

Everett Independent

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Moroccan Social Club put on hold due to odd licensing arrangement

By Seth Daniel

A proposed beer and wine licenses for a previously-unknown Moroccan social club in the rear of Ferry Street was put on hold Nov. 16 by the License Board when it was learned Café Napoli was attempting to sell their club license to the social club – a move, unlike Boston, that isn’t available in Everett.

Kingsman is a social club available to private members who pay dues, said Roseann, who owns the club – located at 454 Rear Ferry St. in what used to be a meat market.

The social club has been operating since January, but was previously-unknown to City inspectors or the licensing board until Kingsman came in to try to obtain a beer and wine license. They were serving food before COVID, but now only offer coffee.

“We would like to be able to, for members, on a special occasion like Ramadan or a birthday or something – to be able to utilize the location for a couple of hours,” said Roseann. “It’s also to bring in more business.”

That was a problem off the bat, said Chair Phil Antonelli, as they don’t have a Common Victualer’s license and are not registered with the City – which isn’t a huge obstacle to fix, he said.

However, there were no beer and wine licenses available to dole out to the club.

“I have the option to purchase a beer and wine license for a transfer,” said Roseann.

“Number one, beer and wine licenses aren’t for sale in the City of Everett,” he said. “So, whom-

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LOCKS OF LOVE



Everett’s Meckenzie Burke-Hutchinson made a big commitment last week. At the age of 7-years-old, she made the brave decision to donate 14 inches of her beautiful hair to Locks of Love. This was Meckenzie’s first haircut and it will be used to make a hairpiece for someone who is suffering from hair loss due to an illness. Thank you to Jason at Angelo’s Barber Shop in Everett for helping Meckenzie make a difference.

Watch that Serving Spoon

Thanksgiving gatherings to be a tough call for City, families

By Seth Daniel

Seemingly everyone in Everett has swarmed over the past week to get a COVID-19 test at the Stop the Spread sites across the City, notably trying to get a negative result before deciding whether or not to have a family gathering for Thanksgiving – something it seems the entire community, if not the country, is contemplating.

As of last Friday, there were a total of 3,293 confirmed cases in Everett since the outbreak, and

Public Health Nurse Sabrina Firicano said the City is averaging in the high-30s of new cases every day. That means the virus is spreading and precautions are going to be needed, particularly as people make the decision about going to family get-togethers for Thanksgiving.

“I think it’s going to be really important to be aware of who you’re around and wearing your mask and washing your hands – social distancing as much as you can

at a family gathering,” she said. “These things are known and we say it over and over and over. They really do work if you are following the correct guidelines. I always feel like I’m giving bad news, but it is the same things... We want people to keep their gatherings to 10 or less and that’s difficult. We really don’t want to see an increase in cases, but we are forecasting an increase in cases after

See FAMILIES Page 2

EHS takes STEM Week Challenge Championship

By Seth Daniel

When it comes to COVID-19, despite lots of attempts to get information out, some Everett High students found that their friends affected by COVID had trouble finding help, and so the students set out to solve that issue with a new online application.

And in helping others, they helped themselves to first place in the statewide 2020 STEM Week Challenge – an honor the highly-respected program at EHS had been shooting for over a number of years.

“We started by interviewing some of our friends who have been

directly affected by COVID,” said Breetika Maharjan, a junior. “They told us some of the biggest challenges were finding information and locating resources. We tried it ourselves and it was really challenging so we wanted to do a project that would make that more accessible.”

The project was a collaboration between Maharjan and fellow Juniors Alyssa Hurley and Lakisha Kirmon. All three worked on the project remotely, as they are in fully remote schooling at EHS right now. So it was even more difficult to connect with the team and plan out

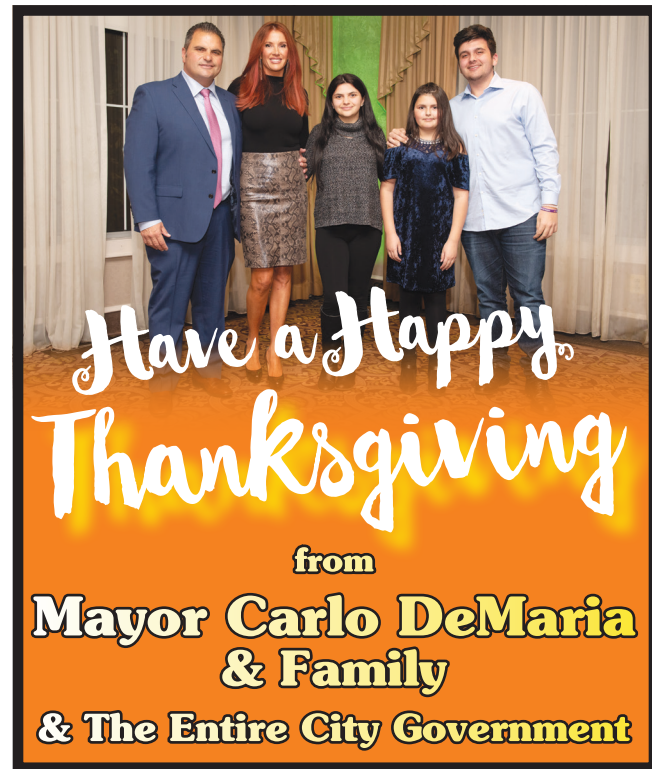
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ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER/HOLIDAY DRIVE



Fred and Michele Capone donated candy to assist the Schiavo Associates with their annual Thanksgiving dinner. The couple also donated to the Club’s annual holiday toy drive.

“The Schiavo Club is a great group of people who help so many individuals and families throughout the year. Their Thanksgiving dinner is one of the best in the City and we are happy to donate every year. The members put a lot of love into the meal, and residents look forward to attending the annual event. Although the pandemic will not permit the community to gather, we are thrilled that the Club is continuing this wonderful tradition via delivery,” said Fred and Michele. Fred and Michele ask that each of us consider helping others this season. “There are so many people in need and every charitable act helps. If possible, follow the Schiavo Club’s example and find a way to give back to our great community,” they concluded.



Staying safe at Thanksgiving

Staff Report

Due to the pandemic, the City of Everett and the CDC are recommending families make modifications to their traditional celebrations.

According to the CDC, the pandemic is worsening and small household gatherings are a significant contributor to the

rise in COVID-19 cases. The CDC is strongly advising people to adjust their holiday plans this year to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 to their friends, family, and community. They have provided suggestions on how people can slow the spread of the virus while still celebrating this holiday season.

There are some lower risk activities that you can participate in on Thanksgiving. These activities include:

- Having a small Thanksgiving dinner with only people who live in your household.
- Host a virtual dinner with extended family and friends. Show off your favorite dishes and share

your favorite recipes.

- Host a Thanksgiving meal outdoors, if possible.
- Go for a walk with extended family members, while wearing a mask and staying 6 feet apart.
- Preparing traditional family recipes for family and neighbors, especially those at higher risk

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TRASH NOTICE

Due to the Thursday Thanksgiving Holiday, Trash will be on schedule Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday Delayed by one day on Thursday & Friday

Thank you.

Capitol Waste Services, Inc.

The Independent Newspaper Offices will be closed

Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>



# Meg Mainzer-Cohen named Chair of the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) is pleased to announce that Meg Mainzer-Cohen was appointed earlier this month as Chair of the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee (GPAC) by Governor Charlie Baker.

Established under section 68 (a) of the Expanded Gaming Act of 2011, the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee is responsible for making advisory recommendations concerning gaming policy to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission.

“The Gaming Policy Advisory Committee does crucial work to help inform and guide the Massachusetts Gaming Commission on key issues, and I am pleased to appoint Meg Mainzer-Cohen to lead this important organization,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “I look forward to GPAC’s continued work to bring together important stakeholders in the gaming policy space under Chair Mainzer-Cohen’s leadership.”

Mainzer-Cohen, of West Roxbury, has been the president and executive director of the Back Bay Association since 2000 and has an extensive track record of communi-

ty involvement, including serving as Chair of the Boston Finance Commission from 2012 until earlier this year. Mainzer-Cohen previously held leadership positions with both the Somerville Community Corporation and the Downtown Crossing Association.

“On behalf of my fellow commissioners, I am delighted to welcome Meg Mainzer-Cohen as chair of the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee,” said Chair Cathy Judd-Stein. “This body provides valuable input to the MGC on gaming-related matters, including the Gaming Commission’s robust research agenda which works to inform policy to maximize the benefits of casino gambling while minimizing its impacts.”

“I am honored to have been appointed by Governor Baker to chair the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee,” said Meg Mainzer-Cohen. “Comprised of state, municipal, and private business leaders, the GPAC addresses the intersection of complex public and private interests. I look forward to working with my fellow members to advise on these matters in support of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission.”

## STEM/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

their work – but they overcame, said Hurley.

“Remote learning overall has been tough,” she said. “It’s hard to connect with people via Zoom. Working on this project is more enjoyable than regular class because we were able to incorporate our own experiences and our academics to help our community.”

At Everett High School, the first place Challenge Champions are in teacher Anna Seiders’ class. Under her oversight, the students designed an app for Everett that includes local case count statistics, information on testing sites, centralized resources, and even a section dedicated to self-care for those experiencing anxiety or facing isolation due to the pandemic. Students reached out to City officials to ask questions about current resources and designed their app to fill in gaps in service they identified. One app feature, for example, is a 24/7 helpline offering guidance and support.

“Teaching has never been more challenging,” said Seiders, who is a STEM teacher at EHS. “In a district that is nearly 100

percent remote, developing authentic learning experiences feels almost insurmountable. This project could not have come at a more perfect time. Not only did it fit perfectly in my curriculum, but it also allowed my students to engage in a real-world problem that drastically impacts their community. To be able to integrate the COVID-19 pandemic into our class and give my students an opportunity to discuss, design, and develop meaningful solutions was so powerful. “This applied learning project was a meaningful way for them to see how what they learn in class directly affects their neighborhood as well as inspire them to consider different STEM career pathways for their futures.”

