



# THE NORTH END

## REGIONAL REVIEW

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### Mayor Wu announces creation of the Office of Early Childhood

By John Lynds

At a press conference Wednesday Mayor Michelle Wu said, for anyone who has had to try to find an early childhood education seat in Boston navigating the many complicated systems, registrations and applications can be a daunting task.

“This is time for city leadership to step up and help provide a one stop shop,” said Mayor Wu. “We know that the pandemic has deepened every challenge that the city is facing, and our childcare gaps in access and the stresses on our early educators have certainly deepened as well. In Boston, and in Massachusetts, we have the second highest cost of childcare anywhere around the country and we continue to see the impacts of that ripple throughout our communities, throughout our economy and throughout our city.”

To combat this Wu announced the creation of the Office of Early Childhood to advance the administration’s commitment to universal, affordable, high-quality early education and care for all children under five. The new office will expand access to early education and childcare programs, invest in Boston’s early education and care workforce, and serve as a central point-of-entry for residents looking for information on early education and childcare program-



Mayor Michelle Wu announces the creation of the Office of Early Childhood at a press conference Wednesday.

ming and wraparound services for young children and their families.

The Office will address needs highlighted in Boston’s 2021 Childcare Census Survey report, which the Mayor also released Wednesday.

“We conducted this census just to understand the needs and realities of our Early Education and Care ecosystem from families and educators,” said Wu. “We are here to report back that unsurprisingly, the vast majority of families who participated in the Census reported that they are looking for formalized care, but having trouble finding it. Many of our families are relying on some informal arrangement, often with a family member, often not covering enough hours that are needed (for parents to work).”

Wu said 81 percent undergoing this kind of informal arrangement are women and this is impacting their own careers and their own professional development.

“The costs are high,” said Wu.

“The need is great, but the opportunity is tremendous right now as well. So it is time to truly tackle root causes and understand just how much our child care infrastructure is the foundation for families to thrive all across our city and beyond.”

The Office will advance the Mayor’s work to prioritize the City’s youngest residents and their families by: Accelerating the creation of a universal pre-K system that stretches across Boston Public Schools (BPS), community-based organizations, and family-based childcare programs, and expanding high-quality, affordable options for infants and toddlers; Creating a one-stop shop for enrollment and access to early education and childcare programs by building an accessible, multi-lingual platform so that options are clear, streamlined, and accessible to all families; Investing in the early education and childcare workforce by building sustainable career pathways that recognize early educators as professionals who are essential to young children’s wellbeing; Coordinating outreach and information for City and community programming that impacts the lives of young children and their families.

Wu said the city will be hiring a leader of the new Office of Early Childhood to advance this work in partnership with the Boston Public Schools, the Mayor’s Office of Women’s Advancement, the

(Wu Pg. 3)

### NEWRA letter opposing current Marketplace proposal sent to BPDA

By Phil Orlandella

A letter of opposition by the North End/Waterfront Residents’ Association (NEWRA) will be sent to the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) relating to a proposal by Gazit Horizons Marketplace LLC (Proponent) to develop a 7-story building at 200 State Street between Faneuil Hall Marketplace and the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy site on The Greenway.

NEWRA opposes the PNF project and requests that the BPDA reject the project as proposed.

“It violates the BPDA’s own development guidelines and public realm goals and it creates a greater barrier between and impacts upon, important and sensitive public resources,” according to the letter.

The project site encompasses two buildings owned by the Proponent a 3-story retail and office building and the ground and second level retail portions on the South side of the structure.

Plans also call for filling in the existing open coverage pedestrian galleries along the ground and second level retail store entrances of the North and South building and replace the current pedestrian

portal between the North and Sell buildings with a new pedestrian portal including proposed retail kiosks and public programming.

NEWRA’s letter contends the project site is an integral part of the Market District Walk to the Sea a public open space and pedestrian benefits and impacts of the project are of critical importance.

According to the City of Boston Zoning Code the project site lies in a planned development area IV (PDA-IV) within both The Greenway overlay District and the “Market Protection Area” of the Government Center/Market District.

The project lies within this district, which the BPDA’s Greenway guidelines states development should “set the stage for an expanded Market District that builds on the existing historic fabric while providing 21st century accessibility and amenities needed in the part of the city and provide greater levels of transparency and permeability at The Greenway edges of Quincy Market, most notably Marketplace Center with connections between the life of the Market District and its surround

(NEWRA, Pg. 3)

### NEWNC supports changes to Hanover and Salem Streets

By Phil Orlandella

At a Valentine’s Day public meeting, the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) voted to support a request by Hamel Properties LLC to change the existing conditional use permit at 227 Hanover Street.

The change allows a small restaurant use with take out by removing the proviso that permit use “granted this petitioner only”.

NEWNC also voted to support a change of occupancy at 166

Salem Street from an 8 unit residential and one store to 9 units of residential dwelling and to extend living space to the basement area.

Plans also call for construction to the rear and rooftop decks. Plans also call for a variance for Floor Area Ratio, building height, rear yard parking, loading zone and rooftop structure.

This request was tabled at the NEWNC’s November 2021 meeting for future review.

The next NEWNC monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, March 14 (virtual) at 7 p.m.

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# EDITORIAL

## WHAT'S OLD IS NEW

As this is being written, a huge Russian Army is standing ready and poised, at the whim of Russian dictator Vladimir Putin, to invade the nation of Ukraine, potentially bringing death and devastation to Europe on a scale not seen since 1939 when Nazi Germany invaded Poland with a blitzkrieg.

As was the case in 1939, when authoritarian leaders in Germany, Italy, and Japan combined to form an Axis, Putin and his fellow dictator, Xi Jinping of China, are conspiring to set the world ablaze. Putin has Ukraine in his crosshairs and Xi likewise has his sights set on an invasion of Taiwan.

