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Everett Independent Newspaper Co.

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Matewsky makes **Committee** assignments

By Seth Daniel

Council President Wayne Matewsky doled out Committee assignments last week, with most everyone finding a place on a Committee.

Matewsky has said under his leadership this year there will be fewer Committees of the Whole and more Committee meetings. He said he would rely on the Committee system to work out the details of issues, and that would hopefully shorten Council meetings and bring about better legislation in a more timely manner.

announced five

See MATEWSKY Page 3

SENIOR SHOPPING DAY



Mayor Carlo DeMaria is pleased to announce that The Connolly Center Food Pantry will be hosting Senior Shopping Days every Thursday beginning Thursday, January 21, by appointment. Seniors ages 62 and over are invited to come "shop" at The Connolly Center Food Pantry every Thursday between 9 a.m. and noon.

The Connolly Center Food Pantry volunteers will accompany attendees throughout the center. There is no cost to those who participate. Items may vary depending on availability. Seniors who attend the shopping days must wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, and practice social distancing. Upon arrival, all seniors will have their temperature checked to ensure safety. Shopping for seniors is available by appointment only. For additional information and to make an appointment, please call 617-394-2323 or 617-394-2260. Mayor Carlo De-Maria is offering Senior Shopping Days by appointment every Thursday starting this week.

Sign Me Up!

Everett football recruits find a tough road in COVID times

By Seth Daniel

Everett High School (EHS) has produced any number of college football players over the years despite Massachusetts not necessarily being a hotbed nationally for college football talent.

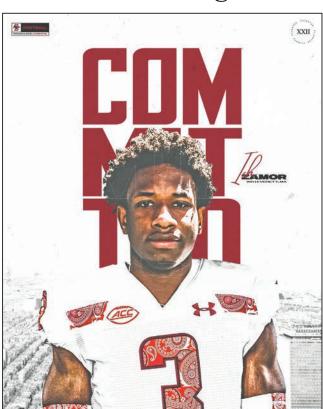
That said, the hidden gem of a high school program has gained great notoriety lately and typically in December, January and February coaches locally and from around the country begin coming to EHS to pay visits to prospective players, to visit with coaches and to see how players are doing in the classroom. On the flip side, players are often heading off for campus visits, perhaps they've even attended a game or two last fall at their prospective college program, and they've built in-person relationships with coaches over the months.

None of that has been possible under COVID-19, and without a football season last fall or recruitment camps last summer, many Everett High players are not getting the looks they might have normally gotten, and are having to figure out alternative ways to grab the attention - or keep the attention – of college coaches. Also, with fewer college scholarships available this year due to existing NCAA players being able to return, the

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Football recruiting in Everett this year has been more difficult than ever due to COVID-19 and not having a season. In October, Junior Ish Zamor committed early to Boston College because not having a season, he feared that spots would be taken quickly and he wanted to have a spot at a school he liked. So, he jumped early based on an existing relationship with the school. Other schools might have offered him had there been a fall season, but there was just no way to know and it was too risky.



Senior Samy Lamothe had been one of the top defensive backs in the state uncommitted to a school before landing at Princeton University last week. He said COVID-19 reinforced his interest in academics as well as football. He has learned through the pandemic that football can be gone in seconds.

competition is fierce to land scholarships that are now few and far between.

Assistant Coach Greg Bluestein said it has been very hard to get kids the "looks" from coaches that

they deserve. With a very talented team that would have played last fall (and hopefully will get a few games in April), it would have been expected to be a very busy time right now

getting coaches in the door and helping student-athletes at EHS line up an increasing number of scholarship offers.

"It's definitely harder to get all the kids the looks they deserve," he said. "Usually around this time of year, we have an influx of coaches coming to the school and we get the transcripts and film and visits lined up. Now, instead of them coming to us, it's become us going to them. We are trying very hard to show them the great kids

we have in Everett." One of the major complications for kids in Everett - who are also competing with other players around the country that did get to play a season last fall and with that have a body of work and film to show coaches - is that there are fewer scholarships this year to go around. While the NCAA granted eligibility for existing players to return and continue to use their scholarships, they didn't grant more scholarships for high school players coming in.

"That's been tough because they've become a little more selective in of-

fering some kids," he said. Many of the kids at EHS are now leveraging the relationships they built before COVID-19 hit, and have been working those relationships all through the pandemic despite not having a fall season or being able to visit campus. Last week, Senior Defensive Back Samy Lamothe committed to play football at Princeton University, which was a school he had been building a relationship with before COVID-19. Meanwhile,

See FOOTBALL Page 26

Serious concerns

School Committee inundated with letters from educators on move to hybrid

Scores of educators in the Everett Public Schools sent letters with serious concerns to the Everett School Committee on Tuesday in anticipation of the vote Tuesday night to potentially approve a plan to move towards a hybrid in-person education model.

The School Committee meeting took place on Tuesday night due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, and came after deadlines for the paper. That said, the topic of moving to a hybrid in-person model came up at the last meeting and an initial plan for the move had the schools returning grade by grade starting on Feb. 1. Meanwhile, last week there were talks between the School Administration and the Everett Teachers Association about a concrete timeline for the return. That timeline is expected to be shared at the Tuesday night meeting.

However, prior to that educators from across the district sent a mass mailing to members of the Committee saying they had major concerns about returning to the classroom and felt they weren't at the

"As an educator of the Everett Public School District, I am very concerned regarding the strategy to move to a hybrid teaching model when the pandemic is currently raging at dangerously high levels," read the letter. "At the time of writing this letter, Everett's positivity rate is 14.5%. While this is not unique to Massachusetts or the rest of the country, the concept of gravitating to a hybrid model is very premature and puts all educators, students, and administrators at risk... Please do what is right for

See CONCERNS Page 2

Schools lay off houseworkers, one councilor cries foul

By Seth Daniel

The Everett Public Schools (EPS) laid off five houseworkers across the district on Jan. 15 to better address teaching and learning in the district, but one City Councilor believes the layoffs were retribution for a controversial vote.

The EPS said the layoffs had nothing to do with personalities or with the recent vote in December by the Council to make the mayor a voting member of the School Committee. It was an ongoing effort to make sure educators who are providing direct contact to stu-

dents can be kept, and the houseworkers did not provide that direct contact.

"To best meet the needs of its students, families, and educators, the Everett Public Schools made a modest reduction in staff during the week ending January 15," read a statement from the schools. "Specifically, the district laid off five houseworkers who support our custodial and maintenance departments. No employee who provides direct services to our students was affected by this decision. Remote and hybrid learning has

created numerous chal-See SCHOOLS Page 2

CITIZENS SUPPORT



Matt Lattanzi, (left) of the Everett Citizens Foundation, presents a check to Larry Russi, Sr. Pastor of Glendale Christian Lighthouse Church. The foundation approved a grant for the church, which is 130 years old this year, for upgrading and restoration of its facilities.

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

Eviction filings soar in other parts of the state, stay fairly low in Everett

A key concern in Everett 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 Everett seems to be in a good position so far with a lower number of

filed evictions. It's a piece of good news in what has been a huge worry for elected officials 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, 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.

While other locales have been swamped with such filings, Everett only had 87 Summary Process Evictions filed for all of 2020. That was far less 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. That was 10 times more than Everett had. Springfield had 711, Fall River had 604, and Brockton had 315. All were well above Everett's

Everett did have a lot in common with Chelsea and Revere too, which also expected a lot of filings but so far have not had so many. Chelsea had 129 filings and Revere had 154 – all well-below what was expected and, like Everett, places where substantial resources were directed to stemming the tide.

Councilor Stephanie Martins, who chairs the City Housing Task Force, said the numbers are very interesting, but have two sides to them. While they do show the City's efforts and the efforts of non-profits have been working, they don't show that many evictions happen under the table and outside a court process.

to all of this in Everett," she said. "There has been a great effort with rent assistance from the City and we have been able to reach a lot of people and have been able to get funds in people's

"There are two sides

hands much quicker than the state RAFT program. That's been a great help to a lot of people. However, I think our numbers don't reflect a lot of tenants who leave when they get the Notice to Quit and whose cases never made it to a court because they didn't know their rights and were under pressure and harassment at times.'

She said in those cases, there is a need for landlords in Everett to be educated. Many, she said, are senior citizens or new immigrants and don't know that there is a court process to evict people. Tenants may not know that either, and so she said much education is needed to stem that problem.

However, she said the low numbers of filings so far this year does also reflect a great deal of effort by the City and herself and other elected officials to face the problem before it got out of hand.

"The fact that we had a rental assistance program was definitely incredibly helpful," she said. "We have reached a lot of people in our diverse communities. Many of these people continue to reach out...The application was easy to navigate."

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

Councilor Michael Mc-Laughlin – who with Martins was an early advocate of starting a rental assistance program - said it showed that people in Everett are getting the help they need, and that many people have continued to work through the pandemic – most on the front lines of their industries.

"I think these numbers show good reason for optimism going into 2021,' he said. "It also shows strong partnering relationships with organizations in the community and strong relationships between the City and state. There has been great work between the mayor, Senator DiDomenico, Stephanie Martins, Gerly Adrien and myself - all working together on this. When we work together we can get these kinds of outcomes."

He added that many Everett residents have continued to work, allowing

Communities/neighborhoods with high eviction filings for non-payment of rent (as of 1/1/21):

- Worcester 874
- Springfield 711 •Fall River – 604
- Dorchester 505
- •New Bedford 496 •Lowell - 414

Brockton – 315

- Framingham 305
- •Lynn 286
- •Lawrence 250 •Revere - 154
- Chelsea 129
- Cambridge 116
- •Everett 87
- •East Boston − 19
- By County: (Top 3

counties) Middlesex County

- 2,039 (803 since November) •Suffolk County -1,944 (576 since No-
- •Worcester County - 1,735 (959 since November)

vember)

them to pay rent and bills, but also put an exclamation point on the need for a vaccine prioritization in

"I would say all of this is a success story for Everett, but it also shows our residents are still going to work and getting paychecks," he said. "Everett has a workforce that's on the front lines and that means a vaccine is so much more important to our community.'

Mayor Carlo DeMaria said the key, so far, has been anticipating problem and training staff to mediate dispute and be proactive in getting people help before it's too late. "The focus of my Ad-

ministration was to jump out ahead of this important issue," said Mayor De-Maria. "The Administration has mediated dozens housing disputes throughout the pandemic acting as third party where both landlord and tenant could talk out their options. As soon as the eviction moratorium was in place, we began educating both tenants and landlords on how the Executive Orders impacted and as well as protected them. The City has utilized CARES Act funding for rental and mortgage assistance to provide some stability to our residents during these unprecedented times. I credit our standing to proper planning, well-trained staff, and the proper resources to help those who needed

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.

Schools / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lenges and variables, including altered budget priorities and staffing needs. This decision, while regrettable, best positions us to give our students the services and support they need during this unprecedented school year."

However, Councilor Michael McLaughlin seemed to think there were other motives behind the layoffs, saying that two of those laid off were former Councilor Peter Napolitano's relatives. He also said such employees are going to be critical if the schools return students to the classroom.

"This action occurred almost immediately after the School Administration was planning to implement a hybrid model bringing students back in person part time," he said. "It is my belief that this is being done because of retaliation on behalf of the Superintendent based on her dislike of a former member of the Everett City Council who now serves as the Assistant City Clerk. This individual has two direct family members who work in this department who were laid off." He said Napolitano had

recently announcing that

voted for making the mayor a voting member of the School Committee, something the superintendent and several Committee members were against. McLaughlin interpreted the recent action as retaliation, he said.

"The former councilman, Mr. Napolitano, voted to make the Mayor a voting member of the Everett School Committee against the Superintendents wishes," he said. "In my opinion it is an extremely short-sighted decision.'

