

Everett Independent

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Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Silver Line expansion study kicks off with 18-month timeline

By Seth Daniel

Though long-awaited, the study to examine an extension of the Silver Line from Chelsea to Everett – and on into Charlestown, Somerville and Cambridge – has kicked off and will make final recommendations within 18 months.

“We’re excited to collaborate with MassDOT on this analysis of Silver Line service,” said MBTA General Manager Steve Poflak. “Studying the extension of the Silver Line to Everett and beyond is a key objective of Focus40 and an important step in improving service to essential workers and transit-critical populations that live far from the Orange and Blue Lines and rely on bus service to get to work and other destinations.”

See SILVER LINE Page 2

Fundraiser for Black History Month Essay Contest to feature Pressley

By Seth Daniel

The second annual Black History Month Essay Contest will be held again, and after a very impressive first-year effort last February, Councilor Gerly Adrien and Dr. Omar Easy are looking to enhance the scholarship opportunities by holding a noteworthy fundraiser on Jan. 30 to kick off the effort.

The online fundraiser will be on Jan. 30 and will feature a keynote presentation by Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and speeches by two of last year’s winners. The contest is specifically for students in Everett who are seniors in high school, both in the Everett Public Schools (EPS) and outside

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Special section on Pages 6, 7 & 8



Mayor Carlo DeMaria and the development team, John Tocco and Ricky Beliveau, at the groundbreaking on Monday with City officials.

The 600 groundbreaking

Special to the Independent

Mayor Carlo DeMaria proudly hosted the groundbreaking of The 600 development at the future 600 Broadway location on January 25. The City of Everett has been working diligently with the development team, A10 Associates, Volnay Capital, and Context, to begin this project.

“It was very exciting to host the groundbreaking of The 600,” said Mayor DeMaria. “I have been looking forward to this day since the planning stages began. The 600 will be located in the heart of the City and it will be a fantastic addition to our community.”



A rendering of the mixed-use apartment building at the top of Broadway.

This new development will encompass the properties between 594-602 Broadway and will provide a mixed-use development to the community. There will be jobs created, residential units, retail space, restaurant space,

and a roof deck with outdoor kitchens. The 600 will help further the City’s efforts to enhance their economic development. The project is anticipated to be completed in the Spring of 2022.

Crimson Tide Marching Band scores invite to 80th Pearl Harbor ceremony

By Seth Daniel

Everett High Band Director Gene O’Brien couldn’t say “unbelievable” and “improbable” enough on Tuesday night when he appeared before the School Committee.

And by all rights, he wasn’t wrong to stress the unbelievable nature of the invitation extended recently to the Everett High Crimson Tide music

program asking them to represent Massachusetts on Dec. 7 at the 80th Pearl Harbor commemoration event in Hawaii. It’s a solemn and honorable event that, along with the band, will feature dignitaries and, likely, President Joe Biden and a number of military leaders. It will also be the last commemoration held, as the only two Pearl Harbor survivors living will be present

and it has been agreed there will not be another official commemoration at the 85th anniversary.

“This started way back about two years ago and has become an invitation for us to represent Massachusetts at the 80th anniversary of Pearl Harbor,” said O’Brien on Jan. 19 at the School Committee

See TIDE Page 9

Council votes unanimously not to pursue 11th School Committee seat

By Seth Daniel

The Everett City Council has seemingly decided that 10 is enough when it comes to the number of members on the School Committee.

The Council and School

Committee have been butting heads since late last year when the Council began a disagreement with the Schools over a CARES Act grant, and also voted suddenly to make Mayor Carlo DeMaria a voting member of the Committee amidst strong objections of the membership. That led to a new discussion about the Council adding an 11th member to the Board to prevent tie votes – with a 5-5 vote being a failed vote by Charter. Many members didn’t seemingly want another member on the Board, but in a unique part of the Charter, the Council can

make decisions about the School Committee without their consult.

So, it became what many on the inside felt was a power struggle between the two elected bodies. On Monday night, the temperature was dialed down quite a bit as the Council voted against going forward with a Charter Change to all an 11th member – a unanimous vote of 0-11 and a stark change from the mindset 30 days ago.

School Committee Chair Frank Parker praised the decision, and said he

See COUNCIL Page 5

Council moves ahead with the meeting while residents left on mute

By Seth Daniel

What happened Monday at the City Council meeting?

We know about half of the story.

Woe unto thee for 2021 when it comes to the Everett City Council trying to have a successful meeting, as technical issues bombarded the board once again and they plowed on without the public being fully able to observe the meeting.

Technical issues have been a hallmark of the Everett Council like no other board or Council anywhere else since COVID-19 started, and though it seemed they had gotten to the other side of the troubles, Monday night’s meeting suddenly fizzled out again as it had previously many times last summer and fall.

The meeting was going quite well on Monday, with Council President Wayne Matewsky handling business on the agenda smoothly. Then, about one hour into the meeting, technical issues

arose – particularly on the ECTV online feed through the City’s website.

Communications Director Deanna Devaney said the problem came from a third party that works with the City’s provider. That third provider, and their partner, had issues that cropped up and crunched the meeting around 8:05 p.m. She said the broadcast was down for 26 minutes. Once restored, however, a technical error at City Hall kept the sound muted until the end of the meeting around 9 p.m.

Despite the issues at hand, the Council did proceed with their online meeting, and it wasn’t readily apparent to the public what transpired during that lost hour.

Councilor Gerly Adrien said she did get communications from the public about the meeting being off-line and argued to postpone the proceedings until things were fixed. However, her argument apparently did not win over the rest of the Council.

See MUTE Page 2

Working together

City leaders recall innovative partnership with Pollack, MassDOT

By Seth Daniel

If former MassDOT Director Stephanie Pollack needed a guinea pig for exciting transportation experiments, Everett was willing to be the test subject, and Mayor Carlo DeMaria and Pollack forged a partnership over the last six years that brought about such exciting pilot programs that have now spread across the region.

Pollack, who focused in on Everett early six years ago due to the City’s willingness to lead and pay for initiatives, announced last week that she was leaving MassDOT to become Deputy Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration under new President Joe Biden. Leaving a state Republican Administration for a federal Democratic Administration, Pollack left her job in Massachusetts on Tuesday, but was not forgotten in Everett.

“It has been a privilege to lead MassDOT’s exceptional team these last six years and to work with the MBTA’s senior leadership and the Fiscal and Management Control Board,” said Pollack. “The Governor and Lt. Governor have my deepest gratitude for entrusting me with the stewardship of MassDOT and their leadership as transportation champions. Massachusetts has become a leader in delivering a trans-



Former MassDOT Director Stephanie Pollack with Mayor Carlo DeMaria last October in Everett Square at the kick-off of Re-Imagining Broadway.

portation system that puts people first and provides them with safer and better choices for walking, biking, using transit, or driving and I am confident that Jamey will be able to continue that good work.”

Mayor Carlo DeMaria was perhaps one of the first local officials to grab the attention of Pollack when she assumed a leadership role at MassDOT. He proposed working together on a remake of Everett’s transit offerings, conducting a study that would change bus service through innovation, efficiency and trying fun things.

Pollack was more than willing, particularly because the revenue-starved MBTA didn’t have the money to do such things, and Mayor DeMaria pro-

See POLLACK Page 2

For the latest news in Everett that you need to know, check everettindependent.com

Silver Line / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It's a good and logical project, and it's also an understanding we have with MassDOT," said City Transportation Director Jay Monty. "The Transit

Said Boston Mayor Martin Walsh, "It's more important than ever to invest in public transit and ensure that residents of Boston have reliable, safe, and convenient options for traveling throughout the city and the region. We're excited to work with MassDOT and the MBTA on this study and to improve transit for Boston residents."


The MBTA and MassDOT are working in partnership with the cities of Chelsea, Everett, Somerville, Cambridge, and Boston to determine the potential alternatives and benefits of a Silver Line extension. In addition to convening a Stakeholder Working Group comprised of municipal staff, community members, and elected officials, the project team will conduct an extensive public engagement process throughout the course of the study to gather input from residents, MBTA customers, and other stakeholders. The study is anticipated to be completed in spring 2022.

cil. She said on Tuesday (story)

It was originally slated to go to the Legislative Affairs Committee, but that failed by a 5-6 vote.

"I want to thank Council President Matewsky for his willingness to place me Monday night on both the Ways and Means Committee and the School Finance Review Commission," he said. "I look forward to being a positive addition to both bodies."

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Monty said the approach that began in Everett has

“Stephanie has led MassDOT through many difficult challenges over the past six years; from the historic blizzards that exposed the problems of the MBTA, through saving the GLX project, instituting a data-driven Capital Improvement Plan, and guiding the RMV through a crisis last

Colleen Ogilvie, currently deputy Registrar and Chief Operating Officer, will serve as Acting Registrar.



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Everett receives bond ratings from S&P Global Ratings

Mayor Carlo DeMaria is pleased to announce that Standard & Poor’s Global Ratings (S&P) assigned its “SP-1+” short-term rating to the City of Everett’s \$10.5 million series 2021 general obligation bond anticipation notes and “AA+” long term-rating and stable outlook to the City’s \$1.9 million series 2021 general obligation energy improvement bonds. The City of Everett also affirmed the City of Everett’s “AA+” rating with a stable outlook on the City’s outstanding bonds.

“I am proud of the ratings that the City of Everett earned from S&P,” said Mayor Carlo DeMaria. “The rating assignments and affirmation show our strong financial stability during these unprecedented times. These ratings confirm our strong economic position.”

S&P highlighted the City’s strengths as:

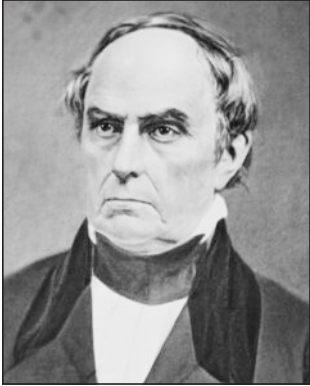
- Strong economy, with access to a broad and diverse metropolitan statistical area (MSA);
- Strong management, with good financial policies and practice under our Financial Management Assessment (FMA) methodology;
- Adequate budgetary performance, with slight surplus operating results in the general fund at 1.4% of expenditures in fiscal 2020;
- Very strong budgetary flexibility, with an available fund balance in fiscal 2020 of 16% of operating expenditures, or \$38.1 million;
- Very strong liquidity, with total government available cash at 26.2% of total-government-fund expenditures and 4.1x governmental debt service in fiscal 2020, and access to external liquidity we consider strong;
- Very strong debt-and-contingent-liability position, with debt service carrying charges at 6.4% of expenditures and net direct debt that is 40.8% of total-governmental-fund revenue, as well as low overall net debt at less than 1.5% of market value and rapid amortization, with 70.3% of debt scheduled to be retired within 10 years, but a large pension and other-postemployment-benefit (OPEB) obligation;
- Strong institutional framework score.

According to S&P, “The stable outlook reflects our view of the city’s very strong reserves, conservative budgeting, and strong financial management, which we expect will provide an adequate cushion to absorb unexpected revenue decreases or economic stagnation due to an uncertain economic recovery or COVID-19-related events.”

S&P is a municipal bond credit rating agency that provides organizations a way to rate their financial situation. They had reviewed the City’s financials in October 2020 and during this updated review, S&P declared that the 2020 numbers came in better than expected. “SP-1+” is the highest short-term rating attainable and the “AA+” bond rating is consistent with the ratings of the prior years in the City of Everett. These high ratings provide a very optimistic outlook for the years to come with a strong financial future.

