





# AG’s office charges five individuals in connection with crimes at Encore casino

Staff Report

Five individuals were charged last week in two separate incidents at Encore Boston Harbor, including a cheating scheme and a stabbing at the casino, Attorney General Maura Healey announced.

In one incident, an Encore casino dealer, a former casino dealer from Maryland, and a third individual from Philadelphia were indicted in connection with a cheating scheme that netted the group a total of \$23,500 over two nights. In the other incident, a Framingham man and a Natick man were indicted in connection with an unrelated assault and battery at the casino.

•Cheating Scheme

Jianming Li, 53, of Delaware, and Jun Zhang, 41, of New York, were indicted last week by a Middlesex County Grand Jury on the charges of Cheating Under the Gaming Act (two counts each), Conspiracy (two counts each), and Larceny by a Single Scheme (one count each). Li was also charged with Making False Statements to the Gaming Commission (one count).

De Lin, 46, of Philadelphia, was indicted on the charge of Cheating Under the Gaming Act (one count), and Conspiracy (one count). All of the defendants will be arraigned on the charges in Middlesex Superior Court at a later date.

Authorities allege that Li, an Encore Boston Harbor casino dealer, colluded with Zhang, a former Maryland casino dealer, and Lin in a cheating scheme in the game of Baccarat that netted them a total of \$23,500 over two nights. It is alleged that while he was dealing the cards, Li exposed a series of playing cards, memorized them, marked them with a ‘bookmark’ card, then used his cell phone to communicate the cards and their order to Zhang, when both excused themselves to use separate bathrooms.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorneys General Kevin P. McCarthy and Canan Yesilcimen, of AG Healey’s Gaming Enforcement Division. The case was investigated by the Massachusetts State Police Gaming Enforcement Unit at Encore Boston Harbor with assistance from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, the AG’s Gaming Enforcement Division, and Everett Police, and with the cooperation of Encore Boston Harbor.

•Assault and Battery Incident

David Guante, 30, of Natick, was indicted last week by a Middlesex County Grand Jury on the charge of Assault and Battery Dangerous with a Dangerous Weapon (one count). James Johnson, 30, of Framingham, was also indicted on the charge of Assault and Battery (one count). Both will be arraigned in Middlesex Superior Court at a later date.

According to an investigation by the Massachusetts State Police Gaming Enforcement Unit at Encore Boston Harbor, Guante and Johnson became involved in a dispute with another casino patron by the casino cashier. This dispute resulted in Johnson striking the alleged victim in the face. Guante and the victim, then engaged in a fight, during which Guante allegedly stabbed the victim once in his abdomen.

All of these charges are allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Emil A. Ata, of AG Healey’s Gaming Enforcement Division with assistance from Victim Witness Advocate Ceara Tavares, of AG Healey’s Victim/Witness Services Division. The case was investigated by the Massachusetts State Police Gaming Enforcement Unit at Encore Boston Harbor with assistance from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, the AG’s Gaming Enforcement Division, Everett Police Department, Framingham Police Department, Natick Police Department, Middlesex District Attorney’s Office and the cooperation of Encore Boston Harbor.

AG Healey’s Gaming Enforcement Division has a dedicated group of prosecutors and investigators who enforce the state’s Expanded Gaming Act of 2011 and investigate and prosecute illegal activity such as gaming-related financial crime, organized crime, corruption and money laundering, including the majority of criminal activity occurring at the state’s casinos.

# Teachers / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that was a main concern for me.”

Middle School teacher Keith Spencer echoed that sentiment, saying he was able to get his first vaccine about 30 minutes from his home. While he went through the wringer last Thursday, March 4, to get his appointment, he said finally getting it change everything.

“Personally, getting vaccinated before going back was at the top of my list,” he said. “I’m from a family that has issues with immunity. I don’t have immunity issues myself, but I was concerned with that. I understand transmission rates and stuff but I know we also haven’t crowded 30 to 35 kids in a room at the school. I wanted to get kids back here, but I was also hoping we would get the priority as essential people. I was quite disappointed when the governor didn’t make us a priority when school opening was a priority.

“For me, it was an essential thing,” he continued. “I wasn’t going to apply for medical paperwork. I would have gone back to the classroom without a vaccination, but it was tough. I’m glad I didn’t have to make that decision.”

That decision has been weighing on Spencer and other teachers in the district. Many in the administration have been pushing for vaccination, but in absence of that, they have also been pushing to get in-person learning available to students and families. That’s in large part because a majority of families are ready to send their children back to school. Everett tried to initiate a pilot program to vaccinate teachers in February, but that was squelched by Gov. Baker before it could happen – pitting teachers against some students and families on the return discussion.

“It just didn’t feel right,” said Spencer. “I felt like things that went on in our state over the last few weeks put us in that situation to where we had to choose between our students and our own personal safety. I was thinking about what happened if I got sick. I love my job and my students and what I do, but I was nervous about going back. I don’t think anyone should have to be put in a situation where they have to choose between their health and their job.”

Spencer said he is to receive his second dose of the vaccine in early April, just before he is scheduled to return. With that confidence, he said he is ready to be back – not that he wasn’t before – but that he can do his job without the nagging concern of being unprotected at work.

“If you’re a teacher and truly love what you do, you know the best way to teach your students is in-person learning,” he said. “I’m ready to go back.”

Teachers across the school system are to report back to the classroom on March 22 as part of a tentative agreement with the district.

# Council / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

us have these problems. I’ve heard that at times the meetings will just completely lose sound. That’s not an open public meeting. We need to correct this.”

In a separate, but similar, vein, Councilor Rich Dell Isola’s piece on decorum in online meetings passed by a 7-0 vote of the Council. The rules would govern how members are supposed to present themselves and conduct themselves during online meetings. That has been an issue for the past seven months since online meetings debuted at the Council. The new rules of decorum would, in a nutshell, require members to be present and uniformly focused on the meeting and no other tasks.

Councilor Rosa DiFlorio pointed out that in Phase 4 of the re-opening plan, the meetings would be able to return to all, in-person meetings. That, she said, would eventually negate the rules of online decorum.

•NEED THE SENATOR

Councilor Gerly Adrien expressed her displeasure that her resolution in support of a bill co-sponsored by Sen. Sal DiDomenico that would seal eviction records was postponed at Council for a second time.

The measure is meant to be a protection for tenants who have been evicted during the COVID pandemic, and it’s supported by several organizations, including Boston Medical Center.

At Monday’s meeting, Adrien had called for the approval of the resolution, which would simply show support for the bill proposed at the State House. However, her colleagues were not yet comfortable with it, while some opposed it outright, and others wanted Sen. DiDomenico to come explain it.

“I don’t know what other questions you have for the state senator,” she said. “The bill and language is in front of you... Again, it’s very frustrating and sad one of your colleagues has read the bill, but for you to satisfy your understanding, you need our state senator to come before you to read it or explain it. That’s my sentiment.”

