

SECHC officially becomes part of East Boston Neighborhood Health Center

By Seth Daniel

Calling it a great merger of two historic and value-aligned organizations, Manny Lopes, president of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC), announced the official merger of his organization with the nearby South End Community Health Center (SECHC) in Boston on July 1.

SECHC sites will operate as locations of EBNHC and staff will become EBNHC employees, thus unifying the two health centers in providing comprehensive healthcare services to diverse Boston-area communities. SECHC patients will continue to see the same, nationally recognized team of providers and the name of the SECHC will not change.

“The SECHC has such a great history and has done such great work in the community,” said Lopes. “It’s an amazing opportunity to be able to bring these two organizations together. We’ve been doing great work in East Boston and serving the community in East Boston, and we’re excited to bring the two together to continue this work. It’s a chance to merge both of our great histories together.”

EBNHC’s Steven Snyder said the first few days were about working out the kinks, but things are now going smoothly.

“The first couple of days of the merger last week were challenging for sure”, said Steven Snyder, Vice President of Human Resources, Marketing and Development for East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. “I’m really proud of the staff both in South End and back in East Boston, Revere and Winthrop. This took immense effort and teamwork by many staff. Now that many of the technical issues are running smoothly we will turn our attention to bringing our corporate culture and in particular our core values to the forefront for all staff as well as starting to market services to all of our communities. We have taken great effort to make our facilities safe for patients who cannot rely on TeleHealth to start coming in for care again – particularly those in high-risk categories. This is the case both at the South End location and back in East Boston – where for over 50 years pa-

tients have counted on us to be there for them.”

The health centers have similar roots, both founded during the Civil Rights Movement, and share a common mission of providing high-quality care to all without regard to age, race/ethnicity, insurance status, or ability to pay. The move by EBNHC to merge SECHC into its organization goes back to 2017, and had previously been announced in 2018 as the SECHC faced major financial difficulties. The details of the merger were being worked out all last year, and with the new fiscal year on July 1, it was the time to make it official.

Lopes said it is a great opportunity for scaling up SECHC and for strategic growth in EBNHC too.

“When South End approached us, they were looking for a partner that had the ability to scale and who had experience serving a similar population and who had shared values,” said Lopes. “I’m happy they selected us. For us, it fits into our strategic planning purposes...This fits nicely into our plans for growth. We’re excited about that.”

He reiterated there would be no change in the name, and there would be no staff reductions.

“That’s very important,” he said. “Having no staff reductions was our commitment we made. That’s huge. I think the staff will agree coming into our organization. This is the scalability. There is more opportunity for mobility and growth with us. The quality of care will not change either. We have no plans to change any of that. We only hope to enhance it.”

The Board members of the SECHC said they are excited about the merger, and have spoken highly of the plan over the last year as well.

“EBNHC has shown time and again that they can thrive in today’s challenging health care environment. In 2017, our Board foresaw a looming financial cliff and, in 2018, approved EBNHC’s visionary proposal to merge. Since then, their leadership team and Board have been exemplary collaborators,” said David Gleason, SECHC Board Chair. “We are delighted to join together as one company in service to our patients.”

EBNHC Board Chair Rita Sorrento said, “It is

a privilege to welcome SECHC’s staff and patients, as well as members of the South End community, into the EBNHC family.”

Some of the only differences will be on the patient electronic record system, which will switched over to the EBNHC system, though that will only be administrative.

Lopes said there will be further discussions about adding a shuttle service to the SECHC that would connect the other sites in East Boston and beyond – giving patients and employees better access to the new network of providers and opportunities.

Beyond that, EBNHC is very involved in their communities and pride themselves on being an award-winning workplace, Lopes said.

“I’m very excited to get out into the community and to begin learning about the South End,” said Lopes, who is also chair of the Boston Board of Health. “We’re looking forward to sharing what we know, learning from them and learning from the community...We want to be a great place to work for the staff. We’ve been recognized for that. We do that because the staff is big part of what we do...We want people to feel great about where they work.”

EBNHC provides comprehensive medical and behavioral health services, along with support services to address non-medical needs and promote healthy living. SECHC operations will continue without change in hours of operation or provider options. Additionally, SECHC patients will gain access to unique EBNHC services such as Neighborhood PACE, which serves older adults, and CATCH, which provides coordinated care for children with complex medical needs. EBNHC and SECHC will continue to coordinate COVID-19 response activities, including testing and tracing initiatives.

With an operating budget of approximately \$180 million, EBNHC will remain one of the largest health centers in the nation, now serving more than 110,000 patients and employing nearly 1,300 staff members. Lopes, President and CEO of EBNHC, will continue to oversee all EBNHC locations and services across the Greater Boston Area.

Permit // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

goal is to apply for construction permits in November and break ground in January.”

The 85-unit building is a new product in a new location in Everett. Bent on appealing to middle income people such as young professionals from Everett and empty-nesters from Everett looking to downsize, the project landed on the top of the Broadway hill. That is an area that hasn’t had a lot of new development in terms of residential buildings in a long time. The development is also unique in that it proposes a full deli and restaurant for the ground floor in a partnership with the owner of Square Deli in Everett Square.

This week, they announced they have hired on Callahan Construction for pre-construction services, and they are hoping to have them build the project as well.

“This is their job to build,” said Tocco. “They’re a great company. They just built a building at Assembly Row and they’re working on one at Revere Beach now. They’re all over the place.”

Tocco said, once again, they feel the timing is just right for their project. While many had written off a lot of development project, The 600 and others in Everett continue on. Being able to design it remotely and get



From Callahan, Cathal McDonagh (Lead Superintendent) and David Boucher (Project Executive), with John Tocco and Ricky Beliveau of Volney Capital. Callahan is the preferred builder for The 600, which is full steam ahead despite all of the COVID-19 issues.

things ready for construction when COVID-19 has hopefully lessened in early 2021, he said they “threaded the needle.”

“We believe the worst of the pandemic will be behind us when we’re ready to open in the summer of 2022,” he said. “We’re left with the newest building and we can design safe spaces that will be ready for when we open.”

Tocco said they believe

that as people change their habits post-COVID-19, it will only make Everett more desirable – being closer to downtown Boston and places like Encore. He said their company plans to continue investing in Everett and they will hold on to The 600 as well. There are no plans to flip it once it’s built.

“We want to do this project and it’s full-steam ahead,” he said.

Budget // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

right now is on taxes and delivering services to residents and that has to be the primary focus.”

Tough discussions have gone on for the last several weeks with the municipal unions and with other workers at City Hall and within City departments. There have been reductions in personnel, and there have been people that have gone from full-time to part-time. Likewise, they have used a strategy of filling vacant positions with workers whose positions have been cut elsewhere in the budget document. Department heads have taken 10 percent cuts in pay, and others have simply had their pay reduced. In March, there had already been a non-essential spending freeze put on all departments by Mayor DeMaria to help things out now, Demas said.

A lot of the reductions in staffing come in areas that are yet to be opened from COVID-19. That includes the Public Library, the Connolly Senior Center, and the City Wellness/Fitness Center. Many of the vacant positions that were in the budget last year – which could not be used for others – were not carried forward and were eliminated. Several part-time workers were laid off, and there were under 10 full-time workers cut, Demas said.

“Even though a continuing appropriation is an administrative nightmare, we thought it was the most prudent course of action until we get more information,” he said.

“To delay reducing expenditures – that would make things tougher for us potentially later on or when we close out next June 30,” he said. “The focus, again, was to make reductions without impacting direct services to residents...a lot of it is in personnel. The majority of municipal expenditures are payroll.”

Some areas were unavoidable in spending increases. That included the Police Patrolmen’s Union that had negotiated salary increases last year, and those went through and were upheld. It also included, by City Charter, a mandated increase in the May-

or’s Salary from \$165,000 to \$185,000 per year. However, the mayor did decide to voluntarily give up his \$12,500 vehicle stipend that was put in place last year.

Demas said there will be a traditional budget, but what is hampering that process – which usually takes place in May and June and concludes by June 30 – is having state aid information. The City Budget, like most, is heavily dependent on state aid. The state has not given any clue to what its state aid budget might be, so no municipality knows what the cuts are going to be if any. That hesitancy at the state level is dictated by what is happening in the federal government, whether or not there will be a rescue bill passed by Congress and President Donald Trump for cities and towns. There is also some unknown locally as Mayor DeMaria allowed as many accommodations as possible for residents and businesses to delay taxes and fees during the pandemic to June 30.

Demas said by next week, they’ll have a good idea locally what the revenues are – how many people paid their taxes, excise and personal property and how many did not. Federally, he said he has heard that in late July the U.S. Senate might be taking action that includes aid to cities and towns with revenue shortfalls attributed to COVID-19. Once those pieces are in place, or not, it would produce a clearer path to where the City is headed financially.

