



# THE NORTH END

## REGIONAL REVIEW

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Senator Lydia Edwards with Mayor Michelle Wu and former Senators Joseph Boncore, Robert Travaglini, Linda Dorcena Forry and Anthony Petrucci.

## Senator Lydia Edwards sworn in by Baker

By John Lynds

At a State House ceremony last Thursday Senator Lydia Edwards was administered the oath of office by Gov. Charlie Baker in front of a room of new colleagues, friends and family.

After taking the oath Edwards addressed the Massachusetts Senate for the first time and promised to be a hard worker and asked for her colleagues' prayers as she embarks on a new journey in public service.

"I can only promise to do one thing and that's to be myself and ask that you help me, pray for me, feed me because I'm a horrible cook, but also, educate me," said Edwards. "I asked for your patience, your transparency, your honesty. To my colleagues on both sides of this incredible building, especially those in the Senate, you have in me a hard worker. You have someone who likes to laugh. You have someone who wants to get things done. I won't choose perfection over progress. I will ask that you be totally transparent with me as I will be with you. We are going to get along and we're going to get a lot of things done. This pathway here was not easily paved and includes losses, it includes wins, it includes a lot of



Senator Lydia Edwards was administered the oath of office by Gov. Charlie Baker last Thursday in the Mass Senate Chambers.

different things. I'm gonna keep fighting but more importantly I'm ready to go so let's get to work."

Edwards, who won the state special election democratic primary in December and then the general election earlier this month hails from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where she was raised by her military mom.

"To my public school teachers, my coaches, my after school

program counselor, my babysitter—thank you," she said. "Thank you to all of those hands that helped train me in the art of social justice and service. I also want to thank the immigrant community of Massachusetts. So much of my pathway here is paved by you, paved by your struggle, paved by your resilience, paved by your fight that I was honored to be a

(EDWARDS Pg. 6)

## Romano appointed deputy director of the Mayor's ONS

### Ciara D'Amico appointed Mayor's Liaison

By John Lynds

Two North Enders joined Mayor Michelle Wu's Administration this week and will help shape the future of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS).

The North End's John Romano was appointed by Wu to serve as ONS's deputy director while Ciara D'Amico will serve as the Mayor's Liaison for ONS in the North End, West End, and Waterfront.

"Our Neighborhood Services team is the heartbeat of delivering city services, ensuring we are connected across every neighborhood and community," said Mayor Wu. "I'm so grateful for their leadership and hard work to empower every resident and make Boston a city for everyone."

Romano will join newly appointed ONS Director Enrique Pepén in overseeing the operations of the department with an aim to improve overall engagement across all neighborhoods, delivering city services, and ensuring the department's quality of the work under the leadership of Chief of

(ONS Pg. 6)



The North End's John Romano is new deputy director of ONS.



Ciara D'Amico was appointed Mayor's Liaison in the North End.

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# EDITORIAL

## SAFE INJECTION SITES ARE NEEDED NOW

Among the side-effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has been the increase in drug-overdose deaths in this country.

The death rate from opioids finally had begun to decline in 2019, but then came COVID-19 and the number of deaths from drug overdoses began to skyrocket once again.

The nation was reporting fewer than 50,000 fatal overdoses as recently as 2014, but in 2020, drug overdose deaths breached the 100,000 mark.

The chief cause of the surge in deaths is the increase in availability of the synthetic opioid fentanyl, which is being laced into all sorts of drugs -- from marijuana to cocaine to heroin -- by the drug cartels. According to some news reports, nearly half of drugs tested by the DEA contain a potentially fatal dose of fentanyl.

Fentanyl is up to 50 times more powerful than heroin, but is far cheaper to manufacture for drug dealers, who use it as a substitute for heroin powder or press it into black-market oxycodone pills. Fentanyl is now also finding its way into cocaine and party drugs like ecstasy and is even sprayed on marijuana.

It has been reported that fentanyl now has killed far more Americans than all U.S. conflicts since World War II combined. In the past decade, it has claimed more than a half million lives, a toll that is growing daily.

In view of the combination of the lethality and availability of fentanyl, now more than ever our nation needs to address the tragedy of drug overdose deaths with a realistic solution.

Those who think that we can stop the supply of fentanyl are living in a fantasy-world of the 1970s-era movie *The French Connection*. Fentanyl is so powerful that just a few automobile trunk-loads are enough to kill every American citizen.

If old-school heroin were to be compared to conventional weaponry, then fentanyl is a nuclear bomb.

The Massachusetts legislature has before it a number of bills that would allow for clean injection sites, similar to what New York City and the nation of Portugal (where drug overdose rates have been a fraction of the rest of the world for 20 years) are doing.

We urge our state legislators to enact this important legislation forthwith. Every day of delay means more lives lost needlessly to the scourge of drugs.

## OMICRON CAN LEAD TO LONG COVID

Public health officials have defined so-called long COVID as the physical, neurological, and cognitive symptoms that can persist indefinitely after infection.

Over the past two years, we've all seen the countless news stories about the devastating effects of long COVID upon those who are unfortunate enough to suffer from it.

Although the Omicron variant is causing less severe disease in those who are fully-vaccinated, the number of those infected who suffer from the loss of taste and smell, physical fatigue, and brain fog still is quite significant.