HISTORIC FIGURES

More than a Name: Daniel Webster “still lives on”



Daniel Webster

and supporting industrial development within the fledgling nation) as well as fostering a friendly relationship with Great Britain in opposition to Revolutionary France. Writing in strong opposition to President Thomas Jefferson’s Embargo Act of 1807, which halted trade to both Britain and France, Webster began gaining traction among Federalist supporters. As a result of his writings and speeches advocating Federalist policies and viewpoints, he was elected as a Federalist member of the U.S. House of Representatives from New Hampshire in 1813.

While serving in the House, Webster rose to prominence in the legal field. In fact, between 1814-1852, Webster argued at least one case per session of the Supreme Court, serving as counsel in a total of 223 Supreme Court cases, winning approximately half of these cases. He is credited as serving crucial roles in some of America’s most

celebrated constitutional cases, including Dartmouth College v. Woodward (strengthened the Contracts Clause of the US Constitution and limited the power of States to interfere with private corporate charters), McCulloch v. Maryland (defined the Legislative Power of the U.S. Congress and how it related to State legislatures), and Gibbons v. Ogden (held that the power of Commerce to regulate interstate commerce under the Commerce Clause also gave them the power to regulate navigation). Recognizing his unrivaled legal skill and knowledge, Webster was appointed as the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee by House Speaker Henry Clay in 1823.

Urged by his supporters to seek higher office, Webster successfully ran for a Massachusetts seat in the United State Senate in 1827. He was appointed as the Secretary of State in 1841 by President William Harrison, but served the majority of this appointment under John Tyler, as Harrison died from pneumonia one month after taking office. Following a falling out with Tyler, Webster returned back to his Senator seat from 1845-1850 before

being named Secretary of State for the second time by President Millard Fillmore, where he served from 1850-1852. Due to poor health, Webster was forced to leave his position in Fillmore’s cabinet. Who, you might ask, replaced him as Secretary of State? None other than the namesake of our City Edward Everett!

Webster’s health quickly deteriorated once leaving office and returning to his estate in Marshfield, Massachusetts. He passed away on October 24, 1852 and is buried in the Winslow Cemetery near his estate. Perhaps sensing that his legacy would be one written about for years to come, Webster’s last words were: “I still live.” Daniel Webster’s name lives on not just in history books, but also in Everett, serving as the namesake of the Webster School.

To read more about Everett history, peruse the Everett Libraries’ collections, engage in various programs for all ages, or utilize one of the free online databases, be sure to check out the Libraries’ new website (<https://www.noblenet.org/everett/>) and follow their Facebook page (@EverettPublicLibrary) for updates.

- 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 Tuesday, February 16, 2021 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: 29 Myrtle Street
Map/Parcel: B0-01-00132A
Person Requesting: 29 Myrtle Street Realty Trust
Felice Parisi Trustee
21 Horseshoe Drive
Lynnfield, MA 01940

To the said Board of Appeals, the owner/applicant the applicant seeks to convert the existing 2 family residence into a 3-family residential building the current building was constructed in 1983 Permit was denied in accordance to the City of Everett Zoning Ordinance Appendix A as follows:

Reason for Denial:

- A three (3) family is not permitted in this zoning district
- No parking plan (spaces) has been submitted (Note: as this building was constructed in 1983 the applicant must provide parking for all of the units in the building in this case 6 are required.
- The FAR (floor area ratio) for the proposed use is 1.12.

Zoning Ordinance:

Section 4 Dwelling Districts Uses A. Uses. Within any dwelling district as indicated on the zoning map, no building, structure or premises shall be used and no building or structure shall be erected which is intended or designed to be used in whole or in part for any industry, trade, manufacturing, or commercial purposes, of for other than the following specified purposes:

1. A single or double semi-detached dwelling existing at the time of the first enactment of the Zoning Ordinance may be converted to provide not more than a total of three (3) dwelling units provided that the following standards are met:

Any addition shall comply with the front, side and rear yard requirements and height limitations of the Zoning Ordinance.

Section 4 Dwelling Districts (b) Dimensional Requirements line C. All other uses-----0.5 maximum floor area ratio (Ord. of 6-29-87; Ord. of 4-29-91 Ord. of 7/16/2002; Ord. of 11/13/2007)

Section 4 Dwelling Districts paragraph 17 which states the following:

Conversion of Dwelling. No new dwelling unit created by the conversion of an existing dwelling shall be permitted unless the requirements of minimum lot area and off-street parking are satisfied for all dwelling units in existence and proposed in the dwelling after the conversion or enlargement. (Ord. 02-046 of Oct. 22, 2003)

Mary Gerace - Chairman
Roberta Suppa - Clerk
Board of Appeals
January 27, 2021
February 3, 2021

- LEGAL NOTICE - CITY OF EVERETT



BOARD OF Licensing Commission
484 Broadway
Everett, Massachusetts 02149
(617) 944-0211

To Whom It May Concern:

In response to Governor Baker’s declaration of a public health emergency and the related Emergency Executive Order dated March 12, 2020, the Everett Licensing Board 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 City’s website. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the city’s website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

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 websites. 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.

For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch, listen or provide comment during the meeting may do so in the following manner:

View on the City of Everett Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/cityofeverettma/>
Call in for question or comments:
Topic: Licensing Board Meeting 02/10 (Public Call In)
Time: Feb 10, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://ci-everett-ma.zoom.us/j/91387528281>

Meeting ID: 913 8752 8281
One tap mobile
+16465588656,,91387528281#

Dial in +1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 913 8752 8281

Public Hearing Wednesday February 10, 2021 @ 6:30 PM
Whereas an application has been presented to the Everett License Commission by:

Wynn MA, LLC D/B/A Encore Boston Harbor – Drug Store, 1 Broadway, Everett, MA for a New License for an Off-Premise Wine and Malt Package Store License.

All interested parties may attend.

Phil Antonelli - Chairman
January 27, 2021

- LEGAL NOTICE - CITY OF EVERETT



BOARD OF Licensing Commission
484 Broadway
Everett, Massachusetts 02149
(617) 944-0211

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Time: Feb 10, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://ci-everett-ma.zoom.us/j/91387528281>
Meeting ID: 913 8752 8281
One tap mobile
+16465588656,,91387528281#
Dial in +1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 913 8752 8281
Public Hearing Wednesday February 10, 2021 @ 6:30 PM
Whereas an application has been presented to the Everett License Commission by:

Keshar LLC D/B/A Elm St Market, for a change of location from 178-180 Elm St, Everett to 172 Elm St, Everett. This is a temporary move during renovation at their current location.

All interested parties may attend.

Phil Antonelli - Chairman
January 27, 2021

Everett

Independent

President: Stephen Quigley

Editor in Chief: Cary Shuman

THE DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER

Amidst our winter of discontent, there is some good news on the horizon (literally): The days are getting longer.

As this is being written, we will have passed the first full month of the astronomical winter (which starts on December 21 and ends on March 21) and we will have completed almost two months of the meteorological winter season, which is defined as December, January, and February.

On December 14, the sun set at 4:13 in the afternoon and on December 21 (the start of astronomical winter) the total amount of daylight was just nine hours and eight minutes. But on this Friday, January 29, the sun will be setting at 4:56 in the afternoon and we will have nine hours and 56 minutes of daylight.

The longer days, combined with the positive news on COVID-19 vaccines, signal hope for the future that sunnier days lie ahead.

LAWSUITS WILL BRING OUT THE TRUTH

The announcement this past week that Dominion Voting Systems Inc., the company that manufactures voting machines that are used widely across the United States, has filed a \$1.3 billion lawsuit against Rudy Giuliani for his deliberately defamatory statements about the company, is the perfect antidote to the disinformation campaign that was spread by Donald Trump and his minions in their attempt to subvert the results of the November election.

It was one thing for Trump, Giuliani, and others to spout their ridiculous claims, in general terms, about a stolen election, but it is quite another when their patently-false statements negatively affect the reputation and business interests of individuals and companies.

Just as this newspaper cannot publish false and defamatory information, neither can major media outlets nor individuals such as Rudy Giuliani. We would note that an employee of Dominion has filed a separate suit against a number of media outlets, as well as the Trump campaign, for their defamatory and injurious statements about him.

A few years ago, a web site named Gawker Media posted a video of the former wrestling star Hulk Hogan that was the basis for an invasion of privacy suit filed by Hogan that ultimately resulted in a \$140 million judgment against Gawker, which put Gawker out of business.

We predict that the lawsuits filed by Dominion (they previously sued another of Trump's lawyers) will have far-reaching consequences, particularly if Dominion names others who, similar to Giuliani, have made defamatory statements about Dominion.

Rudy Giuliani now is facing financial ruin, all of which he brought on himself because of his antics, a very fitting and appropriate ending for a man who tried to subvert a free and fair election, the most basic element of our Constitution.

HANK AARON WAS A WONDERFUL MAN

Boston baseball fans never got to experience firsthand the greatness of Hank Aaron. The Boston Braves left for Milwaukee in 1953 and Aaron joined the Braves in 1954.

With Aaron leading the way, the Braves then embarked on a run of great seasons, culminating in the 1957 World Series championship.

Although the Braves descended into mediocrity in the 1960s, Hank Aaron continued to perform at a high level, year after year, for more than two decades. When all was said and done, Aaron not only had broken Babe Ruth's career home run record, but he also set career marks for RBI and total bases (the latter by a wide margin) that still stand today.

Hank Aaron was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, but it was his achievements off the field that have earned him everlasting fame. He was a pioneer in the civil rights movement who was among a handful of Black athletes who helped to bring to an end the dark era of segregation and discrimination that existed in the 1950s and '60s.

On a personal level, Hank Aaron was admired and respected by all who knew him. He was one of those very few people who never had an unkind word to say about anybody, and vice-versa.

Hank Aaron was not the most-outspoken of persons, but he literally and figuratively epitomized the meaning of the phrase, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." He will be missed.

Independent Forum



CELEBRATE GROUNDHOG DAY FEB. 2, 2021

GUEST OP-ED

Don't live your life based on Biden or Trump

Dr. Glenn Mollette

When did life begin for President Donald Trump or President Joe Biden? Did Trump's life begin when his father loaned him millions to start investing? Did it begin when he married Melania? Or, did life begin when he was elected President? Maybe his life is beginning now that his Presidency is over?

What about Biden? Did Biden's life begin each morning when he boarded Amtrak headed for Washington? Maybe his life began when he was elected a Senator or even the Vice President? Maybe his life is just beginning now?

Trump will have options after the White House. He is a businessman. He will figure it out. Maybe NBC will seek him to do The Celebrity Apprentice once again? Yes,

NBC hates him but they love money. The Celebri-

ty Apprentice made NBC and Trump hundreds of millions of dollars. Someone will publish Trump's memoirs. I predict he'll make about 50 to 75 million dollars off his book royalties. He has over 70 million loyal followers. If ten million people buy a book with a \$6 to \$9 profit for the publisher then you can start multiplying the cash. Book publishers are all about money and sales. They know the market potential. Trump will stay busy on the speaking circuit. In about a year look for him in a city near you drawing a crowd.

Biden's life is only changing in that he finally gets to sleep in the White House. He will be in the same place where so many politicians and families have slept before. Biden is familiar with the nation's Capitol. He has practically spent his entire life there in politics. It's what

he has awakened to almost every morning of his life. Although now, he will sit in the Oval Office.

Life is changing for these two men in different ways but what about your life? When did your life begin? Did it begin at your conception? Your birth? When you turned 16 years old or 21? Maybe it began when you retired? When will your life end? The beginning of your life starts when you start living your life. The end of your life concludes when you give up and stop living your life.

