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Everett Independent Newspaper Co.

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Hanlon throws short-term rental future into "limbo"

By Laura Plummer

At the meeting of City Council on Monday, Dec. 9, Councilor John Hanlon dismantled the progress on short-term rental legislation in the City of Everett - something the administration has been working to fine-tune for the last several months.

In preparation for a final vote on Dec. 23, Councilors were asked to enroll a new section regarding short-term rentals to the City's Zoning Ordinance. The enrollment required a two-thirds majority in order to pass, and failed to do so when Councilor Hanlon voted against it. His vote was critical, given the fact that three other councilors were absent.

There was a marked pause in the voting after the councilor voiced his opposition. City Clerk Sergio Cornelio, whose office has been one of the offices that worked tirelessly to draft comprehensive short-term rental legislation, was visibly flustered.

Councilor Rosa DiFlorio tried to get Councilor Hanlon to reconsider his position and he responded inaudibly.

Following the vote, Cornelio announced that the measure had not passed, effectively rendering the existing short-term rental

legislation null and void. "My office, along with [the City Solicitor's Office] and James Soper (CBO of

TREE-LIGHTING IN EVERETT SQUARE



night out in Everett last Friday, Dec. 6, during the annual tree-lighting in Everett Square. The colorful tree was lit in memory of late Officer Glenn Briley and came from Chelmsford. Children played with the fresh snow in front of the tree afterward. See Page 6 for more photos.

New Owner

Boston developer purchases the Boston Market Terminal for \$28.5 million

By Seth Daniel

The Boston Market Terminal in the Commercial Triangle industrial zone has sold to a national developer based in Boston for more than \$28 million.

The large property of more than 17 acres abutting the New England Produce Center is located on Market Street just on the City Line between Everett and Chelsea, and the new developer intends to build a brand-new \$100-million distribution center there for the changing needs of distribution in the economy.

The City has been involved with the ownership of Terminal - which is a regional hub for food supplies like fruits, potatoes, onions and herbs - regarding flooding issues for many years, to no avail. Now, a whole new ballgame has unfolded with The Davis Companies purchasing the terminal for \$28.5 million on Nov. 25, according to property sale records for Middlesex County.

See MARKET Page 3

Long-standing culvert flooding issue to be a thing of the past

By Seth Daniel

For decades, the flooding from the culvert that handles the old Island End River from the Parkway through the Produce Terminal has elicited hundreds of Council conversations, resulted in near litigation many times and caused horrendous floods in the area that are very costly for the City to repair.

It seemed for most of the past 20 years that the issue

would never be solved. Now, it appears the prob-

lem is over.

With the purchase of the Boston Market Terminal by The Davis Companies of Boston late last month has come an extraordinary partnership between Davis, the City of Everett and the City of Chelsea to finally fix the culvert issue.

"They are already working with us and our state and federal partners to repair the Market Street culvert and daylight as much of the Island End stream as possible," said Mayor

See FLOODING Page 2

A Capacity Crowd

Mayor and Stacy DeMaria's Mingle and Jingle event at Encore

By Cary Shuman

Mayor Carlo DeMaria and Stacy DeMaria hosted a Mingle and Jingle holiday reception Thursday night at Memoire inside Encore Boston Harbor.

The crowd was immense. The food was delicious. The atmosphere was festive.

The well-attended event again affirmed the wide



Mayor Carlo DeMaria and the First Lady of Everett, Stacy DeMaria.

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popularity of the mayor as he and his wife, Stacy, personally welcomed guests at the door to the gleaming, state-of-the-art nightclub, many requesting photos with the Chief Executive and First Lady of Everett.

It was fitting that May-

or DeMaria chose Encore for the venue as it was his incredible vision for the former Monsanto site that resulted in a \$2.6 billion resort/casino being built in the city, 5,000 jobs, and millions of dollars for the

city treasury for years to

DeMaria delivered his remarks from the vantage point of the DJ's booth that overlooks the the dance

See DeMaria Page 8

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



Santa Claus welcomed Isabella Machado to the stage at the Keverian School on Saturday, Dec. 7, for the annual Breakfast with Santa and Elsa (Frozen II). See Page 7 for



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Congratulations Marge!

We'd like to thank Marge White for her 51 years of hard work and dedication to the bank, from Teller to President, and wish her well in her retirement. Her impact on the bank and the Everett community at large will be felt for years to come. While she'll still be involved as a member of our Board of Directors, Everett Bank won't be the same without her. We'll miss you, Marge!





The 600 receives favorable action from the Planning Board

Board favorable to all variances except parking variances

By Seth Daniel

The 85-unit mixed use apartment building and restaurant proposed for the top of the hill on Broadway has passed through the Planning Board unanimously, with the only sticking point on a recommendation for the parking

The Planning Board met on Monday night, Dec. 9, to discuss The 600 once again and the recommendations that would be forwarded to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) if approved. The Board had met on the proposal before, which has been brought by Volnay Capital and John Tocco formerly of Encore Boston Harbor.

The project has had a good deal of support, but there has been some concerns about the size of the building - but most concerns come around parking. There are 37 spaces for the building, and some on the Board feel that isn't enough.

The Board voted on that variance, and it lost by a close 3-2 vote.

There has been a split on the Planning Board and ZBA for more than a year whereas some on the Boards feel that more parking needs to be provided in projects brought to the City. Meanwhile, another train of thought – one which Mayor Carlo DeMaria agrees with - is that buildings such as The 600 should have less parking and be marketed to people who do not want to

Tocco said they are in agreement, noting that they don't believe their residents



A new rendering of the proposed roof deck on the top of The 600 - an 85-unit development at the crest of the Broadway hill. The development unanimously passed the Planning Board on Monday, with one sticking point being a variance for parking.

will own cars. They also believe that the proposed restaurant - to be operated by The Square Deli owners - would not need any additional parking than that which is on the street and on site.

"There are 37 spaces on site and our traffic studies have shown that it is adequate parking," he said. "The market we're looking at is not for someone like me that has a car...The parking analysis showed there are more than 50 spaces available within walking distance for the restaurant just on Broadway."

He also said there is a municipal lot 1,000 feet from the project on Lexington Street, and also some parking available after 4 p.m. in the Parlin School

That market comes in the form of young professionals - many like Mike Dobbins who are working at Encore and want an affordable place near the resort to live. Others are empty-nesters looking to downsize form a house and owning a car.

Tocco said they agreed Monday, Dec. 16.

to unbundle the parking fee from the rent, meaning that a parking fee isn't lumped in with rent payments. They will also have indoor bike storage, a Blue Bike Station and are looking at Zip Car. They have also committed to excluding residents from the City's residential parking sticker

City Planner Tony Sousa said he believes it's a project that could be the first to really benefit from the transportation improvements made over the last three years.

"I think it is a project that will be able to capitalize on all the work we've done on Bus Rapid Transit, shuttles and Blue Bikes," he said.

The parking study, done by Vanasse & Associates, showed there is adequate parking for the development, with a strong program to divert residents away from cars, and for the restaurant. It was estimated that 30 percent of the trips to the restaurant would not be by automobile.

The project will move to the ZBA for a hearing on

Rental // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Inspectional Services Department), has worked probably 25 hours on these ordinances. We've worked the whole year to amend this," he told Council. "I don't know what we're going to do with regards to short-term rentals. They'll be in limbo going forward. We will have people operating illegally."

Short-term rentals in Everett have been a major topic of conversation in recent months, with residents calling for City leadership to adopt stricter guidelines for operators. Council passed measures requiring owners to live at the property yearround and become licensed with the City. However, the failure to update the Zoning Ordinance may mean that there is no legal basis for enforcing these rules.

In conversations with The Independent, Council members expressed disappointment with Councilor Hanlon's decision.

"I can't believe this just

happened. I'm in a state of shock," said Councilor DiFlorio, who originally introduced the need for short-term rental legislation earlier this year. "Nobody should be voting against that. We've been working on it for a year."

The councilwoman said that the ordinances may not have been perfect, but they were better than having none at all and could have been amended in the future.

"I have great respect for Councilor Hanlon, but I am disappointed to see that a piece of such importance to Everett failed to pass," said Councilor Michael McLaughlin. "This is one matter that can truly protect the residents of Everett."

Councilor Anthony DiPierro said he "wasn't really sure what to think" about the councilor's decision.

"It's an ordinance we've worked hard on for a long time," he said. "I'm not sure what his reasoning was for voting that way."

Cornelio told The Independent that he was working with the City Solicitor's Office to salvage the ordinances already in place. He is scrambling to call an emergency meeting of Council to enroll the measure before a final vote at the Dec. 23 meeting.

