



# THE NORTH END

## REGIONAL REVIEW

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### BPS Superintendent Cassellius will leave at the end of the school year

By John Lynds

In May 2019 the Boston Public School Committee voted 5-2 to appoint Minnesota's former Commissioner of Education Dr. Brenda Cassellius as BPS's new school superintendent. At the time Cassellius beat out two other finalists, Oscar Santos, Head of School for Cathedral 7-12 High School in Boston and Marie Izquierdo, Chief Academic Officer for Miami-Dade County Public Schools in Florida, for BPS's top spot.

However, on Tuesday Dr. Cassellius sent her letter of resignation to Mayor Michelle Wu and Boston School Committee Chair Jeri Robinson.

Dr. Cassellius wrote she will transition out of her role as superintendent at the end of the 2021/2022 school year.

"Working alongside so many people - parents, educators, community and faith leaders, and philanthropic partners - all dedicated to helping our children achieve their dreams has given new meaning to my vision of all hands on deck," said Dr. Cassellius in a statement. "Together, we've laid a stronger foundation upon which BPS can continue to build."

In a letter released in tandem with her resignation Dr. Cassellius said while she loved Boston and her job it was time to move on. It is not uncommon for high level



Superintendent Dr. Brenda Cassellius will leave her post at the end of the school year.

city officials to leave their post after the torch is passed to a new mayoral administration.

"When I arrived in Boston in

(CASSELLIUS Pg. 6)

### Boston elected officials of color condemn hate directed at Mayor Wu

By John Lynds

There's a fine line between freedom of speech where one's opinion is expressed during a peaceful protest and using hateful and inflammatory language to express one's views.

Since implementing the city's vaccine mandate for all indoor venues in Boston Mayor Michelle Wu has been exposed to some vile language from a group of anti-vaxxers that have camped outside her home as well as City Hall.

One can argue the language used against the City's first Asian-American female Mayor is not to express a point of view nor a dis-

agreement with Wu's policies but language intended to intimidate.

"To have a chance at healing and building community, we can't keep normalizing hate," Wu recently tweeted. "They've shouted on megaphones that my kids will grow up without a mom because I'll be in prison. Yesterday at dinner my son asked who else's birthday it was because the (morning) chant was 'Happy Birthday, Hitler.'"

Anti-vaxxers outside the Mayor's home have also been heard yelling "communist c---" and a "piece of s---," as she leaves for work in the morning and

(WU, Pg. 3)

### NEMPAC to hold free Valentine's Day concert Sunday

By John Lynds

On Sunday the North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) will hold a free Valentine's Day concert on Sunday Feb 13 at St. Leonard's Church.

"NEMPAC is delighted to have our annual favorite, 'Amore', return this season to our performance calendar on Sunday, February 13 at St. Leonard's Church in Boston's historic North End," said Executive Director Sherri Snow. "The concert is right in time to send us off into Valentine's Day."

Snow said people are not going to want to miss Boston's vocal powerhouses, Rebekah Rae Robles and Nate Ramsayer as

they sing musical theater and jazz favorites.

"They will set the mood for a romantic and acoustically stunning conclusion to the weekend," said Snow.

Also appearing are NEMPAC Youth performers Hannah McKenna, who appeared as Emma in Music Theatre Troupe's Emma, and Linus Shafer-Goulthorpe, who appeared as The Prince in NEMPAC Opera Project's The Little Prince.

"NEMPAC Faculty Artist J. Kathleen Castellanos will perform on the piano, as well," said Snow.

The concert will begin at 5 p.m. at the church and is free with a suggested donation of \$20.

"Any donation will benefit the

NEMPAC Opera Project's upcoming production of Into the Woods in June 2022," said Snow.

Attendees must pre-register to attend and masks and vaccinations are required. For more information, and to reserve tickets, please visit [www.nempacboston.org](http://www.nempacboston.org).

Snow said while Sunday's concert will help raise money for the June production of "Into the Woods", NEMPAC has recently sent out a call for auditions for the musical.

"Auditions will be heard in person on February 27th from 1-5 pm at NEMPAC, 50 Tileston Street, Boston, MA or by Video Audition Submission," said Snow. "We will require a headshot, resume, one Sondheim song with no cuts and songs from "Into the Woods" are acceptable. For video audition submissions please slate and perform one Sondheim song with an accompanying track or with a pianist. Acapella submissions will not be accepted."

Video, headshot, and resumes should be sent by February 24th to [opera@NEMPACBoston.org](mailto:opera@NEMPACBoston.org).

For live audition submissions, including submissions by youth Snow said those interested should submit a headshot and resume

(NEMPAC Pg. 3)

### City Council candidates introduce themselves at community meeting

By John Lynds

The two candidates vying for the District 1 City Council seat stopped by a community meeting in the district Monday night to introduce themselves to voters.

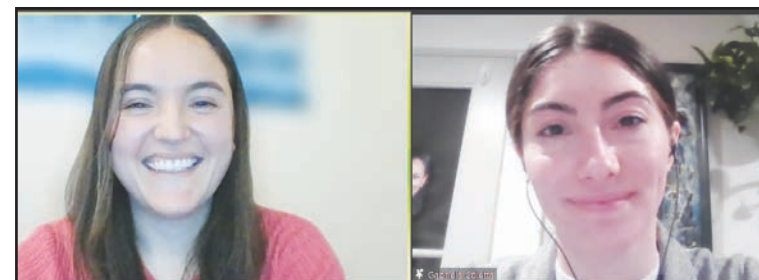
First up was candidate Tania Del Rio who recently served as the city's director of the Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement.

"My name is Tania Del Rio, I'm a BPS mom, I'm Latina immigrant originally from Mexico City, and I'm a leader with proven results in this community and in city government," said Del Rio. "I'm running for city council, because I want to be our district's strong

voice for keeping this community together by fighting for attainable and affordable housing. I also want to be fighting for quality schools and environmental justice. We, as you all know, are dealing with an urgent crisis with many of our neighbors facing displacement and our neighbors are being pushed out as our workforce housing keeps turning into luxury condos."

Del Rio said another major issue is that families are also leaving the neighborhood and city because they feel BPS is not delivering for their children.

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City Council candidates Tania Del Rio and Gabriela Coletta during Monday's HVNA meeting.

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# EDITORIAL

## THE 1887 ELECTORAL COUNT ACT MUST BE AMENDED

Americans always have taken for granted the sanctity and integrity of our electoral system. For decades, we routinely have sent observers to countries where democracy is a new thing to ensure that those nations conducted their elections on the up-and-up, using our electoral system as a model.

America's democratic process, we have assumed, is the gold standard for democracies around the world. We never considered that our own democracy, the world's oldest, was anything but rock-solid.

However, the 2020 Presidential election upended all of those assumptions. It turns out that what we had thought were firmly-embedded procedures are not so clear, and could be subject to a wide range of interpretation.

This lack of clarity is thanks to an arcanelly-worded statute, known as the 1887 Electoral Count Act.

The Act was enacted by Congress in 1887, 10 years after the disputed 1876 presidential election, in which several states submitted competing slates of electors and a divided Congress was unable to resolve the deadlock for weeks. Though it took Congress more than 10 years to finally pass the act, the effort to clarify some of the ambiguities contained in the Constitution concerning the Electoral College only served to create deeper ambiguities.

Up until 2020, there never had been a serious challenge to the results of a presidential election. However, as we all know by now, former President Donald Trump, aided and abetted by a large number of members of Congress, attempted to use the lack of clarity in the Electoral Count Act to overturn the Electoral College results of five states.

Fortunately, Trump's shenanigans -- as usual -- were neither well-organized nor well-focused. Further, vice-president Mike Pence was not willing to be a participant in Trump's charade.

However, Trump's gambit brought to the attention of legal scholars and our elected officials the potential for unscrupulous -- and better-organized -- actors to wreak havoc with our democratic process. All of us have come to realize that the guard rails that we had thought existed to protect our democratic norms are nothing more than a chimera.

Amending the 1887 Electoral Count Act is a non-partisan issue. Future Democrats are equally as likely as future Republicans to try to exploit the weaknesses of the act to the detriment of our democracy.

We urge both of our U.S. Senators, Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren, as well as our members of Congress, to join with Republican colleagues such as Maine Senator Susan Collins to amend the act expeditiously.

In view of the events that took place in the aftermath of the 2020 election, this is the most urgent business that Congress can undertake in order to preserve the viability of our democracy.

## A SILVER LINING TO INFLATION

We saw a report on the news the other night about the effect that inflation is having on food prices thanks to supply chain issues that have arisen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report highlighted that inflation is taking a bite (no pun intended) out of Americans' wallets because of higher prices for items such as bacon, snack foods, and soft drinks.

"That's a bad thing?" we thought to ourselves.

Americans are among the most obese and unhealthiest people in the world principally because we eat bad food -- and lots of it. The average American male today weighs 30 pounds more than the average male did 50 years ago and the average American woman today weighs as much as the average man did 50 years ago. The single-biggest risk factor -- after old age -- for a poor prognosis for a COVID-19 patient is being overweight.

In our view, if the direct and indirect effects of COVID-19 have the result of forcing Americans to cut back on our consumption of highly-processed and junk foods, then that would be at least one good thing to come out of the otherwise ongoing tragedy of the pandemic.

- SAY IT WITH FLOWERS
- SAY IT WITH DIAMONDS
- SAY IT WITH CHOCOLATES
- JUST SAY IT!



## GUEST OP-ED

### You can at least say howdy

Dr. Glenn Mollette

"Howdy," was a common everyday word where I grew up. Raised on old Stidham, now known as Milo road in rural Appalachia, I spent a lot of time at my Grandpa and Grandma Hinkle's store. People came and went buying gasoline, sandwich meat, snacks or groceries for the week. There were cane bottom chairs in the store. Often people would sit and chat for a while.

Regardless of how many times during the week I walked down the road to that store, the opening salutation was typically, "howdy."

People were in and out of the Hinkle store doing business. A family member was often coming or going because my grandparents had raised ten children and there were many grandchildren who frequented the Hinkle business. Often, family members were buying a soda pop or just stopping in to say "howdy."

We grew up on Milo speaking to most everyone who came and went. When a car drove by, we usually waved even though we didn't always know them. At family or church gatherings we typically talked to everyone for a minute or two and shook hands or hugged

a few people.