Our lives are brief, here today and gone tomorrow. Don't base your life on who is The President. The quantity and quality of our lives typically hinge on our decisions and the transitions we adjust to. Life is filled with transitions, just look at Biden and Trump.

Change disrupts us and the climate of fear and

skepticism is dominating our nation.

For you and I we must live our lives right now. Every day we wake up is a new beginning and a new life. The old life was yesterday and we can't relive, change or erase it. However, we can learn from yesterday and education is very valuable.

When someone else's life begins is all conjecture on our part. When your life begins is your daily decision. Live your life. Maybe at this moment, your life is just really beginning.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

LETTERS to the Editor

UP TO DATE WITH ALL OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

To the Editor,

The City has been getting so many questions regarding the COVID19 vaccine and distribution. Since the vaccine was first available, our team has been on every call and webinar to stay up to date with all of the latest developments. The majority of our first responders have been vaccinated.

Please know, although there aren't any definitive plans at this time, we are eagerly awaiting word from the State as to when we can receive additional doses and provide them

to the general public. We understand the process hasn't been clear on many levels but as a team we are working to execute in the best way possible.

Please have patience and know that we will remain persistent until each resident is vaccinated.

Mayor Carlo DeMaria

THE WRONG FOCUS

To the Editor,

I have said for a long time that we shouldn't have closed down businesses and put unquestionably harmful setbacks in front of individual small businesses and companies seeing that science and data have shown very

little to zero impact in the positive rate of Covid-19 cases in Massachusetts.

In March, I was the only elected official publicly calling on Encore Boston Harbor to close their doors until such time as they could put measures in place to keep employees and visitors safe. After Re-Opening over the summer, I visited and saw the measures firsthand that are in place and believe they took every

possible measure to keep employees and guests safe and stop the possibility of an outbreak. I am pleased that, finally, Gov. Charlie Baker has agreed to let go of the strong hold on what I would call the wrong focus and give businesses the opportunities needed to move forward.

I hope he will continue by shortly increasing capacity from 25 percent.

Michael McLaughlin
Ward 6 Councilor

Everett

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Your opinions, please

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COVID-19 vaccinations begin at Middlesex Jail and House of Correction

The Middlesex Sheriff’s Office (MSO) on Jan. 21 began vaccinating staff and incarcerated individuals in accordance with the timeline established by the Baker-Polito Administration and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).

Those living and working in congregate settings (including jails and shelters) have been identified as the fourth priority group within Phase One of the Commonwealth’s COVID-19 vaccination plan.

By the end of Jan. 21, approximately 130 total staff members and incarcerated individuals will

have received the first dose of the Moderna vaccine. Vaccinations will resume on Friday morning.

“Today marks a critical milestone in our ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it is important to note it is neither our first nor our last step,” said Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian. “Over the past 11 months we have taken a medically-driven approach to our response, implementing a series of measures designed to mitigate the impact of COVID including mask mandates and quarantining newly committed individuals. As a result of these steps, we are now

approaching four consecutive months – almost 180 tests – without a positive case in the incarcerated population.”

Over the coming days and weeks, the MSO will continue to administer first and second doses to any individuals who voluntarily choose to receive them. Individuals released from custody prior to receiving their second dose will be given a CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card that identifies the date of their initial dose, which vaccine they were given and the date they are slated for their next dose.

Results of a recent-

ly completed baseline survey showed that 40 percent of incarcerated individuals who responded said they would want to receive the vaccine if it was available to them, while one-third of those respondents who initially said they would not agree to be vaccinated, indicated they were open to changing their minds.

Utilizing information gathered from the survey including age, race and reasons for not wanting the vaccine, the MSO will continue to engage individuals in an effort to further educate those who initially decline the vaccine.

The survey showed that nearly 31 percent of those who said they were not interested in the vaccine were most concerned with safety and effectiveness, while approximately 7.5 percent said they were most concerned about a rushed timeline.

As part of efforts to educate individuals and answer questions about the vaccine, Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian and Doctors Alysse Wurcel (Tufts Medical Center) and Kathryn Stephenson (Harvard University), met with two groups of incarcerated individuals earlier this week. The ongoing education effort will also

include FAQ sheets and videos, among other measures.

In addition to those steps, Sheriff Koutoujian and several members of the MSO command staff received an initial dose today in an effort to demonstrate their confidence in the vaccine to those being held in custody at the Middlesex Jail & House of Correction.

Thursday’s vaccinations are in addition to the 103 members of the MSO – frontline health care workers and others deemed eligible per DPH guidelines – who had received their initial doses earlier this month.

Council / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and School Committee-woman Samantha Lambert had provided very strong information at a subcommittee meeting this month against such a change.

He was glad the Council listened.

“I applaud those members who listened to the information that Mrs. Lambert and I presented at the subcommittee and who also did their own further

research and understood adding another School Committee member was counterintuitive to the intended goal,” he said.

However, the issue started with a bang on Monday, with Councilor Michael McLaughlin proposing to go forward with the Charter Change and to have a vote immediately.

“I think we have to make decisions that will last be-

yond us,” he said. “I think this decision will last long past us. We have an obligation to do this. It’s about five or 10 years down the road. I think we can fix a wrong tonight and help the School Committee...It’s about looking forward to the future.”

Councilor Rosa DiFlorio said she would support it, but said she didn’t want to overreach the School

Committee.

“I am in favor of adding an 11th member, but if the School Committee doesn’t want it, we should respect their wishes,” she said. “I do think it should be an odd number so there are no issues in the future and they don’t argue over a failed 5-5 vote.”

Councilor Fred Capone was adamantly against the idea of once again

changing the City Charter without a vote of the people. He stood against the School Committee change on those grounds.

“This is our fourth or fifth Charter Change we’ve done,” he said. “I don’t want our legacy to be we trampled all over the Charter. We shouldn’t keep carving out these changes.”

Mayor Carlo DeMaria –

who is now a voting member of the School Committee – said he had no opinion on the matter.

“I don’t see needing this, but I don’t really have an opinion,” he said.

Councilor Anthony DiPiero said if the Committee doesn’t want it, he would vote ‘no’ as well. He then called for a vote.

The matter was soundly defeated 0-11.

Essay / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

EPS. This year, the essays will be about Black influential leaders again, but the topics were chosen by Everett High’s Empowering Black Excellence Club.

Adrien said the effort has already raised \$1,000 off the bat, and they hope to really enhance the effort on Jan. 30 at the fundraiser, which has a suggested donation of \$10 per person.

There are seven high

school senior winners, five from Everett High and two from non-EHS schools. The essays are due by Friday, Feb. 18, and winners will be announced at a celebration on Friday, Feb. 25.

Easy said he is proud to be able to give back to the young people in Everett, just as he was given to when he was at Everett High School. Of course, his path led to college football at Penn State Uni-

versity and becoming a professional football draft pick, and later a noted professional education administrator. That, he said, has allowed him since 2002 to give back through the Easy Way Foundation. That Foundation also supports the Black History Month Essay Contest scholarships now too, he said.

“I think it’s a great thing we’re trying to continue to support and be advocates

for young people,” he said. “I started my Foundation in 2002 right after I got drafted to help young people. I haven’t stopped giving back to Everett no matter where I’ve been or played. Even though I’m not part of the school system anymore, I know some people did a great thing for me when I was in high school in Everett and I owe a debt to EPS. This is all about the kids and helping them to win

a scholarship...It’s also about helping to promote Black history, which has been suppressed over time. Given the events of 2020, I do expect we’ll have some great essays.”

Adrien said she agrees that the contest is about giving back to students in their hometown.

“We both grew up in Everett and we were both able to do some great things in our lives,” said Adrien. “We want to be

able to give back to our hometown in this way. We feel like we are the two Black leaders that are looked to in our City. We plan on doing this a very long time.”

Easy said he has already seen great generosity from residents of Everett and teachers in the school system towards the contest, and hopes more will consider contributing at the fundraiser on Jan. 30.

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Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2021

January 31 -February 6 **#CSW21**

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A blessing to be in school

St. Anthony’s of Everett keeps in-person learning at forefront this year

By Seth Daniel

Counting one’s blessings is a daily exercise at St. Anthony’s School of Everett, but never did the school community think one of those counted blessings would be actually going to school in person.

However, that has been the case as the Pre-School to Grade 8 Catholic School in Everett has stayed in person most every week since September using some re-configured routines and strict COVID-19 protocols. It has been a great and wonderful things for the children, and the families, said Principal Maria Giggie.

“We’ve been in school since Sept. 16,” said Giggie, now in her 15th year at St. Anthony’s. “We recent-

ly did a partial re-opening after Christmas in phases of 1, 2 and 3 because the cases in Everett were so high. Now everyone is back this week...Everybody is back physically in the building this week. Remote is okay, but over a long period of time, it becomes impossible for students and parents.”

St. Anthony’s is participating in Catholic Schools Week throughout next week and will have special, COVID-19 conscious, celebrations – such as a Mass and other fun things like a Pajama Day. Meanwhile, prospective students and parents are encouraged to come in-person to their Open Houses from Feb. 1-3 after making an appointment. The Open Houses are generally between 9-11

a.m. on those days, but Giggie said they are flexible.

Keeping away from all-remote has been very helpful to students and families, Giggie said, and has been a highlight of the year for them while their counterparts in the public schools have remained on-line this entire year.

“Remote is hard,” she said. “If people have to go to work, especially with younger children, you have to worry about getting them up on the screen. Nobody needs this kind of stress. Getting everyone back in school is best and of course, keeping necessary precautions in place when they are here is essential.”

Giggie said they have moved desks six feet apart in all classrooms, and now

have four lunch sessions per day with two children at each table. There are a lot of other guidelines they’ve picked up from the best practices, such as having teachers come to the older students, instead of having students switch classrooms each period. That keeps them at the same desk all day and keeps them from having to move about the school and having contact with others.

“We’ve been blessed in this,” she said. “The teachers are a treasure and have gone above and beyond during school and after school. It is beyond what a teacher’s job description would be. They are always on. It’s been an amazing effort.”

The school has also been

smart about utilizing the new technology as well. Some students have chosen to be at home, and teachers have quickly adapted to teaching in person and remotely at the same time – carrying around a technology cart to each classroom that doubles as the remote computer link for students at home. Likewise, on a few occasions, they have chosen to go all remote when the percent positive case numbers in Everett have soared far beyond 8 percent. In addition, some of their special occasions, have been moved online – like this year’s Christmas Play that was put together in a video celebration that was widely proclaimed as one of the best in years.

Needless to say, it is the

in-person learning that has retained students this year, and increased the numbers of students in the older grades, Giggie said.

The student population has remained at around 200 this year, but that comes with fewer students in the pre-school and kindergarten, while more in the older grades.

“We did see an uptick in the older grades, quite a lot actually,” she said. “Because we provide on-site in school sessions, we have seen an increase in the numbers because we’re open.”

She said the younger children have also impressed her with their ability to adhere to the

See ST. ANTHONY Page 8

In-person learning at St. John School in the North End a success

By John Lynds

In its 126 year history St. John School arguably has never faced a crisis quite like the COVID-19 pandemic that has turned the world upside down.

However, the staff and students at St. John School have successfully returned to ‘in-person’ learning for the 2020-2021 school year.

Principal of the parochial school, Claire Cassidy, said since September 9 St. John School has been open for in person learning five days a week. The school has also been offering an eLearning program for students whose families do not wish to have them attend school in person.