Failing to pass the shortterm rental legislation by the end of the year would mean having to reintroduce it in 2020 with the new Council. It would then have to pass through several stages, which Cornelio said would take two months at the very least, and more likely three to four months.

There was some speculation that Councilor Hanlon, who had historically supported the legislation, may not have fully comprehended what he was voting on at the time and may be reconsidering his position.

The councilor did not return a call from The Independent regarding his decision.

Flooding // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Carlo DeMaria this week. "For the past 100 years Island End stream has been channelized and buried underground in a collapsing culvert. By replacing a portion of the existing culvert with a larger box culvert and daylighting the rest of the stream we will restore the waterway and ensure that the commercial area continues to thrive. This will also address flash flooding concerns, reduce polluted runoff, and improving the livability of this area of the city that has long been forgotten."

Jonathan Davis, president of The Davis Companies, said the former owners have been very helpful in letting The Davis Companies begin discussions with both cities about solving the flooding while in

the process of purchasing it. "We are especially thankful to City Manager Tom Ambrosino and Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria for coming together and teaming up to find a public-private solution here," he said. "We're going to invest significant money in improving the situation on our property and they will work to advance the design for a corridor-wide solution that will address not only the drainage system, but also the resiliency. It's a great example of two municipalities and a private party coming together and working collaboratively to address a problem that has been outstanding for decades."

Chelsea City Manag-

er Tom Ambrosino said it would be a benefit to Chelsea even though most of the property is in Everett. He said Chelsea diverted their drainage from the culvert in a very expensive project three years ago, but the overall flooding issues still affect Chelsea and the culvert does continue to run under Market and Beacham

"The economic benefit of the transfer relate to Everett only, but the benefit to Chelsea is the transfer is going to allow for the fix of the drainage in the area of the Boston Market Terminal and the agreement we have is there will be a \$4 million set aside on a greater fix of the flooding in the area," he said. "The sale will benefit Chelsea in that respect."

Everett City Engineer Greg St. Louis said the culvert has been a thorn in the side of both cities for many years. It's a problem that has had no clear solution because the former owners of the Terminal didn't believe they were responsible for repairing the collapsed portions, and so a backand-forth dominated the situation with no solution. In that time, flooding was made worse in areas like the Parkway and on Spring Street – as well as on Vale Street and others in Chel-

"This is a great example of using a public-private partnership to solve a critical infrastructure failing that is essentially a century's old problem," he said.

Previously, the area was simply tidal mudflats, and the mouth of the Island End River meandered through the land to the Mystic River. However, as property in central Boston began to become more valuable in the 1960s, the produce and food supply businesses were relocated with an act of the State Legislature to the New England Produce Center area on filled land at the Everett/Chelsea line. Within that process, the Island End was straightened out, and then later buried. However the culvert they used was made of corrugated metal, and the water is

brackish saltwater. Those two things don't

So, over the years the metal corroded and the culvert collapsed in various places, including under the Terminal. Already, Everett has spent money to "daylight" the stream up to the Terminal property, and plan to do more with state grants as well. Now, he said, the plan is that Davis will daylight the stream on about half of their property, and fix the culvert on the other half. Davis will also install a large box culvert under their driveway, and Everett and Chelsea will combine to install a large box culvert

The culvert and its drainage networks handle the outflow from nearly onethird of Everett – stretching all the way up to Everett Square in some cases.

under Market Street.

Major construction milestone completed in Eversource Transmission Project

Staff Report

Twenty-feet below the Mystic River in Everett sits a 550-foot-long pipe Ever source recently installed that will eventually house a new 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. power line will not only enhance reliability for the overall electric system, but also will address the growing need for electricity in the region as identified by ISO-NE, New England's power grid manager.

"As New England's businesses and population grow, and the demand for electricity changes, we're working proactively with state and town officials to ensure that our electric system keeps pace with our customers' evolving needs," said Eversource Vice President of Project Management Stephen Sulli-

AllofUs



Workers installing the pipe under the Mystic River last month. The pipe will house a new electric transmission line that connects the Woburn and Everett Mystic Substations. Construction on the project began in 2017 and will wrap up by the end of 2020.

van. "This project is one of many we are currently constructing that maintain and upgrade the transmission system to provide clean energy for every moment of our customers' lives."

The new 115-kV under-

ground transmission line will connect the energy company's Mystic Substation in Everett and the Woburn Substation. The line will extend approximately eight miles between the two substations and will pass through Everett, Charlestown, Somerville, Medford, Winchester, and Woburn. The reliability upgrade will improve the supply of electric demand to customers, harden the power grid to withstand extreme weather events, and handle a sudden disturbance or unexpected loss of power.

In addition to reliability benefits, this project will enable greater access to newer, more efficient, and cleaner generating plants, like offshore wind and solar, which will decrease air emissions by reducing the operation of less-efficient power plants. Transmission infrastructure projects like the Mystic-Woburn Line also help communities by providing them with additional tax revenues. As always, Eversource and its contractors work closely

fic disruptions wherever

work is being done.

Encore withdraws zoning proposal for snow farm on Lower Broadway

By Seth Daniel

Encore Boston Harbor has withdrawn a proposal to create a snow storage farm at several lots on the opposite side of the resort.

Wynn Design and Development had filed with the City to combined 20 different properties they own on Lower Broadway into a single lot. The use of the lot was defined as an area to handle and store snow coming from the grounds of the resort. It would have also required the use of heavy construction equipment.

Under the current zon-

ing, the use of snow storage isn't allowed in the Lower Broadway district, and would have required a change of use at the Zoning Board.

Already, the matter had been scheduled for a hearing at the Dec. 16 Zoning Board meeting.

However, a spokesperson for Encore Boston Harbor said they were withdrawing the proposal due to costs.

"We were planning to build a snow handling and storage yard," said Spokesperson Rosie Salisbury. "However, after the cost and schedule evaluation, it has since been canceled. We have officially withdrawn the permit application from the City. There will be nothing happening for those lots.'

BRIEFS

The 'E' Club of Everett announces its annual meeting

all current members of the

Executive Director of the "E" Club of Everett, Vincent J. Ragucci Jr., invites

organization to the annual meeting at 6 p.m. on Jan. 3,

tential new members to join the club prior to the meeting in order to participate. New members may join the club or get further information about The "E" Club by contacting Treasurer, James Agnetta, at 617-331-0957.

in the Zion Baptist Church, 757 Broadway. The "E" Club urges po-

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Market // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

City assessments of the property are around \$9.1 million for property tax pur-

Jonathan Davis, president of The Davis Companies, said the location is very strategic and they hope to rebuild a new distribution center on the 17.8-acre property.

"We're exploring building a high-quality distribution center," he said. "We're going to demolish the old buildings there, but we are now in talks with the existing tenants for one-year extensions on their leases... We are in the early planning stages for a new state-of-the art distribution facility of at least 250,000 sq. ft. and it might be even larger...We anticipate at a minimum of 160 new permanent jobs and hundreds of construction jobs. The project is going to be a \$75 million to \$100

Davis said the project will include a vigorous public-private solution to the flooding issues on the culvert that runs under the Terminal – something that has plagued the property and the area for years (see accompanying story). That fix is expected to get underway in the next few months.

million project or more."

He also said the location is very strategic for distribution facilities of products of all kinds. He said there isn't much property like this available in the Greater Boston area. He noted the facility is three miles from Logan Airport and downtown Boston, as well as one mile from I-93.

"The location is just a very strategic location for distribution," Davis said.

"As Boston changes, there are fewer and fewer places where we can distribute the products that our businesses and our residents need...The two forces of e-commerce changing the way things are distributed, and the force of population growth in Boston, Chelsea and Everett, are changing the dynamics of a neighborhood like this. This Distribution Center is really a prime spot for lastmile distribution. The fact is there are very few opportunities for developing first-

class distribution..." Mayor Carlo DeMaria said he welcomed The Davis Companies to Everett, especially with their ambitious plan to redevelop the facility and fix the culvert

"I welcome The Davis Companies' purchase of the Boston Market Terminal and thank them for their investment here," he said.

Everett Planning Director Tony Sousa said the Terminal is in the traditional Industrial Zone, but abuts the Commercial Triangle area - which has just has a set of ambitious zoning regulations approved over the last year. He said they will have to go through Site Plan Review and traffic mitigation on the project, but that the City is seeing the move as a positive in the initial phases.

Everett and it's going to benefit Chelsea," he said. "Obviously, with the improvements done to the culvert, it's going to give everyone more security in the Commercial Triangle for redevelopment there...One thing we hear about a lot is

that we need to end or miti-

"It's going to benefit

gate flooding there. That is going to be done. It will be a tremendous enhancement we haven't had in years."