The only time I can remember our family being speechless was when fifteen or twenty of us were sitting on the porch and a man from New York City pulled up in an older car. My grandpa had received an advertisement in the mail about a great used car he could buy for \$500. He ordered the car to surprise my grandma and we were all really surprised

when this man pulled in front of the store in an old beat up looking car. He had driven the car from New York City, which was a long drive on those roads back then. After being drop jaw stunned silent for a few minutes, everyone loosened up and eventually started talking to the man who was just doing a job but now had to

(Op-Ed Pg. 3)

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## WU (from pg. 1)

returns home at night.

At a recent press conference with Wu, City Councilor Ed Flynn, who was all too familiar with protesters outside his Southie home when his father, Ray, was Boston Mayor, said the attacks against Wu are different on many levels.

“The level of intensity that’s happening today wasn’t there when my father was there, and I honestly believe some of it is related to an anti-Asian sentiment that we have in this country,” he said.

Since announcing the mandate Wu has been quoting as saying, “There’s constant calls associating me with the same hateful racist xenophobic language that the former president used in describing the virus and its origins and who was to blame.”

Senator/City Councilor Lydia Edwards, who supported Wu for Mayor, was an early ally that jumped to the Mayor’s defense.

“Despite this recent rash of anger and hatred, the majority of people voted for Michelle (Wu), who supported this vaccine passport mandated when she was a candidate. So I believe the majority of people in Boston support what is going on.”

However, the hateful rhetoric hasn’t seemed to slow prompting a coalition of Boston elected offi-

cials of color to condemn the hate directed at Wu.

Last week a letter signed by Edwards, Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz; U.S. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley; City Councilors Julia Mejia, Ruthzee Louijeune, Ricardo Arroyo, Kendra Lara, Brian Worrell and Tania Fernandes Anderson; Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden; Suffolk County Sheriff Steven Tompkins; as well as State Representatives Russell Holmes, Brandy Fluker Oakley, Chynah Tyler, Liz Miranda, Jon Santiago, and Nika Elugardo condemning the ongoing threats of violence and hateful attacks directed at Wu.

“From the halls of Congress, to the steps of the State House, to the chamber of Boston City Hall, we must be unapologetic in rooting out white supremacy, racism, misogyny and hate in all of its forms,” read the letter. “Make no mistake, the relentless threats of violence and hateful attacks on Mayor Michelle Wu and her family have no place in our society and are a far cry from the political debate and peaceful dissent that is welcomed and necessary in a healthy democracy. Since beginning her term, Mayor Wu has met the moment and worked tirelessly to address many of the greatest challenges facing our communi-

ties—including combatting the ongoing pandemic that has robbed us of more than 1,600 lives across the City of Boston alone. It is due to her brave and steadfast leadership, her commitment to science and the public health—including her common-sense and life-saving vaccine mandates—that the City of Boston is making necessary progress to combat this pandemic and protect our most vulnerable.”

The group continued that to remain silent is to be complicit, and as elected officials of color across the City of Boston, they will not stand by and watch as openly racist, anti-Asian and sexist rhetoric is normalized in our community.

“This type of vitriol, toxicity and hate is far too common for women of color in politics, and we can’t help but wonder if the same toxicity and vitriol would be directed at a mayor who wasn’t a woman, a person of color, or an unapologetic history-maker like Mayor Wu is,” they wrote. “We stand in solidarity with her and call for an immediate end to this dangerous and hateful behavior.”

Wu said she knows the city is doing the right thing in order to curb the latest COVID surge.

“I won’t be intimidated out of doing the right thing,” she said.

## NEMPAC (from pg. 1)

by February 17th to opera@NEMPACBoston.org.

“Audition times will be assigned as materials are received,” said Snow. “Youths auditioning for Little Red Ridinghood should prepare ‘I Know Things Now’. For other youth roles, please prepare one Musical Theater song by any composer.”

Roles available to adults for “Into the Woods” include: The

Witch; The Baker; The Baker’s Wife; The Narrator/Mysterious Man; Cinderella; Jack; Rapunzel; Rapunzel’s Prince; Cinderella’s Prince; The Wolf; Florinda; Lucinda; Cinderella’s Stepmother; Jack’s Mother; and The Giant’s Wife/Cinderella’s Mother/Granny.

Roles available to youth performers between the ages of 11-17 include: Little Red Ridinghood; The Steward; Milky White; Snow

White; and Sleeping Beauty.

“NEMPAC Opera Project is a proud member of the Black Opera Alliance and is committed to casting and hiring policies that are inclusive and do not discriminate based on race, gender, sexual orientation, cultural identity, or disability,” said Snow.

All performers auditioning will be required to provide proof of COVID-19 Vaccination Status.

## OP-ED (from pg. 2)

get back to New York. By this time, some of us were chuckling just a little. A couple of the family members took the guy over to Kermit, West Virginia to catch a Greyhound bus to begin his long journey back home.

A part of American culture has been hand shaking and embracing those we know. A part of most American religious gatherings has been shaking hands. One church I attended insisted on everybody hugging each other.

Covid-19 has impacted our world with death, sickness and business failures. The distanc-

ing for many of us continues to be tough. We wear our masks and seldom know who else is in the grocery store. We’re fearful of going to the funeral home to honor and respect the deceased. Shaking hands or embracing anyone anywhere is typically totally unwelcome. Many holiday parties of large gatherings were fewer over the past holidays. People don’t want to be sick and so the distancing continues.

We do have the telephone, social media and email which helps us at least stay connected.

However, please keep in mind,

when you do recognize someone at the grocery or any public place you may not feel comfortable embracing or shaking hands, but you can still convey a greeting and kindness by at least saying “howdy.”

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.

# NEWRA February agenda has two voting items

By Phil Orlandella

The North End/Waterfront Residents’ Association (NEWRA) agenda includes a change of occupancy and a 2 a.m. full liquor license at its Thursday, February 10 public zoom meeting scheduled for 7 p.m..

Greg McCarthy, the developer of 166 Salem Street is proposing a change of occupancy from an 8 unit residential and one store to a 9 unit residential dwelling.

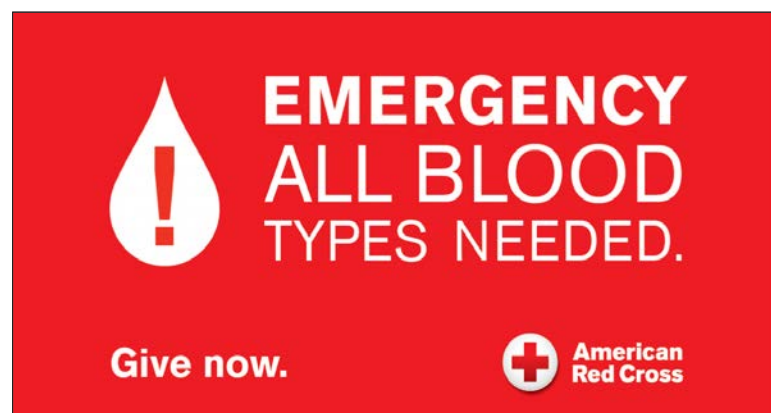
Boston Four Winds on Atlantic Avenue is seeking to transfer a 2 a.m. all alcohol beverages restaurant license to Good Times Hospitality LLC, d/b/a The Flamingo Marci.

Boston City candidate Tania Del Rio and Gabriella Coletta will discuss their candidacy for the open District 1 seat which includes the North End.

Hym + Government Center Garage, Thomas O’Brien CEO, Hym will discuss removal of the garage, recent project changes and answer questions.

A discussion and vote will be taken on a NEWRA comment letter regarding the proposal expansion of Marketplace Center between Quincy market and The Greenway. The letter will be sent to BPDA.

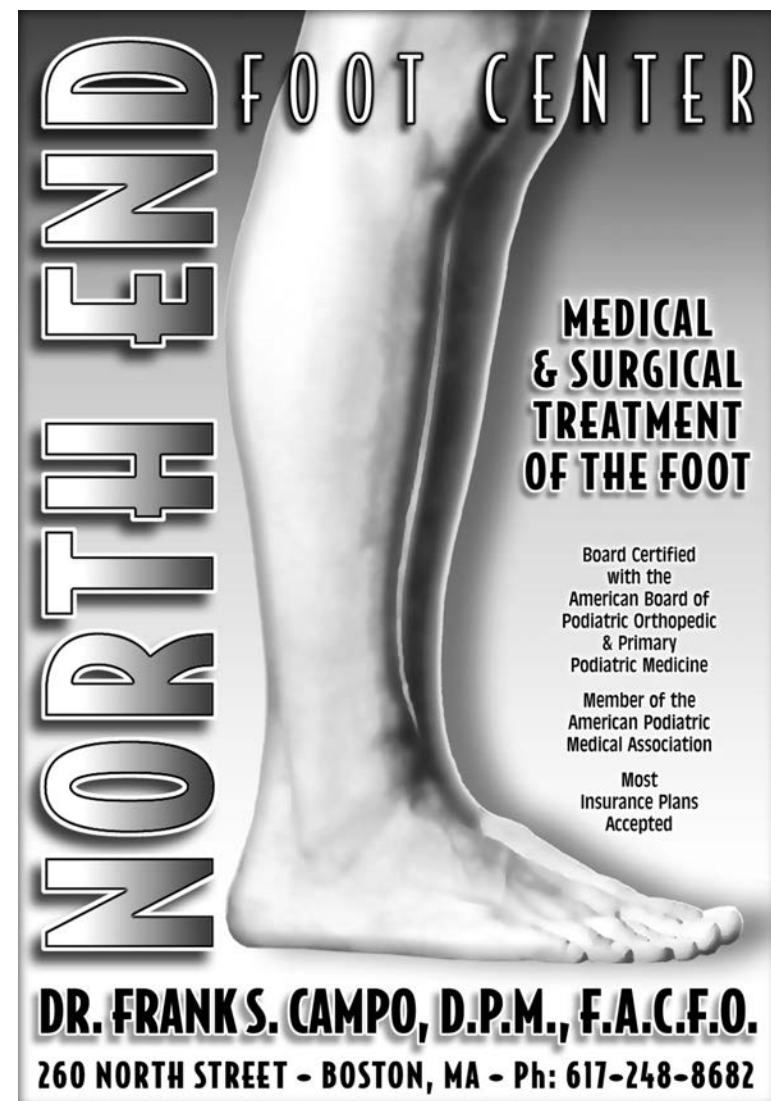
The next NEWRA monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10 at 7 p.m.



