









# A comprehensive approach to senior housing in Everett

Construction is official-ly underway in Everett for the newest develop-ment project from The Neighborhood Developers (TND).

A non-profit commu-nity development cor-poration based in Chel-sea, TND is known for the award-winning Box Dis-trict and other community development projects in Chelsea and Revere. There are two complementary construction projects un-derway at the former St. Therese Parish location on Broadway. The larger of the two includes 77 af-fordable rental apartments for seniors aged 62 and older and a 4,000 square foot health care facility. The second component of the project is the construc-tion of six townhouses on Gledhill Avenue that will provide three-bed-room homes for sale at be-low-market prices.

In addition to announc-ing the start of construc-tion, TND is proud to offi-cially partner with the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) at St. Therese. At the for-mer Parish site, TND will create a community as-set featuring public green space and a new health center on the ground floor to serve the building’s eld-erly residents and mem-bers of the broader com-munity. The health center will also include services offered by the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), operated by EBNHC, which pro-vide comprehensive care and support for clinically complex seniors, includ-ing preventive care, spe-cialist visits, prescription drug coverage, and health and wellness programs. PACE is the ideal solution for those who want an al-ternative to nursing home care for the right combi-nation of medical, social, recreation, rehabilitation, home care, and other ser-vices.

“The partnership be-tween The Neighborhood Developers, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center and the City of Everett will bring much needed affordable hous-ing opportunities to one of the City’s most vulner-able populations, our se-nior citizens,” said Mayor Carlo DeMaria. “Having a healthcare facility con-structed in conjunction with the housing will give residents the chance to receive care in a state-of-the-art facility with a well-respected provider. I look forward to breaking ground on this project and adding additional afford-able housing to the City’s inventory.”

EBNHC serves more than 100,000 patients across its various clinic locations and is the larg-est community health

center in Massachusetts, and among the largest community health centers in the country. Neighbor-hood PACE, operated by EBNHC, is part of the na-tional Program of All-In-clusive Care for the Elder-ly network that provides comprehensive care and support for adults 55 and older with specific needs and preferences.

This collaboration be-tween an affordable hous-ing developer and health center is bolstered by the impacts of COVID-19 on Everett and surrounding communities. “Expanded access to needed health care services for seniors is critical as we fight our way out of this pandemic and recover from its impacts to our lives and health,” says Manny Lopes, CEO and President of EBNHC. The coronavirus has been particularly dangerous for people living in congregant housing, including se-niors. TND, however, saw much lower COVID-19 infection rates for people residing in its properties as compared to those in the surrounding commu-nity. “In 2020, COVID-19 painfully highlighted the connection between health and housing; at St. Therese people will have access to healthy, afford-able housing and conven-ient medical services and wellness programs at the same time” says Rafael Mares, Executive Director of TND. The PACE model to be offered at St. Therese will provide seniors the support and resources to safely continue living in the communities they are rooted in.

Demolition of the building and subsequent construction began in October. However, some of the roof tiles were sal-vaged pre-demolition and reserved for another Ever-ett-based congregation, St. Anthony’s church. Oth-er architectural elements were also saved to be in-corporated into the new property design. The name of the historical parish, St. Therese, has been kept to uphold the rich history of this landmark. The con-struction is managed by local contractor, Bald Hill Builders.

Construction is sched-uled to continue through-out 2021 and be complet-ed in May 2022.This will be TND’s first affordable housing project in Ever-ett. After decades of work in Chelsea, as well as Re-vere in the last few years, the organization is excited and prepared to join the Everett community. This project is a key piece of a multi-year plan to further build relationships and ex-plore partnerships in Ever-ett with municipal, civic, business and communi-ty-based organizations.

# COVID-19 vaccine transportation for seniors

Mayor Carlo DeMaria is pleased to announce that Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) is offer-ing free transportation ser-vices to Everett seniors 60 years and older to nearby COVID-19 vaccine sites.

“As the next phase of vaccine distribution is ap-proaching, MVES is being so generous to offer their services,” said Mayor De-Maria. “Distributing the vaccine to our community is our highest priority and I am grateful for the part-nership between the City of Everett and MVES.”

Seniors are not required to be a client of MVES to utilize this service. Round trips will be provided for those who do not have ac-cess to the vaccine at their building complex or do not have other means to get to a vaccination site. All who attend must wear a mask.

To make an appoint-ment for a ride, please contact MVES at 781-324-7705. For the latest information regarding the vaccine distribution, please visit [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).

## HISTORIC PROPERTY

# The Beehive of Elkdom: 42 Church Street was home to Everett Elks Lodge



Former Glendon Clubhouse/Elks Home previously on site, destroyed by fire in 1947. Source: Everett Public Libraries

*(The following is a weekly feature in the In-dependent based on the City’s 2018 Historic Prop-erty Survey done to note the many little-known historically significant properties within the city.)*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Constructed in 1949, the former Elks Home is a flat-roofed building with a brick veneer and a clas-sically-inspired two-story “Temple” front superim-posed on its Church Street façade. Five two-story brick pilasters articulate the façade and support a full pediment which origi-nally had a central medallion. The first floor of the façade is fronted by a single-story, four-bay portico supported by squat, fluted columns. Under-neath the porch there is a double-doored entrance in the third bay; it appears that there was a second en-trance in the adjacent bay but this has been filled with brick. The two end bays of the first floor façade con-tain double-hung 8/8 win-dows. On the second floor, the original large arched, multi-light windows have been removed and the openings filled. One of the openings has metal double doors which open onto the porch roof which is enclosed by a simple balustrade with square posts and stick balusters that replaces the original railing that had bulbous balusters. The building is setback from the street with a concrete side-walk leading to the front, flanked by small lawn ar-eas that are enclosed with

chain link fence. In the 1950s the front lawn had carefully clipped hedges. A sidewalk to the south of the building leads down to a basement level, below the street level. Many of the rectangular window openings on the lesser el-evations were blocked and covered with a brick ve-neer in 1981.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

On July 25, 1901 the Everett Lodge #642 of the Benevolent and Pro-tection Order of Elks was granted a charter. In 1905 the lodge purchased the former Glendon Club-house which was built on this site in 1893 accord-ing to plans by architect J.C. Spofford (Book 3150, Page 450). On Decem-ber 19, 1947 the original building was damaged by fire and it was torn down in November 1948. The pouring of the foundation for a new lodge began on April 5, 1949 and the steel was erected on May 27th. The cornerstone was laid on June 14, 1949. The contractor was the Con-crete Construction Com-pany and the cost of the building was \$150,000.

On November 11, 1954 the Lodge had a party to celebrate the burning of their mortgage. In the lat-ter half of the 20th centu-ry, the Everett Lodge was very active and involved in the community. It was reportedly so busy that it was nicknamed “the bee-hive of Elkdom”. Various alterations were made to the building in the years that followed. In 1953 the walls were sheathed

# City of Everett COVID-19 vaccine for seniors

Mayor Carlo DeMaria is pleased to announce that the City of Everett Health Department in partnership with Cataldo EMS will be administering COVID-19 vaccines on Saturday, February 6, and Sunday, February 7, between 9am-5pm at Pope John XXIII High School located at 888 Broadway.

Vaccines will be distrib-uted to Everett residents only ages 75 and over.

“The City will be admin-istering vaccines to our se-niors to protect them from COVID-19,” said Mayor DeMaria. “I want to en-sure that all seniors will have access to the vaccine during these challenging times. Protecting our most vulnerable population is our highest priority as we enter the next phase of dis-tribution. I will continue to advocate until our entire community has received the vaccine.”

Seniors are required to make an appointment to re-ceive the vaccine. Appoint-ments can be made online at <https://www.maimmunizations.org/> beginning on Monday, February 1 at

8 a.m. For any questions, please contact 3-1-1.

Upon arrival at the vac-cination site, seniors are required to provide proof of age with any govern-ment-issued ID. Because Everett is considered a high impact community, the City is receiving 400 dos-es of the vaccine per week. Distribution of the vaccine is based upon availability from the Commonwealth.

Vaccines will be ad-ministered in the school’s cafeteria on the first floor. Seniors are asked to enter through the rear entrance that can be accessed from Cameron Street. After the vaccine is administered, an appointment will be made for the second dose. It is important for those who get tested to wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, and practice social distancing.

Seniors who make an appointment to receive a vaccine are eligible for free transportation services through Mystic Valley El-der Services (MVES). To make an appointment for a ride, please contact MVES at 781-324-7705.



The New Englander, April 1957.

in the Assembly Room in the basement and in 1959 the wooden railing in the front of the building was replaced by a metal rail-ing. In 1961 interior alter-ations were made at a cost of \$18,000 and an addition was constructed. The win-dows in the Lodge Room were changed in 1977. In 1979 after a fire, walls were repaneled, new car-peting and tile floors were installed as were suspend-ed ceilings. Finally, in 1981, a total of 22 window openings were blocked up and an outer brick veneer was installed at these for-mer openings.

