

Everett Independent

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In Everett Square for State Rep. Joe McGonagle: Jackie Hart, Bill Thomson, Mike Pritchard and Bob Cardello.



Former ZBA member Michael Dantone, State Rep. Candidate Michael McLaughlin, Patti Frati, a Terry Kennedy supporter, and Councilor Michael Marchese on Elm Street.

McGonagle victorious

State Rep. cruises to easy win with 3,431 votes

By Seth Daniel

The long-awaited and extremely unique Primary Election unfolded on Tuesday, Sept. 1, with State Rep. Joe McGonagle cruising to victory over Councilor Michael McLaughlin in a race that didn't end up being close, but had more than 5,400 votes cast in total.

Rep. McGonagle won every precinct in the city over McLaughlin, and won 3,431 to 2,208.

"I'm so grateful that the people of Everett have once again placed their trust in me to continue to serve them on Beacon Hill," he said. "I have never taken one day as State Representative for granted and I look forward to continuing the work we have started."

McLaughlin conceded the race shortly after the polls closed, about 8:20 p.m.

"Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Rep. McGonagle on his victory tonight," he said. "I would also like to thank my family, friends and the good citizens of Everett for their support. My commitment hasn't changed, I will continue to work hard as City Councilor moving The great city of Everett forward."

It returns Rep. McGonagle back for another term in 2021.

The U.S. Senate race was a squeaker in Everett, and U.S. Sen. Ed Markey just bested Congressman Joe Kennedy III despite being from next-door Malden and campaigning hard here.

Still, he came away beating Kennedy 3,109 votes (52 percent) to 2,721 votes (45.5 percent). Statewide, by press time, with 26 percent of the vote reported, Markey was up 54 percent of the vote to Kennedy's 45 percent. That was about a 30,000 vote margin. Final results in that race were not available statewide by press time.

State Sen. Sal DiDomenico was unopposed in his election, but collected 4,962 votes in Everett, his home city in a district that also includes Chelsea, Charlestown, parts of Cambridge and parts of Allston.

Governor's Councilor Terrence Kennedy also has a sprawling district, but has his home base in Everett, where he got

3,608 votes to Helina Fontes's 1,749 votes.

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley was also unopposed on the Democratic ballot, and collected 4,521 votes in Everett.

On the Republican side of the ballot, the only race of any consequence was U.S. Senator, where Kevin O'Connor bested Shiva Ayyadurai in Everett, 409 to 295.

The General Election will take place on Nov. 3, which will include the blockbuster U.S. Presidential contest between Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden. Most of the local races in Everett were decided Tuesday night, as there is no challenger from the Republican side at the moment except for the U.S. Senate race.

BUDGET TIME

DeMaria, finance team to present budget

By Seth Daniel

Mayor Carlo DeMaria and his Finance Department will present the Fiscal Year 2021 operating budget to a joint meeting of the City Council and School Committee on Sept. 3.

The City Budget process has been dragged out by COVID-19 complications for some time as the Finance Department waited to hear about potential financial help from the federal government, and reassurances from state government about what to expect for Local Aid payments.

Since July, the City has been operating on a month-by-month budget plan that includes some layoffs, a great deal of restructuring and hour reductions for City employees. It was a conservative approach taken as the City didn't know what lay ahead.

Now, last month, they received assurance from State government leaders that they will be level funded from last year, and there will also be a bucket of money included that will account for inflation. Already, the School De-

partment has deliberated and passed its Operations Budget last week, with an increase of about \$400,000. It was a far cry from what was expected by the schools in the first year of the Student Opportunity Act, but it was also not as bad as the 10 percent to 15 percent cuts that were expected.

The Joint Budget Meeting will be the beginning of laying out what will be a complicated budget likely to commence on Oct. 1.

After the meeting Thursday, Council President Rosa DiFlorio will set out a schedule of budget hearings to go through the submission piece by piece and then have a vote on the matter.

Once approved, there is a good possibility many of the cuts and hour reductions made in June could be restored, but that will be up for debate in the coming months.

Typically, the City and School Budget is submitted in May to the Council, and hearings are held throughout June. In most years, it is to be passed before July 1, when the new fiscal year starts for municipalities.

RECOGNIZED FOR GOOD WORK



Irene Cardillo, who oversees the Grace Food Pantry, was recently recognized with a City Council citation for her efforts and those of her many volunteers who help provide food to individuals and families in need during these difficult times. Because of Irene's commitment and compassion, the Pantry provides thousands of people with food assistance on a weekly basis. Shown in the photo are Council President Rosa DiFlorio, Councilors Stephanie Martins, Fred Capone, Irene Cardillo, Paul Cardillo, and Councilor Mike McLaughlin.

Cream of the Crop

Everett's Lindsey gets best ice cream from Best of Boston

By Seth Daniel

There were a few key priorities for David Lindsey and his wife, Everett Councilor Gerly Adrien, when they took over Somerville's Tipping Cow Ice Cream in 2018.

They promised to be all-natural, nut- and allergen-free, create a welcoming place for people to visit, and – as the cherry on top of that creation – to win the Best of Boston award for ice cream.

This month, they checked off the top of the list with Boston Magazine naming the shop the best ice cream in Boston – a major feather in the cap for the business that Lindsey and Adrien have been steadily growing for the last three summers.

"In 2018, we said we wanted to get that Best of Boston designation, but knew it would take a lot of work," said Lindsey last Friday, amidst mixing up a new batch of ice cream



Everett's David Lindsey displaying some of the many pints of ice cream being made at his shop, Tipping Cow Ice Cream, in Somerville. Lindsey and his wife, Councilor Gerly Adrien, bought the business in 2018, and have turned it into an award winner – receiving the Best of Boston 2020 for best ice cream.

TRASH DELAY

Due to the Monday, Sept. 7, Labor Day holiday, trash will be delayed by one day
Capitol Waste Services, Inc.

A NOTE TO OUR ADVERTISERS & READERS

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, SEPT. 7TH IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY
News and Advertising Deadlines for the week of Sept. 9th & 10th will be
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SYMPTOMS	COVID 19	FLU
Fever	√	√
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Fatigue, Weakness	√	√
Runny Nose	√	√
Body Aches, Headache	√	√
Symptoms last 5 – 7 days	DIFFERENCE	√

Local doctors launch ‘Fight the Twindemic!’ campaign

Local doctors warn you need a flu shot this year more than ever before because of the looming ‘Twindemic’ about to strike here and across the country.

They’re talking about the double whammy of flu and COVID 19 hitting at the same time, threatening to sicken more of us and overwhelm our medical facilities and resources.

That’s why physicians with American Family Care, a national health-care network with a local clinic, have launched a crusade called ‘Fight the Twindemic’ to educate families about the importance of flu vaccines and the differences between the flu and COVID-19.

Our local docs will answer:

- Who should get a flu shot and where do you get it?
- How can you tell the difference between the flu and COVID -19?
- Can you get both?
- Interviews can be done virtually (Zoom, Skype, Facetime) or you are welcome to come to our clinic

to interview docs and possibly patients.

‘Fight The Twindemic!’ Education Campaign

- 1 Protect Yourself
 - Flu season runs from December through February. Unlike Covid, with no proven vaccine available yet, the flu has a vaccine that can protect you from getting the virus or at least reduce the severity of your symptoms – by 40 to 60 percent.
 - While the race to come up with a Covid-19 vaccine continues, companies that make flu vaccines are boosting supplies to meet what they expect will be higher demand this year.
 - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone 6 months and older get a flu vaccine by the end of October – because it takes a few weeks for the vaccine to provide protection.
- 2 Understand Virus Variations
 - The flu and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses that share many of the same signs and symptoms such as dry

cough, fever, and shortness of breath.

So what are the differences?

There are some distinct differences that set them apart.

- A loss of smell and taste is a symptom connected to Covid-19 and is considered rare among flu sufferers.
- Flu symptoms come on rapidly, whereas symptoms for COVID-19 can take upwards of 14 days to appear.

3 Don’t Double Your Trouble

- It is possible to get sick with both the flu and Covid-19 at the same time.
- Although both viruses are spread through droplets from an infected person and share similar symptoms, they use different receptors on our cells once inside the body. So, yes, this allows for a double infection in the same person.
- Cases are rare right now and experts want to keep it that way by warning Americans to get a flu shot.

Professional Development begins for teachers as e-Learning Centers begin to take shape

By Seth Daniel

Learning has begun this week in the Everett Public Schools, but this week and next will be a learning experience for teachers rather than students.

The nine-day professional development program for all Everett teachers began on Monday with a motivational speech from the Everett Teachers’ Association, followed up on Tuesday with a presentation by Mayor Carlo DeMaria.

Supt. Priya Tahiliani said the “start” of this very non-traditional school year is a testament to how Everett is doing things in a non-traditional way. There will be no one-size-fits all approach for teachers, students, staff and family. In fact, there will be a number of options for all to choose from as the year kicks off online. That, she said, distinguishes Everett Public Schools and will help students, parents and employees choose what they feel is safe. As a result, some students will be in e-Learning Centers while others will be at home. Similarly, some teachers will teach from an empty school classroom, while others teach from home – and still others will supervise students at the Centers in person.

“It’s easy to get stuck in a box and get rigid about the way we want it done because it makes it easier to plan,” she said. “We’re taking a different approach. We want to be flexible and fluid. We think it’s a 21st Century approach...With our approach, we give opportunities.”

This week, Tahiliani said they are focusing on how to get better at, and be more proficient at, remote learning prior to the students starting remotely on Sept. 15.

“The work their going to mostly be doing is diving deep into our virtual learning platforms,” said Tahiliani on Monday afternoon. “Pretty much the next two weeks is a lot of time for teachers to get proficient on the 30 virtual platforms we purchased for different grades and subjects. We also purchased 700 MacBooks for teachers. Our teachers have never had laptops so we’ll be getting those ready too.