The big difference between now and then is that these dictators possess nuclear weapons, which makes an all-out war unthinkable.

That means that they can get away with pretty much anything. They know that the U.S., which is their only countervailing force, will be hesitant to engage them directly because of the threat of escalation into a nuclear conflict.

Another difference between now and then is that both Russia and China have the ability to wreak havoc throughout the world by means of cyber warfare. The world economy, including that of the U.S., is incredibly vulnerable to Russian and Chinese hacks.

Make no mistake about it -- if the U.S. imposes the severe economic sanctions on Russia that are being promised by the Biden administration, the Russians will retaliate with a scale of cyber warfare that will make the hacks of last year look like child's play.

Another key difference between 1939 and today is that Russia plays a huge role in the world's energy markets. Although the Russian economy is only a fraction the size of California's, Russia serves as the major energy provider for Western Europe. A shutdown of the delivery of Russian natural gas and oil to Europe will drive energy prices skyrocketing beyond their already-high levels.

Our so-called allies in the Middle East, especially Saudi Arabia, could help out, but they're in bed with the Russians. Their decision to keep oil output artificially low is creating an energy crisis not seen since the Arab oil embargoes of the 1970s and early 1980s.

In addition, U.S. oil producers have joined the Saudi-Russian oil-opoly by limiting energy production in this country, thereby keeping prices artificially high. If energy prices continue their upward trend, the Biden administration may have to order a nationalization of the oil industry to increase domestic output.

World history has shown that dictators do what dictators do. Putin, Xi, and MBS essentially are dictators for life and face no consequences for their policies and actions in their own countries. All three have cracked down brutally on political opponents and various ethnic groups that may pose even a remote threat to their regimes.

As they seek to expand their authoritarian regimes beyond their borders, world peace will be in peril.

Dark days lie ahead.

## GUEST OP-ED

### We all face challenges

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Everyone will face insurmountable challenges in life. The price of longevity is heartache, opposition, failures, grief and life events that come out of nowhere. Life is filled with the death of loved ones, financial ups and downs, daily health challenges and world events that impact us whether we like them or not.

Russia is going to invade Ukraine. Most of us don't like Russia anyway but we have to sit here and watch what they are doing to someone else while it negatively affects our energy, financial stability, our military, and our everyday lives. We don't like it; we don't want it but we will be impacted by the evil decisions of Russia's leadership. Can you imagine how the people of Ukraine feel?

We despise what Covid-19 has done to all us. Mask wearing, vaccinations and the fear of gathering have tormented us. The loss of family and friends who went into Intensive Care Units and never came home haunts us. Can we begin to imagine how they felt as they struggled to breathe on respirators their last few days of life?

We have all faced news that a loved one was killed on the battlefield, or someone died suddenly of a heart attack, or received news of terminal cancer.

Typically, we ask why? We ask God, "Why has this happened?" or "Why me, God?" Often there is rarely a good answer. We can analyze and say, "This could have been prevented. Or, this is how he or she should have lived their lives." Sports fans making suggestions from their recliners while watching reruns always see how the play could have been run better.

Life is always in motion. We make decisions. We react to situations differently. We don't always do the right thing and emotions often overturn commonsense.

The reality is that we all face and walk through fires. Most of the time we're hopeful that everything will work out alright. Often, things do. Unfortunately, everything doesn't always work out alright. If we manage to survive, that's when we have to help others who are crushed in spirit, who can't see the light of day for the darkness in their lives.

Ukraine needs their allies or they will never be the same. It can't be all the United States. We can't save everyone and have proved it over and over again from Afghanistan to Iraq to Vietnam.

There are always those around you who need your emotional and spiritual support. If nothing else, friendship and a word of kindness and support are always meaningful.

Most of the time, we feel as if we face our greatest challenges alone. A lonely place of desperation is a dark place to be.

Don't ever go there. Look to God. When money, friends, education, hospitals, doctors and the church can't fix what you are facing God can see you through. He never leaves us or forsakes us. His hand is strong and nothing can pull us out of his mighty hand.

*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.*

## LETTERS to the Editor

### PLEASE HELP

To the Editor,

Last year, a day before he left office, Mayor Walsh proclaimed March 26, 2021 to be Leonard Nimoy Day in Boston. The campaign to create a lasting Memorial to our Native Son born in the West End had already found a location at the Museum of Science. Together we worked with the sculptor David Phillips to create the model for a twenty-five foot stainless steel hand representing the Vulcan Salutation, which Nimoy had originated, and which became the universal gesture "Live Long and Prosper."

After a good beginning with media publicity and hundreds of donations, the campaign slowed

with the difficulties of the Pandemic.

In any Grassroots campaign, the number of donors as well as the funds raised, makes an impression on the Foundations and Corporations who will ultimately make the project a success.

March 26, 2022 marks Leonard Nimoy's ninety-first birthday and a year since the Mayor's Proclamation.

Many of you have already generously contributed to the Fund and have been counted as Donors. Now I am asking you to forward this letter to a friend who may appreciate this undertaking, and would like to take a part in it. If they choose, Donors can give anonymously as much or as little as three or five dollars



in order to be counted. Our goal is to increase by one hundred the number of donors. The link to the Museum is: [mos.org/Nimoy](https://mos.org/Nimoy).

**Thomas J. Stocker**  
Leonard Nimoy Memorial Fund

## REGIONAL REVIEW

- FOUNDED IN 1967 -

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# NEWRA supports Salem Street occupancy change

By Phil Orlandella

A request by Greg McCarthy, developer at 166 Salem Street was supported by the North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) by a 6-3 vote.

Plans call for an occupancy change from 1 commercial space to 9 residential condominium units.