On July 25, 2001, Ever-ett Lodge #642 celebrated its 100th Anniversary as a lodge. In 2003 the Lodge

established a Building Committee to investigate the Lodge’s options for renovation or relocation. In November 2005 Ever-ett Lodge #642 sold the building at 42 Church Street to Ottavio Passanisi and leased back the main floor as a temporary home while they searched for a new location. In 2007 Ev-erett Lodge #642 merged with Saugus Lodge #2100 and relocated to the Sau-gus Lodge site to form the Saugus-Everett Lodge #642.

The Elks Home at 42 Church Street was pur-chased by the Worshipers of the King Ministries – Assembly of God in 2013 (Book 61740, Page 36). It is now used as a church.

## - LEGAL NOTICE - CITY OF EVERETT



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

To Whom It May Concern:  
This notice is to inform you that a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM in regards to an applica-tion for zoning relief. In response to Governor Baker’s declaration of a public health emergency and the related Emergency Exec-utive Order dated March 12, 2020, the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be meeting remotely until further notice. The audioconfer-encing application Zoom will be used for this purpose. An online link and telephone access number will be provided on all meeting agendas and also on the Board’s website. This application will permit the public to access and participate in future Board meetings and hearings. Instructions for joining meetings in this manner will be provided on the City and City Clerk’s website. In addition, Everett Community TV (ECTV) may provide coverage of these meetings. We extend our thanks for your understand-ing and participation in this manner, which is intended to keep members of the Board and the public safe.

**Whereas a petition has been presented by:**  
**Property Address: 29 Myrtle Street**  
**Map/Parcel: B0-01-00132A**  
**Person Requesting: 29 Myrtle Street Realty Trust**  
**Felice Parisi Trustee**  
**21 Horseshoe Drive**  
**Lynnfield, MA 01940**

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

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

Zoning Ordinance:  
Section 4 Dwelling Districts Uses A. Uses. Within any dwelling district as indicated on the zoning map, no building, structure or premises shall be used and no building or structure shall be erected which is intended or designed to be used in whole or in part for any industry, trade, manufacturing, or commercial purposes, of for other than the following specified purposes:  
1. A single or double semi-detached dwelling existing at the time of the first enactment of the Zoning Ordinance may be converted to provide not more than a total of three (3) dwelling units provid-ed that the following standards are met:  
Any addition shall comply with the front, side and rear yard requirements and height limitations of the Zoning Ordinance.  
Section 4 Dwelling Districts (b) Dimensional Requirements line C. All other uses-----0.5 maximum floor area ratio (Ord. of 6-29-87; Ord. of 4-29-91 Ord. of 7/16/2002; Ord. of 11/13/2007)  
Section 4 Dwelling Districts paragraph 17 which states the following:  
Conversion of Dwelling. No new dwelling unit created by the conversion of an existing dwelling shall be permitted unless the requirements of minimum lot area and off-street parking are satisfied for all dwelling units in existence and proposed in the dwelling after the conversion or enlargement. (Ord. 02-046 of Oct. 22, 2003)

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



# Everett

## Independent

President: Stephen Quigley

Editor in Chief: Cary Shuman

### MINIMUM WAGE SHOULD BE AT \$15.00

In 1971, the minimum wage across the United States, as mandated by federal law, was \$1.60.

Today, the federal minimum stands at \$7.25.

One might look at those two numbers and think that because the minimum wage has increased by more than four-fold in the past 50 years, America's lowest-paid workers are doing alright compared to their grandparents.

But the reality is far different.

In fact, had the federal minimum wage kept pace with workers' productivity in the past five decades, the inflation-adjusted minimum wage would be \$24 an hour.

The reality of the \$7.25 minimum wage, which has been at that level since 2009, is that a person working a full-time job at the minimum wage officially falls below the national poverty level, a reality that would be laughably absurd if it were not so harmful to millions of Americans.

President Joe Biden has proposed increasing the minimum wage across the country to \$15.00 by 2024, essentially bringing it into line with Massachusetts and a few other states that already are near or at that level. (The minimum wage in Massachusetts presently stands at \$13.50 and will increase incrementally here and in seven other states to \$15.00 within the next two years.)

Raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025 would raise wages of up to 27.3 million workers -- almost 20 percent of American workers -- and lift 1.3 million families out of poverty, according to a report by the Congressional Budget Office.

Some on the political spectrum speak exultingly about the dignity of work.

But they ignore the other side of the equation, which is that it is below the dignity of anyone to work for wages that amount to not much better than slave labor.

The time has come to raise the minimum wage and yes, to Make America Great Again -- for everybody.

### OREGON LEADS THE WAY ON DRUGS

For more than 50 years, America has been fighting the "war on drugs," an endeavor that began under the administration of President Richard M. Nixon, who had the avowed purpose of arresting and incarcerating as many Blacks and other minorities as possible, especially for simple possession of marijuana.

The war on drugs has been a failure by any measure. Not only have we spent hundreds of billions of dollars on failed law enforcement efforts both in this country and around the globe, directly leading to the destabilization of many nations that has had profound effects both for those countries and ours, but it is fair to say that the drug war has destroyed the lives of more individuals, families, and communities than the drugs themselves.

Thanks to the war on drugs, the prison population in the United States exceeds every other nation on earth, both in terms of sheer numbers and based on population.

At long last, after 50 years of fruitless and costly failure, things are about to change.

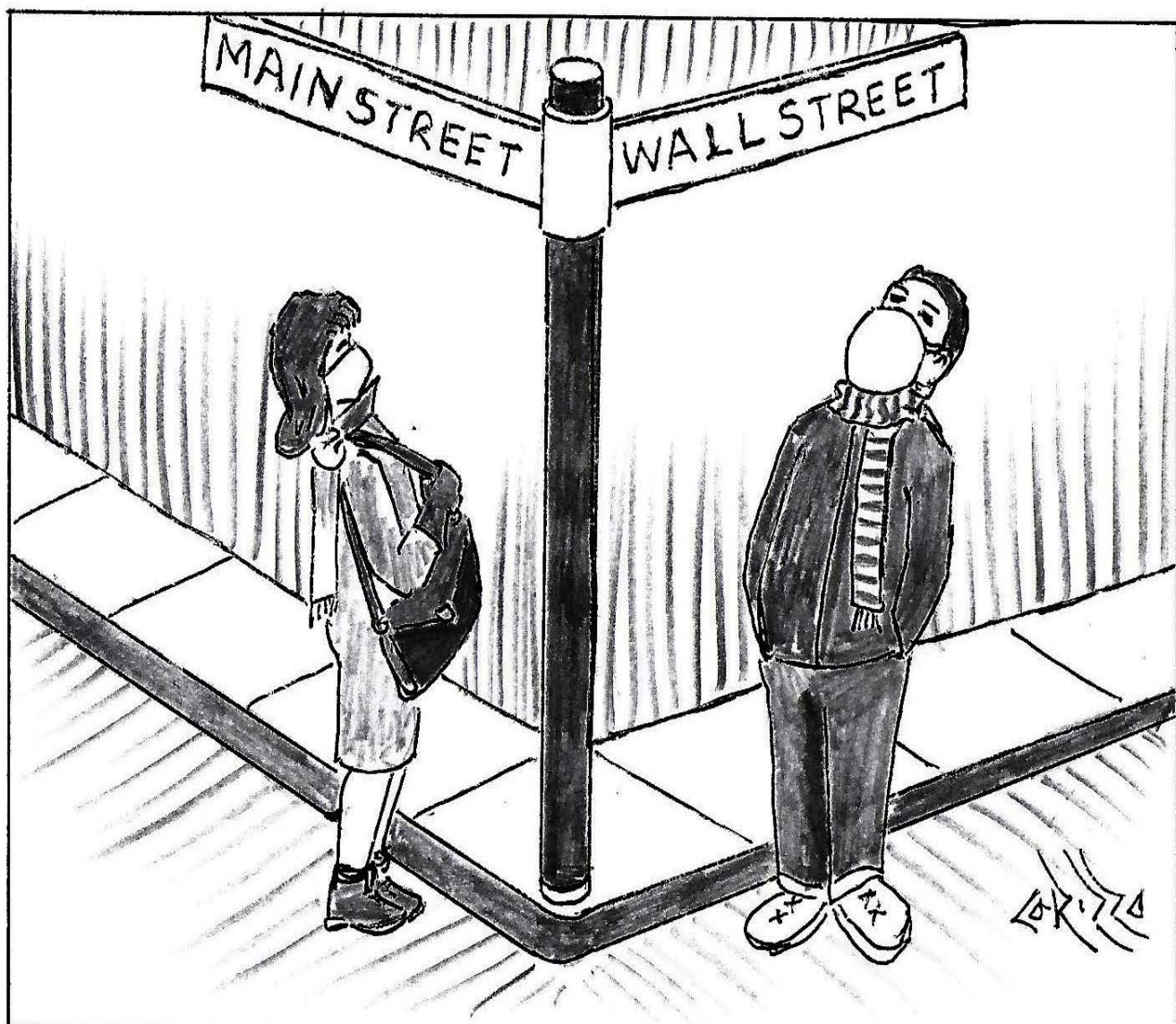
Voters in the State of Oregon recently approved a ballot question that decriminalizes the possession of illegal drugs. Instead of throwing people in jail, the state will view drug use as a health issue, offering addicts treatment instead of prison time.