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## OPINION BY PHIL ORLANDELLA

### RENAMING COLUMBUS PARK STILL PENDING

Renaming Christopher Columbus Park on the Waterfront is still pending somewhere in City Hall.

Proponents expressed the change based, on the navigator, was part of slave trading. The statue that was once placed in the park has been vandalized and removed. Eventually, it will be placed at the Ausonia Council Knights of Columbus new housing development on North Margin Street.

Thus far, there has been no real opposition by community residents and/or organizations, so it is apparently safe to say the name change will occur, hopefully, with input from the neighborhood.

Not a behind closed doors decision!

### JOHN ROMANO, JR. NAMED NSC DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Boston Mayor Michele Wu has made a wise choice convincing John Romano, Jr. to take the new Deputy Director position of the Neighborhood Service Center (NSC).

Romano was previously resigning his position, a liaison to the North End, West End and Waterfront areas to take another position with the state.

His duties and responsibilities, on a citywide level, are working with all the city liaisons, also several other duties and responsibilities.

Romano was a terrific liaison for the communities he represented.

He will do the same on a city-wide level.

## Hanover, Salem Streets changes on NEWNC agenda

By Phil Orlandella

The North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) will discuss and vote on two agenda items at the Council's Monday, February 14, monthly meeting.

Hamel Properties LLC seeks to change the existing conditional use permit at 227 Hanover Street allowing a small restaurant use with take out by removing the proviso that the permit was granted to this petition only.

A change of occupancy request at 166 Salem Street, from an 8 unit residential and one store to a 9 unit residential dwelling and to extend living space to the basement and construction to rear and roof decks.

A variance is requested for Floor Area Ratio, building height, rear yard parking and loading and roof structure restrictions.

"This request was originally presented at the November 2021 NEWNC meeting and tabled for further review," according to President Joel Faller.

Tania Del Rio and Gabriella Coletta candidates for the open District 1 Boston City Council seat which includes the North End, were invited to speak at the meeting.

Rachael Lake will update activity on The Greenway, including information about the June 2022 Gala on The Greenway.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 14 at 7 PM.

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### COUNCIL (from pg. 1)

"All of us have to find a way to stop all of this," she said.

Del Rio said she grew up in Mexico City and spent her childhood traveling between Mexico and different US cities as her father's job took the family to different cities. After attending school in New York Del Rio eventually came from Massachusetts for graduate school.

"My husband and I chose Boston, specifically East Boston, as our home in 2016," she said. "We were facing this really uncertain future. I had actually just resigned from the job at the Consulate of Mexico here in Boston, due to a new rule that was requiring me to exchange my green card for a temporary visa. At the time my husband couldn't work as he was in the middle of a three year wait for his immigration paperwork, and was a student at Quincy College. So we were raising a one year old and we needed support and I'm very lucky to say that Boston provided that for us. We found a really supportive group of neighbors that helped both my husband and I find work".

Del Rio said the city government always had her back and she thinks it's time that it has everyone's back in the same way.

"We're in a historic moment in our city where voters have been choosing change in recent years because I think we recognize the challenges that are in front of us require that we come together in a new way," said Del Rio. "I think that if we come together we can face these challenges head on. If I'm elected as your city councilor, I'm going to push the city to invest in housing and homeownership programs like the one that helped me. I want to see a housing information station and every high eviction area that provides people information about the right in their language. I also want us to fight for quality schools in each part of the district. I want to fight for universal Pre-K and push for increased investment in our school facilities. Lastly, I will push for an overhaul of our development process. I think the way we handle it is not transparent. It's forcing us to have a disjointed parcel by parcel one off conversations and it's disconnected from the people. So I want to advocate for a development process that's transparent and that brings neighbors in from the beginning and actually takes our voices into account"

Del Rio said she would also be a fighter on environmental justice issues in the District.

Coletta, who was Senator and District 1 Councilor Lydia

Edwards Chief of Staff before leaving for a job with the New England Aquarium, was next up and outlined her reasons for running for the seat.

"I decided to run for this seat because I know our best days are ahead of us and I want to protect, maintain and promote the vibrancy of these communities," said Coletta. "This district does face unique challenges and we need somebody who's going to be ready on day one and I believe I am that person. I think that's the defining difference in this race. Right now we're dealing with a compounding displacement crisis, both due to gentrification and development. We are also looking at, in the very near future, flooding that is going to impact over 11,000 people. It's going to be a priority of mine that the city is armed with millions of dollars of federal government resources for coastline infrastructure to fortify our coastline to meet the sea and become resilient to protect our communities."

Coletta, who worked to increase affordable housing in the district while working for Edwards said Boston is dealing with the housing affordability crisis.

"I think that we can unlock every tool in our toolbox with zoning and various policies the way that we haven't tried with a former administration who was not friendly to us. We now have a mayor who sees the vision and

wants planning to dictate development. We have so many opportunities to retry a lot of the things that we had started including this homeroom petition that I helped craft for the Zoning Board of Appeals. This petition helped to reform the Zoning Board of Appeals to be more responsive to residents and ensure that development isn't happening on a parcel by parcel basis."

Coletta said if elected she would be an "extremely responsive and accessible city councilor".

"It's really important that the next city councilor is also focused on the smaller nuts and bolts issues like trash, sidewalks and streets because a lot of life issues do add up and make a big impact on the lives of residents. I'm announcing here today that we're launching our "Walk and Roll" neighborhood sidewalk and street tour here in Harbor View. It's taking place on Sunday, February 20 at 10am. This is just an opportunity to review our streets, our sidewalks, trash, streetlights, and development projects to assess what's going on in our neighborhood. This is just an example of my commitment to constantly be present in this neighborhood and provide these opportunities for feedback and ideas from residents. So it would be an honor to represent you in the Boston City Council."

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# Pressley introduces bill to bolster mental health resources for children and families

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07), alongside Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (CA-11) and Congresswoman Doris Matsui (CA-06), introduced legislation aimed at boosting and expanding mental health services for low-income children and families.

The Early Childhood Mental Health Support Act (H.R. 6509) would require the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to work with area experts to compile and make public evidence-based mental health, social-emotional, and behavioral health interventions for young children. The bill also provides grants to Head Start programs to implement these interventions in an effort to ensure every child has access to comprehensive health care.

“From poverty to housing, food, and health care insecurity, low-income children in my district are more vulnerable to trauma-inducing experiences that, when left unaddressed, can lead to health problems, relationship challenges, and mental health and substance use disorders,” said Congresswoman Pressley. “The Early Childhood Mental Health Support Act would provide critical resources to prevent and address childhood trauma for low-income children and families, using best practices and culturally-competent solutions. As we recover from this pandemic and the unprecedented emotional burden on young people, this bill would provide necessary early intervention to help chil-

dren heal and thrive. I am proud to join Rep. DeSaulnier in introducing this legislation and look forward to working with him to fight to pass this bill.”

“The importance of strong behavioral health support from an early age cannot be overstated,” said Congressman DeSaulnier. “Like many families across the country, I have seen firsthand that the sooner children receive support, the better their outcomes. I am proud to work with Reps. Matsui and Pressley in ensuring these services are available at Head Start and other early education facilities, which will have a positive, lasting impact on the health and wellbeing of millions of children and families while helping to support teachers.”

“Head Start programs have proven benefits—from academic achievement to improved social skills—that provide children with a strong foundation to grow and thrive in their earliest years,” said Congresswoman Matsui. “Mental health is an important part of that foundation, and every Head Start location in the country should have access to the evidence-based tools and resources they need to best serve the behavioral health needs of children under five. I am proud to again join Congressman DeSaulnier in reintroducing the Early Childhood Mental Health Support Act, legislation that supports Head Start programs in carrying out this vision and expands access to mental and behavioral health care for young children.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that one in five children have a diagnosable mental disorder. Unfortunately, many of these children never receive a diagnosis and do not receive the behavioral health services they need. This lack of access to care can have serious consequences for children, contributing to learning challenges, difficulty forming meaningful relationships, and an increased likelihood of developing more serious mental illnesses later in life.

The Early Childhood Mental Health Support Act is supported by: National Alliance on Mental Illness, American Psychological Association, Massachusetts Head Start, Mental Health America, Trust for America’s Health, Zero to Three, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, First Five Years Fund, First Focus Campaign for Children, and Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs.

“Early intervention is one of our best tools to help realize better outcomes for children at risk of developing mental health conditions. Increasing the availability of evidence-based interventions in school settings like Head Start programs is critical to helping children and families. NAMI is grateful to Congressman DeSaulnier for his leadership in bringing the Early Childhood Mental Health Support Act forward to increase the mental health services available to our nation’s children,” said Hannah Wesolowski, Chief Advocacy

Officer of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

“Early childhood is a critical period in development that sets the stage for long-term mental health. APA applauds Rep. DeSaulnier’s leadership in promoting children’s healthy social and emotional development by creating opportunities for parents and children through best practices, enhanced curricula and increased training,” said Arthur C. Evans Jr., Ph.D., CEO of the American Psychological Association.

“These past two years have laid bare the immediate need for expanded evidence-based mental health supports for our Commonwealth’s most vulnerable young children and families. Head Start and Early Head Start programs deserve access to all layers of interventions, resources, and funding to comprehensively wrap around children at this critical time,” said Michelle Haimowitz, Executive Director of Massachusetts Head Start.

Throughout her career, Congresswoman Pressley has been a tireless advocate for trauma-conscious policymaking. In June 2021, Rep. Pressley reintroduced the STRONG Support for Children Act, her landmark legislation that takes a holistic and community-based approach to addressing the growing crisis of childhood trauma.

In December 2021, Rep. Pressley and Rep. Bonnie Watson Cole-

man (NJ-12) led their colleagues in urging President Biden and HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra to prioritize the needs of children who have lost parents and caregivers to COVID-19.

In October 2021, Rep. Pressley, along with Reps. Dina Titus (NV-01), David McKinley (WV-01) and Peter Meijer (MI-03) unveiled the Post-Disaster Mental Health Response Act, legislation to expand mental health supports for survivors of natural disasters and terrorist attacks that do not receive a “Major Disaster” declaration by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

In March 2021, Rep. Pressley sent a letter to President Biden calling on him to address the nation’s growing trauma crisis and laying out a series of steps the administration should take to confront the far-reaching hurt plaguing our communities and our nation. In April, she published an op-ed where she reflected on the collective pain experienced by communities in her district over the past year.