“By that time, hopefully we’ll be given some clear direction from the state,” he said. “We’ll have to produce another continuing appropriation for at least August and probably September...We should be submitting something to the City Council at least by mid-September to be able to go through the traditional budget process and then have something in place by October 1. It is an administrative nightmare, but it is our job and what we have to do to be responsible.”

The City has already reduced debt costs signifi-

cantly by being creative in its borrowing. Seizing on a federal program, DeMaria and Demas decided to use short-term borrowing to pay for essential capital improvement programs (CIP). Normally, the City would make a long-term borrowing around April 1 for the CIP projects – which include parks, infrastructure and City building improvements. This year, they used guidance from the Federal Reserve to do short-term borrowing, and were able to get one of the lowest short-term rates in the state (0.87 percent). That significantly reduced costs to the City via debt payments – freeing up more cash to spend on direct services.

Demas did address a rumor within the City workforce that the cuts were a result of Mayor DeMaria’s vision for a virtual City Hall – more of a philosophical cut than a true revenue shortfall cut. Demas said that is not the case at all.

“It is the mayor’s long-term goal to have more of a virtual City Hall, but we’re not making long-term decisions,” he said.

Overall, the approach is more conservative than other cities and towns around Everett. Chelsea and Revere, for instance, have passed traditional budgets based on estimates of state aid and local revenues. Some have argued those estimates are too optimistic, or too dire. For Everett, Demas said they weren’t willing to make guesses on the finances, but wanted to move ahead with only what they knew – particularly given the casino is in a state of uncertainty right now in that they have been closed and no one is sure what kind of business they will re-kindle after their July 12 opening.

“I know other cities and towns have passed annual budgets, but every municipality is different and complex,” he said.

“I am a data driven person and we need more data to make more informed decisions,” said Demas. “A lot of municipalities didn’t want to continue appropriations because it is an administrative nightmare, but it is what we had to do.”

Everett named a Housing Choice Community by Baker

By Seth Daniel

The City of Everett announced on Tuesday that the state Department of Housing and Community Development had once again named the City a Housing Choice Community – acknowledging the City’s dedication to permitting and promoting housing production over the last five years.

“I’m honored that our City received this recognition once again from the Commonwealth and Governor Baker,” said Mayor Carlo DeMaria. “Receiv-

ing this acknowledgement is a testament of the City’s dedication to providing increased affordable housing to our residents. The housing needs in our community are drastic, but with dedication and commitment we will be able to overcome all obstacles presented to us.”

The letter came from Housing Undersecretary Jennifer Maddox, and Everett was one of 64 communities named this year as a Housing Choice Community, and that made 74 such communities designated either once or multiple times by the state.

“Together, these commu-

nities have produced over 70 percent of the new housing in the Commonwealth over the last five years,” she wrote.

The designation includes several benefits and preferences from state programs and grant initiatives.

First, the City qualifies for an exclusive capital grant program for up to \$250,000 in funding. Secondly, Everett will get special consideration in nine state programs. They include important programs like MassWorks, Complete Streets, and Green Communities.

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DiDomenico secures \$1.75 million for Everett in General Government Bond Bill

Sen. Sal DiDomenico and his colleagues in the Massachusetts State Senate last week passed a General Government Bond Bill focused on capital improvements to strengthen government infrastructure, empower communities disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system, support early education and care providers with safe reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic, and expand equitable access to remote learning opportunities for vulnerable populations across the Commonwealth.

During the Senate debate of the bond bill, Senator DiDomenico secured a total of \$1.75 million in additional funding for the City of Everett. This funding includes:

- \$1.5 million to address the racial disparities in education, housing, and small businesses in Everett;
- \$250,000 for free wireless internet in parks and other public spaces in the city of Everett.

DiDomenico also secured an amendment during the debate for \$5 million for the development of a common application for MassHealth enrollees to more easily access the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). DiDomenico has been longtime champion of food security in the Commonwealth, and has been filing legislation for years now to streamline the process for individuals and families applying for federal SNAP benefits in an effort to help people more easily access the nutritional resources they need.

“In addition to authorizing capital investments critically needed across our state, I am very pleased that this bond bill includes a strong focus on investing

in historically underserved groups and empowering economically disadvantaged communities, such as the city of Everett” said Senator DiDomenico. “I am especially proud to report that this bond bill includes a total of \$1.75 million in funding that I was able to secure for our Everett community, and for vital food security initiatives that I have been advocating on behalf of for many years now. I would like to thank Senate President Karen Spilka and Senate Ways & Means Chair Michael Rodrigues for their partnership in ensuring that our community receives the support that it needs during these difficult times.”

Building on the Senate’s urgent efforts to address issues of racial equity and support communities of color, this bond bill authorizes \$50 million in new economic empowerment and community reinvest-

ment capital grants to support communities disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system with access to economic and workforce development opportunities.

In addition to empowering economically disadvantaged communities, the Senate’s bond bill authorizes capital investments to ensure accountability in public safety and modernize criminal justice data collection by providing \$20 million for a body camera grant program for police departments and \$10 million for a statewide criminal justice data system modernization to help better track racial and ethnic disparities across the judicial and public safety systems.

To ensure equitable access to remote learning opportunities and safe access to early childcare opportunities, the Senate bond bill authorizes \$50 million to

enhance and expand access to K-12 remote learning technology and provides \$25 million to assist licensed early education and care providers and after school programs with capital improvements to ensure safe reopening during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The bill also addresses growing food insecurity and food supply chain needs across the Commonwealth due to the COVID 19 pandemic, by authorizing \$37 million for a food security grant program to address infrastructure needs for farms, retailers, fisheries, food system businesses, and food distribution channels.

Additional components of the \$1.7 billion bond bill include:

- \$140 million for cybersecurity upgrades to improve the Commonwealth’s technology and telecom-

Election Commission opting for three polling locations, mail-in voting

By Seth Daniel

In an effort to conduct a Primary Election on Sept. 1 in what is still a pandemic environment, the City’s Election Commission and City Clerk are looking to reduce the numbers of polling places and institute a new state law that allows mail-in voting and expands early voting.

City Clerk Sergio Cornelio said they are working as fast as humanly possible this week to implement the new state election law and to customize Everett’s voting set-up to accommodate COVID-19 regulations for the Sept. 1 Primary Election – which features major races for state representative (Joe McGonagle vs. Michael McLaughlin) and U.S. Senate (Joe Kennedy III vs. Ed Markey).

“In the past we utilized multiple schools and senior buildings for our polling precincts,” said Cornelio.

“We have proposed to reduce the numbers of polling places for walk-in voting. You can’t reduce precincts because there are 12, but we want to reduce the numbers of buildings in use.”

The plan that has been proposed to the School Department and School Committee for approval uses Everett High School gym to accommodate four precincts.

The Connolly Center – which has been closed to senior citizens and will remain closed indefinitely – will accommodate four other precincts. Meanwhile, the Rec Center on Elm Street will accommodate the other four precincts. That will allow for 12 precincts in three buildings to accommodate walk-in voting on Sept. 1.

That plan is expected to be presented to the City Council for its annual Election Warrant approval in late July.

“We feel like this plan is more manageable,” he said. “That will be a big change for voters in addition to being able to now vote by mail.”

The biggest change for the coming Primary Election will be the newly approved vote by mail option, which Cornelio refers to as an expanded Absentee Ballot system. According to the law passed last week, the Secretary of State’s Office has until July 15 to mail out letters to all registered voters in Everett giving them the option to request an absentee ballot. That letter would require action from the voter, and upon taking action; it would result in a ballot mailed to them. They would make their vote, and put the ballot in an included envelope that is addressed and stamped. It would be returned to the Election Department in Everett for Everett voters.

Registration for the Pri-

mary Election has also been moved back and voters have until Aug. 22 to register for the election. Likewise, they have until Aug. 26 at 5 p.m. to request a ballot to vote by mail.

There will also be an expanded Early Voting period – a new tweak in the state Election Law instituted before the U.S. Presidential Election in 2016. The Early Voting period in-person and by mail will be between Aug. 22-28. That period ends just a few days before the election on Sept. 1.

The law requires Everett to have seven days of early voting in person, and that includes hours on a Saturday and Sunday.

All of it adds up to quick

and difficult logistical work for Cornelio and the Elections staffers. With the bill just passed last week, there are only a few weeks to get preparations in place for the most challenging election process in recent history.

“There are a lot of I’s to dot and T’s to cross before Sept. 1,” he said. “We don’t get a lot of time to prepare. The bill just passed and we have to really think fast now.”

He said he doesn’t anticipate any trouble tabulating results on Election night, but he said he could foresee challenges in processing all of the mail-in ballots and Early Voting ballots. It will take discipline and coordination, he said, to make

sure all of those ballots are put in the right place on Primary Election day. He said while they have had about 1,000 such votes in the past, they could have as many as 5,000 mail-in votes this time around.

That could be a challenge logistically.