School officials reiterated that the layoffs had nothing to do with the issue of the mayor becoming a voting member of the School Committee.

Concerns / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

this to be a transparent process where all stakeholders have a voice."

our community and allow

Across the board, many educators in the Everett Public Schools have concerns about the district's plan to move students back into the classroom, even on a staggered basis. That sentiment has been growing stronger over the past several weeks as cases have surged in Everett after the holidays, and many educators have only recently learned of the plan. Some have said the membership of the ETA didn't even expect a discussion about returning until positivity rates were at least below 5 percent. With those rates now

approaching 15 percent, many in the ranks were a bit taken by surprise.

Some School Committee members and Supt. Priya Tahiliani have said over the past week that the game-changer in the conversation was the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccine, and that it could become available as soon as early February for Everett educators. That, Tahiliani said, was one reason things changed so rapidly with the plan.

The letter on Tuesday from educators asked for clarification on three key questions from the mem-

being included int eh con-

versation and planning on

The first was about not

the hybrid plan - asking why educators and admin-

the key metric of being below 5 percent positivity rate suddenly doesn't apply. Finally, the letter asks

why such a disruptive move to hybrid in-person education is being considered when it could be risking lives and instruction likely won't improve.

Football / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Junior Wide Receiver Ismael 'Ish' Zamor committed to Boston College in October based on relationships he's had there since 8th grade – perhaps forgoing offers from other Division 1 schools that might have come in what is known as the "jump year" between sophomore and junior football seasons.

"The pandemic was a reason I committed so early," said Zamor this week. "Spots were being filled up and I didn't want to lose the opportunity for a scholarship. I believe it's been very tough because of not being able to play. The junior year is really important because it's the jump year where coaches can look at your progress. I'm putting in the work, but I was planning on having a great junior year last fall. I just hope we can get a few GBL games this spring and guys can get some time on the field and have some film to send coaches."

Zamor said he chose BC because he had been on their radar since he attended a camp there in the 8th grade. When the coaches changed this year, he said they became very interested in him as a player and a person. That made the difference to him, and with things so radically uncertain in the world, he felt it was the time to commit early.

Still, one has to wonder what other opportunities might have come his way had there been no COVID-19, and had there been a fall football season. A recruit on the national radar screen, he said many coaches had wanted to see what he could do his junior year.

"There were schools that wanted to see me play this year and the leap that I made from sophomore to junior year," he said. "If they liked what they saw,

they would have offered me, but I didn't get to play and do that."

who had

Lamothe,

been named as one of the state's top uncommitted defensive backs before last week's news, said he had always been looking at Princeton because he wanted a top-flight Ivy League education for when football wasn't there. Having football and everything else disappear so suddenly with the pandemic, his decision to focus on life outside of football was only more cemented in his choice.

"COVID changed my outlook on everything,' he said. "Football could be over in a matter of seconds. The cases went up here and football was gone. I was able to actually spend time with my family and appreciate waking up and experiencing the day whether good or bad. It shed a light on a lot this year about the college process...I wanted to go to Princeton because I wanted a school with academics and athletics. Even if football doesn't work out I have something to fall back on. My plan B is going to get me far."

Lamothe had been talking with the Princeton coaches since his sophomore year, and they were very interested. But this year was confusing and without a season, it was hard to keep their attention. Once confident he would get there, he said he was considering a post-graduate year in order to figure out things like the cancellation of the SAT test, and the lack of scholarships available to incoming freshmen. With so many unknowns, he said he was resigned to

that until Princeton recent-

istrators were not included in the planning. Second, the letter asks for an explanation of why

It wasn't immediately available how many letters were sent to members of the School Committee by educators, but it was believed on first glance that hundreds were e-mailed.

ful," he said. "Then coach

called and said they would

give me the last spot. It

made things so much eas-

ier. We do have a football

season and I can have some peace because the college process is done." Zamor said he's grateful for the opportunity to play at BC, and to have a scholarship offer and solid relationships that were already in place. However, he said a lot of his teammates have found it very difficult to build those

relationships on Twitter,

over the phone and with

Zoom calls.

"It's definitely tough on them because they're getting more and more competition and they don't have the film for the coaches to look at," he said. "I feel for those guys. Junior and Senior year can be a big year. Others find their spots are filled up. Some of my teammates had offers they lost because the scholarship they had was taken away for returning players. They go to accept the offer, and they're told, 'Oh, you don't have a spot' and they're left with nothing." Bluestein said it has

been a bit intense for the student-athletes - another level of stress to deal with - and it's been tough on the college coaches too. He said they have been working hard to help kids along, to send out film and be pro-active. "It is taking a toll on

them because they don't understand the process and really no one does including the colleges,' he said. "It's figuring this all out on the fly. They're definitely vouching for themselves on film. I'm encouraging kids to e-mail and contact coaches on Twitter. We have a great staff in Everett and they're doing everything they can to help them as well."

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ly called with an offer. "I was signing up to do a post-graduate year, but I stayed patient and hope-

Former Councilor Napolitano chosen as new assistant city clerk

The City Council voted former Councilor Peter Napolitano as the new assistant city clerk last week in a solid 10-0 vote that one councilor said was just another back room deal.

"I've been involved in the City all my life," said Napolitano. "By being a former councilor, I have the benefit of being able to hit the ground running because of my knowledge of City Hall and its operations. Choosing me is a decision you will not regret."

The Council met on Wednesday evening, Jan. 13, to take the final vote on the matter after Councilor Anthony DiPierro ran a marathon, nine-hour, executive session (private) meeting on Saturday, Jan. 9, to sift through more than 31 applicants for the job, interviewing 19 on Zoom. In the end, two showed up for the final vote, Everett resident Colleen O'Neill and former Councilor Napolitano. Four applicants had been referred to the Council for the Jan. 13 meeting by the Legislative Affairs Committee, but two withdrew on the day

of the vote, Jan. 13. Napolitano, in the end, received a solid 10 votes of 11 members, mostly due to the fact he was familiar with the legislative process and City Hall - and wouldn't need as much training. That said, several members had hoped there would be a longer process with more final applicants, and Councilor Gerly Adrien called the process a "sham" and thus did not show up for the meeting or the vote.

"I think it's great that 31 of our residents have applied for this position and want to work for our City," said Councilor Richard Dell Isola. "I wish we could hire both of these candidates."

Said Councilor Michael

McLaughlin, "For me, it won't be a personal decision. We have to think about who we work for and that's the taxpayers of Everett. We have one applicant that will hit the ground running on day one and we need that now due to the times we're in."

Councilor Adrien did not attend the meeting, and characterized the process as another back room



a vote 10-0 to be the new assistant city clerk. deal. She said the deal had been in the works since last summer, and pointed

"I find this whole pro-

cess very disturbing," she

said, noting she did not

attend the meeting or vote

on the matter. "It was not

fair and open to everyone.

This was truly a scam on

the Everett residents and

all who applied for the po-

sition. Leading this City

starts at City Hall and ends

with the administration at

City Hall. I am sick and

tired of seeing the lack of

transparency and all these

backroom deals still hap-

pening in our city. When

also had concerns with the

process, but he did confi-

dently cast his vote for Na-

have been a more thought-

ful process," he said. "The

meeting (on Jan. 9) did go

much smoother than I an-

ticipated. We had a lot of

qualified people. I did think

more individuals should

have been referred out of

the Committee and before

the full Council, but four

applicants were chosen

to go forward. Two have

withdrawn and we had two

very qualified individuals

in front of us. Both can do

the job..., but I feel this

whole process should have

been more thorough and

Le said he felt the final

two candidates were great

choices, but in the end felt

Napolitano would get up to

speed faster than O'Neill.

leen or anything, but for

me I will have to go with

Napolitano because he's

been in government and

would hit the ground run-

"Not to discount Col-

Councilor Jimmy Tri

thoughtful."

"I thought there should

Councilor Fred Capone

will it be enough?"

politano in the end.

his retirement.

Former Councilor Peter

Napolitano was chosen in



sonal though."

Everett's Colleen O'Neill was

Councilor Rosa DiFlorio said both candidates were very qualified, and despite voting for Napolitano, she requested that the City keep O'Neill's resume on file for any future positions. O'Neill graduated from

Everett High School and achieved her Bachelor's of Science degree from Salem State in Criminal Justice. She worked for the Department of Homeland Security in transportation security, and then left for five years to start a family. She eventually caught on at SkyZone in Everett and has risen up to work in the franchise headquarters in Somerville since 2017. There, she reports to the chief operations officer and has been in charge of securing permits from cities and towns, among other

"I am from Everett and decided to raise my children here," she said. "I would love to be employed with the City in some fash-

Napolitano is graduated from Everett High in 1976 and was in the Navy for eight years as an avionics technician and a military police officer. He also has owned a retail business in Everett Square for some time. He began his political career on the Common Council in 2000 and continued there under a platform of reforming the City Charter. He had served as a Councilor-at-large until resigning in December.

He begins as assistant city clerk this week, and will be training under Ragucci.

MAYOR DEMARIA ANNOUNCES SUNDAY 'COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR' VIDEO SERIES

The City of Everett launched a new video series hosted by Mayor Carlo DeMaria and distributed on the City's social media channels and on ECTV called "Sunday Coffee with the Mayor," which began last Sunday, January 17.

In the series, Mayor DeMaria will update residents on COVID-19 response and vaccination rollouts, and other plans to address the critical needs of the City.

News Briefs

"This series is an opportunity for our residents to hear directly from me regarding both the challenges and progress of our great city," said Mayor DeMaria. "We all look forward to a time when we can chat over coffee in person safely again, but for now, this is the most responsible way for me to share the City's news with everyone."

The videos will air on

ECTV and will be shared on Everett's social media platforms each week. Residents can view "Sunday Morning Coffee with the Mayor" on the following platforms:

•ECTV.

Facebook: Mayor Carlo DeMaria & City of Ev-

•Instagram: MayorCar-

loDeMaria & CityofEverettMA. •Twitter: Mayor_De-

The video series is produced by Regan Communications Group.

Baker signs Home Rule petition

Staff Report

The Home Rule petition to make the mayor a voting member of the School Committee was signed on Weds. by Gov. Charlie Baker, and Mayor Carlo DeMaria said he looked forward to cohesively working with the Committee going for-

The signed Charter amendment makes Mayor DeMaria the 10th voting member on the Committee, though he was a non-voting member for many years under the reformed Charter.

"Governor Baker signed the Home Rule Petition which amends the City of Everett's Charter and allows the Mayor of

Everett to become a voting member of the Everett School Committee," he said on Wednesday. "I am honored to accept this responsibility. The Everett City Council voted to send the Home Rule petition to the State House. Everett's local delegation, Senator Sal DiDomenico and State Representative Joseph McGonagle shepherded the bill through the legislature.

"Thank you for your continued trust," he continued. "I pledge to always put the students first. I look forward to working cohesively with the other members of the Everett School Committee while developing a record of accountability and allowing residents to understand where I stand on important matters affecting our children."

With 10 members. however, a tie is possible. and already the Council and School Committee are discussing the idea of bringing in an 11th member so there would be no tie votes. That was discussed at a Council committee meeting with the School Committee last Thursday and continues to be in discussion.

A Home Rule petition on the matter wouldn't likely be filed for another month or more, and would not be approved at the State House until late spring in a best-case sce-

Cases of COVID-19 continue to stay in double digits day over day

The numbers COVID-19 cases in Everett backed off last week from a major surge coming after the holidays, going down from the 600 range to the 400 range.

There had been more than 600 cases last week, but this week there were 476 cases reported.