In July 2019, Rep. Pressley worked with Chairman Cummings to convene the first-ever Congressional hearings on childhood trauma. Watch Congresswoman Pressley’s full question line and follow-up questions here and here.

As a Boston City Councilor, she convened the Council’s first-ever listening-only session to hear directly from those impacted by the trauma of community gun violence.

## BCYF Nazzaro Community Center to close February 28 for two month lead paint remediation

The BCYF Nazzaro Community Center, 30 North Bennet Street in the North End, will close on Monday, February 28, for a lead remediation project which will remove old lead paint from several areas of the building. The project is expected to take eight weeks.

The lead removal project will include scraping loose and flaking lead paint on ceilings and stabilizing areas, leaving areas ready for paint, and cleaning rooms by HEPA vacuuming and TSP wash. The gym, second floor rooms and hallway, the staircase, and areas

of the exterior have all been identified for work.

All Boston residents are always welcome at any BCYF center. Membership and registration for programming is free. Centers located near the BCYF Nazzaro include BCYF Charlestown, Blackstone and Quincy Community Centers. All BCYF programming with instructions on how to sign up can be found in our registration system at [Boston.gov/BCYF](http://Boston.gov/BCYF).

Follow @BCYFCenters for updates on the project.

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781-485-0588**



## Virtual Public Meeting

### Cross Street Boutique Hotel Project

**Wednesday, February 16**  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Zoom Link:** [bit.ly/3Ho2CBt](https://bit.ly/3Ho2CBt)  
**Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864  
**Meeting ID:** 160 084 6833

**Project Proponent:**  
Cross Street Ventures LLC

#### Project Description:

The BPDA is hosting a Virtual Public Meeting for the North End Cross Street Boutique Hotel located at 42 Cross Street in North End. The purpose of the meeting is to review project updates, mitigation, and public benefits within the immediate project vicinity. The meeting will include a presentation followed by Q&A and comments from the general public. Cross Street Ventures LLC (the “Proponent”) proposes to construct a new 140-key boutique hotel with two ground-floor restaurant uses and seasonal rooftop dining with a total seating capacity of approximately 300+ persons.

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

## State Senator Lydia Edwards endorses former Chief of Staff Gabriela Coletta for the District 1 City Council

By John Lynds

State Senator Lydia Edwards said her former Chief of Staff Gabriela Coletta is the best candidate to take over her District 1 City Council seat when she leaves in April.

Edwards, who was sworn in as First Suffolk & Middlesex State Senator last month and will vacate her city council seat on April 30th, formally endorsed Coletta Tuesday.

“Gabriela Coletta is the most prepared, competent, and capable person to be the next City Councilor,” said Edwards Tuesday. “She is uniquely qualified for the job. She came out of Boston Public Schools, worked in government, and has done incredible work fighting to ensure Boston’s waterfront is truly a waterfront for all.”

Edwards said as her first Chief of Staff, Coletta demonstrated unmatched commitment, compassion, and drive, and proved she is ready to do the work of a city councilor.

Coletta was Edwards’s Campaign Manager during her historic win for City Council back in 2017. After Edwards was sworn in as the first woman of color to the seat that includes representing the neighborhoods of East Boston, in the North End and Charlestown, As Campaign Manager for Coletta activated and mobilized a grassroots campaign consisting of a broad coalition of residents, unions, volunteers, and advocacy groups numbering over 500 people.

Coletta went on to serve as Edward’s Chief of Staff before leaving for a job with the New England Aquarium last summer and serves as the Aquarium’s External Relations Manager



District 1 City Council Candidate Gabriela Coletta with her former boss Senator Lydia Edwards. Edwards endorsed Coletta Tuesday for the seat she will vacate on April 30th.

where she advocates for a more resilient, inclusive, and accessible waterfront for all Bostonians.

“She knows the district like the back of her hand,” Edwards continued. “Whether by policy, project, or by pothole - she knows the work.”

Edwards endorsement follows endorsements by Rep. Adrian Madaro, Councilor Kenzie Bok, former Councilor Felix Arroyo and current Councilor Ricardo Arroyo.

“The endorsement of my former boss and mentor, now State Senator Lydia Edwards, means a great deal to me,” said Coletta. “I’ve had a front row seat to her

advocacy and I’ve learned so much about how to effectively fight for this district. I intend to utilize the knowledge I gained as chief of staff to uplift our communities, to center the lived experiences of all district one residents, and advocate for what we deserve in City Hall.”

Coletta will host a weekend of action with a door knocking event in Eastie this Saturday and in Charlestown on Sunday. The weekend of action will include help from Edwards and other elected officials that have endorsed Coletta’s candidacy. Please visit [gigi4district1.us/events](http://gigi4district1.us/events) to sign up and learn more.

### CASSELLIUS (from pg. 1)

July 2019, I couldn’t have predicted that eight months later the world as we knew it would change,” said Dr. Cassellius. “Since then we’ve confronted a global pandemic, reckoned with escalating racial division and civil unrest, and worked to repair community relationships that had eroded trust in our schools and confidence in our city.”

Dr. Cassellius said it was nothing short of remarkable that in the midst of it all the uncertainty in the world BPS was still able to develop a community-wide vision for equitable and excellent schools in every neighborhood of Boston.

“We made historic steps forward in expanding access to our nation-leading exam schools; implemented a rigorous set of high graduation standards for every high school in the district with adoption of the MassCore; and put in place more just and transparent attendance, code of conduct, student privacy and grading policies,” she said.

Dr. Cassellius said she looks forward to working with Mayor Wu in the coming months to ensure the incoming successor has a smooth and seamless transition.

“As I said when I arrived in Boston, this work requires all hands on deck,” she said. “My hands - and my heart - will be fully committed to BPS until it is time to pass the baton. Until then, my sleeves are rolled up because we still have work to do.”

Before arriving in Boston Cassellius enacted comprehensive education reforms, including historic new funding for schools, enactment of all-day kindergarten, state-funded preschool for 25,000 children, and has overseen historically high graduation rates in Minnesota.

However, before she left Minnesota, the state’s educational

system was embroiled in a lawsuit alleging constitutional violations.

In 2015, seven families and a nonprofit organization sued the state, alleging a range of constitutional violations, including the state government’s refusal to change the boundaries of the Minneapolis and Saint Paul school districts; creating charter schools; and inequitably distributing resources. Because the Minneapolis and Saint Paul school systems enroll a disproportionately high number of minority and low-income students, the plaintiffs claim that the districts’ boundaries violate the uniformity requirement of the constitution.

Cassellius was named in the lawsuit.

“Superintendent Brenda Cassellius has given Boston three years of strong leadership and service, and we are a better city for it,” said Mayor Wu. “I am grateful for the Superintendent’s leadership, especially while navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. Her vision and relentless focus as a champion for our young people and for equity has helped BPS move forward on needed structural changes within our district. I look forward to continuing to partner with Dr. Cassellius this year and to build on this vision in the years to come.”

School Committee Chair Robinson added, “Boston owes Superintendent Cassellius a tremendous debt of gratitude for her transformational leadership and service on behalf of the city’s children. Dr. Cassellius has been relentless in her focus on equity, never wavering in her commitment to our students and families. She set an example for those of us who share her dreams that all BPS students have equitable opportunities to achieve success in school and in life.”

## Public hearing for MBTA fare tariff changes Feb. 17

The MBTA will host a virtual public hearing on Thursday, February 17, at 6 p.m. to discuss fare change proposals that aim to improve equity by closing gaps in existing fare structures for Reduced Fare Riders, to minimize pandemic-related revenue implications and budget uncertainties while increasing ridership where possible, and to simplify fare tariff rules as the MBTA’s Fare Transformation Program moves forward. These changes include:

- Making the 5-Day FlexPass on mTicket for Commuter Rail per-

manent;

- Reducing the price of the 1-Day LinkPass;

- Expanding second transfers on Local Buses, Express Buses, and/or Subway; and

- Proposed changes for Reduced Fare Riders that include:

- Introducing the 7-Day LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders;

- Introducing Monthly Passes for Reduced Fare Riders on Commuter Rail, Ferry, and Express Bus; and

- Expanding the validity of the LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders

to Commuter Rail Zone 1A and Inner Harbor Ferry.

The MBTA welcomes public comment on these proposals. During the meeting, attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide input.

The meeting will be held via Zoom. Members of the public can register for the meeting online. The meeting will be recorded and posted online for those who cannot attend.

A virtual public meeting will also be held next Thursday, February 10, at 6 p.m..

If approved by the full MBTA Board in March, these fare changes would go into effect on July 1, 2022. The public is welcome to submit comments online through Thursday, March 3, 2022, at [mbta.com/2022FareChanges](http://mbta.com/2022FareChanges) or by email to [publicengagement@mbta.com](mailto:publicengagement@mbta.com). The Title VI analysis will be shared with the MBTA’s Board and posted to [mbta.com](http://mbta.com) prior to the scheduled March 24, 2022, Board meeting.

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

# Upcoming walking tour focuses on Colonial New Englanders' drinking habits

By Dan Murphy

Colonial New Englanders drank roughly three times as much alcohol as Modern Americans, and an upcoming walking tour will explore this phenomenon before making its way to the Green Dragon, one of the city's most historic watering holes.

The program, called "Fox'd and Fuddled: Colonial Cocktail Walking Tour," takes place on Saturday, Feb. 19, with proceeds benefiting both of its sponsors – Historic New England and the West End Museum.

The tour begins at 3 p.m. at Otis House, located at 141 Cambridge St., with a brief, spirited illustrated introduction to the drinking habits of colonial New Englanders presented by Michael Maler, Historic New England's Metro-Boston regional site administrator.

Maler's presentation will examine why colonial New Englanders drank so much, as well as what and where they drank, specifically taverns.

"Taverns played a big part in the whole progression of how much they drank and became really the center of social, business, and political life," he said. "They encouraged more drinking to the point where there were laws enacted based on consumption for economic reasons and moral reasons – one of the most famous is the tax put on whiskey, which led to the Whiskey Rebellion.

What's particularly surprising is how much they drank on any



COURTESY OF JEREMY BELL  
Jeremy Bell as Ambrose Gosling.

given occasion, said Maler, where it was a birth, a death, the reading of a will, the founding of a new country, or any other "excuse."

"Then came temperance, which was the backlash against this, but that's another walking tour," added Maler.

Following Maler's presentation, the walking tour makes it way to the Green Dragon, where guests will meet Jeremy Bell, whom Maler describes as a "Beacon Hill celebrity."