During this period of a surge in COVID because of Omicron's high transmissibility, it only makes sense for all of us to continue to take the usual precautions -- wearing a protective face mask (such as an N-95), maintaining social distancing, and avoiding large crowds -- until the Omicron surge begins to wane.

Sure, we can play Russian roulette with our health.

But with the number of Omicron cases already declining (though still high) in Massachusetts, we figure that if we've made this far through the worst of the pandemic, sticking it out for another two months or so by making careful choices only makes sense.

## GUEST OP-ED

### The 3Gpocalypse is coming — Is your car ready?

By Kane DiMasso-Scott

Just this week I heard about something that I'm surprised has not received more media coverage on the national level, as it's extremely important to us as consumers. Beginning in February and continuing through the end of the year, 3G networks are being shut down by the major players in the cellular network industry, AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile. This poses no problem to our use of cell phones, however, our automobiles are about to get a whole lot "dumber."

Nearly every major brand in the auto industry has, from 2010 to as late as 2021, used these 3G networks in certain models for many of their included and on-board features in their cars. With the shutdown of 3G networks, features like GPS navigation, automatic crash detection, SOS emergency features, remote locking and unlocking, and the ability to connect with your phones (wirelessly), among others, will no longer be functional. Some companies have already announced their plans to address the issue, while others still have not said much.

Certain brands will be offering free over-the-air updates for your vehicle to ensure that the features continue to work such as Subaru, Honda, and GM, while others look to require a hardware upgrade at a dealership to re-enable your features or disable warn-

ing messages that may arise from the lack of connectivity.

The shutdown of 3G networks is not something that comes as a surprise, as it was always an inevitability following 4G and now 5G rollouts. However, what's embarrassing and downright frustrating is the fact that some automakers continued to produce vehicles using this same outdated network, fully aware of the ramifications down the line. I commend the aforementioned companies that are pushing out updates for their consumers, but others who have yet to announce what their plans are is maddening.

More often than not we, as the consumer, will spend tens of thousands of dollars on a vehicle, expecting the features included when we purchased the vehicle to always be available. Now, with the shutdown of 3G networks, it seems like a fair number of vehicles will lose those features permanently, or will require additional purchases to re-enable or modernize these vehicles for 4G.

So not only will some consumers lose access to features they thought they'd have throughout their vehicle's lifetime, but others may also have to pay additional fees to get those features back. This shouldn't be our responsibility. It's on the automakers and dealers to make it right. They continued to produce vehicles on an outdated network knowing it would be obsolete, but

now, the piper needs to be paid and some of them believe that responsibility falls on you.

You can visit <https://www.cnn.com/2022/01/16/3g-networks-shutting-down-in-2022-could-affect-your-cars-gps.html> or scan the QR code below with your smartphone to see the current list of publicly known affected models. AT&T will shut down their 3G network next month, which certain Honda, Nissan and Volvo models rely on for their features. If this is your first-time hearing about it as well, I suggest you call your dealer, figure out what, if anything, could be done if you have an affected model, and hope for the best.

Good luck.



*Kane DiMasso-Scott is an art director for the Independent Newspaper Group. The views expressed in this Op-Ed do not necessarily represent the views of the Independent Newspaper Group.*

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## OPINION By Phil Orlandella

### MARIA STELLA GULLA RETIRING

After 25 years of positive service, Executive Director Maria Stella Gulla will be leaving the ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) on January 28.

Maria has been a dedicated and valuable leader at the Center. She was totally committed to providing much needed services and assistance to local seniors and many other residents.

Maria, along with her capable staff, made the Center a viable place for people to gather and participate in the many outstanding programs and events offered at the Center, which is a popular place to be.

Maria's expertise and caring personality made the Center a ter-

rific place for residents to enjoy and receive needed assistance, especially during the holiday seasons.

She will be solely missed!

### D'AMICO NAMED COMMUNITY LIAISON

North End resident Caira D'Amico has been named by the City of Boston Neighborhood Service Department as the new liaison for the North End, West End and Waterfront, replacing John Romano, Jr.

Caira is very knowledgeable of the issues and concerns that exist in the neighborhoods she represents.

She will make a good go-between the city and communities.

### EARLY NEAA BASEBALL REGISTRATION

Conducting a baseball registration during the cold winter months is not unusual as one would think.

That's because a registration is currently underway by the North End Athletic Association (NEAA) for the many baseball programs they offer for just about all ages.

The NEAA wants to get a good start in order to plan and schedule baseball programs as early as possible.

A registration deadline has been established for March 1, 2022. Registration forms are available on NEAABaseball.org.

Last season, some programs had a waiting list so register early.

## North End, surrounding area's weekly COVID positive test-rate slows a bit

By John Lynds

Ten days after Mayor Michelle Wu and the city implemented the 'B Together' mandate that requires all employees and patrons at indoor venues to show proof of vaccination, the North End and the surrounding area's weekly COVID 19 positive test rate has dipped for the first time in weeks.

The COVID winter surge has wreaked havoc on the city and affected school attendance for both staff and students, closed local business due to staff shortages and put a strain on emergency rooms at area hospitals.

Two weeks ago 2 out of every 10 residents tested for the virus last week turned out to be positive but that number has dropped.