The most recent numbers are as follows:

•Tuesday, Jan. 19 - 49

•Monday, Jan. 18 − 22 •Sunday, Jan. 17 – 70

•Saturday, Jan. 16 – 62 •Friday, Jan. 15 – 55

•Thursday, Jan. 14 – 88 •Wednesday, Jan. 13 -

•Tuesday, Jan. 12 − 36

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.

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Matewsky / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 committees for the com-

ing legislative year, with a revived Celebrations Committee still under consideration. The Budget Committee

will be chaired by Councilor Michael McLaughlin and co-chaired by Councilor Anthony DiPierro. All councilors will be members of this commit-The Committee on

Business and Development is to be chaired by Councilor Rosa DiFlorio and co-chaired by Councilor Michael Marchese. Members will be Councilors John Hanlon and Gerly Adrien. The Government Oper-

ations and Public Safety Committee will be chaired by Councilor Stephanie Martins and co-chaired by Councilor Jimmy Tri Le. Members will be Council-

ors Richard Dell Isola and McLaughlin. The Legislative Affairs

and Elections Committee

will be chaired by DiP-

ierro and co-chaired by

DiFlorio. Councilors Fred

be members. The Ways & Means

Committee will be

Capone and Martins will chaired by Marchese and co-chaired by DiFlorio. Members will be Le and Dell Isola.



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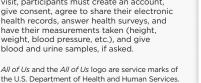
treatments that benefit all of us. Many groups of people have been left out of

research in the past. That means we know less about their health. When you join the All of Us Research Program, you'll help researchers learn more about what makes people sick or keeps them healthy.

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completion of their visit. To complete the visit, participants must create an account give consent, agree to share their electronic health records, answer health surveys, and have their measurements taken (height, weight, blood pressure, etc.), and give blood and urine samples, if asked.

*All participants will receive \$25 after





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Everett Independent

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JOE BIDEN NEEDS OUR PRAYERS

With President Joe Biden taking the oath of office this week, America is ready to recover -- both physically and psychologically -- from the four years of "carnage" that has been left behind by the previous presidential administration.

It is fair to say that no incoming President ever has faced more challenges than those that are awaiting Joe

- -- Washington, D.C. looks like a war zone for the inauguration, with 30,000 U.S. troops fortifying the city in the wake of the mob that stormed the Capitol two weeks ago. Similar threats of violence by anarchist, right-wing groups loom all across the country. -- The COVID-19 pandemic is killing thousands of
- Americans each and every day, seven days a week, filling our hospitals to overflowing and overwhelming our healthcare system.
- -- The nation's economy is in tatters, even more so than during the Great Depression, with record-high unemployment, hunger, and small business failures.
- -- America's reputation in the world never has been lower in our entire history. Both friend and foe view us as an unreliable and unstable nation, rather than the moral and powerful leader that we have been since our founding.
- -- And last but not least, the Russians have breached our national security with a massive cyberattack, the full scope of which still is to be determined.

The one saving grace for our country is this: No incoming president in the past 50 years has had more experience, and is better prepared for the job, than Joe Biden. The same too, goes for his key Cabinet members. They will be able to hit the ground running to get us back on track.

Still, the task ahead for Joe Biden is daunting -- and he will need all of the prayers we can send his way.

LET'S GO, TAMPA BAY!

It's okay to admit it, Pats' fans -- we were rooting for Tom and Gronk in their playoff game for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers this past Sunday against the New Orleans

It has been jarring to see No. 12 playing in a Tampa Bay uniform this season -- it's like seeing your longtime ex- with someone else.

But with the Patriots' dismal season relegating the Pats to the bottom third of the NFL (where they are destined to remain for a while), Tom and Gronk's playoff run with the Bucs has given us something to cheer

True, both are only shadows of their former selves. Brady threw a lot of off-target passes and Gronk had trouble getting open. On the other hand, they connected for a key first-down deep in New Orleans territory late in the game that led to the Bucs' clinching score.

Although it was nowhere as dramatic as that amazing catch that Gronk made late in the 2019 AFC championship game in Kansas City that propelled the Pats to another Super Bowl, it still was a vintage Brady-to-Gronk clutch play that brought a smile to the face of every New England fan. (We should note too, that Gronkowski played a huge role in the Tampa Bay running game with his blocking, just as he did with the Pats for a decade.)

Tampa Bay will face a stiff challenge in Green Bay this Sunday. The Bucs smoked the Packers in their regular-season meeting earlier in the year, but Aaron Rodgers and Co. are playing at an unreal level right now.

Let's go Bucs -- we want to see Tom and Gronk in the Super Bowl!

Everett Independent

Published by the Independent Newspaper Group

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Independent Forum



BODY CAN USE A SHOT IN THE

GUEST OP-ED

Dr. King's legacy – more important than ever

By Bishop Robert Brown

This week, many of us paused to reflect on the life and legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King. On the anniversary of what would have been his 92nd birthday, the lessons he left behind are more important than ever. His message of peace, of coming together, of treating our fellow humans with equal respect, has faced seemingly insurmountable obstacles in recent times. Had he not been taken from us, and in spite of our current societal upheaval, he would not have been deterred from that message and mission.

Neither should we. There is an enormous

dichotomy today between what Dr. King preached and practiced and what we are currently living in our communities, in our country, and in the world at large. The horrors we have seen just in recent days, perpetrated by our fellow Americans, beggar the imagination. The time is upon us - indeed, the time is always upon us – to acknowledge that, as Dr. King said, "we are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today . . . this is a time for vigorous and positive action."

Positive action. In stark contrast to the injustices committed by law enforcement in Minneapolis last summer, to what we witnessed in Washington, D.C. on January 6, to the many abuses perpetrated throughout our history, Dr. King's message was one of positive peaceful forward movement. Even in the face of mistreatment, violence, humiliation, and degradation, his movement was always about

How shall we, in these days of uncertainty and fear, recommit ourselves to Dr. King's legacy of peaceful coexistence? It starts with each one of us. We must stand up to cruelty. We must speak out against injustice. We must ask ourselves - "have we been complacent for too long?" We must ask ourselves - have we "become silent about things that

matter?" Perhaps these words of Dr. King's can help to guide us as we move forward in what seems like the relentless pursuit of healing: "I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality . . . I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word."

Bishop Robert G. Brown is the Presiding Prelate of Covenant Christian Church Alliance, Inc., and Senior Pastor of Zion Church Ministries, Inc, Everett.

DiDomenico announces sweeping economic development law

and his colleagues in the Massachusetts Legislature passed \$627 million in funding for a sweeping economic recovery and development bill, providing critical support to businesses, investments in infrastructure, and creation of new jobs in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill was signed into law on January 14, 2021.

An Act Enabling Partnerships for Growth is a COVID-19 relief and recovery package that provides support to the restaurant and tourism sectors, small businesses, and those who have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The bill also creates a Future of Work Commission, establishes protections for student loan borrowers, and ushers in zoning reforms to encourage affordable housing development in our communities.

"I am very pleased that this legislation is now law so that we can provide much-need relief to our small business community and the parts of our economy that have been hardest hit by this pandemic," said Sen. DiDomenico. "While the capital investments in this bill will reach every part of our Commonwealth, this legislation will have a profound impact on our district in particular. I was proud to vote for this COVID relief package, and I look for-

ward to continue working

with my colleagues in the

Legislature to ensure that

Sen. Sal DiDomenico our communities receive bonding authorizations in which multi-family the support and resources that we need and deserve during these trying times."

Included in this economic development law is critical language limiting the fees charged third-party delivery services, like Uber Eats, DoorDash, and Grub-Hub. From the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Senator DiDomenico began advocating for a cap on delivery fees to protect local restaurants during the COVID-19 state of emergency.

"I heard from many restaurant owners on this specific issue, especially as the industry has transitioned to take-out and delivery service during the COVID emergency," said DiDomenico. "My district is a hub for independently owned restaurants and these small businesses are in large part what make our community so vibrant. The restaurant industry throughout the Commonwealth has taken a terrible hit during this crisis, and it is the very least we can do to protect them from predatory practices."

The new law limits fees charged by third-party delivery services for restaurants to 15% during the COVID-19 state of emergency and prohibits third-party delivery service companies from

reducing rates for delivery drivers or garnishing gratuities as result of the limitation.

An Act Enabling Part-

nerships for Growth also

includes the following

and policy changes:

pandemic COVID-19 relief and recovery BONDING AUTHO-**RIZATIONS**

•\$30 million for the state's COVID-19 Payroll **Protection Program**

•\$20 million for restaurant COVID-19 recovery

POLICY CHANGES

•Creates a commission to examine and make recommendations on addressing the recovery of the cultural and creative sector, including the arts, humanities and sciences, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

Housing

BONDING AUTHO-RIZATIONS

•\$40 million for a program to redevelop blighted buildings •\$50 million for tran-

sit-oriented housing developments •\$10 million for cli-

mate-resilient affordable housing developments •\$5 million for a Gate-

way Cities housing pro-**POLICY CHANGES**

•Implements reform to help cities and towns approve growth zoning and affordable housing by lowering the required vote threshold for a range of housing-related zoning changes and special permits at the local level from a two-thirds supermajority to a simple majority.

•Requires designated MBTA communities to

be zoned for at least one

district of reasonable size,

housing is permitted as of right and requires such housing to be suitable for

families with children. Increases the state low-income housing tax credit program cap \$20,000,000 \$40,000,000

Employee protections, business growth, and eq-

BONDING AUTHO-

RIZATIONS

•\$35 million for a Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation matching grant program to community development financial institutions for small business loans and grants.

•\$27.7 million for a new Employment Social Enterprise Capital Grant Program

•\$20 million for a Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation small ness grant program.

•\$14M million for travel and tourism grants

•\$10 million for regional and community assistance planning grants

POLICY CHANGES •Enables, via local op-

tion, the creation of tourism destination marketing districts ("TDMDs"), made up of hotels, motels, and bed and breakfasts, for the purpose of generating local revenue dedicated solely for the promotion and marketing of specific regions of the Common-

ry definition of wait staff employee to include a

•Amends the statuto-

See ECONOMIC Page 5

MGC appoints Lillios as Director of Investigations Bureau

Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) on Thursday selected Loretta Lillios as Director of the Investigations and Enforcement Bureau (IEB). The MGC's four commissioners voted unanimously to approve the hiring of Ms. Lillios, who has been with the MGC since 2014, serving first as Deputy General Counsel and then as Chief Enforcement Counsel/ Deputy Director of IEB. Most recently, she has served since September 2020 as Interim Director of IEB.

As Chief Enforcement Counsel and Deputy Director, IEB, Ms. Lillios' work focused on protecting the public interest and ensuring the integrity of legal gaming in Massachusetts. She has been responsible for overseeing suitability investigations of applicants for gaming licensure, monitoring the ongoing suitability of corporate casino qualifiers, and overseeing the preparation of enforcement actions involving licensee noncompliance with gam-

ing requirements. "On behalf of my fellow commissioners, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Loretta on her appointment as Director of the IEB," said Chair Cathy Judd-Stein. "In addition to her track record of accomplishment as Chief Enforcement Counsel and Deputy Director of the IEB over the past five years, Loretta's meticulous attention to detail throughout the course of the global COVID-19 pandemic has served both our licensees and the public as she worked to ensure compliance with the regulations promulgated by the Commission to support a safe and sustained reopening for casinos in the

Commonwealth."

Lillios participated in a competitive hiring process that was led by Chair Judd-Stein and included Commissioner Gayle Cameron, Executive Director Karen Wells and Director of Workforce, Supplier and Diversity Development Jill Griffin.

