- Sales and use tax collections for May totaled \$689 million, \$52 million or 8.2% above benchmark, and \$251 million or 57.2 percent more than May 2020.

- Corporate and business tax collections for the month totaled \$71 million, \$10 million or 12.6 percent below benchmark, and \$34 million or 92.7 percent more than May 2020.

- Other tax collections for May totaled \$222 million, \$81 million or 57.6 percent above benchmark, and \$82 million or 58.7 percent more than May 2020.

## OBITUARIES

### Albina “Tina” Giardiello

Lifelong active member of the North End Community

Albina “Tina” Giardiello of Boston’s North End passed away on June 6.

Tina was a lifelong resident of the North End and a devoted parishioner of St. Leonard Church. She was blessed to have many friends and was an active member of the North End community.

The beloved daughter of the late Aristotile and Maria (Petrosino) Giardiello, she was the loving sister of the late Prisco F. Giardiello and Maria S. Palumbo and the cherished aunt to many loving nieces and nephews.

The family will receive visitors on Friday from 9 to 9:30 a.m. in J.S. Waterman-Langone Chapel, 580 Commercial St., Boston with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 10 a.m. in St. Leonard Church, 320 Hanover St., Boston. Services will conclude with interment in St. Michael Cemetery,



Roslindale. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: St. Leonard Church, 320

Hanover St., Boston, MA 02113 or Catholic TV, PO Box 9196, 34 Chestnut St., Watertown, MA 02471. For online condolences and/or directions, please visit: [www.watermanboston.com](http://www.watermanboston.com)

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Pictured (left to right) at Christopher Columbus Park are Meredith Piscitelli, Samantha Reynolds, Patricia Sabbey, Ann Babbitt, Jayla Amado, and Matt Houser.

### St. Anthony's Feast returns in-person to North End

By John Lynds

After a virtual celebration last year during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic the St. Anthony Society announced that the century-old St. Anthony's Feast will return to the North End this year for an in-person celebration at the end of August.

Each year the people of the North End celebrate with friends, neighbors and tourists to honor their patrons Saint Anthony and Saint Lucy with colorful parades, religious services, strolling singers, live entertainment and of course an abundance of great Italian and American food.

The feast began in 1919 by Italian immigrants from the small town of Montefalcione in Avellino and has become the largest Italian Religious Festival in New England and was named the "Feast of all Feasts" by National Geographic Magazine.

"We are very excited to be back to celebrate family, community and this North End tradition as we celebrate our patron Saint once more in the streets of our neighborhood," said St. Anthony Society Trustee Jason Aluia. "Last year we hosted a virtual celebration with cooking demonstrations with instructions, recipes, where to buy the food but it is going to be good to be back."

This year's 102 St. Anthony's Feast will run from Thursday, August 26 through Sunday, August 29.

"With most of the COVID restrictions being lifted it'll be more of the traditional feast people remember," said Aluia. "We met with city officials last week and we will meet with them again as we get closer to the dates. We might add additional health protocols like hand sanitizing stations around the feast and we'll be working with our vendors on different health protocols but we're going full speed ahead like it was a regular post-COVID feast."

On Saturday, the St. Anthony Feast's annual Mass will be dedicated to St. Anthony Society Past President Jerry Moretti, who passed away in February. Moretti was a longtime member of St. Anthony's Society and organizer of the annual North End feast in the North End. Those who knew Moretti remember him always filled with joy and pride during the feast and loved being with his family and friends in one place.

"Jerry was close to all of us at the St. Anthony Society so we will be dedicating the Saturday Mass in his memory," said Aluia.

Each year before the pandemic (FEAST, Pg. 4)

### Joe's Waterfront provides sandbox toys for Columbus Park

By Phil Orlandella

A crew from Joe's Waterfront (formerly Joe's American Bar and Grill), as they did last year, turned out at Christopher Columbus Park bearing three large containers of colorful toys for the children at play in the sandbox.

Excitement ruled as the children, converged on the sandbox toys to select a favorite toy and the digging, sifting and building began, according to Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP).

Representing Joe's were Samantha Reynolds General Manager and Hosts Jayla Amado and Matt Houser.

FOCCP President Joanne Haynes Rines said, "Joe's Waterfront has



Jayla Amado, Matt Houser, Samantha Reynolds with some of the sandbox toys to be delivered to Christopher Columbus Park.

### NEWNC opposes Joe's American Bar and Grill request for change

By Phil Orlandella

North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) voted at its May monthly meeting to oppose (6-0) a request by BBRG Waterfront TR LLC to change its non-live entertainment license to add three surface mounted speakers to its outdoor patio.

President Brett Romano explained that not enough candidates filed nomination papers to conduct a competitive 2021 public election, thus no election will be held.

He did mention that only three residents filed the necessary paperwork to be placed on the ballot and will return to the Council for two-year terms, Tania Green, Carmine Guarino and Ashley Leo.

The new Greenway Conservancy Executive Director Chris Cook was introduced and an update of The Greenway and upcoming events and activities was presented.

The next NEWNC meeting will be held virtually on Monday, June 10.

MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE, SEE PAGE 6

# FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## INDEPENDENCE DAY FOR CHILDREN

An early celebration of America's Independence Day for Children has been scheduled by the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park.

The celebration is scheduled for Sunday, June 26 and is free and open to the public starting at 12 noon until 2:30 PM.

## HERITAGE PARK WALKING WELLNESS

American Heritage Park on The Greenway will conduct a series of Walking Wellness events on Sunday, June 13 at 2 PM, Sunday, July 11 at 2 PM and Sunday, August first at 2 PM.

RSVP at [hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org](mailto:hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org).

## YOUTH PROGRAMS AT CENTER

Several youth programs have been created at the Nazzaro Community Center on North Bennet Street. For a listing call 617-635-5166.

## FRIENDS ANNUAL REUNION

Friends of the North End will hold its 49th annual reunion on Saturday, October 9 at the Sons of Italy Hall in Winchester. For details call 617-293-6173.

## NEAA ALL STAR GAME

The North End Athletic Association (NEAA) All-Star Little League (Majors) game will be played on Saturday, June 26 at approximately 7 PM.

## NEWNC MONTHLY MEETING

The next North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) virtual monthly meeting will be held on Monday, June 14 at 7 PM.

## NEWRA MONTHLY MEETING

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

## REGISTRY CONTINUES SERVICES

The Registry of Motor Vehicles customers will continue to be served by appointment only at open service centers. For details visit [www.mass.gov/rmv](http://www.mass.gov/rmv).

## FOCCP MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) have mailed 375 people to renew our applied for new membership in the non-profit neighborhood organization. Email [info@foccp.com](mailto:info@foccp.com) for details.

## NEAA SOCCER REGISTRATION

Soccer registration is underway for North End youth. The fall program will be held by the North End Athletic Association (NEAA).

For more information contact John Romano [atjromano45@gmail.com](mailto:atjromano45@gmail.com).

## CUTILLO PARK RENOVATIONS

Plans are ongoing for the renovation of Cutillo Park located between Morton and Stillman Streets.

## NAZZARO CENTER PROGRAMS

Boston Center for Youth (BCFY), Nazzaro Community Center has started some in-person programs for ages 6-18.

For details call 617-635-5166 or visit [Boston.gov/BCFY-Registration](http://Boston.gov/BCFY-Registration).

## FRIENDS OF ARMENIAN PARK

A Labyrinth Walking Wellness event scheduled for Sunday, June 13, at 2 p.m.

## CITY HALL ADDS ANOTHER OPEN DAY

Boston City Hall is open to the public by appointment only for a fourth day each week. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## LARGE SCALE PHOTO DISPLAY

The Boston Camera Club has created 88 large-scale photographs that are being displayed in a series along an entire city block at Fan Pier at the Public Green in Boston's Seaport District. Free and open to the public through November 2021.

## MAYOR'S GARDEN CONTEST

Boston Parks and Recreation Department has organized the 25th Mayor's Garden Club Contest.

Deadline is Wednesday, July 8 at 11:59 p.m. To register email [gardencontest@Boston.gov](mailto:gardencontest@Boston.gov).

## MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL

Applications are available for teens to apply for membership in the Mayor's Youth Council. Deadline is Sunday, July 18.

## TUNNEL CLOSURES

Work by MassDOT for the full restoration of the Summer Tunnel will begin with weekend closures in the spring of 2022 and prolonged disclosures in 2023.

## BOSTON'S FOOD PROGRAM

Boston's Food Access Program for 2021-2022 has been generate

to help better serve the needs in the City. For more details call City Hall.

## FOCCP GARDENING TIMES

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) has started it's a group gardening times, holding sessions twice weekly on Sundays 9:30 to 11 a.m. and Wednesdays 8 to 9:30 a.m. For details email [info@foccp.org](mailto:info@foccp.org).

## 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.

## FREE ONLINE EVENTS

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

## 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.

## 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](http://www.bostontaxhelp.org) for appointment.

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## FRESH AND LOCAL

# Clams are sustainable

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Do you think of clams as summer food? Do thoughts of clam shack visits, and clam boils with friends come to mind when someone mentions this bivalve? There's more to the clam story than happy memories and tasty meals.

Clams are a sustainable, inexpensive, healthy, and tasty protein choice. Sustainable seafood expert Barton Seaver reminds us that today many of the clams we buy are farm-raised. He lauds this aquaculture saying, "Their presence is great for the environment as they filter the water and help restore wild populations of clams."

You can buy relatively inexpensive fresh, live clams from great fishmongers. Some of the more exotic options, like Manilla clams or cockles, can be a bit pricey. Think of these for a garnish or a treat.

There are excellent frozen and canned clams available in the supermarket. Food writer Dori Greenspan advises, "If all you can find are canned minced clams,

use them. As for the juice, buy it in bottles or cans, and look for a brand that contains only clam juice or broth and salt."