According to the weekly report released Monday by the

Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 2,150 North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 18.7 percent were positive. This was only a 21 percent decrease from the 23.8 percent that tested positive between January 10 and January 17. The weekly positive test rate has decreased 15 percent in the area overall since January 10.

Four hundred two additional residents have been infected with the virus between January 3 and January 10 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 7,657 cases overall since the pandemic began.

The citywide weekly positive test rate also decreased last week. According to the BPHC 30,644 residents were tested and 24 percent were COVID positive--this was a 24 percent decrease from

the 31.6 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on January 17. The weekly positive test rate has now decreased 25 percent in Boston since January 10.

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 9 percent last week and went from 141,491 cases to 154,692 confirmed cases in a week.

However, there were 53 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,607. Deaths, which totaled 19 two weeks ago, increased 179 percent last week.

## Tunnel of Love in the Waterfront to open soon

By Phil Orlandella

In early February, the 15th annual Tunnel of Love complete with romantic music under the center trellis, colorful and fun conversation hearts along the trellis and the Walkway of Hearts, takes place.

Each year, thousands of people and tourists strolled through

the Tunnel of Love located at Christopher Columbus Park taking pictures and dancing to the love songs playing.

"When our Art Curator Robyn Reed created the first Tunnel of Love and 2018, we thought how wonderful it would be if we could spread the concept throughout the North End and Waterfront every February to encourage people to visit and our local businesses,"

FOCCP President Joanne Haynes Rines said.

The Love Park has expanded this year to Faneuil Hall Marketplace for more photo opportunities.

Boston Harbor Now is hosting a photo campaign, encouraging people to capture and share images of Finding The love on the Waterfront.

## NEAA Baseball registration underway

By Phil Orlandella

"Playing baseball in the sunshine seems a million miles away, but it will be here before we know it," North End Athletic Association (NEAA) Commissioner Ralph Martignetti said before he announced registration for various programs that are currently underway.

Last year's baseball season was a total success and the NEAA wants to get things going early for the 2022 schedule for several baseball programs.

"We are looking forward to planning another baseball season on our new field where children and youth of all ages can participate in learning and playing the game at all levels," Martignetti said.

Registration deadline is March 1 with a payment of \$50 due by March 8.

Registration forms are available on NEAABaseball.org. Mail to:

NEAA c/o John Romano, 30 North Bennett Street, Boston, MA 02113 or drop off at the Nazzaro Community Center, NEAA mailbox.

Age limit is determined as of April 30, 2022.

Baseball Programs are listed below:

Age 4 Instructional League

Sunday Mornings 9:30-10:30am: Boys and Girls

Age 5 T-Ball League Sunday Mornings 10:30-11:30am: Boys and Girls

Age 6-8 Minor League. Coach pitched to start and eventually player pitched if possible; Mon thru Thursday starting at 5:30: Boys and Girls

Age 9-12 Major League. Mon thru Thurs starting at 6pm. Despite our best efforts to grow our girls softball program we have not been successful. Therefore we will roll the girls into our Major League. They used to be in there for years until we tried to start softball and pulled them out. If any girl is interested in softball only please reach out to me and I will put you in touch with Coach Chuck.

Baseball ages 4-12 starts practicing in April with opening day being 4/30 and finishes at the end of June. This year, if we have enough interest we will also offer some form of summer baseball to take place in July and August.

Age 12-13 LTA Dodgers. Play starts end of June and ends August 14th

Age 14-15 LTA Dodgers. Play starts end of June and ends August 14th

The Dodgers will depend on how many players we have. If we don't have enough 12-13s for the 13U team we will add them to the 15U team.

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# Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2022

January 30 - February 5 #CSW22

## What is Catholic Schools Week?

Special to the Regional Review

Catholic Schools Week is a national celebration of Catholic education and an opportunity to recognize the importance, the value, and the contributions of Catholic education to the Church and the world. Catholic Schools Week is sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

An annual tradition that began in 1974, Catholic schools across the nation commemorate Catholic Schools Week with celebrations, Masses, open houses, and activi-

ties for students, families, parishioners, and community members. Catholic Schools Week events showcase and celebrate the rich traditions and the incredible value of Catholic education on both a local and national level.

Each year, Catholic Schools Week is celebrated during the last week of January. This year, Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated from January 30th through February 5th.

Catholic Schools and the Students They Serve

According to NCEA, there are more than 6,000 Catholic schools

nationwide. These schools—serving elementary, middle, and secondary school students—are located across all regions, giving many families the opportunity for accessible Catholic education.

The Benefits of Catholic Schools

- The integration of faith with academic subjects, culture, and everyday life

- The emphasis of living out the faith as missionary disciples

- Catholic virtues and values and Catholic Social Teaching, which contribute to productive citizenship and responsible lead-

ership

- An environment that encourages and nurtures prayer and is safe, welcoming, and supportive for children

- A favorable student to teacher ratio

- High graduation and college attendance rates

- Teacher commitment

For further reading and in

addition to these benefits, explore NCEA's A Dozen Reasons to Choose Catholic Schools Info Graphic.

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

Throughout Catholic Schools Week, schools, parishes, and dioceses schedule activities and events to provide opportunities

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## Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2022

# Mount Alvernia High School: Full STEAM Ahead

By Meaghan Holloran

Walking down the halls of Mount Alvernia High School, it is impossible not to hear the sounds of excitement and collaboration when passing the Art Studio, Biology, Chemistry, Science, or Technology Labs. With hands-on learning and a commitment to authentic learning, Mount Alvernia continues to improve and advance its STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, math) program.