For some members, the resolution was controversial – as they don’t support it. One of the key points of contention is that it would seal eviction records after three years.

Councilor Michael Marchese said it could make it difficult for apartment owners to be able to place quality tenants.

“I understand it’s meant to provide as a helping hand to get an apartment, but what I’m finding in the last couple of years is it’s not like that,” Marchese said. “It may be a good idea if you don’t have property, but I do have property and I need to know who I’m putting in my property.”

Said Councilor Capone, “Sealing all eviction records after three years, I think that’s a mistake and is the one thing that causes me not to support it.”

The Council agreed to invite Sen. DiDomenico to the meeting to explain the bill.

•POPE JOHN STAY A SCHOOL?

There was a call from many on the Council Monday night that the administration consider keeping Pope John High School and education facility and maybe re-think the plan to make it into elderly/veteran affordable housing.

The idea was proposed by Councilor DiFlorio, who asked the administration to consider making it into a new vocational school.

“I don’t want to take the housing away from veterans and seniors, but I want to check with the administration to see whether we could put a voke school at Pope John,” she said. “When I went to the vaccine clinic there, I saw a school already set up and we have to move the vocational school.”

Councilor Capone said he “wholeheartedly” agreed with the sentiment, and had actually called for that in 2019.

“I think it’s set up as a school and in a neighborhood that’s used to a school,” Capone said. “The need for a school is critical.”

Councilor Marchese also agreed that it would be a good use to continue it as a school.

“It costs \$60-80 million to build a school and we paid \$10 million for that,” he said. “That’s short money to pay for a school like that.”

DiFlorio said she would like an answer within two weeks.

•SCHOOL SAVINGS ACCOUNT

The Council voted 7-0 on Monday to approve a School Savings Account, allowing the School Department to save up to 2 percent of their budget each year for specific things like Special Education Transportation to out of district placements.

The creation of the account had been advocated for by the School Committee, and it needed Council support as well. It is authorized by state law, but has to be approved locally.

The Account would need approval from the School Committee and the City Council to remove and use any funds.

•MISSING MEETING

The investigation into the missing meeting from October – where Councilor Gerly Adrien was told by her colleagues to either come to in-person meetings or re-consider her role as a Councilor – has officially been counted as a loss.

On Monday, a report from the Administration detailed that the investigation revealed that someone had hacked into the ECTV servers using known credentials shortly after the meeting was uploaded. However, the investigation only revealed that the hack came from within two blocks of City Hall, and it couldn’t be pinpointed to exactly who the hacker was.

The meeting still has not been recovered and the proceedings are not available to the public due to the malicious hack.

•COSTLY CHRISTMAS

Since January, Councilor Capone has been trying to compile the cost of the Christmas décor that was approved in 2019 and 2020 – at a cost now determined to be around \$320,000.

A final piece of the lighting costs came on Monday as it was revealed that the Wehner Park lights cost a total of \$15,000. The lights were purchased for \$8,100 and the City intends to run them 24/7 all year long. Between the costs of the new wreaths, the Kissing Balls, the Christmas trees and the labor, Capone tallied the cost to be at around \$320,000 over the last 14 months.

•CONGRATS, CLERK

The Council uniformly wished congratulations to City Clerk Sergio Cornelio on Monday night, as he was married last weekend.

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HISTORIC FEMALES

Barbara Hudson: “Ultimate Spinach”

By Michael Matarazzo

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** *The following is the first in a month-long series about noteworthy women in Everett, taken from vignettes written by former City Clerk Michael Matarazzo in his book ‘They Came from Everett.’ The histories of many female residents of Everett might surprise readers, as many of their stories have never been fully told. Matarazzo’s book is available at bookblues.com.*

Arranger/Producer/Composer Alan Lorber had an impressive resume having worked with Phil Spector, Neil Sedaka, Gene Pitney, the Coasters, Connie Francis, Jackie Wilson, etc. He was also credited with creating the Mugwumps, a band that included Cass Elliot and Denny Doherty (future members of the Mamas and the Papas, John Sebastian and Zal Yanovsky (future members of the Lovin’ Spoonful) and Jim Hendricks (who wrote Summer Rain for Johnny Rivers and Long Lonesome Highway for the cult classic TV show “Then Came Bronson”).

So when he decided to create a new sound to compete with the psychedelic San Francisco Sound, the music industry was intrigued.

In 1967, Lorber chose Boston as the city where he would launch this new venture. Lorber chose Boston because of its high concentration of college students and its music venues such as the Tea Party, the Psychedelic Supermarket, the Crosstown Bus, the Catcombs, and the Unicorn. By January of 1968, MGM Records was advertising the Bosstown Sound in Billboard magazine as “The Sound Heard Around the World; Boston!!” The shot that would be heard would resonate from three Boston bands that MGM



Barbara Hudson’s Everett High yearbook photo.

was banking on - Beacon Street Union, Orpheus and Ultimate Spinach.

From the very beginning, the Bosstown Sound was met with skepticism and, in many cases, undeserved criticism. While the only “hit” that would be achieved by the aforementioned bands was I Can’t Find the Time to Tell You by Orpheus, it was Ultimate Spinach that was the most prominent of the bands.

Ultimate Spinach originated as a group called the Underground Cinema and included vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Ian Bruce-Douglas, Keith Lahtenein on drums, Geoff Winthrop on rhythm guitar, and Richard Nese on bass guitar and vocalist-guitarist Everett’s own Barbara Hudson.

Barbara was born in Everett to Ralph (from whom she would hide her Fug’s albums) and Lillian (Krafton) Hudson and grew up on Malden Street. At Everett High School, she was active in the music-oriented activities like the Gilbert & Sullivan Society Choral Arts and the Glee Club. As a senior, she, along with Victoria Thistle and future State Librarian Stephen Fulchino were chosen to sing in the State Chorus after competing against other high school vocalists in a district and then state-wide competition.

Barbara was in love with music and singing and it was in the music industry that she saw her

future. Even the class prophecy from the 1967 EHS yearbook listed her, along with her future husband Marty LaRossa, as among the “Crazy Musicians”.

While the musician label certainly fit, Barbara was anything but crazy. A relatively unassuming person off of the stage, Barbara thrived in front of an audience and her voice had a soothing and calming quality; much like her personality.

Barbara took advantage of any opportunity to sing before an audience and it was at an open mic night at the Unicorn that Barbara caught the attention of Ian-Bruce Douglas. Soon, Barbara and Douglas started a band called Underground Cinema with musicians that Douglas had never auditioned. After asking to Keith Lahtenein to join the band, Keith introduced him to Geoff Winthrop and Richard Nese and they were in the band. Underground Cinema became the house band at the Unicorn and shared the stage with local bands such as the J. Geills Band.

Shortly before the arrival of Alan Lorber, the band name was changed to Ultimate Spinach. The name was the result of what Douglas had seen staring back at him as he looked in the mirror during an LSD episode.