NEWRA casted a 6-6 vote regarding a request to transfer the Four Winds (Commercial Street)

2 AM Full Alcohol Beverage restaurant license to Good Times Hospitality LLC d/b/a The Flamingo Marci at the same location.

The community organization voted to send a comment letter to the Boston Planning Development Agency opposition and concerns relating to the Marketplace Center, 200 State Street proposed development by Gazit Horizons Marketplace for the construction of a 7-story vertical addition on top of the existing 3-story struc-

ture.

The site is located between Faneuil Hall Marketplace and the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway site.

An update by Hym CEO Thomas O'Brien informed NEWRA on changes relating to the Government Center Garage Project.

The next NEWRA monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 10 at 7 PM.

# Tunnel of Love at Columbus Park Trellis and beyond

By Phil Orlandella

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park's 5th annual "Tunnel of Love" has been expanded beyond the trellis into the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, Faneuil Hall Marketplace and beyond, creating more signs of love on the Waterfront.

Throughout the month of February, hundreds of people will travel through the blue lights on the trellis into the "Tunnel of Love", take photos, post them

on social media and take in what the Waterfront businesses have to offer.

The trellis is decorated with conversation hearts with cupids and hearts hanging overhead with romantic music filling the air.

Thus far, while the special attraction is on display, FOCCP feels it has been a "huge success".

Between the snowstorms, the electricians from Lenture Electric who installed the blue lights on the Trellis transforming the "Tunnel of Love".

FOCCP Art Curator and board

member Robyn Reed's vision and experience created the very popular attraction the Tunnel of Love.

The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway celebrated February as the "Month of Love" in Boston by turning their light red. Other areas of The Greenway are lit in red.

Visitors that snap photos while in the trellis, "Tunnel of Love" can win a Valentine prize pack. Deadline is 11:59 PM on Monday, February 28.

For more information visit Boston Harbor Now website.

# Changes made to North End Outdoor Dining Program

By Phil Orlandella

Outdoor dining will continue in the North End from April 8 to Labor Day with several changes according to Boston Planning and Development Agency.

This will be the third consecutive year outdoor dining has taken place in the neighborhood.

Closing hours have been opposed. Eateries will open Monday through Thursday from 9:30 PM, 10 PM and on weekends 10:30 PM to 11 PM.

Hanover Street from Richmond

to Cross Streets will become a one way for the dining season.

Restaurants will pay a fee to cover the cost of about 130 off street parking spaces. Residents can park by residential parking sticker at off-street parking locations.

The size of the outdoor dining areas has been reduced.

City enforcement will be upgraded.

Apparently, restaurant community is agreeable with this new plan.

However, it appears that most

residents still oppose outdoor dining noting-taking away parking spaces, loud noise, sidewalk access and the ability to clean streets.

The outdoor dining program was created due to the COVID-19 pandemic to allow restaurants to have some source of additional revenue during bad times.

Other good news for Boston restaurants is Mayor Michelle Wu has lifted the showing of proof of vaccinations.

This summer the City of Boston plans to repair North End sidewalks.

# NEWRA (from pg. 1)

ings...made more seamless, the letter states.

NEWRA concludes from the PNF presentation that the proposed architectural design, project height and massing and proposed office spaces expansions are counter to these goals.

NEWRA claims the PNF also lacks adequate details and explanation of how the proposed new pedestrian passage encumbered with large structural columns, retail kiosks and office floors

atop it would improve visual and pedestrian connections over the current similarity wide glass-top ceremonial passage.

NEWRA is of the opinion that the proposed project will cause the site to evolve from a bad area to a gateway NEWRA disagrees.

The project as proposed, according to the community Association will create a greater barrier between the Market District/Government Center and the public space of The

Greenway, Armenian Heritage Park, Columbus Park and the Downtown Waterfront, both structurally from its greatly expanded height and massing and programmatically from its conversion to predominant office use.

The seven-page letter goes on to express many other concerns NEWRA feels problematic.

NEWRA urges the BPDA to require an alternate redevelopment plan from the proponents.

# WU (from pg. 1)

Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Centers for Youth and Families, other City departments, and community organizations that serve Boston's children and families.

"We are excited to deepen the City's investment in high-quality, accessible childcare solutions for early childhood professionals, families, and their little ones," said Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement Alexandra Valdez. "The Office of Early Childhood will continue the work of looking at closing child care gaps with community voices at the center. This will not only create opportunities to further support a child's care needs and early development, but also empower a profession that is largely represented by women, specifically women of color, and our immigrant community."

Wu added that Boston Public Schools has led the way in building out a mixed-delivery system for universal pre-K (UPK) that integrates both BPS classrooms and community-based organizations. In its third year, the UPK program currently serves 664 pre-K students through 21 community-based organizations across 32 program sites; 2,556 non-special education K1 seats for 4-year-olds, and 880 special education seats for 3- and 4-year-olds in K0/K1.

In 2021, UPK expanded to include a pilot program to serve 3-year-olds in addition to 4-year-olds in 2021-22. For the upcoming

school year in 2022-23, Boston UPK plans to expand to serve up to 930 children at community provider settings, including 600 4-year-olds and 330 3-year-olds. The City of Boston and Boston Public Schools recently released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to identify additional community-based organizations seeking to join the UPK program. The IFB deadline is April 4, and more details can be found on the BPS Universal Pre-K website.

By investing in and growing the early educator workforce, supporting early education and childcare businesses, and streamlining information and access for families, the Office of Early Childhood will support UPK's continued expansion by increasing the number of seats available to infants and toddlers.

"I am grateful to Mayor Wu and her team and all who have worked so hard to advance this work on behalf of our children and their families," said Chair of the Boston School Committee Jeri Robison. "As someone who has dedicated my entire career to ensuring enhanced access to all-inclusive early education and care, I am heartened today to see this important next step in our City's progress. We are sending a message to our families today that Boston is united in our work to help our youngest learners get off to the right start through new support to them and their families."