Finally, he said there are questions about Poll Workers – who are predominately elderly and high-risk. Many are not comfortable working on Sept. 1 with the public, so there will be a shortage. He said they have already begun to order PPE for the Poll Workers, and the Secretary of State is required under the new law to order and ship PPE to each City and Town as well.

Everett opts to hold summer camp for ‘Crimson Kids’ with safety protocols

By Seth Daniel

After months of peeking out the windows, staring at computer screens and playing alone in the yard or in public open spaces, kids in Everett might finally have something non-virtual to do.

Mayor Carlo DeMaria and the City’s Health and Human Services Department – along with a host of other City collaborators – announced there would be an in-person summer camp run by the City for kids ages 6-14.

“After much planning and coordinating, I am pleased to announce that we will be able to offer our Crimson Kids program in 2020,” said Mayor DeMaria. “While a majority of municipalities decided to forego their summer programming I found it imperative to given children [and parents] a much needed summer fun program. As the state’s guidelines change, we will increase the amount of children accepted on a weekly basis.”

Health and Human Services Director Jerry Navarra said they would be offering Crimson Kids to 70 kids per week. There will be seven weeks of camp, but families for now are limited to reserving two weeks at a time. The camp will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

at the Rec Center on Elm Street Monday to Friday. There won’t be any field trips this year, but they will serve breakfast and lunch every day in partnership with FKO and the YMCA Summer Meals program – which is operating separately in seven locations citywide this summer.

Crimson Kids will start on Monday, July 13, and will cost \$75 for one child, and siblings will cost \$25 extra. That makes it \$100 per week for a family with two children.

“That cost is very low and unheard of for two kids,” Navarra said. “We could have decided it was too difficult this year and opted to just not open summer camp at all. However, we knew people have been cooped up and kids and parents needed a break. We decided to go forward and follow the state guidelines and open the camp.”

There will be significant changes to allow for safety this year, though, said Public Health Nurse Sabrina Firicano. There will be new sanitizing measures and daily cleanings inside and outside where the kids are at. There will be temperature checks every morning at drop-off, they will keep contact lists and a City nurse will be on site at all times.

If a child has a fever of

100 degrees or higher, they will not be allowed to attend that day, and must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning. Likewise, if a child becomes ill during the day, there will be a relaxing isolation area for them to be kept within until their parent can pick them up.

Kids in the camp will need to bring masks with them, although there will be masks available if theirs breaks or they forget it for a day.

Navarra said each child will be kept in a distinct group with the same counselor for the entire period at camp. There will be no mixing and mingling of kids or counselors in order to better trace contacts if there happens to be a case come up.

Counselors will be teenagers hired from within the community, and so the camp will not only provide activity for younger kids and young teens, but also provide jobs for older teens throughout the summer.

All of the activities will be contact-less, meaning there will be no sports like basketball or football and such. They will have obstacle courses, relay races, water balloon fights, arts and crafts, entertainers, moves and there is now air conditioning this year in the Rec Center for the first time.

Encore // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Most notable among the enhancements are:

- Non-invasive thermal temperature scans at all guest and employee entrances (no guest or employee with a temperature of 100.4 or more will be allowed in the resort);
- Mandatory face coverings for all employees and guests, with complimentary face coverings available for

guests;

- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of guest areas throughout the day;
- Multiple hand sanitizer stations and disinfecting wipes available throughout the resort; and
- Appropriate and comfortable physical distancing in all gaming and dining areas.

Encore Boston Harbor’s

Health and Safety Plan was created in consultation with leading public health professionals in addition to MGC requirements and recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

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THE STOCK MARKET DOES NOT REPRESENT THE U.S. ECONOMY

We don't pretend to be experts either in the stock market or the economy in general.

However, as Bob Dylan put it, "You don't need a weath-erman to know which way the wind blows," and similarly, the average American doesn't need a Ph.D. in economics to understand that the recent record height of the stock market indices -- the S&P 500, the Dow Jones 30 Indus-trials, and the Nasdaq -- does not reflect the health of the U.S. economy.

Increasing economic inequality -- what has become known as the disconnect between Wall St. and Main St. -- has been the broad trend of American life for the past 40 years.

Ever since Ronald Reagan (aided and abetted by the Democrats, by the way) deregulated the banking and other industries, gutted the labor unions, reduced tax rates for the rich, and abrogated the antitrust laws, America's immense wealth has become concentrated in the hands of the very few to an extent never before seen in the modern world.

Consider that the top 1% of American households now control more than half of the equity in U.S. public and pri-vate companies, according to data from the Federal Re-serve. In relative terms, the top 1% now has more wealth than the entire middle class and as much wealth as 90% of all Americans.

The ratio of the salary of a CEO vs. the salary of the typical worker of a publicly-traded company in 1965 was about 20-1. That ratio today is about 350-1.

This is only part of the story, however. The real reason for the increase in the disparity between the top 1% and ev-eryone else is that middle-class jobs in America have dis-appeared at an alarming rate to the benefit of the top 1%.

According to a Brookings Institution report, the two most highly-valued companies in the country in 1962 -- AT&T and General Motors -- employed nearly 1.2 million people combined.

Last year, the two largest companies in the S&P 500 -- Microsoft and Apple -- employed just 280,000 persons. Apple puts together almost all of its products in China, us-ing third-party manufacturing companies that operate the modern-day equivalent of sweatshops.

Further, consider that the wealthiest top 10 percent of Americans own about 84 percent of U.S. stocks, with the top 1 percent owning 40 percent.

So put those two trends together -- fewer middle class jobs and stock ownership of American companies concen-trated in the hands of a few -- and the result simply is this: Income that formerly went to the American middle-class has shifted to countries with low-wage workers, with the wealthy netting the difference.

There also is another factor at play. The health of the U.S. stock market not only does not represent the U.S. economy, it also does not even represent the stock market itself.

The five largest listed companies -- Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Alphabet (Google), and Facebook -- have con-tinued to climb this year. Through the end of April, these companies were up roughly 10 percent, while the 495 oth-er companies in the S&P were down 13 percent. These highly valued firms -- Microsoft, Amazon and Apple are each worth more than \$1 trillion -- now account for about one-fifth of the market value of the entire index, the high-est level in 30 years.

The coronavirus pandemic is exacerbating the trend of the past 40 years: The rich are getting richer, while every-body else is getting poorer and deeper into debt.

Without government policies -- higher tax rates on the wealthy, vigorous antitrust enforcement, and support of labor unions -- that will bring back into alignment the eco-nomic forces that created the great American middle-class of the 1950s and 60s, America is destined to become an oligarchy, otherwise known as a banana republic, with grave consequences for our democracy.

A phrase attributed to Louis Brandeis succinctly put it this way, "We must make our choice. We may have democ-racy, or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both."

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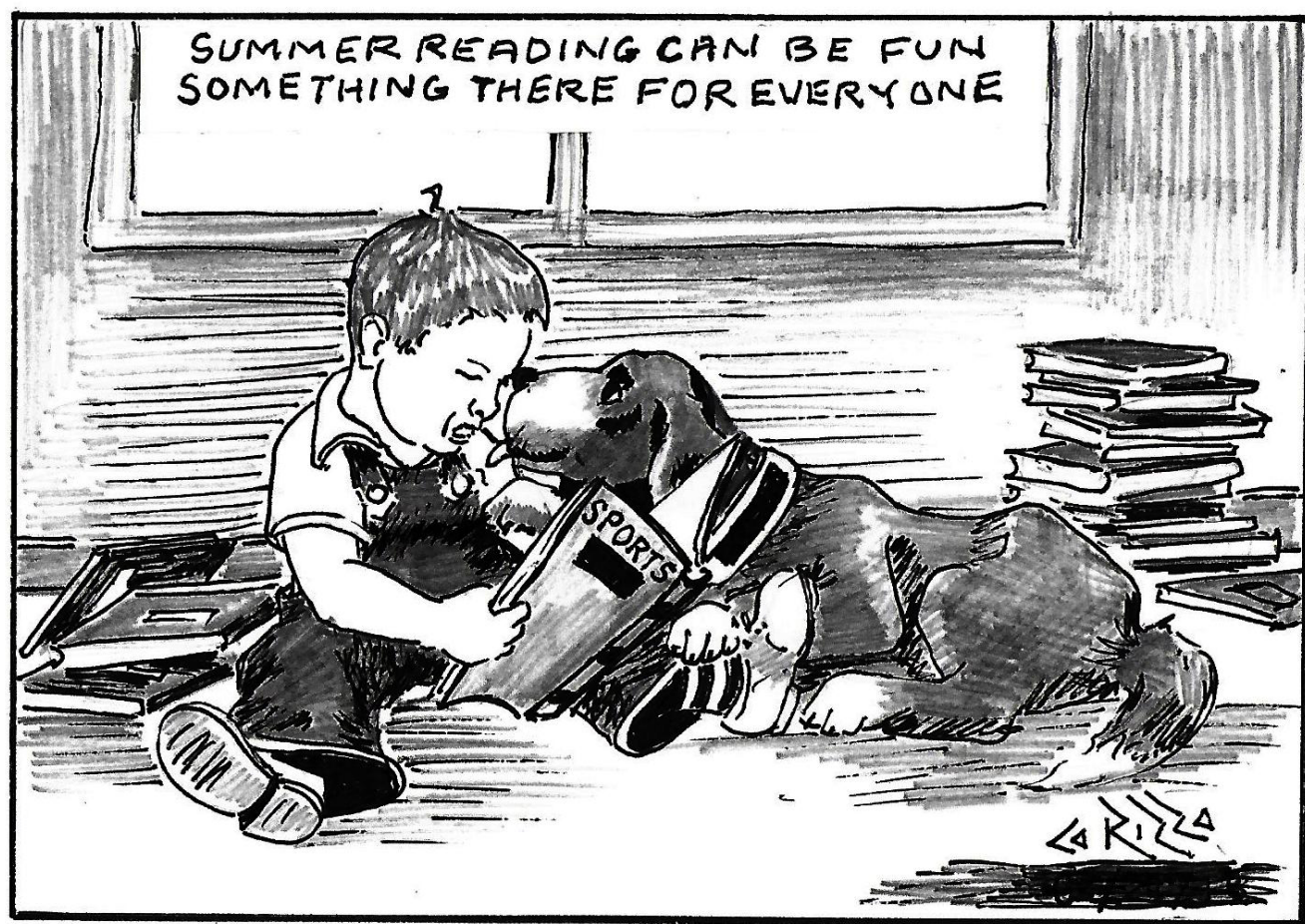
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Independent Forum