Ultimate Spinach’s first self-titled album was released on January 6, 1968 and peaked at #34 on the Billboard Top 200. Barbara was just six months out of high school and less than two months past her eighteenth birthday when the whirlwind began. While Douglas did most of the lead singing on the album, Barbara’s eerily, soulful lead vocals on “Hip Death Goddess” captivated listeners and was considered by many, then and now, as the best song on the band’s best album.

The band would soon be touring and playing with such legendary acts as Jefferson Airplane, Vanilla Fudge, Paul Butterfield Blues Band, the Chambers Brothers and the Youngbloods while performing at venues like the iconic Fillmore West and New York’s Central Park.

All was not well in Spinachland however. Lorber and Douglas were constantly at each other over creative differences and control of the musical content. Douglas saw Ultimate Spinach as his creation, while Lorber saw it as a manufactured product over which he controlled its marketability. Douglas also had very little faith in the other band members and they, quite frankly, hated him. While Douglas was heavily into hallucinogens, the other guys were strictly beer drinkers and really not into the “hippie scene” at all. This left the youngest member of the band, Barbara as the only unaligned, strictly sober and affable member of the band. With her limited role in Douglas’ vision for the band, however, her influence on the temperament of the band was also limited.

Things started to fall apart quickly with drummer Keith Lahtenein quitting after completion of the first album and being replaced by Russell Levine; who would soon become an adversary of Douglas, as well. When Douglas added additional female vocalists to their live shows in order to recreate the dubbing that had taken place during recording, the young Barbara did not use it as an excuse to join the mutiny or add to the band’s disfunction. Even when Caryl Lee Britt was brought in to sing lead on the Behold and See album, Barbara somehow kept any reservations or



Ultimate Spinach with Barbara Hudson, second from left.

complaints that she had to herself. While Britt may have had a more powerful voice than Barbara, some feel that her nasally sound did not fit the genre. Behold and See peaked at #198 on the Billboard Top 200 with Jeff Baxter (who would go on to the Doo-bie Brothers and Steely Dan) replacing Geoff Winthrop.

The band was quickly falling apart and Douglas’ animosity toward Lorber hit a fever pitch after the release of the second album and he “fired” himself from the band.

With a contractual obligation to produced a third album, only one member of Ultimate Spinach remained – Barbara Hudson. Ultimate Spinach III was recorded with Jeff Baxter and Barbara on guitar and some members of the band Chameleon Church (a band that once included comedian Chevy Chase). The album never charted on the Billboard Top 200, but finally fans could hear Barbara’s sweet voice on Reasons. The band broke up shortly after the release of Ultimate Spin-

ach III, but re-releases of their music have and continue to happen.

Ultimate Spinach released three albums in just under a three-year period. By the time it was all over, Barbara had not yet reached her twenty-first birthday

It is amazing that a young lady could experience all the good, bad and ugly of the music industry during a time of total turbulence in our country and in an atmosphere of rampant drug use and still maintain her personal integrity. Through all the chaos, Barbara Hudson stayed true to herself, her beliefs and kept her focus on her love for singing. While those around her fought plotted and mutinied, Barbara has happy to be doing what she loved – performing.

In December 1973, Barbara married her classmate and fellow musician Marty LaRossa (the son of beloved Parlin Junior High civics teacher Joe LaRossa) and settled in Everett.

One can only imagine what the right vehicle for her talent would have produced.

DiDomenico /

cales. It all has been done to have a fun time, but also to raise money for the DiDomenico Foundation.

“We thought about doing it virtually, but just decided it wasn’t appropriate,” he said. “The notion of the event being a fundraiser and an event with jabs and jokes didn’t seem appropriate with the pandemic still raging. The Foundation does suffer because we can’t raise needed funds for the community, but we felt it just wasn’t the right thing to do this year.”

Last year’s event took place on March 6, and it was really the only St. Patrick’s event that took place. The South Boston Parade was quickly cancelled afterward, and most of the bars and special events went on lockdown shortly after DiDomenico’s event. By St. Patrick’s Day, most people were thinking about the dark times of the first COVID surge rather than toasting a Guinness to the old sod.

For now, the memories

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of that March 6 event seem very surreal to DiDomenico. The pandemic was knocking at the door, very literally, but no one knew – no one thought it would be serious. So it was they were enjoying themselves in a familiar environment for what would be the last traditional function for more than a year.

DiDomenico recalled that attendance was not hindered by the mentions of COVID-19, and there were a couple of jokes at the time that are now cringe-worthy given the luxury of hindsight.

“The BioGen people did make it a little more serious for us as it happened that day, meaning earlier that day we heard they were going to the hospital,” he said. “The governor and the mayor had to cancel, but we were told the BioGen issue was contained and we’d be fine. It was an isolated incident. So, the attendance at my event wasn’t impacted at all. We had a full room. All the elected officials were there minus the governor

and Mayor Walsh. So, we thought that was an isolated event and everything was fine. Little did we know what lied ahead for all of us in only a few days.”

DiDomenico said he looks at the tapes from last year’s event, seeing friends like Mayor Carlo DeMaria, Everett City Councilors, Chelsea Collaborative’s (now La Collaborativa) Gladys Vega, Chelsea Supt. Almi Abeyta, Charlestown State Rep. Dan Ryan, and Charlestown Councilor Lydia Edwards – in addition to then-Congressman Joe Kennedy and AG Maura Healey, to name but a few. He said it hurts to watch it, as it recalls one of the last times he can remember having fun with others and not worrying about protocols and sickness.

“Looking back at it, we didn’t know,” he said. “It was one of the last community events and we’ll look back on it and say it was the end of how we lived for awhile.”

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# Everett

## Independent

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### WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?

Patrick Henry, the fiery American patriot and orator during the American Revolution, famously said, “Give me liberty, or give me death!”

However, Republican governors in some of our Southern and Midwestern states have, under the guise of “freedom,” given that phrase during the current pandemic a 21st century twist:

“Give us liberty AND give us death!”

Ever since COVID-19 first was discovered, there have been a lot of unknowns about the disease and how it is transmitted. Scientists and medical professionals still are discovering new things about this bug and no doubt will continue to do so for years to come.

However, there is ONE thing about which there is now universal acceptance: Masking is THE most effective means we have for stopping the spread of this terrible disease.

Some Republican governors have refused to order public mask mandates for reasons that clearly are about politics and have nothing to do with the health and safety of their citizens.

They make the argument that they want to reopen their states because the economic benefits outweigh the potential negative health consequences. That, at least, is a debatable point.

However, the need to wear masks during a pandemic that features a virus that is spread by airborne particles from our noses and mouths is not debatable. More to the point, requiring citizens to wear masks is not inconsistent with “reopening” states’ economies. A state can still allow all of its businesses to operate fully AND also require that everyone wear masks at all times.

President Joe Biden remarked that these governors, mostly notably Bill Abbott of Texas and Kristi Noem of South Dakota, are “neanderthal” in their thinking. Although the pundits quickly joked that Biden gave the Neanderthals (who became extinct, by the way) a bad name, it is no laughing matter that their dangerous policies will lead to entirely preventable deaths in their states, exposing front-line workers, first-responders, and healthcare providers to unnecessary risk of harm.