In Portugal, this approach has been used for 20 years. The result has been stunning. Drug overdose deaths and HIV and other drug-related infections have decreased dramatically. In addition, the removal of criminal penalties did NOT increase the rate of drug use.

The time has come for our society to acknowledge that the war on drugs, which was based on racism to begin with, must come to an end.

Oregon is leading the way -- and change is coming none too soon.

# Independent Forum



### LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

#### RODRIGUEZ NAMED TO LASELL UNIVERSITY DEAN'S LIST

Joel Rodriguez of Everett (02149) was named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Lasell University in Newton, Massachusetts.

Joel Rodriguez of Everett was named to the Dean's List for their academic performance in the fall semester. Students who receive this honor have completed at least 12 credits as a full-time student and have achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

#### AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE ANNOUNCES FALL 2020 DEAN'S LIST

American International College (AIC) in Springfield, Massachusetts, has

named 640 students to the Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester. Dean's List students are full time students who have achieved a 3.3 to 4.0 GPA. AIC commends the efforts and accomplishments of these scholars during this unprecedented time.

Nour Ghaib, of Everett Yasmeen Guerrier, of Everett

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

#### PASSANISI OF EVERETT NAMED TO THE DEAN'S LIST

Julia Passanisi of Everett has been named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire for earning Highest Honors for the fall 2020 semester. Passanisi is majoring in Health Management & Policy.

Students named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire are students who have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average

are awarded high honors and students whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64 are awarded honors.

The University of New Hampshire is a flagship research university that inspires innovation and transforms lives in our state, nation and world. More than 16,000 students from all 50 states and 71 countries engage with an award-winning faculty in top ranked programs in business, engineering, law, liberal arts and the sciences across more than 200 programs of study. UNH's research portfolio includes partnerships with NASA, NOAA, NSF and NIH, receiving more than \$100 million in competitive external funding every year to further explore and define the frontiers of land, sea and space.

### Baker signs transportation bond bill, Everett gets \$10 million

Representative Joe McGonagle and Mayor Carlo DeMaria are pleased to announce that the recently signed transportation bond bill includes \$10 million to address issues surrounding Sweetser Circle in Everett.

"We waited a long time for this bill to finally get to the Governor's desk and I'm so thankful it has been passed and Everett is included," said McGonagle. "This money will be a huge investment in improving traffic and road

concerns in our community. I am very thankful to all in the legislature who helped get this passed, including Senator Sal DiDomenico, and to Mayor DeMaria for making this a priority for the city. I'd also like to thank Jay Monty without whom this would not have been possible."

Although the House originally passed the bill in March 2020, the pandemic put the official passing of this bill on hold until January 2021 when

the committee sent the final version to the Governor. While the Governor signed off on most of the bill, he vetoed a few pieces, including raising fees on rideshare apps such as Uber and Lyft. Overall, the bill contained \$16.5 billion for investments in the Commonwealth's transportation systems.

"I'm happy to have worked with Rep McGonagle to secure \$10M in the Transportation Bond Bill for Sweetser Circle," said DeMaria. "This will

be a down payment on what we hope will be a complete transformation of the traffic circle that will not only calm traffic and create safe pedestrian access between upper and lower Broadway, but also include access to the Silver Line, Commuter Rail, Northern Strand Bike Path and Malden River walks, creating a truly multi-modal transportation hub in the City."

# Everett

## Independent

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### Your opinions, please

The Everett Independent welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Our fax number is **781-485-1403**. Letters may also be e-mailed to

**editor@everettindependent.com.**

Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

### 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](mailto: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.



# EFD selected to participate in community risk reduction pilot program

The Everett Fire Department has been selected by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to participate in the second phase of a pilot program to build a digital community risk assessment (CRA) tool. Aligned to NFPA 1300, Standard on Community Risk Assessment and Community Risk Reduction Plan Development, the tool, or “dashboard,” enables community leaders to gain valuable insights and make data-informed decisions around fire prevention and other risk-reduction activities in their communities.

According to NFPA, the concept of community risk reduction (CRR)

- a process that identifies and prioritizes risks and ensures impactful mitigation initiatives- has been gaining traction across North America for more than 20 years. Innovative technology, access to data, and a shifting focus on prevention have resulted in new energy around this process. Reflecting that momentum, NFPA’s CRA tool works to help fire departments aggregate and disseminate data that pinpoint where risks exist within a given community.

“Access to accurate data will allow CRR leaders to use insights and make informed decisions about where to focus efforts and resources,” said Karen Berard-Reed, community

risk reduction strategist at NFPA. “While many fire departments have struggled to work with data sets, NFPA’s CRA tool will do the complex work behind the scenes to compile relevant data allowing stakeholders to create effective community risk reduction plans that incorporate five priorities - education, engineering, enforcement, economic incentives, and emergency response - in the most impactful ways possible.”

The first phase of the pilot project, which included participation from 50 fire departments across the country, helped identify features of the digital dashboard that will work effectively and those that

need fine-tuning. During the second phase of the program, which involves participation from 250 departments nationwide, the Everett Fire Department will provide insights around the use of dashboard through June of 2021 to help continue refining and enhancing its effectiveness.

“Participation in this project allows each fire department to provide important feedback that will be used to improve future versions of the dashboard, positions the community among CRR leaders in the United States, and signals an interest in leveraging technology to drive high-quality community safety initiatives,” said

Berard-Reed.

As a participant in the pilot program, Everett Fire Department will have free access to the dashboard, which includes customized visualizations (maps, charts, graphs) that illustrate each community’s risks and hazards across a variety of categories such as demographics, geography, building stock, economics, infrastructure, and event loss history. The dashboard also provides a snapshot of local capacity for risk reduction activities with information about public safety response agencies and community service organizations. In addition to dashboard access, participants will be provid-

ed rich networking and professional development opportunities with other communities engaged in CRR.

“We are thrilled to be participating in this important project,” said Tony Carli, Chief, Everett Fire Department. “Not only will access to the tool give us invaluable information about our community’s needs, but it’s rewarding to know that using the tool will increase its effectiveness and help other fire departments in the long run.

Follow NFPA’s CRR efforts on social media using #itstartswithinsights, or for more information online, visit [www.nfpa.org/crr](http://www.nfpa.org/crr).

# DiDomenico highlights disparities at state Health Equity Task Force hearing

On February 1st, Senator Sal DiDomenico testified before the Commonwealth’s Health Equity Task Force regarding health disparities that underserved and under-represented communities disproportionately experience in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senator DiDomenico represents one of the hardest-hit districts in Massachusetts, and throughout this pandemic, his Senate office has centered the Commonwealth’s most

vulnerable residents and worked to address the fallout from the COVID-19 crisis.

“COVID-19 has offered us tangible and concrete representation of health inequities that have been in existence in Massachusetts for many years but have now been exponentially worsened due to the public health crisis,” said DiDomenico. “Data has clearly illuminated what we have already known— infection rates are highest and most disproportion-

ate in traditionally underserved communities, like those I represent. If we are to comprehensively and holistically solve the health-related inequities in our state, it is my recommendation that we first ensure the stability of the most fundamental necessities of our residents.”

During the virtual Task Force hearing, Senator DiDomenico highlighted policy priorities that he continues to champion in the Legislature; issues that have a direct impact on

public health outcomes for Massachusetts residents. These priorities include:

- the disproportionate impact of COVID on environmental justice communities and the need further enfranchise these populations;
- the growing necessity of housing stability during the pandemic and the increased need for a right to counsel in housing court;
- the need to provide financial assistance to those living in deep poverty— i.e., those living below

half the federal poverty line; and

- the need to provide comprehensive medical coverage and care to immigrant children living with disabilities.

Senator DiDomenico has filed corresponding legislation to address all of these issue areas and respectfully urged the Task Force to consider these policy priorities in their upcoming recommendations. “Both Dr. Assaad Sayah and Michael Curry have been longtime pub-

lic health champions in our communities, and as chairs of the Health Equity Task Force, I have no doubt that they will continue to shed light on how on we can further support our most vulnerable populations. I am deeply grateful for their efforts, as well as their invitation to testify on the experiences that my constituents are acutely experiencing throughout this pandemic.”