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# North End, surrounding areas weekly COVID positive test increases slightly

By John Lynds

With Boston's weekly COVID positive test rate falling below 5 percent for the first time in months, Mayor Michelle Wu and Dr. Bisola Ojikutu announced last week that the City's "B Together" policy, which requires patrons and staff of certain indoor spaces to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19, would be lifted effective immediately.

"The public health data shows that we're ready to take this step in our recovery," said Mayor Wu. "This news highlights how much progress we've made in our fight against COVID-19 thanks to vaccines & boosters—which have always been our most effective

weapon against the pandemic. It's a win for every Bostonian who's done their part to keep our communities safe, and we have to keep going. I want to thank all of our small businesses who have been working to keep our communities healthy through challenging times."

Public health data shows Boston has a 4.6% community positivity rate, a 90.7% occupancy rate of adult ICU beds, and 7-day average of adult COVID-19 hospitalizations at 195.9 per day, falling below all three previously announced thresholds.

"I'm encouraged by our COVID-19 data and optimistic about where our city is headed. The City's COVID-19 response has been guided by science throughout

the pandemic, and we will continue to make data-driven decisions in our mitigation and response strategies in order to keep everyone safe," said Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) Dr. Ojikutu. "The Boston Public Health Commission remains focused on ensuring equitable access to vaccination and supporting communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19."

However, Wu and Ojikutu said the City's mask mandate for indoor spaces, including schools, remains in effect until further notice.

According to the BPHC 14,734 residents were tested citywide last week and 4.6 percent were COVID positive--this was a 33

percent decrease from the 6.9 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on February 14. The weekly positive test rate has now decreased 57 percent in Boston since February 7.

According to the weekly report released Monday by the BPHC, 1,260 North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 4.4 percent were positive. This was a 2 percent increase from the 4.3 percent that tested positive between February 7 and February 14.

Fifty five additional residents have been infected with the virus between February 14 and February 21 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 8,345 cases

overall since the pandemic began.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 0.64 percent last week and went from 162,683 cases to 163,720 confirmed cases in a week.

There were 19 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,697. Deaths decreased 14 percent in Boston last week with three less deaths than the 22 deaths reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

## SAINT LEONARD CHURCH

### LENT, HOLY WEEK, & EASTER 2022

8:15 AM mass will be celebrated every morning During lent

Each Friday we will have a School of prayer in which they will be a Jesuit, Franciscan, Neo Catechumenate, and a family prayer talk

Also, we will have a Lenten mission March 15, 16 and 18 from 7:00-8:00 pm led by Sean Gibney.

#### SCHEDULE

##### ASH WEDNESDAY

8:15 am – Children's Mass & Distribution of Ashes

9:15 am – Children's Mass & Distribution of Ashes

12:05 pm – Mass & Distribution of Ashes

3:00 pm – Prayer Service & Distribution of Ashes



7:00 pm – Mass & Distribution of Ashes

##### FRIDAY'S DURING LENT

- 6:30 pm – Stations of the Cross
- March 15, 16 and 18 Lenten mission (talk combined with a penance service to follow) from 7:00-8:00 pm

- School of prayer in which there will be a Jesuit, Franciscan, Neo Catechumenate, a family prayer talk 7:00pm - More

information to follow

- April 1, & 8 – Speaking events at 7 pm

##### PALM SUNDAY

5:00 pm – Vigil Mass

9:00 am – Morning Mass

10:30 am – Italian Mass

12 Noon – Mass of the Day

##### HOLY THURSDAY

8:00 pm – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper & Transfer of the Blessed Sacrament

9:30 pm (approximate)-12 Midnight – Holy Hour(s) w/ the Blessed Sacrament

##### GOOD FRIDAY

12 Noon – Stations of the Cross

3:00 pm – Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

7:00 pm – Stations of the Cross

##### EASTER VIGIL

8:00 pm – Vigil Mass of the Lord's Resurrection

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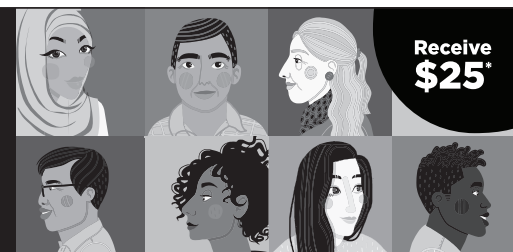
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# Maria Stella Gulla retires from NE/WE NSC after 25 years

The end of January marked a bittersweet milestone for Maria Stella Gulla, who retired after 25 years of service with the ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NE/WE NSC), nearly 8 of which she was director. Retiring will allow her to spend more time with her children and grandchildren and to pursue other interests and activities, including spending more time in Italy, where many of you know she is from.

ABCD celebrated this occasion with a small in-person luncheon with only the team at the NE/WE NSC due to the inability to gather due to COVID-19. It was so touching that all of the local officials sent citations or dropped by in person with citations and flowers. The visitors included State Senator Sal Di Domenico, State Senator Lydia Edwards, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, State Representative Jay Livingstone, and City Councilor Kenzie Bok.

A larger group of ABCD board

members; ABCD leadership, including President/CEO John Drew and Sharon Scott-Chandler, Executive Vice President/COO, and Josh Young, Director of Field Operations and Legislative Affairs; ABCD staff; and members of the community joined in a Zoom celebration with a slideshow of the center and Maria Stella's service throughout the years. The photos dated back to the days when the NE/WE NSC was located on Tileston Street. Where has the time gone?

Maria Stella looks forward to staying connected to the community. "ABCD does such valuable work for its constituents, and I am proud to have led programs assisting the seniors and families of the North End, West End, and Beacon Hill neighborhoods," she remarked at the culmination of the celebration. "I hope to be back now and again to volunteer to prepare a hot meal when it is safe to gather again." Ci vediamo, Maria Stella! We will miss you.