Ms. Noem’s state of South Dakota for example, has the fifth-highest COVID death rate and second-highest infection rate among the 50 states.

Every state has speed limits, stop signs, and red lights on its highways. Every state requires every citizen to wear pants in public at all times. The suggestion that a mask mandate during a public health crisis represents an impingement on personal freedom is absurd on its face (no pun intended).

We are fortunate that in Massachusetts and surrounding states, masking at all times has been widely-accepted since the beginning of the pandemic. We have a governor and a public health infrastructure that have left no doubt about the need for everyone to wear masks while among others.

There may be a lot of unknowns about COVID-19, but the efficacy of wearing masks is not one of them.

# Independent Forum



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### GUEST OP-ED

## Water Day 2021: Cleaner Rivers for Massachusetts

By Julia Blatt

As Massachusetts observes World Water Day this year, our state’s communities have particular reason to celebrate. The Massachusetts legislature recently enacted (and Governor Baker signed into law) a state sewage notification bill. This important new law has been a long time coming.

World Water Day falls on March 22nd of each year. Since it first became a United Nations Observance Day in 1993, World Water Day has served as a time to think about, and take action to address, the water crisis. In 2021, World Water Day focuses on the environmental, social and cultural value people place on water. The day provides Massachusetts residents an opportunity to consider the importance of clean water. Clean water is not something to take for granted.

On this year’s World Water Day, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance, the Voice of Massachusetts Rivers, is celebrating a major step the state has taken toward ensuring safer rivers. For years, Mass Rivers led advocacy efforts with many

partners to pass a state law requiring sewer operators to establish a notification system. The goal was to let the public know when there is a sewage discharge into a public waterbody, so residents could avoid contaminated waters.

Fecal bacteria poses many public health threats, including ear and eye infections, skin rashes, hepatitis, and inflammation of the intestines. Emerging research also suggests that fecal bacteria can spread COVID-19.

Many cities in the Northeast combine sewage and stormwater collection systems, a relic of long-ago urban engineering. These systems are designed to bypass wastewater treatment facilities if the volume of water is too much for the facilities to handle. For these aging systems, heavy rain sends a mixture of untreated sewage and stormwater into local waterways. Until now, there was no way for the public to know when these discharges occurred, leaving people downstream at risk of contact with contaminated waters.

In 2018, an especially

large volume of sewage pollution was discharged into the Merrimack River. As a downstream community, Newburyport bore the brunt of all this sewage winding up in their waters.

The problems experienced in Newburyport, however, are not unique. Sewage discharges regularly harm water quality in our state. In Massachusetts, there are 181 combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfalls, and 24 CSO permittees. In a typical year, Massachusetts’ waterways receive almost 3 billion gallons of untreated and partially treated sewage mixed with stormwater from CSOs. These outfalls are concentrated in urban areas, like Fall River, Lawrence, and Lowell, making CSO pollution an environmental justice issue, as the closest waterways to residents of urban neighborhoods may be contaminated without their knowing.

The Massachusetts sewage notification bill was filed during five consecutive legislative sessions. Finally, in the summer of 2020, the bill passed the Massachusetts House of Representatives unanimously, and

was sent to the Senate, where it sat until the final hours of the legislative session in January 2021. In quick succession that night, the Senate voted to pass it, and the House agreed to Senate modifications, sending the bill to the Governor’s desk. Governor Baker signed the bill on January 12, 2021.

Raw and partially treated sewage should never be discharged into our waters. Public notification of sewage discharges is an important first step, and Mass Rivers hopes the new law will lead to a greater public willingness to invest in much needed water infrastructure, including separating these combined sewer systems. These are expensive projects, but these investments are critical to protecting our environment, public health and safety, and ensuring environmental justice and climate resiliency. On World Water Day 2021, Mass Rivers encourages all Massachusetts residents to pledge themselves to the goal of clean, safe water for all.

Julia Blatt is the Executive Director, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance.

# Everett

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HISTORIC FIGURES

Saint Anthony of Padua: A saint and a school in Everett

By Matt Lattanzi

Saint Anthony of Padua, born Fernando Martins de Bulhões, was born on August 15, 1195 in Lisbon, Portugal. His father Vincente Martins and mother Teresa Pais Taveira, raised him in a wealthy, noble family. Given their financial status and their religious views, Anthony’s parents arranged for him to enroll at the local cathedral school. He later transitioned to being educated at the Augustinian community of Canons Regular of the Order of the Holy Cross in Lisbon. However, realizing the importance of education and far too distracted by

frequent visits from his family and friends, Anthony transferred to the Monastery of the Holy Cross in Coimbra (the former capital of Portugal) in 1212 to study theology and Latin. Young Anthony was ordained into the priesthood at the age of 19, being placed in charge of hospitality for the Monastery of the Holy Cross in Coimbra. While there, Anthony met with Franciscan friars and was immediately attracted to their simple, evangelical lifestyle. He sought and was granted permission from his church authorities to leave the Canons Regular and join the Franciscan order. It was



St. Anthony of Padua.

then that Anthony actually adopted the name “Anthony”, which he derived from the chapel housed in the hermitage in which he lived. Anthony was assigned to a Franciscan covenant in Forli, a city in Emilia-Romagna, Northern It-

aly. Although young and inexperienced, Anthony was charged with delivering sermons. His masterful oration skill coupled with his deep knowledge of Scripture captivated those in attendance. As such, the local minister provincial sent Anthony to the Franciscan province of Romagna, where he caught the attention of Francis of Assisi, the founder of the Franciscan Order. Francis was so thoroughly impressed with Anthony’s skill and knowledge that, in 1224, Francis entrusted in him the task of educating all Franciscan Friars. Anthony continued educating and preaching for the next two years, even

lecturing at two universities in Southern France. By 1226, Anthony, having returned from France to Italy, was appointed as the Provincial Superior of northern Italy, and chose the City of Padua as his location to oversee. In 1228, now being regarded by many esteemed religious authorities as one of the greatest to deliver sermons, he served as envoy to Pope Gregory IX. After listening to Anthony’s sermons, Pope Gregory IX described Anthony as the “Ark of the Testament.” Anthony fell ill with ergotism, the result of long-term poisoning derived from the ingestion of fungus. He made

the decision to live in a woodland retreat in Padua, Italy, electing to reside in a cell under a walnut tree, alongside two other Franciscan friars. His health rapidly deteriorated, and he died mere months after his diagnosis on June 13, 1231 at the age of 35. On May 30, 1231, Pope Gregory IX canonized Anthony. He is venerated as a Doctor of the Church (a title bestowed upon him by Pope Pius XII in 1946) and as the patron saint for the recovery of lost items, lost people, and lost souls. In 1958, the Saint Anthony School was erected in Everett, dedicated to Saint Anthony of Padua.