# City of Everett develops call center to assist seniors with covid19 vaccine sign up

Mayor Carlo DeMaria is pleased to announce that on Monday, February 1, City of Everett employees, led by the Constituent Services Department, assisted hundreds of Everett senior citizens in making appointments to receive their COVID-19 vaccines.

Understanding the need

of our Seniors, the City developed a phone bank type calling system where City employees assisted residents in signing up through the state’s website. Appointments were made available beginning at 8am and by 2pm, all 800 appointments were filled. Vaccines are being

administered to Everett residents only ages 75 and over on Saturday, February 6 and Sunday, February 7 at Pope John XXIII High School.

“My Administration is committed to helping the community and I could not be more proud,” said Mayor DeMaria. “I want-

ed to ensure that our seniors were able to make an appointment even if they did not have internet access. I am grateful to the Constituent Services and 3-1-1 Department and all employees who provided assistance.”

Seniors were able to make the appointment on

their own online, however, they were encouraged to call 3-1-1 for any questions or assistance regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. City of Everett employees formed a phone bank system to provide support with the calls.

As more vaccines become available from the

# Everett High School students visit City Hall with City Council President Wayne Mmatewsky

City Council President Wayne Matewsky welcomed two Everett High School students to join him for a tour of City Hall on Tuesday, January 26th. The two students, Kien Lau and Samaga Pokharel, weræ very excited for their visit.

“It was so great to see Kien and Samaga,” said President Matewsky. “I

was proud to guide them on a visit of City Hall. It’s young members of the community like Kien and Samaga that help shape our great City’s future.”

Lau is a Sophomore at Everett High School who has a deep interest in city government. He and his family moved to Everett from Vietnam when he was five years old and has

valued every moment of his education. Lau feels that it is important for young minorities to have a voice in the City of Everett.

Pokharel is a Junior at Everett High School who is also very interested in city government. Her family is from Nepal, and she is excited about helping people and making a

difference. Pokharel also feels that it is important for young minorities in the City of Everett to speak up and ensure that everyone has a voice.

During the visit, President Matewsky brought Lau and Pokharel to the City Chambers. He provided them with a brief history and explained to them how a meeting is

conducted. They proceeded to meet with Mayor Carlo DeMaria in his office.

“It is truly inspirational that members of our youth have such as interest in city government,” said Mayor DeMaria. “I have extended an open invitation to Kien and Samaga to return to City Hall and look forward to working

with them in the future.”

Mayor DeMaria concluded their visit by presenting them with citations from the City of Everett to acknowledge their enthusiasm in city government. He hopes that Lau and Pokharel will inspire other young members of the community to take an interest and become involved in the City.

# Metro Housing|Boston receives \$1million from BIDMC

Metro Housing|Boston will receive \$1 million over three years from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) to explore the inequality of calculating rent for working families with rental vouchers.

Nearly \$700,000 from the grant will be dispensed directly to participants in the form of monthly reimbursements to their housing voucher rent share. Metro Housing will survey working voucher families to see how they spend money that they receive, and to determine if there is any impact on what is known as “cliff effects.”

As household income rises, a corresponding reduction in benefits makes salary increases result in static or decreased total household income. For families working to escape poverty, the specter of working harder to gen-

erate the same or less income has a discouraging effect on labor market participation. This phenomenon is known as “cliff effects.”

Metro Housing will partner with the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Harvard Business School, and the Upjohn Institute on this initiative.

“Working families are impacted disproportionately to those that subsist off benefits alone,” said Susan Nohl, Deputy Director of Metro Housing. “This cruel cycle traps low-income residents on a plateau of subsistence, actively penalizing them for attempting to thrive. Our hope is that the data returned by this project will provide a solid foundation to advocate for meaningful change with policy-makers across all levels.”

The grant was one of 17 given to local organizations by BIDMC in support of impactful initiatives in the areas of housing affordability, jobs and financial security, and behavioral health.

“BIDMC has a proud history of supporting the health and wellbeing of our communities,” said Pete Healy, President of the medical center in a BIDMC press release. “This important milestone reflects our commitment to all the populations that we serve. We look forward to working with these impactful organizations to support programs and initiatives that lead to more equitable and healthy communities.”

“Congratulations to Metro Housing on the award and thank you to BIDMC on making the funding available for seventeen projects in the region in support of

working and vulnerable households,” said Brendan Goodwin, Director of Rental Assistance, DHCD. “Stable housing is vital for healthy and safe families. We will continue investing in innovative programming, and we look forward to learning more from Metro Housing’s pilot to inform our own work.”

“Working families who receive government assistance to help afford the high cost of rent often see those benefits phase out quickly when their income increases,” said Evan Mast of Upjohn Institute and Ray Kluender of Harvard Business School. “We are excited to partner with Metro Housing Boston to study how allowing families to keep more of their wages can help them achieve financial stability and security.”

# Congress funds low-income ratepayer relief, perhaps more assistance on the way

By Seth Daniel

The MWRA Advisory Board reported that the recent federal COVID Relief bill contained significant resources to help low-income residents in the MWRA communities with assistance.

As part of its FY 2021 appropriations and COVID-19 relief bill passed in December, Congress included \$638 million in assistance for low-income water and wastewater ratepayers, said the Advisory Board.

The Board reported in its January newsletter that it anticipates there could

be more ratepayer relief in future federal funding bills.

In anticipation of that, Advisory Board staff will be sending out a brief survey to member communities to better understand the impacts that the pandemic has had upon the water and sewer programs. They would also like to know what types of federal funding or programs might best help communities or ratepayers.

Responses will help them advocate better on behalf of member communities, they reported.

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## Everett Community Growers make move to old High School

By Seth Daniel

The Everett Community Growers (ECG) has made a big move this winter to the old Everett High School on Broadway, and will be growing in the front yard there this summer with a new Farm Stand put up and educational programs to assist the Everett Public Schools – according to a presentation made to the School Committee on Monday night.

The ECG has had gardens throughout the City, but previously hosted the Urban Farm on the side of the Northern Strand Bike Path. However, with construction on the path coming soon, the ECG decided to move and found a more accessible location they believe will help their organization further transform.

“We are really excited and really excited for the farm and farm stand in that space,” said Kathleen O’Brien of ECG. “It’s a very accessible space and we always wanted to grow in that space for years. It was actually our first choice when we started, but we decided to put it along the trail.”

Farm Manager Lenka McNally said they plan on

New location for our community farm  
2021: Old EHS

- New farm, farmstand and educational center to be used by students and community groups
- Close proximity to EPS schools
- Direct correlation with multiple curriculum areas at all grade levels
  - Science, economics, food + environmental justice, etc.
- Crucial hands-on experience
  - Beneficial to physical, mental and academic health



dividing the space in front of the old High School into two sections. The right side will be reserved for gardening and farming, growing the Three Sisters (squash, corn and beans), an herb garden and a Butterfly Garden. It will also house the Farm Stand that will be open to the public for purchase.

The left side will be a farming and ecology educational center aligned with the Everett Public Schools and open to community groups as well. ECG has already been working with GreenRoots in Chelsea, specifically their ECOYouth Team, to develop a curriculum for the Education Center that would enhance instruction on science, economics, plant biology, food justice and environmental justice.

McNally said they’ve always had space constraints at their farm and gardens since forming about five years ago, but now find themselves with space to do the things they’ve always wanted – especially reaching out to children in an urban setting.

“We see this as a good opportunity for our community and for our children and to learn about agriculture,” said McNally. “The main thing for us is access to the outside in urban areas and that can’t be replaced by anything else in Everett.”

The ECG also hopes to host field trips to the farm by local schools, many of whom can simply walk there and not have to employ transportation.

ECG has also formulated long term goals that include having a garden at every school and making it part of the curriculum and school community. They hope to be able to supply the cafeterias with food from the Urban Farm and the school gardens. They also would like every school to have an indoor grow room space.

Members of the School Committee were very receptive to the plan, and Supt. Priya Tahiliani said with that, there would be more exciting announcements coming.

To reach ECG, email everettcommunitygrowers@gmail.com.

## Teachers/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

reservation.

Now, the hopeful Everett Public School (EPS) plan to get kids back in school lies in ruin for the moment.

“Our plans, unfortunately, they have been delayed at the state level,” said Tahiliani on Monday night at the School Committee meeting.

“The state has changed its guidelines for the COVID-19 vaccine,” she said. “This has unfortunately prevented us from being able to facilitate a vaccine clinic for EPS teachers and staff. Our hope was for teachers to receive it this weekend. Now that timetable has been thrown in flux and we have to adjust on the fly.”

She said Mayor Carlo DeMaria and the City’s Health Department advocated and did everything they could to try to secure the doses needed to get the EPS teachers and staff inoculated and on target to go back in March. However, she said the state had tightened up the reins on the vaccine, and just wouldn’t allow Everett to do what it was planning to do.