What we call the beginning is



*Pictured (left to right) Huseyin Senturk, Julia Power, Johannah Malone, Maria Stella Gulla, and Marilyn Frissora of ABCD.*

often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from. ~T.S. Eliot



*Pictured (left to right) Johannah Malone, Fundraising Specialist; State Representative Aaron Michlewitz; Maria Stella Gulla; and State Representative Jay Livingstone.*

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# Sen. Edwards kicks off talks with her Community Transition Committee

By John Lynds

Last week Senator Lydia Edwards kicked off her Community Transition Committee through a virtual meeting to discuss housing. After being sworn in Edwards asks residents to advise her on constituent and public policy issues impacting the Senate district.

While last week's meeting focused on housing, the committee will cover issues including transportation, addiction and recovery, Massport, seniors, education/youth services, public safety, and environmental justice throughout 2022.

"I was elected and sworn in but it was during a special election so I didn't have the normal runway that other people have, where win in November, then they have a couple months to get adjusted and talk to people and then they get sworn in the following year," said Edwards of why she has formed the committee. "I got sworn in nine days after winning the election. So these are the conversations I would have had in the community, learning from you and your priorities with this first meeting

specifically about housing. The reason why I wanted to start off my representation through listening and learning is because the best ideas that I've ever had are the ones that have come from the people whose real lived experiences depend on creative thinking from their legislators, and active listening."

Edwards then took some suggestions of what sort of legislation committee members would like to see or initiatives the senator could work on.

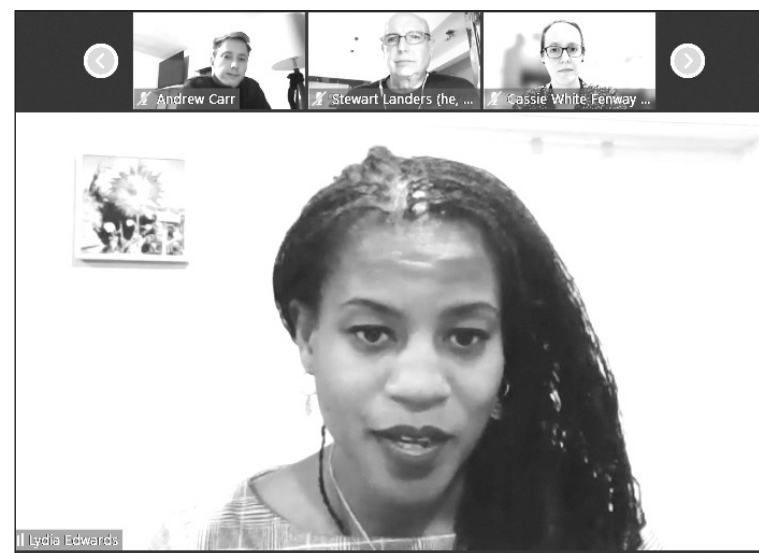
"I'd like to see in the budget some stuff that can help people that are looking to become homeowners," said Steve Roussel. "As we know Suffolk Downs is going to be a huge generational project that's gonna be happening. I like to see more money put towards education and learning the rules of engagement if you're a buyer. I think education is important to the buyers. We should try to teach more about budgeting. Like with any budget, in order for you to become a homeowner, it starts with budgeting. I think that we should be requiring this type of education in high school because having these young adults educat-

ed at an early age could head off a lot of problems they may have in the future."

On other housing issues Edwards said she will push for another shot at getting the Home Act signed into law.

The bill, which was vetoed last time around by Gov. Baker, would remove a person's eviction history from public record after three years.

"I worked on the Homes Act in the Boston City Council and was honored it got sponsored at the State House but was vetoed by the governor," said Edwards. "This bill is about removing that Scarlett Letter from a person's record who has been evicted in the past but has not had an eviction for three years and moved on with their life. I don't know that it should be public and permanent for which they will be judged for the rest of their lives and currently eviction records are public and permanent. I have refilled the Homes Act, which allows for people after three years to seal their eviction records. This is the civil response to our state's CORI reform. Our CORI criminal reform that we did allowed people who had a misdemeanor to seal



Senator Lydia Edwards kicked off her Community Transition Committee meetings last week.

their record after three years and if you have a felony, you can seal your record after seven years. So to me, if you're able to move on from a misdemeanor and felony you should be able to do so if you missed rent during the pandemic, or during the last recession."

Edwards has also co-sponsored the extension for COVID relief.

"In terms of funding and stabilization, the money is still necessary, and a lot of our relief is end-

ing for housing on April 14," she said. "That is a deep concern for me. I think we need to extend it."

Residents can still apply for the committee by emailing [info@lydiaedwards.org](mailto:info@lydiaedwards.org). Residents in the district are asked to send their name, city, and the topics they are interested in discussing with Edwards and she will respond with a series of dates and times to discuss each topic.

# Cross Street developer presents changes to hotel project

By John Lynds

The local developer looking to transform the former site of J. Pace & Sons, Maria's Pastry and Living Luxury on Cross Street into a boutique hotel, presented changes to the project at a Boston Planning and Development Agency hosted community meeting last week.

At the meeting developer William Caulder, who lives in the North End, and Mike Doherty, the project architect, presented the changes to the community.

"So we've listed the major design changes here and we're going to go through them with images that will present those ideas and explain them better," said Doherty. "Just to summarize briefly, the biggest change we've made is to virtually double the size of the pedestrian passageway to Cuttillo Park and virtually double the height of it. So it really makes a significant difference in the welcoming nature of that space."

Doherty said his client has also reduced the hotel room count from 140 to 134 rooms.