Fires / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pandemic I believe our call volume was down because many people were scared to call and didn’t want us coming in the home,” he said. “The fear factor was there. It was an anxious time and we changed a lot of how we do things with Chief Carli in order to protect the public and the firefighters as well.” The overall calls show a vast amount of medical calls, and an alarming rate of false alarms/good intent calls – those calls resulting in a response that eventually was determined not to be necessary. Actual fire suppression calls were at 2 percent of the total calls for service, with 130 – a number that continues to go down, he said. The calls were as follows:

- Fire – 130 (2 percent)
- Ruptured Line – 0
- Medical Aid – 3,711 (66 percent)
- Hazardous Conditions – 215 (4 percent)
- Service Calls – 271 (5 percent)
- Good Intent Calls – 510 (9 percent)
- False Alarm – 760 (13 percent)
- Severe Weather/Natural Disaster – 2 (less than

1 percent)

- Special Incident Type – 33 (1 percent)

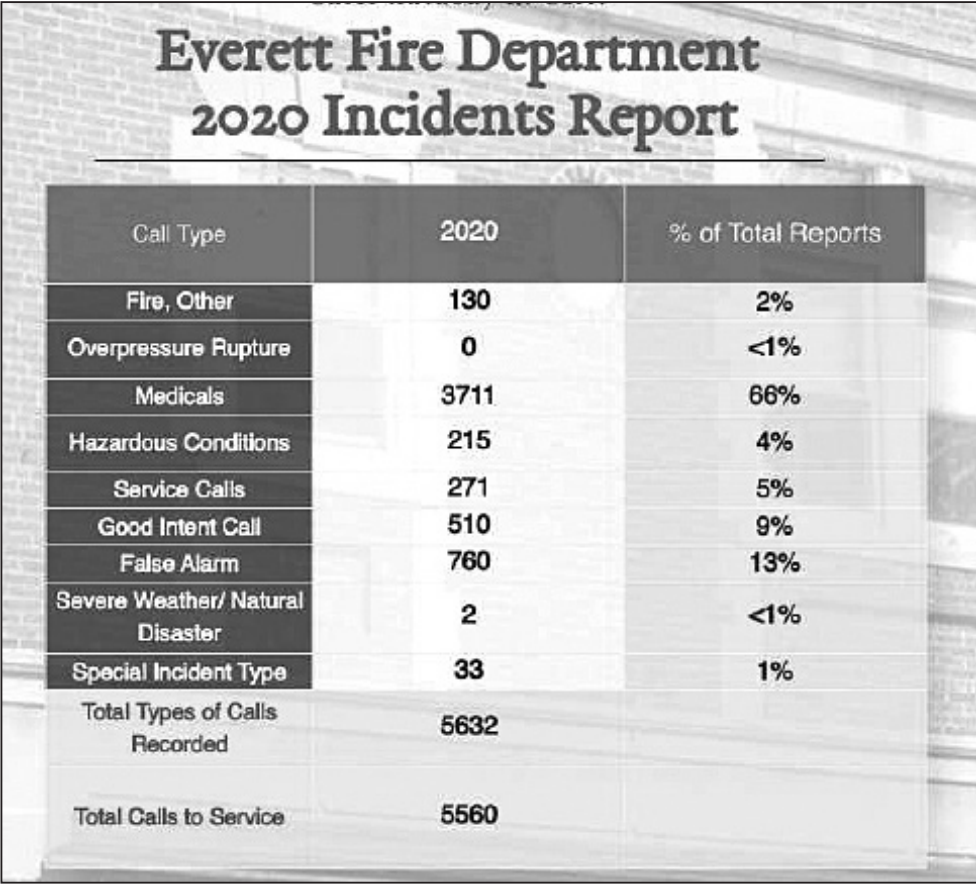
More than anything, the numbers are further proof for Chief Carli that an in-house ambulance/med service is critical to the survival of the Fire Department. Already, Mayor Carlo DeMaria and Chief Carli have began a pilot to bring on 20 new fire personnel that would start by getting EMT certification and riding an ambulance while preparing to enter the Fire Academy. In the end, they would be full firefighter personnel, but also be specialized to staff and respond with an ambulance service. It’s a transformation the chief said is coming and long overdue.

“This is about looking at the numbers and the City and realizing if we don’t get into the medical now, it’s going to be difficult to keep these numbers of firefighters on,” he said. “We need these firefighters and we can’t lose them. As a whole, the Fire Service is getting to the point where they embrace it more. In 2020, 66 percent of our calls are medical and we

have to do something. We have a good partner in Cataldo. We need to take this chance to see if we can help them and provide a better product for the taxpayers. The numbers don’t lie and I think we can do this. Today it’s 66 percent of the calls, but in the near future it could easily be 90 percent.”

The chief said all 20 new EMT/Firefighter personnel will be brought on in April. They will get certified as EMT’s fire, and five already have that certification. In the meantime, they will be on the list for the Massachusetts Fire Academy training, and those certified as EMTs will begin riding the new ambulance service. He said they believe they will be able to send five to the Academy in July – with others going when spots open up.

“We have to change and transition with the times and figure out the services we provide to the city,” he said. “These (new firefighters) will be on the line eventually doing fire suppression and EMT work as we try to transition.”



Hardy said the Fire Union isn’t against the idea of an ambulance in-house, and actually recommended the plan several years ago. However, he said there are a lot of things to work out before these new firefighters show up at a station for work.

“We go to every 9-1-1 medical call in the city and I’ve been on 23 years and it’s always been pre-

dominately medicals,” said Hardy. “The chief has said we’re not a progressive union but we believe we are progressive and we have recommended the ambulance for a long time...Now the City really wants to do it and we’re for it, but we need to negotiate it... We want to make sure it’s done right. We’re all for it but we want to go over all the hiccups because

it’s a big change.” One key point, he said, would be staffing. He said the new 20 firefighter/medical personnel only bring the contingent up to where it’s supposed to be now – at around 100. He said they still would need several more to staff the new ambulance and the fire suppression services too.

School / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a tentative agreement, but early this week some details were still being negotiated, with one of the key details being the 3-foot of social distance. The Everett Public Schools announced on March 1 they would use three feet of distance between students rather than the six-foot distance originally proposed.

“We do have a tentative agreement on a timeline,” said Auger on Monday, and noting that negotiations were to continue this week. “We do feel the three-foot distance is not enough at this point. We are concerned about quality of learning on both sides. We want to make sure students that are remote and in-person both get a quality education. Many other districts we talked to were having a hard time with that.”

She said they want to move slow on the return

of students and make sure the buildings are ventilated, there is PPE and that they can troubleshoot issues.

“We don’t want to move too far, too fast,” said Auger.

School Committee Chair Frank Parker said he was happy with the return schedule and believes it is something everyone is comfortable with.

“Leading up to our March 1 meeting, a number of teachers I spoke to had asked for just a couple more weeks before they went back to school,” he said. “I believe Superintendent Tahiliani and her Administration heard them and in harmony with Ms. Auger and ETA, worked a schedule that the majority of people are satisfied with.”