She said now there is no date or timetable for a return according to the previous plan, and she said it is necessary to keep in mind the majority of parents who said they wanted to send their kids back to school. She said it might be time to think about teachers and staff coming back without the vaccine.

“If we do not move on hybrid learning as fast as we reasonably can, it does mean we are not responding to a very significant percentage of our families,” she said.

“We have been cautious and deliberate in our approach to the pandemic,” she continued. “I think we have reached the next juncture where we need to commit to launching our hybrid plan. If we need to consider doing this regardless of whether we can offer vaccine clinics to staff, and it was our best intention to do so, but the clock is ticking and we do kind of need to decide what our plan is for this school year. The next few weeks are going to be critical in determining what we can offer our students in the last three or four months of the school year.”

That, however, was not on the mind of the ETA. In a presentation by President Kim Auger and ETA Board Member Anna Seiders, they presented how teachers have found success in remote learning, and that there are major concerns among their membership about returning without a vaccine.

Auger said they have done surveys of hundreds of members and found that 60 percent would return

with reservations without a vaccine, and 19 percent would not return and take a waiver. Only 7 percent of teachers surveyed were ready to return now as is.

A major worry for teachers is not only for themselves and their families, but rather all the families of EPS – including the families of the students. Many teachers at the Jan. 19 meeting expressed concern that students live in multi-generational households and could bring the virus home from school to a vulnerable grandparent.

Auger reiterated that concern Monday night as well.

The ETA is calling for several items to be cleared before they would return. Those items include:

- Vaccination.
- 5 percent or lower positivity rate (Everett is just above 10 percent now).
- Three straight weeks of downward trending cases.
- Below 20 cases per 100,000 people.
- Decline in the cases within the school-age population.

“We do feel we need to have both vaccinations before coming back to any teaching and learning environment,” said Auger.

School Committee members were markedly frustrated, but mostly at the state for moving the measuring stick in the midst of measuring.

“I’m questioning the hypocrisy of all this because it doesn’t make sense,” said Abruzzese of the state’s change of mind. “I got a letter from the courts where I work saying for all state workers to remain remote until June 1, but he’s also telling us to get kids in school. There are lines crossing here that don’t make sense to me. I’m in support of everything said her tonight, but I’m questioning the leadership nationally and state-wise as to what’s going on here.”

School Committeewoman Dana Murray said it is simply a state issue, and that 26 other states have prioritized teachers, but not Massachusetts.

“We’ve made a decision in this state to move teachers to the back of the line,” she said. “I’m very, very angry right now.”

Said School Committeeman Marcony Almeida Barros, “I am very concerned with the mental health of our students, especially in Everett where many students are low-income and a lot of parents are not there to help the with remote learning,” he said. “That’s why I’m concerned about mental health and why I’m very interested in moving to hybrid when it’s safe for everybody.”

## COVID/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

•Wednesday, Jan. 27 – 40  
•Tuesday, Jan. 26 – 13  
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.

Additionally, there is a new testing resource for Everett residents only via the Mass General COVID-19 testing van. The van is located every Thursday at the Norwood Street Parking Lot in Everett Square. The hours are from 8 a.m. to noon and proof of Everett residency is required. Updates on the van are posted on the Kraft Community Health website.

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# Winter sports seasons kick off with practices this week

By Seth Daniel

Three winter sports will begin practice sessions this week in anticipation of Greater Boston League (GBL) games in March, with Athletic Director Tammy Turner stepping aside from her long-time spot coaching the girls’ basketball team in order to focus on keeping teams safe with COVID.

Supt. Priya Tahiliani reported the news to the School Committee on Monday night, saying that many other teams in the area have begun competition and it has been safe and successful so far. She said the boys’ basketball, girls’ basketball and ice hockey teams will

begin gearing up for a short season this week.

“This week, our EHS teams will start practicing,” she said. “The GBL plan is to have one month of conditioning and practice, with games in early March... Schools across the state are already well into their winter seasons and I’m happy our students and GBL schools can begin as well.”

The program has already been approved by the School Committee, and was to start in January, but GBL schools opted to postpone due to rising COVID-19 cases in their member communities.

AD Turner will focus solely on the duties of safe competition, and will step

aside from coaching this year, with Riley Dunn now becoming the girls’ basketball coach. Meanwhile, Stanley Chamblain will remain the boys’ basketball coach for the season, and Alex Naumann will continue to lead the ice hockey program at the Allied Veterans Rink in Everett.

There will be no fans allowed at the games this year, not even parents. All games will be live-streamed though so fans and families can watch from home or on a mobile device.

There also will be no cheerleaders this winter either.

The Junior Varsity teams will begin practices next week.

The precautions are extensive, and will be very different from normal competitions.

Some of the COVID rules for basketball include:

- Maximum of 15 players on a team.
  - Wear a mask at all times, including in competition.
  - No locker rooms.
  - Limit cheering and yelling from the bench.
- The ice hockey modifications are as listed:
- Maximum of 20 players on a team.
  - Wear a mask at all times, including in competition.
  - No locker rooms.
  - Social distancing is expected on the bench.



Chef John Ross has accepted the position of executive chef of Rare Steakhouse.

# BHCC President Eddinger named a Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce 2021 Pinnacle Awards honoree

Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) is pleased to announce that Pam Y. Eddinger, President, BHCC has been named a Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) 2021 Pinnacle Awards honoree for outstanding achievement in Arts and Education. This year’s honorees were recognized on Friday, January 29, 2021, at the virtual Pinnacle Awards. Past honorees include Anita Hill, Sandra Fenwick, Vicary Graham, Penni McLean-Conner, Liz Cheng, and Courtney Scrubbs.

“Our Pinnacle Awards are always extraordinary, and this year, the celebration acknowledges the tremendous leadership of the



BHCC President Pam Eddinger has been named a Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce 2021 Pinnacle Awards honoree for outstanding achievement in Arts and Education.

honorees as they led their companies and industries through a time of crisis,” said James E. Rooney, President & CEO of the GBCC. “As we begin the 27th year of the Cham-

ber’s Women’s Network, it is even more important that we amplify the voices and accomplishments of women in the business community as they lead us forward.”

President Eddinger shared her story of migrating to the United States with her parents, who wanted a better education for their children. She credits her parents for her leadership in the community college movement so the next generation of immigrants will have choices, will have language, and will see a broader horizon. “I do my work so every immigrant and native child will have access to affordable, higher education and be touched by the grace

and power of the arts,” said Dr. Eddinger.

Dr. Eddinger says to women entering the workforce “attempt whatever task when you think you are 75 percent ready. Then find a mentor to help you learn the other 25 percent.”

“Thank you to the Chamber CEO Jim Rooney, and Chair Micho Spring, for providing a platform to lift up the contributions of women to the Boston economy, and to encourage our next generation leaders to reach up and speak up. I also thank my students, faculty, and staff at Bunker Hill Community College, to allow me to lead, and to do meaningful work,” said President Eddinger.

# Pressley, others kick off Annual Black History Month essay contest

Staff Report

Councilor Gerly Adrien and newly-named Wayland Supt. of Schools Dr. Omar Easy hosted a successful remote scholarship fundraiser on Saturday, Jan. 30 – highlighted with a speaking program from Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley.

It was the first time the effort held a fundraiser, and it was a successful kick-off to a relatively new tradition for Black History Month in Everett. Adrien and Easy reported that all of the tickets – at \$10 each – were sold and they did meet their goal.

“I’m so happy we met our goal for the Everett Black History Month Scholarship Essay Contest,” said Adrien. “Dr. Omar X. Easy and I thank you all for the support. This scholarship fund is personal to me. I want to encourage our young people to learn more about our positive Black Leaders. I also wanted to give back to my hometown, Everett, for making me who I am today. We have over 100 people who contributed. Thank you so much.”

The contest is open to all Everett high school senior students, and this year’s topic is ‘Who is your most

Influential Black Leader and why?’

The deadline for submissions is February 21 and submissions should be turned in online to the following address: <http://bit.ly/ebhm2021>. Winners will be notified and announced at the Black History Month Celebration event sponsored by Adrien and Easy on Feb. 26.

- The guidelines include:
- Open to all Everett senior students
  - Everett High School senior students (5 Awards)
  - Senior students who attend high school other than Everett High School (2 Awards)

•Speeches must be written and delivered by students on Zoom during the celebration

•Word Limit: 250 Words Maximum, PDF Only (Original Material Only)

•Submit essay to <http://bit.ly/ebhm2021> by February 21

•Winners notified: February 24

•Celebration will be held on February 26 on Zoom

More Information:

•Gerly Adrien: 617-835-

8267

•General Email: [everettblackhistorymonth@yahoo.com](mailto:everettblackhistorymonth@yahoo.com).

# MassDOT announces Shared Space grant for BlueBikes in Everett

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing the award of \$3,236,762.78 in the third round of funding from the Baker-Polito Administration’s Shared Winter Streets and Spaces program, including a grant for BlueBike Stations in Everett.