The Expanded Gaming Act created the Investigations and Enforcement Bureau within the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. Under the statute, the IEB is responsible for the investigation of all licensees. The Director of the IEB has supervision over four divisions within the bureau: the Licensing Division, the Gaming Agents Division, the Financial Investigations Division and the Chief Enforcement Counsel's Office.

The Director of the IEB also has supervisory authority, in conjunction with the Colonel of the State Police, of the Gaming Enforcement Unit of the Massachusetts State Police, and works with local police departments, the Attorney General's Office and the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission relative to public safety as well as regulatory and criminal enforcement matters.

The bureau is a law enforcement agency and its employees have law enforcement powers as necessary to effectuate the purposes of M.G.L. Chapter 23K, including the power to receive intelligence on an applicant or licensee under that chapter and to investigate any suspected violations of the gaming laws in the Commonwealth.

Prior to joining the MGC, Ms. Lillios most recently served in the office of the state Attorney General (AGO) as an Assistant Attorney General,

where she was assigned to the MGC an investigator. In that role, her duties included reviewing and evaluating reports of State Police investigators and consultants regarding suitability of applicants for gaming licenses. Earlier in her tenure in the Attorney General's office, she served in the Government Bureau as Special Advisor on Gaming. Her duties included drafting the AGO's initial Enhanced Code of Ethics and developing an ethics training program for employees of the AGO's Gaming Enforcement Division; serving as the AGO's liaison to the Gaming Commission on regulations drafting; and drafting memoranda on tribal issues, such as the Governor's Compact with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the historical underpinnings of aboriginal hunting and fishing

From 1998 to 2012, Lillios served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office. During her tenure there, Lillios specialized in appellate advocacy, and from 2010 to 2012, she served as Chief Legal Counsel where she was responsible for advising the District Attorney on legal, ethical, policy, and legislative issues.

Prior to her legal career, Lillios worked in publishing and served as the director of conferences for Weingarten Publications.

Lillios is a graduate of the School of Law at Universi-Northeastern ty and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she earned her Bachelor of Science Degree. Lillios is a graduate of Girls' Latin School/ Boston Latin Academy.

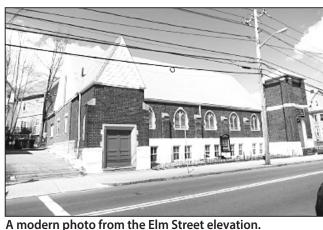
EVERETT' HISTORICAL PROPERTIES

Elm Street Baptist Church continues long history on the corner

(The following is a weekly feature in the Independent based on the City's 2018 Historic Property Survey done to note the many little-known historically significant prop*erties within the city.)* ARCHITECTURAL

DESCRIPTION:

Located on a polygonal lot at the corner of Elm Street and Jackson Avenue, Elm Street Baptist Church was constructed in at least two phases beginning in 1924 with the basement level along Elm Street, punctuated by 2/2 windows. The upper level of the church was built in 1930. Capped by an asphalt-shingled roof, the church is constructed of concrete block and brick with concrete trim. Gothic details include a quoined entrance at the west end of the Elm Street façade, simple brick buttresses with concrete weatherings and pointed arch window openings filled with paired stained glass pointed arch windows (protected by plexiglass) and decorated by quoined concrete surrounds. An offset square tower with pyramid roof is located at the east end of the Elm Street façade and bears a cornerstone reading "1930". At the base of the tower are original wooden doors set into a pointed arch surround. Attached to the rear (north) of the church is a single-story flat-roofed



HISTORICAL **NARRATIVE**

Baptist The First Church was organized in Everett in 1871 shortly after the incorporation of the city in 1870. As membership grew, a second Baptist Church - the Elm Street Church - was established in Everett, in Glendale Square. The Elm Street Baptist Society was organized on October 3, 1898. The original church was located at 178 Elm Street.

In 1920 the church purchased a lot of land at the corner of Elm Street and Jackson Avenue from Thomas and Joseph Clancy. Plans for the construction of the church filed with the State Department of Public Safety in June 1924 indicated that the church was designed by H. Edmonds. No other information was found concerning this individual.

On July 31, 1924 the Boston Globe reported Excavation

new Elm Street Baptist Church, at the corner of Jackson Ave. and Elm St. is rapidly being completed and the edifice is expected to be finished by Oct. 1. Rev. E.E. Laird, Deacon A.H. Chadwick, Church Collector James Kendall and Supt. Thomas Fale of the Sunday school are in charge of the building plans. The basement will contain the heating plant, a kitchen and a large serving room. A gymnasium will be a feature. The third floor will be devoted to the Sunday school classes.

Opening services were held in the basement of the new church on November 22, 1925 with dedicatory services held a week later. The space in the covered cellar had a capacity of 500. On September 8, 1930 the cornerstone of the Elm Street Baptist Church was laid, signaling the beginning of the construction of the remainder of the church.

The building is still a Baptist church today.

Economic // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

restaurant wno prepares or serves food or beverages as part of a team of counter staff.

Provides that the taking of family or medical leave shall not affect an employee's right to accrue vacation time, sick leave, advancement, bonuses, length-of-serseniority, vice credit or other employment benefits, plans or programs.

•Exempts natural hair braiding from the definition of hairdressing, and exempts natural hair braiding from rules and regulations pertaining to aesthetics, barbering, cosmetology, electrolysis, hairdressing and manicur-

•Encourages the PRIM Board to use minority investment managers to manage PRIT Fund assets, where appropriate, and to increase the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of Fund investments. •Establishes a commis-

sion of experts, industry members, academics, and elected officials to research and propose policy solutions that ensure the future and sustainability of local journalism in Massachusetts

STUDENT PROTEC-TIONS

•Establishes a Student Loan Borrower Bill of Rights regulating the licensing and operation of student loan servicers by the Commissioner of

•Creates a Student Loan

person in a quick service Ombudsman within the centive Fund Office of the Attorney General for the purpose of receiving, reviewing and assisting in the resolution of complaints from student loan borrowers; authorizes the Ombudsman to assist with repayment options, applying for federal loan forgiveness programs, ending wage and tax refund garnishments,

> Agriculture and rural support **AUTHO-**

> resolving billing disputes,

and obtaining loan details.

BONDING RIZATIONS

•\$20 million for rural community development and infrastructure grants. \$2 million for an urban

agriculture grant program. POLICY CHANGES •Expands the Food Pol-

icy Council to include an expert in healthy soil practices; codifies the definition of 'healthy soils;' gives the Commission for Conservation of Soil and Water the ability to establish a Massachusetts Healthy Soils Program and Fund Technology and inno-

BONDING AUTHO-

RIZATIONS •\$52 million for the

Technology Research and Development and Innovation Fund.

•\$15 million for lottery IT infrastructure.

•\$10 million for the expansion of the Massachusetts Manufacturing Inno-

vation Initiative (M2I2). •\$5 million for the Mas-

sachusetts Broadband In-

 Creates a special commission on the future of work to conduct a comprehensive study relative to the impact of automation, artificial intelligence, global trade, access to new forms of data and the internet of things on the workforce, businesses and economy.

POLICY CHANGES

•Clarifies that carsharing platforms may obtain insurance coverage from non-admitted carrier and that carsharing platforms do not need their own insurance-producer or broker licenses to offer or maintain insurance policies for carsharing vehicles or drivers. Other bonding authori-

zations include: •\$102,304,000 for local

economic development projects; •\$12.5 million for the

Commonwealth Zoological Corporation; •\$15 million for trial

court virtual mediation services; •\$6 million for Massachusetts Cultural Council

grants; •\$5 million for Mass Cultural Council public

school grants; •\$20 million for Mass Cultural Council cultural

facilities grants; •\$15 million for vocational technical school ex-

pansion grants; and •\$15 million for higheducation workforce City, MGH to offer free testing for Everett residents The testing would be free

section with 6/1 windows.

The lines at Everett's Stop the Spread state testing site are notoriously long, and many of those in the lines are not from Everett, but now the City and Mass General are looking at a solution to help Everett residents, teachers and first responders.

The City Council and

School Committee have been talking about getting an Everett-only testing site to help teachers, City workers, first responders and residents to avoid the long lines created by a regional audience at the state site in the Gentile Recreation Center. Mayoral Chief of Staff Erin Deveney told the Council on Jan. 11 that MGH had contacted them about offering a free testing site at their Everett Square clinic location. Deveney said testing

sites are overwhelmed with people, and having this free service could solve much of that prob-She said MGH has of-

fered to do the testing every Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon in their mobile testing van – which is also being used for a similar program in Chelsea and Charlestown once a week.

and would be checked for Everett residents only. "This is the most via-

ble option available for an Everett only testing site," she said. "It would cost us about \$327,000 to run our own testing site. So we have \$327,000 versus free. That's something to The Council was enthu-

siastic about the news that the site could be coming soon and could help residents skip the long lines. "I think an Everett-only

site would help us zone in on our residents and our problem with the regional center," said Councilor Michael McLaughlin. Council President

Wayne Matewsky said many residents go to be tested at Gentile and, upon seeing the long lines, just keep going and skip the test. He said getting some more locally focused is very welcome. DIVERSITY

TRAIN-ANTI-RACIST Finding a new Director

of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) has been a daunting task for Everett with still no great progress to report despite the position having been advertised for months. Chief of Staff Deveney

LEGAL NOTICE

told the Council they have met with Boston's new DEI Director Karilyn Crockett about how to attract more talent. She told them a recent position in her department attracted nearly 200 applicants. One of the issues, likely, is that many other communities are now undergoing the same transformation of City government. They are also seeking DEI Directors. That includes Chelsea next door which just formed a Committee to do the interviewing and hiring over the next 45

Deveney also told the Council that the work on Racism as a Public Health Crisis - which Mayor Carlo DeMaria declared last summer – continues. Much of the work is being done by the new Commission formed by the mayor and chaired by Bishop Robert Brown. That work has been more difficult in getting people to share the issues and experiences they have encountered in Everett. Nevertheless, Deveney

said the City has moved forward with its part in the matter, and has hired a contractor to conduct anti-racist and diversity trainings of City Hall and City workers.

M.G.L. c. 21E, § 2 and the a Tier Classification Submit-

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Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. To evaluate the release, a Phase I Initial Site Investigation was performed pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0480. The site has been classified as Tier II pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0500. On or about October 3, 2020, Wash Depot

III, Inc., the owner of 1970

Revere Beach Parkway in

Everett, Massachusetts, filed

tal with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). To obtain more information on this disposal site, please contact Amy A. Roth, LSP, at (603) 369-4190 extension 509. The Tier Classification Submittal and the disposal site file can be viewed at MassDEP website using Release Tracking Number

(RTN) 3-0035899 at https://

eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/ portal#!/search/wastesite or at the MassDEP Northeast Regional Office, 205B Lowell Street, Wilmington, MA 01887, (978) 694-3200. Additional public involvement opportunities are available under 310 CMR 40.1403(9) and 310 CMR 40.1404. 1/20/21

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By Seth Daniel

Many young men often don't want to follow in their same career path of their fathers, but it was exactly the opposite for Everett Firefighter Rocco Andreotti, who like his father before him, has served more than 30 years on the Everett Fire Department (EFD) and continues to love his job every shift.

Andreotti, 61, grew up in Everett and still lives in the city. He has a wife, Cynthia, and two daughters - Cara, who attends Gordon College and is on the basketball team there; and Ashley, an adult who now lives in San Diego.

His parents, Dolores and Joseph, still live in Everett on Lexington Street and it is through his father's example that he became a firefighter.

"My dad was a firefighter for 37 years in Everett and in March I'll be approaching my 35th anniversary with EFD," he said. "I truly enjoy the job and helping people...My dad always told me it was a wonderful profession. I didn't go to college and I wanted to follow in his footsteps. I was proud of my dad and liked the job. I'm safety orientated and like helping people. That's why I'm still here three years after I could retire, and I'll probably do two or three more years like my dad did."