Cassidy said so far the school year has been a success and teachers have worked extremely hard to seamlessly integrate eLearners into the classroom daily and to redesign lessons to ensure they are successful in a socially distant classroom and digital environment.

“It has really been phenomenal,” said Cassidy.



A young student at St. John School in the North End during an in-person lesson. The school successfully reopened in-person learning in September.

“It’s been such a privilege to witness the way in which our students came back to school. They seamlessly came the door in September and have been washing their hands, wearing their mask, sanitizing, and social distancing--as is the norm now. Our teachers have done the most amazing job of making the integration of our in-person learners and our eLearners just look so easy. They’ve really worked hard to shift lesson plans and activities so that classroom discussions are between a student who

is in-person and a student who is an eLearner and you see the way in which it continues to bring that beautiful sense of community that St John’s School is known for.”

Cassidy said St. John School has been very fortunate that the school building lends itself to staff and students being able to do in-person learning successfully.

“The spaciousness of our classrooms has meant we are able to allow 6 feet or more of space between students,” said Cassidy.



The St. John School building layout has lent itself to the school being able to successfully return to in-person learning this year. The classrooms are between 800 and 1,000 sq. ft. which allows for proper social distancing.

“We have also limited class size to give students additional space. We do have enormous windows in our building, all of which are open and have between 800 to 1,000 square feet for most of our classrooms. We were able to purchase air purifiers for our classrooms too. We also had plumbing work done over the summer to add additional sinks to our buildings so our students had more places to wash their hands. With all of those things in place we’ve been able to successfully open and remain open

since September.”

Cassidy said extra precautions include a cleaner who is present throughout the day to clean all high touch surfaces. The school also expanded its nursing program hours to ensure nurses were available throughout the day as well as staggered arrival and dismissal times to promote student safety.

“I do think that having the privilege of being able to open for in-person learning and to be able to continue is really important,” said Cassidy. “Our students are

very grateful and they tell us how excited they are to be at school each day. Our families are as well and they see the joy that their children get from coming to school.”

Cassidy added that with appropriate adjustments St. John School has been able to continue with its Tower Garden program and to date has grown over 60lbs of food that is donated to the Arch Street Shrine. The school has even been able to hold private socially dis-

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IC School goes above and beyond amidst pandemic

By Donis Tracy,
Academic Coordinator

The past ten months have been challenging for all. Schools forced online; students learning from home; fear of contagion abounding; civil unrest erupting in various places in the country.

Navigating it in order to provide a safe, healthy school has been no small task. But according to Juan Velasquez and Kimberly Orellana, parents of two daughters at Immaculate Conception Parish School in Revere, their children's school has done it and more.

Velasquez and Orellana reflected on the past year and how her daughters, grades five and three, have been helped by their Catholic education.

"I did not feel comfortable that the mandatory homeschooling was going to be the only option for a long period of time," Orellana stated, thinking back to last spring when all the schools in the state were put on lockdown. "We all know the importance of social interaction at this age."

Velasquez agreed, but added that he was incredibly impressed with the school's ability to continue teaching in spite of the chaos last spring. He noted that the school only missed one day of learning before transitioning to a full-remote model. "It was very impressive," he said. Although at first it seemed "IC Online" would only last for a few weeks, reality quickly set in that the school building would be closed for the remainder of the year. Even

the prospect of opening in the fall seemed to be in question.

However, the school continued to thrive, Velasquez said. He pointed to several school-wide traditions that were re-thought in order to fit a full-remote model. STEM projects were uploaded and shared; the school's art show became a Virtual Showcase. Students continued to thrive.

As summer began to come to an end, the uncertainty of whether or not the school could open for in-person learning was looming, Velasquez recalled, noting that Revere and its neighboring communities were among the worst affected by the pandemic.

In late August, the school sent out a document detailing its Re-Opening

Plan, and allowing families to choose whether or not to send their children to school in-person or virtually.

"After reading through the [Reopening Guide], I realized that the school was going above and beyond to ensure the safety of the kids and staff," Orellana said. Together the couple decided to opt for in-person learning.

"IC has definitely provided a safe environment for my girls," she said. She praised the school's ability to re-think many of the fun school activities in order to make sure that students are also developing socially and spiritually.

Agreeing, Velasquez pointed to the recent Christmas Bazaar -- a longstanding tradition at Immaculate Conception School and a

school event that seemed impossible to pull off with social distancing and other health and safety restrictions. Although it was not the same as other years, Orellana praised the teachers and the administration for creating a safe, healthy alternative and

retaining the fun that was at the heart of the tradition.

"IC school has been a second home for my girls," Orellana said. "The relationships they are making are very important. Having families that share the same spiritual values and beliefs that we

do is something that we appreciate and are deeply grateful."

Malden Catholic HS girls winter sports program off to a terrific start

By Cary Shuman

The Malden Catholic High School girls basketball team, under the direction of head coach Jay Keane, is in its third year of existence, and its second at the varsity level.

Because the girls division (Malden Catholic School for Girls) began three years ago, Keane's first-year team was made up entirely of ninth graders competing at the sub-varsity level.

Last season, the Keane Contingent, consisting of freshmen and sophomores, jumped up to varsity and qualified for the MIAA Tournament with a 15-5 record. The Lady Lancers defeated Snowden in their first tournament game before falling to eventual champion Matignon in the Division 4 North Sectional semifinals.

Can you say instant success story?

Aided by a strong freshman class this season in addition to seven juniors and two sophomores, Malden Catholic has a 2-1 record and is ranked among the top teams in the division by the Boston newspapers.

Malden Catholic is continuing as an independent team with no league affiliation for the 2020-21 season.

"We were hoping to join a league this year, but with COVID-19, it just didn't materialize with



Jay Keane is the head coach of the Malden Catholic High School girls varsity basketball team.

anybody," said Keane. "We were able to schedule 11 games with schools that were in the same boat as we are."

MC has games scheduled with Catholic Conference schools Notre Dame Academy (Hingham), Fontbonne Academy (Milton), and Ursuline Academy (Dedham), along with Catholic Central League powerhouse St. Mary's (Lynn). There are also plans for a season-ending Catholic schools' tournament.

Not many coaches get to build a varsity program from the ground floor, but Jay Keane was given that opportunity when MC became a co-divisional school (Boys and girls do not attend academic classes together at the school and are situated in

See MALDEN Page 9

East Boston Central Catholic School's hybrid learning model a success

By John Lynds

While the 2020-2021 school year has looked a lot different for students and staff at East Boston Central Catholic School (EBCCS) due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Principal Robert Casaletto said the reopening plan at Eastie's remaining Parochial School has been smooth as can be.

EBCCS kicked off the school year in September with 'in-person' learning for some students and 'remote' learning for others but recently switched to 'hybrid' learning.

"Everything has been going really well at EBCCS," said Casaletto. "We have had our PreSchool and Kindergarten students in five days per week since September and we just transitioned grades 1-8 to hybrid learning when we returned from Christmas break. That is going very well so far."

Casaletto said EBCCS's hybrid schedule offers two

days per week of in-person learning and three days of remote learning for all students.

"Group A has in-person learning on Monday-Tuesday, all students are remote on Wednesday, and then Group B has in-person learning on Thursday-Friday," said Casaletto. "Our students have been fully engaged on their remote learning days and times, and we are not noticing any learning loss or feelings of isolation. In fact, when given the option to return to in-person learning, many of our families elected to remain fully remote because they are happy with both the teaching and learning that has occurred so far this year during our fully remote days."

EBCCS has added some additional safety precautions for the 2020-2021 school year like staggering arrival and dismissal times to limit the gathering size outside the school.

"We also added sinks



EBCCS teacher Lauryn Rozzi in her classroom. EBCCS began a hybrid learning model after the Christmas break.

and air purifiers to every classroom," said Casaletto. "Each student has their own individual desk sneeze guard, individual sanitizer provided by East Boston Savings Bank, the use of a Chromebook, and over six feet of space separating them from the next student."

The school also created a "Care Room" in the event a student or faculty member becomes sick while in the building with disposable gowns, safety glasses, gloves, and KN-95 masks.

EBCCS also purchased webcams, live streaming cameras, microphones, speakers, a ZOOM licence, and privacy walls for the teachers to keep the staff safe and allow them to teach to both in-person and remote students at the same time.

"We just opened re-enrollment and new enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year," said Casaletto. "Families can visit ebccs.org for more information. We will have virtual tour videos up on the website next week."

St. John //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

tanced school mass each week since school started in the fall.

In the end Cassidy said St. John School has also been very blessed that school parents have been tremendously supportive since school started.

"They have done a great job of reinforcing the routines that we have here with their children," said Cassidy. "They've also kept their kids home when they are sick, which I know is a strain for a family, and tested and quarantined their kids as needed. All the parents have been extremely supportive of our school policies and worked with us to ensure our school community remains healthy throughout the year."



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MC girls hockey records its first-ever victory

By Cary Shuman

Head coach Guy Angiuoni and the Malden Catholic High School girls hockey team have earned their first victory in school history.

Playing with only eight skaters and one goaltender on its roster in the second game of its first varsity season, Malden Catholic defeated Saint Joseph Prep, 2-1, last Tuesday at the Warrior Ice Arena in Brighton.

Freshman defenseman Juliana Angiuoni of Wilmington, daughter of the head coach, scored the first goal on a shot from the point. Saint Joseph tied the game at 1-1 in the second period. Freshman center Antonia DiZoglio of Wilmington netted the tie-breaking and game-winning goal with 1:24 left. Sophomore goaltender Danielle DeJon of Cambridge had 25 saves.

The historic victory drew notice from the hockey community with Malden Catholic garnering headlines on the Hockey Night in Boston and Mass. High School hockey Web sites and in the Boston newspapers. “It was all over the Twitter-verse that this upstart team with just nine girls won a game,” said Angiuoni. “It was a great victory. The girls played so hard. It was amazing.”

This past Sunday, Malden Catholic lost a tough one, 3-2, to Bishop Feehan (Attleboro) Sunday. Dizoglio opened the scoring with a nifty end-to-end rush in the 2nd period. Angiuoni pulled the goaltender with two minutes left and Susan Hobart scored the game-tying goal. But Feehan scored the game-winner in the final minute of play. Danielle DeJon made an incredible 45 saves on 48 shots. MC has a 1-2 record.

“We’ve had three exciting games,” said Angiuoni. “The girls have worked hard. We’ve been practicing for six weeks. Not one girl has missed a single practice the entire season. That shows the girls’ commitment to the program.”

The MC players have been logging plenty of minutes. Defensemen Mary Katherine “MK” Zablocki of Revere and Juliana Angiuoni are the lone defensive tandem and rarely leave the ice. DiZoglia, an elite player and a future star, has three goals and three assists through three games.

Alexia “Lexi” Engvaldsen of Wilmington scored the program’s first-ever goal against Shawsheen on opening night. The other members of the first-year Lancers are Susan Hobart of Ipswich, Sadie Bowden of Malden, Amelia Han-

sen of Melrose, and Erin Smail of Stoneham.

Guy Angiuoni, 50, became the program’s first-ever head coach when Athletic Director Bill Raycraft brought him on board in November.

“I have two great assistant coaches – Craig Edwards (Andover) and Steven Hunt (Wilmington),” said Angiuoni. “I’m really blessed to have two coaches that are so talented and emotionally invested into our program.”

The unsung hero of the MC girls hockey program has been AD Bill Raycraft, a former football coach and athletic director at Windham High where he built one of New Hampshire’s most successful athletic programs.