In the past few years, the school has renovated all three of its science laboratories to complement the work that students and teachers are doing every day. Updates included more storage for materials and supplies, additional electrical outlets to accommodate more equipment and technology, more sinks, and movable lab tables that can be used in various configurations to best support the variety of labs and projects students complete. This year, Mount Alvernia received a significant grant from the Sisters of St. Francis-Sacred Heart Charitable Fund. This grant will be used for further renovations in the building to create spaces devoted to art, math, technology and engineering, and to provide furniture to foster even more collaborative learning and innovation.

In addition to updates of the physical learning environment, the Science and Technology Departments are also imple-

menting changes to the existing STEAM curriculum. Updates to the Technology curriculum include the revised middle school Computer Science program for seventh and eighth graders. These courses include units on Problem Solving, Web and App Development, Animations and Games, Data Processing, Physical Computing, and Robotics. These courses give all middle school students important, tangible experience working with the technology of today's world.

Beginning in the 2022-2023 academic year, eighth grade students will also take an engineering course through the Science Department to gain more hands-on experience with the engineering design process and use their skills to solve real-world problems. Students will be solving problems related to different fields of engineering such as Aerospace, Civil, Mechanical, and Environmental Engineering. This curriculum shift demonstrates the commitment of Mount Alvernia High School to authentic, realistic problem solving and real-life applications of the classroom content.

Updates to the middle school STEAM program will allow for a smooth transition for students into the high school curriculum at MAHS. During the 2022-2023 academic year, all high school students will be required to complete coursework in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, and they will be encouraged to continue to

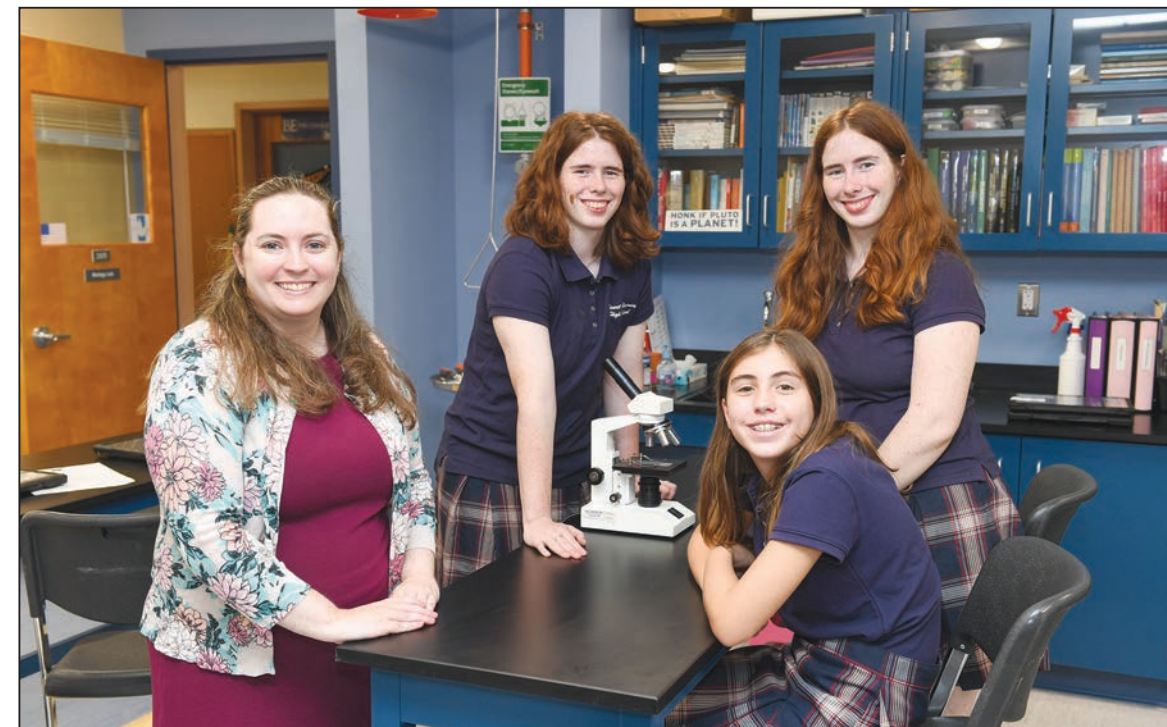


Photo courtesy One18Media

Left to right (standing): Meaghan Holloran, Science Department Chair, Emily Shea '23, Meg Shea '23, (seated) Riley Boucher '27.

develop their interests and skills in one of our STEAM electives and AP opportunities. These electives include Anatomy & Physiology, Oceanography, Digital Arts, Advanced Art, AP Physics, and AP Environmental Science. Additional opportunities will also be available in AP Computer Science, AP Statistics, and AP Biology.

Mount Alvernia High School's motto is to empower young women to make an impact in the world. With the recent updates

in both physical resources and curriculum changes, all Mount Alvernia students will practice and utilize the skills necessary to pursue a wide variety of STEAM college programs and future careers. As today's world continues to advance in the areas of science, technology, engineering, art, and math, MAHS continues to move

full STEAM ahead!