Tax revenues, he said, would also be substantially higher than they are now. With around \$100 million in new investment, revenues will eventually climb to what is believed to be more than \$800,000 per year.

Davis said they aren't certain what kind of distribution would be there.

It could be fruit, like now, or it could be something demanded by the new economy. When mentioning "last mile" distribution, most turn to the idea of Amazon or some service like it. Already Amazon occupies a portion of the Produce Market area on Beacham Street in Everett, but Davis said he had no preconceived ideas about tenants.

'The market is kind of going to dictate what tenants we attract," he said. "It's an interesting question. We will certainly talk to produce merchants. That has been a produce distribution facility since they moved from Haymarket 50 or 60 years ago, but we're going to be talking to a variety of uses to see what the demand is."

The Davis Companies has done a lot of commercial and industrial development around the country, though not that much in Boston where at the moment they have been building high-end housing and working on innovation uses in the Seaport District of Boston.

Davis said they plan to file their project with the City for review in the sum-



Over \$10,000 was raised by Malden Catholic's Make-A-Wish Club for Camron and his

Malden Catholic grants a wish for local child

Camron, 16, is an energetic teenager who enjoys going out to eat and spending time with his family. He finds comfort during their time together, which helps him cope with the challenges attributed to a life-threatening neuromuscular disorder. Dreams of thrilling rollercoaster rides, sunny skies and new adventures at the Walt Disney World Resort kept him upbeat during his challenging treatments. Malden Catholic worked tirelessly over a full year to make Camron's wish a reality.

In November 2019, Malden Catholic's Make-A-Wish Club and Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island were proud to present a check to Camron for \$10,270 that sent Camron and his family to Walt Disney World Resort where he enjoyed riding the monorail, eating ice cream whenever he wanted and watching the Magic Kingdom fireworks.

For over a year, MC Students, parents and alumni and the greater community came together and raised money by selling decorated stars and placing them on walls across the school to inspire and motivate students along with a host of creative fundraising activities. "This served as a reminder that with a community working together, we could provide renewed hope and uplifting joy when it is needed most,' stated Lisa Cenca, Malden Catholic Girls Division Principal and program lead. Malden Catholic's

Headmaster, John Thornburg, Principals Lisa Cenca and Bro. Thomas Puccio, Chief of Staff, Sean Hurley, Athletic Director Bill Raycraft along with the club student leaders, teachers and parents presented a check for over \$10,000 to Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island representatives, Hillary Muntz and Joanne Spillane. Muntz commented, "With your partnership, we were able to create moments that allowed Camron and other wish children to shift their focus from hospital visits and waiting rooms to

smiles and laughter," Thornburg added, "At Malden Catholic, we pride ourselves in developing the whole student and this includes a strong charitable contribution program. Over their four years, students provide over 180 hours of service and learn so much by giving back to the com-

munity." The Malden Catholic's Make-A-Wish Club also recently announced its fundraising plans to fulfill another wish through a second donation of \$10,000 at the end of 2020.

Established in 1932, Malden Catholic offers a unique Codivisional model among Catholic schools in the greater Boston area. Codivisional education is an educational model that offers children the best of both worlds, rigorous single-gender academics during the day and integrated social and extracurricular opportunities after school. As a Xaverian-inspired educational institution, Malden Catholic boasts a proud history of academic excellence and leadership. It has graduated a Nobel Laureate, a U.S. Senator, business leaders. and students who have gone on to attend Harvard, Cornell, Columbia, the University of Chicago and Georgetown in recent years. Foundational to student success is Malden Catholic's rigorous academics, including award-winning STEM program featuring electives such as Robotics, Engineering and Design and the SFX Scholars Pro-



The 17.8 acre plot of land that comprises the Boston Market Terminal has been sold to The Davis Companies for \$28.5 million. The company said they plan to re-develop the site into a new distribution facility, while at the same time helping to solve the long-standing flooding issues associated with the culvert that runs under their property.

Mystic Valley Elder Services offers tips on enjoying healthy holiday eating without regret

The holidays are a time to enjoy friends, family and food! And with them right around the corner, you will be barraged with lots of your favorite foods. However, how are you going to enjoy the holidays and not regret eating too much and gaining weight? Mystic Valley Elder Services Registered Dietitian Candace Quigley offers some tips on how you can still enjoy eating your favorite foods without regret.

· Weeks before the holiday arrives, be sure to get some exercise and eat healthy. As the season gets into full swing, not only will you be celebrating on that holiday but also you will most likely be attending holiday parties. Unfortunately, holiday celebrations tend to be all about food. On average, Americans gain approximately 1-2 pounds around the holidays and it tends to stick and accumulate over the years.

• No skipping breakfast. High fiber foods will satisfy hunger.

• Do not arrive at your party famished because you will be more likely to eat too much. If dinner is going to be late, then have a healthy snack before you go out. • Most people will con-

sume several handfuls of chips and dip, nuts, puffs, and other appetizers. Choose only one favorite item and do not graze all day until the meal

starts. Do not hang around the food table; Focus on people, not the food. • Enjoy your favorite beverage and then switch to water

or a non-calorie drink. Try to

stay away from punches, eggnog and mixed drinks. Try flavored sparkling water.

• When dinner is served. there are usually many choices. Choose those items that you only have on the holiday or are special to you. You could start by putting vegetables on your plate before you put the entrée on it. Survey the entire table before you take any food. Decide which foods are worth eating and which you can ignore and stick to that decision.

• Eat slowly and savor every bite; it takes 20 minutes before your stomach registers that you are full.

• You don't have to be a member of the clean plate club. You can leave some bites behind.

• If you plan on having seconds, wait at least 20 minutes. Even though many of the foods are healthy, they all have calories and should be enjoyed in moderation.

· Go ahead and have dessert! Just keep it a reasonable portion and eat slowly. Again, pick an item that is your favorite that you only have during the holidays.

• Say NO to food pushers. Smile and say, "Thanks for making that delicious dessert, but I am full right now. Can I take some home for later?"

• Get some physical activity—before, during or after the celebrations. Go for a walk before you leave to go to the party or maybe you will have time after dinner. Still watch your football game but get up between quarters and during ads to mobilize yourself.

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Lighthouse Church. For more info and tickets, call (617) 387-7458

Mayor designates December 'Fine-Free' month

Mayor Carlo DeMaria is happy to announce that the City of Everett is partnering with Everett Public Libraries to waive all fees for the month of December.

Mayor DeMaria stated, "We want residents of all ages to use and enjoy the library. We all are forgetful sometimes, but that's ok. I hope people will take advantage of this rare opportunity to clear their accounts and return to the

library."

Residents are encouraged to bring in items they have checked out but were unable to return on time. The library will eliminate all fines for that item. We are asking patrons to bring in those long overdue books, CDs, DVDs and other item, even if they have been overdue for months, weeks or years. There are some exceptions. Fees for damaged or lost items will

not be waived. The goal of this amnesty month is to both get overdue materials back into the Library and to foster community good-

Mark your calendars you will not want to miss this opportunity to clear your accounts.

In addition, if this month produces a strong turnout, the mayor may elect to declare another fine-free month in the future.





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f Facebook.com/EastBostonSavingsBank

Everett Independent

President: Stephen Quigley

Editor in Chief: Cary Shuman

REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE THIS **HOLIDAY SEASON**

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." --Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities.

With Christmas just two weeks away, most of us will be rushing about -- either to the stores and malls or on-line --to do our last-minute holiday shopping in hopes of finding that "perfect" gift for our family members and loved ones.

to be thankful for because of a strong economy and a record-low unemployment rate, there are many of our fellow citizens who have not shared in the general prosperity. Statistics tell us that millions of Americans of all ages,

including those in our own communities, are struggling financially, often through no fault of their own, thanks to a combination of low-wage jobs and a strong real estate market that ironically has made apartments (let along buying a home) unaffordable.

Far too many of our fellow citizens, including children, live either in shelters or in similar temporary housing arrangements -- or on the streets -- because the reality of our economy has left them out in the cold -- literally -- thanks to high rents and soaring land values.

This dichotomy is most evident and acute in the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco, Despite the vast wealth in those metropolitan areas, thousands of homeless persons, including many who have full-time jobs, are living in tent and cardboard "neighborhoods" on city sidewalks.

The homeless always have been among us, but the scope and depth of the problem is far beyond anything that has been experienced in our lifetime. The vast discrepancy between the enormous wealth enjoyed by some Americans and the abject poverty being endured by others is similar to what we read about in major urban centers in South America and India -- but it now is happening right here in the U.S.A.