The timeline allows for teachers to have re-

turned to buildings as early Monday, March 8. However, all teachers and staff are expected to return to school on March 22 to prepare for students. On Monday, March 29, all special education students in sub-separate classes from Pre-K to grade 12 will return five days per week.

Then on Monday, April 5, all students in grades K-5, will return to classrooms five days per week.

So far, grades 6-12 are still uncertain and state guidance is being awaited on when they will return in the older grades, but that is likely sooner than later as the plan develops in the next several days.

“I am thrilled with this schedule,” wrote Tahiliani. “I applaud our administration and the ETA for formulating

a plan that is practical and proactive... Given the state’s recommendation for an April restart, cycling from remote to hybrid to in-person in as little as four to six weeks would have been burdensome. I am pleased that we can focus all of our energy on in-person teaching and learning.”

Tahiliani said K-5 families will be sending out forms very soon where they will make their decision to opt into in-person learning, or to opt-out and to stay remote. Families will be able to switch from in-person to remote at any time during the rest of the year, but there will be only designated enrollment periods where families can move students from remote to in-person. More details on the re-opening will likely become available late this week or early next week.

Everett report fewer COVID-19 cases

The numbers of COVID-19 cases continued to stay low again this week, allowing Everett to remain a “yellow” or moderate risk community for the third week in a row.

It was also the second week in a row that there were fewer than 100 cases in the week.

For the past week, Everett had 98 cases, which was down from 99 last week – two all-time lows for quite some time. It was a trend that has continued through February and March.

The most recent numbers are as follows:

- Tuesday, March 9 - 5
- Monday, March 8 – 6
- Sunday, March 7 – 22
- Saturday, March 6 – 18
- Friday, March 5 – 25
- Thursday, March 4 – 9
- Wednesday, March 3 – 9
- Tuesday, March 2 – 4

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. It was announced this week that the Rec Center test site will remain open until June 30.

Additionally, there is also a 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.



FROM THE MAYOR’S OFFICE

Meet the team: Vanessa Alvarado

Vanessa N. Alvarado  
Department: ECTV/Communications  
Position: Public Information Officer  
Time worked for City of Everett: Six months  
**What do you do in the City?**  
“I take part in running the Mayor’s social media, and I do a lot of graphic design work and generally help wherever I’m needed in communi-

cations.”  
**What is your favorite part about working for the City?**  
“All the good food around me...it’s irresistible.”  
**What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned in your role?**  
“Always double check for typos.”  
**What do you like to do when you’re not working?**



Vanessa N. Alvarado.

“I love baking, reading, dancing and going to Target way too much.”

State announces \$4.7 million for vaccine equity in hardest-hit communities like Everett

Staff Report

The Baker-Polito Administration announced late last month a new \$4.7 million initiative to promote COVID-19 vaccine equity in the 20 communities most disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, with one of those communities being Everett.

•\$4.7 Million for Vaccine Equity: The Administration announced a \$4.7 million effort to support its vaccine equity initiative announced last week, which focuses on reducing barriers to vaccination in the 20 hardest-hit communities in the Commonwealth. The Administration will work with Archipelago Strategies Group (ASG) and Health Care for All (HCFA) to best leverage these funds.

The initiative will support and coordinate with local leaders and community- and faith-based organizations to

strengthen existing efforts in these cities and towns. These efforts will specifically focus on communities of color, homebound seniors, disabled individuals and other hard-to-reach populations. ASG and HCFA will provide hyperlocal, population-specific communication resources as well as hiring local residents and working with local organizations with cultural and linguistic competencies to reach disparately impacted populations in each priority municipality. ASG specializes in grassroots mobilization, partnering with local leaders, community organizations, and media partners to develop community-based solutions. As a subcontractor, HCFA will provide high-touch support for priority communities, including direct service support, community organizing, education, and outreach.

This work will complement the Commonwealth’s \$2.5 million public awareness campaign, “Trust the Facts, Get the Vax,” adapting the campaign’s messaging for specific communities. The initiative will focus on the 20 municipalities with the greatest COVID-19 case burden, taking into account social determinants of health and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on people of color. These communities are Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Framingham, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, New Bedford, Randolph, Revere, Springfield and Worcester. This work will be coordinated with targeted opportunities for increased vaccine access through existing and new locations, including pop up sites and mobile clinics.

Everett Soccer Club looking to keep momentum by removing barriers

By Seth Daniel

Last spring, the growing Everett Soccer Club was just beginning to gear up for their large spring season when COVID-19 hit and cancelled all of those plans – leaving empty soccer fields and unused soccer cleats sitting idle for a year’s time.

Now the Club is trying to preserve its growth and momentum from the last few years by starting up a spring season in April, but they’re trying to encourage that by eliminating barriers to entry – like having to by new cleats. President Eric Chajon, a former Club player and life-long Everett resident, said they have initiated the first “cleat exchange” program for the Soccer Club and hope that it can entice players to return even if they’re facing hardships from COVID-19.

“It’s almost like a recycling program,” he said. “Truthfully, a kid uses cleats three times a week for eight weeks. Then they get put away. That’s only about 30 times they get used. I also understand the pandemic has affected everyone differently. I don’t want anyone to say they can’t play because of the cost of equipment like cleats. Soccer can be played anywhere and I don’t want anyone to feel overwhelmed if they have to buy cleats for three kids and pay for registration fees too. It can add up...I never want to see a kid miss an opportunity to play, especially now when these kids need a release from the screen-time and the Zooms.”

The way it is working is that every Tuesday evening, the Soccer Club will have a table at the Madeline English School, near the fields where they practice at RiverGreen. Chajon said they are inviting Club families and members of the community to donate new cleats or very slightly used cleats to the effort. It could even end up being a swap, he said, which is what he hopes to create for the future.

“A lot of kids last year were ready to go for the



spring season and had brand new cleats that they never got to use,” he said. “Kids grow so fast that many of those cleats don’t fit them this year, and maybe they can donate them, or maybe they could swap them for ones that fit. Either way, we’re just trying to eliminate the barriers.”

Keeping the momentum going on Everett Soccer Club – formerly Everett Youth Soccer – is very personal to Chajon, who has served as president since 2018. Last fall, the Club was able to stage a successful in-house league to revive things a bit, and now they are looking to activate their more than 300-member program this spring back in the traditional manner, playing rivals and foes in the competitive Middlesex League.

Chajon has a long history with the Club, in fact, having played youth soccer in Everett when he was young. He said his father led the charge back then for a soccer community that was much smaller than it is today.

“I grew up in Everett playing youth soccer and my father was always my coach,” he said. “He was the one that always got us together to play year-round, whether renting out Pope John or the Rec Center or the old Immaculate Conception. He was always there and coached two or three teams...I aged out at 14 and went to Everett High and played varsity all four years. After Everett Youth Soccer, I went on to play for several club teams too and that went very well for me and I played soccer at UMass Lowell.”