Mass STEM Hub announced the 2020 STEM Week Challenge Champions after industry professionals reviewed the innovative and practical solutions they developed to real-world problems. Top teams like EHS’s will now have the opportunity to further collaborate with industry partners at IBM iX, Dell

Technologies, and the New England Aquarium, along with experts from Partners In Health and Bi-onic Project, Inc.

Mass STEM Hub also worked closely with high-quality STEM applied learning partners Innovative Learning Partners, PBLWorks, Project Lead The Way, and ST Math to design each of the grade-level prompts.

“The projects submitted for the STEM Week Challenge reinforce how effective applied learning is when it comes to engaging students and driving authentic learning,” said Katherine Skrivan, Director of Mass STEM Hub. “We’re proud of all the students who took their learning to the next level by submitting their projects for review and feedback by STEM professionals.”

Industry feedback and engagement is a critical component of the STEM Week Challenge. More than 200 volunteers across 61 companies participated by reviewing projects and giving tailored feedback.

In the industry review of EHS’s winning project, a Boston-based civil en-

gineer congratulated the students on their ingenuity and wrote, “this app goes above and beyond the task of contact tracing, devising a comprehensive view of how to flatten the curve. I would absolutely download this app and feel confident that my community would be safer as a result.”

Kirnon said they didn’t expect to win at all, but simply wanted to solve a problem in the community – that being easily accessible information to the pandemic crisis in Everett.

“Alyssa, Breetika, and I didn’t expect to get first place,” said Kirnon. “It was very shocking given the circumstances of being online for the school year. The best part of the project is that our group had good chemistry and good work ethic.”

K-12 schools across Massachusetts can continue to participate in the STEM Week Challenge and submit projects for industry feedback through November 25. To learn more about the STEM Week Challenge and other hands-on learning experiences offered by Mass STEM Hub, visit mass-stemhub.org.

## Families/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Thanksgiving. That will give us a push into what we can expect and what we can do for Christmas.”

The state’s guidelines are quite clear that they are recommending people stay in their household and celebrate Thanksgiving, but with so many having been cooped up for so long, that is likely not realistic. However, Firicano said if residents do choose to go to a family celebration, she asks they approach it smartly – including changing how the celebration unfolds.

“As long as they stay under the 10-person limit and take all the precautions and do things a little differently, it isn’t prohibited,” she said. “People shouldn’t serve dinner with the traditional buffet style. I have heard a

lot of messaging about if you go, bring your own plates and plastic utensils. That prevents people from sharing things. I’ve also heard a lot about bringing your own Thanksgiving dinner and eating with each other, but your food is pre-prepared instead of having the big buffet of food...That’s hard to do. The problem is when you eat your masks are down and that’s when you really need to be six feet apart. People definitely should not be sharing utensils and serving spoons.”

That’s where the testing has come in, and why lines have been very long at all of the City’s Stop the Spread testing sites.

“We are recommending testing and encourage people to go get tested before Thanksgiving because if

you do receive a positive test result, then you won’t go to grandma’s house,” she said. “That’s why so many people are getting tested right now because there are asymptomatic people out there that are positive and may go to a small family gathering. I think it’s very proactive for people to be going to get tested and it shows they are trying to prevent illness and they are thinking of others.”

On Friday, Firicano said lines for testing have been unusually long in the week leading up to Thanksgiving and expected more long lines this week. For example, at Swan Street’s testing site, there was a line all the way to Hancock Street. Similarly, at the River Green Park drive-thru test

site last week, the line of cars stretched all the way back to the BNY Mellon building near Santilli Circle.

Firicano said testing is important, but it’s only a snapshot in time. For example, if someone is tested last Friday, and gets their negative result – it’s important to continue monitoring symptoms as they could be exposed in the time between.

“The test is like a snapshot in time,” she said. “It really only tells you at that moment what’s happening...People should really continue to monitor their symptoms and if you have symptoms stay home and don’t go to Thanksgiving dinner and get tested again.”

## Safe/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of severe illness from COVID-19, and delivering them in a way that doesn’t involve contact with others.

- Watching sports events, parades, and movies from home.
- Shopping online rather than in person on the day after Thanksgiving. Use contactless services like curbside pick-up or shop in open air markets and stay 6 feet away from others.

Please take caution if you choose to participate in additional activities that are considered high risk this year. These activities include:

- Attending or hosting indoor gatherings with people from outside your home.
- Sharing food and drinks.
- Shaking hands and hugging. Instead, wave and verbally greet others.
- Singing, dancing, and shouting. These activities increase your chances of catching COVID-19 through the air.
- Going shopping in crowded stores just before, on, or after Thanksgiving.

If you are planning to spend Thanksgiving outside of your home or with people outside of your household, please take

precautions. At any time you are around people who you do not live with, wear a mask, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer regularly, and practice social distancing by staying 6 feet apart.

If you are hosting Thanksgiving and welcoming guests into your home, here are some tips that can help you have a safe gathering:

- Keep it small and limit the number of guests. In Boston, indoor gatherings should be 10 people or less.
- Asks guests to wear a mask at all times, unless they are eating and drinking, and to stay 6 feet apart when possible.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and items in between use.
- Ask guests to avoid going in and out of areas where the food is being prepared and handled, such as the kitchen.
- Do not share food, drink, or any utensils.
- Have guests bring their own food and drink.
- Avoid any self-serve food or drink options, such as buffets, potlucks, or drink stations.
- If sharing food, have one person (wearing a face mask and gloves) serve food and use sin-

gle-use options, like salad dressing and condiment packets, and disposable items, like food containers, plates, and utensils.

- Consider small seating table arrangements in multiple rooms with plenty of spacing, instead of a large family table.
- Improve ventilation by opening windows and doors.

- For 14 days before and after holiday gatherings, minimize contact with other people, and leave home for only essential services like going to work, buying groceries, and doctor appointments.

Traditionally, many people travel for Thanksgiving. Although it is strongly recommended that you stay home this year to protect yourself and others from the virus, there are guidelines that can help those who plan on travelling stay safe:

- Know the higher-risks states and what the Massachusetts travel orders mean for when you return home.
- Wear a face covering at all times in public.
- Stay 6 feet apart from anyone who is not in your household.
- Get a flu shot before traveling (if you have not already).
- Wash your hands often

and/or use hand sanitizer regularly.

- Avoid touching your mask, eyes, nose, and mouth.

Please do not host or participate in any in-person gatherings if you or anyone you live with:

- Tested positive for COVID-19 and have not recovered.
- Has symptoms of COVID-19.

- Is waiting for COVID-19 test results.
- May have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks.

- Is at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, such as older adults or those with certain medical conditions.

It is important that we are do our part in preventing the spread of COVID-19. This virus is very easily contracted and gatherings such as Thanksgiving can be more harmful that people expect. Remember to always wear a mask, wash your hands, and practice social distancing. The City of Everett strongly encourages you to celebrate Thanksgiving, but in a safe and healthy manner.

### - LEGAL NOTICE - CITY OF EVERETT



**BOARD OF APPEALS**  
**484 Broadway**  
**Everett, Massachusetts 02149**  
**(617) 381-7445**

To Whom It May Concern:

This notice is to inform you that a public hearing will be held on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 7:00 PM in regards to an application for zoning relief. In response to Governor Baker’s declaration of a public health emergency and the related Emergency Executive Order dated March 12, 2020, the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be meeting remotely until further notice. The audioconferencing application Zoom will be used for this purpose. An online link and telephone access number will be provided on all meeting agendas and also on the Board’s website. This application will permit the public to access and participate in future Board meetings and hearings. Instructions for joining meetings in this manner will be provided on the City and City Clerk’s website. In addition, Everett Community TV (ECTV) may provide coverage of these meetings. We extend our thanks for your understanding and participation in this manner, which is intended to keep members of the Board and the public safe.

Whereas a petition has been presented by:

**Property Address: 345 Main Street**  
**Map/Parcel: D0-02-000129**  
**Person Requesting: Dr. Elizabeth Covino**  
**345 Main Street.**  
**Everett, MA 02149**

To the said Board of Appeals, Applicant seeks alter the existing mixed-use building of a Business and a single residential unit into a Business and two (2) residential units.

**Reason for Denial:**

- The use as a two family is not permitted in the Business District unless granted a Special Permit by the ZBA
- Parking is shown in the front yard setback and the vehicles are backing into the street
- Parking is shown to be tandem in that one car would need to be move to allow another to exit the property

**Zoning Ordinance:**

Section 3 General Requirements paragraph P which states the following:

P. Up to three (3) dwelling units shall be prohibited except by the grant of a Special Permit by the Zoning board of Appeals in the Business, Business Limited, Industrial and Industrial Limited Districts. (Ord. of 4-29-91)

Section 17 Off-Street Parking paragraph J which states the following:

J. Parking facilities shall be designed so that each motor vehicle may proceed to and from the parking space provided for it without requiring the moving of any other motor vehicle. The Board of Appeals, however, may by special permit modify this requirement and the dimensional requirements of paragraph (I) of this section, where a parking facility is under full-time attendant supervision.

Section 17 Off-Street Parking paragraph K which states the following:

K. Parking facilities shall be designed so that no vehicles shall be parked nearer to any street lines than the minimum specified building setback for the Zoning District in which the parking facility is located.

Section 17 Off-Street Parking paragraph O line 4 which states the following:

4. Except for one- and two-family dwellings, parking shall be designed so that it is not necessary to drive over sidewalks or curbs or to back into the street or driveway.

Mary Gerace - Chairman  
Roberta Suppa - Clerk  
Board of Appeals  
November 18, 2020  
November 25, 2020



# Remote tree lighting planned here

Mayor Carlo DeMaria will be remotely conducting the City of Everett’s annual Christmas Tree Lightings on Thursday, December 3. This year’s festivities that we all look forward to have been cancelled due to the pandemic. There will be trees lit at Everett Housing Authority, Wehner Park, and Everett Square. However due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these events will be closed to the public and shared virtually on Facebook Live.