Bell, now in his mid-50s, immigrated to the U.S. from Scotland around 30 years ago, and has lived on Pinckney Street for the last five or six years. During the pandemic, he was dubbed the "Pinckney Piper" for his habit of roving the neighborhood's streets while playing his bagpipes – something he did on 80 consecutive Saturday

nights.

A multi-instrumentalist, Bell has returned to his steady gig, singing and performing Irish songs solo on acoustic guitar from 3 to 6 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday at Emmets Pub & Restaurant on Beacon Street. He also plays banjo on the occasions when he joins his son, violinist Calum Bell, as the younger Bell leads five or six other fiddlers for weekly sessions, which take place at Emmets every Saturday from 9 p.m. to midnight.

For the upcoming walking tour, however, Bell will adopt the persona of Ambrose Gosling.

Ambrose Gosling, who died at age 70 in 1757, was, along with his brother, James, one of the sons of William Gosling, an English wine and spirits merchant, and together, they helped build the company that would become Bermuda-based rum manufacturer Gosling Brothers Limited.

For the past 24 years, Bell has worked for Gosling Brothers while adopting Ambrose's guise for appearances at events, such as boat shows and stops on the PGA tour, where he talks about the history of the rum while donning 18th-century attire.

"As the costume shows, Goslings is an old Bermudian company, and there's so much history around rum, which links perfectly to Boston because there's so much history between rum and Boston – remember rum made Paul Revere fall off his horse," said Bell.

Gosling Brothers now operates under the leadership of Malcom

Gosling, the seventh generation of his family to run the company to date.

At the Green Dragon, Ambrose Gosling will be serving Dark 'n Stormys, the Goslings' patented drink comprising its dark rum mixed with ginger beer, among other colonial cocktails, while offering up a pinch of George III's snuff, which was commonly paired with rum during colonial times.

Ambrose will also be serenading tour-goers with what Maler describes as "tastefully bawdy" colonial songs on concertina, a small free-reed instrument from the same family as the accordion.

"It's really fun of bringing history to life and learning about the history of colonial times by starting at a museum and ending up at a tavern," said Bell. "I love that Michael and Historic New England have moved out of the lecture hall and into the public tavern to bring colonial history alive with this fun event. The Green Dragon is also just a classic, very famous Irish bar, and if it goes well, we'll be doing more of these."

In the meantime, Bell was on hand playing his bagpipes for a scotch tasting on Jan. 28 at the Union Club, and an upcoming "Rum on the Hill" program with Bell as Ambrose Gosling at 1928 Beacon Hill is now in the works as well.

"Fox'd and Fuddled" also marks a return to in-person programming for Historic New England, which has gone largely

virtual since the pandemic struck.

"Given the limited number of attendees and the protocols in place, it seemed like a good segue way into the things that people might be more comfortable, especially since we'll also be walking outside and [gathering in] places not filled to capacity," said Maler.

In 2011, Historic New England in Newbury sponsored a program called "Ales and Tales," with participants taking on the role of the accused for recreations of the quarterly court trials from the 17th century. Dinner, with beer and ale, was also served as part of the program.

"This will be the same the same type of fun environment and interactive experience with Ambrose leading them in songs, and he's a storyteller akin to tavern entertainment that would've been commensurate with the colonial period," Maler said of the upcoming walking tour.

The "Fox'd and Fuddled: Colonial Cocktail Walking Tour" takes place Saturday, Feb. 19, from 3 to 5 p.m., starting at Otis House, 141 Cambridge St. Guests must be at least 21 years old, masked, and provide proof of vaccination, as well as ID. Admission is \$55 per person and includes one complimentary drink at the Green Dragon.

Visit <https://my.historicnewengland.org/12656/hgo-cocktail> to purchase tickets, or call Historic New England at 617-994-5959 for more information.

## North End, surrounding area's weekly COVID positive test increases

By John Lynds

The group of anti-vaxxers camped outside Mayor Michelle Wu's home are going to have to admit sooner rather than later that her vaccination mandate for indoor venues is working to combat the latest COVID surge in the city.

Less than a month after the mandate went into effect the infection numbers in the North End and across the city have been on a steady decline. The city's anti-vaxxers are going to have to come to the realization that the science is correct and being vaccinated against COVID is the best tool we have to end the pandemic.

Those still unwilling to get the

vaccine should realize they are taking a big gamble with their lives by continuing to mix with the general public because the risk of severe disease among the unvaccinated is very real.

A month ago nearly 3 out of every 10 North End residents and residents in neighboring communities tested for the virus turned out to be positive but last week only 1.3 out of every 10 residents tested were positive.

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 2,104 North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 13.4 percent were positive. This was a slight 7.2 percent increase from the 12.5 percent that

tested positive between January 24 and January 31. However, the weekly positive test rate has decreased 28 percent in the area overall since January 24.

Two hundred eighty two additional residents have been infected with the virus between January 31 and February 7 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 8,230 cases overall since the pandemic began.

The citywide weekly positive test rate decreased last week. According to the BPHC 18,703 residents were tested and 10.6 percent were COVID positive--this was a 38 percent decrease from the 17 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on January 31. The weekly positive test rate has now decreased 56

percent in Boston since January 24.

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 2.2 percent last week and went from 157,675 cases to 161,136 confirmed cases in a week.

There were 32 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,656. Deaths decreased 11 percent in Boston last week--four less than the 36 deaths reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

A SHORT STORY ABOUT A  
MOTORCYCLE.  
AND A SUDDEN TURN.

When she was a young college student, Elisabeth Marra had a serious motorcycle accident that ultimately changed her life. Two years after the crash, her painful open fractures had failed to heal. Then she heard about a new and complex surgery pioneered by a surgeon who used a patient's own stem cells to concentrate the healing process. This time, her surgery and subsequent therapy were successful.

Elisabeth's experience caused her to redirect her own career aspirations. Inspired by the medical professionals who helped her reclaim her active lifestyle, she changed her major to study physical therapy—a profession where her own experience could help other patients prevail through difficult recoveries.

We tell Elisabeth Marra's story here to illustrate two of the most profound messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If reading it inspires just one more person to achieve something special, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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## IN BRIEF By Phil Orlandella

### MBTA COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY

A survey launched by the MBTA aims to identify existing communications barriers, to develop strategies to better connect with older adults and people with disabilities in order to update travel training related materials, so that they are more inclusive and to seek feedback on accessibility related decisions.

The online survey is available through February 16 at [www.mbta.com/swa-survey](http://www.mbta.com/swa-survey).

### NEWRA ZLC DISCUSSES 2 AM LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER

The North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) Zoning and Licensing Committee at a recent public meeting held at the Mariners House, 11 North Square discussed a request by 266 Commercial Street seeking to transfer its 2 AM all alcohol

beverage restaurant license.

Held by Boston Four Winds, Inc. the transfer request is to Good Time Hospitality, LLC, d/b/a The Flaming Marci at the same site/The Four Winds.

The new concept of the proposal will be a modern American restaurant with no cosmetic changes.

Further discussion relating to the request will be held at the next NEWRA monthly meeting (virtual) on Thursday, February 10 at 7 PM.

### D'AMICO NAMED LIAISON/ROMANO APPOINTED DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Caira D'Amico has been officially named the North End, West End, Waterfront liaison for the Boston Neighborhood Services Department.

She will work to encourage, facilitate and maximize citizens input and participation through service requests neighborhood meetings, mailings and emergen-

cy responses, according to Mayor Wu.

The other news from City Hall is John Romano, Jr. former liaison has not left the department he has been elevated as the department's Deputy Director.

Among other duties and responsibilities, he will assist the department's liaisons.

### HELP SUPPORT NORTH END KNIGHTS BASKETBALL PROGRAM

A Bingo was held recently to benefit Saint Leonard's North End Knights Basketball Program.

There were 25 paper games, raffle tickets and many chances to win numerous prizes.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the program should email [karenvd1014@gmail.com](mailto:karenvd1014@gmail.com).

### NAZZARO CENTER FREE ACTIVITIES

The Nazzaro Community

Center, 30 North Bennet Street is currently offering free activities.

#### Programs

- Cornhole on Mondays-8-12-year-olds 3:15 to 4:15 PM and 13-18-year-olds 4:15 PM to 5:15 PM.

- Open Jim, Tuesdays and Wednesdays-8-12-year-olds, 3:15 PM to 4:15 PM and 13-18-year-olds 4:15 PM to 5:15 PM.

- Ice skating at Steriti Rink on Fridays February 11, February 25 and March 11. Meet at the Nazzaro Center at 6:30 PM, pick up at the Rink at 8:30 PM. Bring skates or rent them for \$5, snacks available at the rink.

Call the Center at 617-635-5166 for information or possible new programs.

### UNDER THE SNOW MOON CELEBRATION

American Heritage Park on The Greenway will hold an Under the Snow Moon celebration on Sunday, February 13, 2022 at 4 PM.

The event will include a meet and greet, virtually walked the labyrinth, sharing wishes on the Wishing Tree and enjoying music performances. Registration required.

The park will also celebrate its 10th anniversary with special events during the year. Stay tuned.

### MBTA PUBLIC MEETING FARE CHANGES

A virtual public meeting will be held by the MBTA to discuss fare change proposals to improve equity by closing the gaps in existing fare structures for Reduced Fare Ride is to minimize pandemic-related revenue implications and budget uncertainties while increasing ridership where possible.

Changes will also simplify fare tariff rules as the MBTA's Fare Transformation Program (AFC 2.0) moves forward.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 10 at 6 PM. Public comments are welcome. To sign up for the meeting visit [www.mbta.com/servicechanges](http://www.mbta.com/servicechanges).

# National Burn Awareness Week 2022 promotes awareness of burn safety

State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey announced that National Burn Awareness Week started on Sunday, providing an opportunity to promote awareness of burn safety strategies – especially in homes with children.

“Scalds from hot liquids have been the leading form of serious burn injuries in Massachusetts for as long as we’ve been tracking burn data, and young children are injured most often,” State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. “Kids under 5 suffered half of all reported scald injuries statewide in 2021.”

“A home fire is a devastating event,” said Acting Public Health

Commissioner Margret Cooke. “To prevent burn injuries in the kitchen and throughout the home, it’s important for families to talk about fire safety with children and have access to safety equipment like smoke alarms throughout the home.”