“We wanted to make sure it was working well for teachers so they could

spend the next two weeks preparing for school,” she added. “We want them to want them to walk into the first day of virtual learning ready and having already contacted their students. We really want to distinguish this from the emergency remote learning we did in the spring. This will be standards-based and attendance will be taken...”

Teachers will work Monday to Thursday this week, and then return on Tuesday and work through Friday. On Monday, Sept. 14, that will be a day designed to contact families, parents and students to be prepared for the first day of e-Learning on Sept. 15 – whether students are at home or in the upcoming e-Learning centers.

The virtual platforms are many, but they are specialized to subject matter, like STEM Scapes for grades K-5, i-Reading for Grades K-8, and a math platform tailored to English Language Learners (ELLs). Nearly every subject matter and every grade level has a unique virtual platform.

But one thing, Tahiliani said, they learned last spring was there needed to be a central platform for taking attendance and directing students to these various individual platforms. That will be Clever, something students and parents will need to become acquainted with very quickly. That platform would be like a home room for students – the first place for them to go

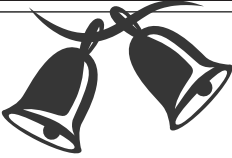


Everett Supt. Priya Tahiliani delivered the Opening Day address for teachers online in a video on Monday morning, as teachers started the first of their nine days of professional development on remote learning. School will start remotely for students on Sept. 15.

and also a place for parents to check up on what’s happening in the school day.

“One thing we heard clearly in the spring was there needed to be one sign on model,” said Tahiliani. “Clever allows teachers and students and families to access it. They will only need to scan a badge and then see the platform for each individual student. There are no codes and the learning plan will already be there...Again, one thing we heard from everyone was figuring out where to go for virtual learning was difficult... Rather than handcuff everyone into a one-size-fits all platform that doesn’t exist, we decided to use a central place where everyone goes to. That is ideal.”

See TEACHERS Page 5




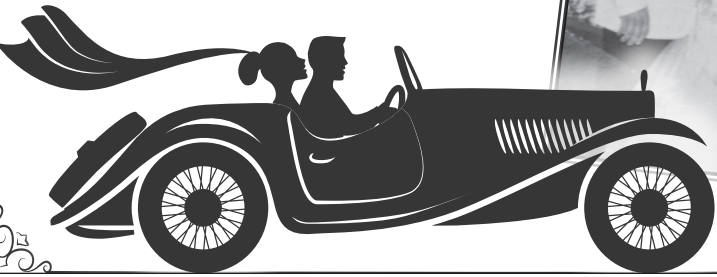
Rose Palmitesta (of Everett) and Joseph (Gus) Belmonte, of Revere, will be celebrating their

66th Year Anniversary

on Saurday, Sept. 5th

They were married at Immaculate Conception in Everett on Sept. 5, 1954, same day Hurricane Edna hit Massachusetts. The reception was held at Oak Manor in Melrose.







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ENJOY A SAFE LABOR DAY WEEKEND

“Time and tide wait for no man,” wrote the poet.

The summer of 2020 is entering its final week as we approach the traditional Labor Day weekend and once again the summer season has flown by much faster than any of us would have liked, especially during a time when we find ourselves being held hostage by a microscopic virus.

But the calendar never lies and soon the summer of ‘20 will be just a memory.

Ordinarily, our end-of-summer editorial recalls the happiness and joy that the summer months have brought us. But this era of a pandemic has forced all of us to abandon almost every aspect of our traditional summer rituals, both big and small and on both communal and personal levels.

As this most awful of summer seasons winds down to just a few precious days, we certainly understand the desire on the part of many (if not all of us) to just let it all out, so to speak: “If this is the last, let’s make it a blast!”

But amidst the chaos in our lives, one thing that has not changed, and that requires even more urgency than usual, is our annual admonition to our readers to enjoy the Labor Day weekend safely.

We certainly do not wish to rain on anyone’s parade, so to speak, but we would be remiss if we failed to urge our readers that if they intend to have a good time, they should do so safely, both for themselves and their loved ones.

First and foremost, excessive drinking does not mix with anything -- whether it be boating, driving, water sports, hiking, bicycling, or just about any activity that requires some degree of coordination and observance of the rules of safety.

The news reports will be full of tragic stories over the weekend of those who died or were seriously injured in accidents that could have been avoided had excessive drinking not been involved.

In addition, though this is a holiday weekend for us, we must remember that the COVID-19 does not take a holiday. It always is lurking and seeking new victims who do not wear a face mask in public and who do not practice appropriate physical distancing at all times.

We must do our part to ensure that none of our loved ones -- let alone ourselves -- are among the inevitable, sad statistics.

We wish all of our readers a happy -- and safe -- Labor Day weekend.

A SUMMER OF CHAOS AND TRAGEDY

As America approached the Memorial Day weekend of 2020, the death toll from COVID-19 in the United States stood at just under 100,000 of our fellow Americans.

But now, three months later, that number soon will have doubled, as our nation’s death toll from the virus approaches an astonishing and tragic 200,000 persons.

On May 25, a Black man, George Floyd, was murdered by a white Minneapolis police officer, who kept his knee on Mr. Floyd’s neck for more than eight minutes while Mr. Floyd lay prone on the ground until Mr. Floyd stopped breathing.

Three months later, a white Kenosha, Wisconsin police officer shot a Black man, Jacob Blake, seven times in the back in front of his three young sons, leaving Mr. Blake paralyzed from the waist down.

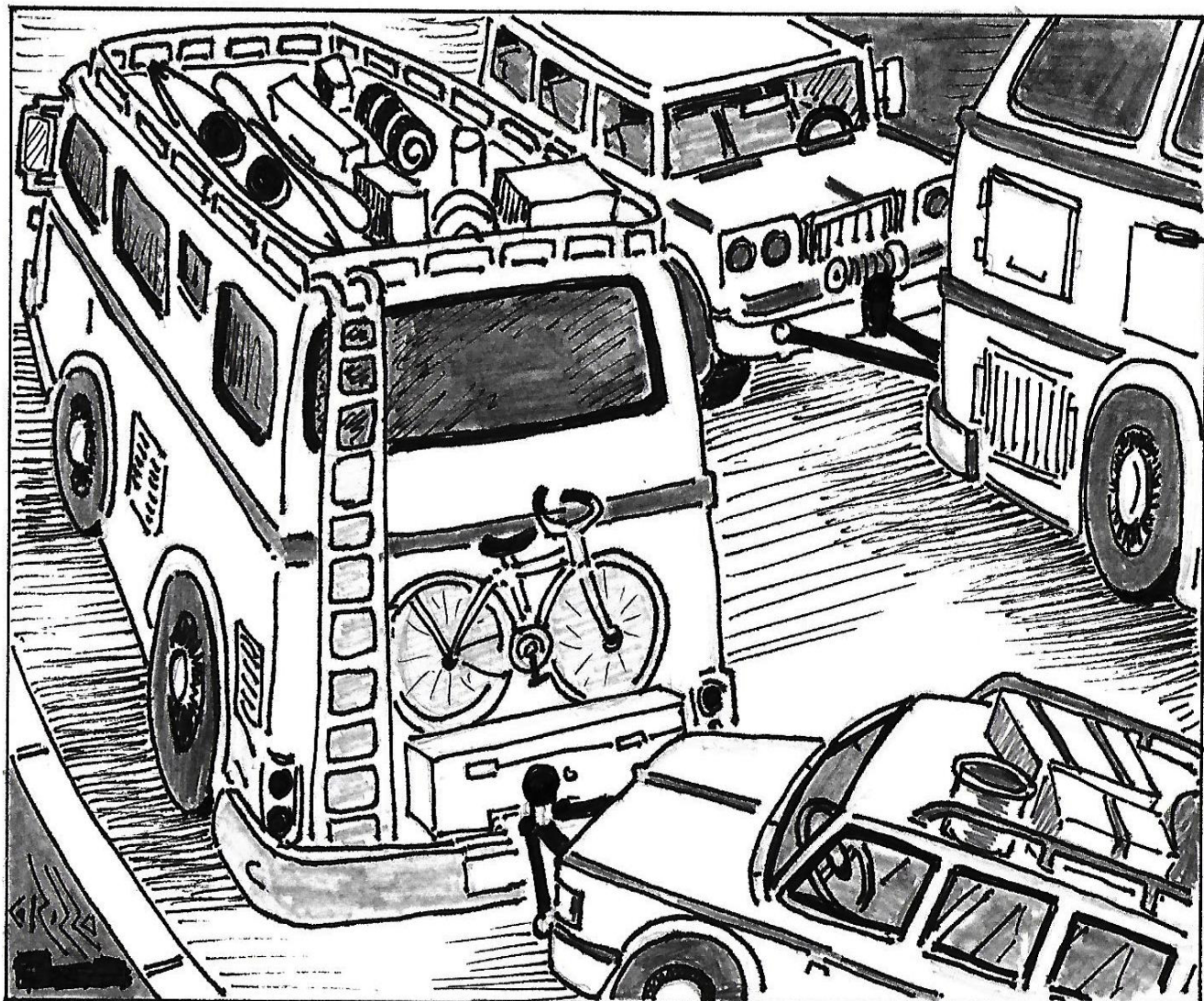
Neither Mr. Floyd nor Mr. Blake posed a threat to any of the officers such that the officers were justified in using deadly force.

In May 2020, our national unemployment rate and number of business failures stood at levels not seen since the Great Depression. Three months later, the improvement has been minimal with the spectre of worse to come thanks to the inaction by our leaders in Washington.

The Summer of 2020 has been a tragic disaster in this country by any and every measure. But instead of learning from our mistakes in order to move forward, our national leadership has offered no plan to alleviate the many problems we are facing.