THE BEST THING NEXT TO A YOUNG READER IS A GOOD LISTENER

GUEST OP-ED

Life is a puzzle

willing to try?

Most people need a lit-tle more money. How will you obtain it? Chances are it won't just appear. Utilize what you know and your skills to work for you. Ev-eryone has gifts and abil-ities that can be useful if channeled properly. Often it may be what you know or what you can do that will work for you to develop more income. Keep in mind that this may take some time. What you are think-ing about today could take weeks or months to see re-sults. Therefore, start now.

We often give up. We try and work hard and seldom see much results and then stop. Often, we get close to being where we want to be and then quit. We lose 20 pounds but put it right back on. We give up a habit but go back to it. We start a project and then quit. So

often, a great idea is like a puzzle with so many pieces that have to fall into place. Once you find all the piec-es the puzzle is a beautiful picture that you put togeth-er with patience and trying and trying again to fit the right pieces where they be-long.

Our lives are like puz-zles. We must have a pic-ture in our minds of what we would like to look like if we are going to put that kind of life together. We try different pieces and of-ten they don't fit. Too often we try to make the pieces fit where they don't be-long and that never works for a picture. So, you have to keep trying. I've seen people with puzzles out on a table for weeks trying to figure out which piece goes where. This is where most of our lives are much of the time. Trying to find the

right piece of the puzzle.

Making the picture of our lives the way we want it to be is often changing. What we may want today has probably changed from what we wanted even ten years ago. The dynamics are still the same though. Whatever you are working on still requires patience, effort, faith and most im-portantly a clear picture in your mind of what you are trying to put together.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national colum-nist -- American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and fea-tures appear each week In over 500 newspapers, web-sites and blogs across the United States.

Baker, MBTA and Community Partners highlight food security partnership with The RIDE

Governor Charles Bak-er and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito last week joined MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak and officials from the City of Boston, Greater Boston YMCA and Greater Boston Food Bank to highlight an innovative partnership to help provide Boston's most vulnera-ble residents with access to food by utilizing RIDE paratransit service.

"Our administration is committed to addressing food security concerns cre-ated by the COVID-19 pan-demic, and this partnership between the MBTA, City of Boston, YMCA and Great-er Boston Food Bank is an innovative way we can support our most vulnera-ble residents during these unprecedented times," said Baker. "We are glad this initiative is making a dif-ference, and appreciate the work of so many partners to make it happen."

MBTA General Manag-er Steve Poftak added, "I want to express my sincere gratitude to the operators of our RIDE vehicles who have stepped up to help our most vulnerable neighbors access food. This partner-ship with the Greater Bos-ton Food Bank, the City of Boston and the YMCA has been a tremendous success, resulting in the delivery of tens of thousands of bags of groceries to citizens in



Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito tour the YMCA of Greater Boston headquar-ters last week.

need."

"We acknowledge the strong leadership of Gov-ernor Baker during the pandemic and relish this opportunity to partner with the MBTA, Mayor Walsh and City of Boston offi-cials to deliver food to our most vulnerable children, families and seniors. It is a blessing to coalesce our organizational skills, infrastructures and 'peo-ple power' in the spirit of serving others," said James Morton, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Boston. "We thank the MBTA and City of Boston for allowing the

YMCA of Greater Boston to participate in this im-portant partnership, as we are universally committed to mitigating hunger for all Bostonians during this crisis and beyond. We ap-preciate the recognition of our work from our partners, Governor Baker and Mayor Walsh."

As ridership on the MB-TA's RIDE service has sig-nificantly declined during the COVID-19 pandemic, available RIDE vehicles are currently being utilized to pick up and deliver food items and school meals to residents. Collaborating with GBFB and the YMCA,

RIDE drivers arrive at the YMCA location on Hun-tington Avenue daily to pick up an assortment of grocery bags and shelf stable school meals. Groceries are de-livered by RIDE vehicles to designated homes, the amount based on the size of the household and whether or not the family is enrolled in the Boston Public School partnership.

As of the end of June, the RIDE has completed over 8,000 deliveries, totaling more than 12,000 grocery bags and nearly 60,000 school meals to over 1,200 Boston Public School chil-dren.

THE CITY OF EVERETT SPONSORED A SAFE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

The City of Everett sponsored a safe Independence Day celebration at RiverGreen Park on Thursday evening, July 2. There was plenty of popcorn and snacks as well as the movie ‘Sandlot’ to enjoy.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MAYOR’S OFFICE/MICHELLE FENELON



Rob, Chelsea, Leah and Melody were ready for the movie.



Luiz, Enzo and Lucas relaxed in the back of the truck with bean bags.



Melissa Trzepacz with Bella, Paige and Sidney.



Rebecca Hickey, Mia Pellegrino and Elena Hickey.



Dayeli Garcia, Sheryln Rodriguez, Vanessa Carcamo and Samantha Perkins.



Ralph Picardi and Giovanna.



Erica Singer and children enjoyed the movie and the popcorn.



Karen, Joselin, Leilani and Rianna.



Public Health Nurse Sabrina Firicano and Joint Committee Director Nicole Graffam.



Uncle Sam set the Patriotic theme on stilts.



Legislative Aide Mike Mangan, Councilors Fred Capone, Jimmy Tri Le, Rosa DiFlorio, Anthony DiPierro, Peter Napolitano and Stephanie Martins were on hand to distribute candy to movie-goers at the City’s Independence Day celebration.

VISIT EVERETTINDEPENDENT.COM



WANTED: POLL WORKERS!!!
City of Everett Election Commission
Who can be a Poll Worker?

Any registered voter in Massachusetts can be considered for a poll worker position. Bilingual candidates preferred but not mandatory.

Will I work in my own precinct?

You must be willing and able to go to any precinct. We will always try to place you close to your home, if there is a vacancy.

What will my duties be?

Poll workers identify the voters as eligible, assist voters when necessary, and assure that the election laws of the state are followed.

Will I be trained?

Yes. All new workers are trained and renewal training is done before every election.

What are the hours?

You will report to the polling place by 6:30 a.m. and remain until after the polls close at 8:00 p.m.

How much will I be paid?

\$160 is the rate of pay for all inspectors. You will receive \$25 for a training session if you work on Election Day.

How can I become a poll worker?

Call the Election Office at 617-394-2297 or stop by Room 10 at City Hall for an application.



Carlo DeMaria
Mayor

City of Everett
Conservation Commission
Everett City Hall, Room 25
484 Broadway
Everett, MA 02149

Jon E. Norton
Chairman
Phone: 617-394-5004

~ LEGAL NOTICE ~
Everett Conservation Commission
Public Hearing

Applicant: The City of Everett, 484 Broadway, Everett, MA 02149

Location: Northern Strand Community Trail, Everett, MA 02149

The Everett Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** via a live conference call, regarding a Notice of Intent filed pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act, G.L. c. 131, § 40, for work described below.

The Project proposes a three-quarter mile shared use path to extend the existing Northern Strand Community Trail, from its existing terminus at West & Wellington to the recently constructed Encore Riverwalk along the Mystic River. SITE Centers, owners of the Gateway Shopping Center are also funding the design and construction for the parts of the path on their property. The project includes retaining wall construction to build a path that runs underneath two state-owned bridges carrying Revere Beach Parkway (Route 16) while minimizing impacts to the MBTA and DCR-owned wetlands. A boardwalk will also be constructed to bridge between two wetlands without requiring excessive fill.