“Anything that I have asked of our athletic director, he’s gotten it for our players,” credited Angiuoni. “We have NHL-replica game home and away jerseys. He also got us practice jerseys in four different colors. We have just as much ice time as the boys team. Everyone from the admissions office, to the finance department, to the headmaster, to the athletic director – the school has been 100 percent supportive. It’s really been an amazing experience.”

Malden Catholic plays its home games at Valley Forum in Malden.



Pictured at the Warrior Ice Arena after the Malden Catholic girls hockey program’s first-ever victory on Jan. 20 are, from left, Susan Hobart, Sadie Bowen, Erin Smail, Juliana Angiuoni, Antonia DiZoglio, Amelia Hansen, MK Zablocki, Danielle DeJon, and Lexi Engvaldsen.

St. Mary’s High School sports teams succeed through the challenges caused by the pandemic

By Cary Shuman

The St. Mary’s High School boys and girls basketball and hockey teams are winning a lot of games this winter. That is no surprise for a program that produces state champions and title contenders every year.

But this season and the fall season that preceded it have been impacted greatly by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Many high schools canceled their fall and winter sports seasons.

St. Mary’s officials decided to go forward, with its teams adhering to strict guidelines for social distancing and some new in-game rules established by the MIAA.

St. Mary’s Director of Athletics Jeff Newhall said that more than 270 student-athletes participated in the fall sports season. This winter St. Mary’s has 275 student-athletes competing in sports. There are nine basketball teams from the middle school through varsity levels, four hockey teams at the varsity and JV

levels, along with a varsity swimming team.

“The fall season went off without a hitch,” said Newhall. “During the winter we’ve had some issues but thankfully they were minor, though it did require a brief shutdown. But the athletes continue to do what they’re supposed to do, and we were able to get up and running in 14 days.”

Newhall said all athletes and coaches must wear masks at all times – at practices and games, during halftime strategy sessions, and on the buses to and from games. Spectators also have to wear masks at the games.

Students must wear masks in all classrooms, in the school corridors, and during school activities.

“The only time students take off their masks is when they eat lunch,” said Newhall. “They know what they need to do to be able to go to school and play sports. And the students have been great at really following the rules.”

Newhall, who also coaches the girls basket-

ball team, has the Lady Spartans rolling along with a 9-1 record, the lone setback to reigning Division 1 South champion Bridgewater Raynam. Senior guard Nikolette D’Itria of Revere is one of the team’s leading scorers.

The boys basketball team, coached by Winthrop Police Officer David Brown Sr., is also excelling. Coach Brown’s son, sophomore guard David Brown Jr., has emerged as a star with 32 and 33-point individual performances to-date.

The boys hockey team led by Hall of Fame Coach Mark Lee, is again one of the contenders in the powerful Catholic Central League. One of St. Mary’s elite college prospects is Dante D’Ambrosio of Revere.

While the MIAA State Tournament has been canceled due to the coronavirus, Catholic Central League teams will compete for the CCL Cup in a single-elimination, intra-league tournament following the regular season.

Sacred Heart School happy to be back

When Gov. Charlie Baker ordered all schools closed in March, Sacred Heart School Principal Kristina Relihan had a remote-learning plan in operation within two weeks and the well-administered academic process continued successfully through the end of the school year.

Sacred Heart returned to full, in-classroom learning in September.

“We’re happy to be back in person everyday with our scholars,” said Relihan, who is in her third year as principal at the well-known Catholic school in Lynn. “We do have some families who have chosen to keep their scholars remote, but we just updated technology to ensure that scholars can Zoom in to the classroom or be in person in the classroom.”

The health of the Sacred Heart community is supreme, aided by the installation of hand-washing stations in every classroom and multiple hand-sanitizing stations throughout the school, along with updated cleaning protocols.

Sacred Heart, a sister school of St. Mary’s Middle and High School, has students ranging from its youngest class at 2 years, 9 months, to pre-K and Kindergarten, and all the way up to grade five.

“Even the little ones keep their masks on,” said Relihan.

During lunchtime, scholars are socially distanced six feet apart at tables in the large school gymnasium. Students in the early



Kristina Relihan
Sacred Heart Principal

childhood program have lunch in a socially distanced arrangement in their classrooms.

Sacred Heart School has an excellent teacher-to-student ratio that has been lauded by parents. There are 23 members of the faculty educating the school’s 190 students.

“Our enrollment has stayed about the same,” said Relihan. “I think COVID-19 definitely limited our capacity in classrooms because of socially distancing and making sure that we’re adhering to the six-foot rule between desks and between children and that there’s enough space for everyone to safely to be in the classroom.”

“But looking to the future, we hope to see the expansion of early childhood and expansion of grades 1-5 – just continuing to offer a great education at Sacred Heart,” added Relihan.

Relihan, a dynamic, hands-on administrator who holds undergraduate and master’s degrees from

Wheelock College, is excited about Sacred Heart’s educational partnership with St. Mary’s of Lynn, which is led by St. Mary’s Head of School Dr. John Dolan.

“It’s going really well – we are a 2.9 (years) to grade 12 continuum, which is something that is not seen in many Catholic schools today, so it’s exciting to be a part of it,” said Relihan.

The principal said the transition to the new learning environment at Sacred Heart has been made possible by a professional and cooperative faculty.

“Our teachers are truly rock stars,” said Relihan. “They come to school every day and have passion to do this work. Everyone here is amazing. We all work together and make it through each day.”

Relihan commended George Sonia and his staff at Lancelot for their diligent efforts in keeping the school clean.

Addressing the trying times in elementary school education caused by the coronavirus, Relihan said, “I’m very positive in a not-so-known time. I think what we’re offering here at Sacred Heart is positivity and reinforcement that we can be in school and learn every day in person.”

If you’re interested in enrolling at Sacred Heart for the 2021-2022 school year please visit our website <https://www.sacred-heartsschoollynn.org> and schedule a Tour Tuesday today.

St. Anthony / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

COVID-19 guidelines after teachers stressed them as part of the education plan this year.

“Honestly, I am impressed,” she said. “It’s unbelievable to see the 3 and 4-year-olds keeping their masks on and following the instructions. They have been so well-behaved.”

However, Principal Gigie said it has been an effort of every administrator,

student and teacher in the building to keep school going in-person and to avoid any pitfalls brought on by COVID-19. It has simply been a blessing to be counted, she said.

“We’re blessed with our teachers, to see what they do every day,” she said. “Everybody is in it together because the most important thing is that we keep everyone in the school and provide an opportunity for parents to send their kids to school in person. We have been continually blessed by that.”

ant thing is that we keep everyone in the school and provide an opportunity for parents to send their kids to school in person. We have been continually blessed by that.”

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Malden / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

a separate half of the same school building).

“My original plan when I applied for the job was that in Year 3 we’d be varsity,” said Keane. “But we had a really good freshman class with a lot of good pieces, and I knew since we were independent, I’d make my own schedule and we were very lucky – a 15-5 record is pretty respectable for a first-year program with only sophomores and freshmen.”

Athletes from several nearby communities are playing varsity basketball, including freshmen Luna Murray and Marcella Bonfardeci of Revere and Mary Turco of Winthrop.

Malden Catholic has added junior varsity and freshman teams. Jess Popken is the junior varsity coach while Mike Gioia is the freshman coach. There are 38 players participating in the program.

A retired Somerville district fire chief, Keane formerly served as the head girls basketball coach at Wilmington High School for eight seasons (2005-13). He played high school basketball at St.

Mary’s, Cambridge.

“My senior year, we were undefeated and played Cathedral in the (Division 3) North finals at the old Boston Garden,” recalled Keane. “Cambridge Rindge and Latin was undefeated and played Don Bosco right after us, so all the Cambridge fans were rooting for us. We had a pretty good rooting section.”

Keane is happy that his Malden Catholic team is competing in a season amidst the concerns and challenges of the coronavirus. Coaches and players must wear masks during games and practices.

“We’re just lucky to be playing basketball,” he said. “We talked about it with the kids how fortunate we are to be in the gym. It’s been a challenging year but it’s just good to get them in the gym and have some sense of normalcy.”

Malden Catholic Director of Athletic Bill Raycraft is being lauded by coaches, players, and parents for being so supportive of the program and giving it resources it needs

to be competitive.

“He’s really done a great job, especially this year with all the changes and craziness that’s been surrounding schools and sports,” said Keane. “He’s been great at expanding the entire girls’ athletic program.”

The future is certainly bright for the MC girls’ basketball program.

“No. 1, the school has outstanding academics and our athletes love being at the school,” said Keane. “Girls’ sports are starting to take off. We were the first girls’ team [at MC] to go varsity last year. The school really rallied around us and now this year the other programs are scheduling varsity games.”

Perhaps as early as next season when the MIAA Tournament hopefully returns, the MC girls basketball players might realize the incredible experience that their coach Jay Keane enjoyed many years ago: playing a championship game on the famed parquet floor of the Boston Garden.

GBL athletics update: Revamped schedule announced

Everett High School is planning to begin its winter athletic season next month, with interscholastic games scheduled to start on March 1, under the details of a new timeline released by the Greater Boston League (GBL).

This is dependent upon a final approval by the Everett Board of Health later this month.

Everett High School (EHS) will begin tryouts and preseason training on Monday, February 1 for boys and girls basketball and coed hockey. Games will be played between March 1 and April 10. (The MIAA will not hold any state tournaments during this school year.)

EHS students are reminded to submit a current physical and any necessary paperwork to Athletic Director Tammy Turner as soon as possible.

Everett is joined in the GBL by existing members Malden, Medford, Revere, and Somerville. Lynn English, Lynn Classical and Chelsea high schools will officially join the league in September of 2021, but they will be included in

the GBL’s sports schedules this year.

“I continue to be impressed with, and have full confidence in, the collective effort to allow our student athletes to play the sports they love,” said EPS Superintendent Priya Tahiliani. “It has been a long process filled with stops and starts, but it is worth it because we know the profound social and emotional benefits sports offer.”

Looking ahead, the GBL is planning to hold a Fall 2 season from April 12 through May 15. For Everett, this includes football, volleyball, boys and girls soccer, golf, cross country, and field hockey. Athletes who compete in these sports will be allowed to participate in preseason conditioning and training during the winter season.

The year will conclude with a spring season from May 17 through July 3. The Crimson Tide will compete in baseball, softball, tennis, lacrosse, outdoor track, and crew. Athletes who compete in these sports will be allowed to

participate in preseason conditioning and training during the Fall 2 season.

GBL athletic directors and trainers, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association and medical professionals, have already established exhaustive Covid-19 guidelines and protocols for practice sessions and games. This includes a series of on-field rules that enhance player safety, restrictions on fans, social distancing on bench areas, and face coverings. This plan was approved by the Everett School Committee last month.

In the coming days and weeks, trainers and coaches will research and implement ways in which athletes can best prepare for the for interscholastic competitions after as long as a one-year hiatus. Meanwhile, GBL athletic directors will finalize any outstanding details about its restructured athletic seasons, all of which will be shared as soon as possible.

Tide / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

meeting. “At first, that is like ‘What?’ Well, the folks that run the Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C., saw how good the Everett band was when we went there and said we had to get an invite to represent the state of Massachusetts at the 2021 Pearl Harbor commemoration...This is going to be the last time they do it. There are only two survivors left from the Arizona. It’s going to be an extraordinary occurrence...It’s historic. It’s the biggest thing we’ve ever done. For us to represent Everett and Massachusetts and be part of this event – it will be with us forever.”

State Sen. Sal DiDomenico and O’Brien have been working for several months to figure out how to make the trip happen, and he said he is excited to see Everett play a part in an historic occasion.