Instead of giving us hope that better days lie ahead, the present administration’s dysfunction has ensured that America will continue to spiral downward.

Independent Forum



AT HOME OR AWAY, ENJOY LABOR DAY

License Commission hears ABCC complaint as bars try to navigate COVID-19

By Seth Daniel

One area of the hospitality industry that’s hurting far more than any others are traditional bars and pubs, and the Everett License Commission has been hearing from many that are changing their business models or been written up by state investigators.

On Monday night, the License Commission heard from Kurt of Champions Bar & Grill, who had been cited and warned by state Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) investigators for violating the governor’s phasing orders. The License Board had received the report saying customers were drinking without food. Kurt indicated they had worked carefully with the City and set up the café as more of a food service establishment to try to get the business back open. Traditional bars without food service are still barred from opening (no pun intended), and are one of the last establishments allowed under the phased plan.

“The ABCC was never in my establishment,” said Kurt. “They did go down

the street and look in the windows and jump to a conclusion. I never had the opportunity to discuss this. There was no violation and they gave me a verbal warning by phone later...I’m just trying to survive. I’m a combat veteran with a wife and four kids. I’ve never had a problem in the bar business. The 4’s in Boston has been around for decades and closed down today. We could be there too. I have to say we have tightened things up a lot since we talked to the state.”

One of the issues cited was people drinking without any food – a violation of the COVID-19 rules. Kurt said the people had ordered drinks and simply got the drinks before they got the pizza and chicken quesadillas. Another issue was a bartender put the glass directly on a high-top table adjacent to the bar. No drinks are to come over the bar in COVID-19 rules.

Additionally, Kurt said it was hard to enforce mask regulations, as people say they have medical issues.

“We did put on security to make sure everyone wears a mask, but it’s hard

to enforce that because people say they have a medical issue,” he said.

The Commission took no action after the discussion.

•KARMA LOUNGE

The owner of the hookah tobacco lounge, Varun Panj, on Ferry Street in Glendale Square said he is changing his business model to be more of a restaurant and less of a bar (though he will still primarily sell tobacco), and will move to evict the owner of Winner’s Bar and Grill – located beneath the hookah lounge.

Karma is another establishment looking for a lifeline in the midst of the pandemic, and have pivoted more to serving food and providing tobacco as well.

“The plan is to keep this as a restaurant for Mr. Varun,” said Attorney Mark Rotondo. “Last time he was here you were concerned he was operating this as a discoteque or a nightclub and so this is his new business plan... Again, though, more than 51 percent of his sales will still be for tobacco.”

The owner will use the kitchen downstairs in the Winners Bar and Grill,

and he also said he intends to evict the troubled sports bar on the ground floor.

“Because there have been no evictions and no courts have been open, we are kind of between a rock and a hard place with the downstairs tenant,” he said. “We are letting you know and have let the tenant know that once this case is heard before the Supreme Judicial Court about this order being an unlawful taking of personal property, we will file an evictions and go to District Court against them for eviction.”

Panj said once that is done, he will begin to operate the ground floor business himself – as has been discussed previously. Winners has a long history before the Board and has had several run-ins with the Board and police on its operations. The matter was approved 2-0.

•AIRBNB LICENSES

The Board voted 2-0 to accept the ordinance and fee structure that makes it the granting authority for all AirBNB licenses in the City. From here on out, those seeking to license an AirBNB unit will have to come before the License Board.

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.

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Encore Boston Harbor cited by MGC with Notice of Non-Compliance

By Seth Daniel

Encore Boston Harbor received a Notice of Non-Compliance from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) after an investigation of an Aug. 16 party revealed more than 100 people in a suite and startling party conditions – including adult dancers and a DJ.

Since that time, Encore has quickly instituted the changes suggested by the MGC, and gone even further in implementing more strict measures for safety and crowd control in hotel rooms – including a \$3,000 fine for breaking the occupancy limits.

However, the MGC said several miscues resulted in a party that got out of control last month – being broken up at 3:10 a.m. by State Police and Everett Police.

Bruce Band, assistant director of the Investigations and Enforcement Bureau (IEB), said when police and security finally went in, they found more than 110 people in a suite that had an occupancy limit of 10.

He said they discovered a Dracut man rented the suite on Aug. 15, and starting at 6:30 p.m. began to bring people up the 1st and 2nd floor elevator to the room in small groups. At around midnight, a call came in from outside the resort warning that social media posts from the hotel showed a very large party occurring.

“Fifteen minutes later, an Encore Boston Harbor butler made a report to the front desk that he had delivered something to the suite and saw more than 30 people,” said Band, noting that another call from outside also came in about social media posts and that

they would alert the Everett Board of Health.

Nothing was immediately done, however, until after 3 a.m.

State Police reported that at 3:10 a.m., they responded to Suite 1201 for the loud party potentially violating the governor’s COVID-19 orders. The Troopers and Everett Police officers found 112 people identified using video, a DJ and adult dancers. A large amount of alcohol was observed, and the smell of marijuana was noted. With assistance from hotel security, Troopers and Officers shut down the party and evidenced all occupants from the room and property.

The room was registered to a 23-year-old Dracut man, to whom Troopers issued a criminal summons for disturbing the peace, due to excessively noisy behavior and creating conditions that inconvenienced or annoyed others. The man was also determined to be in violation of Massachusetts Executive Order 46, limiting gatherings to 8 people per 1,000 square feet and requiring all attendees to wear face coverings. A video review determined that at one point there were 112 people in the 3,000 square foot room. Few, if any, attendees were wearing face coverings. We issued the man a civil violation of the executive order, which carries a fine of \$500.

The man’s name was withheld until arraignment and a criminal complaint had been submitted to the Malden District Court.

IEB Deputy Director Loretta Lillios said Encore has taken the Notice of Non-Compliance seriously and came up with a number of remedies very quickly, including monitoring so-

cial media, more surveillance of the hotel floors by security and posted guards at the elevators looking for suspicious activity. They have also instituted the \$3,000 fine for anyone violating strict occupancy measures.

“They are taking it very seriously and they have made it known as well that flouting safety measures is unacceptable to the property and they have put significant measures behind that,” she said.

Band said the measures put in place in late August have already steered some away at the front desk upon checking in. Others have been removed from the hotel for violating the resort occupancy limits.

“Eight different people were already evicted for violating these measures and fined as well,” he said. “Encore is adhering to the measures they put in place. I can empathize with them because it’s not east to do with loyal guests.”

Chair Catherine Judd-Stein said she was bothered by the fact that there was ample warning of the party from inside the resort and outside, but little was done to break it up.

“What was problematic for me here is this happened and our licensee got reports over three hours and one employee – the butler – did the right thing and notified his fellow employees to the actions,” she said. “What’s important for the licensee is to not only enforce these new measures...but to make sure to keep channels open to make sure they are hearing their employees when they report instances that could cause harm.”

Teachers // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Teachers will be working in a variety of locations, Tahiliani said, after there were different preferences chosen in a recent survey of teachers. Some teachers will teach in an empty classroom in the school buildings, while others will teach remotely from home and others were willing to teach and supervise e-Learning Centers.

“Rather than getting in a stalemate with the union, we wanted to hear everyone’s concerns,” said Tahiliani. “It’s a small community and we want to take care of all of those needs.”

•E-LEARNING CENTERS EXPECTED TO BE OVERSUBSCRIBED

At this point, the demand for the e-Learning Centers is still unknown to the district, as they have just put out the application this week. Special Education students in substantially separate classrooms will get priority and do not need an application, and likely younger students as will get priority, but the fact is that due to staffing they will only be able to bring about 10 to 15 percent of the enrollment to the Centers.

“Starting this week, families can choose to opt-in to an e-Learning Center,” she said. “It will be interesting to see what the demand is. We expect we won’t be able to meet the demand...We will be able to staff them so that 10 to 15 percent of students can

report there on Sept. 15... Hopefully we’ll move up to 25 and 30 percent...A lot has been scaled down because of the numbers. We have to stay conservative. We don’t want to start too fast...We are very excited we’ll have students in the building.”

The e-Learning Centers will not be classrooms with teachers reciting lessons or teaching in person. Rather, each student will be watching and participating in the same content as their peers at home. The only difference is there will be a supervisor who can support students with technical issues or other problems – and monitor them if their parents cannot be at home and they cannot stay at home.

At this point, Tahiliani said they are preparing all of the school buildings to be used as e-Learning Centers, and also the former Pope John High.

“The ideal would be using Pope John and all of the buildings,” she said. “That’s our current plan.”

But that all depends on the conditions of the building and the HVAC and air quality systems. She said they are currently examining all the buildings and gathering data to compare to state standards. If a building is not up to those standards, it could be closed off and they will have the flexibility to open a different building that does meet the standards.

She added that the dis-

trict custodians have been doing an excellent job of assessing and preparing the schools for occupancy.

•STARTING WITH CARE

One of the things that the schools have been doing is trying to prepare students for how different school will look. Teachers won’t be able to give hugs or shake hands, and they’ll likely be wearing masks and gloves. Likewise, the first few weeks will be spent looking at social-emotional needs as many kids and teachers may have been through some serious trauma since March 13 when school ended.

“The first days we’ll be fully addressing the social-emotional needs,” she said. “In the first month, we’ve front-loaded a lot of conversations. We want to assess where our students are at. We are going to speed a good amount of time at first to make sure we’re doing a very gentle introduction to academics.”

Overall, Tahiliani said she is confident the district and its students and employees will come out of this unique beginning of school with a better eye towards how to meet better educate.

“These boxes and silos we’ve had many years – perhaps it’s time to blow them up and try to think about how we do things better,” she said.