Even more good news is that local clams can be free or simply the cost of a license to dig them yourself. The Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association explains, "A shellfish permit is required for the catch or removal of any shellfish. Permits are available at the city or town hall which allow for the harvest of shellfish." We would add, you should always check with that same department for any closures or restrictions in the place where you plan to harvest clams on the day you intend to do it.

### Pork and Clams

If you scan menus and cookbooks or google pork and clams, you'll find that this combination pops up around the food world. Consider the very traditional Portuguese Porco Alentejana, a stew of marinated pork shoulder and clams with white wine and Piri Piri pepper sauce. Taiwanese-style clams with pork belly is one of many Asian takes on this theme.

We follow the wisdom of the local Portuguese community and add chopped chorizo to our stuffed clams. This dish is perfect for your outdoor gatherings this summer since each guest has their portion in its shell. As long as you have an oven or outdoor grill to roast the calms, you can make them ahead and freeze them. Excellent stuffed clams are widely available at fish shops.

### Clams, Pasta, and Rice

Another favorite way to turn a few clams into a meal is by combining them with pasta, rice, or crusty bread. Italian-inspired Linguine with Clams or Spaghetti alle Vongole is not difficult to make. You can have it on the table quickly once you know the method. As your pasta cooks, you sauté garlic and red pepper flakes in olive oil. Add some white wine, sauté to reduce it, and then add the clams, cover, and steam until they open. Next, add the very al dente pasta and a bit of the hot, starchy pasta water to your skillet. Stir and toss until the sauce emulsifies and the pasta is to your liking.



*This dish of clams steamed with chorizo sausage with crusty bread is one example of a combination of pork and clams found in recipes from around the world.*

Spanish paella is perhaps the most famous of the rice dishes that include clams. This one does take more time and skill. It is traditionally cooked outside on an open fire. Perhaps you can think of this as a joint cooking project with friends. If that's not your style, we recommend gathering at a com-

fortable table with some trusty dining companions and ordering one of the excellent versions available on menus in your area.

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

# Leventhal Map Center announces Nelson as new president

Staff Report

The Board of Directors of the Norman B. Leventhal Map and Education Center at the Boston Public Library announced last week that Garrett Dash Nelson, the Center's Curator of Maps and Director of Geographic Scholarship, will become President and Head Curator on July 16, following the departure of current President Connie Chin.

A historical geographer whose work bridges landscape history, urban and regional studies, and critical cartography, Nelson (l.) joined the Leventhal Map and Education Center in 2019, after three years as a Junior Fellow in the Society of Fellows and Department of Geography at Dartmouth College. During his tenure at the Center to date, Nelson has managed exhibitions in the Center's gallery and launched the digital exhibition *Bending Lines*, overseen development of new tools and resources to enhance access to the Center's vast



*Garrett Dash Nelson, new Leventhal Map Center president.*

holdings, and designed and hosted public-facing community events that have brought the Center and its work into critical local and regional conversations about people and places.

Nelson holds an A.B. from Harvard College in Social Studies and Visual & Environmental

Studies, an M.A. from the University of Nottingham in Landscape & Culture, and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Geography with a minor in Culture, History, and Environment. He has been published in peer-reviewed journals on topics ranging from Frederick Law Olmsted to the spatial analysis of American commuting, as well as in public-facing outlets such as *The Boston Globe*, *Places Journal*, and *CityLab*. He is also a designer and developer, and has produced numerous interactive projects for researchers and the public.

"We are very pleased to welcome Garrett into the top leadership role at the Leventhal Map and Education Center," says Alan Leventhal, chair of the Center's Board of Directors. "His work is an appealing, impressive mix of academic rigor, and a keen sense of how to make the history and social implications of maps and data relevant to modern audiences. It is particularly exciting as we plan for the public reopening of the Center's gallery."

"I couldn't be more excited to lead the Leventhal Map & Education Center right now," says Nelson. "It's an organization packed with talented staff, supported by thoughtful and committed board members, and brimming with creative ideas. Connie has done an exceptional job leading the Center in the past years, and we are on a solid footing to accomplish great things in the years to come."

For the next two months, Nelson will co-lead the Leventhal Map and Education Center with Chin, who has served as its President for five years. In her time at the Center, Chin strengthened the organization's financial position, evolved its move toward work that centers social justice, oversaw a major exhibition on the American West, launched a key partnership with the Washington Library at Mount Vernon, and developed the Center's core partnership with the Boston Public Library. Chin is leaving the Center to take another non-profit leadership position in the Boston area.

"We thank Connie for her extraordinary leadership and signal accomplishments for the Map & Education Center," Leventhal says. "We wish her well as she pursues another exciting opportunity."

Nelson says his vision for the future of the Center emphasizes the possibilities of working with maps across different ways of thinking. "I believe public humanities in the 21st century will be championed by institutions like the Leventhal Map and Education Center: organizations that can bridge between scholarly discoveries, a commitment to preserving history for the public trust, an ability to engage with a diverse mix of audiences, and a facility with the new methods made possible by digital technology. We are bringing those strengths together to make the case for why geography is so crucial for stories about the past, present, and future."

Nelson lives in Melrose, Massachusetts, with his wife and daughter.

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