The program, which was launched on November 10, provides technical and funding assistance to help Massachusetts cities and towns conceive, design, and implement tactical changes to curbs, streets, and parking areas in support of public health,

safe mobility, and renewed commerce, with a special focus on the particular challenges of winter.

The awards made today will support 21 projects in 21 municipalities, of which 43% are designated Environmental Justice communities and 76% are considered high-risk for COVID-19 infections. Additionally, 62% of the current winners have never received a Shared Streets and Spaces award before.

Together with Shared Winter Streets and Spaces grants made in December, the Commonwealth has invested \$8 million in municipal Shared Streets projects

so far. A total of \$10 million has been allocated for this program.

The Shared Winter Streets and Spaces program provides grants as small as \$5,000 and as large as \$500,000 for municipalities to quickly launch changes for safer walking, biking, public transit, recreation, commerce, and civic activities. These improvements can be intentionally temporary or can be pilots of potentially permanent changes. MassDOT is particularly focused on projects that respond to the current public health crisis and provide safe mobility for children,

for senior citizens, to public transportation, and to open space and parks.

The details on the award for Everett include:

- Everett received \$107,238.60 to add three new Bluebike stations to Everett’s existing 11-station network. The new stations will connect the Wellington MBTA station to the rest of the Everett bikeshare system, provide additional coverage on the west side of Everett, and make connections to the Revere and Chelsea bikeshare systems and to the MBTA Silver Line and Commuter Rail station on Everett Avenue.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

CHA STAFF  
NEARLY FULLY  
VACCINATED

CHELSEA - The good news on the hospitalization front from CHA Everett is that not much has changed in either direction, but the hospital is handling the load according to plan and well on their way to having the staff fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

The numbers of those testing positive in the hospital's catchment area seems to be on the decline, and the hospital is reporting that there are cases in large numbers, but nothing has gotten out of control.

"The good news is there isn't too much different from two weeks ago, but that also might be the bad news," said Dr. Melisa Lai-Becker, chief of the Emergency Department at CHA Everett. "We're getting back into the rhythm of care and coordination. Overall, in the last two weeks, while we may have fewer overall admitted patients and more available room to get patients into the hospital, it's also been a time of figuring out the care of patients who are beyond the acute phase and still need eyes on them."

That has meant some patients are now being sent to field hospitals in Lowell and Worcester for the longer recovery times, but at the same time there isn't a panic going on.

"There's nothing about it that is frantic," she said. "Everything has been good, calm and measured...Rather than complacency, the hospital has enforced our plan. All that planning from last summer and fall that's we see in action here now... We're happy to press on and there is light at the end of the tunnel."

Statistics show that in the catchment area of the hospital (Malden, Chelsea, Revere, Everett, Winthrop, Cambridge and Somerville), there was a peak of cases in the week of Jan. 11, with 3,100 cases. Now, however, the

same area is reporting 2,500 positive cases. At CHA, since March, they have tested 100,000 people, and about 8,000 have been positive.

Now, a new precaution has been implemented on the testing front to make sure the hospital if monitored for COVID-19. Now, every four days one is in the hospital or Emergency Department, they are tested for their COVID status.

VACCINATIONS FOR  
STAFF MOVING  
WELL

Though there have been glitches and line-jumping at some institutions, that is not the case at CHA Everett when it comes to vaccinating the staff. Dr. Lai-Becker reported that about 75 percent of the CHA staff has received the first dose of the vaccine and 25 percent have received both doses. By the end of the month, they expect to be able to vaccinate everyone who wants to be vaccinated on the staff.

PLANNING FOR  
VACCINATIONS OF  
THE PUBLIC

The hospital and its networks are now in the planning stages for figuring out how to vaccinate all of their patients when the time comes for that.

"CHA as a whole is working on how we can vaccinate all 140,000 of our patients, those who come to CHA for their Primary Care. We are prepping now. It's a very intentional rollout due to the face we're in the phase where the two part vaccine is being used...A lot of it is that every shot you get today is a shot you'll need to get in three weeks. That's an incredible amount of logistics, and calculations and back to the old conversation about the supply chain."

At CHA Everett, the vaccine rollout will be through the primary care doctors, with major assists from all others like the Emergency Department. With testing to administer and follow-ups to book, many primary care doctors will need a tremen-

dous amount of help. She said they will likely be using visits to the hospital, the health care centers, pop-up vaccination sites and maybe a larger site that isn't Fenway Park.

She said many are at the point where there's a lot of familiarity with the plan and they simply want to let it loose.

"We know where the bottlenecks are," she said. "Let's just get everybody vaccinated. We're at a point where we could get everyone vaccinated within a timeframe and thinking less about trying to prioritize the elderly or essential workers."

She said she believes the area is near an inflection point where it will simply be about anyone getting vaccinated can get vaccinated.

"I would think we'll hit this inflection point in the next two to four weeks where they start giving the vaccine to every person no matter who they are - get vaccinated if you want it because that's just one more and it gets us closer to herd immunity."

NO NEED TO  
HORD PPE

About one week ago, a momentous occasion took place at the hospital.

Everyone had enough N95 mask.

Dr. Lai-Becker said for the first time since the pandemic broke out, they do not need to recycle or use the viral decay system they have been doing so long to preserve their mask supply.

Instead, they can go to the supply area and get five masks to use for five shifts. Before, they used every mask five to eight times and then got rid of it. Now, they can use one mask per shift, and then get rid of it, while still having confidence they will have more waiting for them the next shift.

"I never thought that would ever happen," she said with a laugh. "When that news came out, you can imagine people began to ask if it was wrong to hoard masks. And did they even need to?"

UPPER BROADWAY  
BUILDING  
CONTINUES

CHELSEA - The massive re-building of Upper Broadway continues to progress through Phase 1, with crews now at Cary Avenue and one-third of the way done on their trek to the Revere City Line.

The DPW's Fidel Maltez said the water and sewer replacement work that started in September is divided up into three zones, and crews are now 100 percent done with the zone from City Hall to Cary Avenue.

"Now we're doing Cary Avenue to Webster," he said. "We did break it up in zones and we're 100 percent done in that first section now."

Work began in front of City Hall in August 2020 and has steadily progressed northward. As typical in construction, the deeper utilities are installed first, with each subsequent utility installed becoming shallower; for this project, that has meant that sewer main has been installed first, followed by sewer service transfer, water main installation, water service transfer, and then, for areas that are part of the first phase of sewer/stormwater separation, drainage.

Work on water main installation is wrapping up between Cary Ave and Eleanor Street, which means over the next several weeks, residents in this area will have their water services transferred to the new water main. Chelsea Police and the Department of Public Works have been working with the contractor and the MBTA to keep bus stops open and to try to limit the impact this project has on the community.

The project is on schedule and is slated to be complete by its October 31, 2021 deadline.

The second part of the project will be the improved streetscape and sidewalks.

Alex Train, director of Housing and Community Development, said they are in the process of designing the streetscape improvements, which will begin in the spring of 2022.

"In parallel with utility construction, the City, through the Dept. of Housing & Community Development and Dept. of Public Works, has been finishing up the design of comprehensive streetscape improvements," he said. "Slated to break ground in April of 2022, the streetscape project is fully financed by a federal grant from the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization. The project calls for the reconstruction of the roadway, sidewalks, and drainage system, as well as the installation of new bus stops, bike lanes, and street trees. Over the course of 2021, the City will host public meetings

FIRST IN LINE



Chelsea Village Elderly held one of the very first COVID Vaccine Clinics for Peabody Properties on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. Staff and over 100 residents were vaccinated. Pictured here is Katherine Stec, 98 years old. As the oldest resident of Chelsea Village, she was given the honor of being the first resident to be vaccinated by CVS Pharmacy, who collaborated with the Resident Services Department. What a great day and such a team effort!

on the new design."

The Capital Improvement projects are designed to replace aging water, sewer and drain infrastructure. Aging sewers can allow sewage into the groundwater and infiltrate groundwater into the sewer; both are detrimental to the environment, and increase the cost to the water and sewer system.

Separating stormwater from the sewer system reduces the amount of water sent to the MWRA, resulting in reduced costs to residents. Replacing the water main eliminates problems with water quality and leaking pipes. At the completion of this project, nearly a mile of both water main and sewer main will have been replaced from City Hall to the Revere city line. Additionally, all homes in the corridor will receive a new 1-inch copper water service and all sewer services will be replaced or cement lined at no cost to the property owners.

Finally, any lead water service lines encountered in the project will be replaced.

"It's an incredible project and an exciting project," said Maltez. "It's Broadway, so it's our main artery and this will change that entire corridor."

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ANNOUNCES NEW  
ZBA TRACKER

EAST BOSTON - For the past decade East Boston has experienced a development boom that can be hard to keep track of for the average resident.