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Sketching for twenty-five years

By Sharon Santillo

When committees make decisions on the dispersal of grant money, there is always the hope that this little bit of money will lead to some greater good for the community. Who could ever have predicted that a little grant given to the Malden Sketch Group 25 years ago would have led to one of the longest lasting drawing groups in the whole Boston area?

Nunzio Luca was there at the very beginning. Fred Seager, also one of the founders remembers, “He was a much admired head of the Malden High School Art Department for years, and was a wonderful artist, mentor, and good friend.”

Nunzio and Seager decided to get a life drawing group together and they set out to find a space. “We were fortunate also to have the early support of the Malden Arts Council in the grant process. Niece Degan and Nana Goldberg were facilitators of the cultural center building, an old fire station on Pearl Street. It housed elderly day care during the day and was open for rental at night.”

Rod Peterson joined the group in their new space. Even though he was a landscape painter, Rod knew that life drawing, traditional training for the great masters, is still good training for artists today. Eva Cincotta was teaching art classes in the basement of John’s Antiques and she was persuaded to join.

Duker Bower, George Hansen and Judy Greulich

were three more early important members.

Sketch Group has had four locations over the 25 years moving to the basement of a parking garage when the cultural center on Pearl St. was given to the Malden Redevelopment Authority. Their next home was Oak Grove Community Center and then Preotle Lane & Associates saved the day offering a meeting place in the basement of Commerce Place.

But through all, the group has thrived. Even during this time of Covid, the Malden Sketch Group is holding their annual visual art exhibit at Commerce Place, 350 Main St, Malden, from Sept.1 until Oct. 30, open 9-5 Monday through Friday. Wear your mask and take a walk through the lobby and first floor and enjoy the diversity of this amazing group of artists.

“I thought it would only last as long as the initial grant, but look what that seed money has done!” said Fred Seager. The group’s weekly meetings are limited for now, but Malden Sketch Group will open up again. In the meantime, the group encourages everyone to set aside some time for your own creative practice whatever it is. Take an online course, awaken your senses with a walk in nature, and as writer Anne Lamott advises, “Don’t look at your feet to see if you are doing it right. Just dance.”

For info contact Judy. Greulich@comcast.net,781-245-2337.



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Construction begins for North Creek restoration project

Staff Report

As part of Mayor Carlo DeMaria’s vision for revitalizing the Everett Waterfront, construction has begun to restore North Creek, a perennial stream and tributary of the Malden River.

A large section of the

North Creek is currently being dredged of polluted sediment and will return the creek to its historic stream bed. In addition, the existing headwall will be replaced.

“By restoring stream flow, we will reduce flooding in the area, lower water temperatures, re-

duce containment, reduce invasive plants and restore aquatic habitat,” said the mayor. “All of these measures help to revitalize the Malden River and its tributaries and bring back native species. Rivers and streams are naturally resilient and by restoring the creek to its natural flow,

we will soon see an increase in wild life, native plants and many more additional benefits.”

Equipment was onsite last week to excavate and uncover North Creek’s stream bed, by removing hundreds of years of sediment. Workers were able to remove the depth of ap-

proximately two feet of sediment. By doing this it will increase stream flow in the creek, helping to alleviate flooding in the Air Force Road area, which drains to North Creek and into the Malden River.

This project is a part of a multi-benefit improvement North Creek

Restoration plan, to reduce flood risk, provide additional wildlife habitat and enhance Everett’s riverfront open space for the future.

Work is expected to be completed by the beginning of October.



Dredging of North Creek includes unblocking a culvert that was covered over illegally for many years.



An information sign about the project on the site.



The bed being recovered so that flows can return to the Creek.

DiDomenico serves as a Speaker on Mission: Readiness Early Ed Panel

Staff Report

Senator Sal DiDomenico recently served as speaker on a virtual Mission: Readiness panel discussion to talk about COVID-19’s impact on early childhood education and child nutrition in Massachusetts. DiDomenico joined with retired Generals Jack Hammond and Mike Hall, Amy O’Leary of Early Education for All, and the National Director of Mission: Readiness, Ben Goodman. Mission: Readiness is a group of 750 retired admirals, generals, and other top mil-

itary leaders who work to champion evidence-based, bipartisan state and federal public policy solutions that are proven to prepare youth for life and to be able to serve their nation in any way that they choose.

Senator DiDomenico kicked off the panel by sharing his perspective on early childhood challenges in Massachusetts and the growing childhood hunger epidemic due to the economic fallout from COVID-19. DiDomenico has been a longtime champion of both early education and food security policies in the Massa-

chusetts Senate and provided insight into how the pandemic has weakened the early education sector, exacerbating challenges for Massachusetts kids and their families. In his comments, he emphasized that child care is not babysitting, but a crucial way to ensure children are prepared for future success. Senator DiDomenico also provided insight to the participants and listeners on how they can work with their elected officials and representatives to urge actionable steps that preserve and strengthen early childhood programs.



Senator Sal DiDomenico recently served as speaker on a virtual Mission: Readiness panel discussion to talk about COVID-19’s impact on early childhood education and child nutrition in Massachusetts.

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Coffee lovers line-up for Koffee n’ Box soft opening

Staff Report

The City of Everett is pleased to announce the opening of a new a container café at the heart of Everett Square.

Koffee N’ Box, owned by Pricila Trancoso, began serving customers during its soft opening on Wednesday, August 26.

The unique, colorful exterior is located at 391 Broadway, across from the Central Fire Station. The new cafe offers a variety of food and drink options, including coffee, smoothies, pastries, yogurt and Acai Bowls.

Koffee N’ box is open Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The official ribbon cutting will be held on September 10.



Patrons have been excited to find a new container coffee shop on Broadway in Everett Square, across from the Central Fire Station. The Koffee N’ Box café is a partnership between the City of Everett and business owner Pricila Trancoso.



Koffee N’ Box will have an official ribbon cutting on Sept. 10.



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ArtWalk 2020 will move to variety of outdoor parks

By Seth Daniel

The momentum of last year’s first ArtWalk – a partnership with the City, Everett Integral Arts and local businesses – will not be stopped by COVID-19 in 2020, said Karyn Alzayer – the ArtWalk director.

Alzayer said this week that the Walk is on and will start on Oct. 3 and run through Nov. 6, but there will be no big kick-off or hoopla accompanying the art – which will be in 20 of the City’s parks.

“It is for sure on, but we had to re-invent the wheel with it this year,” said

Alzayer. “We won’t be going with our host business partners this year, not because we didn’t want to support businesses, but because we didn’t want to draw more traffic to places and make them unsafe... So, we’re going to take people on a socially-distant walk to explore all the parks of Everett.”

Alzayer said they have just concluded submissions and she expects to have one piece of art hanging in 20 of the parks, and perhaps more pieces in some of the bigger parks is submissions allow. She said they will print replicas of each piece and weath-

erize them so they can be affixed to a place in each park. Then, there will be a QR code next to the piece of art explaining what the piece is about and a bio of the artist – which will come up on one’s phone.

So far, she said they had an equal number of returning artists to new artists compared to last year – and there are Everett residents and residents from surrounding communities as well.

She said it actually makes a lot of sense to feature the art in the parks, many of which have been recently refurbished and look great.

“You really have to explore to find some of them,” she said. “They are really fabulous parks and the City has been working hard to improve the parks and most of them are better and have a great face to them. It makes sense to feature them with the art.”

Alzayer said they picked October because it seemed like a time when people might be able to still get outside, and things might have settled down from the start of school and the end of summer.

“We thought October because we didn’t want to do it in the heat of the summer, and September



will be difficult because of school starting,” she said.

The ArtWalk is free to participate in and is supported in part by a grant from the Everett Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

School Committee favors return of school library functions

By Seth Daniel

A line-by-line public scouring of the School Department budget hadn’t been done in years until the School Committee reviewed the budget late last month, and in the course of that it has led to a call for the return of libraries and librarians to the City’s schools.

School Committee members Dana Murray and Samantha Lambert spoke out last month during budget meetings when it was revealed that there was only one school librarian for the whole district. To add to the frustration, most of the school libraries have been transformed into testing centers or even classrooms.

One library in the district has a divider down the middle, and has become two classrooms, district officials said.

Now, both members and Supt. Priya Tahiliani said that when the budget normalizes, they would like to see a priority item being hiring more librarians and returning the libraries to their original function.

“The fact is in a community of high-needs where kids don’t know where their next meal is coming from, they certainly don’t know where they’re next book is coming from,” said Murray, who is a high school teacher in Boston. “I can honestly say the kids that score the highest

on standardized tests...the truth is those are the same students that are reading for pleasure and they’re not reading ‘A Tale of Two Cities.’ It’s been bothering me a number of years and teachers end up fully supporting class libraries. I know most teachers spend \$2,000 to \$5,000 on student classroom libraries. Books are consumables and we want kids to consume them.”

Lambert said she learned about the lack of librarians in schools while working with the Everett Public Libraries. She said she was shocked to see that and partly ran for School Committee to address such issues.

“A librarian is not just

for books; they teach media literacy,” she said. “That’s something our student need more than ever. They have information flying at them from all directions...The teachers are tapped into what the students want to read, but if there were a librarian, they would be on top of it and be able to provide those books.”

Added Murray, “From a pedagogical point of view, there is a distinct link between literacy rates and the number of books a child is exposed to.”

Tahiliani said she was shocked when she first came to Everett Schools and learned there was only one school librarian for the whole district. She

said, however, it is more common in urban districts now, and much of it has to do with budget cuts over a period of years.

In Everett, libraries and librarians began to disappear about three years ago.

“When I was in Boston and I started there, they had a librarian in each school and a library and we built library time into the day,” she said. “As budget cuts came, you saw librarians taken out and libraries over time transition to labs, test areas or teacher spaces...I think it’s a large priority (in Everett) moving forward.”

She said were the Student Opportunity Act money to come through

this year as was expected before COVID-19, such expenses would have been a major priority, and likely will be in the future.