This year’s Burn Awareness Week theme is “Burning Issues in the Kitchen.” According to data from the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS), hot cooking liquids such as boiling water, grease, and oil caused more scald burns than all other sources combined, and they represent the leading cause of all burn injuries. Children under 5 last year suffered nearly five times more of these scalds than the next leading age group.

Young children are also at disproportionate risk of injury from hot food and drinks. Although children under 5 represent about 6% of Massachusetts’ population, they suffered 82% of hot beverage scalds and 53% of hot food scalds in 2021.

#### Kitchen Burn Safety Tips

- Very young children love to explore their environment. They can be kept away from hot stoves, pots, and pans with a safety gate, highchair, or playpen. Older children should be taught that the stove is a “No Kid Zone” and to stay three giant steps away from it.

- Wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking. Loose-fitting sleeves can catch fire if they come into contact with burners. There were five reported clothing

ignitions while cooking in 2021.

- Keep hot food and drinks away from the edges of counters and tabletops. Using placemats instead of a tablecloth can reduce the risk of hot food and drinks being pulled over the edge.

- Never hold or carry a child while you have a hot drink in your hand. A wiggling baby can cause a spill that burns you or your precious cargo. If you’re on the move with hot coffee or tea, consider a travel mug if there are children underfoot.

- Keep matches and lighters out of reach from your child. Help children understand that matches and lighters are tools, not toys.

- Make sure the hot water from your tap is at 120°F or lower. At 150°F, third-degree burns can occur in less than 2 seconds. To test your tap, run your hot water for a minute and then check the temperature with a kitchen thermometer; if it’s above 120°F, lower the setting on your water heater until the temperature is low enough. When replacing your water heater, consider installing a thermostatic mixing valve that will limit the output temperature to 120°F.

Treating Burns and Scalds

- Remove victims from danger and call 911.

- Run burns under cool water. Do not put butter, grease, or ointment on a burn.

- Flush chemical burns continuously.

- Remove watches or jewelry from a burned area.

- If possible, remove clothing from a burned area. If the clothing sticks to the skin, leave it in place and cut away the rest of the fabric.

- Cover a burn with a clean sheet or towel.

Massachusetts law requires hospitals and health care providers to report any burn injury that extends over 5% or more of the victim’s body to the State Fire Marshal’s office. For 36 years, this data has been compiled through the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS), which was launched as a tool to identify arsonists who injured themselves while setting fires. Today, M-BIRS is also used to help fire and health officials understand burn hazards that can be mitigated through public education, regulation, or intervention strategies.

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# Councilor Kenzie Bok endorses City Council candidate Gabriela Coletta

By John Lynds

District One City Council candidate Gabriela “Gigi” Coletta picked up a key endorsement from City Councilor Kenzie Bok. Bok, who represents Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Fenway-Kenmore, Mission Hill, and the West End, was a longtime political ally of Coletta’s former boss Councilor/Senator Lydia Edwards and worked closely with Coletta when she served as Edward’s Chief of Staff.

“I am thrilled to support my friend Gabriela Coletta for District One City Councilor,” said Bok in a statement. “Before I was Councilor, I was a housing policy maker and advocate and in that role I saw

Gabriela go to bat negotiating on behalf of public housing tenants. I know that as a Council colleague, she’ll be a fierce champion for housing justice and that she has deep experience in how to effectively secure housing affordability across the district.”

Of the endorsement Coletta said, “I am humbled to have City Councilor Kenzie Bok’s endorsement. She is a fierce advocate for housing justice across the city and I look forward to working with her so that every Bostonian has access to safe, stable and dignified housing that is truly affordable.”

Coletta also picked up endorsements from former City Councilor Feliz Arroyo and current City

Councilor Ricardo Arroyo.

“I’m honored to receive the trust of former Council Member Felix Arroyo and Councilor Ricardo Arroyo,” said Coletta. “They have been in the fight for generations and their dedication to helping marginalized communities is the kind of leadership we will build together.”

Coletta will be hosting a virtual campaign kickoff on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 5:30 pm to officially launch her candidacy.

“I’m so grateful for the broad support and the coalition of residents from across the district,” said Coletta. “Please join us for a night to kickoff this campaign surrounded by community members

who share our vision for a vibrant and inclusive district.”

In just the first month of her candidacy, Coletta has raised over \$70,000 and secured the endorsement of over seventy community leaders including various former and current elected officials. Those interested in attending can visit [www.bit.ly/gc-kickoff](http://www.bit.ly/gc-kickoff) for more information on how to join the event.

Coletta said she intends to run a robust, grassroots campaign focused on listening to residents, having inclusive discussions about the issues, and will bring her vision for the district directly to voters.

So far Coletta and former director of the Mayor’s Office of

Women’s Advancement, Tania Del Rio, have emerged as serious candidates for the seat that will be vacated by Senator Edwards on April 30. Edwards was recently sworn in as First Suffolk & Middlesex State Senator.

Coletta is currently the External Relations Manager at the New England Aquarium where she advocates for a more resilient, inclusive, and accessible waterfront for all Bostonians.

Coletta ran Edward’s successful campaign for District 1 City Councilor in 2017 and then served as Edwards’s chief of staff until last summer.

# Lewis joins Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston as new Nicholas President and CEO

Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB) has named seasoned non-profit and community leader Robert Lewis Jr. as its new Nicholas President and CEO. Lewis will become the 16th leader of the organization in its 129-year history of youth development in the Boston area. He begins his term Monday, March 14, 2022.

Across its nine clubs in Boston, BGCB provides young people with affordable access to physically and emotionally safe environments, quality experiences, ongoing relationships with caring adults, and enriching opportunities. In 2021, 99 percent of high school seniors in BGCB’s programming graduated, with 98 percent being accepted to college or trade school and 2 percent securing jobs or internships.

Lewis joins BGCB from The BASE, an organization he founded in 2013 to harness the untapped potential of urban talent and build pathways to success through a passion for sports. Over the past nine years as Founder and President, Lewis has driven the organization’s expansion to include boys and girls, multiple sports – including eSports – and college prep and career counseling, as well as to address barriers its participants face, including inequities, mental health, food insecurity and access to education. The BASE’s successful model has inspired the development of similar programs across the country.

“It truly takes a village to create equal opportunity for urban youth and I am honored to join the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston to empower even more kids, teens and their families in our city,” said Lewis. “My life’s work has been dedicated to building rela-

tionships and partnerships that level the playing field and provide access and opportunities for our city’s talented young people. The Nicholas President and CEO role is a natural next step in that journey as I look to build on the storied legacy of BGCB and its work that touches nearly 8,000 lives annually in Boston. Through innovation and collaboration, we will build a brighter future for our young people for generations to come. I can’t wait to get started.”

As a nationally recognized thought leader, public speaker, and social innovator, Lewis brings a long history of non-profit and community leadership to BGCB. His previous roles include serving as Senior Vice President of City Year’s National Operations, Executive Director of City Year Boston, President of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), and Executive Director of the Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF). As Vice President for Program at The Boston Foundation, he directed the distribution of more than \$18 million in discretionary grants annually and was the chief architect of two ground-breaking initiatives: StreetSafe Boston, the country’s only privately funded anti-gang violence prevention program, and CHAMPS Boston, which provided professional-level training for over 5,000 youth-sports volunteer coaches in New England.

“Robert is a proven builder and convenor, vital qualities for BGCB’s leader as we continue tackling new challenges that require creative, cross-functional solutions,” said Dave Johnson, Chair of the Board. “His val-

ues and passions mirror those of BGCB, which has served the Boston community for nearly 130 years with the mission to be there for our members and families, no matter what. Robert is steeped in the communities that we serve. He knows the challenges, but most importantly he knows the opportunities. What he has achieved at The BASE is incredible and I’m thrilled that he’s chosen BGCB as his next platform for transforming how we propel urban youth to success. His presence will inspire our current staff, our future staff, our donors, and our members.”

“Robert Lewis Jr. plays in a space where there are no limits and endless potential for our urban youth to achieve success—and he will stop at nothing to help each and every kid follow their dreams,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “The Commonwealth has been blessed to have him as a fearless leader at the BASE, where he built and maintained a powerful organization, and I am certain his leadership will open new doors at the Boys and Girls Clubs to help more young people realize their full potential in ways they never thought were possible.”

“Robert has broken the mold of youth development,” said Sandra M. Edgerley, community leader and board member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston. “Ever since our work together at The Boston Foundation, I’ve watched Robert constantly iterate on his success, building stronger, more creative programs each step of the way. He is truly a visionary and I’m confident BGCB’s already impressive impact will grow even further under his leadership.”

A nationwide search was led by Spencer Stuart under the aegis of

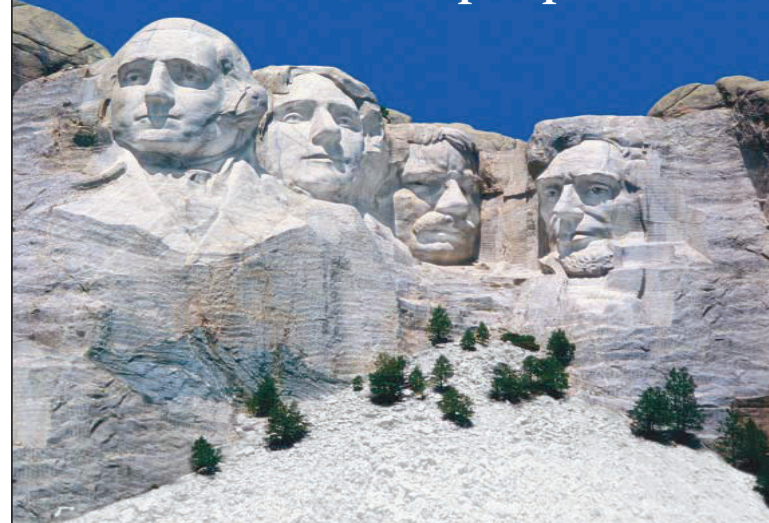
the BGCB CEO Search Committee which included Johnson and fellow Board members, Trustees, and Club staff. The committee was further supported by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and prioritized finding a candidate with a passion for BGCB’s mission and a clear commitment to the well-being and development of its members, along with the strategic leadership skills needed to foster partnerships and cement BGCB’s position as a leading force in the city.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston

Since its founding in 1893, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB) has been helping young people, especially those who need us most,

build strong character and realize their full potential as responsible citizens and leaders. BGCB does this by providing a safe haven filled with hope and opportunity, ongoing relationships with caring adults, and life-enhancing programs in six core program areas. The organization serves more than 8,000 individuals in 9 Clubs and through its YouthConnect program in partnership with the Boston Police Department. BGCB is an affiliate of Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley. For more information, visit BGCB on the web at [bgcb.org](http://bgcb.org).