Unless you have attended one of several community group meetings held each month in various parts of the neighborhood it has become increasingly difficult to keep abreast of development projects happening in Eastie.

This week Mayor Martin Walsh announced a new Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) project tracker that will allow residents to gather information about ongoing projects.

The new online tool that can be found at [https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c019ba9a25cb-4f33bb6cdd2f69b543d4/page/page\\_0/](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c019ba9a25cb-4f33bb6cdd2f69b543d4/page/page_0/) fulfills the requirements set forth in Mayor Walsh's Executive Order Relative to the Zoning Board of Appeal.

Walsh said this new tool will increase access to information related to proposed projects seeking relief from the ZBA. The tracker is designed for anyone to quickly search for a specific appeal that has been submitted to the ZBA, or to search for appeals based on criteria such as location or applicant, in order to identify the status of the appeal.

"Increasing access to the workings of municipal government is important for our residents to have access to resources about the city's role in the development and livelihood of our residents," said Walsh. "The Zoning Board of Appeals' online tracker will increase our city's transparency and our residents' understanding of our neighborhoods."

The East Boston Times took a look at the new, easy to use ZBA Tracker Monday. The new feature allows viewers to use an interactive map of Eastie or other Boston neighborhoods to view projects seeking relief or by typing in the address which provides the following additional details for each proposed project: The status of the appeal; Community process; Date and location of an appeal application; Hearing scheduled; Address of the proposed project; Status of project; Deferral date; Hearing result; Application numbers; Zoning district; Contact information; Appeal type; and Date of submission. For example a quick search of recent hearing results in Eastie showed three projects that were recently approved by the ZBA. On January 13, 2020 the ZBA approved projects on London, Porter and Whitby Streets. For the project on 185 London Street the ZBA approved plans to repair the foundation within the home's setback, add a penthouse, increase the floor area ratio, renovate

See REGION Page 9

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# OBITUARIES

## Robert Roberto

Loving husband, wonderful father and grandfather who cherished his whole family.

Robert “Bob” Roberto of Revere died on January 30 at the age of 80.

He was the loving husband of the late Angela (Diecidue) Roberto; beloved son of the late Angelo H. Roberto and his wife, Mildred F. (Salamone); devoted father of AnnMarie Lepore of Revere, Robert Roberto and his wife, Cheryl of Saugus, Lisa Rusconi and Michael Roberto and his wife, Lori, all of Revere; cherished brother of Gerard Roberto of Wakefield, Richard Roberto and his wife, Maureen of Florida, John Roberto and his wife, Joann of Wilmington, James Roberto of Dedham; cherished grandfather (Pa) of Angela, Tiffany, Nicole, Michael, Robert, Jennifer, Christopher, Mikey, and Leah. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Bob was a loving husband, a wonderful father and grandfather who cherished his whole family.



His Funeral will be held from the Paul Buonfiglio & Sons-Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere St, Revere, Saturday, February 6 at 10 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Anthony’s Church at 11 a.m. Names and temperatures will be taken upon entrance with capacity limits (masks and social distancing are required). Relatives and friends are kindly invited. A visitation will be held on Friday from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery. For guest book, please visit [www.buonfiglio.com](http://www.buonfiglio.com).

## Susanne Goodrich

Of Revere

Susanne (DiMattio) Goodrich of Revere passed away on January 29 at the age of 70.

Born in Winthrop on November 15, 1950 to the late Edward DiMattio Jr. and Angelina (Lombardi), she was the cherished wife of Albert Goodrich and is also survived by many loving family members.

A Visitation will be held at the Paul Buonfiglio & Sons-Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere St, Revere on Thursday, February 4 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Capacity limits will be enforced and masks and social distancing are required. A Funeral Mass



will be celebrated at St. Anthony’s Church in Revere at 12 noon (names and temperatures will be taken upon entrance.) Relatives and friends are kindly invited. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery. For guest book, please visit [www.buonfiglio.com](http://www.buonfiglio.com).

## Despite some interruption, Council committee dives into Internet issues

By Seth Daniel

The City is entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) this week with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to take a “deep dive” into the Internet and connectivity issues that have plagued subscribers off all kinds through the last year.

City Communications Director Deanna Devaney told the Council Government Operations Committee on Thursday, Jan. 28, that with the numerous complaints about Internet connectivity in Everett – from students, businesses and residents working from home.

“The City of Everett has signed and MOU with the MAPC,” Devaney told the Committee, which was hosting representatives from ComCast. “As part of that MOU, it will create a digital access equity plan. They will be diving into Everett’s data numbers in partnership with Everett Public Schools, Councilor Stephanie Martins and Councilor Michael McLaughlin. The City will be undertaking this very deep dive shortly.”

Devaney said they are looking to get in contact with faith-based organizations (many of whom are relying on Internet service for worship), the Chamber of Commerce and community based organizations as partners.

She said they would be asking ComCast and other providers for information and she hoped they would work in tandem.

Tim Kelly, of ComCast, said they would be more than happy to help and have done so in Essex County already this past year.

That was only the tip of the iceberg at the meeting, which featured Councilor Jimmy Tri Le losing his patience with the ComCast representatives and causing such a scene that the online meeting had to be recessed for five minutes.

The long and short of his frustration came in that the ComCast officials seemed not to be getting to the heart of the issue, which was why Everett’s Internet is so slow for so many people.

“There’s been a lot of technical jargon being said,” he said in his first complaint. “There is a lot of arcane language being spoken...I have no problem with my Internet because I guess we pay

the premium. Is that the problem? Is the way the Internet is slow for people because people pay the rates?”

After another 20 minutes of presentation, Le burst in again.

“Just answer the question,” he said, chiding the representatives for being “verbose.”

“I’m going to have to stop this,” said Councilor McLaughlin. “This is totally inappropriate.”

“Not it’s not; it’s a question,” retorted Le. “Why is it slow? Just answer the question.”

That resulted in a verbal scuffle and, finally, Councilor Martins called for a recess.

After the recess, Le and others apologized for the outburst, but the issue remained that the question hadn’t been answered.

ComCast Network Director Jim Hevner said studies showing slower download speeds for different communities don’t reflect a different Internet infrastructure. He said all communities are built out the same.

“It’s a sort of standard that if you’re in Everett, Wilmington, or Weston – any community in Massachusetts, New Hampshire or Maine – you have 1.2 gigabyte speeds,” he said. “You have the same as everyone else.”

Kelly said Everett operates out of a hug – or head house – in Malden, and they are in a good space in terms of their infrastructure and available bandwidth for ComCast. In fact, for the region, Kelly said their Core Network has only had about 50 percent usage during the pandemic, and the Access Network has only reached as high as 85 percent usage. So, the system is not getting maxed out in Everett or the region, unlike in Europe where they ran out of bandwidth.

“We’ve never exceeded our capacity,” he said.

“Everett is actually in a great space (with ComCast) when it comes to network space and reliability,” he said. “It’s being monitored. It’s being monitored for many performance indicators to reflect customer experience.”

Hevner said they do a lot of testing throughout the network in Everett and the region to make sure speeds are up to par.

Kelly and ComCast’s Angela Holm both said many times the problems could be in the network,

but more than likely the problems exist in the home. It could be the gateway (or modem), the location of the gateway, or even the materials used in the house.

Holm said it also could be what tier one is subscribed to. With a lower tier, speeds are not as high or fast as the higher tiers, which could explain in actuality why speeds were much higher in wealthier communities than they were in Everett in last year’s MAPC Digital Divide study.

Holm said it also depends on how many people in the house at the time, and what activities they are doing online.

“There is a possibility it could be our network,” said Kelly. “We’ve had squirrels chew through cables, and we’ve seen cables hit by gunshots. We’ve seen it all. We’re not suggesting our hands are clean. It could be one of our nodes.”

All agreed to work together through Martins’ Committee, and through the upcoming City/MAPC study to sniff out the problems and fix them. Councilor Martins said she has been forwarding addresses from those complaining to ComCast or the other providers to figure out what the issues are. ComCast said they have already been working off that list, and that is also a method they used recently in Winthrop to fix widespread issues – some that were in the network and many issues that were in the home.

In related news, ComCast is embarking on a new usage-based billing system, where they put caps on data loads and penalize those that go over the cap on their plan. That system is not going into effect until the end of June, said Kelly, with new charges first showing on the August bill.

Martins suggested that the representatives return to the Committee in April for an update on connectivity and the City/MAPC study.

•WHEN IS STATE MONEY REALLY MONEY FOR EVERETT?

Councilor Michael McLaughlin called an information hearing with the Committee meeting last Thursday, Jan. 28, with members of the state delegation, including State Rep. Joe McGonagle and State Sen. Sal DiDomenico.

Unfortunately, McGo-

nagle wasn’t able to attend, and didn’t notify the Committee as to his absence. McLaughlin took the matter to task with a pretty pointed bashing of his former state rep opponent for not appearing.