Meanwhile, the discussion was a milestone as it was the first time the School Committee really delved into the budget publicly at a meeting – line by line for several hours.

Lambert said they have learned a lot from those who have been on the Committee and overseen budgets before, but she also said it was important to have different voices in an open discussion.

Added Murray, “It’s a new dawn, a new day and a new School Committee.”

RMV to offer designated service hours for customers 75 or older

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is announcing that it will begin offering dedicated service hours for customers who are 75 years of age or older and are required to renew their Massachusetts driver’s license in person.

The new designated service hours will be by appointment only and will be offered on Wednesdays through the month of September at select service center locations. The services will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 2, at the Watertown Service Center with additional locations in Danvers, Leominster, New Bedford, and South Yarmouth to follow beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 9. The RMV is offering this new customer service option to facilitate proper “social-distancing” protocols to keep customers and staff safe and healthy.

Throughout September, certain service centers will dedicate Wednesdays (hours vary by location) to customers 75 years of age or older whose driver’s license or ID card expires in September, including customers whose licenses/IDs were extended until September (March, April, and May expirations).

The following service centers will exclusively serve these customers who make renewal appointments:

- Danvers Service Center (starting Sept. 9)
- Leominster Service Center (starting Sept. 9)
- New Bedford Service Center (starting Sept. 9)
- South Yarmouth Service Center (starting Sept. 9)

- Watertown Service Center (starting Sept. 2)

Below are the options for seniors to renew by appointment:

- If you are a AAA member, you may make a reservation now to renew your driver’s license/ID at a AAA location. Visit aaa.com/appointments to schedule your visit.
- If you are not a AAA member, visit Mass.Gov/RMV to make a reservation to renew at an RMV Service Center. Select the Seniors License Renewal option on the Make/Cancel a Reservation transaction.
- Email the RMV for assistance to renew at MassDOTRMVSeniors@dot.state.ma.us email address.
- Call the RMV at 857-368-8005.

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appointments are also available at our other open RMV Service Centers that offer general appointments to the public. Select Renew My Driver’s License or Mass ID option on the Make/Cancel a Reservation at Mass.Gov/RMV to view availability and make a reservation at one of these locations.


The RMV is introducing this service channel alternative in light of the COVID-19 public health emergency to encourage ‘social-distancing’ in its Service Centers and prioritize other essential in-person needs by appointment-only. All RMV customers are encouraged to visit www.Mass.Gov/RMV to complete one of over 40 other transactions available online, by mail, or by phone.



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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

INTERSECTION PROCESS MOVES AHEAD

CHELSEA - The intersection of Carter Street and Everett Avenue is one of the busiest traffic areas in Chelsea.

Chelsea High School is the main landmark, with students entering and exiting the school on to both streets. The popular Floramo's Restaurant is located just yards away while customers from Market Basket and Renee Caso Griffin's two Dunkin' stores drive through the intersection on a regular basis.

The well-known intersection is being transformed into one that will be safer and more aesthetically pleasing, and home to the most technologically advanced traffic-signalization available.

Ben Cares, infrastructural planner and project manager for the Chelsea Department of Housing and Community Development Department, and Rebecca Wright, assistant city engineer from the DPW, hosted a public meeting Monday to talk about the major vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle improvements that will be coming to the intersection and the adjacent streets.

Cares said he would be the lead project for the intersection project.

"This particular project is an intersection and roadway improvement project at the intersection of Carter Street and Everett Avenue – it's just adjacent to Chelsea High School," explained Cares to those who were unfamiliar with the area. "It's very much in need of pedestrian improvement via signalization, updated signalization for vehicular traffic, lane markings, and some minor ramp reconstruction to bring everything to ADA compliance."

Cares said the approximate cost of the project will be \$540,000 and it will be funded through a grant from the MassDOT Complete Streets Program.

Cares said that Rebecca Wright will be helping with field engineering and day-to-day activities on site. Dagle Electrical will be the contractor and The

Engineering Corps (TEC) will be the on-site engineers for the project.

Wright unveiled renderings that showed the existing intersection and the changes that will include line-striping, bump-outs, extension of the sidewalks, and the replacement of a wheelchair ramp.

There will also be new bicycle lane pavement markings designed for use for bicyclists in a separate lane away from vehicles. New wheelchair ramps are also planned for Beech and Carter streets.

Wright also said bicyclists will also have specific lanes that will run down Carter Street to Blossom Street.

"Another part of the project is traffic signal improvements," said Wright. "We have the new Mio-vision detection (that instantly reduces the amount of traffic back-ups), new mast arms (steel structures that hold the traffic signals above the roadway), and new pedestrian signals," said Wright.

Rectangular, rapid-flashing traffic beacons will also be installed at the intersection to alert vehicles and assist pedestrians intending to cross the intersection.

Cares said the city has been in "close coordination with Chelsea High School and surrounding businesses" about the project and its impacts on traffic during the construction process. Cares added that he welcomes suggestions from residents about the project, the construction launch date of which was not announced at the meeting.

Councillor-at-Large Leo Robinson, who grew up on Fourth Street, praised the project, saying that, "Anytime that enhances the city and makes it safer, I'm all in," said Robinson. "Traffic lights, street lights, let's make the area safer and brighten up the area."

TASTE OF CHELSEA ON SEPT. 14

CHELSEA - The Taste of Chelsea, one of the premier events on the city's social calendar for the past 16 years, will be held virtually next month.

Under the leadership of Joseph Vinard and the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce, the "Tastes" have consistently drawn large crowds to the venue under the tent at Eastern Mineral, 99 Marginal St. The event has raised more than \$1.2 million for HarborCov, a local shelter that assists survivors of domestic violence.

Kourou Pich, executive director of HarborCOV, said the virtual Taste of Chelsea will be held on Zoom on Monday, Sept. 14, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Pich said guests are being encouraged to buy tickets and join the program on Zoom.

"Because so many residents have been impacted by the pandemic, we're going to ask that people buy takeout orders or gift certificates from restaurants and join the 2020 Taste of Chelsea virtually," said Pich.

The Taste of Chelsea Program

The program will begin with a slide show about last year's Taste of Chelsea and the 2020 event sponsors. There will also be a presentation about HarborCov's mission and statistics related to domestic violence.

At 6:30 p.m. Vinard will deliver welcoming remarks. Pich will then speak about the purpose of the Taste of Chelsea and how the funds raise support survivors of domestic violence.

"The funds help out people who are at the shelter and go towards rental assistance, food gift cards, transportation, childcare and hotel rooms in times of emergency," said Pich.

Vinard the force behind the Taste

Joe Vinard, president of the Chelsea Bank, has helped build the Taste of Chelsea into a mega-event, one of the most anticipated gatherings of the year. He has been one of the event chairs for all 16 Tastes of Chelsea.

Vinard said other Chamber members on the planning committee include Renee Caso Griffin, Gina Guange, and Arthur Arsenault.

"The concept this year is that we're going to tell the story about what HarborCov does and what

domestic violence is all about," said Vinard, "Obviously the uptick in cases has been enormous this year with the COVID-19 situation."

Vinard hopes that residents will continue to support the event as they have so enthusiastically in the past.

"What we're asking people to do is rather than come and get a taste of Chelsea in person, we're asking that they get take-out orders from one of our food vendors who have been sponsoring us by coming and serving their food complimentary in the prior 16 years – we want people to get their food and enjoy it while they're watching the virtual presentation on Zoom," said Vinard.

Vinard the goal of the committee in making the decision to go virtual was to "keep everyone safe" during the pandemic. Because of the large crowd that attends the event, the six-foot-apart social distancing guidelines would have been difficult to maintain.

Councillor Robinson and family will attend the Taste of Chelsea

Councillor-at-Large Leo Robinson, his wife, Linda Alioto-Robinson, sister Gail Mauch, brother-in-law D. Bruce Mauch, and brother Ronald Robinson, have been supporters of the Taste of Chelsea through the years.

"We go every year and it's a great event," said Leo Robinson. "We're sad that the event can't happen this year in person, but we will be participating virtually in the Taste of Chelsea."

EDWARDS SEEKS BIKES ON BLUE LINE

EAST BOSTON - For the past few years East Boston has suffered some of the worst gridlock in decades. Since the reconfiguration of the Sumner Tunnel toll plaza and a dramatic increase in North Shore motorists using Eastie streets during their morning commute, getting around the neighborhood has become a little less easy.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has kept the traffic at bay with many still working from home City Councilor Lydia Edwards is taking proactive steps to try and cut down on neighborhood traffic once things start returning to normal with a plan to promote more bike usage for commuters.

Edwards and her colleague, At-Large City Councilor Michelle Wu, filed a hearing order last week to explore increasing the transportation options for cyclists on the MBTA's Blue Line. Edwards explained riders are not currently able to bring their bicycles on the Blue Line during peak hours, which prevents commuters from being able to ride the T into the city and bike to their final destination.

"This is going to be the start of a conversation," said Edwards. "We need to have a conversation about access and equity across transportation modes for East Boston residents. We're separated from the rest of the city by the harbor and there's no way for cyclists to be able to safely ride into the city. I'm proposing a pilot program to allow them to bring their bikes onto one car on the train during peak hours. With the population of the

LIGHTNING STRIKE



PHOTOS BY CHELSEA SCANNER

Sunday evening featured a major and long-lasting electrical storm throughout Chelsea and Greater Boston. Hundreds of lightning strikes and flash flooding occurred. Here, Chelsea Scanner was able to grab this memorable shot of a lightning bolt making a direct hit on the Mystic/Tobin Bridge. They were great shots, but Scanner indicated it was a little too close for comfort.



neighborhood growing, it's important that we give residents as many transportation options as possible."

An added benefit to Edwards's plan is that Blue Line riders may spend less time on trains thus exposing themselves less to potential COVID exposure while commuting.