Andreotti is currently the engineer of Ladder 1 and has been assigned to Ladder 1 his whole career, operating out of Central Fire Station. As an engineer the last 24 years, he is responsible for driving the apparatus, deploying

the aerial ladder, using the Jaws of Life at car accidents, and cutting the hole in a roof to vent a fire.

Fire Union President Craig Hardy said Andreotti has an excellent reputation among the other Jakes on the EFD.

"He is a good guy, who is an old school Jake that is one of our best truck drivers," said Hardy. "He has been an amazing role model to all of us on the job and always takes time to teach guys all the knowledge he has gained over his career."

That career has been full of responding to fires, medical calls and other types of emergencies. In 2004, he and Retired Firefighter Joe Quinn got the state Firefighter of the Year award for helping to rescue a suicidal woman that was about to jump off the top of the Sacro Plaza Tower in Everett Square. That event happened in 2003. He said the woman was distraught and was going to take her life, but her and Quinn were able to talk her out of it. At one point, Quinn went in and grabbed her off the ledge and Andreotti assisted in the save.

"We were able to talk to her and make a grab to get her down," he said. "We still see her around and she's doing much better than she was at that time."

Andreotti also participated in the huge conflagration in Cambridge back a few years ago - a 10-alarm fire that took down an entire neighborhood there.

"It was literally like a war zone," he said.

Since COVID-19 hit,



Firefighter Rocco Andreotti.

he said it has been much more difficult to be a firefighter - particularly because he is older and is intent on protecting his family from getting the virus from him. Going on medical aid calls all the time, firefighters run a huge risk of getting infected, plus the fact they live in the station during shifts. He said the other firefighters and Chief Tony Carli have been tremendous in handling the situation, but it still remains a challenge.

"If we have an exposure, we immediately get tested," he said. "Still, I'm worried, being 61, and if I do come in contact with it, my daughter is home for college and my wife is home for work and I live in a two-family with my sister. I'm particularly worried about infecting them if someone were to infect me at work."

With that in mind, Andreotti recently made local history by being the initial first responder to get the COVID-19 vaccine last week at the City's vaccine clinic. He said he didn't plan on being first, but he had been waiting for the vaccine to come out. When the email hit, he immediately responded and got the first appointment. However, even with his worries, Andreotti said he educated himself first and had some skepticism before talking with friends in the medical field.

"I had told my wife that when they offer it, I'm going to get it," he said. "It's a big question mark for a lot of people. They say



Firefighter Rocco Andreotti with his father, former Firefighter Joseph Andreotti, at a fire scene some years back.

the vaccine is safe. I have many friends that are in the medical field and they are saying to get it. That withstanding, it's not going to change the level of protection I have at work. I'm still going to be as protected as I was before. It makes you feel a little better and confident. I've had no side effects and it's been a week...If I were 27, maybe I wouldn't have gotten it."

In all, Andreotti said he continues to report to Central Fire for every shift with a positive attitude, and a love for the City he works in and for.

"Everett is a great city," he said. "We have a strong leadership with the mayor and chief and our union leaders...We're lucky in this city to have really talented members on our Fire Department."

He stressed that Everett Fire is one giant team, and members are focused so much on working together in every situation.

Whos Your Valentine?



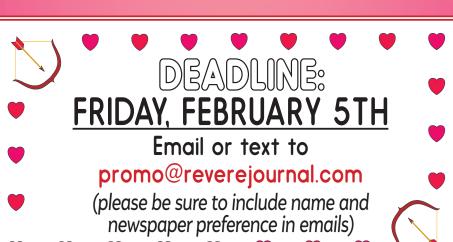
Let Everyone know who your Valentine is with a photo and message...

Published Feb. 10 & 11

XOXOX



ALL VALENTINES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE EAST **BOSTON TIMES FREE PRESS, REVERE JOURNAL, EVERETT INDEPENDENT, CHELSEA RECORD,** WINTHROP SUN TRANSCRIPT, LYNN JOURNAL, **CHARLESTOWN & NORTH END REGIONAL REVIEW**



Middlesex Sheriff's Office announces results of baseline vaccination surveys

in corrections, the Middlesex Sheriff's Office (MSO) announced last week that it has performed a baseline survey to capture the willingness to receive vaccines amongst correctional employees and incarcerated individ-

To date, the MSO has gone nearly four months without a positive COVID-19 test despite conducting over 160 tests amongst its incarcerated population during that timeframe.

The results of the baseline survey, offered to all staff and incarcerated individuals, found that 80 percent of staff and 40 percent of incarcerated individuals who responded indicated they would want to receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to them. Of those incarcerated individuals who responded they would not initially agree to be vaccinated 60.17% percent indicated they were open to either changing their minds or receiving further education on vaccination.

"At the Middlesex Sheriff's Office, we use data every day to guide our decision-making and craft the best approaches to a host of critical issues,"

provide said Middlesex Sheriff Pedata that will improve ter J. Koutoujian. "With the national rollout of these baseline surveys, we COVID-19 vaccinations can not only understand will be conducted on a how many people are initially interested in receiving vaccinations, but how we can encourage more people to receive them through educational and informational efforts."

> Results of the survey of incarcerated individuals are being used to plan upcoming educational sessions at the Middlesex Jail & House of Correction by outside medical experts. A second survey of the incarcerated population will be conducted following the educational sessions to determine whether attitudes towards the vaccine change.

> "It's my hope that through the process we will be better positioned to serve our staff, those in our care and their families," said Sheriff Koutoujian. "I believe this data and process can help our colleagues across the Commonwealth and the nation as they map out plans to administer vaccines to their staff and individuals in their custody."

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has determined that those working and living in congregate care settings - including correctional facilities will be eligible to receive the vaccine in Phase One of the distribution plan.

Administration of the vaccine at the Middlesex Jail & House of Correction

voluntary basis. "I intepret the survey results from MSO staff and incarcerated individuals as very promising," said Dr. Alysse Wurcel, a Tufts Medical Center infectious diseases physician who has been advising the MSO since last February. "Understanding vaccine willingness and hesitancy in both employees and incarcerated individuals is the first crucial step in successfully operationalizing COVID-19 vaccination in the jails. The data collected by Sheriff Koutoujian is the first I am seeing on COVID-19 vaccination interest amongst people in jail in the nation, and it will help us develop better, smarter educational programs and policy. I hope to see this data shared and potentially published as we work towards protecting those in congregate care settings from COVID-19." To date, 103 MSO staff

members have been vaccinated. All personnel were frontline healthcare workers and officers deemed eligible per Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines and work in assignments such as intake, health services, and mental health.

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Baker expands vaccine locations, names Fenway Park as mass vaccination site

The state announced on Tuesday the expansion of more vaccine locations in each region of the Commonwealth at pharmacies, health care providers and a second mass vaccination site at Fenway Park to boost the capacity to administer vaccines per week by the thousands.

Commonwealth The will continue to add more vaccination sites throughout Massachusetts.

First, the Administration announced that Massachusetts will become one of the first states in the nation to launch the COVID-19 CDC Pharmacy Partnership - Phase 1 with CVS Health and Walgreens pharmacies located throughout the Commonwealth. Starting this week, this program will deliver a total of 10.000 doses to at least 15 CVS Health and Walgreens pharmacies a week for eligible residents in the Phase One priority groups.

Second, the Administration announced that Fenway Park will become the state's second mass vaccination site, joining Gillette Stadium. The ballpark will open on February 1 to start administering up to 500 vaccines per day to eligible residents in the Phase

One priority groups. Next, the Administration also announced that UMass Amherst will expand their vaccination site to provide inoculations for eligible residents in Phase One priority groups. UMass Amherst has been providing vaccines to first responders, and plans to now offer vaccines to all eligible residents in Phase One priority groups immediately.

Finally, to increase vac-

cine access for Phase 1 eligible priority groups, the Baker-Polito Administration is launching the Hospital Depot Initiative. This new program will facilitate access to COVID-19 vaccine for independent physician practices prioritized under Phase 1.

Current eligible groups under Phase 1 include: Clinical and non-clinical health care workers doing direct and COVID-facing care; Long term care facilities, rest homes and assisted living facilities; First responders (EMS, Fire, Police); and Congregate care settings (including corrections and shelters).

CDC Pharmacy Partnership - Phase 1

Massachusetts will be among the first states to activate retail pharmacy vaccination at scale through select **CVS** Health and Walgreens, which will start inoculating eligible residents in Phase One priority groups by appointment.

Starting this week, at least 15 CVS Health and Walgreens, located areas of the state where there is currently less access to convenient vaccine sites, will receive a total of 10,000 vaccines to administer this week. The first 15 locations are located in Greenfield, Fall River, Salem, South Yarmouth, Pittsfield, Lee, Holden, Gardner, Hyannis, Mashpee, Somerset, Fairhaven, Haverhill, Saugus and Danvers. Eligible residents in Phase One priority groups can view sites and book an appointment

starting this week. Approximately vaccination sites will be added the week of Jan. 25 through current partners and collaboration with additional partners (Wegmans, Big Y, Price Chopper, Stop & Shop, Hannaford). Massachusetts expects to increase vaccine volume through retail pharmacies in the coming weeks. The Command Center will provide more details as pharmacy partners and sites come online.

Fenway Park Named as Second Mass Vaccination Site

Fenway Park will be the state's second mass vaccination site and will open on February 1. Initially, the ballpark is scheduled to administer 500 vaccines per day by appointment and will ramp up to providing 1,000 vaccines per day soon to eligible residents in Phase One priority groups. CIC Health will operate the site, with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, part of Beth Israel Lahey Health, as the medical director.

The site is expected to stay open through the beginning of baseball season in early April. The Command Center is also working with the City of Boston to identify and set up a longer-term vaccine site in Boston.

Last week, the Administration announced Gillette Stadium as the first mass vaccination site, which opened for eligible Phase One groups Monday. This week, the site is expected to work up to administering over 1,000 vaccinations per day, and soon after, 5,000 vaccinations per day. Eligible residents in Phase 1 priority groups can book an appointment at Gillette Stadium start-

ing now.

The Command Center is finalizing plans for several other mass vaccination sites.

Hospital Depot Initia-

To increase vaccine access for residents in eligible Phase 1 priority groups, the Baker-Polito Administration is launching the Hospital Depot Initiative.

This new program will facilitate access to COVID-19 vaccines for independent COVID-facing physician practices prioritized under Phase 1. The Massachusetts COVID-19 Command

Center and DPH, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) and Mass General Brigham (MGB), is managing this initiative starting with COVID-facing health care workers.

Under this initiative, hospitals serving each region of the state have been identified as a depot to assist the Commonwealth with its vaccination distribution efforts. For clinical practices that are unable, due to their staff size and storage capacity, to receive larger, direct allocations of vaccine, a depot hospital will receive

doses on their behalf and redistribute vaccine and all ancillary materials for office-based vaccination. In some cases, the hospital will provide direct vaccination to health care workers. The Massachusetts Medical Society is managing communications and coordination with physician practices.

Participating hospitals include:

Mass General Brigham, Lawrence General Hospital, Signature Brockton Hospital, UMass Memorial Medical Center, Baystate Medical Center and Berkshire Medical Center.



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Mystic Valley Elder Services' 2021 Bellyful of Laughs Un-Event

For the eleventh year in row, ABC Home Health-Professionals, Wakefield-based private home care agency, is the Lead Sponsor for the January 2021 "Un-Event" of Mystic Valley Elder Services' Bellyful of Laughs. Typically this event sells out each year and raises tens of thousands of dollars for older adults and those living with disabilities but due to COVID-19 protocols, there will be no show. But despite the pandemic, ABC Home Healthcare Professionals feel that it is still important, if not more important during these trying times, to support our neighbors in need.