“Christmastime is a wonderful time of the year

and I am excited to begin the Christmas season with our Tree Lightings,” said Mayor Carlo DeMaria. “This year has been challenging for our community and I hope lighting our trees can provide a small glimmer of hope. It is truly unfortunate we cannot welcome the community to join us for the festivities, however, health and safety come first.”

The Tree Lightings will take place during the evening hours on December 3. Below is the schedule for the events:

- Everett Housing Au-

thority, 381 Ferry Street – 4pm

- Wehner Park, Broadway and Lynn Street – 5:30pm
- Everett Square, Broadway – 7pm

Residents are welcome to visit Mayor DeMaria’s Facebook page, @mayordemaria, during these scheduled times to participate. The City of Everett hopes that the Tree Lightings will bring the community joy and happiness throughout the holiday season.

# DeMaria’s seeks community input for School Committee seat

Mayor Carlo DeMaria will continue his Virtual Listening Tour to gather feedback from the Everett community regarding his request to become a voting member of Everett School Committee. In compliance with social distancing, the Mayor will be hosting meetings via Zoom over the next few weeks.

The Mayor envisions these feedback sessions as a brief Q&A between interested parties and the Mayor followed by him hearing from the residents as to their thoughts on the proposal.

There are multiple dif-

ferent sessions scheduled on Zoom:

- December 1, at 6 p.m. - 7:30pm – Parents/Residents/Interested parties
- December 2, at 11am -noon - Employees/Boards and Commissions
- December 8, at 7:00pm - 8:30pm - Facebook Live
- December 9, at 6:30pm – 8 p.m. Parents/Residents/Interested parties
- December 10, at 6 p.m. – Telephone Town Hall [more info to come]

To participate in one of these sessions, please email Michelle Doucette, Communications Specialist at Michelle.Doucette@

ci.everett.ma.us and she will provide you with the Zoom link. Please check Mayor DeMaria’s Facebook for the most current and up to date information regarding the Tour.

A proposal has been submitted to the City Council to amend the City’s Charter to make the Mayor a voting member of the Everett School Committee. Since this movement has been said to be rushed, the Mayor would like to take a moment to listen to the residents, students and stakeholders in the Everett Community.

# Cases of COVID-19 continue to stay in double digits

The numbers of COVID-19 cases in Everett continues to stay in the 30s nearly every day with the last week (Monday to Monday) registering 284 new cases in the city. That is an increase from the prior week when there were 210 cases for the week, and the previous week when there were 148. The numbers have nearly tripled in the last four weeks.

The most recent numbers are as follows:

- Monday, Nov. 23 – 35
- Sunday, Nov. 22 – 39
- Saturday, Nov. 21 – 35
- Friday, Nov. 20 - 21
- Thursday, Nov. 19 – 39
- Wednesday, Nov. 18 – 38
- Tuesday, Nov. 17 – 39
- Monday, Nov. 16 - 38

Everett is still a beneficiary of the state Stop the Spread testing program and there is ample free testing all over the city right now through Dec. 31. There is no appointment necessary, and test results are usually available within 24 to 48 hours.

## Club/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ever has that license need to turn it in to the City.”

Roseann revealed her agreement was with Café Napoli, who had agreed to sell her the license and transfer it to the social club.

“Café Napoli will have to turn that license in because a license is not collateral,” said Antonelli. “It’s the property of the state. There’s not monetary value to that.”

Said Roseann, “They’re here on the call and they’re trying to transfer their license over to me.”

Café Napoli’s Antonio Cristonelli said if they can’t sell it, they’ll turn it in.

“We have to just give back, then,” he said. “Ok, we’ll give it back. We

don’t need it anymore.”

With that seemingly resolved, Member Phil Aloro said he felt there were too many unknowns with the social club, and he’d like them to get their Common Victualer license and then come back to the Board for more discussion – perhaps even a site visit.

With Café Napoli turning in their license supposedly in December, Antonelli said it does open up the possibility of Kingman getting a beer and wine license in January if all goes well.

Roseann said she purchased the social club from the former Café Aliya, which was also previously unknown to the City and the License Board.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### COVID-19 TESTING UPDATE

The Edith Street Park COVID-19 testing center will be closed on Wednesday, November 25, 2020. The testing center normally operates every Wednesday from 12pm-6pm, however due to the holiday, the center will be closed to ensure that the lab will be able to process all testing samples. Testing will still be conducted during the morning hours of the day at Upper Florence Street Park at 72 Nichols Street from 7am-12pm.

On Thanksgiving Day, the testing center at the Rivergreen Park parking lot will be closed. Normal testing will resume on Friday, November 27, 2020 at Swan Street Park from 7am-12pm and Everett City Hall parking lot from 12pm-6pm.

### CONNOLLY CENTER TEMPORARILY CLOSED

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the Connolly Center Food Pantry will be closed on Wednesday, November 25, 2020. The pantry will take this opportunity to restock the shelves to ensure that they will be prepared to serve the public over the coming weeks.

Home deliveries will still be made on Monday, November 23rd and Tuesday, November 24th to those in need. Additionally, they will be accommodating appointments for the Human Service Holiday program.

The pantry will reopen the following week, on Wednesday, December 2, 2020.

### FOR KIDS ONLY PARTNERS WITH CITY

In partnership with Mayor Carlo DeMaria and the City of Everett, For Kids Only After-school (FKO) has begun to celebrate the Season of Giving! On Thursday, November 19th, FKO will be receiving a donation of 80 Thanksgiving Activity Kits from the United Way of Mass Bay on behalf of their corporate partner, Massachusetts Electric. These activity kits will be filled with snacks, thanksgiving games, crafts, coloring puzzles and indoor scavenger hunts to be distributed to all children attending the city’s remote learning center, operated by FKO Afterschool. FKO is currently operating out of the former Pope John High School and serving 75 Everett children each day from 7:30am to 5:30pm. Enrollment is ongoing and financial assistance is available! Visit [www.fkoafterschool.org](http://www.fkoafterschool.org) or call 857-201-9996 for more information.

### EVERETT HOUSING AUTHORITY PARTICIPATES IN SOCKS FOR SOLDIERS COLLECTION

The Everett Housing Authority in an effort to assist those in need during this difficult time has de-

cided to conduct a community sock collection for the Soldiers’ Home in Chelsea. Please help in this charity collection by bringing new insulated or white socks (without elastics) to our collection drop box in front of our Administrative Office, 393 Ferry St, Everett. The collection box will be available daily during working hours, ongoing until December 17, 2020 (Mon. thru Thur. 9A - 3P & Fri. 9A - 11A excluding holidays). All socks collected will be brought to the Soldiers’ Home where they will be distributed, as needed by the staff.

### CITY CLOSES DOWN CITY HALL FOR THANKSGIVING WEEK OUT OF CAUTION

Everett City Hall closed its doors on Monday for the Thanksgiving week out of an abundance of caution, as COVID-19 cases continue to rise in the City.

The physical building of Everett City Hall closed beginning Monday, Nov. 23, and will re-open Monday, Nov. 30, out of an abundance of caution and the safety of staff and customers. Online bill pay is still up and running as well as drop boxes outside of all City Hall doors. Please call 311 for any and all needs.

“Thank you for your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time,” read a statement from the City.

# COVID-19 has changed everything.

Let us get your holiday message out to our thousands of readers of **The Revere Journal, The Winthrop Sun Transcript, The East Boston Times Free Press, Chelsea Record, Everett Independent, and Lynn Journal** in our December editions:

# Home for the Holidays?

Many of our readers will find themselves celebrating the Holidays from their own homes safely.

## CELEBRATE SAFELY

### HOLIDAY EVENTS | SPECIAL SERVICES GIFTS & GOODIES

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# Everett

## Independent

President: Stephen Quigley

Editor in Chief: Cary Shuman

### HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday, tracing its roots back almost 400 years to the Pilgrims, long before there was even a thought of a United States of America.

Thanksgiving is the ultimate family-centered holiday. It has no religious meaning, no national-celebration connotations, and no required gift-giving. It lacks the commercialism, religiosity, solemnity, and political overtones of all of our other national observances.

It is the only day on the calendar when we have no obligation other than to spend the day with those who mean the most to us. It asks nothing more from each of us (other than for the person who is doing all the cooking!) beyond just showing up and enjoying the company of our family and friends and then having a great meal.

Even amidst this time of a raging pandemic in our country, we all can agree that Thanksgiving makes us aware of what we have to be thankful for. Despite our present trials and tribulations, Americans are remarkably fortunate to be where we are. Thanksgiving is a national celebration that serves to remind us how blessed we are at a time when circumstances are so cruel for so many others in a world in which there are more refugees than at any time since the end of World War II.

Thanksgiving serves as a rare day for relaxation, reflection, and inevitably -- at least for some of us -- a post-dinner nap or early night of sleep. In a time when so many of us are connected 24/7 to some instrument of communication, it truly is a relief to have a day when we can just shut it all off.

We wish all of our readers a happy -- and restful -- Thanksgiving.

### ENJOY THE HOLIDAY SAFELY

We would be remiss if we did not remind our readers to enjoy the holiday weekend, but to do so safely.

The pandemic is spreading like wildfire across our nation, shattering previous records of infection on a daily basis and requiring all of us to take every precaution to ensure that we do not spread the coronavirus among our friends and family members.

The virus does not take a holiday -- and each of us must act accordingly.