Meaghan Holloran (mholloran@mountalverniahhs.org) is a Science teacher and the Science Department Chair at Mount Alvernia High School in Newton, MA, an all-girls Grade 7-12 school. For more information about MAHS, visit: [www.mountalverniahhs.org](http://www.mountalverniahhs.org).

CSW (from pg. 4)

for celebration and engagement with students and families related to the annual theme. Parishioners and community members are also often invited to participate in some events. Events invite participants to reflect on the value and importance that Catholic education to the school and community, the Church, and the world.

Many Catholic schools also host an open house to start or during Catholic Schools Week. An open house is an opportunity to celebrate the mission of the Catholic school, welcome visitors and newcomers, and perhaps showcase original student artwork inspired by the 2022 theme. Families, visitors, and special guests can see firsthand the benefits of students learning, playing, praying and living out their faith and school.

Each year, Catholic Schools Week has a theme. The theme for this year's Catholic Schools Week is Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.

Each day of Catholic Schools Week focuses on a particular celebration. Within the overarching theme for the week are the following daily themes:

Sunday: Celebrating your parish

Monday: Celebrating your community

Tuesday: Celebrating your students

Wednesday: Celebrating the nation

Thursday: Celebrating vocations

Friday: Celebrating faculty, staff, and volunteers

Saturday: Celebrating families

Celebrating Your Parish on Sunday

On the opening day of Catholic Schools Week, many parishes devote a Mass to Catholic education. These celebrations show the connection between Catholic schools and parishes, on both a local and national level, and reflect the support and guidance parishes provide.

Families and catechists can prepare children and students for this Mass by reflecting with them on the support they witness through the assembly of school, Church and community. Students can be reminded that Catholic school students, families, and supporters are gatherings all over the country as they beginning Catholic Schools Week at Mass in their own parishes.

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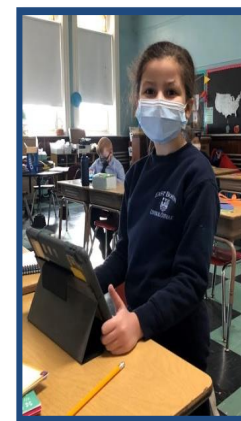
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**Picture Caption:** East Boston Central Catholic School is successfully conducting in person classes with the Covid Test and Stay program. So far this year, 1500 tests have been administered with only a 2.47% positivity rate. Well under the state and city averages. Student success is of the utmost importance. At EBCCS, every student matters.



## IN BRIEF By Phil Orlandella

### NEAA EARLY BASEBALL REGISTRATION

With snow still on the ground, the North End Athletic Association (NEAA) has announced an early 2022 baseball registration for all programs.

Deadline for filing is March 1. Entrance fee is \$50, due by March 8.

Log on to NEAABaseball.org for more details including the various programs available.

### GUEST SPEAKERS AT NEWRA MEETING

Three guest speakers at the North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) February 10 monthly meeting.

The new North End Liaison Caira D'Amico from the City of Boston Neighborhood Service Center will be speaking.

Also speaking the two District 1 Boston City Councilor candidates Gabriella Coletta and Tonya Delaio.

### NEW HEALTH OFFERS PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE

While the battle to assist the general public against the ongoing impacts of the COVID pandemic continues by medical organi-

zations throughout the country, locally, the North End Waterfront Health (New Health) is doing everything it can to raise awareness and provide needed services to the neighborhood.

New Health continues to provide day to day assistance, while dealing with pandemic issues.

### RMV EXTENDS USE OF STATE-OWNED VEHICLES FOR ROAD TESTS

Mass Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has extended the use of state-owned vehicles for road testing into 2022 for Class D road testing services through April 30, delaying the return to use private passenger vehicles for road test.

Since June 2020, RMV has deployed a fleet of Commonwealth owned vehicles for road test due to the pandemic, health and safety protocols.

Applicants with scheduled Class D appointments in the new year will be notified by email notifying them of the system and how it works.

### MAYOR SEEKS PUBLIC PRIORITIES REQUESTS

Mayor Michele Wu is working on crafting an agenda for this year and is seeking what Boston resi-

dents' priorities are, to build and create an agenda that addresses the issues that matter most.

Send to: [www.micheleforboston.com](http://www.micheleforboston.com).

### VALENTINE'S DAY DONATIONS FOR SENIORS

North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) is seeking donations to help make Valentine's Day special for local seniors, due to the cancellation of its annual Valentine's Day Party.

The site is collecting: supermarket gift cards, individual boxes of chocolates, toiletries (for example) soap, shampoo, conditioner, body wash and more.

To make a donation call 617-523-8125.

### NSC NAMES SIDELL PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Robin Sidell of North Street Grill has been named partner of the month by the North and/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) for generously making and delivering countless meals to seniors located at a Ausonia Apartments and Villa Michelangelo.

"We can always count on Robin as a partner and involved

friend," said Maria Stella Gulla the Center's Director. "Our clients were thrilled to see the arrival of a hot lunch."

### NEW ONLINE MBTA YOUTH PASS

A new digital Youth Pass application is available online at [mbta.com/youthpass/apply](http://mbta.com/youthpass/apply).

The new secure online application makes it fast, simple and easy to apply and is available in several languages.