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# Severe winter weather intensifying Red Cross blood crisis

As severe winter storms continue to move through the country, the American Red Cross asks those in areas unaffected by weather to schedule the earliest-available blood or platelet donation appointments in their community.

Dangerous snow and ice conditions have contributed to more than 20 blood drive cancellations since the beginning of the year, resulting in nearly 650 uncollected blood and platelet donations.

Since the Red Cross issued its first-ever blood crisis in January, thousands of generous donors have come forward to give, but patient care remains at risk. The threat of winter weather continues – as well as ongoing complications posed by the omicron variant – and could further complicate efforts to rebuild the blood supply.

More donors are needed to make appointments now for the weeks ahead to help ensure acci-

dent victims, cancer patients and new mothers experiencing complicated childbirths have access to lifesaving blood product transfusions without delay. Make an appointment to give blood or platelets by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

## Health insights for donors

At a time when health information has never been more important, the Red Cross is screening all blood, platelet and plasma donations from self-identified African American donors for the sickle cell trait. This additional screening will provide Black donors with an additional health insight and help the Red Cross identify compatible blood types more quickly to help patients with sickle cell disease. Blood transfusion is an essential treatment for those with sickle cell disease, and blood donations

from individuals of the same race, ethnicity and blood type have a unique ability to help patients fighting sickle cell disease.

Donors can expect to receive sickle cell trait screening results, if applicable, within one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App and the online donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org.

## Blood drive safety

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including face masks for donors and staff, regardless of vaccination status – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive.

## How to donate blood

Simply download the Ameri-

can Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire

online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

# National Burn Awareness Week 2022 promotes awareness of burn safety

State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey announced that National Burn Awareness Week started on Sunday, providing an opportunity to promote awareness of burn safety strategies – especially in homes with children.

“Scalds from hot liquids have been the leading form of serious burn injuries in Massachusetts for as long as we’ve been tracking burn data, and young children are injured most often,” State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. “Kids under 5 suffered half of all reported scald injuries statewide in 2021.”

“A home fire is a devastating event,” said Acting Public Health Commissioner Margret Cooke. “To prevent burn injuries in the kitchen and throughout the home, it’s important for families to talk about fire safety with children and have access to safety equipment like smoke alarms throughout the

home.”

This year’s Burn Awareness Week theme is “Burning Issues in the Kitchen.” According to data from the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS), hot cooking liquids such as boiling water, grease, and oil caused more scald burns than all other sources combined, and they represent the leading cause of all burn injuries. Children under 5 last year suffered nearly five times more of these scalds than the next leading age group.

Young children are also at disproportionate risk of injury from hot food and drinks. Although children under 5 represent about 6% of Massachusetts’ population, they suffered 82% of hot beverage scalds and 53% of hot food scalds in 2021.

## Kitchen Burn Safety Tips

- Very young children love to explore their environment. They

can be kept away from hot stoves, pots, and pans with a safety gate, highchair, or playpen. Older children should be taught that the stove is a “No Kid Zone” and to stay three giant steps away from it.

- Wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking. Loose-fitting sleeves can catch fire if they come into contact with burners. There were five reported clothing ignitions while cooking in 2021.

- Keep hot food and drinks away from the edges of counters and tabletops. Using placemats instead of a tablecloth can reduce the risk of hot food and drinks being pulled over the edge.

- Never hold or carry a child while you have a hot drink in your hand. A wiggling baby can cause a spill that burns you or your precious cargo. If you’re on the move with hot coffee or tea, consider a travel mug if there are children underfoot.

- Keep matches and lighters out of reach from your child. Help children understand that matches and lighters are tools, not toys.

- Make sure the hot water from your tap is at 120°F or lower. At 150°F, third-degree burns can occur in less than 2 seconds. To test your tap, run your hot water for a minute and then check the temperature with a kitchen thermometer; if it’s above 120°F, lower the setting on your water heater until the temperature is low enough. When replacing your water heater, consider installing a thermostatic mixing valve that will limit the output temperature to 120°F.

## Treating Burns and Scalds

- Remove victims from danger and call 911.

- Run burns under cool water. Do not put butter, grease, or ointment on a burn.

- Flush chemical burns continuously.

- Remove watches or jewelry from a burned area.

- If possible, remove clothing from a burned area. If the clothing sticks to the skin, leave it in place and cut away the rest of the fabric.

- Cover a burn with a clean sheet or towel.

Massachusetts law requires hospitals and health care providers to report any burn injury that extends over 5% or more of the victim’s body to the State Fire Marshal’s office. For 36 years, this data has been compiled through the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS), which was launched as a tool to identify arsonists who injured themselves while setting fires. Today, M-BIRS is also used to help fire and health officials understand burn hazards that can be mitigated through public education, regulation, or intervention strategies.

# MBTA’s System-wide Accessibility Department launches communication survey

The MBTA announced that its System-wide Accessibility Department (SWA) launched an online survey about how the MBTA can improve its communication efforts, communicate more effectively and inclusively, and better connect with people with disabilities and/or older adults. The online survey serves as just one step in the T’s continued work to improve the inclusivity of its communication and outreach strategies with SWA staff having previously connected with

local community and advocacy groups, requesting these groups to encourage their members to take the survey. This online survey is available through February 16, at mbta.com/SWA-survey.

“The MBTA has made great progress in working toward a fully accessible service, from upgrading stations to operator trainings to the design and procurement of new vehicles – but we know there’s always more we can be doing,” said MBTA General Manager Steve Pofatak. “The results of this

survey will help us to better understand how we can better communicate with riders about important accessibility and T-related topics.”

The MBTA is more accessible than ever before. Over the last several years, the T has upgraded over 20 stations to make them fully accessible, constructed more than 50 new station elevators, purchased new buses with ramps and reconfigured seating layout with more space, designed and purchased its most accessible subway cars yet, retrained operators

and station agents on safety and accessibility, partnered with a new customer advisory committee to involve riders in key decisions, and more.

Despite these achievements, the MBTA recognizes that there is still more work to do, especially in sharing information inclusively and engaging with as many riders (or future riders) with disabilities and/or older adults in order to shape important decisions about the future of accessibility at the T.

Available in English, Spanish,

Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, and Haitian Creole, the survey should take about 10 minutes to complete.

For more information, including on how to join the Riders’ Transportation Access Group, please visit mbta.com/accessibility or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, or Instagram @theMBTA.

# \$13 Million earmarked for electric vehicle fast-charging stations

In an effort to create additional infrastructure across the Commonwealth, the Baker-Polito Administration announced that \$13.1 million in grants have been awarded to 54 government and private entities including Chelsea under the Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program (MassEVIP) to install 306 Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) electric vehicle charging ports at 150 locations. The MassEVIP DCFC program, administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), provides grants covering 100 percent of the eligible cost to acquire and install publicly accessible DCFC electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at government-owned properties and 80 percent at all other locations, up to \$50,000 per charging port.

“Our administration understands the importance of reliable infrastructure supporting the Commonwealth’s energy future,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “Today’s announcement is a step towards the increased deployment of these clean vehicles, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and public health, enhance energy diversity and promote economic growth.”

“This Direct Current Fast Charging incentive program is another example of our administration’s commitment to improving air quality for all,” said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. “This program will support our efforts to grow the clean energy economy, transform the transportation system, and help Massachusetts attain our emissions reduction goals set under the Global Warming Solutions Act.”

The \$13.1 million awarded today includes \$1.5 million from Massachusetts’ \$75 million share of the \$2.925 billion Environmental Mitigation Trust established nationally under the 2016 settlement between Volkswagen (VW) and the U.S. Department of Justice, and \$11.6 million from the Massachusetts Climate Mitigation Trust. The Massachusetts VW Settlement Beneficiary Mitigation Plan (BMP) committed the Commonwealth to devoting the allowed 15 percent of VW funds to EV charging infrastructure, approximately \$11.25 million. MassDEP also offers funding for Level 1 and Level 2 EV charging stations through the Public Access, Workplace and Fleet, and Multi-Unit Dwelling and Educational Campus charging programs.

“The transportation sector accounts for more than 40 percent of the greenhouse gases emitted in Massachusetts, so the deployment of more electric vehicles is an important step towards helping the Commonwealth’s efforts to achieving our ambitious climate change mitigation goals,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. “Significantly, this program will also support environmental justice communities with the placement of 94 of the EV charging ports in EJ areas.”

“This is the first time that these Direct Current Fast Charging grants have been offered, which will complement our local and regional efforts to deploy electric vehicles and the charging infrastructure necessary to support a cleaner transportation system,” said MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg. “Through this program, the Commonwealth and these awardees are continuing to show a commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions for the benefit of our communities and the environment.”

To further expand the Commonwealth’s EV readiness, Massachusetts is working on a regional level with the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) to support the placement of EVs and charging stations throughout the region and to enhance the economic benefits associated with these vehicles. Additionally, some of the grantees plan to combine or leverage MassEVIP funding with make-ready infrastructure funding offered by National Grid and Eversource.

Under the DCFC program, all awardees must allow access to, and use of, the parking spaces and the EV charging station 24 hours per day, seven days a week. For each station installed, one parking space must be designated for plug-in EV use only and marked clearly through permanent, visible signage. Active enforcement is required. Furthermore, of the 54 entities selected for grants, publicly accessible charging ports will be installed on 43 government-owned properties, including in Acton, Amherst, Belmont, Beverly, Boston, Brookline, Chelmsford, Chelsea, Chilmark, Concord, Falmouth, Hamilton, Hingham, Ipswich, Lexington, Littleton, Methuen, Middleborough, Millbury, Norwood, Peabody, Quincy, Reading, Sharon, Sherborn, Taunton, Wakefield, West Boylston, Westwood, and

Winchester. Private entities will also be installing ports in Attleboro, Barre, Belchertown, Bellingham, Billerica, Boston, Boylston, Brewster, Bridgewater, Brockton, Brookline, Burlington, Cambridge, Canton, Centerville, Chatham, Chelmsford, Chelsea, Cheshire, Chicopee, Danvers, Dorchester, East Boston, East Falmouth, Eastham, Fall River, Framingham, Gardner, Great Barrington, Greenfield, Hanover, Holyoke, Hudson, Hyannis, Ipswich, Lakeville, Lenox, Leominster, Littleton, Lynn, Marlborough, Methuen, Milford, Millbury, Nantucket, Natick, North Easton, Northampton, Norwell, Orange, Oxford, Pembroke, Pittsfield, Raynham, Rochester, Sagamore Beach, Salem, Scituate, Somerset, Somerville, South Deerfield, South Dennis, Springfield, Sturbridge, Tewksbury, Uxbridge, Wakefield, Waltham, Wareham, West Boylston, West Roxbury, West Springfield, Westfield, Westwood, Whately, Williamsburg, Wilmington, Winchester, Woburn, and Worcester.