Data shows that vehicular traffic in Eastie has increased dramatically over the last 10 years with North Shore commuters spilling onto city streets as they try to avoid traffic on Route 1A. The Suffolk Downs proposal includes miles of dedicated multi-modal infrastructure, but its effectiveness will be limited by the MBTA's prohibition of bicycles during peak rush hour on the Blue Line. "If people want to bike to work from the Aquarium station, they should be able to do so," said Edwards. "The more options we give people to get from Point A to Point B the fewer cars there will be on our neighborhood roads."

Her plan has received the support of transportation advocates like former Boston Transportation Secretary John Vitagliano who successfully lobbied for the Marty Coughlin By-Pass Road to Chelsea that significantly reduced Logan Airport-related traffic in Day Square.

"I strongly support Councilor Lydia Edwards's excellent recommendation that the MBTA provide sufficient capacity on the Blue Line-which serves East Boston, Winthrop, Revere and other north shore communities-to accommodate bicyclists during rush hour periods as well as during current non-rush hour periods," he said. "There are a number of possible operational alternatives, including full and partial train car/ bike provisions, that are feasible but would need to be evaluated through a vigorous test program. The current pandemic downturn of Blue Line ridership provides the opportunity to perform such a test. East Boston and other north shore communities deserve equal bicycle access to Boston-now is the time to do it."

NEW PROJECT ON MAVERICK STREET

EAST BOSTON - A Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) approved mixed-use condo project on Maverick Street broke ground recently, and will bring 49 new units to East Boston.

The project at 205 Maverick St., dubbed EBO, was approved by the BPDA in 2018 after developer Joseph Nogueira made several changes to the design, scale and scope of the proposed building and cut down the number of total units. Originally the developer proposed a five story, 55 unit building with two commercial spaces.

The modifications to the proposal came after members of the Gove Street Citizens Association (GSCA) voted 12 to 12 at a community meeting in September 2018. The tied vote meant GSCA would not send a letter of support or opposition for the project.

The plans approved by the BPDA call for the demolition of the existing single-story commercial structure that houses a laundromat and convenience store in order to construct a five-story, mixed-use building with 49 residential rental units, seven of which will be affordable units.

According to Nogueira, Nauset Construction has begun its work on the project that will consist of 12 studio units, 17 one-bedroom units, and 20 two-bedroom units.

"EBO condominiums are designed to fit in seamlessly with the character of the existing neighborhood, while providing much-needed housing to the City of Boston – including seven affordable units – in close proximity to public transportation," said Nogueira. "And bringing back the market and laundromat in upgraded space ensures that they will be able to continue to serve the community for years to come."

At community meetings regarding the project Nogueira called the project 'development without displacement' because he always planned to bring back the laundromat and convenience store after construction was completed. The two tenants, Maverick Street Market and Swish & Swash Laundromat, are popular businesses in the area and residents expressed a desire for both to return.

The development will also include an enclosed parking garage with 34 parking spaces and an equal number of bicycle spaces. In addition, an outdoor courtyard that sets back the residential entry from the sidewalk will be

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OBITUARIES

Camille Sacco

Strong faith and love of family were the hallmarks of her life

Family and friends are invited to attend a visitation on Thursday, September 3

from at 9 a.m. through 11:15 a.m. in the Vertuccio & Smith, Home for Funerals, 773 Broadway (Rte. 107) Revere for Camille R. Sacco, 84, who passed following a long illness and struggle with the complications of metastatic brain cancer on Sunday, August 30 at her beloved Revere residence. A brief funeral service will be held in the funeral home following the visitation at 11:30 a.m. and a graveside service at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett will be at 12 (Noon) with interment to follow. In accordance with the ongoing pandemic protocol, masks must be worn at all times and social distancing observed.

Born in East Boston on December 6, 1936, she was raised in East Boston, attended East Boston schools and was a graduate of East Boston High School, Class of 1954. In 1970, she moved to Saugus before coming to Revere, 50 years ago.

After high school, she began a career with Boston Mutual Insurance Co. of Boston as clerk-stenographer for about 15 years. She worked most briefly with her late husband, Peter J. Sacco, Jr., as a bookbinder at the former “Seaboard Bindery” of Boston. Soon, she began her family and became a stay-at-home mom, taking care of Peter, her two children and later in life, her grandson. “TJ” (Anthony J. Godino, Jr.)

Strong faith and love of family were the hallmarks of her life. However, her goodness and outstanding humanity did not confine her passion for humanity at that point. She was a genuine “Fred Rogers neighbor and friend, always extending a helping hand to those who suddenly found themselves in need of assistance of any kind.

Not only did Camille thrive on the excitement of the holidays, she had her own repertoire of traditional observances.



At Halloween, not only would the children receive their goodies, the accompanying parents would be the recipient of their own “Lollipop.” Christmas was “full-throttle” ahead and all the neighbors would receive candy canes personally delivered to their homes and she took great pride in maintaining her home with decorations for all seasons.

Camille was the beloved wife of the late Peter J. Sacco, Jr., who passed on August 23, 1999; the cherished mother to Peter Sacco, Advertising Sales Rep for the Revere Journal & Independent Newspaper Group and Stephanie J. Sacco-Godino and her husband, Anthony J. “Tony” of Revere and the devoted grandmother to Anthony J. “TJ” Godino, Jr. of Revere; the dear sister of Violet Vernacchio of Florida, Edmund J. Vargus, Jr. and his wife, Arlene of New Hampshire and the late Dorothy Merriman. She was the adoring daughter of the late Edmund J. Vargus, Sr. and Rose J. (Volpini) Vargus and also the surrogate Mom to her late canine companion, “Bandit” and her late morning dove, “Birdy.”

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the MSPCA-Angell, 350 S. Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02130

In conclusion, soon after Peter’s passing, Camille came across these words of inspiration: “Death is not the greatest loss in life. The greatest loss is what dies inside us while we live.” — Norman Cousins.

To send online condolences or for more information, please visit www.vertuccioandsmith.com.

Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

constructed to create opportunities for informal neighborhood gathering and socializing that will further enliven the streetscape. In order to soften the garage the developer has planned a roof decked open space or ‘green roof’ concept over the garage in order to hide the cars from view from abutters living around the building on Maverick and Everett Streets.

“Constructing mid-size, mixed-use multifamily developments in tight urban infill locations is becoming a calling card for Nauset in recent years,” said Nauset Construction President Anthony Papantonis. “Through repetition, we’ve been able to streamline processes to reduce construction time and improve procedures to ensure the safety of the surrounding neighborhood and our workforce.”

As part of his BPDA approval Nogueira agreed to a \$20,000 contribution to fund a transportation analysis, and/or implement pedestrian safety enhancements, vehicle calming measures, and public realm improvements in and around the Maverick Street corridor.

The developer also plans to make donations to the Piers Park Sailing Center, as well as the East Boston Social Centers.

LYNN CANCELING FALL SEASON

LYNN - Lynn English Director of Athletics Dick Newton and Lynn Classical Director of Athletics Bill Devin both voted with the majority to cancel the entire Northeastern Conference fall sports season.

The NEC ADs voted by a 7-5 margin to recommend to cancel the season and push it back to the spring of 2021. The NEC school principals, including Classical Principal Amy Dunn and English Interim Principal Anastasia Tessie Mower, voted 9-0-3 Monday to

cancel the season, with the Gloucester, Danvers, and Beverly principals abstaining.

Newton spoke about the proposal that he authored. “I think the buzzword was ‘equity’ and if five schools are not able to play at all, are we going to stay together as a league or are we going to branch off and do our own thing?” said Newton. “I think the main objective of school systems is to get students back in the classroom first.”

The decision affects Lynn high school football (which had already been moved to the spring season, (which is called the “Fall 2” season), volleyball, boys and girls soccer, boys and girls cross country, golf, and cheerleading.

“It is my job as an athletic director to look out for my kids and at this point in time where we’re in waters that we haven’t been in before when it comes to COVID-19 and virtual learning – it’s made things very difficult for everybody and my job is to look out for Lynn English and Lynn kids.”

Devin said Lynn was deemed to be in “red” for COVID-19 cases, “so weren’t going to be allowed to play anywhere.”

“This decision gives us a ray of hope that we can salvage the entire fall season and play it in the Fall 2 floating wedge season created by the MIAA,” said Devin.

Devin said he is “100 percent optimistic” that the Fall 2 season can happen this spring.

“There are some obstacles with the weather and the availability of venues and other issues, but I think all of those things can be overcome,” said Devin. “My thought is that the late February dates will be used for tryouts and indoor practices and then gradually make our way out to the golf course, the cross country course, and the football and soccer fields.”

Devin said he is excited about an interesting scenario that could find the Lynn Classical and Lynn English football teams playing their annual “Thanksgiving” game in April.

“I am excited about playing the Bulldogs on a warm, crisp Saturday afternoon in April at Manning Field,” said Devin. “We’re going to have a sell-out crowd, 10,000-plus fans there.”

In other news, Devin and Newton have agreed that the Lynn flag football (Powder Puff) game between Lynn Classical and Lynn English seniors will be played in the spring at Manning Field.

McKENNA’S HOME IS TESTING SITE

REVERE - Ward 1 Councillor Joanne McKenna is well known for looking out for her constituents’ best interests on the streets of Beachmont and as it now turns out, officially in the air up above the neighborhood as well.

McKenna’s home and yard on Winthrop Avenue will be the site for a machine that will measure the emissions from airplanes landing and taking off from Logan Airport.

Dr. John Durant, environmental engineering professor at Tufts University, is leading the one-year study in collaboration with the Boston University School of Public Health “to better understand aviation impacts in communities near Logan Airport.”

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is funding the research that will determine air pollution (chemical pollution and noise pollution) impacts of aviation and how to mitigate pollution from those impacts.