To review the application please email Tom Philbin at Tom.Philbin@ci.everett.ma.us. A link to participate in the live meeting will be available on the Everett City Website on the posted meeting agenda.

Jon E. Norton
Chairman
Everett Conservation Commission
July 2, 2020

EVERETT LITTLE LEAGUE READY FOR THE 2020 SEASON

Everett Little League teams were getting ready for the start of the 2020 season this week at Sacramone Park.

Major and Minor Division teams will play nightly games in the youth baseball organization that he is being led by first-year president Oscar Vega.

The well-known park, that include two all-artifi-

cial turf surfaces, is in sensational shape as are the two scoreboards that overlook the fields. It truly is one of the best playing facilities in the area and the fields will handle any rainy conditions very well, meaning that unless there is a torrential downpour during the day or at game-time, baseball will be played.

Play ball!



Michelle Kane and her son, Aidan Kane of the Minor League Blue Jays, are pictured at Sacramone Park Monday as Everett Little League prepares to open its 2020 season that was delayed several weeks due to the coronavirus.



The Minor League Blue Jays, pictured at Sacramone Park Monday, are ready for the season under the leadership of coach Bill Kotsiopoulos, head coach John Marchese, coach Ronald Butland, and coach Christian Foley.



Mayor Carlo DeMaria welcomes you to Sacramone Park, home of Everett Little League, on one of the scoreboards at the park.



The ace pitchers of the Minor League Blue Jays staff, left-hander Caden Foley and right-hander Bella Krokos.

Mystic River must reduce phosphorous load by 60 percent

Staff Report

On May 28, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the “Mystic River Watershed Alternative TMDL Development for Phosphorus Management - Final Report” that calls for reducing phosphorus inputs into the Mystic River watershed by 60 percent.

The Mystic River and nearly every water body in the watershed has a problem with too much of the nutrient phosphorus. With so many surfaces paved, we are sending pollutant-laden stormwater to the river, lakes, and ponds instead of into the ground. The result has been excessive growth of invasive plants, poor fish habitat, and blooms of toxic cyanobacteria that are a threat to public health.

A “TMDL”, short for Total Maximum Daily Load, describes the amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can absorb and still meet water quality standards. It then serves as a regulatory framework used to set limits and require compliance in reducing nutrients.

“The Mystic River and its 44 lakes and ponds, like most water bodies in the United States, are cleaner today than ever thanks in a

large part to the clean water act passed in 1972,” said Andy Hrycyna, Watershed Scientist at the Mystic River Watershed Association. “With the newly released Alternative TMDL our local Mystic communities have another tool to help stop the growing problem of excessive phosphorus in our water bodies.”

The result of the MyRWA study that lead to the Alternative TMDL is sobering. It will require a 60 percent reduction in nutrient loads to bring the Mystic River and its tributaries into compliance with water quality standards. To achieve these reductions, municipalities will have to build green infrastructure and soak more of this stormwater into the ground.

The development of the Alternative TMDL was a collaboration of the EPA, MassDEP, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, the United States Geological Survey, and the Mystic River Watershed Association. It is a slightly different approach than the TMDLs found on the Charles River and other urban water bodies. The team created an “Alternative TMDL” which does not place binding requirements on municipalities, instead it promotes a flexible framework to begin work faster with iterative feedback on what works.

Binding requirements are expected in future permits.

“No one agency or organization could have done this on their own,” said Patrick Herron, Executive Director, Mystic River Watershed. “Five years ago the Mystic River Watershed Association launched one of its most aggressive water quality efforts undertaken--to study the impacts of phosphorus on the Mystic. We are thrilled that the EPA and MASS DEP partnered with us on this effort, and even more thrilled to be working with our municipalities to decrease nutrient inputs and improve water quality with the implementation of nature-based solutions at a large scale.”

Many Mystic municipalities are already working to reduce stormwater pollution ahead of any permit requirements. Arlington, Cambridge, Everett, Lexington, Medford, Melrose, Winchester and Woburn are among the communities that have active projects to design and install green infrastructure to reduce nutrient pollution.

On the Malden River and in the surrounding communities, there has been a growing recognition of the value of the river and parkslands for recreation--and the importance of keeping it clean.

“Stormwater runoff is

the number one pollutant degrading our rivers and streams,” says Mayor Carlo DeMaria. “That is why the City of Everett is investing in green infrastructure to divert runoff from storm drains and redirect it into the ground. We have built multiple rain gardens, bioswales, distributed rain barrels, updated our driveway ordinances, and maintained one of the most aggressive street sweeping programs of any community in the Commonwealth.”

State announces updated travel guidelines

from Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New York or New Jersey. Additionally, workers designated by the federal government as essential critical infrastructure workers are also exempt from this directive.

Travelers who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 are instructed to not travel to Massachusetts.

All visitors and residents of Massachusetts are also reminded that the use of masks or face coverings in public places where individuals cannot socially distance from others remains required.

These new guidelines replace previously announced Massachusetts travel guidance. For national travel information, please visit www.travel.state.gov.

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1	1 Bedroom**	\$1,786
1	2 Bedroom	\$1,989
1	2 Bedroom**	\$1,989

*unit is built out for persons with deaf/hard of hearing impairments
**unit is built out for persons with mobility impairments

Maximum Income per Household Size	
Household Size	80% AMI Low Income
1	\$67,400
2	\$77,000
3	\$86,650
4	\$96,250
5	\$103,950
6	\$111,650

Minimum Income Requirements per Unit Size	
Unit Size	Minimum Limit
1 Bedroom	\$53,580
2 Bedroom	\$59,670

Minimum Income requirements do not apply to households receiving housing assistance (Section 8, VASH, MRVP)

Households may request an application be sent by email or mail from **June 15, 2020 – August 15, 2020** through the following methods:
Visit: www.16LaurelLottery.com
Call: 781-992-5316 – US Relay 711

Information Session:
After careful consideration and an abundance of caution, it has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period and the information meetings. To replace the informational meetings, we have created a presentation that includes information about the property, the application process, preferences, the lottery, and what happens after the lottery. For a copy of the presentation, please visit:
www.16LaurelLottery.com

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Attention: 16 Laurel Street Lottery
27 Mica Lane, Wellesley MA 02481

Selection by lottery. Use & occupancy restrictions apply. Preference for Preference for households with at least one person per bedroom.

For more info or to make a request for reasonable accommodations, please call, Maloney Properties, Inc 781-992-5316 - MA Relay 711 or
Email: 16Laurel@MaloneyProperties.com

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Equal Housing Opportunity

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

COUNCIL APPROVES BUDGET

CHELSEA - The Chelsea City Council approved an overall City Budget of \$181.086 million, but not without a great deal of discussion and low marks for the effort and presentation by City Manager Tom Ambrosino.

The Budget was not a unanimous vote, passing 8-3. Those voting against were Councillors Dama-li Vidot, Enio Lopez and Yamir Rodriguez.

Those voting for the budget were Councillors Roy Avellaneda, Calvin Brown, Leo Robinson, Todd Taylor, Judith Garcia, Naomi Zabot, Giovanni Recupero, and Melinda Vega Maldonado.

The City Budget, by his own admission, wasn't going to win any awards – Ambrosino said earlier this month – but it was one that avoided layoffs and major cuts to critical programs by using money from the Rainy Day Fund.

By renegotiating with City unions about deferring pay raises, most union workers in City Hall and beyond were spared layoffs – something that is happening in large numbers at other municipalities.

The three parts of the budget approved included:

- Salaries: \$49,580,934
- O p e r a t i o n s : \$131,210,157
- Capital Improvements: \$295,000

To balance the budget that was approved, the Council had to give the okay to using \$4.9 million from the Stabilization Fund – which has grown over the years as Chelsea socked away money in good times.

Now, everyone agreed, was a Rainy Day.

However, there was no love of the effort given to the City Budget this year by most every councillor, even those that voted for it.

Councillor Vidot led off the discussion by saying she would not vote for the budget, and followed through with that.

“We’re in the middle of a pandemic and yet we’re seeing proposed budget cuts to some of the most important departments, such as Health and Human Services” said Vidot. “We needed more creativity in this budget. Cutting the funding for this department in a city that has lost 152 lives is unacceptable...We had a chance here to lead and create a real need that addresses the needs of the community. I think it misses the mark sorely and I will not support it.”

Said Calvin Brown, “A lot more could have been done. I really think we had an opportunity to make some change on several issues. There were none of those things mentioned.”

Council President Avellaneda said he expected a more professional presentation, roles of employees defined and mission statements for every department. He said there were parts he couldn't even follow, and if he cannot follow it with decades in government service, then certainly the public couldn't either.

“Some of this didn't even have page numbers,” he said. “It was a disaster. If I were a professor, I'd give you an 'F' absolutely. That's not even something you could present online for the public to look at and digest. I don't want to hear COVID-19 – I don't. I'm not buying it. I hope next year this looks a lot better... This was unacceptable.”