### 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.

# Everett

## Independent

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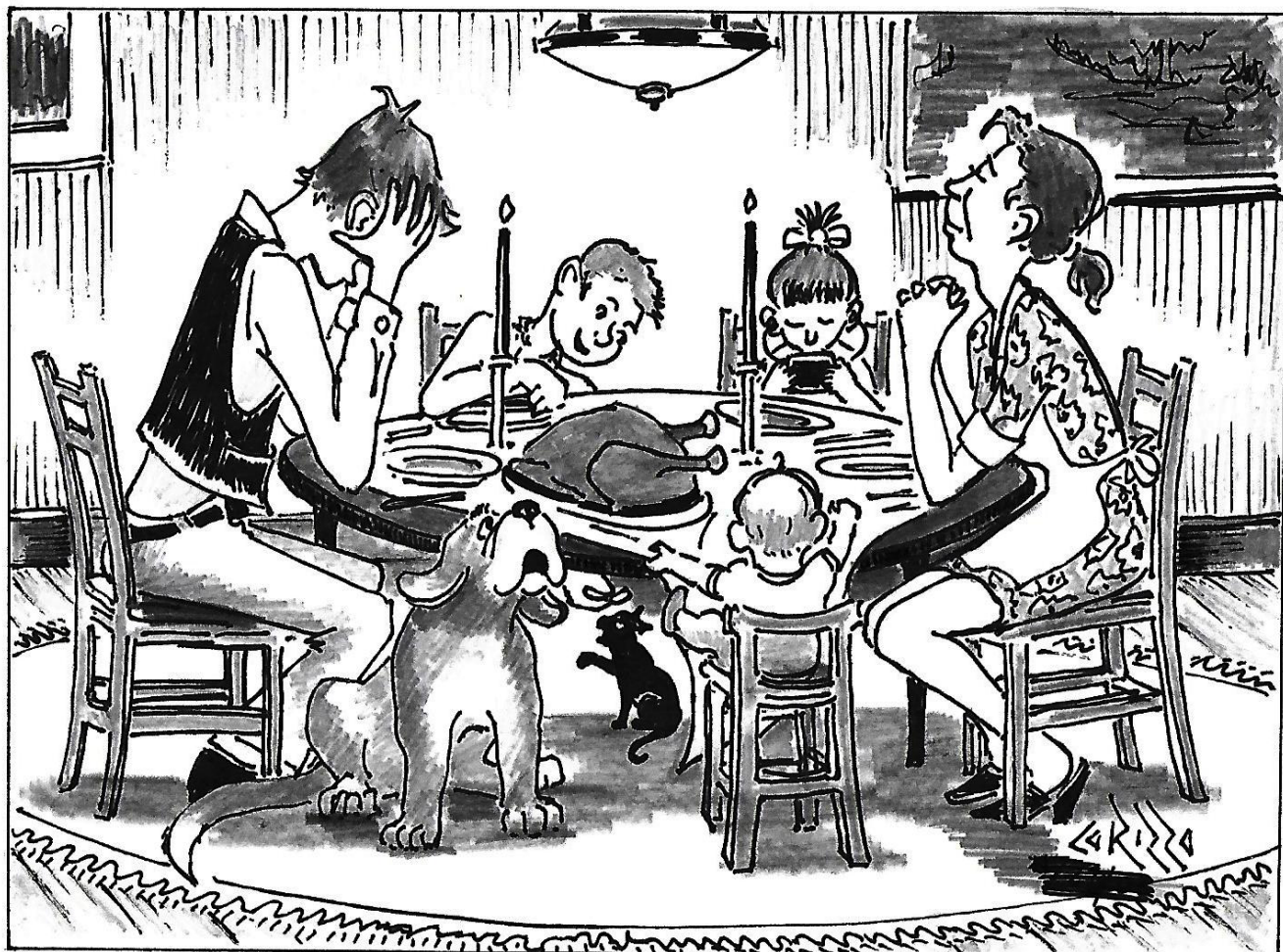
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# Independent Forum



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

GUEST OP-ED

### Thanksgiving 2020; home, but not alone

By Karen Lee Sobol

Has your sense of time shifted lately? Does avoiding people feel bizarre, and has Purell become your new best friend? Do you spot beauty in surprising places, and feel the rhythm of your breath inside your mask?

I've lived through this before. Then, I was solo. Now, I'm one of seven billion, living through it again, with you. Both times, with little advance notice, a deadly disease became a dire threat. Then, in 2005, I was diagnosed with a non-Hodgkin's lymphoma defined as rare and incurable. Now, in 2020, we all risk infection by COVID-19, a wildly contagious novel coronavirus with no known cure. My blood cancer was so rare it's called an orphan disease. COVID-19 is so universal it's called a pandemic.

Thinking about the Thanksgiving holiday usually energizes us. Plans often include travel, time with family and friends, and meals shared. This year, the dangers of spreading or contracting COVID-19 trigger anxiety and dread. What to do?

In 2005, I faced a similar dilemma. I was in the midst of a clinical trial with a monoclonal antibody. Because the drug had annihilated my immune system, every germ and virus, whether it came from an-

other person or naturally lived inside my body or on my skin, could pose a lethal threat. I washed and sanitized my hands obsessively and never touched my face. Social isolation was self-protection, so I left home only to go to the hospital or take solitary walks, a scarf wrapped over my nose and mouth. Holding a vision of myself as cancer-free and healthy, as though I already were, I felt that a brighter future was just a matter of time.

In a normal year, my family's Thanksgiving tradition might start by serving a mid-day meal to guests at a local shelter, then welcoming family and friends to dinner in our home. But for us 2005 was no normal year and exposing me to other people wasn't an option. Instead, we ordered in dinner for three—my husband, our teen-aged daughter, and me—and felt grateful. We connected with people by phone, and their intangible energy helped sustain my nuclear family through our crisis.

For us all, 2020 is no normal year. Together we face the potentially deadly risk of COVID-19. And we're tired of social isolation. But what opportunities we have, including the opportunity to keep ourselves, our families, and our friends, safe, and to share our resources more widely.

Remember what they

say before an airplane takes off? "If the oxygen masks drop down, put your own mask on before assisting others."

This Thanksgiving, if you're lucky enough to have a home, please stay there. Being alone doesn't have to mean being lonely. Consider safe, helpful ways to support and connect with people. Perhaps order your dinner from a local restaurant to help keep cooks and staff employed. Perhaps donate to a local food bank or shelter so those less fortunate have meals

to nourish them. Perhaps, in recognition of the historic roots of the day, contribute to an organization like the Indigenous Environmental Network which provides desperately needed food and emergency COVID-19 relief funds to Native Americans.

With challenge comes opportunity. We have the chance to stem COVID-19's spread, and we have the chance to spread compassion. Compassion nurtures healing and hope. Its intangible energy creates real results.

When the twelve weeks of my clinical trial ended, I was frail and exhausted, but signs of cancer had decreased dramatically, and five months later, the disease was gone. It took two years and four months for my immune system to rebuild and I was able to

resume normal life. With the welcome news that a vaccine will likely be available within the next few months, I feel optimistic that our collective timeline will be much shorter.

I believe in medical science and I believe in the power of holding a vision of good health. Now, as then, I think of my favorite equation ever: Hope = Belief + Expectation. I believe, and I fully expect, we can and we will stop COVID-19.

Imagine a world free of COVID-19 as if it already exists, and hold this vision with me. Imagine a world in which we care for ourselves and each other as one family.

Now expand the vision to embrace the planet. If we actively protect and preserve biodiversity—earth's wondrously varied habitats and the countless species who thrive in them—we take a giant step to keeping hundreds of thousands of viruses in the plant and animal kingdoms where they belong, and where they won't leap to us.

Now we know. Good health is global health.

*Karen Lee Sobol lives in Boston MA and is Artist and Author of Twelve Weeks: An Artist's Story of Cancer, Healing, and Hope.*

### LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

#### STUDENTS NAMED TO FIRST-QUARTER HONORS

Mystic Valley Regional Charter School recently released its first quarter Honor Roll for the 2020-2021 academic year. All in all 348 MVRCS students in grades 7-12 achieved either High Honor Roll or Honor Roll Recognition. Twenty nine young men and women hailing from Everett were part of the list. To be on the Honor Roll a student needs to finish the quarter with no grade lower than a B-, to be on the High Honor Roll a student

needs to finish the quarter with no grade lower than an A-.

Since its inception in 1998, Mystic Valley Regional Charter School has educated students from the communities of Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Stoneham and Wakefield. The school has nearly 1,600 students in grades K-12 and strives tirelessly to deliver a world-class education characterized by a well-mannered, disciplined and structured academic climate. Located in Malden, MVCRS has an extensive character education program as well for students in all grades,

incorporating core values and fundamentals ideals of American Culture embodied in the Declaration of Independence and United States Constitution. MVRCS is proud to be the lone public school in Greater Boston to offer a 5-day in-person learning option.

Honor Roll Students from Everett

#### High Honor Roll

Grade 12: Frances Chaigne, Rachel Silva.

Grade 10: Sofia Blandin, Amira Harda.

Grade 9: Niamh Stewart, Eva Truong.

Grade 8: Vy Nguyen, Lucas Santos, Victor De-

Souza.

Grade 7: Brady Capa, Rihanna Closell, Mohammed Daoud, Zion Presume.

#### Honor Roll

Grade 12: Janae Green, Bryant Nguyen, Crystal Truong.

Grade 11: Carissa Loesch, Ayman Ramzy.

Grade 10: Daniel Paes.

Grade 9: Eva Boudreau, Joshua Desouza, Arianna Perdomo, Esther Souza.

Grade 8: Lily Van Campen, Lucas Freitas, Cory Meady, Keira Michenzie, Hannah Mulugetha.

Grade 7: Elijah DeTore



## Edward Everett an Orator and the City's Namesake





*At this great time of uncertainty  
We all still have much to be thankful for  
Happy Thanksgiving*

*Everett City Councilor  
Michael J. McLaughlin  
& Family*



My family and I wish to give thanks to the following:

EVERETT POLICE, FIRE,  
911 DISPATCHERS,  
EVERETT HOSPITAL,  
CATALDO AMBULANCE, FACILITIES,  
CITY HALL EMPLOYEES AND  
VOLUNTEERS THIS  
THANKSGIVING DAY



# Happy Thanksgiving

From Your Friends at  
the Everett Independent

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.