How did Tufts and BU officials happen to choose the home of Councillor Joanne McKenna for the placement of the machine?

“We are doing a year-long characterization of impacts near the major

runways,” said Durant. “We wanted a site to the north in line with the major runway configurations, and through the Logan noise study group, I was referred to Joanne by Gina Cassetta (of the Winthrop Airport Hazards Committee).”

Durant credited McKenna for responding immediately to the request to use her home as an emissions testing site.

“Joanne volunteered and she was quite enthusiastic,” said Durant. “So we’ve installed a water-tight, weather-proof box on her residential property and putting three instruments inside that will measure three different kinds of pollution: nitrogen dioxide, black carbon, and ultra-fine particles. These are all combustion byproducts of the airplane engine, just like they come out of the tailpipe of a car.”

The testing mechanisms will be on 24 hours a day, according to Durant. Winthrop, Chelsea, and South Boston will be the other testing locations.

McKenna has been involved in regular communications with Massport during her tenure on the City Council.

“But this study just fell in my lap,” said McKenna humbly. “Tufts and BU are doing a study on the quality of the air over Beachmont and my property is one of the highest points on the hill. Gina Cassetta suggested my house for the study. They [Tufts and BU officials] came to my house a few weeks ago and thought it was a wonderful location. The machine will be in my yard for a year and test the quality and the emissions of the airplanes. It’s a great step for Beachmont. Finally we’re going to get a study to see how the emissions of the airplanes landing at and departing from Logan affect the health of Beachmont residents.”

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Hartford, CT 06106-1561
860-541-3400

MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
51 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
207-624-6050

MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION
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401-222-2661/62

VERMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
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NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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NEW HAVEN COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

RESIDENTS NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

The following Everett student was named to the dean's list for the Spring 2020 semester at Quinnipiac University:

Erin Bessler
To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester.

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational, nonsectarian institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 7,000 full-time undergraduate and 3,000 graduate and part-time students in 110 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts and Sciences. Quinnipiac is recognized by U.S. News & World Report and Princeton Review's "The Best 385 Colleges." The Chronicle of Higher Education has named Quinnipiac among the Great Colleges to Work For(r). For more information, please visit qu.edu. Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook at facebook.com/quinnipiacnews and follow Quinnipiac on Twitter @QuinnipiacU.

JEAN-FRANCOIS NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT BATES COLLEGE

Sam Jean-Francois of Everett, was named to the dean's list at Bates College for the winter semester ending in April 2020. This is a distinction earned by students whose cumulative grade point average is 3.8 or higher.

Jean-Francois, the child of Clairma Jean-Francois of Everett, Mass., is a 2019 graduate of Somerville High School.

Located in Lewiston, Maine, Bates is internationally recognized as a leading liberal arts college, attracting 2,000 students from across the U.S. and around the world. Since 1855, Bates has been dedicated to educating the whole person through creative and rigorous scholarship in a collaborative residential community. Committed to opportunity and excellence, Bates has always admitted students without regard to gender, race, religion, or national origin. Cultivating intellectual

discovery and informed civic action, Bates prepares leaders sustained by a love of learning and zeal for responsible stewardship of the wider world.

GUERRIER NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

Yasmeen Guerrier, of Everett, has been named to the Spring 2020 Dean's List at American International College (AIC). Dean's List students are full time students who have achieved a 3.3 to 4.0 GPA. The College commends the extraordinary achievement and commitment of this scholar's accomplishment during an unprecedented time.

Founded in 1885, American International College (AIC) is a private, co-educational, doctoral granting institution located in Springfield, Massachusetts, comprising the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, and the School of Health Sciences. AIC supports and advances education, diversity, and opportunity for its students and the community.

JALLOW NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA

Isatou Jallow of Everett made the summer 2020 Dean's List at the University of North Georgia (UNG) for achieving at least a 3.5 grade point average, carrying 12 or more credit hours in one semester and having no grade lower than B.

The deans of each of UNG's five colleges - the College of Arts & Letters, the College of Education, the College of Health Sciences & Professions, the Mike Cottrell College of Business, and the College of Science & Mathematics - announced the names of those students who made their respective lists.

Positioned in the fastest-growing region of the state, the University of North Georgia comprises five campuses united by a single mission focused on academic excellence and academic and co-curricular programs that develop students into leaders for a diverse and global society. The University of North Georgia is a University System of Georgia leadership institution and is The Military College of Georgia. With more than 20,000 students, the University of North Georgia is one of the state's largest public universities. The university offers more than 100 programs of study ranging from certificate and associate degrees

to professional doctoral programs.

LOCAL STUDENT NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE

Springfield College Recognizes Dean's List Students for the 2020 Spring Semester.

Springfield College has named Fabian Correia from Everett to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 spring semester. Correia is studying Physical Education.

Springfield College has named Kaya Small from Everett to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 spring semester. Small is studying Psychology.

Springfield College is an independent, nonprofit, coeducational institution founded in 1885. Approximately 4,100 students, including 2,500 full-time undergraduate students, study at its main campus in Springfield, Mass., and at its regional campuses across the country. Springfield College inspires students through the guiding principles of its Humanities philosophy - educating in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in service to others.

RESIDENT NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE

Saint Anselm College has released the Dean's List of high academic achievers for the second semester of the 2019-2020 school year. To be eligible for this honor, a student must have achieved a grade point average of 3.3 or better in the semester with at least 12 credits of study which award a letter grade. A total of 879 students representing 26 states and 6 countries received this honor.

Mark W. Cronin, Dean of the College, announced that the following student has been named to the Dean's List for the spring 2020 semester at Saint Anselm College, Manchester, New Hampshire.

Julie E. Duperier of Everett, 2020, Natural Sciences

ABOUT SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE: Founded in 1889, Saint Anselm College is a four-year liberal arts college providing a 21st century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in southern New Hampshire near Boston and the seacoast, Saint Anselm is well known for its strong liberal arts curriculum, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, a highly successful nursing program, a legacy of community service and a commitment to the arts.

UNGLID PAUL NAMED TO UNION COLLEGE DEAN'S LIST

Unglid Paul, of Everett, was named to the 2020 Dean's List at Union College.

Paul is a member of the Class of 2022 majoring in English.

Comprised annually, the Union College Dean's List honors students who have a grade point average of 3.5 for the entire academic year and meet certain other requirements.

Union College, founded in 1795 as the first college chartered by the New York State Board of Regents, offers programs in the liberal arts and engineering to 2,100 undergraduates of high academic promise and strong personal motivation. Union, with its long history of blending disciplines, is a leader in educating students to be engaged, innovative and ethical contributors to an increasingly diverse, global and technologically complex society.

BONO NAMED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND DEAN'S LIST

The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce the Spring 2020 Dean's List. The students represent nearly all of Rhode Island's cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries.

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

Michael Bono of Everett, was named to the Dean's List.

Note: Students who qualified for the Dean's List, but have restricted access to their information under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) guidelines, are not included on this public listing. Students may adjust these restrictions on eCampus.

The University of Rhode Island's pioneering research extends the University's influence well beyond its coastal borders, while its unique interdisciplinary courses provide its 16,852 undergraduate and graduate students with global opportunities in an intimate environment. In May 2020, more than 3,500 undergraduate and about 700 graduate degrees were awarded. The University now has more than 120,000 alumni worldwide.

UW-MADISON ANNOUNCES SPRING GRADUATES

Nearly 8,500 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison during a unique online commencement ceremony on May 9, 2020, including Brandon Phan of Everett, College of Agricultural & Life Science, Master of Science-Bacteriology, Bacteriology.

The ceremony, forced online because of the Coronavirus pandemic, was for doctoral, bachelor's, master's and law graduates.

Best-selling author James Patterson, the commencement speaker, counseled graduates on persistence and resilience, telling them, "Hey, it's hard now, but it's been hard before. When I graduated from college, the war in Vietnam was raging, there was a draft . . . When my dad graduated, he got shipped off to Europe and WW II."

Chancellor Rebecca Blank praised graduates for the way they handled their unprecedented final semester - in-person instruction ended in March -- and she thanked their family and friends for helping them through it all.

Some graduates will face a longer job search than expected, Blank said. Others will face personal pain from unexpected family loss or will end up doing very different things next year than they might have expected.

"But when we are past this crisis, you will also see many new opportunities - opportunities to re-engage the economy, to re-build personal connections, and to figure out how to live together in ways that reduce the threat of future pandemics," Blank said. "Our world will change permanently because of this global shared experience. Your diploma from this great public university is your ticket to be part of that change."

In addition to Saturday's virtual ceremony, numerous famous Badger alumni posted shout-outs on social media, including soccer star Rose Lavelle, Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson, U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, and Tony Award-winning actor Andre De Shields, who sang a bit for graduates. On May 8, the UW Athletic Department lit Camp Randall and the Kohl Center in red to honor the Class of 2020.

To ease the sting of the last few months, the Wisconsin Union announced it would provide all graduates with lifetime memberships - a first in the association's more than 110-year history. Additionally, the Wisconsin Alumni Association is giving graduates two free years of membership.

ANDERSON NAMED TO WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE'S DEAN'S LIST

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced that Connor Anderson of Everett, a member of the class of 2021 majoring in computer science and mathematical sciences, was named to the university's Dean's List for academic excellence for the spring 2020 semester.

A total of 1,749 undergraduate students achieved the criteria required for WPI's spring 2020 Dean's List. The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differs from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean's List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

"WPI's academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on open-ended problems for communities around the world. The problems are important and the impact is real" said dean of undergraduate studies Arthur C. Heinricher. "Some of this nation's best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering and science and business and the humanities. Those named to the Dean's List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students."