Sturbridge’s incoming delegation member, State Senator Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) offered the following statement: “This investment by the Baker-Polito Administration is crucial to enhancing the accessibility of fast, reliable charging ports for electric vehicles. The funding for six new ports provided to Noble Energy Real Estate, LLC. in Sturbridge will ensure that electric vehicle charging is accessible in a town where two major interstates intersect. Noble Energy and all of the other recipients are deserving of this grant for putting in the work to become recipients of this competitive program.”

“I am pleased to see this investment from the Administration, in Central Massachusetts,” said State Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer). “Funds made available to Apple Green New England Inc., in Barre, and Noble Energy Real Estate, LLC., in Sturbridge, will help to create a path forward to a sustainable and environmentally healthier future. As more fast charging ports become available, I look forward to a time when electric vehicles become a more feasible option for families in Central Mass.”

“This technology is readily available, and it is important that Massachusetts take steps like this so residents can feel secure in their decision to move towards electric vehicles,” said State Senator Patrick O’Connor (R-Weymouth). “I appreciate the efforts made by

the Baker-Polito Administration and MassDEP to expand charging options throughout the South Shore.”

“I am thrilled that Chicopee, Holyoke, and Westfield will be receiving these MassEVIP Fast Charging grants to expand access to electric vehicle charging ports in our communities,” said State Senator John Velis (D-Westfield). “Electric vehicles are one of our best tools to lower our Commonwealth’s emissions and an increasing number of folks in Massachusetts are switching over to these types of cars. These 24 hour, 7 days a week, charging ports will only aid in that growth and I am grateful to the Baker-Polito Administration for their continued investments in this area.”

“I think it’s great that we are increasing the network of chargers so that electric vehicles continue to become more viable in our state,” said State Representative Kelley Pease (R-Westfield). “As we actively take steps to become leaders in clean energy, I think many of these programs will pay off well in the future.”

On a national level, the Governors from nine states, including Massachusetts, announced a groundbreaking initiative in 2013 to put 3.3 million light-duty zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) on the road within a dozen years. As

a first step in this plan, the governors in California, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Vermont – later joined by New Jersey – signed a cooperative agreement that identifies specific actions these states will undertake such as including ZEVs in their public fleets and developing common signage standards, to help build a robust national market for battery- and hydrogen-power electric cars.

For more information on the EV charging infrastructure programs administered by MassDEP, please visit the agency’s Volkswagen Diesel Settlements and Environmental Mitigation webpage here.

MassDEP’s mission is to protect and enhance the Commonwealth’s natural resources – air, water and land – to provide for the health, safety and welfare of all people, and a clean and safe environment for future generations. In carrying out this mission, MassDEP commits to address and advance environmental justice and equity for all people of the Commonwealth provide meaningful, inclusive opportunities for people to participate in agency decisions that affect their lives and ensure a diverse workforce that reflects the communities served by the agency.



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# Women's rights trailblazer, Anne T. Barron, dies at 100

By Dan Murphy

Anne T. Barron, a trailblazer for women's rights in the 1970s following the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, died on Friday, Jan. 21, at her Longfellow Place home. She was 100.

Born on Oct. 30, 1921, to Hermann Frankfort, an accountant, and Sara Nunez Vaz, a homemaker born and educated in Great Britain, Anne grew up in Brooklyn. She was awarded a scholarship to attend the erstwhile Traphagen School of Fashion in Manhattan after high school. By the time she graduated from the prestigious program, the U.S. had entered into World War II, however, and Anne was unable to find work in the fashion industry and returned to live with her parents.

Anne put what she had learned in art and design school to use during this time and turned her attention to creating artwork. She was also taking courses at Brooklyn College when she met her future husband, Edward Barron, who owned the bookstore next to the school.

After they were married, Anne and Edward settled at Clemson (S.C.) College, where Edward was stationed in the Army. The couple then decided to move to a small town after World War II, and Edward eventually bought a piece of a business based in Gloversville, N.Y., located in the Adirondacks, about 60 miles northwest of Albany, that manufactured leather goods, such as gloves and bags. Since Edward had personally designed a style of boots, the company started manufacturing and selling his patented leather boots.

The company eventually moved its boot operations to Malone, N.Y., a gloomy, perpetually cold town located about 12 miles south of the Canadian Border. At Anne's insistence, the couple relocated to Providence, R.I., in the early 1950s, when Edward got a job for a company there designing boots both for military personnel, as well as for civilians.

Edward later received a job offer to work at the Natick Army Labs, a military research-and-development

workshop, and the couple relocated to Framingham, where they would live for the next 20 years.

In 1955, Anne found work at the U.S. Army's office on State Street. She worked there for about six to eight months before she was transferred to the Natick Army Labs, where Edward also worked and where she had wanted to be from the start. At Natick Army Labs, Anne also helped establish the Federal Women's Program, becoming its manager in 1974.

Anne joined the Business and Professional Women's Foundation, and in 1972, when the Equal Rights Amendment was passed by the U.S. Senate and sent to the states for ratification, she was at the forefront of the women's rights movement. (On Jan. 27 of this year, the ERA was also ratified as the 28th amendment to the Constitution.)

In 1977, Anne was elected chair of the Massachusetts Coordinating Committee for the National Observance of International Women's Year, and in this role, she traveled from one end of the state to the other alongside then-Massachusetts U.S. Rep. Margaret Heckler to educate women on the ERA,

That same year, Anne attended the Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y. as well as the National Women's Conference in Houston, Texas, now considered a watershed moment for second-wave feminism.

Anne was also named the Woman of the Year by the Framingham B.P.W. Club in 1975. She also received the Most Outstanding Achievement in Providing Equal Opportunity in the Department of the Army in 1975 during a ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Due to the efforts of Anne and other like-minded activists, women were assigned to the board of directors of some major corporations, she said, while major strides were also made regarding childcare. Anne and others also advocated for women to be hired as police and firefighters, which then seemed like a farfetched idea.

"The whole thing was to make people aware of the situation because you could go into any large company at that time, and you would find men making big salaries and the women – forget about it," Anne told this reporter in October on the eve of her 100th birthday. "We made progress, but I wouldn't say that's changed anything for most women. Most [women] still think wrong, or not at all, and allow themselves to be used."

After two decades at Natick Army Labs, Anne left to take a position with the National Park Service as the EEO coordinator overseeing all the national park in New England. "Now, I was in a

position to do something in government," recalled Anne.

She personally visited all the national parks in her territory, where she successfully lobbied to get the NPS to hire more women.

On the eve of her retirement on Sept. 27, 1985, Anne received the National Park Service's outstanding achievement in the area of equal opportunity.

In retirement, Anne kept busy volunteering for myriad nonprofits and other organizations.

At the Museum of African American History, which later gave her a lifetime achievement award, Anne served as a docent and would sometimes lend a hand in writing lectures for them.

Anne was also one of the founding board members of the Friends of the West End Branch Library and helped them organize used-book sales, as well as lectures and music programs.

For many years, Anne also served on the board of the City-wide Friends of the Boston Public Library, a volunteer, community-based group that supports all of the city's branch libraries.

And at the Otis House Museum, Anne worked on a project to locate surviving members of the Otis family and was able to add her artistic flair by creating a chart for the endeavor.

Anne also volunteered for a program that sent birthday cards to every Senior Health patient at Mass General Hospital. She helped send cards to around 2,000 patients annually, each of which had to be signed by their individual doctors, until the program was suspended after about 10 years due to a lack of funding.

Additionally, Anne volunteered for the National Park Service in the Charlestown Navy Yard, and she is a lifetime member of the Government Center Childcare Corporation, a state-licensed childcare services provider that offers day care programs for young children.

But despite her myriad accomplishments and accolades, Anne told this reporter in October that, above everything else, she most cherished the time she spent with family.

"What stands out the most in my life is my family," said Anne. "My family wanted to know what I was doing and whether they could help me out, and they always wanted to be present [for me]. If you're lucky enough to have family like I do, they're the best in the whole world and rise to the occasion, if necessary, as several friends I have would do, too."

Anne and Edward shared more than seven decades of marriage, before he died at the age of 100 on Oct. 21, 2018, and while they didn't have any children, they were



Anne T. Barron is seen last October celebrating her 100th birthday.

very close with their extended family.

Anne spent her 100th birthday last October surrounded by 14 relatives who traveled from New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, California, Florida, and North Carolina to fete her at a dinner party at Anne's home at Longfellow Place, where she had lived as an original tenant since 1976.

President Joe Biden even sent Anne a personally signed letter for her 100th.

"Your strength and perseverance helped shape this Nation into what it is today and defines what it means to be a member of the Greatest Generation," the letter reads in part. "This milestone serves as an inspiration to your fellow Americans."

City Councilor Kenzie Bok also offered Anne an official resolution on behalf of the Boston City Council in recognition of Anne's service to the National Parks and the West End community on Oct. 30, 2021, Anne's 100th birthday.

Since Anne always had a special affinity towards giraffes, which she described as "quiet, majestic, beautiful animals," two of her relatives from Florida, Leah and Glenn Bergoffen, adopted a giraffe that lives at the Tampa Zoo and named it "Lilleanne" in Anne's honor as a birthday present to her.

Every Friday, Anne joined family members for a Zoom call, and while inevitably at least one regular participant wouldn't be on any given call due to scheduling conflicts, they were all on hand for the last call, which took place shortly before Anne died on Jan. 21.

"It almost seemed like she waiting to say goodbye to us all," said Rick Gold, one of Anne's relatives from New Jersey who was also on hand for her 100th birthday celebration.

The timing of Anne's passing also seemed apt, said Gold, since it was the same day that the first woman to command the USS Constitution, Cmdr. Billie J. Farrell, took charge of the warship.

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