**FRED CAPONE**  
& family

Ward 1 City Councilor



Councilor-at-Large

**JOHN F. HANLON**

*Marcony Almeida Barros*



School Committee  
Ward 5



*Rosa DiFlorio*

Ward 5  
City Councilor



Peter A. Napolitano  
Councilor-at-Large

*Happy Thanksgiving*



Wishing you and your family a warm Thanksgiving

**Jimmy Tri Le**  
Everett City Councilor  
WARD 4

*"What you put in me,  
I will put out for you."*





# Happy Thanksgiving

From Your Friends at  
the Everett Independent



State Senator  
Sal DiDomenico  
& Family



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## Everett Independent

WE WILL BE  
**Closed**  
ON  
**Thanksgiving**  
& Friday, Nov. 27





NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

FORMER MAYOR BRENNAN DIES

CHELSEA - John J. ‘Butch’ Brennan Jr., who served as the last mayor of Chelsea for two terms in 1988 to 1991 before the city went into receivership, died Monday after a lengthy illness. He was 76.

Mr. Brennan symbolized that anything is possible in the arena of politics with the right mix of hard work, integrity, honor, and a belief in oneself that can you help improve the lives of residents with your decisive actions and deeds.

Mr. Brennan was a bartender at Ryan’s Tavern on Fifth Street when he decided to enter Chelsea politics. Friends and bar patrons urged him to run for public office, convinced that the tall, personable, straight-talking common man could help Chelsea become a better city.

Voters responded in record numbers to Mr. Brennan’s candidacy. He topped the ticket twice in alderman-at-large races and then decided to run against incumbent mayor Thomas Nolan in 1987. He won that election and took office in January, 1988, for the first of his two terms in office.

Michael Patrick Brennan, son of John “Butch” Brennan and Kathleen Brennan, was seven years old when his father decided to run for mayor.

“I definitely have some memories of the mayoral campaigns,” said Michael. “His stickers had a black background and Brennan was written in Kelly green.”

Mr. Brennan ran a high-voltage, high-visibility campaign. The people responded enthusiastically to the towering, 6-foot-4-inch candidate who could relate well to the everyday plight and basic needs of Chelsea residents.

“I remember every Saturday morning holding signs across from the Central Fire Station,” said Michael. “Every day my father would come home from work, eat dinner early and we’d go door to door, knocking on everyone’s door just so he could introduce himself and say that he’s there for the common person. He wanted to listen to what people wanted from a mayor.”

Brennan was answerable and accessible to residents who rallied around him, admiring this new type of politician who was one of them.

“My father would take me to the park to play catch and someone would drive by and get out of their car and say, ‘May-

or Brennan, I’m having a problem with this’ and the next day, my father would try and address it, whether it was calling the city workers to fix a pothole in front of someone’s house or something else. He just listened and he cared about people and that’s why he was so beloved.”

No matter was too big or too small for Mayor Brennan.

“There was one elderly woman who couldn’t get the newspaper anymore – I remember my father dropping the paper off at her house. He would go out of his way to deliver the newspaper on his way home from work,” said Michael. “That meant the world to her.”

Michael Patrick recalled that his stepbrother, Robert Small, also helped out immensely with their father’s campaigns and during his service as mayor. “He used to go with my dad down to the projects and help residents with their repairs. He’d tell Robert to bring his camera and he’d follow him, take pictures, and document everything.”

Kathleen Brennan, a strikingly elegant first lady of Chelsea, would assist in beautification projects throughout the city. “My mother and dad would drive around town watering the plants at nights,” recalled Michael. “My mother took a lot of pride in that.”

With the city facing difficult financial times, Mayor Brennan tried to convince residents to vote in favor of an override of Proposition 2 ½.

“My father would walk around door to door with this can of coffee,” remembered Michael. “My father’s point was that the cost of the can of coffee is what you’d be paying once a month in taxes and that it would help the school system and he wouldn’t have to lay off firefighters and police officers. But Proposition 2 ½ lost big time. The residents turned it down. They didn’t want to do it. That’s when he reached out to the state to help Chelsea. My father thought that was the way to put the city he loved back on track to recovery after all those years of difficult financial circumstances. He pretty much gave away his job as mayor for the city he loved.”

Michael Patrick graduated from Saint Rose School, Malden Catholic High School, and Stonehill College. He played in the Chelsea Little League and for Jimmy Manzo’s Knickerbockers in the CYBL.

Tall (6-feet, 3 inches)

like his father, Michael and his wife, Meghan, have two daughters.

“People still ask me if I’m related to Butch Brennan,” said Michael. “So many people call him a hero. It just makes me so proud. He did a lot for a lot of people. He was respected. It’s different when your son loves you, but when people that aren’t related to you care about you, it just makes you proud.”

A loving younger brother

William “Biff” Brennan William “Biff” Brennan, Chelsea High Class of 1971, was nine years the junior to his only brother, John “Butch” Brennan, Chelsea High Class of 1962. He said this past Monday was a difficult day in the Brennan house.

“I really had a bad day when Michael Patrick called me with the news,” said Biff. “But I have a lot of personal friends in life and they’ve been calling and texting me and getting me through it. I appreciate their condolences, but this is a big loss for me.”

Biff recalled that Butch was the best man at his wedding when he married Claudia Nowicki, a popular member of the Chelsea High School Class of 1976. Biff and Claudia have been married for 30 years.

Biff said his brother suffered a heart attack in September, 2019. He recovered and was doing well this summer but his condition deteriorated in the past few months.

“He was a great brother,” said Biff. “He was always there for me. I tried to be the same for him through the politics and the other things in life.”

The sons of the late John J. Brennan Sr. and Eileen (Ryan) Brennan, Biff Brennan and John J. Brennan Jr. grew up on Walnut Street across from the Williams School.

Biff Brennan took an active role in his brother’s campaigns. “I wrote some of the political advertisements,” said Biff. “My brother never lost an election. He topped the ticket in 1983 and 1985 and won for mayor in 1987 and 1989. Being mayor is a tough job. He tried to do a good job and I think he did.”

Mayor John J. “Butch” Brennan Jr. will always occupy a place of royalty and respect in the annals of Chelsea. He made a tough decision at a pivotal point in the city’s history and the city is now better for it.

Biff Brennan said the family will hold a me-

morial observance for his brother in the spring of 2021.

SEEKING TO HELP HOMEOWNERS

CHELSEA - The City will use almost \$5 million in Rainy Day Funds to shore up a budget deficit, and City Manager Tom Ambrosino is still requesting the Council use another \$750,000 to help homeowners about to be hit with large property tax increases in the midst of the COVID-19 public health and economic crisis.

Ambrosino gave his annual report to the Council on the potential tax rate setting process, which also reveals the City’s standing on the tax bill and just how much residents can look forward (or maybe not so forward) to paying in the coming year. The tax rate for all properties is slated to be voted on by the Council Nov. 30.

“There is a large increase in values for two- and three-family homes,” said Ambrosino. “We will try to ameliorate it somewhat...but there will be significant tax increases on these two classes of property owners. There is a small increase for single-families and condo owners will get a decrease in tax bills. It is the two-family and three-family homeowners that will be impacted the most.”

Under the proposed rates, the average tax bill for a two-family will be \$4,629, which is an increase of \$442 over last year. Three-family homes would have an average tax bill of \$6,315, which is an increase of \$767 over last year.

Single-family homes would see an increase of \$63 over last year, with an average bill of \$2,705, while condo owners would see a reduction of \$237 from last year with an average bill of \$1,935.

That is happening because property values have skyrocketed in Chelsea and the surrounding communities – with the values used reflected the 2019 calendar year when sales of homes were on fire.

The average value of a three-family home increased by 12.9 percent in the time assessed, and two-families increased by 11.2 percent. Single-families increased by 8.9 percent, and condos by 6.6 percent. Meanwhile, larger apartment buildings – which had increased in the double digits last year – were up only 4.1 percent. While such increases in values are wonderful if one is selling or

LYNN ROTARY CLUB DONATES T POLICE DEPARTMENT



Lynn Rotary Club President William Reilly and Past President Stephen Upton donated to the Lynn Police Department 3,000 Nitrile Gloves and a case of Disinfectant Wipes. Rotary District 7930 and the Lynn Rotary Club provided the funds for this contribution. Products were purchased at ERC Wiping Products in Lynn. Pictured are William Reilly and Stephen Upton presented the donation to the Lynn Police Department.

borrowing money on their equity, they aren’t such good news when one is staying put and trying to pay increasing bills in a COVID-19 pandemic.

To combat those values and increases, Ambrosino suggested the Council approve the full 35 percent of the owner-occupant residential exemption that is available. Up to now, the City has been slowly increasing the percentage from 25 percent over a five-year period. It wasn’t to hit 35 percent until next year. However, Ambrosino said now is the time to unleash all available help to taxpayers.

“This year, given COVID-19, we should take the maximum exemption and that means taking the remaining 4 percent that is left and using it all this year,” he said.

Typically, tax increases have been approached with sympathy, but an understanding that taxes have been going up for a long time. However, with the economic distress put on the City by COVID-19 – from job loss to tenants not paying rent – Ambrosino said there had to be a different approach.

Ambrosino recommended the Council use more Rainy Day Funds to help all homeowners dispel the increase in taxes through the new Homeowner Stabilization Fund. He said that Fund has \$250,000 in it, but an addition of \$750,000 would put it at \$1 million and would allow a great amount of help.

Other forms of help, he said, would end up helping absentee landlords and industrial property owners, and spread thin the help for those most affected. With the Fund, they can target the help.

“The other ways are not the most effective way in my opinion to assist the two- and three-family homeowners who will suffer from these large tax increases in COVID-19 times,” he said. “What I suggest is we add funds to the existing Homeowner Stabilization Fund.

On Tuesday, the City announced the Homeowner Stabilization Program application period had been extended to November 30.