“This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our students, and it was a month’s long process to bring us to this point,” he said. “I am so excited to see our students be a part of history as they play at Pearl Harbor. Gene O’Brien’s relationships with organizers and

the reputation of our band has put our school at the top of the list and given our kids a chance to show people around the country how amazing and talented our students are. Our kids deserve this, and I am happy to be a small part of this journey. I can’t wait to be there, as we were in Washington, D.C., to see them perform for our veterans, their families, and dignitaries from around the world.”

O’Brien said the plan would be to take 100 kids this coming December to Hawaii for the occasion. He would take the entire Crimson Tide Marching Band, some of the choral students and some of the string students. The ceremony would take place on Dec. 7, and O’Brien plans to begin practicing outside in June for the event – hoping that things would be safe enough by then to begin rehearsals such as were done last summer.

The Band has a long history of accolades, going to Washington, D.C., parades seven times and, 20 years ago, playing at the Orange Bowl with a large group at the halftime of the College Football National Championship game. So, saying this is

the biggest thing they’ve ever done gives quite a perspective as to what this event will be.

The School Committee was enthusiastically in favor of the request to approve the trip, and threw their full support behind it.

“I throw my full support behind this,” said School Committeeman Marcony Almeida Barros. “This is going to be amazing. I’m glad it’s in December and hopefully the pandemic, if not gone, will have subsided by then.”

Mayor Carlo DeMaria said he would do everything in his power to help raise the money it will take to transport and provide for the band in Hawaii.

“For public school students from Everett to go to Honolulu and represent us there, that’s amazing,” he said.

“You and your young people never cease to amaze me,” said School Committeewoman Millie Cardillo.

The Committee approved the project by a 9-0 vote.

“Aloha!” quipped O’Brien before signing off from the meeting.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

CONCERNS
OVER EVICTION
MORATORIUM
EXPIRING

CHELSEA -A key concern in Chelsea and surrounding communities since last November has been the lifting of the eviction moratorium and how that might affect thousands of residents and their housing situations, but initial statistics through Jan. 1 from the state Housing Court show Chelsea seems to be in a good position so far with a lower number of filed evictions for non-payment of rent.

It's a piece of good news in what has been a huge worry for elected officials and advocates over the past several months, with many worrying that joblessness as a result of the pandemic could lead to massive numbers of people without homes. So far, that hasn't come true in the official stats, to the relief of everyone.

In Housing Court, to begin an eviction process one must file a Summary Process Eviction for non-payment of rent. It is a standard process for most landlords and tenants, but it had been frozen during COVID-19 until last fall – when Housing Court opened back up for evictions in October.

While other locales have been swamped with such filings, Chelsea has had just 129 Summary Process Evictions filed for all of 2020. That was a little more than 10 per month and showed that the City has staved off the onslaught of filings that many expected. It's not the case in other places like Worcester, Fall River and New Bedford.

Worcester led the state with 874 filings as of Jan. 1 for all of 2020. Springfield had 711, Fall River had 604, and Brockton had 315. All were well

above Chelsea's numbers.

Chelsea did have a lot in common with Everett and Revere, which also expected a lot of filings but so far have not had so many. Everett had 87 filings and Revere had 154 – all well-below what was expected and, like Chelsea, places where substantial resources were directed to stemming the tide.

City Manager Tom Ambrosino said he felt really good about the numbers and the resources the City has marshaled to keep evictions from happening in large numbers.

"It's good news and I don't have a specific explanation, but we have put a lot of resources and money to assist people," he said. "We have helped residents fill out RAFT applications and our own rental assistance applications and program. We have the Chelsea Legal Aid Clinic and the Eviction Task force that intervene quickly. I'm hopeful all of these things are helping the situation. These statistics seem to be a positive trend."

At the same time, he said statistics only tell the official story, and he has heard from advocates that many illegal evictions are happening that don't show up on paper.

"I have no doubt that does occur and that's why we set up the Chelsea Legal Aid Clinic – a place to call and get advice," he said. "I agree that is a reality in these communities."

City Solicitor Cheryl Fisher Watson chairs the effort at the Chelsea Legal Services Housing Clinic – as it is officially known – and said it has helped avoid evictions before they happen in court.

"Chelsea has a unique approach to combating evictions and have armed our residents with different options," she said. "The Chelsea Legal Services Housing Clinic is

not only representing residents of all incomes in evictions, but also it is making sure they are connected with services within our community.

For example, she said tenants are referred to the City and other agencies for rent help through the state RAFT program and also referrals are made to housing agencies. The Clinic members right now are meeting residents twice a week at La Colaborativa to discuss their options. Meanwhile, Greater Boston Legal Services and the Volunteer Lawyers Project are also helping and representing residents that make it to court.

"There is a referral network in place," she said. "Our Landlords are also doing their part by not pursuing evictions and working with the Clinic and the City."

State Sen. Sal DiDomenico said keeping up the effort will be critical in the next few months, but he is encouraged to see that it appears the current efforts are succeeding in Everett and Chelsea.

"We have to continue working to ensure that we don't have any evictions," said Senator DiDomenico. "But, we can see that the work being done in our community through state and local partnerships has had positive outcomes for many residents. There is still much more work to be done and we will keep pushing to get resources to address our housing crisis."

On the streets of Chelsea though – similar to Everett – there is another story and that's the one that doesn't appear on paper, as Ambrosino said.

La Colaborativa Director Gladys Vega said the two things that keep her up at night during the pandemic have been food insecurity and housing. Food has an easy answer

she said; Getting resources and distributing them. Housing is much different in Chelsea, as there are so many unofficial and complex living situations. They aren't the kind of situations that would show up on official court statistics.

"The numbers may show something, but the reality is totally different," she said.

The organization has four staff members dedicated to housing, including Norieliz DeJesus. She said much of the problem is there are tenant subleases, and extended family situations, and other non-traditional living arrangements that disintegrate in the stress of COVID-19.

"There are a lot of people that sublease in the community and who out of fear abandon their homes before they get to court," she said. "They often leave because they're getting harassed by the landlord at times...Other tenants may be paying their rent, but they're doing it because they're borrowing money or they aren't paying their bills and letting them skyrocket for heat and electricity. We've seen where landlords are using utilities to push tenants out. They control the switches and they turn off the lights or heat until they leave."

"It's really hard to categorize the situations we see because there are so many dynamics, and they don't show up on paper," she continued.

She retold the story of a teen mother who was kicked out of her home by her mother, an eviction that wouldn't show up on any statistics, but one that creates an emergency situation, nonetheless.

"Some family tenant situations aren't showing up on paper because they're coming from family members evicting other family members," she said. "I have a young mother who is 18 with a baby and her mother told her to leave because she couldn't find a job. She was on the street. We had to try to find her housing and a hotel for a few nights. That didn't show up on court stats because it was within the family – in fact her mother."

Many expect the numbers of filed evictions to increase in the coming months, but a nationwide rebound in the economy is also predicted for the second half of 2021 – leading many to believe at the City and state level that getting through the last two months and the next four could be enough to avert a housing disaster – at least on paper.

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The Chelsea Public Schools would like to congratulate Grace Noble, Chelsea High School Science Teacher, for being named Mass Insight Education & Research Partners in Excellence Teacher Award recipient for her exemplary work in Advanced Placement STEM and English Program. Noble is one of 16 Massachusetts AP teachers being recognized for her outstanding contributions to student success during the 2019-2020 academic year. As an honoree, she will be presented with a plaque and \$750 honorarium in recognition of her achievement.

NEW CLOTHING
DROP OFF BOX

EAST BOSTON - It's hard to believe that more than 85 percent of clothes wind up in the trash. While it's the norm to recycle plastics, glass, metal and paper--clothes, shoes, and accessories have long been ignored. Studies show that about 10 percent of the nation's landfills are full of discarded clothes and textiles.

Boston Public Works (BPW) announced recently that it now has fourteen drop-off locations around the city for recycling clothing and textiles--this includes East Boston.

The location in Eastie at the city's municipal lot located at 166 London St. accepts everything from pants, shorts, curtains, pajamas, t-shirts, jerseys, sweatshirts, sweaters, jeans, dresses, coats, suits, shoes, blankets, and backpacks.

"Locations were started in municipal lots since they are managed by the City and space is there," said BPW's Brian Coughlin. "We're now working with neighborhood groups to help identify private land that we can use. Also we are working with BPL, BPS and BFD facilities personnel as we look to expand this service."

Coughlin said in Boston, about seven percent, or 14,000 tons of all city trash annually are clothes and other textiles.

The city has partnered with HELPSY to offer this new service to Eastie and

Boston residents.

"Our goal is to support recycling, responsible handling of overstock and returns and changing the way the fashion industry thinks of the clothing life cycle," said the company in a statement. "Ninety-five percent of all clothing, shoes and other textiles can be given a second life--50 percent are reusable, 45 percent are recyclable. Local thrift stores play a necessary role in the resale economy, however they can only handle 10-20 percent of what they receive."

HELPSY said all collected materials from the bins are sold to national and international retailers, wholesalers and recyclers. This works the same way as any other recycled materials collected from the public.

"Seventy percent of the world buys used clothing," the company said. "Our buyers sell to countries who pay for the clothes. If banned, the primary economic alternative would be more fast fashion. Reselling used clothes is the best way to give clothes a second life, mitigating their environmental impact."

LOCAL
RESTAURANTS
STILL HURTING

EAST BOSTON - East Boston restaurants and bars have been some of the hardest hit small businesses by the COVID-19

See REGION Page 11

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Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

pandemic, and the resulting economic downturn that has swept the nation.

While there’s been some temporary relief through extended outdoor seating capacity programs as well as local bars able to offer liquor-to-go, some smaller operations are still finding it hard to pay for the necessary components to make outdoor dining a reality.

Luckily, the new partnership between East Boston Main Streets (EBMS) and local real estate developers is providing much needed financial support to local restaurants as they reopened and found their footing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eastie Strong, the grant program hatched by EBMS and local real estate developers, announced its second round of awardees as part of the ‘Adopt a Patio’ program. The Adopt a Patio provides capital to fund reopening costs related to complying with COVID-19 restrictions. The funds are used to purchase items such as outdoor furniture, umbrellas, and space heaters for the winter.

“We are excited to release our first round of funding and know it will be a lifeline to many of these small and locally owned businesses,” said EBMS Executive Director Gladys Oliveros.

The second round of awardees include: Maverick’s (\$1,500); La Hacienda Restaurant and Bar (\$1,000); La Gran Manzana (\$1,000); La Fonda Colombiana (\$1,000); Toasted Flats (\$1,000); and Tawakal Halal Cafe (\$1,000).

The first round of awards was announced in November and in-

cluded: Mexicali Sushi Bar (\$1,000); Taco Mex (\$1,000); Rincon Limeño Restaurant (\$1,000); La Casa del Pan Debono (\$1,000); Dirty Water Dough (\$1,000); Pazza on Porter (\$1,500); Mi Pueblo (\$1,000); Pueblo Viejo Pupuseria & Mexican Grill (\$1,000); and Luna’s Italian and Latin Cuisine Restaurant (\$1,000).

Restaurateurs like Fernando Rosas, who owns La Casa del Pan Debono, said the Eastie Strong grant program has been a lifesaver.

“I appreciate all the help provided by East Boston Main Street throughout the whole past year, especially in the past month,” said Rosas. “La Casa del Pan Debono has been affected tremendously by this pandemic. We are barely making rent or payroll and last month we were having a very tough time making ends meet. I was one of the many lucky restaurants to receive the grant for \$1,000 and it helped us more than we could’ve ever imagined. We were able to give some bonuses to our employees, pay for our electricity bill and use some for our bi-weekly payroll.”