Jeannette Sheehan and Joan Lepore, her daughter, founders and owners of ABC Home Healthcare Professionals, see the ability to live independently as critical to many older adults' wellbeing. with seniors being most vulnerable to COVID-19, they want to make sure they are being taken care

"Everyone should have the opportunity to live in their communities for as long as possible in a safe and supportive environment. That's just one of the many reasons we're so proud to continue to be connected with Bellyful of Laughs and with Mystic Valley Elder Services, even during the COVID-19 pandemic."

ABC Home Healthcare Professionals is a full-ser-



vice home healthcare organization, family owned and operated by Nurse Practitioners and Certified Geriatric Care Managers. Their home health aides, homemakers, companions, caregivers, nurses, and hospice professionals are dedicated to providing the highest quality and most comprehensive private home care services in northeastern Massachusetts. In collaboration with Mystic Valley Elder Services and other community organizations, ABC assists older adults in maintaining their independence within the comfort of their own homes.

"Sadly, due to the pandemic, COVID-19 we cannot gather as usual for our January Bellyful of Laughs comedy night fundraiser, which typically attracts more than 400 donors and friends of Mystic Valley Elder Services who gather for a night of comedy, raffles, buffet dinner and good times in support of critical programs and services for people in need who live in our 11 community region," says Mystic Val-

ley Elder Services CEO Daniel O'Leary. "But it is wonderful to see ABC Home Healthcare Professionals join together this year with us to support such an important cause. Mystic Valley is lucky to have fantastic, supportive friends.'

Special thanks to ABC Home Healthcare Professionals for their lead sponsorship of this Un-Event, as well as our supporting sponsors including BrooklineBank, TRIO Community Meals, Melrose Coop Foundation and Natale Company & SafetyCare.

While we will miss gathering together this coming January to laugh for a good cause, there are still opportunities to help older adults and adults living with disabilities to stay independent!

To support Bellyful of Laughs Un-Event, please visit www.mves.org and click on Donate Now to make an online donation. You may also contact MVES Development Office to make a donation or if you have any questions: development@mves.org or 781-324-7705.

State DPD reports first confirmed case of COVID-19 variant

Officials from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health on January 17 announced that the first case of the COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7 has been detected in Massachusetts, coming from a Boston woman who had travelled to the United Kingdom.

This is the same variant initially discovered in the United Kingdom.

The individual developed symptoms in early January and tested positive for COVID-19. A genetic sample was sent to an out-of-state laboratory as part of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) established surveillance process to identify COVID-19 variants. The State Public Health Laboratory was notified last evening of the results.

The individual is a Boston resident, a female in her 20s. She had traveled to the United Kingdom and became ill the day after she returned. She had tested negative prior to leaving the UK. The individual

was interviewed by contact tracers at the time the initial positive result was received, and close contacts were identified. She is being re-interviewed by public health officials now that the variant has been identified as the cause of illness.

Surveillance testing for the B.1.1.7 variant has been ongoing at the Massachusetts State Public Health Laboratory in collaboration with clinical laboratories diagnostic and academic partners. Surveillance consists of genomic sequencing on portions of COVID-19 positive specimens.

To date, the CDC has reported 88 cases from 14 states in the United States.

Given the increased transmissibility of this variant and the number of states and other countries that have found infected cases, the Department expected the variant to arrive in Massachusetts eventually. The public health risk-reduction measures remain the same. Individuals must continue to wear masks or face coverings while out in public, maintain 6-foot social distancing, stay home when you are sick, and get tested if you have symptoms or are identified as a close con-

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

VALDEZ MAKES DESALES UNIVERSITY'S FALL 2020 DEAN'S LIST

The Everett Independent • Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Edison Valdez, a resident of Everett, made the 2020 Fall Dean's List at DeSales University. To qualify for Dean's List, a student must have a minimum 3.50 GPA on no fewer than 12 credit hours. DeSales University, in

Center Valley, PA, is a private, coeducational, fouryear liberal arts Salesian, Catholic university, under the leadership of the Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales. Founded in 1965, the 550-acre suburban campus is located 50 miles north of Philadelphia and about 90 miles southwest of New York City. A total enrollment of nearly 3,500 includes undergraduate day and evening students, and graduate students. DeSales has approximately 135 full-time faculty members and offers more than 40 bachelor's degrees, twelve graduate programs, and over 20 certificate programs in a wide range of disciplines; many of these can be completed fully online.

CURRY COLLEGE ANNOUNCES FALL 2020 DEAN'S LIST

Curry College congratulates roughly 1,000 students who were named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List. To earn a place on the list, full-time undergraduate students - those who carry 12 or more graded credits per semester - must earn a 3.3 grade-point-average (GPA) or higher.

Alyssa Jackson of Ev-

Megan Downer of Ev-

Deanna Kysilovsky of Pedro Santos of Everett

Marita Sanabria of Ev-

Hailey Powers of Ever-

About Curry College Founded in 1879, Curry College is a private, fouryear, liberal arts-based institution located on 131

acres in Milton, Mass. Curry extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth, Mass. Curry offers 28 undergraduate majors, as well as graduate degrees in business, accounting, education, criminal justice, and nursing, with a combined enrollment of over 3,700 students. The student body consists of approximately 2,000 traditional undergraduate students, and 1,700 continuing education and graduate students. Approximately 1,575 of its students reside on the Curry campus. The largest majors are business management, communication, nursing, criminal justice, and education, and the college is also internationally known for its Program for the Advancement of Learning (PAL). The College offers a wide array of extra-curricular activities ranging from 15 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre program. Visit us on the web at www.curry.edu.

New survey shows many don't see racism as a barrier to good health

Despite the uneven effects of a global pandemic on communities of color and those with lower incomes, many people do not recognize the fact that racism and health are connected, according to new survey results released last week from the nonprofit RAND Corporation with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Founda-

And perceptions have not changed during this pandemic despite the toll it's taken on so many lives.

The ongoing poll, which is surveying people with lower and middle incomes with a focus on communities of color, is looking at how COVID-19 is affecting health, optimism for the future, and the views. values, and experiences of those who are most affected by this crisis.

"It really struck us that—despite the virus's spread across the country to all types of communities-there's not a consensus view on the effects of systemic racism. Respondents see the impact of low incomes and living in a rural community on a person's health, but race isn't viewed with the same gravity," said Katherine Grace Carman, senior economist at RAND Corporation and the lead author of the report. "Our leaders need to understand that we have a lot more work to do to educate people about the root causes of inequities and then enact policies to ensure better health for all."

But more than twothirds of respondents believe the pandemic presents a moment for positive change. Respondents who see this as an opportunity think society should prioritize expanding access to health care and reducing income inequality.

"We share the respondents' demand for better access to health care and also advocate for policies that can help from an economic point of view, such as safe and affordable housing, access to healthy food, and access to jobs that pay a living wage," said Brian Quinn, associate vice president of the Research-Evaluation-Learning unit at the Robert Wood Johnson "Research Foundation. like this is so important because we need to hear firsthand from the people and places most impacted so we can advance policy solutions that increase opportunities for everyone to live the healthiest life possible."

This is the second of four waves of findings. The next set of results is due out in spring 2021.

Key Findings include: •Many people—even those who may have been hit hardest by the pandemic and long-standing inequities-still do not see systemic racism as a barrier to good health. Less than half (42.2%) of respondents believe that systemic racism is one of the main reasons people of color have poorer health outcomes, about one-third (32.9%) disagree with this notion, and nearly 1 in 4 (24.5%) are neutral. Black respondents are

much more likely (69.4%) than white respondents (33.2%) to believe that systemic racism affects the health of people of

•Respondents' ingness to risk their own health to return to "normal" has actually gone up slightly over time. But Black and Hispanic respondents are more likely (68.5%) to have more cautious views around taking health risks to move about freely compared to white respondents (53.4%).

•More than 70 percent of respondents see the pandemic as a moment for positive change. Black and Hispanic respondents are slightly more likely (72.5%) than white respondents (69.3%) to believe that the pandemic is a moment for positive

•Respondents who see an opportunity for positive change believe society should prioritize expanding access to health care and reducing income inequality.

change.

•Nearly two-thirds of respondents believe the government should ensure health care as a fundamental right. White respondents are less likely (60.4%) than all other races/ethnicities (74.1%) to endorse this statement.

•One place where Black and Hispanic respondents diverge is trust in government. Black respondents report lower trust in government (68% report little or no trust) than white (52.4%) and Hispanic (53.6%) respondents.

OBITUARIES

Luigi Matarazzo

Auto body mechanic

Luigi G. Matarazzo of Everett entered into eternal rest Tuesday, January 12 in the Lawrence General Hospital. He was 74 years old.

Born in Avellino, Italy, Luigi lived in the Everett area for many years. He was employed as an auto body mechanic.

The beloved son of the late Concetta (Barile) and Luigi Matarazzo, he

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was the dear and devoted brother of Maria Cubellis and Michael Matarazzo of Everett and Angelo Matarazzo of Florida. Luigi is also survived by several loving nieces and nephews.

Due to COVID-19, private services will be held for the immediate family. Arrangements are by the Cafasso & Sons Funeral Home, Everett..

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SEND US YOUR NEWS

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

485-1403. The Independent also encourages readers to e-mail news releases to editor@everettindependent.com. The Everett Independent assumes no financial responsibility

for typographical errors in advertisements, but will reprint that part of the advertisement in which the error occurs. Advertisers will please notify the management immediately of any errors that may occur.



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CHURCH News

Zion Church - Everett

News and Notes

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

book page, "Zion Church Ministries."

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

Mystic Side Congregational Church

News and Notes

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

Mystic Side Congregational Church 422 Main Street Everett, MA

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church

News and Notes

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church is open and welcoming to all.

There are 3 services on Sundays: 10am English, 1pm South Sudanese (Dinka) and 3pm Haitian Cre-Come all and let us walk

together in this season of

hope, renewal and new beginnings. **Grace Anglican**

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

Immaculate Conception Parish News and Notes

Our Parish Staff: Father

Joseph Chacha Marwa, S.M.A. Administrator; Father Ernest Egbedike,

S.M.A. Parochial Vicar; Secretary Barbara Can-

Weekly Mass Schedule

at Immaculate Conception is as follows: Saturday (Sunday Vig-

il) 4:00 p.m., Sunday 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Family Mass), 11:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. 12:15 p.m. Spanish

Community 4:00 p.m. Haitian Com-

Masses are being held in

e Chapel. Eucharistic Adoration

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

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

Immaculate Conception Parish 489 Broadway

Everett, Mass 02149 Phone 617-389-5660

Glendale Christian Lighthouse Church

News and Notes

Sunday 10:30 AM Worship service.

Wednesday hour of Power, worship, prayer and Bible Study, via Zoom.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters," Colossians 3:23 "In Pursuit of Spiritual

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GLENDALE CHRISTIAN LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH 701 BROADWAY EVERETT, **MASSACHUSETTS** 02149 617-387-7458 Rev. Larry Russi, Sr. **Pastor** pastorlarry@ thelighthousechurch701.net

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Church at the Well Everett

News and Notes

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

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

Glendale United Methodist Church

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

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

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

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

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

> AA Meeting – Saturday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 Pastor's Office Hours:

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

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

http://www.glendaleumc-everett.org **Glendale United Methodist Church Pastor David Jackson** 392 Ferry Street (across from Glendale Towers) Please enter the church by the driveway on **Walnut Street** 617-387-2916 PastorDavidJackson58@gmail.com **Pastor's Office Hours:** Saturdays 10 AM to 2 PM. Other times by appointment.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

STREET TO BE NAMED IN HONOR OF JOSH KRAFT

CHELSEA - The Chelsea City Council voted unanimously to name a street in honor of former Jordan Boys and Girls Club Executive Director Josh Kraft.