For these millions of Americans, the holiday season brings no joy. Indeed, the announcement by the Trump administration last week that there will be a cutback in the Food Stamps program (known as SNAP) that threatens to leave millions of Americans (including many children) hungry is a real-life Grinch story, but without a happy end-

Psychologists tell us that the Biblical directive, that we should give to those who are less fortunate, actually is the best gift that we can give to ourselves. Giving to others activates regions of the brain associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust, creating the so-called "warm glow"

Whether it be donations to local food banks and toy programs, or even as simple as dropping a few dollars in the buckets of the Salvation Army Santas, there are multiple opportunities in the next two weeks for each and every one of us to make the holidays brighter for those who are less

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Everett Independent encourages residents to submit birth and engagement announcements, news releases, business briefs, honor rolls, social news, sports stories, and photographs for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway. Citizens Bank Building, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. The Independent also encourages readers to e-mail news releases to editor@everettindependent.com.

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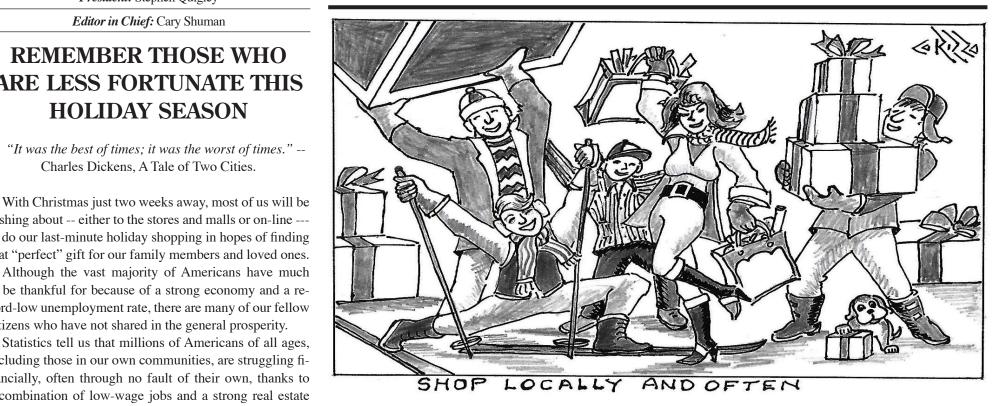
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Independent Forum



GUEST OP-ED

Who makes Christmas?

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

As we approach Christmas day let's take a moment to salute the grand women of Christmas.

My wife knocks herself out preparing for events like Thanksgiving Christmas. She started preparing the Thanksgiving meal two weeks in advance and for sure we had a feast. For some time now she has been in charge of locating the right Christmas gift for children and grandchildren and most anyone else. She also wraps the gifts and has the wheels turning for our Christmas meal. Let me stop everything here and interject that I have presented myself front and center many times for helping wrap gifts and even preparing the meal. However, my wrapping and cooking do not "meet up to muster," as we used to say in the coun-

My mom worked hard cooking and wrapping and decorating the Christmas

tree. The mother of my two sons loved Christmas and always knocked herself out cooking, shopping and wrapping. I remember my grandmother Hinkle slaving over a stove and my hat is off to my two sisters and deceased mother's in law who did so much to make Christmas meaningful for family and friends. Trust me here I don't want to leave anyone out.

Hear me I am not slighting the men of Christmas. My dad, Joseph and Jesus all count big time. Many men cook, wrap gifts and shop. I've done all of that. For 12 years my now deceased first wife could do nothing because of multiple sclerosis. Whatever was done was on me. Looking back I know I was sorely lacking when it came to pulling it altogether. I simply had to do the best I could and my best wasn't all that great really.

I wonder how many moms and women feel this way. I wonder how women cook their brains out and wrap to exhaustion, clean house and try to make Christmas wonderful and then feel like nobody gives a dang or appreciates what they have done? I bet plenty do. Don't let this happen this year. Praise them! Thank the dear souls who knock themselves out to try to make Christmas happen - for you and your loved

Mary the mother of Jesus went through a lot. When she became pregnant and still a virgin, who bought her story? Not many. Joseph did and he married her and took care of her and the new baby Jesus. However, starting out as a young mother with so many unknowns and the hardships that came with an unexpected pregnancy in that day were not easy. The Bible says, "But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." For most of her life before and after the birth of Jesus, she carried a heavy load.

Keep the love, kindness and praise flowing this Christmas - especially for those dear women who often carry a heavy load. Often they are the ones who really make Christmas.

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.

GUEST OP-ED

A just society doesn't criminalize girls

By Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) and Dr. Monique W. Morris, Ed.D.

Too frequently, educational justice is denied for girls – especially for girls of color. Schools should be the safest place for our children and yet, for many girls of color, the school environment adds painful weight to their already heavy emotional backpacks.

Across our country, black and brown girls are pushed out of school not because they pose any sort of threat, but for simply being who they are. Society too often deems our hair too distracting and our bodies too provocative, our voices too loud, and our attitudes too mean - demeaning our very existence before we even reach adulthood. According to the National Women's Law Center, black girls in preschool are 54 percent of the girls receiving out-of-school suspensions despite making up only 20 percent of girls enrolled in preschool. Preschool.

We are internalizing oppression before we've learned to read or write.

From kindergarten to 12th grade, black girls are seven times more likely than white girls to be suspended from school, and

four times more likely to be arrested at school. Latinx girls are more than 1.5 times as likely as white girls to receive an out of school suspension, and Native American girls are suspended at three times the rate of white girls. When we unfairly discipline our girls, we rob them of their childhood by treating them as if they need less protection, nurturing, and comfort than other children. We fail to see their humanity and we fail to respond to the adverse childhood experiences that so many of us experience in our youth.

These disturbing discrepancies are the result of a failure to cultivate schools as locations for healing so that they can be locations

for learning. The policies and unfair practices that disproportionately push girls of color from institutions of learning stem from deeply entrenched biases that require community-based solutions to correct. Now is the time to support relationship-building, mental health support, and restorative interventions, as opposed to unfair and exclusionary discipline.

This alarming crisis is what led to the development of the Ending Punitive, Unfair, School-based Harm that is Overt and Unresponsive to Trauma Act. The Ending PUSH-OUT Act aims to dismantle school-to-confinement pathways by creating an ecosystem within our schools where all children, especially children of color, can heal and thrive.

In order to create safe and nurturing school environments for all students, the Ending PUSHOUT Act emphasizes gender-specific and culturally responsive protocols and policies that work to intentionally and holistically support girls of color. The bill establishes new federal grants to support states and districts that commit to ban unfair and discriminatory school discipline practices; it protects the Civil Rights Data Collection and strengthens the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, both of which have been threatened by the Trump administration; and it establishes a Federal Interagency Taskforce to End the School Pushout crisis, to measure the efficacy of these reforms and share best prac-The Ending PUSHOUT

Act challenges schools to ban most suspensions and expulsions for our youngest learners in pre-k through 5th grade; ban suspensions and expulsions in all grades for minor infractions such

as tardiness and violations of dress codes and hair policies; and ban the heinous practice of corporal punishment, which is still legal in

19 states. The Ending PUSHOUT Act is the first of many bills stemming from Representative Pressley's People's Justice Guarantee — a bold progressive resolution outlining a new vision for the American legal system that makes good on the promise of justice for all. Achieving this vision requires all of us to dismantle the systems of oppression and control that have unfairly policed and criminalized marginalized communities for generations. The Ending PUSHOUT Act does just that, centering the experiences of young girls of color and keeping them out of the criminal legal system and in the classroom where they can learn, thrive, and develop the skills necessary to achieve their dreams.

US Rep. Ayanna Pressley represents Massachusetts Seventh Congressional District. Monique W. Morris, Ed.D. is the creator of the documentary "PUSH-OUT: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools' and the Founder and President of the National Black Women's Justice Institute.

Your opinions, please

The Everett Independent welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Our fax number is

781-485-1403. Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@everettindependent.com. Letters must be signed.

We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

The Malden Catholic chess team is headed toward a three-peat

In its 88-year history, Malden Catholic High School has scored big on the turf with a Catholic Conference Championship football team and on the ice with four straight Super 8 Hockey Championship wins. The school also competes competitively, consistently and successfully on a different type of surface...a board with 6 distinctly movable

pieces. In 2018, The Malden Catholic Lancers were undefeated in the regular chess season with a 10-0 record and won the year's playoff championship. The Lancers also earned a 9-1 record in 2019 as part of the North Shore Interscholastic Chess League (NSICL) and then secured another championship with a 2-0 playoff score. This year, The Lancers are on-track to land a three-peat with a current 3-0 record including a recent win over Rockport. However, this is not the first time Malden Catholic has had a series of landslide chess victories. From 1985 to 1989, the MC chess team dominated the NSI-CL with five straight championships and again with wins in 2014 and 2016.