The City’s finances which had been strong for some time, have suffered greatly under COVID-19. First, excise taxes that are mostly paid in Chelsea by Enterprise Car Rental for its airport activities has plummeted. Last year, the City collected \$12 million in excise tax, but that has been reduced to \$5.4 million as airport activity has decreased by 90 percent, Ambrosino said.

Hotel/Motel Room Taxes also decreased significantly, going from \$1.95 million to \$700,000 this year. In all, receipts across the board were down, and previously they had been growing steadily each year.

Councilor Giovanni Recupero said he felt there was a problem with valuations, and with some changes in the Assessor’s Office, he asked for a meeting to talk about the values with them.

“Apartment buildings didn’t go up substantially,” he said. “The last couple of years they didn’t increase as significantly as the two- and three-families. It doesn’t make sense. They’re the ones making all the money and they didn’t raise as significantly.”

Council President Roy Avellaneda agreed that

See REGION Page 9

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# Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

there seemed to be some issues with the values, and he echoed that he wanted to speak with the Assessors.

“I want to echo some of the concerns that my colleague has,” he said.

“There are a number of inconsistencies in the property values I saw,” he said. “I don’t think enough work was done to update the values from a couple of years ago to now. Values in certain spots went up, but not in the larger buildings. I don’t see the larger building values going up and I think they should...The best thing we can do is make sure the values are fair to everyone and I want to say the values I saw posted weren’t fair.”

Todd Taylor asked about the Fund and how people would qualify for it, as many people with high incomes on documents have lost their jobs or significant parts of their income. He said a lot of people who have recently been hit with economic pain might be missed with traditional documentation.

Ambrosino said for most of the COVID programs, they have allowed people to self-certify, and they have had no problems.

“Our experience is people have been honest about it,” he said.

## EASTIE COVID RATES CLIMBING

Nearly one out of every five people tested in East Boston were found to be COVID positive according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

Last Friday the BPHC reported that of the 23,693 Eastie residents tested for COVID last week 19 percent were found to be positive for the virus, a 13 percent decrease from the 16.8 percent reported two Fridays ago. Eastie still has the highest positive test rate in Boston.

Overall since the pandemic began 14 percent of Eastie residents here have been found to be positive. The citywide positive test rate was up 29 percent and went from 7.9 percent of Boston residents testing positive for the virus to 10.2 percent last week.

At his daily press briefing last week, Mayor Martin Walsh reiterated the City’s priority in this crisis.

“To keep people safe and contain this virus, we have to follow the science and we have to follow the

data,” said Walsh.

What that means, the Mayor explained, is that city public health experts collect comprehensive testing data and hospital data. They analyze it to understand how and where the virus is spreading, and the impact it is having.

“We shape our responses and our guidance based on what the data indicates,” said Walsh.. “And, we share the data with the public, so you can be armed with knowledge to help keep yourself, your family, and your community safe. That’s a process of continual feedback and learning because, just as this epidemic evolves and its impact on our neighborhoods evolves, our knowledge about it must evolve as well. We need to adapt and update our understanding of COVID spread in the community.”

Walsh announced that, starting this week, the City will be publishing a total of six key metrics relating to test results and hospital usage. The goal, he said, is to give residents the most current and comprehensive picture of the virus as they can.

“The more we know, and the more you know, the better informed and prepared we can all be,” he said.

Walsh emphasized that every metric right now is telling city officials that we are in the midst of a significant and concerning increase in COVID activity in the city.

“The daily case increases we are seeing are starting to look like numbers that we saw near our peak, in April and May,” said Walsh. “Hospital admissions are not at that level, but they have increased over time. We all must be focused on turning this trend around.”

Walsh said that the City is looking closely at what steps we can take to further limit the risk of transmission.

“We have taken a cautious approach throughout this pandemic, making safety our priority,” said Walsh. “We pulled back on in-person learning in the Boston Public Schools. This week we were able to bring back 150 students with the highest needs, who desperately need in-person services. The Mayor thanked the families and teachers for making that possible. We have kept our limits on gathering sizes low. Private, indoor gatherings are limited to 10 people, and private outdoor gatherings

to 25 people. For events in public spaces, the limit is 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors. We’ve worked with the state to limit restaurant hours and retail hours, and put in place a Stay-at-home advisory for the hours between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.”

However, the Mayor cautioned, if these case numbers continue to go up, the city will have to go further but added that he is mindful of the impact that restrictions have on the local economy and small businesses.

“But we must put the health of our community first because, in the end, there is no economic recovery without public health,” he said.

Eastie’s infection rate rose by 6.7 percent according to the data released by the BPHC last Friday. Eastie’s COVID infection rate went from 671.4 cases per 10,000 residents to 716.8 cases per 10,000 residents. The citywide average is 365.9 cases per 10,000 residents and Eastie still has one of the highest infection rates in all of Boston.

So far 3,364 Eastie residents have contracted the virus and the neighborhood accounts for 13.5 percent of all cases in Boston.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 4 percent last week and went from 24,159 cases to 25,105 cases.

Fifteen more Boston residents died from the virus and there are now 899 total deaths in the city from COVID.

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

EAST BOSTON - On Tuesday, November 10. City Councilor Lydia Edwards and the Edwards Empowerment Fund hosted a virtual East Boston Trivia and Comedy Night to honor this year’s recipients of the Maverick Street Mothers Scholarship.

At the event Diana Cifuentes, Alejandra De La Cruz, Hanane Ihizan, Monica Sierra Ochoa and Maritza Marinique were all named recipients of the 2020 Maverick Mothers Scholarship.

“I started the Edwards Empowerment Fund be-

cause it’s vital we provide opportunities for residents to achieve their fullest potential,” said Councilor Edwards. “The Maverick Street Mothers Scholarship pays tribute to the men and women who came before us and fought for our community. It honors parents who are doing the work today and allows us to invest in their leadership so that our community is stronger. I’m so proud of the five East Boston mothers who received a scholarship to continue college, go to trade school, or improve their English. I want to thank them for their commitment to their families and East Boston despite everything they juggle in their lives.”

Edwards also thanked all of the sponsors and everyone who joined the Virtual Comedy and Trivia Night.

“It was amazing to have our community show up and support the recipients with a beautiful, diverse crowd that represented all of East Boston,” she said. “We look forward to next year.”

The Maverick Street Mothers organized community protests in the late 1960s against Logan Airport expansion construction. The protest was widely publicized as women, mostly mothers, formed a blockade using baby carriages to stop construction and delivery trucks on Maverick Street.

In honor of this movement, the Edwards Empowerment Fund, a registered 501(c)3 non-profit, was established by the District 1 Councilor to uplift, amplify, and empower residents by providing equitable access to educational and skill-building opportunities. The annual scholarship will be awarded to parents wanting to further their education or are attending Boston-area colleges. Cifuentes is an active member of the East Boston Community born in Medellin Colombia.

She’s a mom to two children, Stephen and Valery. In her spare time, Cifuentes is busy fighting for safe and secure working conditions at Mass-Cosh, for tenants at City Life/ Viva Urbana and Co-secha, and environmental justice at GreenRoots. Cifuentes said she hopes to utilize the scholarship to attend English classes and propel her professional life forward.

De La Cruz, born in Lima, Peru, is a local mom to three-year-old Nathan-

iela and a resident of Maverick Square. In addition to attending Bunker Hill Community College for Early

Childhood education, she is a lead hotline advocate and serves on the Executive Committee for City Life / Viva Urbana. She is also a volunteer with the East Boston Soup Kitchen and mutual aid during the pandemic. She said she will use the scholarship to pay the tuition at Bunker Hill and become a teacher.

Ihizan is an Eagle Hill resident originally born in Casablanca, Morocco, and mom to her three children - Sohaib, Rayane, and Elaaf. Ihizan is currently pursuing her IT degree at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. She has been involved in the East Boston community for six years organizing multicultural days, helping with the East Boston Soup Kitchen, peace walks, Har-borkeepers, and translating documents for Maverick Landing services. Ihizan mentioned in her application she worked extremely hard to pay for and receive her GED from Bunker Hill Community College while being a full time mom and working. This scholarship will help her fulfill her dream to receive a Bachelor’s Degree.

Ochoa is a resident of Eagle Hill and mom to Juan Manuel and Daniel. She is heavily invested in the East Boston community and wishes to give back with this scholarship. She is currently a preparer of documents and will use this scholarship to attend English classes. It is her goal to build on the work she’s already done in the community and get involved in more organizations once she learns and practices more English.

Finally, Marinique is a Maverick Central resident in East Boston, and mom to Valentina. Her work is rooted in child and day care, but her passion is to serve the community. She intends to

attend English classes to better her skills and use them to be engaged more in East Boston area organizations.

Last year the Edwards Empowerment Fund dispersed over \$10,000 worth of scholarship money to five deserving parents in East Boston at a gala that was attended by 100 community members at Spinelli’s Banquet Hall.

Recipients of the inaugural Maverick Street Mothers Scholarship last

year were Mary Luz Barrera, Dominique DiDomenicis, Lisa Melara, and Noemy Rodriguez.

The Maverick Street Mothers protest was in response to the construction trucks bringing fill for a Logan expansion project. The trucks drove very fast down the densely populated Maverick Street, creating an unsafe situation for children, the elderly and the mothers that took their children out for walks or to run errands.

On September 28, 1968 led by local legend the late Anna DeFronzo, a group of mothers in what was to become a historic protest against the Port Authority and airport expansion.

The group became known as the ‘Maverick Street Mothers’ and their protest became the true beginning of environmental justice in Eastie and marked the opening salvo and first victory in the neighborhood’s famed transportation justice struggles.

After a series of clandestine community meetings it was decided that only women and children would participate in the demonstration because many felt if men were involved it might lead to fights and violence. The group notified the media, put out a simple press release and the next day, September 28, the demonstration began.

As the dump trucks arrived the mothers, pushing their children in baby carriages, blocked the street.