Other applications will be expanded to MBTA's free and reduced fare programs.

### COLUMBUS PARK EVENTS PLANNED

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) are planning for upcoming events and activities according to President Joanne Hayes Rines.

Planned:

- A spring playground cleanup.
- The Horticultural Committee and other volunteers will begin working in the gardens.
- Summer Sunday Night Movies in the park.
- An Independence Day Celebration and much more

### ARMENIAN HERITAGE PARK CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY

In celebration of Black History, the Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway will present a virtual African Bridge Network update on Wednesday, February 2 at 10 AM.

Celebrating African Heritage Chefs from the Old Way will demonstrate signature dishes.

Age Friendly Boston joins Old Ways and Friends of Armenian Heritage Park in celebrating the culinary traditions of Africa.

### NEWNC SUPPORTS FULL LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER

North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) at its January meeting unanimously supported a request by Good Times Hospitality, LLC application to transfer the all-alcohol beverages restaurant license located at 266 Commercial Street (previously Four Winds) at the same location.

At Large Boston City Councilor Ruthzee addressed the Council on various topics.

The next NEWNC public monthly meeting will be held on Monday, February 14 at 7 PM.

EDWARDS (from pg. 1)

part of. But I have to say I've been told consistently no matter how far I go in my life to not forget where I come from."

Edwards continued and addressed her mother, Bridgett, "Today I look at my mother. You know, the reason why I won was because of your story. My mom, retired Master Sergeant Bridget

Edwards of the United States Air Force, raised me and my sister Erica all over the world. When we landed in Michigan, she worked two jobs during the week and a weekend job. Erica and I had jobs and so much of that story is replicated in the men and women I see in my district. So much of who you are and your struggle is what I saw in the nannies and house cleaners that I represented. Because I saw you in them I fight harder because you're in my life. You're an excellent mother. I love you so much. Thank you so much."

ONS (from pg. 1)

Community Engagement, Brianna Millor.

Romano grew up in the North End and became active in the community at a young age, volunteering with community organizations like North End Against Drugs, North End Athletic Association, and the North End Music and Performing Arts Center.

He is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Lowell where he received a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and a Master's degree in Higher Education Administration graduating in 2016 and 2018 respec-

tively.

"I am ready to bring the values and skills I have learned in my previous role to continue to serve under Mayor Wu's administration and assist in leading ONS," said Romano. "This department is the voice of each community and we strive to bring that voice to every department and decision that is made. I look forward to continuing to work with our team and our administration to do just that."

Romano previously served as ONS's North End, Waterfront, West End liaison and Wu said he brings to the deputy director role a deep understanding of ONS' mission to connect residents to City services and extensive experience in public service and community engagement.

Newly appointed liaison, D'Amico, is a third generation North End resident who attended the Eliot School and Boston Latin Academy. She received her degree in Bachelors of Arts in Communications with a minor in Social Work from Saint Anselm College.

"I am extremely excited to take on this role to serve and work with residents I've grown up around," said D'Amico. "I am super passionate about helping others and look forward to working with my community."

D'Amico said in her free time she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, along with shopping, trying out new restaurants, traveling, and exercising.

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# The West End Museum flood

Special to the Regional Review

On January 15, a burst pipe on the fourth floor of West End Place -- a mixed income complex at 150 Staniford Street -- inundated the West End Museum (WEM) with over two-inches of water, and displaced around 25 families, who were temporarily relocated to the nearby Boxer Hotel. The first floor museum will be closed for several months until it is safe for visitors to return.

Museum Director Sebastian Belfanti was at WEM when the deluge began flowing downward, freezing in the street below.

"I grabbed paintings and artifacts that were at risk, and brought them to my car," described Belfanti, who has been sorting through the collection to assess damages. "That's why there are no horrible losses."

Although there was minor water damage to a dozen pieces in the galleries, the staff saved most of the photographs and bicycles currently on exhibit in "Cycling Legends of the West End," and "The Last Tenement." In the archives, some 50 pieces -- mostly unprocessed documents and imag-

es -- were lost.

"It could have been much more dramatic. We are counting ourselves lucky," Belfanti said. "We stored things in ways that were mindful of the possibilities of an event like this."

A backflow of water deposited salt on the newly installed floor, and sections of the museum walls are peeling. Once artifacts are relocated to board members' homes, the ceiling will be dismantled. The most painful wreckage for Belfanti was the warping and cracking photographs.

"Images from the 1800s are bowl-shaped now. The paper will never bend back. We have to figure out how to protect them in their much more vulnerable form," Belfanti explained. "Because it's so hot in here, some of the large images in our permanent exhibit are going to have to go. Because the exhibit is from The Bostonian Society, we don't have the originals of those images, so if we want to reproduce them, it would be quite a bit of work."

Belfanti estimates that it will take at least three months to clear the debris and replace the walls,

ceilings, and portions of the floor.