Councilor-at-Large Leo Robinson sponsored the motion that will name an area between Maverick Street and Congress Avenue adjacent to the club, "Josh Kraft Way."

"Josh Kraft came to Chelsea and helped affect Chelsea youths in a positive, uplifting manner," said Robinson. "He was able to deliver a state-ofthe-art Boys and Girls Club facility to Chelsea that has benefited our youth in so many ways. His leadership of the club was exceptional. The naming of this street is a fitting honor for a someone who was outstanding leader in our community for many years."

Kraft served as the founding executive director of the Chelsea-based club for 15 years, leading the way for the construction of the new \$11.2 million clubhouse on Willow Street. He is stepping down as the president of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston after a distinguished 30-year association with the organization.

Mark Robinson, chair of the JGBC Breakfast Series, said of Josh Kraft Way, "What a great and deserving honor!"

Robinson added, "Josh's legacy is beyond his leadership and the Chelsea Clubhouse. His positive impact on the lives of hundreds of children who passed through The Willow Street Clubhouse and their families is generational for it will multiply to the thousands for years to come. The

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Chelsea would not have happened without Josh and Chelsea will forever be the beneficiary."

John Montes, program director at the JGBC, had the opportunity to work with Kraft at the local club for 20 years. He said he is excited that there will be street named in honor of Kraft.

"This is an amazing tribute to Josh," said Montes. "He has done so much for this community that I could not think of anyone more deserving of this honor."

Josh Kraft is the son of New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and the late Myra Kraft. Josh is the president of the New England Patriots Founda-

CHELSEA FUNERAL **FUND ALMOST** DEPLETED

CHELSEA - With five requests to the Chelsea Funeral Fund since Dec. 30, including one of Jan. 11 for a COVID-19 death, Father Edgar Duarte of St. Luke's Church warned the City Council that it is in danger of being depleted very soon if no action is

The Funeral Fund was established originally in June to help residents provide a burial for unexpected deaths during the COVID-19, and many from community organizations and City government have referred those in need of funeral money to Father Edgar and the Fund. Families are able to access \$1,700 for referrals, and Father Edgar most of the time donates his services to officiate over the burial.

Father Edgar said there had been 12 families that have been helped at a cost of \$20,000 since COVID-19 hit, but he said there has been a major uptick in requests since the end of 2020 and the Fund is in danger of running out of money.

"The objective of the fund is to help residents provide a dignified burial of their dead in the worst of times," he said. "One issue that concerns me now is since Dec. 30 the number of referrals has been increased greatly in a short time."

He said there were two referrals last week, and two the previous week. On Monday, La Colaborativa Director Gladys Vega sent over another referral for a 60-year-old man that recently died of COVID-19.

"At this time, the Fund was started with \$22,000 and is left with \$8,000," he told the Council. "With this man referred today, it will be left with a little over \$6,000. We are very concerned that at this pace and with the increased mortality rates because of COVID-19, our Fund will dry up before our regular fundraising efforts can replenish the Fund."

Father Edgar and Councilor Judith Garcia put an order before the Council to provide \$25,000 of City funds to help replenish the Funeral Fund.

That effort was moved to a Second Reading at the City Council on Monday night, with much support from Councilors - including Councilor Damali Vi-

Vidot said after having spent an hour talking about a \$300,000 project to beautify the downtown, things like this just seemed so much more important.

"There are dire needs out there like this," she

"We have a responsibility to help Father Edgar, who is doing the Lord's work literally," she said. "I feel what he has done is immeasurable and we should support him."

NEW SUPERVISORS



Congratulations to the CPD's newest Patrol Sergeants - Star Chung (First Asian American Female Sargent), Paul Marchese (son of CPD Officer Ed Marchese – Ret.) and Jay Guido (son of former Revere Police Chief Jim Guido - Ret.).

"The City is extremely lucky to have such great new supervisors," said Chief Brian Kyes.

quickly getting depleted, and compared to other expenditures for COVID-19, it's a very small amount.

PROMOTIONS AT ZUMIX

EAST BOSTON. - Zumix's Jenny Shulman's decision to leave Zumix in December after eight years as the popular East Boston youth music nonprofit's Director of Programs has led to the promotions of three longtime Zumix alumni and staff-

"We are so excited to finally get to share three announcements," said Zumix in a statement. "After eight years of service, Jenny Shulman will be passing the baton to Corey DePina, an alumnus of Zumix and a staff member since 2002."

Shulman announced in September that she would leave Zumix. She finished her tenure at the end of December and DePina will now assume the role of Director of Programs.

DePina started with Zumix as a student in the program's second year of existence back in 1992. DePina came back as a staff member in 2002. "Corey is a musician,

community advocate, and award winning teaching artist," said Zumix. "In 2019, Corey received the Black Excellence on the Hill award from the State of Massachusetts Black and Latino Caucus for both his role at ZUMIX, and as the founder of the Fogo Project, which is working to build a music school and recording studio on the island of Fogo in Cabo Verde where his family is from."

Zumix's Kadahj Bennett will be stepping into DePina's former role of Songwriting and Performance Manager.

Bennett joined the staff in 2019 as the Instrumental Music Manager, and studied under DePina to craft his teaching artistry.

"Kadahj is an alumnus of Zumix and Boston Arts Academy, graduating in 2008," said Zumix. "Kadahj went on to receive a Posse scholarship to Hamilton College, where he graduated from in 2012. Kadahj received the Elliot Norton Award for Best Actor in 2020, and has performed with the New Repertory Theatre, Huntington Theatre Company, and Company One. Kadahj continues to be an Artist in Residence at Harvard University,

See REGION Page 11

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Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

and Neighborhood Salon Luminary at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Muse-

Finally, Omar Sosa, another Zumix alumnus, will be stepping into Bennett's role of Instrumental Music Manager. Sosa has served as Zumix's Administrative Assistant and Teaching Artist since 2016,

"We are also excited to announce that Kadahj will be passing the baton of Instrumental Music Manager to Omar Sosa," said Zumix. "Omar is an alumnus of Zumix, starting at the age of 6, and has been working as an Administrative Assistant and Teaching Artist for Zumix since 2016. He is a gifted teaching artist, musician, and leader of Boston based band Pangea."

Sosa graduated from Berklee College of Music with a degree in Jazz Composition after receiving a full-tuition scholar-

RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE IS UP

EAST BOSTON - The residential tax rate in Boston rose slightly from last year with the tax rate set at \$10.67 per \$1,000.

However, it is not the tax rate that has East Boston residents fuming over their property taxes but the assessed values of their properties.

The Boston Assessing Department warned at the end of last year that in Fiscal Year 2021, property values would, "Reflect real estate sales activity that occurred prior to the January 1, 2020 assessment date. During this period, assessments continued to increase due to an active real estate market in most neighborhoods over the prior year."

While the assessing department tried to cushion the blow for many property owners in Eastie ahead of the recently released assessments for FY2021 the upcoming tax bill was still a shock to many.

For example a single family home in Orient Heights saw its assessed increase value from \$570,400 in FY2020 to \$739,500 for FY2021--a nearly 30 percent increase.

Another home nearby went from an assessed val;ue of \$490,000 in FY2020 to \$676,000 for FY2021--a nearly 40 percent increase in one year.

"A million dollar property was built across the street from my house on Bennington and I know that has increased the property value of the neighborhood," said one frustrated resident. "It's great if you want to sell but unfair if you have no intentions to." A quick look through

some other properties in Eastie and it is evident that many tax bills will increase around 30 percent on average for FY2021. However, there is some

relief for lowering your tax bill. The city's Residential & Personal Exemptions may provide some tax relief. Taxpayers who owned and occupied their property as their principal residence on or before January 1, 2020 may be eligible for the residential exemption. In certain circumstances, taxpayers may also be eligible if they obtained their principal residence be-

tween January 1 and July 1, 2020. Last year's residential exemption saved qualified homeowners up to

\$2,879.79 off their tax bill

and the City Council and

Mayor Martin Walsh continue to choose the maximum exemption allowed by law consistent with the City's commitment to keeping taxes affordable for homeowners.

Homeowners may also reduce their tax bill by qualifying for a personal exemption for taxpayers who are Elderly, Blind, Surviving Spouses or Minor Children of Deceased Parents, Veterans, or certain members of the National Guard. Each exemption has eligibility requirements such as age and income limits. While you may not receive more than one personal exemption, you will receive the exemption that most reduces your tax bill should you qualify for more than one personal exemption

At the end of 2019 the Boston Municipal Research Bureau (BMRB) reported that Eastie outpaced the rest of the city and the total taxable property value hit 5.052 billion in FY19. This was a growth of 2.48 billion since FY13 or 96.7 percent in the neighborhood.

Eastie was third only to Mission Hill and the Seaport, which reported a 110 and 181 percent increase in the total taxable property since FY13 respectively. Boston's more affluent zip codes like Back Bay and Beacon Hill only saw a 72 percent increase between FY13 and FY19.

LeBLANC TAKES OVER **FUDDRUCKERS**

LYNN - It is a classic hometown success story.

A high school student begins working at a nationally known and highly regarded restaurant in her backyard.

The industrious, young lady continues her employment there and becomes the popular general manager of that restaurant. During her successful career in the industry, the opportunity arises where she can purchase the restaurant - and she does just Congratulations, Sau-

gus resident Adrienne LeBlanc, on becoming the owner and operator of Fuddruckers, home of the world's greatest hamburg-LeBlanc took over

ownership of Fuddruckers on Route 1, Saugus, on November 30. She had been the manager of the restaurant for 20 years. "My boss [Jim Boland]

just threw it around that he was retiring, so it was definitely a thought, and then it became an offer. and then it became real," said LeBlanc. What's it like to own

such a well-known restaurant that has become a Route 1 landmark? "It feels absolutely

amazing, a great accomplishment," said LeBlanc. "I'm very excited. It's a new chapter in my life." LeBlanc, 38, attend-

ed Saugus High School, Class of 2000. She graduated from computer technology school while maintaining her association with Fuddruckers. She is the daughter of

lifelong Saugus residents Dave and Carol LeBlanc. She has an older brother, David LeBlanc, a Saugus

High graduate who works for a medical technology corporation. Adrienne said her 3-year-old son, Axton, was an inspiration in her determination to succeed in her

field. "He's the real reason

why I did this – I'm trying

to build a future for him,"

she said proudly. "This is just an amazing opportunity. A woman-owned business in the restaurant industry is not common, especially before the age of 40. So it's an amazing opportunity that I have."

Adrienne praised Jim Boland, the former owner of Fuddruckers. "Mr. [Jim] Boland is an amazing man. He taught me everything that I know," said Adrienne. "I couldn't have asked to work for somebody better in my life. He was definitely a godsend to me. I wouldn't have this opportunity without him." Adrienne is a true mod-

el for young women in the restaurant industry. She is excited to welcome and serve customers to her own restaurant.

"And I will always have the world's greatest hamburgers," reported Adri-

CAGGIANO TAKES OATH OF OFFICE FOR NORTHEAST **VOCATIONAL**

REVERE - Anthony Caggiano received his oath of office as Revere's representative on Northeast Regional Vocational School Committee at a ceremony last week at City Hall.

City Clerk Ashley Melnik administered the oath to Caggiano in the socially distanced ceremony held inside the Council Cham-

Caggiano was elected to the position in November. Revere is one of 12 area communities that has students attending Northeast, which is located in Wakefield.

"I'm very happy and looking forward to serving on the Committee," said Caggiano. "There are a lot of challenges ahead."