Stephen Davis of The Davis Companies said his company wanted to find a way to help our tenants as well as contribute to the local restaurant economy which has suffered greatly during the pandemic.

David Grossman of the Grossman Companies, who is spearheading the fundraising component of the program with The Davis Companies, said, “Thanks to East Boston Main Streets we can help our tenants afford a night out while providing a financial lifeline to restaur-

rants and support the overall health of the East Boston economy.”

Other sponsors of the program include: Rose-land, MG2; Seyfarth Shaw LLP; Trinity Financial; Volnay Capital; Lend-Lease; Winn Residential; Norfolk Kitchen and Bath; Cranshaw Construction; East Boston Savings Bank; and The Trustees of Reservations.

The program is managed by local consulting firm, the Novus Group.

According to Oliveros the new initiative also has a second component. While the first is the Adopt a Patio program the other is the “Gift Card Program”. Local real estate developers and sponsors will distribute gift cards directly to tenants for use only at participating local restaurants.

“Over the course of the pandemic, we have discovered many unique challenges that local restaurants face: lack of access to government Pay-check Protection Program (PPP) loans, decreased revenue from customers, and the need for capital to help cover the cost of creating new outdoor seating,” said Oliveros. “This partnership will help address these problems while encouraging East Boston residents to dine at the many wonderful restaurants operating locally.”

Rep. Adrian Madaro called the new program ‘awesome’ and will be a big boost to the local economy.

“This is a great example of nonprofits and the private sector coming together as a community to help each other out during a very difficult time,” said Madaro.

School Committee votes to make vaccines central to hybrid education plan

By Seth Daniel

The Everett School Committee voted unanimously on Jan. 19 to make the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines for teachers and staff central to their plan to return students to an in-person hybrid education model sometime in March.

The marathon meeting took nearly five hours to complete, and about 80 percent of it was devoted to the hybrid issues – and most of the concerns elicited form a large number of teachers in the first 90 minutes of public testimony seemed to be based on erroneous information.

The membership of the Everett Teachers Union (ETA) sent more than 400 e-mails to members of the Committee that day, Jan. 19, with concerns about what they perceived as an immediate return to school. Those concerns were heard, but the plan was far from immediate once rolled out by Supt. Priya Tahiliani.

The cornerstone of the new plan – which still does not have any dates attached to it but would in a best case scenario be some time in mid-March – lies with the City’s ability to be the first community to prioritize educators and get them both doses of the vaccine before students return to the classroom with them. Tahiliani said the driving force behind going forward while cases are still above the stated metric is the ability to get vaccine for educators.

“Our decision is based on two recent and major developments,” said Tahiliani. “One of these is a vaccine and the other is our collaboration with the City of Everett in choosing to prioritize our educators in the rollout of clinics. The availability of the vaccine is the biggest variable in us choosing to transition to hybrid from almost fully remote. It was not until Everett’s COVID-19 numbers died down that we began considering these changes.”

Mayor Carlo DeMaria – who attended the meeting for the first time as a voting member – said he had put in an order to the state for 950 doses of the vaccine for educators. By press time on Tuesday, the City was still waiting on a decision from Gov. Charlie Baker about whether or not the City will get the vaccine.

The plan would include four phases in order to return to a hybrid model – which would be voluntary for students and families, as they can still opt to remain fully remote through the end of the year if they wish. Teachers would be expected to be in the classroom teaching and not teaching remotely in the Everett hybrid education model.

The plan is as follows:

- Phase 1 would include a vaccination clinic on Feb. 6 at City Hall to vaccinate about 300 teachers and staff using about seven nurses.
- Phase 2 would be two days of Professional Development to go over strategies and best practices for teaching in a hybrid mode.
- Phase 3 would be about 28 days after Phase 1 and includes the second dose of the vaccine.
- Phase 4 includes the return of students to the classroom.

“There are no specific dates,” said Tahiliani. “The dates will be contingent on the ability of the City to get us the vaccine and the City is working as quickly as possible to get as many doses as possible, but there are some things like that which are out of our control...The vaccine is integral to this plan.”

The plan also includes students coming back staggered by group and grade level, with substantially separate special education students first, and going up by grade level.

ETA President Kim Auger said there are still some questions, but she considered the City prioritizing educators and staff as a “gift” and gave support to the plan.

“The vaccination plan is very, very exciting,” she said. “We are one of the first districts to be a part of something like that. That teachers are being given the vaccine as a priority... is probably the best gift they could receive. That’s really, really important to all of us to make sure we’re safe and in turn our students are safe.”

She said it was very important to the membership that teachers have both doses in their arms before kids attempt to return to the buildings for school sessions.

Every School Committee member was supportive, including Mayor DeMaria – who said it was

a good and solid plan and the City is working hard to make it a reality.

“My purpose is to work with you all so our kids can close the achievement gap,” he said. “As the mayor working with the City Council I’d like to identify some funds to do summer enrichment programs and bring these programs in for kids who may have lost some time and need to get up to speed before the fall. This is a good plan and I feel comfortable with it.”

School Committee-woman Dana Murray said it is up to the schools to meet the needs of the community and not to tell them what’s best for children.

“At the end of the day, it’s not our job to tell our parents whether or not they should have their children return to school,” she said. “That’s the job of the parents to decide. When we as educators, a school system, City Hall or the School Committee infringe on those things... we should have a very good reason for it. Once you take away the teachers vaccination reason, there aren’t a lot of very good reasons to not go back to a hybrid situation as long as you give parents the option to choose to keep children remote at home.”

A second part of the programming once students do return to the classroom is an aggressive testing program. That program would include pool testing and rapid testing used in combination. The federal government has agreed to pay for six weeks of pool testing, and then the district would have to pay after that. The Rapid Testing is available from the state and federal government at no cost for districts that have kids in the classroom. The way it would work is that everyone is tested with a swab for the pool test, and groups of up to 25 would be tested together. If that comes out positive, the group in the pool would all have to have a rapid test. If the pool is negative, then there is no further action.

Together, with vaccinations, Tahiliani said she believes they have built a framework for a safe return to school.

That message seems to be in line with a majority of the parents in the district, according to a survey conducted in multiple languages. Interestingly, those that performed the survey were about 50-50 on returning or not.

Meanwhile, those speaking a different language were more eager to return students to the classroom, particularly Portuguese speakers – who had 72 percent say they wanted to send their kids to a hybrid model.

For English speakers in the survey, 599 said ‘yes’ to a return, and 584 said ‘no’ to the return. Among the English Learners (EL) families, 433 wanted to return and 217 did not.

Overall 56 percent said they would send kids back, and 46 percent said they would not.

“The number of ‘no’ responses does point to an apprehension from a significant amount of families,” she said. “It also supports our decision to allow remote throughout the school year. Conversely, we are excited that we have so many families that are interested to returning to in-person teaching and learning.”

Whos Your Valentine?



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Published Feb. 10 & 11

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Superintendents’ Round Table calls on Baker to reclassify educators COVID-19 vaccination

The North Shore Superintendents’ Round Table and Union presidents from their 29 Districts are calling on Gov. Charlie Baker to reclassify educators in the state’s vaccination distribution plan to make them eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine during Phase 1.

The administrators issued a letter to Gov. Baker last week outlining the basis of their request.

Phrase 1 of the plan began in December 2020 and will continue into February. Gov. Baker announced yesterday all groups in Phase 1 are now eligible to receive the vaccine. This includes COVID-19 facing health care providers, first responders, staff and residents at congregate care settings, and other prioritized groups.

Through the state’s current plan, educators are in the second group to become eligible for the vaccine through Phase 2, which will begin in February and continues into March.

In the letter, administrators point to decisions by other states to prioritize educators as essential workers and therefore vaccinate them earlier, including New York, Connecticut and Maine. In each of those states, there are similar expectations

as have been identified by the Baker-Polito Administration and Department of Elementary and Secondary Health (DESE) to prioritize in-person learning as much as possible in schools.

Below is the letter in full:

Dear Governor Baker,
We, the North Shore Superintendents’ Round Table, write to you as a unified group of 29 administrators joined in this effort by all 29 of the union presidents in our respective districts, to respectfully request that you reclassify educators and make them eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccinations during Phase 1 of the vaccination process.

We cite the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in urging you to prioritize the health and wellbeing of our educators so that Massachusetts school districts can operate at the fullest possible strength as our nation begins to emerge from this global pandemic.

In making our request, we cite the following:

1. Your office and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) have drawn from the guidance and wisdom of the American Academy of Pediatrics, which

strongly advocates for students to return to, at a minimum, an in-person hybrid learning model. AAP further advocates that students should fully return to the classrooms where and when possible.

2. We, as educators and leaders, recognize and agree that the best place for learning for our children is in the classroom.

3. We have a profound responsibility to support the educational, emotional, physical, and mental well-being of the children across the Commonwealth.

4. First responders, healthcare workers, and educators share a commonality in their work in that they must come into contact with dozens or hundreds of people on a daily basis and often cannot be completely socially distant from those they serve.

5. The stress and anxiety placed on educators as they continue to put themselves in this position without the protection of an existing vaccination is unfair and is not in the best interests of advancing public education in the Commonwealth.

6. Beyond the teachers, themselves, there is a very real risk that an educator could expose their own families after contracting COVID-19 in the

performance of their duties.

7. In order to perform our jobs at the level desired by your office, DESE, and the AAP, the professionals in our field should be vaccinated as quickly as possible so they can continue to work with the children they come into contact with daily.

8. The CDC’s guidance focuses on “Preservation of Societal Functions” under which health care personnel, frontline essential workers, and other essential workers are identified for Phase I vaccination. We state, without reservation, that access to public education and access to school facilities is a societal function.

We believe it is inarguable that educators are front line workers. Given the societal need for public school -- not just public school via Zoom -- and the expectations set by your office and DESE, educators should be vaccinated immediately and without delay so that they can perform their duties safely and securely.

While we understand that there is not an inexhaustible supply of vaccines, we believe the vaccination of educators should be a priority and is deserving of Phase 1 status. We also call your attention to other states

of similar educational expectations including New York, Connecticut, and Maine that have classified educators in the first phase of vaccination.

As always, thank you for your leadership during this unprecedented time, and thank you for your consideration.

Those signing it from local district included:

•Chelsea Public Schools - Almi Guajardo Abeyta, Ed.D. (Superin-

tendent) & Don Dabenigno (Union President)

•Everett Public Schools - Priya Tahiliani (Superintendent) & Kimberly Auger (Union President)

•Revere Public Schools - Dianne K. Kelly (Superintendent) & Gina Garro (Union President)

•Winthrop Public Schools - Lisa A. Howard (Superintendent) & Kristen Reynolds (Union President)

Cases of COVID-19 are on the decline

The numbers of COVID-19 cases in Everett backed off again last week from a major surge coming after the holidays, going down from the 600 range two weeks ago to the 200 range this week.

The numbers of COVID-19 cases has dropped steadily over the last two weeks, signaling that the holiday surge of cases has come and gone now. There had been more than 400 cases last week, but this week there were 272 cases reported.