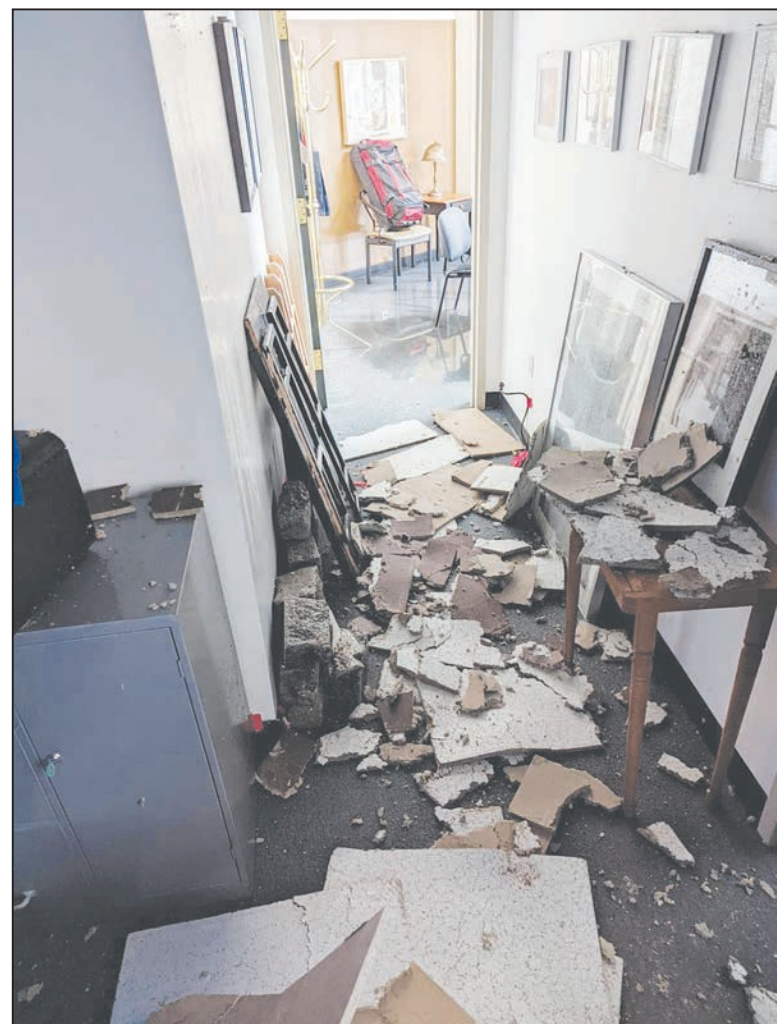
"I am watching the permanent exhibit bow off the walls in the course of a week," said Belfanti.

In the meantime, Belfanti aspires to keep patrons engaged with the neighborhood and its story. He will continue posting historic articles in his weekly newsletter. Belfanti hopes to host Zoom events, and will be announcing volunteer opportunities next month. In February, he will be offering guided walking tours through the West End.

When Belfanti was hired on February 1, 2020, it was the museum's best month of visitorship; and then WEM was closed for six months due to the pandemic.

"The goal this year would have been 6,000 visitors," Belfanti added. "Now it's more like 1,000-1,500, and we are back to being shut down. It's hard doing fundraising because we don't have a timeline."

Support the West End Museum's renovations, exhibits, programs, and staff by becoming a member and making donations by visiting [www.TheWestEndMuseum.org](http://www.TheWestEndMuseum.org).



ALL IMAGES PROVIDED BY THE WEST END MUSEUM

Debris from the ceiling, fallen on the floor of the West End Museum.

## Livingstone, Bok, City help residents displaced by flooding

By Dan Murphy

Since residents of 25 households at West End Place were displaced by flooding nearly two weeks ago, Rep. Jay Livingstone, Councilor Kenzie Bok, and the city have stepped up to help provide support to the impacted individuals.

A sprinkler check-valve apparently ruptured on the fourth floor of the condominium-cooperative at 150 Staniford St. in the West End on the morning of Saturday, Jan. 15, leading to flooding in units on the building's bottom four floors, said Kathy Luce, vice president of Wellesley-based Maloney Properties, which manages West

End Place.

"The water mitigation, cleanup, and drying process are nearly complete," Luca said on Tuesday, Jan. 25. "The goal is to get everything dry and clean, then do the demo work, taking down the affected areas, including the flooring, ceilings, and dry wall. We're working quickly and rapidly so the people in the vast majority of the units can come back home."

Only two of three of the 25 impacted units sustained significant damage, and will require additional work, said Luce, while other displaced residents are expected to return to their households imminently. In the meantime, however,

displaced residents have been staying with family or friends, or staying in hotels.

Besides the impacted units at West End Place, the flooding also caused damage at the West End Museum, located at 150 Staniford St. Suite 7, as well as in several offices.

"We're working with all the residents and occupants impacted, [including the West End Museum and office tenants] to rapidly clean up and get them back in their spaces," said Luce. "The residents impacted have been amazing, resilient, and patient and kind, and we're really so appreciative of them working in partnership with us to get them back in their homes."

On behalf of Maloney Properties and those impacted by the flooding, Luce also expressed her gratitude for all the help they've received so far.

"The [city's] Planning Office for Urban Affairs, one of the ownership entities, has assured the full support of their offices and resources to assist residents living in affordable housing in the building," said Luce. "Councilor Bok, Rep. Livingstone, and city officials have all been incredibly supportive and helpful. We're working collaboratively with them to identify services and support that residents

need, and we have already brought in a significant amount of services to people."