While playing college soccer, Chajon said he also started coach-

ing young players in the Lowell area and enjoyed it a lot. So, when he returned to Everett, he saw the youth soccer league practicing and felt it was time to give back.

“I lived in Everett and I worked in Everett at the time, and I really wanted to do something to give back to the kids the way people gave to me,” he said.

He began coaching one of the teams and had a great time, and after a little while former President John Perkins recruited him to take over the reins. It took some flexing and long discussions, but eventually Chajon took over in 2018.

Since that time the Soccer Club has nearly tripled in participation, and they’ve even added two girls-only teams as well.

“We started with 70 or 80 kids not including the high school teams,” he said. “At our peak now, we have more than 300 kids participating from pre-school to 8th grade. It’s been a lot of work, but a lot of satisfying work...The community had changed so dramatically and we had only a few players, but I knew the demographic in Everett supported a lot more players – and it eventually did. When I played, the soccer community was very small and we all knew each other. The Little League and youth football was so big. It’s flipped completely and now soccer is so huge in Everett.”

That is why this spring is so important for the Club, Chajon said. To keep their momentum and growth, he said it will be important to be flexible and understanding. If kids are to heal from this pandemic year, he said then let it be in part on the soccer field. To get them there, maybe it takes some donations of cleats.

“It really helped when we were growing to be able to break down barriers with language and other obstacles,” he said. “We don’t want to keep anyone from participating and this cleat drive is part of that overall goal.”

BHCC launches varsity esports program

Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) has announced the launch of a varsity esports program for enrolled students. Esports are video game tournaments in which student teams compete with other colleges and universities through virtual game rooms. With Athletics on hold due to the health concerns of COVID-19, BHCC’s Athletic Department is sponsoring only esports this spring.

With the expertise of

caring, engaging coaches, BHCC athletes gather virtually to participate in practices or games. “We’ve been at the forefront of esports in our National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) region and we are looking for more students to join us in helping us continue to grow the program,” said Head Coach Andrew Rezendes.

According to an article from Community College Daily, community col-

leges around the country are turning to varsity esports as a way to recruit and engage students. It is a good fit because it does not require large fields nor athletic facilities. Practices and competitions can take place at times that fit students’ schedules.

To view a recording of all BHCC esports games and the upcoming schedule go to: [www.twitch.tv/bhccbulldogs/](http://www.twitch.tv/bhccbulldogs/).

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# HOP TO IT....



# Sports

## EHS winter sports teams set to start season

The delayed -- but highly-anticipated -- 2021 winter sports season gets underway this coming week for Everett High sports teams.

Although the pandemic has altered the high school sports scene along with everything else in life, the Crimson Tide hockey and basketball athletes will have the opportunity to participate in a shortened winter season against their Greater Boston League (GBL) opponents.

The possibility of even having a season seemed bleak up until just recently because of the continued high positivity rate for COVID-19 in Everett and the communities that compete in the GBL. However, all of the GBL schools, with the exception of Chelsea, have received the go-ahead to play and the coaches and players are eager to get their season underway.

**Boys basketball opens season this evening**

“We’re just excited that we’re able to have a season this year,” said EHS boys basketball coach Stanley Chamblain. “Collectively, we were all very anxious and just were constantly reading updates on the potential of it starting, but were just unsure on when it could start. “Once that day came where we were allowed to be in the gym again, you could feel the excitement,” Chamblain continued. “We haven’t been around each other since our last basketball game in that gym, so for us, it was a moment for some kind of normalcy, even though we are restricted on how we have to play the game of basketball.”

The 2021 Crimson Tide boys will be led by two captains, senior Kevin Ariste and junior John Monexant. Other members of the 2021 edition

of the Crimson Tide are seniors Edwin Francois, Rovencheney Brice, and Juvens Louis; juniors James Monexant, Nurieni Mohamed, Roby Dormevil, and Ralph Enayo; and sophomores David DeSouza, Steven Cordeiro, Kevin Ruiz, Roger Vasquez, and Mervens Amazan.

“This season will be different from others for obvious reasons, but it gives us the opportunity to have our seniors, Edwin Francois, Rove Brice, Kevin Ariste and Juvens Louis, play their last games in an Everett uniform and at the same time have our younger guys get an opportunity to grow and compete,” said Chamblain.

“We’re led by our senior captain in Kevin Ariste and our three-year starting guard and junior captain in John Monexant. We have some talented guys in Roby Dormevil, Steven Corde-

ro, David De Souza, and Ralph Enayo who are all underclassmen, but returners to the program. “We also have players such as Juvens Louis, Kevin Ruiz, James Monexant, Nurieni Mohamed, and Mervens Amazan, who are first-year players and who will be impactful to our success moving forward,” Chamblain continued. “I mention all of them, along with Edwin and Rove, because they all have the ability to go out on any given night and give some very valuable minutes.

“With our first game Wednesday (tonight) against Medford, we’re all very anxious, but yet excited to see what this team is made of,” the coach concluded.

**The new-look GBL resurrects old rivalries**

Everett will be competing in the newly-reorganized Greater Boston League, which will

be a mix of new and old schools from that venerable conference.

When long-time GBL members Somerville, Everett, Malden, and Medford decided to end their three-year relationship with the Northeastern Conference, Revere -- which was one of the original members of the GBL (dating back to the 1950s, but which joined the Northeastern Conference in 2005) -- also jumped the NEC ship.

Shortly thereafter, both Lynn Classical and Lynn English decided to forsake the NEC, the league to which both of those schools had belonged since 1970.

Chelsea, an original GBL school from the ‘50s, also will figure into the mix. The Red Devils have been a member of the Commonwealth Athletic Conference since about 1990, but are playing an independent schedule this year and

are slated to rejoin the GBL next year (except in football).

However, Chelsea will play a predominantly-GBL schedule this season if the Chelsea School Committee gives the athletic program the green light to compete.

The end result is a vibrant Greater Boston League of eight schools that share a commonality in many respects, particularly geography (there’ll no more of those long bus rides on school nights to Gloucester!), as well as rivalries that transcend the generations.

For the 2021 basketball season, the GBL has created a seven-game regular season to be followed by a three-game playoff system. Hockey also will feature a championship playoff after its eight-game regular season.

## Livestreaming for all high school sports and events to start

Imagine sitting home and watching football live from the comfort of your home. In March? Get ready!

Livestreaming options for all high school events will be available later this month with the emergence of a new live high school broadcasting channel.

bBIG Communications, which has been livestreaming high school hockey games under the flagship MyHockeyLive.com for the past seven years, is now launching bBIGLive.com, giving schools the option to easily offer professional-quality livestream broadcasts of everything from upcoming football and baseball games to concerts and plays.

“We have all of our MyHockeyLive.com production tools available from the work we’ve been doing inside the rinks for the past seven years, and we have a great relationship with high school and prep school athletic directors across the state,” said Mark Igo, Chief Operating Officer at bBIG Communications. “Extending into

other school-run activities, from spring sports to school events, is a natural extension of our services.”

bBIGLive.com will debut in late February when the early spring sports season starts, which includes high school football, after it was postponed from last fall’s sports calendar.

bBIGLive.com will then transition into traditional spring sports like baseball and lacrosse.