According to the Massachusetts Chess Association (MACA), the Lancers are currently ranked 3rd in the state and the team consists of 24 players from the high school's Boys and Girls Divisions. The chess team is coached by Physics teacher, David Milliern who is a highly skilled player himself and English teacher, David Murray. Milliern is a nationally ranked adult player who is intensely passionate about teaching chess and grooming grandmasters. "Chess is a mental sport that boosts the players' cognitive abilities inside and outside of the classroom and we've been delighted to recruit some of MC's brightest students to the team," stated Milliern.

Milliern has turned a very good player like Yiqian Yan, class of 2018, into a strategically-intimidatingly chess player who dominated the NSICL. was an awesome tournament player who posted two consecutive undefeated seasons and was instrumental in our 2018 championship run," comment-ed Milliern. In addition to Yan's success, Milliern is confident that MC has produced two additional top-scoring players - Bill Chen '19 and Andrew Scacchi '19. Last year, both Chen and Scacchi beat top-seed-Lincoln-Sudbury High School at the Massachusetts state tournament. "Chen landed one of the biggest upsets in league's history with a win over a top semi-professional Lincoln-Sudbury team member," Milliern added. "And this season, our previous metrics have already been eclipsed by Zhiquiang (Tommy) Cai and Santiago Marmolejo-Rocha along with other championship-cal-

iber players on our team." The NSICL, which is in its 51st year of operation, features the Lancers next match on Thursday, December 12 against Burlington High School. Upon qualification, the Malden Catholic chess team will also participate in



The Chess Room at Malden Catholic High School is a little bit more crammed with fans of the game and players alike than one might expect.





Students in the Chess Club hone their chess skills by playing against one another.

the United States Chess Federation (USCF) which hosts the Massachusetts Chess Association High School State Championships.

Since 1932, Malden Catholic High School has shaped

emerging leaders in our community, claiming a Nobel Laureate, a Senator, two ambassadors and countless community and business heads among its alumni. Annually, graduates attend some of the nation's most renown universities including Harvard, Georgetown, Brown, Cornell, Tufts, Geor-

gia Tech, Boston College and Amherst College. Foundational to student success is Malden Catholic's codivisional model which offers the best of both worlds, single-gender academics during the day and integrated social and extracurricular opportunities after school. Malden Catholic is known in the community for its rigorous academics, SFX Scholars Program and award-winning STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with electives such as Robotics and Engineering Design. https://www.maldencatholic.org/

Knitting for Love



The knitting group with MGH staff.

By Amy Goldberg,

RN, Neighborhood PACE

Five years ago, my friend Gayle Gordon, the family liaison volunteer on the Mass General Hospital Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit, asked me if I knew of anyone who knitted blankets. At that time, the intensive care unit (ICU) was starting a program that provided handmade blankets to help family and friends dealing with difficult endof-life care. The ICU nurses would place a comfort blanket on the patient, and then present the blanket to the family to take home after the patient had passed away. Blankets were chosen because they represent warmth and caring and because grieving family members could wrap themselves in something that would always have special meaning.

I knew that we had two knitting groups already up and running at Neighborhood PACE. One was at the Lewis Mall PACE Center and the other at the Winthrop PACE Center. I asked the knitting groups if they were interested in knitting "comfort blankets" for patients at Mass. General (MGH) and they were thrilled to help out. Volunteering in this way is rewarding to our Neighborhood PACE members. I know this because they tell me they feel wonderful "paying it forward." Thus began the partnership between Neighborhood PACE and the MGH Neuroscience ICU.

Five years later, we have donated more than 900 beautiful comfort blankets to this unit. Not one blanket is the same as another. During the creative process, our knitters try to imagine colors and themes that will brighten the day and bring smiles. We've had blankets that were red, white, and blue for veterans and others that were simply an array of vibrant colors. The nurses always try to match each blanket to the patient's personality or love of various colors.

While our knitters have in previous years been thanked at special events, this amazing group has grown and MGH staff, including nurses, doctors, social workers, and the chaplain, wanted to again thank the knitters. They did so at a recent luncheon, where we heard many stories that touched our hearts.

The first story was about a family dealing with the imminent death of a loved one. They gently placed the comfort blanket over her while each family placed their hands on top of the blanket and began to pray. Another family took home their blanket and framed it. As they look at the framed piece, it brings back positive memories of spending time together.

The final story we heard was about a family that cherished their blanket after their loved one passed away. They gave the blanket to a newborn in the family as the baby's first gift. There is something in the eyes of a newborn child that makes everything feel right. The family story, and the blanket, will be treasured by future

At the luncheon, the chaplain blessed the knitters' hands and thanked them as we all linked hands together. Each PACE participant went home with a framed picture of the MGH staff holding a banner

that reads: "Thank you for

providing the gift of comfort to our patients and families." Pictures, tears, and hugs completed our day.

Do you know someone whose health care needs are changing? For nearly three decades, Neighborhood PACE has enabled adults 55+ to stay healthy, active, and independent in the place they call home. Our participants often tell us they have never been as active or happy! A program of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, Neighborhood PACE serves adults living in East Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop, Revere, Everett, Malden, Melrose, Medford, Stoneham, and Boston's North End. As part of the national Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) network, we provide the comprehensive care and support that you need as an individual with specific needs and preferences. Our program is the ideal solution for those who want an alternative to nursing home care for the right combination of medical, social, recreation, rehabilitation, home care, and other services. We even provide medications without co-pay and transportation to each PACE Center and medical appointments. Visit neighborhoodpace.org for details!

is Mall PACE Center: Glo-Herpin, Josephine Alma Mendo-Alegata, Anna Sophia Luna Perez, Irma Lopez, Bienvenida Vazquez, Rose Dello Russo (volunteer and knitter). Knitters from the Winthrop PACE Center: Donna Carbone, Janet Brown, Marcine Ford, Marie

Bolduc, Marilyn Ford (volun-

teer and knitter).

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cherish all the great memories we've created, the experiences we've shared, but most of all I will miss each and every one of you. I will remain active in my role as a Director of the Bank and look forward to continuing to support you. I wish you all the very best. Thank you.



CITY OF EVERETT ANNUAL TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY

The City of Everett celebrated its annual tree-lighting ceremony in Everett Square on Friday night, Dec. 6. This year, the Tree was donated by the Flynn family of Tewksbury in memory of Everett Police Officer Glenn Briley. Families enjoyed holiday festivities, such as face painting, hot cocoa, and train rides, while waiting for the big event.



Marcus Celestin showed off his reindeer faceprint.



Lisa Calderon, Doreen Klein, and Draya Douyon visited Everett Square for the tree lighting.



Dylan joined his father, Robert Goulding.



Families enjoyed hayrides and horse-drawn carriage rides throughout Everett Square.



Franco Acierno, Carmela Vitale, Patti Frati, and Erica Barney offered hot cocoa from the Everett Bank.



Nicole Ginepra and Cecilia Santizo showed off their holiday spirit at the tree-lighting on Friday.



Santa and Mrs. Claus took to the stage to entertain the



Joe and Marie Tozzi joined Councilor Fred Capone at the tree lighting.



Ciera Brown sang at the tree lighting ceremony in Everett.



Joe Keohane, Marge White, and Richard O'Neil of Everett



State Rep. Joe McGonagle was joined by Margery Beckwith.



Councilor Mike McLaughlin and Patti Frati visited the Everett tree lighting festivities





Christmas Photos to be included in our

CHRISTMAS KIDS PAGES

DEADLINE FOR PHOTOS WILL BE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, 2019 Email To: Promo@reverejournal.com

AS JPG ATTACHMENT. MUST INCLUDE CHILD'S NAME AND PUBLICATION OF CHOICE. Mail to or Drop: The Independent Newspaper Group 385 Broadway • Suite 105, Revere, MA 02151

Photos will be published in the week of December 17th & 18th issues of The Revere Journal, Chelsea Record, East Boston Times, Winthrop Sun Transcript, Everett Independent & Lynn Journal

> NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR UNPUBLISHED PHOTOS PHOTOS MUST BE PICKED UP WITHIN 30 DAYS.

Olaf and Rudolph were special guests at the tree-lighting

Mayor Carlo DeMaria was pleased to light the Everett tree in memory of late Officer Glenn Briley.



