

# POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

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## IN REMEMBRANCE



SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

### City Council Hearing on North End Nursing Home

All are Invited to Attend September 13<sup>th</sup>

The public hearing we have all been waiting for is coming up **Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**, thanks to City Councillor Sai LaMattina. The hearing has been arranged specifically to have the BRA come and explain the Land Disposition Agreement (LDA) on the North End Nursing Home to the City Council, and will take place in **City Hall at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor**. This is a public hearing and all are welcome and encouraged to attend. You do not have to be a resident of the North End; this issue affects the surrounding communities as well. (The nearest nursing homes after the North End Nursing Home are just over 4 miles away in Chelsea and about 6 miles away in Medford ... not walkable, and the public transportation options aren't great, either.)

The more people that show up the better. We have almost 2000 signatures on our petition, but feet on the ground and faces in the room make the strongest impression. And VOICES. This is an opportunity for your voice to be heard. One statement that has been made repeatedly by Partners is that there is no demand for this nursing home. They cite the number of beds now occupied. But they fail to mention that they have been turning down people for awhile now. Some have also suggested that the facility be changed to an Assisted Living Home instead of

a Nursing Home providing long term care. But many of us feel we need both services (as well as the rehabilitation services currently offered in the nursing home) and want to be sure some part of whatever becomes of this facility still serves the needs of community members requiring long term nursing care and/or rehabilitation. If you agree, we encourage you to come and tell the Council why our North End Nursing Home is still needed. Put faces on the folks who may need this facility in the near future. Your elderly parents, aunts and uncles who have lived here all their lives. Maybe you or your spouse, your siblings, your cousins. Not to mention that any of us, at any time, at any age, can be felled by a stroke or accident requiring long term care.

The format of this meeting is that Councillors will ask questions of the invited panelists. When they are finished, the Committee Chair will open up the floor to public testimony. **If you wish to speak, it is suggested that you come 15 minutes early and sign in on the sheet at the entrance. Speakers will be called up in order of sign-in.** This is the first chance we have had to speak up in person as a community since the NEWNC meeting at the Nazzaro Center on June 13th. It's been three months now. Let's try and get some movement on this issue!

### Giovanni DeCunto Nationally Acclaimed Expressionist Artist Receives the Key to the City of Lawrence



Ray DiFiore (former president of the St. Alfio Society), Tom Zappala, Giovanni DeCunto, Mayor Dan Rivera of Lawrence, and Armand Hyatt of Lawrence Community Works.

(Photos by Rosario Scabin, Ross Photography)

Nationally acclaimed artist Giovanni DeCunto was presented with the key to city of Lawrence by the honorable Daniel Rivera, Mayor of Lawrence, on Friday evening September 2, 2016. The ceremony was held at the main bandstand of the Feast of The Three Saints.

Only the fifth person to receive the key to the city, DeCunto grew up in Lawrence, and studied at Mass College of Art and the University of Padua in Italy, where he began to paint with his hands rather than brushes, creating his own unique signature style. Considered the foremost Expressionist artist in the country, DeCunto has been commissioned to paint for celebrities, politicians, private collectors, and institutions all over the world. His paintings hang in the White House, the Smithsonian Institute, the Fogg Museum, the George Bush Library and the Museum of Fine Arts.

The only other recipients of this award are famed composer Leonard Bernstein, poet Robert Frost, entertainer Sully Erna of the band Godsmack, and former DPW Director Raymond DiFiore, who were all born in Lawrence.

The program was opened by Armand Hyatt, General Counsel for Lawrence Community Works. He stated that the example Giovanni DeCunto is setting should be an inspiration

to the people of Lawrence to make the city great again.

Mayor Rivera, who also grew up in the city, expressed his gratitude to Giovanni for taking an interest in his roots. Mayor Rivera compared his own upbringing with that of DeCunto's as two kids who grew up with nothing, yet had a passion to better themselves and to make a difference.

After receiving the award, Giovanni DeCunto thanked the mayor and remarked, "When I was young, my father took me in front of city hall one day

and pointed to the bronze eagle sitting on top of the roof. He told me, 'Someday you are going to make that eagle fly.' Today, I hope I did that."

Currently a spokesperson for Lawrence-based New Balance, DeCunto is exploring ways to have a presence in Lawrence in addition to his new studio and gallery on Lewis Wharf in Boston. He plans to present a painting to the City of Lawrence as a token of his appreciation later this year.

To view Giovanni's work, go to: [www.giovannidecunto.com](http://www.giovannidecunto.com)



Opening Ceremony of St. Alfio Festival

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343 CHELSEA ST., DAV SQUARE, EAST BOSTON**

This office is open on Tuesdays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Thursdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, for the convenience of our East Boston and North Shore clients and contributors - Call 617-227-8929 for more information

**SAVE OUR NORTH END NURSING HOME**