He also said on the substance of the budget, he disagreed with a lot of the revenue projections, and predicted that the City Manager would be back in the fall for cuts or to try to

raise taxes.

“Come October and November, we're going to look at ourselves and say, 'It's time to pay for this budget.'”

Councillor Garcia said she understood the issues, and she too was disappointed with the budget, but felt voting against it wasn't necessary.

“As much as I wish I could join in collectively to make a statement on the budget that we're not proud of and could have been better, I have a civic duty to vote on a budget,” she said.

Councillor Taylor said he wasn't impressed with the format or presentation, but he said it was quite an accomplishment to avoid layoffs in these dark times.

“Speaking as someone who has 700 employees and I had to lay all of them off and my industry has been destroyed, I'm pretty proud of this budget that we don't have to lay anyone off. That's a big deal,” he said. “To save people's jobs and keep everyone employed is important and needs to be recognized.”

Councilor Robinson said the Council needs to shoulder some of the burden for the bad budget as well.

“We have just as much responsibility to develop programs and help our community,” he said. “We as a City Council need to step up to the plate and share in these responsibilities.”

There were no cuts to the City Budget in the form of amendments by the Council, though one was defeated.

OUTDOOR DINING HAS MIXED REVIEWS

CHELSEA - The excitement of outdoor dining in Chelsea Square's wonderful ambiance fluttered out for a lot of restaurant owners at about the third table they had to drag out to the sidewalk and street – knowing they had to also drag them back in every night.

Friday night, June 26, marked an exciting night in Chelsea Square and beyond as many restaurants opened for the first time in months – allowing some indoor dining and special outdoor sidewalk/street considerations for restaurants willing to participate.

At Mi Salvador, they had six colorful tables on the brick sidewalk, as the sun shone on Chelsea Square and they opened to diners for the first in weeks June 22. Last Friday, they decided to try the City's outdoor program as well.

“It's better than nothing,” said Vladimir Chino, owner.

However, that was about the best review from owners that the program got, despite loads of hard work and effort put into the program by the City, the License Commission and Chelsea Prosper.

One of the key problems was that the dining areas had to be broken down every night at closing, around 10 p.m. They were only able to go out at 5 p.m., so a gargantuan effort had to be made for about five or six tables.

“I think it's good for what it is now,” said Whitney Huynh, general manager of Tijuana's. “It is a lot of work bringing the tables in and out every day. I appreciate the City's effort. For people who are younger, they are going to like this... People really love outdoor dining, and this is the first time we've done this. We do need more space and this does give us more space outdoors.”

Danny from Catracho's on Broadway said he was extremely disappointed, and he said others near him were as well.

They didn't like the

wooden pallet barriers that were assigned and used – which were built on the fly by volunteers. He said they were dangerous and weren't very aesthetic. He also said they were told they couldn't put creative lighting – nothing with electricity – or heating lamps outside. And, he said he and another establishment had a plan to really decorate their spaces with plants and flowers. However, it wasn't going to work if they had to take them inside every day.

“I don't want to throw dirt on the City, but they could have done this a lot better,” he said. “I'm going to give this a try, but it's not the lifeline I was hoping for. My customers are going to look at this, and then go and look what they're doing in other cities – like East Boston – and they're going to go to East Boston. I love the idea and I love their effort. I just don't like how they did it. There are too many rules, too many things we can't do, and other places have been doing this for weeks now. We're actually behind.”

Both Danny and Huynh said if the City is going to do outdoor dining, it has to be permanent.

Downtown Coordinator Mimi Graney said the trouble was there was some hesitation from the City Council and the Traffic Commission to commit to permanent assemblies until restaurants committed to the program. Meanwhile, restaurants didn't want to commit until the City committed to something more.

She said the program is in its infancy, and she hopes early issues can spur City boards to make more changes – leading to greater closures and more permanency such as has been done on Moody Street in Waltham, which is closed to all traffic except morning deliveries.

The Traffic and Parking Commission and City Council approved only just the evenings for the parklets,” she said. “When we were going before them the businesses were not sure they were interested and we were hearing only concerns about 'losing' parking spaces. The city had only ever allowed parklets for just a few hours on one day so this was going to be a big ask for them to approve reserving so many spaces all at once. I've fielded those complaints. My hope was by showing there was interest by both businesses and customers we could go back to the Commission to expand the program. The barriers from the roadway are significant but on the other side there are complaints that anything less would be less safe.”

She did clarify that lights and heaters are allowed under the program, but businesses just need to detail how it would be set up and be safe from fire hazards.

EBNHC FARMERS' MARKET UNDERWAY

EAST BOSTON - As East Boston slowly creeps to the “new normal”, in the neighborhood some restaurants have been able to reopen with limited capacity or outdoor seating, retail stores that have closed are reopening and residents feel a little safer being out in public.

One sign that the worst of the pandemic is over for now and summer has arrived is the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) Let's Get Movin Farmers Market in Central Square.

This year's Farmers Market will last through October 1. The market will be open each Wednesday until 6 p.m.

However, EBNHC and the Let's Get Movin' staff are making several changes to this year's market in order to protect the health and safety of the public and farmers that will be on hand to sell their goods.

EBNHC's Program Coordinator for Community Initiatives Nancy Slamet said the Health Center has printed new fliers for the weekly market highlighting changes that put an emphasis on health in safety.

For example the market will host special shopping hours for seniors. The designated shopping hours for those 60 plus or others at high risk for COVID-19 will be each Wednesday from 3 to 3:30 p.m.

“Your health is our top priority. The East Boston Farmers Market will continue to provide access to affordable, local and farm-fresh food during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Slamet. “The 2020 season will be different in many ways to protect shoppers, farmers, and staff. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and look forward to seeing you there.”

The Farmers Market has launched a new online ordering and delivery service to this year's market.

Shoppers who do not feel comfortable with spending time shopping at the market can simply pay for their produce using the Whats-Good app. Beginning on July 8 online shoppers will pick up orders at the Farmers Market and customers can simply pick up their orders between 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. at the market's pre-order pick-up Tent on Border Street across from Marshalls in Liberty Plaza.

In August, home delivery will also be an option for those who do not feel comfortable venturing down to the market.

While COVID-19 infections continue on the downswing in Eastie and Boston Slamet said the organizers are asking residents to please stay home if they are sick and wear a mask and maintain social distance from others when you pick-up.

Slamet said when coming to the Farmers Market do not come if you are sick or have been exposed to COVID-19. Masks or face coverings must be worn at all times. Only bring children if you have no other option but children must stay beside you. No pets are allowed at this year's market.

There will also be designated entrances and exits to the Central Square Farmers Market

The Farmers Market now has two specific entrances. The entrance for the main market will be at the corner of Saratoga Street and Border Street. The entrance for Farmer Dave's stand will be at the intersection of Meridian Street and Central Square. Only a limited number of shoppers will be allowed at any time inside the market and you may have to wait to enter the market.

Before shopping the EBNHC would like customers to sanitize or wash your hands at one of our hand-washing stations when you enter the market. Shoppers must follow the one-way traffic flow of the market with no backtracking. Shoppers can go through the shopper's loop in the main market area again if they want to make another round.

Shoppers must also remain six feet away from other shoppers and vendors are not allowed to touch reusable bags.

There will also be no eating allowed inside the market.

In order to avoid personal contact the Farmers Mar-

SANDY PAWS HELPS FELLOW BUSINESS OWNERS



Andrea Cirelli, owner of 4XVR, (left) and Amanda Koutalakis, owner of Sandy Paws.

ket staff is urging shoppers to refrain from using cash whenever they can and instead pay with debit, credit cards, and apps if possible. Other acceptable forms of payment include WIC coupons, Senior coupons, SNAP/food stamps/EBT, and P-EBT.

SNAP/EBT customers receive a 100 percent incentive (a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$40-\$80, depending on household size) for each SNAP dollar spent on targeted fruits and vegetables purchased at the Farmers Market.

WIC supports farmers as well as good nutrition through the Farmers Market Nutrition Program. WIC Farmers Market coupons may be used at the East Boston Farmers Market on fresh, uncut fruits and vegetables.

Also eligible seniors can contact the senior agency that serves their town to find out when and where Senior Farmers Market Coupons will be distributed. Senior Farmers Market coupons may be used on fresh, uncut fruits and vegetables and honey.

The 2020 list of local farmers and vendors for this year's market can be seen on our website by visiting: <http://eastietimes.com/?p=15561>

ZUMIX TO HOLD VIRTUAL WALK

EAST BOSTON - For nearly 20 years, Zumix has participated in Boston's annual Walk for Music fundraiser, which brings music organizations from all over the city together to help raise money for local arts programs.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has put the breaks on large outdoor events in the city for the remainder of the summer.

As a nonprofit that has continually adapted throughout the pandemic, Zumix has decided to hold the annual Walk for Music virtually.