Everett Girl Scouts performed at the tree-lighting on Friday night.

KEVERIAN SCHOOL HOSTS BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AND ELSA

The Keverian School hosted Breakfast with Santa and Elsa on Saturday morning, Dec. 7, with the help of the Parent Teacher Organization. Santa and Elsa welcomed students while they enjoyed pancakes and holiday goodies.



Santa, Principal Naumann, and Elsa welcomed Keverian students to the stage.



Aaliyah Mendez and her brother, Jayden Arias, enjoyed eating breakfast before meeting Santa.



Chante Marie King sat on Santa's lap at the Keverian School breakfast.



Princess Elsa embraced baby Anthony Perdomenico.



Tiana and Tonya Walton and Thai Spencer sat with Santa at



Elsa greeted Eloah Barbosa at the Keverian School.



Melissa Assis and Eloa Bezerra greeted Princess Elsa.



Mario Rodriguez-Souza enjoyed his breakfast at the Keverian School on Saturday, while wearing his most festive



Ryan Cardinale served as Santa's helper throughout the morning.



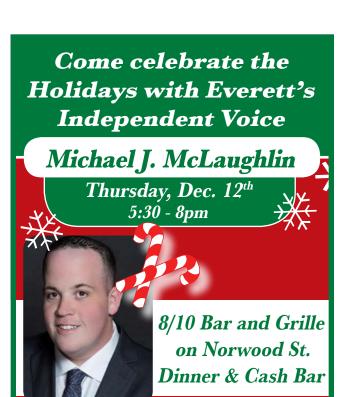
Vice Principal Janet Taylor, Principal Naumann, State Rep. Joe McGonagle, Senator Sal DiDomenico, and Council President Rich Dell Isola joined the PTO for Breakfast with Santa





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DeMaria // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

floor of the elegant Memoire night club.

"I always wanted to be a DJ – now I know why people love DJ-ing, you get to see the whole club, it's awesome," said DeMaria, to the delight of the crowd.

"I just want to say to all of you, thank you to all for being here tonight - what a great crowd, an impressive crowd," continued the mayor. "Stacy and I are so humbled that you took the time to come out tonight

and support us." DeMaria said it was "an honor" to be mayor of Everett for the last 12 years. "It's truly been awesome to be the mayor of the city Everett. This city is like no other city. This city is really is a community. We come together in times of need like nobody else. I want to thank all of you for supporting each and every one of us here. We support each other. We love each other. We respect each other. That's what is most important, that we show civility and love for each other. I want to



Two men who have the honor of serving as Mayor of Everett, Carlo DeMaria and John Hanlon.



James "Tank" Agnetta and Karen Agnetta, with Ray Lepore (seated).

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thank you all for being a tremendous team that has been with Stacy and me for my 20-plus years I've served in government. We're always there for you, thinking about your family and your well- being."

DeMaria thanked the members of his and Stacy's family in attendance.

"We're doing so many great things in the city of Everett – it's crazy," said DeMaria. "It's a testament to my administration, the department heads, their staff, clerical workers, the public work employees, police and fire. What I'm getting done in the city is because of all of you, the progress the city has made and this is one of the things we should all be very proud of – we took a contaminated waste site and converted it in to a \$2 billion resort, and it's because of all you."

As Mayor DeMaria and Stacy DeMaria made their way from the DJ booth to the crowd below, there were



Mayor Carlo DeMaria and Colin Kelly of Schnitzer Steel.



Everett Police Sgt. Joe Gaff (right) and his son, Corey Gaff, assistant football coach at Endicott College.



Richard O'Neil, Mary Fiorentino, and Tom Fiorentino.



Nikki DeFeo, Stacy DeMaria, Mayor Carlo DeMaria, Angelica Santonastaso, and Brianna Martinelli.



Lauren O'Connor, one of the greatest softball players in Everett High School history, with her parents, Mike O'Connor and Laura O'Connor, Mayor Carlo DeMaria, and Stacy



Mayor Carlo DeMaria, Stacy DeMaria, Erin Naumann, and **Everett High School Principal Erick Naumann.**



Greeting Mayor Carlo DeMaria, who played in the Everett High School football program, are EHS assistant football



Robert A. Lewis, Bishop Robert G. Brown, Mayor Carlo DeMaria, Stacy DeMaria, and Marcia Brown.



Jack Toulopoulos, Rick Primrose, Mayor Carlo DeMaria, and Stacy DeMaria.



Everett High Director of Athletics Tammy Turner, Mayor Carlo DeMaria, Stacy DeMaria, and EHS volleyball coach Amanda Gill.



The O'Donnell Family, former Everett High sports star Melissa O'Donnell, her parents, Maureen and Richard O'Donnell, Stacy DeMaria and Mayor Carlo DeMaria.



Shown sized to scale above covers approx. 2 columns

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110: Kathy **125**: Sioux



Carpenters Union Business Manager Richard Pedi, Stacy DeMaria and Mayor Carlo DeMaria.



Mayor Carlo DeMaria and his wife, Stacy DeMaria, welcomed former Medford Mayor Michael McGlynn to the reception at Memoire.



The Cataldo Family, pictured at Mayor and Stacy DeMaria's Jingle and Mingle reception at **Encore Boston Harbor.**

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A TIME TO REMEMBER

19TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ECUMENICAL SERVICE AT WOODLAWN CEMETERY



Leila and Sophia Marcus attending the service with their family.



President and CEO, Francis J. LaRovere III, Esquire welcomes everyone to the 19th **Annual Ecumenical Christ**mas Service at Woodlawn Cemetery.



The Figgy Puddin' Holiday Carolers.



Father Vincent Gianni with the opening prayer, and a Gospel Reading from St. Luke.



Alan Giangregorio recited "A Litany of Remembrance" last Thursday evening at Woodlawn Chapel.



June Baboian gave a brief history of each holiday carol performed by the Figgy Puddin' Carollers.



President and CEO Francis J LaRovere III with his wife Susan and Woodlawn Trustee Nancy Wynott.



Everett City Councillor Michael McLaughlin and

Patty Frati at the Woodlawn services.

Paul Maniff (right) directs everyone to the area of the tree lighting, as Fathers Gianni and Duarte lead the procession out of the chapel.



Lighting the ceremonial holiday candle, Fathers Gianni and Duarte, assisted by Bill Monahan.



Cemetery was filled with people from several surrounding communities, celebrating a memorial service for the souls at rest, awaiting resurrection. The pre-service time was

Last Thursday evening the chapel at Woodlawn

filled with classic holiday songs performed by the Figgy Puddin' Holiday Carolers, which was enjoyed by all in attendance. At the beginning of the

service, Francis J LaRovere III, Esquire, President and CEO of Woodlawn Cemetery ad-dressed the gathering with a warm welcome from him-self, his family, and the many employees at Woodlawn Cemetery. Giving special thanks to their efforts, making this service very special. Paul Maniff, a life long Woodlawn employee and part of this program from the be-ginning was singled out for his exceptional dedication to this holiday event. Father Vincent Gianni with his opening remarks and the opening prayer of the service, as well as his reflections on "Nothing is impossible for

God". Alan Giangregorio recited "A Litany of Remembrance", followed by Father Edgar Gutierrez-Duarte, who reminded everyone, that tonight I am not only a priest, I am one of you. Referring to the loss of his mother this past summer, who is laid to rest in Woodlawn Ceme-tery. Father Gutierrez-Duarte read the "My First Christmas

in Heaven" with a special



Father Edgar Gutierrez-Duarte with the reading of "My First Christmas in Heaven" reflecting on his personal loss of his mother earlier this year.

reflection, looking back on the lost of his mother and bonding with the crowd gathered in the chapel for this annual event. Following the chapel ser-

vice the crowd was invited outside for the lighting of the tree on the grounds of the cemetery that will stay lit until after the new year.

Tradition following the lighting of the tree, that everyone is invited to enjoy the hospitality of Woodlawn at Patton Memorial Hall. A collation of coffee and ht choc-olate with a huge selection of deserts to choose from are offered to all, as well as a meet and greet with Woodlawn's front office staff.

This holiday tradition is a great way to start off in the right state of mind of spending the holidays without loved ones, taking comfort from being part of a group facing the same as you, not feeling alone during this time of the season.



Hot chocolate was in high demand with the youngsters, Jesalee Pepe, Jessica Vincerelli with Amelia Schrimpf.



The crowd took a moment to reflect a personal prayer as the tree was lit for the holiday season at Woodlawn Cemetery.



Carol Liberato, Cathy Smith, Bridget Gravell.



following the annual Christmas Service at Woodlawn Cemetery.



