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Five things that will shape Brockton in 2010

Photos



Marc Vasconcellos/The Enterprise

Family members congratulate Linda Balzotti at her post-election party.

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The Enterprise

Posted Jan 02, 2010 @ 11:46 PM

Last update Jan 02, 2010 @ 11:51 PM

1 New mayor: Longtime city councilor Linda Balzotti takes the reins of the city in January after beating two-term incumbent James Harrington. Balzotti has pledged to bring innovation and a new style of openness to the mayor's office, but many will be watching to see if her actions differ from Harrington's.

2 Rocky statue: The long-awaited statue to honor city boxing legend Rocky Marciano will be unveiled in May. The 24-foot bronze statue will be erected at Brockton High School, where it will overlook Rocky Marciano Stadium. Originally destined for Boston, a letter campaign run by The Enterprise rallied city residents and convinced the World Boxing Council to put the statue in Brockton.

3 Power plant: The battle over the proposed 350-megawatt, fossil-fuel-burning plant continues. The fight may come to a head in 2010 when company Advanced Power seeks to buy water from the city for cooling. The sale of large amounts of water requires a go-ahead from the City Council, but 10 of 11 councilors are staunch opponents of the plant, which they say would overburden Brockton with pollution and resulting health impacts.

4 Schools shakeup: New Superintendent Matthew Malone not only has plans for the Brockton schools, he has no qualms about implementing them. His recent move putting school police under city police supervision after a shooting at Brockton High may have just been the beginning. Malone will present his full recommendation on school changes to the School Committee in January.

5 Urban farm: A project to create a one-acre vegetable farm on the roof of a vacant building on Oak Street promises both economic development and a big step forward in "green" innovation. Needham company Sky Vegetables is now seeking financing for the project and expects to start construction in 2010.



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