"That (reduction) has to do with the expanded passageway," said Doherty. "We also scaled down the building at the corner along Endicott Street. In addition to making the passageway

and the pass through itself larger we've increased the public marker that sort of cues you into where the pass through is located. We reduced the massing at the fifth floor along Endicott Street. We pulled the masonry of the facade down to four stories to engage with the existing building there. We've also pulled the roof deck back along the Endicott Street side, removing it further from the adjacent residential buildings. Lastly, we've enhanced the masonry detailing of the project and the Juliet balcony detailing."

Attorney for the developer, Johanna Snyder said the majority of the community benefits have remained pretty consistent over time.

"We are looking at making a significant investment to upgrade the Cross Street Plaza and Morton Street," said Snyder. "This does include the reconstruction of Morton Street along Cuttillo Park. We're also going to be making a variety of streetscape improvements, planting a bunch of new shade trees and making it more attractive overall. We are going to be adding two new ground floor restaurants and seasonal rooftop dining, which I think will go a long way to revitalizing what is currently an underutilized site.



An architectural drawing of the proposed boutique hotel on Cross Street.

The building is going to have a focus on sustainability and energy efficiency and is going to be LEED Gold certified."

Snyder said the developer also plans to landscape the site in a way that reduces the urban heat island effect.

"As previously discussed, we are making financial contributions to several local community organizations," said Snyder. "I think the biggest change in our community

benefits package since the last time we were out in the community is that we have agreed to make a financial contribution of \$100,000 to the parks department for their improvements of Cuttillo Park. We also have committed to a long term enhanced maintenance program with respect to upkeep of the park. The project will create both short term and long term jobs and will generally clean up the site and improve security in the area."

Aside from the usual concerns over density, design, size and scope a group of over a half dozen North End seniors present at the meeting all spoke in support of the project with one commenting, "What's not to like? Replacing these rotting buildings that are an eyesore with what is really a magnificent palace is wonderful. I'd really rather have my tenants overlooking a brand new park and beautiful building than what's there now."

**IN BRIEF** By Phil Orlandella**FOCCP RECOGNIZES SPONSORS**

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) have sent a grateful message to their fountain condo donors for contributing to the trellis blue lights that brightened the winter evenings to festive events in every season.

These loyal neighbors are doing their part in helping FOCCP make the park a vital, inviting and fun place.

Sponsors: Commercial Wharf, Lewis Wharf, Lincoln Wharf, The Prince Building and Strada 234.

**NEW INTERIM NSC DIRECTOR NAMED**

Julie Power has been named acting Director at the ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NSC).

Julie worked at the NSC first as a case manager and as a coordinator from 2018 to 2020. She has experience in leading teams, developing programs and projects.

**GREENWAY COMMISSION'S NEW MURALIST**

Rob "ProBlak" Gibbs has been commissioned as the 2022 Greenway Muralist at Dewey Square.

"Rob engages with and brings critical conversations of representation, voice and agency to the forefront of Boston's public realm with his exceptional capacity for storytelling through traditional mural is him and contemporary street art," said Audrey Lopez, Director and Curator of Public Art at the Greenway Conservancy.

**NEWRA/NEWNC MEETINGS**

The next North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) monthly meeting will take place on Thursday, March 10 at 7 PM.

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

**LANTERN STORIES ON THE GREENWAY**

Lantern stories by Boston based interdisciplinary artist Yu-Wen

Wu will be reinstalled on The Greenway.

The Conservancy first commissioned the program in 2020, it was well received by the community and residents.

Returning again 2022, the artist and Conservancy envision an installation which can provide a luminous canopy to the many festivals and celebrations to the park each season.

**YEAR OF THE TIGER ON THE GREENWAY**

The Greenway Conservancy and Pao Art Center's commission have announced the 2022 installation of the new public artwork, Year of The Tiger, by New York City Chinatown based artist Cheryl Wing Zi Wong.

Throughout the summer this artwork will be activated through the Associated Year of The Tiger Performance Series as part of a new public art collaboration between the two organizations.

Additionally, the Conservancy announced the return of Boston based artist Yu-Wen Wu's Lantern Stories this season.

The commissioned artwork will celebrate the Year of The Tiger honoring the Chinese Zodiac on The Greenway this May 14.

**NSC RECOGNIZED ARTU RESTAURANT**

The North End Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) has acknowledged Artu Restaurant, 6 Prince Street for its generous support and donations to the Center.

The Frattaroli's provided a small takeout lunch for the core staff for the retirement of NSC Director Maria Stella Gulla.

"We are happy to help you recognize this milestone," the Frattaroli's said.

The meal consisted of, calamari, a spinach and cheese pizza, manicotti, pasta with shrimp and salmon.

**BOSTON URBAN FOREST PLAN VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE SET FOR MARCH 14**

Residents interested in the future of trees in Boston are invited to join the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for a virtual conversation about the progress of the Urban Forest Plan on

Monday, March 14, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. To join the discussion, follow the event link at [boston.gov/urban-forest-plan](http://boston.gov/urban-forest-plan).

Boston's first ever Urban Forest Plan will help prioritize, preserve, and grow the tree canopy throughout Boston for decades to come. In Boston, all residents depend on the many benefits provided by the trees in our urban forest. The issues being addressed include policy, funding, workforce development, design, climate resilience, and more. The goal is to create a strategic plan based on science and defined by the needs and desires of the community to ensure that the urban forest will be better managed both today and in the future.

This project is a part of Healthy Places, a collaboration between the Heat Resilience Study, Urban Forest Plan, and Open Space and Recreation Plan. Healthy Places looks at cooling the city, expanding the urban forest, and improving the park system. For more information on any of these projects, please visit [boston.gov/healthy-places](http://boston.gov/healthy-places).