Caggiano has had an association to the school for many years. His mother, Marie Sardella, was an administrative assistant at Northeast while his stepfather, Louis Sardella, was the director of the special needs. Caggiano's triplets sons Anthony, Andrew, and Alexander - are graduates of Northeast.

Caggiano attended Revere High School (Class of 1976) and is a graduate of North Shore Community College and Suffolk University.

Long-time friend and Taft Street neighbor Gerry D'Ambrosio attended Caggiano's inauguration ceremony.

"I've known Anthony for 45 years," said D'Ambrosio, a prominent attorney. "He's been committed to the city and the youth of the city. He'll make for a great Vocational School Committee member." Caggiano is one of

six new members of the Northeast Regional School Committee. He will participate in the first meeting of the new year Thursday. The Committee meets on the second Thursday of each month. **CONCERNED**

OVER RATS REVERE - Council-

lors George Rotondo and Arthur Guinasso both expressed their concerns about rodents making their way from the former site of the Sozio's appliance store on Squire Road on to other nearby properties.

The landmark Sozio's store was destroyed in a five-alarm fire in February, 2018. The store was demolished and the prop-

erty sits vacant. "The motion [to con-

tact Inspectional Services

and investigate the matter] speaks for itself," said Ro-

Guinasso indicated that "there's a lot of burrows in and about the Verizon and the old Sozio site and area residents are reporting that they're [rodents] there and inundating the neighborhood."

"The least the property owners can do is to close these burrows and put the necessary ingredients inside to rid the area of these rodents," said Guinasso. "I want to make sure that the safety and health of the residents who live there are taken care of."

Last week, the Council unanimously approved the motions to request Revere Inspectional Services to investigate the rodent situation at the former Sozio

BONCORE PRAISES TOWN EMPLOYEES FOR COVID WORK

WINTHROP - On Jan. 5, the Winthrop Town Council convened remotely for its first meeting of 2021, where it heard updates impacting the community.

State of the Town Ad-

Council President Phil Boncore opened the meeting with his annual State of the Town Address, in which he summarized the town's achievements of the past year.

Unsurprisingly, bulk of his address had to do with how the town confronted an unprecedented health crisis. He applauded the efforts of municipal workers in combating the pandemic and the continuity of services provided to the community. His full speech is available on the Town Council web page.

COVID Update DPH Director Meredith

Hurley delivered her usual public health update. As of Jan. 5, Winthrop had confirmed cases

of the virus, with 32 deceased and 143 in isolation. Winthrop remains a high-risk community with a 5.9 percent positive rate. The previous two weeks had seen 73 new cases for every 100,000 people.

Winthrop residents count for 67 percent of the individuals who have visited the town's Stop the Spread testing site. This program will be extended until March 31. Testing will be fully indoors by the third week of January, and will be available by appointment only. The location and date are to be determined.

Vaccines are already being administered in the state, with a priority on first responders, long term care facilities and healthcare workers. The general public may not have access to the vaccine until the summer. Town Manager Austin Faison also mentioned the "new aggressive variant" of the virus.

"This is going to be a hard time," he said.

Schools are open and Supt. Lisa Howard is making a presence at all locations. The School Committee voted 4-3 to hold their first meeting of February in person. The Council was likewise split on whether or not to resume in-person meetings. (See separate article in this

Committee Reports

The Finance Committee discussed the FY21 budget, the new position of town planner, and recommended to transfer \$20,000 from the Town Council reserves for pest control. Council voted to approve the transfer. The Citizens Adviso-

ry Committee on Finance welcomed new members and elected Karin Chavis as its chairperson. The committee is "optimistic, ready and willing" to affect change. The Public Safety Com-

mittee and the Capital Assets Committee held a joint meeting on Dec. 30 in which it evaluated new sites for the public safety building. The two sites being considered are the little league ballfield and the 7th hole of the golf course. Current occupants of these spaces object to their use. The matter was tabled until more exploration could be conducted.

The Public Safety Committee also discussed the idea of the town council resuming in-person meetings. Locations other than the Harvey Room at Town Hall were considered.

The Miller Field Committee and the School **Building Assistance Com**mittee met to discuss the future of the tennis court project. The project will include four new courts, improved drainage, improved intersections, safer sidewalks, and additional parking. It should be completed by mid-June.

Other Updates

The council unanimously appointed Council Peter Christopher as the new Council Vice President.

The Town Council authorized Town Manager Faison to sign the North Suffolk Resilience & Sustainability Agreement, which will allow it to collaborate with neighboring towns and cities in its efforts to produce more environmentally friendly development.

The town has made an offer to an individual for the newly created position of Town Planner.

There are immediate openings on the following committees: the Airport Hazards Committee, Commission for Diversity, **Inclusion and Community** Relations, and the Winthrop Planning Board. In addition, Winthrop Public Schools is hiring for numerous positions.





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From the Governor's Desk

BAKER SIGNS SAFE PATIENT ACCESS TO EMERGENCY CARE ACT

On Friday, Gov. Charles Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito participated in a ceremonial signing of S.2931, An Act to ensure safe patient access to emergency care.

Named in memory of Laura Levis, Baker and Polito were also joined by Laura's husband, Pete DeMarco, members of her family, and Sen. Pat Je-

"I signed 'Laura's Law' to safeguard against future tragedies occurring just steps away from hospital emergency departments," said Baker. "In the wake of her tragic passing, Laura's husband, Pete, undertook an exhaustive effort to honor her legacy and protect others from similar fates. After months of collaboration and hard work with legislators, including Senator Jehlen and Representative Barber, I am proud to sign Laura's Law and celebrate her memory in a meaningful

The new law would im-



Gov. Charles Baker in a ceremonial signing of S.2931, An Act to ensure safe patient access to emergency care.

plement minimum criteria and standards that ensure safe, timely and accessible patient access to the entrances of Massachusetts hospital emergency departments. These regulations will require that entries must be clearly marked, easily accessible and properly monitored by security when appropriate. Additionally, the Department of Public Health will convene a working group on patient access to hospital emergency rooms or departments to report on

and make recommenda-

tions to inform these policies. In 2016, Laura Levis died of an asthma attack outside of an area hospital when she was unable to locate an accessible entrance to the emergency room.

STATE AWARDS ANOTHER \$78.5 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL GRANTS TO BUSINESSES

The Baker-Polito Administration announced \$78.5 million in awards last week to 1,595 addi-

tional small businesses in the third round of grants through the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation.

To date, the Administration has awarded close to \$195 million in direct financial support to 4,119 small businesses out of a \$668 million fund set up to support small businesses across the Commonwealth.

Additional grants will be announced in the coming weeks for thousands of additional businesses.

"Understanding how significant the need for financial assistance we've taken important steps to ensure these resources are directed toward the businesses that have historically been at a disadvantage even before the pandemic, or are located in communities, especially Gateway Cities, that have suffered disproportionately because of this virus," said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. "I'm grateful for the partnership with MGCC to provide this important assistance, and I look forward to the coming weeks when we can award even more support for the economic sectors that are most in need."

Representing key industries that have been especially impacted during the pandemic, restaurants and bars, personal care, retail, and health care businesses received the highest number of individual grants this round. These industries have been particularly hard hit during the pandemic. Other grant recipients include women owned businesses, businesses in Gateway Cities, businesses in underserved markets and businesses that have previously received no other forms of financial assistance.

The new Grant Program Application Deadline was Friday night, Jan. 15.

BAKER-POLITO ADMINISTRATION RE-FILES UNEMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION

The Baker-Polito Administration re-filed unemployment insurance legislation initially filed last month. The Governor's legislation aims to sustain unemployment benefits and provide an estimated \$1.3 billion in unemployment insurance relief to the Commonwealth's employers over two years. In addition to a two-year unemployment insurance tax schedule freeze, the legislation also proposes financing measures designed to ensure the solvency of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund and that federal borrowing that has occurred is repaid in a responsible and affordable manner.

The main provisions of this legislation include:

pending license applications in process. In October 2020, WynnBET became an Authorized Gaming Operator of NASCAR, with more partnerships to be announced. WynnBET was launched in 2020 and is headquartered in Jersey City, New 1. Short Term Employer Tax Relief through a two-year tax schedule freeze. Current Massachusetts unemployment legislative statute requires the employer tax schedule to increase from schedule E to schedule G. This would cause an average per em-

ployee tax increase from \$539 to \$866 – a nearly 60-percent increase over the previous year. Remaining on schedule E for 2021 and 2022 slows annual employer contribution growth from \$539 average per employee costs in 2020 to \$635 in 2021 and \$665 in 2022

2. Authorization for the issuance of special obligation bonds for the purposes of repaying federal advances. In order to fund the unprecedented increases in demand on the unemployment system in Massachusetts as a result of COVID-19, the Commonwealth has received federal cash advances. Through the issuance of bonds, the Commonwealth will be able to ensure positive trust fund solvency to enable the continued payment of benefits. The utilization of capital markets also allows Massachusetts to avoid paying punitive federal tax increases on employers regardless of their experience rating if federal advances are not repaid by November of 2022. Bonds issued will be supported by an unemployment obligation assessment and will not be general obligations

of the Commonwealth. 3. Establishes an employer surcharge on contributory employers. In 2020 all federal advances taken to pay benefits are interest free. However, interest on federal advances will begin to be charged beginning in January of 2021. The first interest payment is due in the Fall of 2021 and it cannot be paid from the state unemployment trust fund, per federal law. To fund interest payments on repayable advances, the legislation also establishes a separate fund to house surcharge proceeds. The passage of this provision authorizes the Department of Unemployment Assistance to make this assessment but does not require the surcharge if interest is waived through future federal leg-

WynnBET increases market access to seven states, including Mass.

WynnBET, the new casino and sports betting app from Wynn Resorts, announced last week that is had increased its market access to seven states, including Massachusetts.

Most recently, Wynn-BET entered into a multiyear market access partnership with Elite Casino Resorts, the leading integrated resort company in Iowa. The partnership will give avid sports fans in the Hawkeye State access to WynnBET for mobile sports betting licensed by Elite's Riverside Casino and Golf Resort.

WynnBET is currently available in New Jersey and Colorado, and will soon open its virtual doors in Michigan. In addition, WynnBET has

in Indiana, Iowa, Nevada, and Massachusetts; and has submitted for licensure in Tennessee and Virginia. To meet the demands of the quickly moving iGaming industry, WynnBET is fast-tracking discussions regarding market access in more than a dozen other large jurisdictions to be

announced. Combined, the Company's secured and prospective market access would position WynnBET to reach approximately two-thirds of the addressable online bet-

tors in the United States.

Wynn Resorts said it had gained access to the Massachusetts market due to being a licensed casino operator here. Sports betting is illegal in the state, but a pending bill does give priority to licensed casino operators for sports betting. That bill has been stalled in the State Legislature for two years.

Inspired by Wynn Resorts' unmatched expertise in customer service, the WynnBET app offers an ultra-intuitive and highly responsive interface that delivers hundreds of sports betting options to delight both aficionados and beginners alike. With its acquisition of BetBull in 2020, WynnBET is built on a foundation of highly social sports betting technology and one-of-a-kind experiences so that wagering and winning can be a celebrated and shared ex-

WynnBET is the online gaming division of Wynn Resorts offering a world-

and sports betting apps. WynnBET is anchored by its eponymous mobile sports and casino betting app providing one-of-akind experiences, unique social betting mechanics, and a high-quality user interface. Currently available in New Jersey and Colorado, WynnBET is poised for rapid expansion in 2021 with market access secured in seven states and several pending license applications in process. In October 2020, WynnBET became an Authorized Gaming Operator of NA-SCAR, with more partnerships to be announced. WynnBET was launched in 2020 and is headquar-

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