“For almost 20 years, we have come together to celebrate the Zumix community through the Walk for Music,” said Zumix Co-founder and Director Madeleine Steczynski. “Over the years we have faced a number of challenges, but nothing has stopped us from walking together. This year, COVID-19 presents a unique challenge because we cannot walk together in person. However, that will

not stop us from holding the Walk for Music as a virtual walk-a-thon.”

The virtual Walk for Music will take place on Sunday, July 12, and has already raised \$29,310 towards Zumix's \$50,000 goal.

Donations for the Walk for Music can be made to <https://www.firstgiving.com/event/zumix/Walk-for-Music-2020>. For more information on how to participate contact Zumix's Director of Development Kimberly Dawson at kdawson@zumix.org.

“We can't walk together, but we can still sing, laugh, learn, create and band together,” said Steczynski. “Our young people are the hope for a better future and we are bolstering the next generation to thrive.”

The Walk for Music is one of Zumix's largest fundraisers each year. The money raised through this event makes it possible for Zumix to provide high-quality private lessons and group programs to over 1,000 young people each year.

“Since the pandemic hit, we haven't skipped a beat as all of our programs are continuing remotely,” said Steczynski.

Zumix was created to empower youth to use music to make strong, positive change in their lives, their communities, and the world. Since its founding in 1991, the program has grown to serve more than 400 young people every year in programs in instrumental instruction, songwriting and performance, community radio, and creative technology. They serve an additional 400 young people per year through in-school partnerships with East Boston High School and the Umana Middle School Academy. The powerful impact of the program is illustrated by the fact that in the past 4 years, percent of its graduates enrolled in college.

MCGEE SEEKS TO ELIMINATE RACISM

LYNN - Mayor Thomas M. McGee announced initial steps to strengthen efforts to eliminate systemic racism within the City of Lynn through policy creation, systemic change, and increased community conversations.

“Systemic racism ad-

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Ann Festa

Retired Revere Public School teacher and administrator



Ann Festa of Revere died unexpectedly on July 6. A graduate of RHS, class of 1970, she went on to Salem State to receive a degree in education as well as her Masters Degree. Ann taught for many years in Revere Public Schools before becoming an Administrator at the Garfield School from which she retired in 2010. The devoted daughter of the late Joseph and Camille (Esposito) Festa, she was the beloved wife of Dan Mello, dear sister of Joseph Festa, Jr. and his wife, Elaine of Revere and John Festa and his wife, Jamie of Lynnfield; cherished aunt of Joseph III, Gerard, Morgan and John Jr.; great aunt of Camden, Calee and Alayna. Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend a Funeral Mass celebrating Ann's life on Friday, July 10 at 10 a.m. at St Antho-

ny's Church, 250 Revere St, Revere. Due to Covid-19, Masks are required before entering the church and social distance guidelines and capacity limits are in force. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ann's memory to MSPCA 350 S, Huntington Ave, Boston MA 02130 Entombment will be private. Please leave a message or share a memory in our guestbook www.Buonfiglio.com.

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DiDomenico, McGonagle announce new law to safeguard fall 2020 elections

Senator Sal DiDomenico and Representative Joe McGonagle recently announced the passage of legislation to expand voter access and ensure voters have safe voting options for all remaining 2020 elections, including the September 1 state primary and November 3 general election, in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. An Act relative to voting options in response to COVID-19 has now been signed by Governor Baker. The legislation, for the first time in state history, would establish a vote-by-mail option and early voting period for the upcoming fall elections. In addition to those options, the bill also addresses polling place safety for those who choose to cast their ballots in person. "Ensuring that we have safe, inclusive, and accessible elections is always of the highest importance, but especially critical as we face the COVID-19 crisis," said Senator DiDomenico. "I am proud that, as a Legislature, we have now passed comprehensive legislation to allow voters-- for the first time ever-- to cast ballots by mail, vote early, and safely vote in

person, as well as give our local election officials the tools they need to successfully run our fall elections." "While this bill was spurred by COVID-19 and the need for necessary safety precautions, I believe it will be far more useful than just that," said Rep. McGonagle. "Many voters already have difficulties getting to the polls, so this will widely expand their access and protect their right to vote. I am hopeful we will see an increase in voter participation in both the primary and general elections. Thanks to House and Senate leadership for prioritizing this timely and important legislation." The components of the bill are as follows: •Implements an early vote-by-mail system: An application to receive an early voting ballot for the primary will be mailed to all registered voters by July 15, 2020. The Secretary will then mail another application for the general election by September 14, 2020. Both applications and ballots will have postage costs already paid for. Ballots postmarked on or before November 3, 2020 will be counted until Fri-

day November 6, 2020 at 5 p.m. Applications for early voting and absentee voting must be received 4 business days before the election, by Wednesday August 26 2020 (for the primary) and Wednesday Oct. 28 2020. •Creates early voting for the primary and expands early voting periods: For the first time in Massachusetts, early voting will be available for the state primary, and will take place from Saturday, August 22, 2020 through Friday, August 28, 2020. Early voting for the general election is scheduled to take place from Tuesday, October 17, 2020 to Friday, October 30, 2020. •Makes in-person voting safer and more efficient: The bill allows municipalities, with proper notice, to consolidate polling places and eliminate the check-out table at these locations, allowing for a more efficient process and fewer poll workers. It also expands who is eligible to serve as a poll worker, knowing that many current volunteers are seniors who may feel less comfortable working in public during COVID-19. •Provides tools to assist clerks: Acknowledging the

increased burden these options may place on municipalities and clerks, the bill also provides for several accommodations to make the logistics of processing votes easier. The legislation allows for tabulating ballots prior to election day, and it offers pre-addressed envelopes to voters, so their applications go directly to their clerk's office. •Tasks the Secretary of State with creating an online portal and promoting voting options: To make it as easy as possible for people to apply for general election early voting, the bill requires Secretary Galvin's office to create an online portal not later than October 1, 2020. Electronic applications for early voting will be available for the general election, and if feasible, for the primary election. The bill also requires the Secretary of State to conduct a public awareness campaign to inform and notify voters of the many options available to cast a vote in upcoming 2020 elections. The legislation now moves on to the governor for consideration.

PFFM and Everett Firefighters Local 143 endorse State Rep. Joseph McGonagle's re-election campaign

The Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts (PFFM) endorsed State Rep. Joe McGonagle's re-election campaign. "The over 12,000 members of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts (PFFM) are proud to endorse Joe for re-election as State Representative. He has made the health and safety of firefighters a priority and stood with us to tackle occu-

pational cancer that plagues our profession," said Rich MacKinnon Jr., President of the PFFM. The PFFM endorsement follows the support of the Everett Firefighters Local 143. Craig Hardy, president of the Everett Firefighters Local 143, said, "The choice to endorse Joe McGonagle for State Representative was an easy decision. Everett Fire-

fighters Local 143 is proud to support Joe in his campaign because he has always had our back, continues to fight for us on Beacon Hill, and always answers our calls." "Our firefighters are true heroes -- and they show us that day in and day out, especially now during the Coronavirus pandemic," said McGonagle. "It is truly a privilege to have their

endorsement. They deserve the best as they are always at work making sure the City of Everett and the Commonwealth are safe." As an elected official, Joe brings a wealth of experience, including his time in public service and as a small business owner, to advocate for the hardworking residents of Everett. This year's Democratic Primary is on September 1st, 2020.

MVES offers tips to older adults on beating the heat this summer

If you recall, last summer ended up being a scorcher! And we have already seen the humidity and temperatures soar once again. During the hot summer months, Mystic Valley Elder Services recommends that it's a good idea to keep a close eye on the older adults in our lives. With more people being house bound this summer due to COVID-19, it is even more imperative we check in on them. Older adults are much more likely to develop heat-related illnesses than younger people because as we age our bodies don't adjust as well to drastic changes of temperature. Also,

some medications that older adults are taking can affect the way their bodies regulate heat. Here are some tips and resources to help you beat the heat. • Slow down, and avoid strenuous activity. Don't try to do too much on a hot day. • Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, light-colored clothing. Light colors will reflect heat and sunlight and help maintain normal body temperature. Protect your face with a wide-brimmed hat. • Drink plenty of water regularly and often, even if you do not feel thirsty. Stay hydrated. • Limit your intake of al-

coholic beverages, as they can actually dehydrate your body. • Eat well-balanced, light, regular meals. Avoid high protein foods that increase metabolic heat. • Cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun with drapes, shades, awnings or louvers. Outdoor awnings or louvers can reduce the heat that enters a home by up to 80%. • Air-conditioning can provide a lot of relief in the summer. On the most unbearably hot days when it's too hot for fans to be effective, air-conditioners can even help you stay safe. If you don't have air condi-

tioning, stay on your lowest floor, out of the sun. Electric fans do not cool the air, but they do help evaporate perspiration, which cools your body. • The heat affects more than just people. Our pets can be in danger when the temperatures reach highs. Keep your animals safe and healthy in this heat. Do not leave them in a hot car or without water. In extreme heat, it's important that we watch out for each other and stay informed about how to remain healthy and safe when the thermometer climbs. Stay cool!