“I am disappointed,” he said. “It’s great to get soundbites and it’s great to get headlines, but when it comes to the nitty gritty of what’s really coming to Everett from the state, I wanted to hear these things. “You have \$13 million that was thrown around all last year that was supposedly secured for the City of Everett, yet I’d like to know if that \$13 million hit our City coffers or if it hit the Eliot Family Resource Center and other areas. I guess we won’t know that...He was invited and just chose not to show up tonight, which isn’t surprising.”

DiDomenico did show up and offered a cadre of state earmarks and budget items that he has secured through mostly direct appropriations. That means he advocated for the money and it was put in the State Budget, passed and then delivered to Everett.

The other part of the equation are Bond Bills, he said, which are a little more confusing. Bond Authorization Bills – which have been touted in Everett over the years, particularly Transportation Bond Bills – are only an initial step, he said.

“The direct appropriation you get right away,” he said. “The bond bill appropriation you have to work it. You have to work on the governor and let him know how important this is to the community. You have to fight for those dollars because all 200 of us in the State Legislature will be fighting for those funds. You do have to get it into the bond bill first. If it doesn’t get in first, it doesn’t happen. We do have to work to get everything in the bond bill, but we have to work the governor to get the spending authorized.”

DiDomenico said the delegation from Everett, and Mayor Carlo DeMaria, are very vocal in advocating needs to the governor. However, he said just getting something into the bond bill doesn’t equate to the successful securing of money to be delivered to Everett.

“You have to push it,” he said. “You can’t sit back and wait for it to happen.”

## Super Sunday: No Super Bowl team, no problem

By Seth Daniel

The New England Patriots might not be front and center this year, and maybe our quarterback is wintering in Florida this time around, but Boston still ranks as the third best city for football fans this season, according to the annual Super Bowl rankings done by WalletHub.

Every year, the company does an analysis based on several metrics about which city has the best football fans. Naturally, with the Patriots on top – and despite a meager following of college football, which is also ranked – Boston has come out in the top part of the list for years. Even with some of the magic missing, this year Boston landed and #3 for the best football town.

“Boston is the third best

football city for fans,” said WalletHub Analyst Jill Gonzalez. “The Patriots’ performance level is the sixth highest among NFL teams, and they’ve won six NFL Championships, topping all the other teams. They also have 21 division championship wins, the fourth most, and the second highest franchise value in the country. Other reasons why Boston ranks so high include fan engagement, attendance, popularity, and the fact that they’ve had the same coach for the past ten seasons.”

This year, Boston ranked only behind Pittsburgh and Dallas, and Pittsburgh ended up on top mostly because it has a much higher following of college football than Boston.

Dallas, of course, is Dallas.

The numbers were as follows:

- Pittsburgh – 62.61
- Dallas – 55.55
- Boston – 54.19
- New York City – 49.88
- Miami, FL – 48.61

In order to determine the best and worst cities for football fans, WalletHub compared 245 U.S. cities based on 21 relevant metrics. Each metric was graded on a 100-point scale, with a score of 100 representing the most favorable conditions for football fans.

For their sample, they chose cities with at least one professional football team (NFL) or at least one college football team (NCAA, including FBS and FCS). They grouped the cities by division —

“Pro Football” and “College Football” — and assigned weights to each divisional category based on its popularity among fans.

Finally, they determined each city’s weighted average across all metrics to calculate its overall score and used the resulting scores to rank-order our sample.

Due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the NCAA schedule for the 2019-2020 season, for some metrics we considered the values up to the 2018-2019 season. This helps to ensure a level comparison field among the teams.

Interestingly, Boston also tied Las Vegas and San Francisco for the most expensive ticket prices for a football game.

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are to manage, plan and supervise all aspects of maintenance for the housing authority. A CSL, other tradesperson's license or a degree in building /construction is preferred. Knowledge of state procurement laws and capital improvement is beneficial. A minimum of five (5) years' experience working in a large property maintenance or

facility department, of which 3 must be supervisory level, is required. The position is open until filled. For a detailed job description or to apply contact Stephen Kergo, Executive Director, 393 Ferry Street, Everett, MA 02149. Email: SKergo.eha@comcast.net Equal Opportunity Employee.

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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 facebook 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 Creole.

Come all and let us walk together in this season of hope, renewal and new beginnings.

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church

67 Norwood Street,

Everett, MA

Church Phone 617-387-7526 or 617-389-5765

Immaculate Conception Parish

News and Notes

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

Weekly Mass Schedule at Immaculate Conception is as follows:

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

12:15 p.m. Spanish Community

4:00 p.m. Haitian Community

Masses are being held in the Chapel.

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

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

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

Immaculate Conception Parish

489 Broadway

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Phone 617-389-5660

Glendale Christian Lighthouse Church

News and Notes

Sunday 10:30 AM Worship service.

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pastorlarry@thelighthousechurch701.net

Church at the Well Everett

News and Notes

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

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

Glendale United Methodist Church

News and Notes

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

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

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

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

NA Meetings – Mon.

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

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

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

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

We are on the Internet

http://www.glen-daleumc-everett.org

Glendale United Methodist Church

Pastor David Jackson

392 Ferry Street (across from Glendale Towers)

Please enter the church by the driveway on Walnut Street

617-387-2916

PastorDavidJackson58@gmail.com

Pastor's Office Hours: Saturdays 10 AM to 2 PM.

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# ‘Collecting Stories: The Invention of Folk Art’

Organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), “Collecting Stories: The Invention of Folk Art” reflects on benefactor and donor Maxim Karolik’s quest to champion the “art of the people.” The exhibition examines the creation of folk art as a collecting category in the early 20th century.

It will run from February 6 to Jan. 9, 2022.

Throughout the 1940s and ’50s, Karolik championed the then-radical notion of incorporating American “folk art” into the Museum’s collection and disrupting long-held standards and definitions of so-called “fine art.” Through Karolik’s enthusiasm and generosity, the MFA became one of the first encyclopedic museums in the country to actively collect works by artisans, craftspeople, women, schoolchildren, sailors and other artists who were free from the strict rules of traditional Western academic training. Karolik’s expansive vision of American art proved to be ahead of his time—while MFA curators ultimately accepted its value, the reluctance to display folk art alongside fine art remained for decades to come. The exhibition features 59 works on paper shown in two successive rotations and 20 sculptural objects drawn primarily from the MFA’s Karolik Collection of American Folk Art, generously supported by the Henry Luce Foundation.

“Collecting Stories: The Invention of Folk Art” is the third in a series of three Collecting



Lake Ontario, N.Y., pastel and graphite on sandpaper, unidentified artist.

Stories exhibitions funded by the Henry Luce Foundation that presents understudied works from the MFA’s collection to address critical themes in American art and the formation of modern American identities. Previous exhibitions include “Collecting Stories: A Mid-Century Experiment and Collecting Stories: Native American Art.”

# National Grid launches ‘Grid for Good’ initiative to help disadvantaged youth

National Grid recently launched Grid for Good, a new initiative designed to increase the social mobility and employment opportunities for disadvantaged young people in the communities it serves in the

U.S. and UK. This program is part of their Responsible Business Charter, which lays out the Company’s commitments to the environment, employees, customers, and communities.

Through the Grid for Good program, National Grid employee volunteers work with young people ages 16-24 and teach them basic business skills and energy industry-specific skills needed in today’s competitive job market. The program provides team building workshops to build participants’ confidence and collaboration skills with problem solving exercises; along with

activities to focus on resume writing, interview techniques, and workplace conflict resolution.

National Grid employees in the U.S. have committed to providing over 100 paid, two-week job shadowing experiences for participants. National Grid will connect participants with job opportunities in the energy industry, driven by charity partners MissionSAFE and YOU Boston.

“Grid for Good gives young people the opportunities they deserve to succeed,” said Badar Khan, President of National Grid, U.S. “We hope the program will transform

the lives of those who live and work in the communities we serve, and build a more diverse workforce of the future. As a business committed to acting responsibly, this is the kind of positive impact we want to have across our region.”

“Grid for Good has been a fantastic way for me to give back by mentoring talented young professionals from underserved communities,” said Clara Giustino, VP of Project Development and Commercial Services Capital Delivery. “For many, this program is one of the few windows into the corporate world. I’m

proud to be a part of Grid for Good!”

Through the Grid for Good program, National Grid plans to help 4,000 young people via 12,000 hours of volunteering in 2021. Grid for Good will also help bring diversity into the energy sector with qualified talent to help achieve the net zero ambition. Unemployment amongst young people is an existing issue, that has doubled since the Covid-19 pandemic. Now more than ever, National Grid wants to support its communities with Grid for Good.



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# Whos Your Valentine?



Who does Grammy love?!  
**CHARLIE**  
XOXOX

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

**Published Feb. 10 & 11**

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



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