Angela Laft and Dottie Kushmerek with the Figgy Puddin' Carolers.



The Chapel at Woodlawn Cemetery was beautifully decorated for the Christmas service.

Joseph Conti

OBITUARIES

Number one Beatles fan

Joseph Conti of Saugus, formerly of Everett, passed away on Dec. 6.

Joe was the Beatles number one fan.

He was the devoted father of Madison G. Conti, beloved son of the late former Everett firefighter Anthony Jr. and Virginia (Worcester) Conti, dear brother of Linda Russo and her husband, Anthony, Jean Conti-Meier and her partner, Mark Carnazzo, Anthony Conti III and the late Jerry Conti; loving uncle of Richard Guardino, Christina Donahue, Alycia Meier, Samantha Conti, Alexandra Meier, Danielle Vertiyev, Zachary Meier and Anthony Conti IV and great-uncle of Eva Price, Brian Dalton, Thomas Dalton, Penny Vertiyev, Amelia Guardino and Roman Guardino.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend his funeral from the JF Ward Funer-



Everett today, Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 10 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass in Immaculate Conception Church, 487 Broadway, Everett at 11 a.m. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in Joe's name may be made to the American Lung Association at www. lung.org For online guestbook and directions, please visit: www.jfwardfuneralhome.com.

Emma Granfone

Of Everett, formerly of Italy

Emma (Lebruto) Granfone of Everett, formerly of S. Arcangelo Trimonte, Italy, died on Dec. 5 at the age of 91.

Emma emigrated to the United States in May of 1979 and settled in Everett. She proudly became a U.S. citizen in 1987. Some of her hobbies included sewing and cooking while family members benefitted from both.

Born on Oct. 3, 1928 to the late Alessandro Lebruto and Rosa (Panarese), she was the beloved wife of the late Giuseppe Granfone, the devoted mother of Antonio Granfone of Newton and Marcella Granfone Panarese of S. Arcangelo Trimonte, cherished grandmother of Marcella, Simo-



na, Mariano and Laura and the adored great-grandmother of Brando, Aurora and Enea.

A visitation will be held at the Paul Buonfiglio & Sons-Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere St., Revere, today, Wednesday, Dec. 11 from 4 to 8 p.m. Relatives and friends are kindly invited. She will be entombed with her late husband in Italy. For guest book, please visit www.Buonfiglio.com.

Heather Connolly

Daughter of former Everett Mayor and State Representative

Heather A. Connolly, a lifelong Everett resident, passed away surrounded by her loving family on Dec. 3. She was 58 years old.

Heather graduated from Everett High School, Suffolk University and Harvard University Extension School. She was the Marketing and Sales Manager for Arrow Electronics of Peabody. She enjoyed a lifetime of wonderful summer vacations at Falmouth Heights surrounded by her large extended family.

Heather was at happiest by the ocean or on the dance floor and she also enjoyed traveling the world with her sister and best friend Valerie.

In several of Ed Connolly's victorious political campaigns, his dynamic daughter, Heather was the Campaign Manager who earned the title of, "The General" for her get-it-done attitude. She was a true Everett girl through and through.

The devoted daughter of the late State Rep. and former Mayor Edward G. and



low) Connolly, she was the beloved sister of Edward G. Connolly, Jr. and his wife, Eleonora, Valerie Connolly, Christopher Connolly and his girlfriend, Maureen Hughes and Dr. Sean Connolly and his wife, Ann Marie and cherished aunt of Sean Jr., Saoirse and Hannah Connolly. She is also survived by many adoring cousins and friends.

Funeral arrangements were by the JF Ward Funeral Home, 772 Broadway, Everett. In lieu of flowers, donations in Heather's name may be made to: Edward G. Connolly Center, Veteran's Affairs, 90 Chelsea St., Everett, MA 02149.

To place a memoriam in the Independent,

please call 617-387-9600

CHURCH News

Immaculate Conception Parish

News and Notes

12:15 p.m. Spanish

Community 4:00 p.m. Haitian Com-

Masses are being held in

the Chapel. Eucharistic Adoration

of the Blessed Sacrament: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held every Thursday from 7:45 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Each Thursdays' adoration will conclude the Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to spend a few moments with Our Blessed

Bring a Book-Buy a Book -We have a new Fundraiser Program in the back of the Church. It's called Bring a Book-Buy a Book. All books are a dollar and any money collected will go towards our Stain Glass Fund. Brink a Book and Buy a Book and make a donation. Our selections are great and varied. Please stop by the table and see what we have. Thank you

Immaculate Conception Parish 489 Broadway Everett, Mass 02149 Phone 617-389-5660

Glendale United Methodist Church

News and Notes

Glendale United Methicate the Sunday bulletin to odist Church is open to all recognize family, friends, or and we welcome people of special occasions. There is a all faiths, race, nationalities sign-up sheet in the Pastor's and sexual preference. No study. Feel free to choose one is ever turned away. If your particular week and you are looking for a new leave a copy of your dedihome church, we would like cation in the mail in that is you to check us out and let on the Pastor's door. Please us know what we can do to contact the Pastor if you have any questions. make church a better fit in

Boy Scout Troop 814: Bible Study: Consider Meet in Cooper Hall on joining us for Bible study Tuesday evenings from 6-9 on Sunday. We meet in the p.m. Cub Pack 11 meets on Saturday mornings. Church Parlor off the Chapel

NA Meetings – Mon. Bring Your Own Book 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.; Thurs. I Can't But We Can, 8:00 7:30 -AA Meeting – Saturday

evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 Pastor's Office Hours:

Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Other times by appointment. Bread of Life Donations -

This outreach is being done to honor the United Methodist Women's Group, who for so many years were our outreach source. Please bring any food item(s) to church and place in the box located on the altar.

We are on the Internet http://www.glen-

daleumc-everett.org **Glendale United Methodist Church Pastor David Jackson** 392 Ferry Street (across from Glendale Towers) Please enter the church by the driveway on **Walnut Street** 617-387-2916 PastorDavid.Jackson58@gmail.com Pastor's Office Hours: Saturdays 10 AM to 2 PM. Other times by

appointment.

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Pastor

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Glendale Christian Lighthouse Church

News and Notes

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Sunday 10:30 AM Worship service.

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Our Parish Staff: Father

Father Ernest Egbedike,

Secretary Barbara Can-

Weekly Mass Schedule at

Saturday (Sunday Vig-

il) 4:00 p.m., Sunday 7:00

a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Family

Mass), 11:00 a.m., and 5:30

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• Miercoles Hora de Poder, Oración, alabanza y Estudio de la Palabra de Dios a las 7 pm (en inglés)

• Ven unete a nosotros para orar todos los viernes a las 6 am

• Domingo Servicio de alabanza y adoracion a las 4pm (Servicio en español)

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Isaias 41:10 "En busca de la excelen-

cia espiritual Rectitud, Divinidad, Fe,

pastorlarry@ thelighthousechurch701. net

Grace Episcopal Church

News and Notes

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church is open & welcoming

There are 3 services on Sundays: 10am English, 1pm South Sudanese (Dinka) and 3pm Haitian Creole. We have Sunday school during each service in the Children's Room. Coffee Hour starts after the 10am service in the Parish Hall (entrance on 11 Liberty St.)

Come all and let us walk together in this season of hope, renewal and new beginnings.

Christmas Week Services: Sunday Dec. 22 bined Christmas Service at 4pm Christmas Children Pag-

Tuesday Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service with Christmas Carols 6pm

Wednesday Dec. 25 Christmas Day Service 1pm

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church 67 Norwood Street, Everett, MA Phone 617-387-7526 or 508-243-8487

Mystic Side Congregational Church News and Notes

Mystic Side Congrega-

tional Church is located in Everett, on Malden-Everett border, at 422 Main Street. We offer a warm, inviting atmosphere, and all are welcome. Our Sunday Church service starts at 10:30 a.m. and Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month. A very pleasant coffee hour and socializing follow our services. Parking is available in our lot next to the church on Wyllis Ave. (one way off Main Street). We look forward to welcoming you this Sunday.

UDITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$100.00 per paper. That includes photo. Please send to

obits@reverejournal.com

or call 781-485-0588

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Sounds of Christmas Concert returns to Revere Sunday, Dec. 15

The music of the holiday season will fill the air Sunday when the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra returns to Revere for the annual Robert A. Marra Memorial "Sounds of Christmas" Concert at St. Anthony's Church beginning at 4 p.m.