Waterfront// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

core Boston Harbor casino -- and perhaps change some of the restrictions on those uses there. "It's the first time we're taking a focused look on uses in the DPA," said City Planner Tony Sousa. "The study is going to look at the potential of what it could be. We are very thankful to the MGC for getting it started. They agree with us that this is the next frontier." DPAs -- prior to COVID-19 -- have been under fire over the last five years as construction of housing has fired up, and most want to live near downtown and on the waterfront. Few places fit the bill like the Lower Mystic River in Everett, Chelsea and Charlestown. Already, last year, neighborhood leaders in Charlestown threatened to take another look at the DPA in Charlestown to unlock some parcels for recreation. That was dropped when several

amenities were included in a new lease agreement with MassPort. In Chelsea, a full review of their DPA with the Coastal Zone Management agency in 2018 bore mixed results. Some parts Chelsea wanted out of its DPA on the Chelsea Creek were kept in, and other places they weren't excited about particularly were taken out. It is a process that is full up to CZM and to the maritime businesses that inhabit the DPA. That said, including the MGC, believe the Everett DPA could be a different story given that a \$2.1 billion resort casino lies but 200 yards from the boundary of the DPA. This has also been a fact that Mayor Carlo DeMaria has touted for many years, most recently when Encore opened last summer. Tom Philbin, waterfront and resiliency director for Everett, said there are plenty of examples of DPAs throughout Massachusetts

being altered for different uses, including hotels and HarborWalks. Sousa said he could envision some sort of cruise ship terminal to complement Black Falcon in the Seaport and to serve Encore. Meanwhile, he said a helicopter heliport that is needed in Greater Boston could be located in the DPA as well. He said it will also be important to work with the strong businesses that are there, and also to complement the plans being made for Lower Broadway in the future by Encore and others. "I'm super-excited because this is what starts it all -- the Lower Broadway Master Plan we've been talking about for years," he said. "There will be transformative. It's hard to believe we have the ability and it can open up a lot of opportunities to build off the strong businesses that are there. We were

really excited as a City to get that grant. It's always been, 'Hey, it's the DPA. We can't do anything.' This will be looking at it with an open mind." Philbin said the first step will be procuring the grant money from the MGC, and then getting a consultant on board sometime in July or August. That will lead to a one-year study which will solicit community and business input, and will update the existing Municipal Harbor Plan done several years ago ahead of Encore's construction. That study will then be submitted in 2021, likely, to CZM, who will analyze it and look to see if there is any room for altering the DPA in Everett. There are about 100 additional acres of land in the DPA that is over the City Line in Chelsea, and they will likely become a partner eventually in the study.

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CHURCH News

Mystic Side Congregational Church

News and Notes

Mystic Side Congregational 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.

**Mystic Side
Congregational Church
422 Main Street
Everett, MA**

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church

News and Notes

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church is open and welcoming to all.

There are 3 services on Sundays: 10am English, 1pm South Sudanese (Dinka) and 3pm Haitian Creole.

Come all and let us walk together in this season of

hope, renewal and new beginnings.

**Grace Anglican
Episcopal Church
67 Norwood Street,
Everett, MA
Church Phone
617-387-7526 or
617-389-5765**

Church at the Well Everett

News and Notes

Church at the Well Everett is a new church for Everett that will begin meeting in 2021. Check us out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/churchforeverett to view weekly devotions and updates,

visit us at www.foreverett.church to sign up for our newsletter and see how we can help you, or connect with the Everett Community Aid Network at www.everettcan.com to request any additional help.

Glendale United Methodist Church

News and Notes

Glendale United Methodist Church is open to all and we welcome people of all faiths, race, nationalities and sexual preference. No one is ever turned away. If you are looking for a new home church, we would like you to check us out and let us know what we can do to make church a better fit in your life.

Bible Study: Consider joining us for Bible study on Sunday. We meet in the Church Parlor off the Chapel from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Sponsor the bulletin! For a \$5 donation, you can dedicate the Sunday bulletin to recognize family, friends, or special occasions. There is a sign-up sheet in the Pastor's study. Feel free to choose your particular week and leave a copy of your dedication in the mail in that is on the Pastor's door. Please contact the Pastor if you have any questions.

Boy Scout Troop 814: Meet in Cooper Hall on Tuesday evenings from 6-9 p.m. Cub Pack 11 meets on Saturday mornings.

NA Meetings – Mon. Bring Your Own Book 7:30

– 9:30 p.m.; Thurs. I Can't But We Can, 8:00 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

AA Meeting – Saturday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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.glendaleumc-everett.org>
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Pastor David Jackson
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PastorDavidJackson58@gmail.com
Pastor's Office Hours:
Saturdays 10 AM to 2 PM.
Other times by
appointment.**

Zion Church - Everett

News and Notes

Senior Pastor Bishop Robert G. Brown will be hosting Virtual Masses to bring the people together, spiritually while they can't physically. Their virtual sanctuaries can be accessed

via their facebook page, "Zion Church Ministries."

For more information, they can be reached online at zionchurchministries.com or via email at office@zionchurchministries.com

Immaculate Conception Parish

News and Notes

Our Parish Staff: Father Joseph Chacha Marwa, S.M.A. Administrator; Father Ernest Egbedike, S.M.A. Parochial Vicar; Secretary Barbara Cannon

Weekly Mass Schedule at Immaculate Conception is as follows:

Saturday (Sunday Vigil) 4:00 p.m., Sunday 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Family Mass), 11:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m.

12:15 p.m. Spanish Community

4:00 p.m. Haitian Community

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 Lord


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

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MGC launches online gaming research hub and data sharing platform

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) announced the launch of a robust online research library and data sharing portal, which will improve transparency and access to MGC’s extensive and growing collection of gaming-related datasets. The MGC’s burgeoning research agenda is recognized as the nation’s most comprehensive research program to study, assess, and prepare for the social and economic impacts of casino gambling. The new web-based information platform, located at Mass-Gaming.com, offers a categorized and centralized repository of the research program’s wide-ranging studies and data.

In fulfillment of a legislative mandate, the MGC launched a robust, multi-year, first-of-its-kind re-

search initiative in 2013. Research goals include:

- Understand the effects of casino gambling;
- Obtain scientific information regarding the psychology, sociology, epidemiology, and etiology of gambling;
- Inform strategies, practices and policies for responsible gambling and problem gambling prevention and treatment;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of MGC’s responsible gaming programming; and
- Translate and mobilize research findings to inform decision-making.

This initiative also introduces the MGC’s newly established Massachusetts Open Data Exchange (MODE), a program designed to build upon existing research and to foster broad access to data for people with differing skills. MODE invites researchers of all disciplines to use available gaming-related

data to advance the empirical evidence and knowledge base about the social and economic effects of casinos on individuals and communities. The MODE section of the website features a convenient and easy-to-use online application to facilitate researcher access, data sharing and analysis.

The website currently features more than 40 research reports and numerous associated documents categorized by areas of interest to facilitate easy navigation and search function. Research categories include Economic Impact, Social Impact, Public Safety, Responsible Gaming Program Evaluations, Community-Engaged Research, and the longitudinal Massachusetts Gambling Impact Cohort (MAGIC) study. Also, drop-down menus and advanced search options are available to provide a streamlined and efficient user experience.

Pantry // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for record keeping purposes, and then they proceeded to the distribution point, where volunteers loaded their food in the trunk or back seat.

Margaret Mato, her son Samuel Costa and his friend, Vinicius Terra, have been volunteering at the Lafayette for several weeks. Mato said there is so much need, and it’s something she can do to help.

“I always like to do volunteer work and I do volunteer at my church too,” she said. “It’s our way to help others who need it. There

are a lot of people who are in need. Some don’t know or aren’t aware this is here. So, I always tell everyone about it too. My son and his friend didn’t want to come the first time. Now, they have a lot of fun and they like to help. It’s good to know when times are tough whom you can count on.”

Other volunteers are needed to help load up the truck at Bread of Life in Malden and unload it at the Lafayette. Volunteers are also needed to break down the pantry and take supplies back to Malden.

Likewise, many volunteers there come from Encore Boston Harbor and with them going back to work, there could be a shortfall of hands to help. Anyone who would like to participate can contact Bread of Life’s Candido at tcandidobol@gmail.com, 781-281-8302.

She said they would at least be at the Lafayette through the summer.

“We know we’ll be here every Thursday at least through the end of the summer,” she said.

KENNEDY HELPS DISTRIBUTE FOOD



On Friday, Congressman Joe Kennedy III visited the Latinos Unidos En Massachusetts (LUMA) Food Pantry in Everett to help distribute food. Kennedy, who is running for U.S. Senate, visited with Director Lucy Pineda, and helped to do the weekly distribution of food.



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

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

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