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI, the global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI's pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 50 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 14 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

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CHURCH News

Mystic Side Congregational Church

News and Notes

Mystic Side Congrega-tional Church is located in Everett, on Malden-Ev-erett border, at 422 Main Street. We offer a warm, inviting atmosphere, and all are welcome. Our Sun-day Church service starts at 10:30 a.m. and Commu-nion is offered on the first Sunday of each month. A very pleasant coffee hour

and socializing follow our services. Parking is avail-able 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 Episco-pal Church is open and wel-coming to all.

There are 3 services on Sundays: 10am English, 1pm South Sudanese (Din-ka) and 3pm Haitian Cre-ole.

Come all and let us walk together in this season of

hope, renewal and new be-ginnings.

**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 Ev-erett 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 up-dates, visit us at [\[everett.church\]\(http://everett.church\) to sign up for our newsletter and see how we can help you, or connect with the Everett Community Aid Network at \[www.everettcan.com\]\(http://www.everettcan.com\) to request any additional help.](http://www.for-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Glendale Christian Lighthouse Church

News and Notes

Adult Sunday School at 9:30 AM. Teaching about Holiness .

Sunday 10:30 AM Wor-ship service.

Wednesday hour of Power, worship, prayer and Bible Study. We are studying about God, come join us.

Come join us in prayer every Friday at 6 am.

Saturday, 12-3, Wom-en’s Fellowship. Join our sisters in worship, fellow-ship and prayer.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human mas-ters,” Colossians 3:23

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• Domingo 9:30 am Es-cuela Dominical de Adul-tos. (en inglés)

Servicio de Alabanza y Adoracion a las 10 am (en inglés)

• 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)

Mayores informes de los servicios en español (617) 306-3518

“No temas, porque yo estoy contigo; no des-mayes, porque yo soy tu Dios que te esfuerzo; siempre te ayudaré, siem-pre te sustentaré con la di-estra de mi justicia.”

Isaías 41:10

“En busca de la excel-encia espiritual

Rectitud, Divinidad, Fe, Amor, Verdad”

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MASSACHUSETTS
02149
617-387-7458
Rev. Larry Russi, Sr.
Pastor
pastorlarry@
thelighthousechurch701.net**

Glendale United Methodist Church

News and Notes

Glendale United Meth-odist 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 ded-icate 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 particu-lar week and leave a copy of your dedication in the mail in that is on the Pas-tor’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 appoint-ment.

Bread of Life Donations – This outreach is being done to honor the Unit-ed 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
PastorDavidJack-son58@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 togeth-er, spiritually while they can’t physically. Their virtual sanctuaries can be accessed via their face-

book page, “Zion Church Ministries.”

For more information, they can be reached on-line at zionchurchminis-tries.com or via email at office@zionchurchminis-tries.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 Can-non

Weekly Mass Schedule at Immaculate Conception is as follows:

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 p.m.

12:15 p.m. Spanish Community

4:00 p.m. Haitian Com-munity

Masses are being held in the Chapel.


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Coalition to safely reopen schools citing serious occupational health concerns to be addressed

Staff Report

In response to the statewide push to reopen schools for in-person education, the recently formed Coalition to Safely Reopen Schools, has issued its position statement citing a number of issues that need to be addressed to ensure that schools can be reopened without jeopardizing the health and safety of students, staff, or the communities schools serve. As a result of that analysis, the Coalition is calling for a phased approach to reopening, with no in-person learning unless and until those issues are resolved.

The Coalition is a statewide collaboration of school nurses, teachers, parents, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, librarians, school support staff, janitorial staff, labor, occupational health and community advocates, who came together to provide a frontline perspective and concrete medically-informed recommendations

for what is needed to safely reopen for in-person learning. The group complements and builds on a number of other position statements issued by local and national teachers associations, including the Massachusetts Teachers Association, and American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts, as well as expert analysis and reports provided by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the Massachusetts Education Equity Partnership and the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health. It also relies on the perspective of school nurses from throughout the state, who are responsible for the health and well-being of students and every member of the school staff, all of whom will be placing their own well-being and that of their families and communities at risk as a result of reopening during this unprecedented pandemic.

“This process represents one of the most

consequential decisions our communities and our state will make as our state and nation construe to grapple with a pandemic that is still surging across the nation, showing signs of a second wave in our state, with the threat of the flu season looming,” said Patty Comeau, RN, a member of the Coalition, the Massachusetts Nurses Association and a school nurse in Methuen. “In confronting this challenge a safe, scientifically guided, well planned, adequately funded and appropriately resourced process must be the priority for all involved, as the stakes couldn’t be higher and the outcome of our decisions truly have life and death consequences.”

The statement also highlights the need to keep equity as the central focus of reopening in order to address the needs of families, and communities; particularly Black, Latino and those residents of disadvantaged communities across the Common-

wealth, who have been hardest hit by the pandemic, and whose communities often lack the funding and school infrastructure to support a safe reopening at this time.

The position statement addresses 16 different areas of concern that need to be considered and addressed appropriately to ensure a safe reopening of schools for in-person learning, including:

- Proper ventilation and circulation of air;
- Assessing community resources for alternative school settings;
- Ensuring proper social distancing;
- Standardization and availability of PPE for all staff and students
- Resources and infrastructure to support hand hygiene and mask wearing;
- Safe cleaning practices;
- Addressing the health and safety of students with special needs;
- Access to rapid testing;
- Clear guidelines for

contact tracing;

- Appropriate school nurse staffing;
- Space to isolate and monitor suspected or positive cases;
- Resources for safe transportation of students;
- Safe re-entry into school protocols;
- Comprehensive education and training of staff prior to reopening;
- Disparities in access to in-person learning;
- Preserving school staff pay and benefits.

The position statement clearly describes each specific area of concern as well as how each must be addressed to ensure a safe reopening. After completing this review, the Coalition position statement concludes:

“In light of all the issues we have presented, the current lack of funding appropriated to address these issues, and the increased need for staff, PPE, testing and other resources to implement a safe reopening, at this time; we don’t believe our State is ready to

pursue in-person learning safely. And until these issues are resolved, it is also not safe to have staff stationed in these schools to conduct remote learning for students.”

The Coalition calls for the state and school districts to reopen for remote learning, while taking the time to develop comprehensive plans with the infrastructure, protocols, staffing, funding and training “to safely institute in-person learning that we all know our students deserve.”

The organizations that have endorsed the document to date include: American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts, Massachusetts Association for the Chemically Injured, Massachusetts Coalition for Safety and Health, Massachusetts Jobs with Justice, Massachusetts Nurses Association, Massachusetts Teachers Association and Service Employees International Union Local 888.

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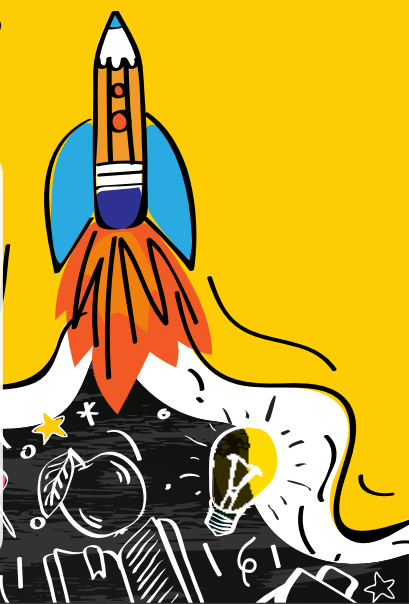
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Baker deactivates the National Guard after a few days

By Seth Daniel

After calling up the National Guard on Friday, Aug. 28, for up to 1,000 Guardsmen to potentially help municipal leaders, Gov. Charlie Baker deactivated the National Guard on Monday.

Baker said National Guard members were there to assist municipalities until further order. National Guard personnel were ready to assist cities and towns throughout the activation but did not take an active role in any municipal operations.

The worry seems to have been about potential protests following the police-involved shooting of Jacob Blake in Wisconsin. Major protests did not materialize throughout the region though.

“Following coordination with municipal leaders through the weekend regarding potential large scale demonstrations,

Governor Baker today (Aug. 31) authorized the Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard to end the Governor’s Aug. 28 activation order. That activation, which made Guard personnel available in the event that municipal leaders required their assistance, will end at midnight tonight,” said an administration spokesperson.

Personnel drawn from the Guard’s military police units undergo federally-accredited police training and receive additional instruction on Massachusetts police training standards. When assisting a local police department, they use that department’s policies, radio frequencies, etc., whenever possible. While federal Title 32 funding has been extended for COVID-19 missions, Guard personnel activated by this order served on state active duty.

State disburses lost wages benefits to PUA claimants

Staff report

The Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has begun the disbursement of Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) benefits to Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claimants, who will receive benefits beginning September 2.

Payments are expected in claimant accounts by Saturday, September 5. For those who are eligible for LWA through the standard unemployment insurance (UI) program accessed through UI Online, benefits are expected to be disbursed on or before September 15.

The Commonwealth’s application to receive grant funding to pay a limited additional weekly unemployment benefit to claimants under the federal Lost Wages Supplemental Payment Assistance (LWA) program for the weeks ending 8/1/20, 8/8/20, and 8/15/20 was recently approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The application was submitted by the Massachu-

setts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), in coordination with the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA). An additional application for the week of 8/22/20 has been sent to FEMA and the Massachusetts DUA is awaiting review by FEMA.

Per FEMA’s authorization, the grant will fund an additional \$300 weekly payment to those who are eligible for at least \$100 in weekly unemployment benefits for the three weeks ending 8/1/20, 8/8/20, and 8/15/20. The Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance continues to work on the technology and business requirements necessary for this program and anticipates being able to quickly deliver retroactive funds to all eligible claimants in the coming weeks. Most eligible claimants currently receiving benefits do not need to take any action because the Commonwealth will automatically add LWA to their weekly benefit payment retroactive to the dates specified in the grant.

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