Admission to the concert is free in exchange for a generous donation of non-perishable food to benefit the Revere Food Pantry. Private sponsorship by Bocchino Insurance, Global Partners, Arbella Insurance, Comcast, RCN, and Action Emergency Services underwrites the concert.

Music Director Robert Lehmann promises another wonderful show. are always excited to come to Revere and play in the beautiful surroundings of St. Anthony's Church," said Lehmann. "The people of Revere make the Orchestra feel like family celebrating the holidays together."

Accompanying the Orchestra again this year is vocalist Susie Pepper. "Susie played with us last year and people will remember that she sings just magnificently. We are so fortunate that her schedule allowed her to be part of the Revere concert again this year." Revere High School

senior class president Jason Acosta will narrate an original essay that he wrote for the occasion. "This is a part of the concert we began five years ago," said concert co-chair and Orchestra president Robert Marra "We wanted to create

a connection between the high school, where my father taught for 40 years, and the concert.'

Working with RHS Writing Center co-ordinator Allison Casper, an RHS senior has written an essay that expresses the writer's individual perception of Christmas in a modern The writer then narrates the piece at the concert. "The essays have been varied in their tone and content," said Marra. "Because the essay is the writer's personal reflection, has been a very moving experience for the audience."

Concert co-chair Domenic Bocchino, president of Bocchino Insurance, has been a principal sponsor of the concert since 2006. "Every year it is such a fulfilling experience to be part of this concert and Food Drive," he said. "It is unfortunate that there is such a demand for food assistance in this day and age. Everyone who can come and enjoy the concert is fortunate to have all that they have, and so it really reflects the meaning of the holidays when people show their generosity and charity through the food drive."

the concert started in conjunction with Revere's celebration of the United States Bicentennial year in 1976. "The first concert was held at Revere High School, and the following year it was moved to St. Anthony's Church" he said. "It was a perfect setting to celebrate the holidays."

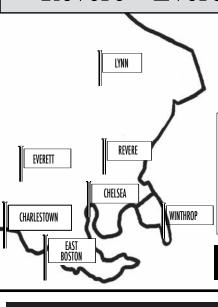
Marra commented how

The concert has been held at St. Anthony's every year except for a three-year period in the mid-1980s. The current format of free admission and the associated Food Drive began in 1991. "Thanks to the sponsors, the concert became a free event with the Food Drive as the 'cost' of admission. The food drive was a huge success right from the start. We hope people will express their appreciation for the concert and the holiday season with a generous donation," said Marra.

This year will mark the concert's 43rd anniversa-"There is great tradition and history to Revere's concert," said Music Director Lehmann. "Not only for its longevity, but in its memorial of Robert Marra, who had such deep connection to the concert and to Revere."

The concert was named in memory of Robert Marra Sr. after he died in 2002. "He was one of the original members of the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra and concertmaster for 50 years," said Robert Jr. "Three of the most precious things in his life were the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra, St. Anthony's Church, and his beloved City of Revere. This concert brings all those together. It's a deeply emotional experience for our family that the tradition continues in music, at St. Anthony's, and with such a charitable benefit to the Revere community."

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Applications accepted until the position is filled. **Everett Housing Authority is an** Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

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Supt. Candidate Toner brings teaching, state experience to the table

By Seth Daniel

Paul Toner has come about the superintendent pipeline through a route less traveled.

Toner is one of the four candidates for the Everett Public Schools superintendent position and the North Cambridge resident, who also came from Somerville, interviewed last Thursday, Dec. 5, with community members, students, the School Committee and

Toner is currently a senior director at the Teach Plus organization, but is also a former teacher, a lawyer, a member of the state Board of Higher Education and a two-time Council candidate in Cambridge. He is also a former two-term leader of the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA), which does represent Everett teachers.

Growing up in Cambridge and Somerville, and starting his teaching career in Cambridge, Toner said he chose to apply in Everett because it reminds him of the community he grew

"I want to be the superintendent in Everett because Everett is like the community I grew up in at Somerville and Cambridge, long before the real estate boom

areas they have become," he said. "I see in Everett that we can go further and further. I believe there has been some pent up desire to have more opportunities to express ideas and I want to capitalize on that energy."

Toner said he grew up in a working-class household in Cambridge and Somerville, and came from a family that bore many police officers, firefighters, teachers and public servants. He went into teaching on a suggestion from a teacher he knew, but he was also interested in going to law school. After some contemplation, he said he decided to give back and went on to become a teacher in Cambridge.

While teaching middle school social studies, he went to law school at nights. However, even after completing law school, Toner decided to continue teaching.

"I stayed in teaching, but ended up having an opportunity to use my law degree later in life as I got into the teacher's union," he said.

Toner spent five years as the Cambridge Teacher's Union president in a time when enrollment began to swell in the district. His work there translated into two-terms as the leader of the state MTA. That stint ended in 2014.

Toner was supportive of the academies that Everett has started this year, but said maybe it might be a good idea to explore sharing resources with the Five District Partnership.

"I don't want to change programs, I want to expand them and build on their vision," he said. "I want to be here for the long haul. I don't have any plan of being here and running off somewhere else in three or four years. I want to build a plan with you and a plan where the vision will stick around if I were to walk outside and be hit by a bus and not be here anymore."

Most of all, he said he would be present if he were chosen, and would become part of the community.

"This is a close-knit community and an outside person can create anxiety for the staff, administration and community," he said. "I know you have a strong tradition for football, sports, the arts and band. I understand the pride of being born and raised in Everett. I have the same pride in being from Cambridge or Somerville. I wasn't born in Everett and can't change that, but if I were the successful candidate I'd be living in Everett 24/7. I've been a 24/7 person for

years. I will be here building relationships with staff, students and parents. Even though I am not from Everett, I would be of Everett."

The final candidate for superintendent was to be interviewed on Tuesday, Dec. 10, for the day.

Final interviews on Dec. 14

The Everett School Committee will conduct official interviews of all four superintendent candidates this coming Saturday, Dec. 14, during the entire day.

The interviews will all occur in the Everett High School Library.

The interview schedule will be as follows:

•9 a.m. – Todd Stewart •10:30 a.m. - Priya Ta-

hiliani •1 p.m. - Paul Toner

•2:30 p.m. - Thomas Flanagan



Paul Toner, of Cambridge and Somerville, is currently the senior director of Teach Plus, but the Everett superintendent candidate has also been the president of the Massachusetts Teacher's Association and a former middle school social studies teacher. He brings experience from an urban classroom to the hallways of the State House on Beacon Hill.

EVERETT PUBLIC LIBRARIES EVENTS

Events at the Everett Public Libraries week of cember 9th December 23rd

Family Storytime Parlin Memorial Library Monday, December 23rd Press Due: Monday, De-

Come to the Parlin Library on Monday morning to read books, sing songs, explore movements, and

more! For toddlers and pre-k (and their grownups). No registration required.

EHS SPORTS ROUNDUP

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

Local Students Named to Honor Roll at BC High

The following students have been named to the First Quarter Honor Roll at Boston College High

Quarter 1 High Honors Antoine Fauche 2021 Lucas Santos 2020 Christian Topinio 2023 **Quarter 1 Honors**

Santiago Vasquez 2021

For High Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.80 quality point average and all grades "C+" or higher. Freshmen need a 3.6 quality point average and all grades "C+" or higher.

For Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.20 quality point average and all grades "C-" or higher. Freshmen need a 3.165 quality point average and

all grades "C-" or higher.

About Boston College High School: Boston College High School is a Jesuit, Catholic, college-preparatory school for young men in grades 7 to 12. Founded in 1863, the school enrolls approximately 1,500 students from more than 140 communities in eastern Massachusetts. For more information please visit bchigh.edu

EHS WINTER SPORTS SEASON GETS UNDERWAY

The 2020 winter sports season for Everett High athletic teams gets underway this coming week.

The Crimson boys and girls track teams were set to compete in the Greater Boston League pre-season Jamboree today (Wednesday) at Revere High. Their first dual meet of the year will take place next Wednesday at Revere.

The EHS hockey team will face-off against Nashoba Tech tomorrow (Thursday) evening at 7:00 at Allied Veterans Rink. The Crimson Tide then will make the short trip down the Revere Beach Parkway to Cronin Rink in Revere on Saturday for a 5:00 faceoff against Greater Boston League rival Revere and will return home to host GBL foe Medford next

Wednesday evening. The boys basketball

squad will open its 2020 campaign with a big game against Catholic Memorial Friday evening. The opening tip at the EHS gym is set for 7:00. The boys will be back in action Monday at Revere.

The EHS girls basketball team will get its 2020 season underway on Monday evening when the Lady Crimson Tide host Revere at 6:30.

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