The State Police arrived to restore order to the street and when the Maverick Mothers refused to back down. The State Police began to drag and push the mothers to the sidewalk so the trucks could continue. However, former Mayor Kevin White, who was being kept abreast of the situation, sent in the Boston Police to counter the State Police’s use of force.

The Boston Police made the trucks stop and ordered the protest to continue.

That night the event was all over the evening news.

When Massport caught wind that the protests would not end, but continued the next day, Eastie’s elected officials pointed out that there were several other viable truck routes on Massport property that could be used.

After negotiations, Massport agreed to use the alternative truck routes and the Maverick Mothers scored a major victory during the era of Logan expansion.

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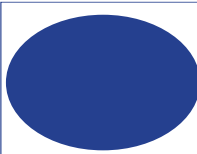
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# Rep. McGonagle speaks at MBTA meeting on service cuts

By Cary Shuman

State Rep. Joseph McGonagle spoke at an MBTA virtual public meeting on Nov. 17 regarding the cuts in MBTA services being proposed as a result of the significant decrease in MBTA ridership and overall revenues during the COVID-19 pandemic. In his remarks, McGonagle emphasized the importance of ‘The Ride’ to Everett residents. McGonagle told Mass. Transportation Secretary Stephanie Pollak that any cuts in services puts a burden on the city’s essential workers. “I’m nervous with this pandemic that any ridership cuts put another

unfair burden on our essential workers,” said McGonagle. “We’re going to be overloading buses and I’m nervous about that. That’s a great concern, especially in all the gateway cities.” McGonagle also affirmed his support for the MBTA’s “Ride” program in which seniors are transported to medical appointments and other destinations essential to their health and well-being. “The other thing that concerns me is The Ride,” said McGonagle. “I don’t want you to forget how important The Ride is, especially to our seniors in our communities. It’s extremely important. I get the phone calls from

the seniors worrying that those services will be cut also. Please, I’m begging you to take that into consideration. I’m praying that this transportation bond bill would get passed in this session. That can be a help to all of us, too.” McGonagle’s remarks followed opening comments by Secretary Pollak and MBTA Chief Engineer Eric Stoothoff about the cuts in services. “First and perhaps most importantly, I do want to emphasize that the MBTA is not doing this because we want to reduce service,” said Pollak. “We are doing that because we need to reduce service. The MBTA has been working for all the years

that I have been Secretary to improve service, to provide better service to its customers, to increase its capital spending, and to make the system better.” Pollak said because of the COVID-19 pandemic “the number of people who are using the MBTA has dropped a lot.” She said the amount of fare revenue and parking revenue generated by MBTA riders has dropped significantly during the pandemic. “We’re providing about the same service as we were a year ago for 1.3 million riders, but there are only 330,000 people a day are using the system,” related Pollak. “While we understand that service

cuts are difficult, it is not the best use of the money from taxpayers, local communities, or those of you who ride the MBTA system and pay fares to ride buses or trains or ferries that are empty or nearly empty and that is where the focus of this process is.” Pollak concluded that the MBTA has designed this process - called “Forging Ahead” – “to protect our most essential services and our most vulnerable riders, and the riders who depend on the ‘T.’” “While we’ve done our best to define what those most important services are, we are holding these public meetings in order to

get feedback and we will take it very seriously,” she said. “That’s why I’m here to listen to list and that’s why [MBTA Fiscal and Management Control] Director Brian Lang is here directly to listen.” Pollak indicated that the proposed changes in MBTA service would not take effect immediately. “They will be phased in during 2021 with commuter rail service [changes] perhaps starting as early as January but most of the changes on subways and buses would not occur until spring or summer,” said Pollak.

# As turkeys become more common, rivalries begin and friendships blossom

By Seth Daniel

The line in the sand was the center of the street in Woodlawn – where the City Line between Everett and Malden stands and the rivalry between the two cities has its beginnings. Last month, on the Everett side stood Tom and his friends from Everett. On the other side of the line stood Kevin and his band of Malden buddies. Each dared the other to cross the line, just ready for a vicious squabble. The standoff lasted a good 20 minutes and no one dared cross the line. Eventually Tom gobbled loudly and then pecked at the ground as he strode off with his merry band of gobblers. Yes, we are talking about turkeys, but in this world where turkeys have become much more prevalent, even in the cities like Everett and Malden, there are Everett turkeys and there are Malden turkeys – and like the humans in those places, they don’t mix. “We have the Malden turkeys and the Everett turkeys and sometimes they hang out,” said Everett Animal Control Of-

ficer Stacia Gorgone. “But really they are territorial because the Everett turkeys don’t like the Malden turkeys to come into their territory. It will be a Saturday afternoon they’ll have a standoff in the middle of the street on the City Line. They won’t go into each other’s territory, but they’re out there like they’re daring each other, standing their ground. It’s like ‘The Outsiders’ movie or something.” Thanksgiving is a time to think about turkeys, particularly cooked ones, but more and more as the birds populate the region in larger numbers, it becomes a little easier to understand why those at the first Thanksgiving chose the birds – which thrive in the New England environment. ACO Gorgone and nearly every ACO in the region has increasingly had to deal with the turkeys over the last five years as more and more wild turkeys roam the streets of Everett in packs. Mass Audubon indicated that the wild turkey had been plentiful in New England at one time, but disappeared from the area by 1850. It stayed gone for 180 years until it be-

gan a comeback in recent years. That was bolstered by a conservation effort that began in earnest in the 1970s when turkeys from New York’s Adirondack Mountains were transplanted to the Quabbin Reservoir in Central Massachusetts. Since that time, they’ve spread out. Gorgone said she has named the leader of the pack in Glenwood Cemetery Tom the Turkey, whom she named. Her counterpart in Malden has named the leader of the turkey pack there, Kevin. In Everett, Tom and his crew roam around the cemetery and the surrounding streets – sometimes making trouble, but mostly foraging. At first, many were excited to see a strange site like turkeys in the neighborhoods, but now they have become common enough to be like any other wild animal. Gorgone said Everett’s turkeys are fairly mild, but people should be careful of them as they are not pets. She said what went from rarely seeing a turkey when she started has now come to daily visits with Tom in the cemetery to check on the pack and make sure they are safe

and staying away from funerals. “Tom is just a crazy turkey,” she said. “Who would have thought turkeys would roam around in the middle of Everett? It’s going to get worse. You wouldn’t think an ACO in the city would deal with turkeys. Hopefully we don’t have any attacks. How do you quarantine a turkey? If a dog attacks someone, we catch it and quarantine it. You can’t catch a turkey. They fly away and you don’t know where they go.” Gorgone began getting involved with the turkey population in Everett a few years ago when reports of turkeys on Hospital Hill began to surface. Later, Tom and his crew became regular problems at Glenwood Cemetery. “They are happy at Glenwood, but there were problems because at first there were funerals and they were attacking the people at the funerals,” said Gorgone. “What happens is there are really great people who love animals and they feed them. Once that happens, the turkeys won’t leave the area.” So it is, among the calls

for traditional wildlife and dogs and cats, Gorgone keeps tabs on the local turkeys now too. She said they can be cute, as Tom now knows her and recognizes her car when she drives in to check on them. However, she said, they are also dangerous, wild animals, and cited attacks at the Dunkin’ Donuts in Somerville recently. “Honestly, all of the wildlife are getting too used to humans,” she said. “A turkey would have run away from me years ago. Now, I pull up and the turkey knows me. You would think it’s like my dog greeting me at home. Tom knows the sound of my vehicle. He’ll come running from one side of the cemetery to get to me, and they are fast. They’ve become conditioned and used to people. You can’t wrestle down a turkey and you also by law cannot relocate it either.” That is one of the most common misconceptions Gorgone is faced with – people wanting her to get rid of the birds. In fact, they cannot be relocated unless there is proven immediate danger to the animal. That was the case in Revere a few years ago

when “Jake” the turkey decided his home would be in the middle of the most dangerous intersection in Revere. After several months of being there, stopping traffic and causing many near-accidents – the state allowed him to be re-located to Carver, Mass. (no pun intended there). That is a long and involved process, however, and none of the turkeys in Everett are in danger or are harming anyone to this point. “The best thing is to just let them be and they’ll move on,” she said. “People want to help. They want to get close to them, or try to move them. I didn’t know the danger at first either, but you have to be careful. They’ve huge and they can be vicious.” As for the Everett/Malden rivalry, Gorgone laughed and said maybe this year the Thanksgiving Football game can be replaced by a cross-town turkey standoff – keeping the rivalry going and having some fun too. “Yea, it is just like the Everett/Malden football game,” she laughed. “I can say I think the Everett turkeys have been winning so far from what I can tell.”