Rep. Livingstone and Council-

or Bok donated gift cards to displaced residents on Friday, Jan. 21,

(FLOOD Pg. 8)



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# Attorney General Maura Healey announces bid for Governor

By John Lynds

Standing in Maverick Square in East Boston last Thursday Attorney General Maura Healey officially announced her candidacy for Governor of Massachusetts.

Healey has long been touted as the successor to Gov. Charlie Baker's governorship and emerged as a frontrunner for the corner office well before Baker announced he would not seek a third term. Healey's political rise began during her upset victory for Attorney General over Warren Tollman who had former Gov. Deval Patrick and former Boston Mayor Martin Walsh in his corner.

With over \$3.5 million in her campaign war chest, Healey is poised to become the first Massachusetts Attorney General to be elected governor since James Sullivan pulled off the feat in 1807 --although many have tried with the last being Martha Coakley's bid against Baker.

"I think about where we are right now as a state," said Healey during her press conference in East Boston. "We have been through a lot or people have been through a lot. Our businesses have been through a lot. Our children have been through a lot, a lot of anxiety, a lot of despair, some incredible hardship. But I have seen over the last two years such incredible

acts of resilience, of caring, of compassion. I have long believed, because I've had the privilege of serving as your attorney general for the last seven years, that the state and its people have endless capacity to do great things. We're at a hard time now. But we're going to get through it and we're going to go on and we're going to build forward in ways that we can't even imagine right now. That's what excites me. I want to bring to this as your next governor a lot of things to focus on, a lot of things that need attention, especially getting the economy back on track and making sure that it works for everyone across the state. But I'm just really excited to be here and to be out in a community like East Boston. It's about meeting the people where they are. I've always been driven by the people and engagement with people."

Healey said job one for her administration would be a focus on economic growth and job creation.

"So many people are experiencing high cost of living, whether it's in health care, housing, even transit, gasoline, you name it right now, and that's something that we've got to deal with as a state," she said. "I recognize there's monetary policy that the federal government is going to control but there are actually levers and things



Attorney General Maura Healey announced her candidacy for Governor of Massachusetts last week.

that we can do as a state to better address that situation. But job one will be making sure this economy is back on track that gets to issues of workforce development and job training. It gets to issues of child care, which is fundamental, especially to getting women back to the workforce. So there's a lot of opportunity and a lot of work ahead to continue what's working and address what's not working. The general governing philosophy is if something's working, then let's keep with it and if it's not working let's figure out what we need to do."

Healey continued, "That's certainly what I've tried to do in my time holding this office as Attorney General. I think fundamentally the best thing that Massachusetts has going for it are its people and I see so much possibility and capacity there. I think that we've got great people.

I think we've got great institutions. We've got some really terrific "know how" across the state. If you look at some of what's happened just in the last few years in nearby Kendall Square or over in the Seaport, the amount of money that's come into the state in terms of investment. I understand that people wonder if we're ever going to get through this and out of this and I'm just here to say we are and we will and we will move forward in ways that are bigger and better than ever imagined."

In the end Healey said she believes her record will speak for itself when it comes time for voters to pick a new governor.

"I think if you look at my record it speaks for itself in terms of where I am on fighting systemic racism and inequality, fighting for access to affordable health care, recognizing that across every sector, whether it's climate, transpor-

tation, the environment, criminal justice," she said. "We can and should apply an equity lens to everything that we do and bring an intentionality and an energy so that we are in fact improving the lives and well being and stakes of everybody here in the state, regardless of zip code, race, ethnicity, and the like. There are so many things happening right now and I appreciate people's voices. I appreciate their advocacy. I love people, and I love people's enthusiasm and right now we're in a time where people are demanding that what hasn't worked in our systems be addressed. I think with COVID there was so much being dismantled, so much being disrupted and now we got an opportunity to move forward in new and different ways that are going to be better for every single person in this state."

## FLOOD (from pg. 7)

he said, as the city was also making arrangements to deliver more gift cards to them.

"The city has been great in coordinating with Councilor Bok and myself, and with building management, to provide relief for these people," said Rep. Livingstone. "It's an incredibly unfortunate tragedy, since the displaced people were mostly living in affordable housing."

There are several ways readers can help out impacted West End Place households, according to Rep. Livingstone.

In the short term, residents affected need money for food since many of them are temporarily liv-

ing in hotels without kitchens; gift cards to Star Market or UberEats / DoorDash would be helpful in alleviating that burden.

Residents will also need volunteers to help sort through their houses and move things into storage in the coming weeks and months.

Once the housing units are repaired, many residents will need to replace furniture items and mattresses, which were destroyed, so donations of these items will be needed as well.

To help out, contact Cassidy from Rep. Livingstone's office at Cassidy.Trabilcy@mahouse.gov.

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Docket No.  
SU21C0527CA  
In the matter of:  
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Langley  
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Adult has been filed by Darrell  
Algernon Langley of Boston,  
MA requesting that the court  
enter a Decree changing their  
name to:  
Darrell Algernon Nelson  
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for purposes of objecting  
to the petition by filing an

appearance at: Suffolk Probate  
and Family Court before 10:00  
a.m. on the return day of  
02/11/2022. This is NOT a  
hearing date, but a deadline  
by which you must file a  
written appearance if you  
object to this proceeding.  
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 24, 2022  
Felix D. Arroyo,  
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