Interpretation and translation services are available for the March 14 Open House at no cost. Please contact program manager Maggie Owens if you cannot attend this meeting, have any questions or comments, or if you need interpretation services, translated materials, or disability accommodations by emailing [maggie.owens@boston.gov](mailto:maggie.owens@boston.gov) or calling (617) 961-3025 by February 28, 2022.

To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, call (617) 635-4505, visit [Boston.gov/Parks](http://Boston.gov/Parks), join our email list at [bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails](http://bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails), and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

**FONE 50TH ANNUAL REUNION**

FONE 50th annual reunion to be held at the Sons of Italy Hall, Winchester, MA on Saturday, September 17.

At the present time we are expecting a 12:00 Noon to 4 p.m. time slot.

More information will be sent as the date approaches.

We are looking forward to getting together with you all.

Contingent upon being allowed to meet due to Virus restrictions.

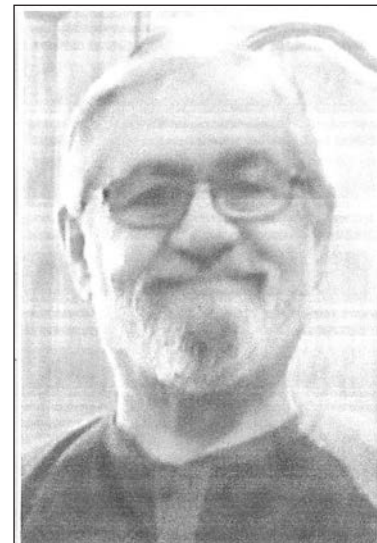
Spread the word to your friends, especially those without email.

**OBITUARIES****Pasquale R. "Patsy" Reppucci**  
Of the North End

Pasquale R. "Patsy" Reppucci, age 81, of Medford passed away on Sunday,

February 20, at Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston. Born and raised in Boston's North End, he was the son of the late Anthony "Brother Ben" and Carolina (Fuccillo) Reppucci. Patsy worked as an Instructor for Boston Edison for 42 years. In his spare time he was active in the Italian American Club, and enjoyed cooking, gardening, and playing Bocce with friends in the North End.

Patsy was the beloved husband of 49 years to Terry (Montalto) Reppucci, and the devoted father of Jennifer Noonan and her husband Keith of Millis, and Andrea Lopez and her husband Daniel of Billerica. He was the loving grandfather of Anthony, Samuel and Matthew Noonan, and Adriana, Sabrina and Sophia Lopez. Patsy was the dear brother of Maria Bova and Norma Jean Reppucci of Boston's North End, and is



also survived by loving nieces and nephews.

Funeral from the Della Russo Funeral Home, 306 Main St., Medford on Tuesday, March 1st, at 11 AM followed by a funeral mass celebrated in St. Francis of Assisi Church, 441 Fellsway West, Medford, at 12 noon. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend. Visiting hours will be held on Monday, February 28, from 4 through 8 p.m. Interment will be private.

**Henry A. "Ricky" Anzilotti**

Retired Clerk of Suffolk County Probate Court



Henry A. "Ricky" Anzilotti passed away at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston on Friday, February 18. He was 85 years old.

Born and raised in Boston's North End, Ricky was the son of the late Michael and Antoinette (Vita) Anzilotti. A long-time resident of Boston's North End, Ricky lived in Revere in recent years. He enjoyed a nearly 45 year career in the Suffolk County Courts as a clerk of the Probate Court.

Ricky was active in his community. He was a fourth degree member of the Ausonia Council 1513 of the Knights of Columbus and he shared in his family's long heritage with the Saint Anthony Society. Ricky was also the former President of the Board of Directors of Casa Maria Apartments in the North End.

The beloved husband of

Elaine F. (Testa) Anzilotti, Ricky was a devoted father to Andrea Dellato and her husband, Daniel of Saugus and Michael Anzilotti of Boston's North End. He was a proud grandfather of Alex Dellato, a dear brother-in-law to Joey and Nancy Testa, Alfred and Terry Federico, Joseph and Joni Lebranti, Bernadette Testa and the late Philip Testa. He also leaves many nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to visit with the family on Thursday, February 24 from 9 to 11 a.m. in St. Leonard Church, Hanover St. Boston's North End with a Funeral Mass celebrated at 11 a.m. Burial will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett.

For those who wish, memorial contributions may be made in Rick's name to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, 89 South Street, Suite LL01, Boston, MA 02111.

# NEMPAC welcomes John Romano Jr. and Andrea Pagliuca to the board

By John Lynds

The North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) announced this week the addition of two new members to the popular music and performing arts center's board of directors.

The North End's John Romano Jr. and Andrea Pagliuca joined the board last week and both expressed their enthusiasm to further the program's mission in the neighborhood.

Romano, who was recently appointed by Mayor Michelle Wu as deputy director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS), grew up in the North End and became active in the community at a young age, volunteering with community organizations like North End Against Drugs, North End Athletic Association, as well as NEMPAC.

"My passion for music and giving back to my community started



*The North End's John Romano Jr. and Andrea Pagliuca joined NEMPAC's Board of Directors.*

from an early age," said Romano. "I am excited to be joining the

board of an organization that celebrates music and provides essential services to the North End and beyond."

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

He previously served as ONS's North End, Waterfront, West End where he worked to connect residents to City services and extensive experience in public service and community engagement.

Pagliuca said she is honored to join the NEMPAC board and give back to the local community, carrying out NEMPAC's mission and values in the North End and beyond.

"This same sense of social responsibility is what led me to spend most of my professional

life in the public sector as both a teacher and lawyer," said Pagliuca.

Pagliuca said she has a strong appreciation for the arts, having studied dance and piano for many years while growing up on the North Shore.

She and her husband, Steve, a third-generation North Ender, first became acquainted with NEMPAC through St. Leonard's Parish and the Artistic Director of NEMPAC's Summer Concert Series, Stefano Marchese.