# Cory McCarthy to be featured speaker at Virtual Youth Coaching Clinic Nov. 30

By Cary Shuman

Everett High School Vice Principal Cory McCarthy will be the featured speaker at the city’s Virtual Youth Coaching Clinic scheduled for Monday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. McCarthy’s remarkable success as an administrator and coach at New Mission Charter School in Hyde Park is well-known in the basketball community and beyond. McCarthy founded the girls basketball program at New Mission and his teams were so successful in Charter School state tournament competition that it was gently suggested that he consider a move to the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic As-

sociation (MIAA). McCarthy accepted the new challenge and in 2007 he led the New Mission girls team to the MIAA Division 4 state championship. He then took his talents – as LeBron James might say – over to the New Mission boys basketball program and won four more state titles. His incomparable Division 4 state championship team produced six scholarship basketball players. McCarthy will speak at the Virtual Youth Coaching Clinic as part of a multi-part series called “Bridging The Gap Between Sports And Education.” All Everett high school coaches, youth sports coaches, and aspiring coaches are welcome

to participate. McCarthy said he will cover the following topics in his remarks: program development, character development, how to develop young athletes and families and bring them along through a program, how to create a trajectory for athletes from as young as 6-7 years old all the way through college, and how to improve as a coach. As transcendent as his athletic program-building skills were at New Mission, he earned a reputation throughout the city for creating a high-achieving academic environment at the school. As athletic director and dean of students at New Mission, McCarthy paved the way for virtually all of the NM student-athletes to attend four-year colleges. “That’s what I’m most proud of,” said McCarthy, who was also the New Mission softball coach for 12 years. During his reign at New Mission, the school became one of the highest-performing schools in the City of Boston. “A lot of our success was built through sports,” said McCarthy. “It allowed us to really challenge our students and it motivated us

to have advanced classes and build relationships with college and universities. All of a sudden, our graduation percentage was 98 percent.” This year McCarthy joined with Lynn English head coach Antonio Anderson and BABC Coach Jamal Griffin in founding the Urban Basketball Coaches Association. The organization has conducted a multi-town food distribution drive, launched degree-completion programs for coaches, and mentored coaches on building programs in urban cities. McCarthy was asked about the Greater Boston League’s unanimous decision to admit Lynn Classical and Lynn English to the league in September, 2021. “I can’t wait for them to join us – we need that sort of push,” said McCarthy. “Their addition is really going to make the GBL a true force. Collaboratively we can build all of our sports programs and work to elevate all of our programs.” Coaches interested in participating in the Virtual Youth Coaching Clinic can email Michelle.Fenelon@ci.everett.ma.us

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CHURCH News

Zion Church - Everett

News and Notes

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

book page, "Zion Church Ministries."

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

Church at the Well Everett

News and Notes

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

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 to request any additional help.

Glendale United Methodist Church

News and Notes

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

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

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

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

NA Meetings – Mon.

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

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

Pastor's Office Hours: Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Other times by appointment.

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

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News and Notes

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Mystic Side Congregational Church

News and Notes

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

and socializing follow our services. Parking is available in our lot next to the church on Wyllis Ave. (one way off Main Street). We look forward to welcoming you this Sunday.

**Mystic Side Congregational Church**  
**422 Main Street**  
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Grace Anglican Episcopal Church

News and Notes

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church is open and welcoming to all.

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Immaculate Conception Parish

News and Notes

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

Weekly Mass Schedule at Immaculate Conception is as follows:

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

12:15 p.m. Spanish Community

4:00 p.m. Haitian Community

Masses are being held in the Chapel.

Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held every Thursday from 7:45 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Each Thursdays' adoration will conclude the Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to spend a few moments with Our Blessed Lord

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# McGonagle, House pass balanced budget with targeted investments

Representative Joseph McGonagle along with his colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives passed its Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) budget, which invests in programs and services across the Commonwealth. Funded at \$46 billion, the House budget aims to address the sweeping effects of the global pandemic by making targeted investments in housing, food security, substance use addiction services, and domestic violence, sexual assault treatment and prevention programs. The budget also invests in programs that provide COVID-related supports for students and increases funding for developmental services. Aside from Chapter 70 and Unrestricted General Government Aide, Everett received an additional \$75,000 to help combat housing instability.

“I am extremely pleased with how Everett made out in such a difficult and strange budget process,” said McGonagle. “Being able to afford rent or mortgages is a big concern in our community so having these new funds is tremendously helpful. I’m thankful for my close relationships with House leadership that helped us get this money. I’d especially like to thank Speaker DeLeo and Chair Michlewitz for their hard work in these tumultuous times.”

The House continues to further its commitment to cities and towns by investing \$1.1 billion Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) and providing \$5.3 billion in Chapter 70 education funding.

The House budget education allocations include:

- \$53 million in COVID-related student supports;
- \$340 million for Circuit Breaker Special Education reimbursement;
- \$117 million for Charter School Reimbursement; and
- \$82 million for Regional School Transportation reimbursement.

Due to the pandemic, access to safe and affordable housing for many families across the Commonwealth is threatened. The House budget represents its ongoing commitment to housing and homelessness funding. This year, the House makes targeted investments into rental and housing assistance to combat the eviction crisis by providing:

- \$50 million for the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition Program (RAFT);
- \$135 million for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP);
- \$80 million for public housing subsidies;
- \$56 million for homeless individual shelters;
- \$13 million for homeless student transportation;
- \$11 million for Department of Mental Health Rental Subsidy Program; and
- \$8 million for unaccompanied homeless youth.

Keeping in mind the widespread economic effects of the COVID pandemic, the House makes specific investments in labor and economic development programs that provide

opportunities for the Commonwealth’s workers and its businesses. The House maintains its support for the Massachusetts Manufacturing Partnership with an investment of \$2 million – funding which has helped many Massachusetts manufacturers retrofit their businesses into the PPE market. Other investments include:

- \$50 million for economic development including;
- \*\$15 million for local Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)
- \*\$15 million for community development financial institutions
- \*\$10 million for matching grants for capital investments by small businesses
- \*\$6 million for small business technical assistance grants
- \$ 46 million for Adult Basic Education Services;
- \$19 million for summer jobs for at-risk youth;
- \$7 million Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund;
- \$2.5 million in Urban Agenda Grants; and
- \$1.4 million for small business development.

The House budget continues its ongoing commitment to high-quality early education and care (EEC) and supporting the EEC workforce. The budget invests in those who work with children by increasing rates for early education providers by \$20 million and supporting continuing education opportunities with community colleges. The House budget also includes the following EEC investments

- and initiatives:
- \$15 million for Head Start grants;
  - \$10 million for sliding fee scale reserve for childcare subsidies;
  - \$10 million for EEC Workforce Higher Education Opportunities;
  - \$2.5 million in early childhood mental health grants;
  - \$11 million for childcare resource and referral agencies; and
  - Establishes the Early Education and care Economic review commission to review childcare funding and make recommendations on policy changes to expand access.

The House budget continues to dedication substantial resources toward supporting public higher education and increases scholarship funding for students. These investments include:

- \$284 million for state universities;
- \$305 million for community colleges;
- \$560 million for the University of Massachusetts system;
- \$120 million in scholarship funding; and
- \$4.8 million for the STEM Starter Academy, to support underrepresented students in STEM fields at community colleges.

This fiscal year funded at \$19 billion, MassHealth is the largest investment the Commonwealth makes in its most vulnerable residents including the working poor and the homeless. In response to the threats to reproductive rights for women on the national level, House also voted to remove barriers

to women’s reproductive health options and protect the concepts enshrined in Roe v. Wade. The budget also invests in critical health and human services agencies and providers including:

- \$307 million for the Department of Children and Families for social workers, family support and stabilization, and foster care and adopted fee waivers;
- \$30 million in emergency food assistance; and
- \$13 million for the Healthy Incentives Program.

Keeping in mind those affected by domestic violence, the House budget establishes a grant program to provide domestic violence advocate services across the state to connect survivors with essential services.

In order to support programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the House budget increases funding for developmental services to \$2.1 billion and includes \$264 million for community day and work programs across the Commonwealth. The House budget also includes the following investments:

- \$236 million for state-operated residential services
- \$78 million for family respite services; and
- \$39 million for autism omnibus services.

The budget furthers the House’s ongoing commitment to fight the opioid epidemic. To provide assistance to those who are battling substance addiction, the budget increased funding for the Bureau

of Substance Addiction Services to \$162 million while offering continued support for step-down recovery services, jail diversion programs, and expansion of access to life-saving medication.

The House budget includes funding for the judiciary and ongoing criminal justice reform, including a \$761 million investment in the trial court and \$20 million for criminal just reform implementation. The budget also includes:

- \$24 million for civil legal aid to provide representation for low-income individuals via the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation;
- \$9.6 million for a new community-based re-entry program; and
- \$4 million for a pre and post-release services grant program.

The House calls for \$302 million in spending for environmental programs, which aim protect the Commonwealth’s natural resources. These investments include:

- \$50 million for state parks and recreation;
- \$40 million for the Department of Environmental Protection;
- \$16 million for fisheries and wildlife protection;
- \$8.1 million for agricultural resources;
- \$2.1 million for ecological restoration; and
- \$500,000 for the Commonwealth’s endangered specials program.

The budget is now with the Senate.

## 2021 residential parking sticker information

Mayor Carlo DeMaria is pleased to announce the official start date for the 2021 Residential Parking Sticker Program and would like to remind residents of the method for renewing residential parking stickers.

Effective Monday, January 4, vehicle owners must visit the website <https://epay.cityhallsystems.com> and submit an online application in order to obtain their 2021 resident parking stickers. Once the online application is complete, stickers will then be mailed directly to the resident. A link to the website will also be available

on the city’s official website, [cityofeverett.com](http://cityofeverett.com) as well as the City’s Facebook Page.

As a courtesy, from January 4 to February 28th, stickers may be obtained for FREE.

Then, beginning March 1st, the \$10 fee per sticker will once again be reinstated.

Residents may apply for up to 4 stickers per online application. Information required to complete the application includes name, address, license plate number, the name that appears on the registration, email and phone number. Once a resident has successfully submitted an application, they will receive an email notification of the order. Upon verification of their information, the resident will

then receive an additional email as confirmation that the order has been successfully processed. The parking sticker will then be mailed to the resident. Please be advised that in order for a resident sticker to be approved, the vehicle must be registered to the city of Everett, and the vehicle must be in good standing with the city of Everett (no overdue parking tickets or excise tax) 2021 resident stickers must be obtained and displayed on your vehicle prior to March 1, 2021.

Residents applying for a first time sticker (new plates/vehicles) Please come directly to city hall (room 13) with your vehicle’s registration and proof of address (driver’s license or current utility bill) to obtain a parking sticker.

Residents of the Lower Broadway area: In order to renew your parking sticker please visit city hall (room 13) beginning Jan 4 to renew your Lower Broadway sticker and visitor placard. Please bring your registration, proof of Lower Broadway area address (driver’s license or current utility bill) and last year’s visitor placard to renew.

For questions regarding the residential parking sticker program or the online application contact the Parking Clerk’s Office at 617.394.2295/ 617-394-2275.

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