The most recent numbers are as follows:

•Tuesday, Jan. 26 - 13
•Monday, Jan. 25 - 25
•Sunday, Jan. 24 - 24
•Saturday, Jan. 23 - 45
•Friday, Jan. 22 - 31
•Thursday, Jan. 21 - 55
•Wednesday, Jan. 20 - 30

•Tuesday, Jan. 19 - 49
On Monday, Jan. 4, Everett moved its testing full-time indoors at the Samuel Gentile Recreation Center on Elm Street. Testing is done Monday to Thursday, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., and then 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. On Friday and Saturdays, testing is done noon to 6 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Norma Lillian Laskey

Her large extended family and friends will dearly miss her

Norma Lillian Laskey passed away at age 92 on Christmas Day of complications from breast cancer.

Norma was a lifelong resident of Everett who took great pride in being able to recite Albert Parlin’s “Character” until her final days.

Norma was active in the County Road Congregational Church of Chelsea where she served as treasurer for many years. She enjoyed greeting her neighbors from the front porch at her Everett homestead where she lived since 1936.

Upon graduation from Everett High School, Norma was employed by the Middlesex County National Bank in Everett Square, beginning her 43-year career in banking. She was promoted to assistant vice president at BayBank, which later became what is now Bank of America.

Norma enjoyed traveling the United States and abroad, including two trips to Norway and another to London. She truly enjoyed time spent at her summer home in Pemaquid, Maine.

Norma had a great sense of humor and used it



often. She would liven up the family gatherings with her fancy accents, trivia ability, and quick wit. Her large extended family and friends will dearly miss her.

Norma was predeceased by her parents, Allen and Lillie Laskey and her sister, Barbara. She is survived by her brother, Richard Laskey of Medford and by 24 devoted nieces and nephews who she loved dearly.

In light of the ongoing pandemic, services will be planned for a more appropriate time. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Carafa Family Funeral Home in Chelsea. We encourage family and friends to visit www.carafafuneralhome.com to offer condolences at this time by means of the online guest book or to send a personalized sympathy card.

Rita Hurley

Longtime Everett Board of Health Clerk and a founding member of St. Therese Travel Club

Rita M. (Petrino) Hurley of Everett entered into eternal rest on Thursday, January 21 at home surrounded by her loving family. She was 83 years old.

Born in Everett, Rita worked as a clerk in the Board of Health office at the Everett City Hall for many years. Rita and her sister, Virginia were founding members of the St. Therese Travel Club, which, at its peak, had many thousand people as members. The members would look forward to the trips that Rita and Virginia planned because they knew that there would be lots of fun and festivities for all to enjoy. And when they returned home the next questions asked of Rita and Virginia were when the next trip was and where are we going?

The beloved wife of the late William J. Hurley, she was the dear and devoted mother of Laureen Hurley, William J. Hurley, Jr. and his former wife, Lisa Hurley, Lisa Sachetta and her husband, Stephen, Rita Crafts and her husband, Robert H., and Stephen Hurley and his wife, Luciana, all of Everett; sister of Anna Claire and her husband, Gerald of Wilmington and the late



Virginia Petrino; loving grandmother of William J. Hurley and his wife, Samantha, Mark Sachetta, Stephanie Underwood and her wife, Abbey Underwood, Robbie Crafts and his wife, Lexie, Briana Sachetta, Casey Chapman, Eric Crafts and his wife, Marie, Jessica Hurley and her partner, Keenan Shelton, Ryan Hurley, Anthony Hurley and Maria Felice Hurley and the late Nicole Fletcher. Rita is also survived by eight loving great-grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Caffasso & Sons Funeral Home, Everett. A Funeral Mass in the Immaculate Conception Church, Everett was followed by interment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

John Theodore Zervas

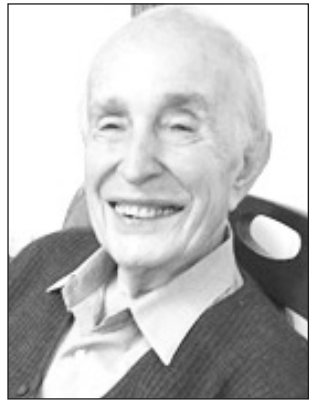
He will be remembered for his kindness, devotion to his family and dedication to his faith.

John Theodore Zervas of Everett passed away peacefully on January 22 at the age of 90.

John is survived by his wife, Irene and their children: Theodore Zervas, Helen Zervas and her fiancé, Chris Ziogas, James Zervas, Nicolette Zervas, Sophia and her husband, Rich Grant and Katerina and her husband, George Georges; his grandchildren: Irena and Yanna Zervas, Lauren and Ryan Grant, Evyenia, Ereeny and Eliana Georges; Allison Joyner, and Mariah Woodbury. He is also survived by his sister Penelope Papaioannou and her family. He was loved by many more close family and friends.

John was born in the village of Prosimni, Greece. In order to pursue his education and further his ambitions, he immigrated to Portland, Oregon. After attending the University of Portland, John became a proud member of the U.S. Navy. Soon after, he married his wife with whom he spent 57 years of marriage. He dedicated over forty years of his life overseas as a civil servant for the U.S. Air Force before moving to Everett.

John will be remembered for his kindness, his devotion to his family, and his dedication to his faith. John respected all people. He was a man who spoke from his heart. No matter what the situation, he always made the time to talk, visit, or



support others in any way that he could. He was an ambitious, successful, and happy man. He truly enjoyed being in the company of others and, through his storytelling, making them laugh. He was an invaluable mentor to his children; he guided them with his patience and commitment. John’s favorite times were spent with his family and friends. He was a passionate vegetable gardener, wine-maker, and he took immense pride visiting his home villages of Prosimni and Vassaras in Greece.

Services will be held at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Cambridge today, Wednesday, January 27. Visitation in church from 10 to 11 a.m. Funeral services at 11 a.m. Services will also be streamed live on Facebook on “Hellenic Orthodox Community - Sts. Constantine and Helen Church.” In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 14 Magazine Street, Cambridge, MA 02139 <http://stsconstantineandhelen-cambridge.org/>

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860-541-3400

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from Glendale Towers)
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617-387-2916
PastorDavidJack-
son58@gmail.com
Pastor's Office Hours:
Saturdays 10 AM to 2 PM.
Other times by
appointment.

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PLEASE RECYCLE



Encore prepares to resume 24-hour service Jan. 27

By Seth Daniel

Encore Boston Harbor announced last Friday that, due to the lifting of state restrictions, it will re-open 24-hours a day starting Weds., Jan. 27, and that expansion will allow them to bring back 500 furloughed employees.

It is a change that is a long-time coming as the casino has been hampered by a 9 p.m. closing time for several weeks, though still attracting customers to the gaming floor. The change also allows more employees to come back to work – perhaps the best news for many Everett residents.

“As a result of the curfew being lifted and Encore being able to resume 24-hour operations, we are pleased to be bringing back 500 people who were previously on furlough,” said Spokeswoman Rosie Salisbury this week.

Encore Boston Harbor announced Friday that, as the Commonwealth lifted curfew regulations

on Jan. 25, and pending approval from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC), it will begin re-opening with a phased plan which will allow guests to safely enjoy extended hours and amenities that have been previously closed due to COVID-19, including opening the hotel and spa in February.

Councilor Michael McLaughlin, who represents the area, said he was glad to see Gov. Charlie Baker open the gates to allow the casino to have more leeway, particularly since there have been no major outbreaks attributed to Encore since it re-opened last summer.

“I am pleased that, finally, Gov. Charlie Baker has agreed to let go of the strong hold on what I would call the wrong focus and give businesses the opportunities needed to move forward,” he said. “I hope he will continue by shortly increasing capacity from 25 percent.”

The resort will offer the same exceptional service and gold standard health and safety protocols that guests have come to know and expect from Encore, a Wynn Resort.

On Monday, January 25 and Tuesday, January 26, the casino extended its hours from 9 a.m. until midnight. Starting Wednesday, January 27, the casino plans to be open 24-hours a day, seven days a week. The hotel will begin hosting guests Thursday through Sunday evenings starting on Thursday, February 4, and The Spa will re-open on Saturdays and Sunday beginning Saturday, February 6.

Resort amenities available include:

- A 210,000 square foot casino floor which has been reconfigured to safely accommodate social distancing while still providing a superior gaming experience. Available in the casino:
- Table games
- Slots
- Dynasty Games
- Electronic Table Games
- Video Poker
- High Limit Table Games
- High Limit Slots
- Wynn Rewards

A variety of dining options with varying schedules for breakfast, lunch and dinner, including:

- Rare Steakhouse
- Red 8
- Fratelli
- Mystique
- On Deck Burger Bar
- Encore Ramen x Cantina
- Lucky Dogs
- Dunkin’

Retail Outlets:

- The Drugstore
- Wynn Beauty
- Wynn Collection
- Wynn Sports
- Watches of Switzerland

Numerous health and safety measures will remain in place and include:

- The resort will continue to operate under a 25% capacity model per State regulations;
- Non-invasive thermal temperature scans at all

guest and employee entrances;

- Mandatory face coverings for all employees and guests, provided complimentary for our guests;
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting procedures and increased frequency of all guest areas 24 hours a day;
- Hundreds of hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipe stations available throughout the resort; and
- Appropriate and comfortable physical distancing in all gaming and dining areas.



Encore Boston Harbor aligned the lights in its hotel tower last weekend to spell out the word ‘Soon,’ referring to the casino’s full re-opening to 24 hours this week, and the re-opening of the hotel and spa in early February.

All Encore Boston Harbor employees have been thoroughly trained in health and safety protocols. Encore Boston Harbor’s Health and Safety Plan was created in consultation with leading public health professionals in addition to MGC requirements and recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The full plan can be viewed on encorebostoninfo.com.

FROM THE MAYOR’S OFFICE

2021 STATE OF THE CITY SLATED FOR FEB. 4

Mayor Carlo DeMaria is pleased to announce that the 2021 State of the City address will occur on Thursday, February 4 at 7 p.m. The event will be held virtually.

“I’m looking forward to providing our residents an update on the City as well

as sharing an outlook for the future. 2021 will be a great year,” said Mayor DeMaria.

The State of the City will be available to view on Facebook Live, ECTV, Zoom, and the City of Everett’s website. To view the State of the City on Zoom, please use the following link, [https://ci-everett-ma.zoom.us/j/95326304744?pwd=U-](https://ci-everett-ma.zoom.us/j/95326304744?pwd=U-VZOd29SZZzRiN3VieWlyUjFGaElsdz09&enter_the_Passcode=852394)

[VZOd29SZZzRiN3VieWlyUjFGaElsdz09](https://ci-everett-ma.zoom.us/j/95326304744?pwd=U-VZOd29SZZzRiN3VieWlyUjFGaElsdz09&enter_the_Passcode=852394) and enter the Passcode: 852394.

STORY TIME WITH MAYOR DEMARIA

Mayor Carlo DeMaria is pleased to announce that he will be hosting monthly virtual story time events beginning on Wednesday, February 3, at 3:30 p.m. During this time, he will be meeting the children of Everett through Zoom to read classic children’s stories.

“I am very excited to read to the Everett children,” said Mayor DeMaria. “Even though I wish I could read to them in-person, reading stories virtually is the safest way to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. I look forward to connecting with the children through the powerful messages that come from these stories.”

Story time will occur on the first Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. Mayor DeMaria is hoping this will help provide the children some normalcy during these difficult times.

To participate in any story time event, please follow the instructions below with Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://ci-everett-ma.zoom.us/j/98244106409?pwd=TERX-dWxhRy95OTISTkNFM-DIKWEIJUT09>
Meeting ID: 982 4410 6409
Passcode: 369790


A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.


POLIO.

As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.


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Saturday: 10am-1:30pm







Visit ebnhc.org/covid19 for other testing sites around Boston