"NEMPAC board members are true advocates for our mission and work in the local community. John and Andrea are both dedicated and committed residents of the North End, and their leadership reflects our long-standing roots in our special neighborhood which will continue to grow deeper in the coming years," said NEMPAC Executive Director Sherri Snow.

The non-profit organization, founded 20 years ago by

five local mothers, today reaches thousands of audience members and artists of all ages and abilities, enriching the lives of the North End, Charlestown, and surrounding neighborhoods in the City of Boston through accessible, high-quality music education and performing arts programs.

"NEMPAC is proud to ensure that the voices of its local community continue to be represented through their Board of Directors," added Snow.

The NEMPAC Board of Directors is a volunteer board, comprising 11 members of the North End, Charlestown, and surrounding neighborhoods in Boston. This year, the organization celebrates its 20th anniversary on May 4th, 2022 at Big Night Live at TD Garden where special honorees, guests, and community members will help NEMPAC kick off its next 20 years of accessible arts programming!

# City holds budget listening session for Districts 1, 3, and 4

By Lauren Bennett

The City of Boston held a budget listening session for Districts 1, 3 and 4 on Feb. 19 as part of its Budget Listening Tour. Approximately 65 people tuned into the Zoom session to learn about the city's budget process and provide feedback on things they'd like to see in the Fiscal Year 2023 city budget.

Jim Williamson, the city's Budget Director, gave a brief presentation about the budget process and how it works.

He said that the city is "really excited to hear people's thoughts," especially since voters voted to change the role of the City Council in the budgeting process in last November's election and a participatory budgeting model will be created.

Boston's budget has two parts, the operating budget, which gets most of its funding from things like taxes and state aid and pays for general city services, and the capital budget, which receives funding from the operating budget to pay for municipal bonds for longer-term projects.

Williamson explained that the operating budget has two parts: expenses and revenue. The most amount of money is spent on public agencies, then on general government agencies, public safety, fixed costs such as pensions, and

health insurance.

Williamson also said that 73 percent of the FY22 budget came from property taxes. The rest comes from state aid, departmental revenue, excise taxes, and non recurring revenue.

He also explained the budget timeline. FY22 started on July 1 of 2021, and the FY23 budget process began in the winter of 2021 and 2022. On April 13 of this year, Mayor Wu will submit her recommended budget, and in May and June, the City Council will hold hearings related to budget matters. On June 8, the Council will vote on the budget, and on June 15, the Mayor will accept or reject the Council's version. On July 1, FY23 begins.

There are also several charter changes that will affect how the City Council interacts with the budget. Prior to last November's election, the Council was only permitted to "reject, reduce, or pass the budget," but on top of that, they will also be allowed to "amend" individual line items in the budget.

According to a slide presented, "amending the budget means that the Council can reduce certain appropriations and increase others, as long as it stays within the overall total budget submitted by the Mayor."

Additionally, an Office of Participatory Budgeting will be

created by 2024 per the ballot measure.

"This listening tour is an opportunity to hear from you," Williamson said, though he added that the city engages the public all year long to gain insight into what residents would like to see as part of the budget. He said people can reach out to their City Councilors, mayor's liaisons, or call 311 with budget feedback as well.

During the public comment portion, several residents spoke about what they believe money should be allocated towards.

Frank O'Brien of the East Boston Climate Coalition said that "we're recommending that the city identify a meaningful public process from the Feb.-April time period for measures in East Boston." He said that East Boston and a few others "have very significant climate risk," and that the Coalition "recommend that all stakeholders be fully involved."

In the chat, he said that he'd like to see in the "final capital budget line items for priority flood risk pathways for East Boston, with a focus on natural systems."

Phil Giffie of Neighborhood of Affordable Housing in East Boston wrote: "May I agree with Frank that East Boston, as a vulnerable, environmental justice community, needs significant capital investments in green/gray infrastructure. If we fail to address this neces-

sity, small businesses, long-time as well as diverse new residents, public properties such as the tunnels/T, public schools will suffer losses which no insurance policies will ever cover. DPA's need to be amended soon. Collaboration with private owners in order to create more affordable housing and climate protections are essential."

A question was also asked about all Boston communities being given an equitable voice in the process. City Councilor Lydia Edwards said that as Williamson mentioned, "this process is already in response to that," she said. She also spoke of a "democratic process for participating" in the budget process, adding that "those words need to be defined" and will be by the Office of Participatory Budgeting once it is created.

Several residents spoke on behalf of allocating money towards Crane's Ledge Woods in Roslindale, and several also asked for more funding for parks.

Kathy Elliott said that more discussion should be had about "where the budget can be cut" rather than where it can be added to. "We have so many competing needs," she said. "Let's look where we can cut some waste....We have a lot of wealthy institutions in Boston who do not pay their fair share of taxes."

Orient Heights resident Cindy

Baxter spoke about climate resilience in East Boston, specifically about TREE Eastie and planting more street trees in the neighborhood. She said that with "extra staffing," she hopes that these plantings can continue.

She also said that more "liaison support" from the Mayor's Office would be beneficial to the neighborhood. She said that East Boston is a "neighborhood of 40,000-plus people" and "could really use that personal touch" of more representatives.

Lastly, Baxter said that "feet on the street is really important from a police perspective," adding that she is "seeing the positive perception from even the police ice cream trucks."

Two more listening sessions remain as part of this tour: Wed., Feb. 23 from 6-7pm for Districts 2, 7, and 9, and Fri., Feb. 25 from 10-11am with At-Large Councilors.

The city has also put out a survey as another way for residents to provide feedback during the budget process, which can be found at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdaPIAK-b8UYgwdLkEUmjTnUM6dLrhIr8dVIs2AN-bEqFKCmYg/viewform>.