At the same time, Igo notes that if schools are offering any plays or concerts and wish to have larger events like graduation ceremonies broadcast live, bBIGLive.com is equipped to cover those events as well.

Igo notes that during this pandemic-limited hockey season, many games have seen over 3,000 views per game as they can not only be viewed live but also shared with family and friends for viewing later, as well as used by coaching staffs to help with their film review.

“We want to be a full resource to all high schools and prep schools for their on-demand needs,” said

Igo.

Schools, teams, programs or booster organizations that are interested in scheduling games or events are urged to contact Mark Igo at migo@bbigcommunications.com as soon as possible.

bBIGLive.com charges a small production fee to teams, often paid by the boosters, schools or local advertisers. Oftentimes, teams will split the cost to make the game coverage even more affordable. As an added perk, coaches have access to the game film following the game that they can use as part of their video sessions with their student athletes.

bBIGLive.com, owned by bBIG Communications, Inc., also owns My Hockey Live, which reaches the largest school hockey community in the Northeast via livestreamed broadcasts and a growing digital and social media presence. Our dedicated team delivers the latest in hockey news from all around New England. MHL is the ONLY digital, social, mobile media network designed

exclusively for local community hockey families, players, fans and coaches, providing instant access to LIVE and ON-DEMAND hockey games, which can be viewed from your smartphone, laptop, tablet or big-screen TV. To learn more, visit <https://www.myhockeylive.com>. To schedule a game for your high school team, contact Mark Igo at migo@bbigcommunications.com.

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August

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| 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29  | 30  | 31  |     |     |     |     |

September

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| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |     |     |

October

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November

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| 28  | 29  | 30  |     |     |     |     |

December

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
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| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |

Yard Waste will be collected on your trash/recycling day.

Holiday Schedule - Whenever a scheduled collection day falls on a holiday, that day's collection and all remaining collections for the week will be delayed one day - Friday's collection will be on Saturday.

Rules to follow:

1. Items must be placed curbside, no later than 7 a.m.

2. Only clean yard waste packaged in brown paper bags or in barrels will be picked up.

3. NO PLASTIC BAGS. NO LARGE branches, rocks, dirt or broken pots please.

4. "Yard Waste" stickers are for barrels only. Stickers are not needed for paper bags. They are available at the Constituent Services Desk 1st floor, and the Mayor's Office.

5. Clean yard waste includes: grass clippings, leaves and small branches (tied not taped).

For Large Branch Removal: Call 617-394-2270 or 311 to schedule an appointment for City mulcher truck.

Please contact the Constituent Service's Office at 617-394-2270 with any questions regarding recycling and or yard waste.

Highlighted in red = Yard Waste Pick Up Days

Highlighted in black = Holidays

WWW.CITYOFEVERETT.COM/



# Driver’s License bill relaunched at multiplatform, multilingual event

On February 23, a press conference hosted by the Driving Families Forward coalition showed how the Work and Family Mobility Act, which would allow immigrants without status to qualify for a Massachusetts Standard Drivers’ License, is now positioned to pass and finally become law, not despite Covid, but in part, because of it.

Entitled “The Work and Family Mobility Act,” the bill advanced further in the State House last year than ever before. Unfortunately, after it passed the Transportation Committee for the first time, Covid put the brakes on the legislation, along with just about everything else. Now, the recently reintroduced bill has already garnered over 60 cosponsors, and the coalition behind it, Driving Families Forward, has grown to include almost 250 civic leaders and organizations.

By size alone, Tuesday’s gathering demonstrated the wide support that exists across Massachusetts for permitting driving privileges regardless of immigration status. Broadcast live on multiple Facebook pages in three languages, the Zoom press conference drew thousands of commonwealth residents to listen to a range of immigrants, experts and elected officials, each explaining the benefits of the bill from a different public health, road safety, law enforcement, economic, or immigrant rights perspective.

The first expert speaker stressed one of the most urgent reasons for the bill’s passage. “We need every tool to help us prevent further spread of Covid-19,” said Jeneczka Roman, Public Policy Specialist at the Massachusetts Public Health Association.

A study by the Center for American Progress concluded that nearly three-quarters of the undocumented immigrant workforce is classified as essential, and essential workers are far more susceptible than the general population to coronavirus infection (55% more susceptible in Philadelphia, a recent study found). The current law further worsens the odds by forcing over 200,000 immigrants in Massachusetts to carpool or use public transportation – if they can. Outside Greater Boston, “public transit operations are far too limited to enable much of the essential

immigrant workforce to get to work, buy groceries, or access reliable healthcare. This includes accessing Covid-19 testing, treatment, and vaccination,” Roman noted. “Drive-thru operations and remote locations require that residents have a car to get tested or get vaccinated.”

State Representative Christine Barber, one of the bill’s four lead sponsors, added that public transportation is also operating on reduced schedules during the pandemic, increasing the problem of overcrowding. “More directly, it’s imperative that families can access care, particularly people who are most at risk of getting Covid,” the Somerville and Medford representative continued. “All parents should be able to take their children to the doctor, safely and without fear of being pulled over for driving without a license.”

The health risk of denying driving privileges is particularly critical to the state’s 25,000 farmworkers, explained Phil Korman, Executive Director of the Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture. “To get to a farm job, many immigrant farmworkers need to commute over 20 miles. Public transportation is not an option in rural Western Massachusetts, so people crowd into a shared vehicle or a minivan. Then, after getting to the farm job, people need to commute from one part of the farm to the other, and the farmland is not together -- it’s in another town.”

Korman also pinpointed further problems with the vaccination program. “Thankfully, the Baker administration does consider farmworkers to be essential. But, again, when you take a look at a lot of the vaccine appointment sites, they’re requiring ‘state I.D.’ whatever that might be, though we all think of it as driver’s licenses. So all I can say is, as a commonwealth, we can’t keep telling ourselves that people who work on farms are essential because we depend on them to feed our families, and at the same time, deny them the right to legally drive, which puts them at a higher risk to get deathly sick in the middle of a pandemic.”

To stress the urgency of this health threat, the bill has now been officially renamed “An Act Relative to Work and Family Mobility During

and Subsequent to the COVID-19 Emergency” (HD.448 and SD.273). Indeed, some of the myriad other reasons for passing the legislation have also grown more pressing since March 2020.

“In this past year like no other, we have seen the bright spotlights shone on the many inequalities and injustices that have long existed in our commonwealth and in our country,” said another lead sponsor, Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier, of Pittsfield.

“Not only is it a safety issue, it’s an equity issue,” Framingham Mayor Yvonne Spicer concurred. “It’s really about economic mobility and recovery. As we move through this pandemic, many of the people that have suffered the most are our people, our Black and brown community, and certainly our immigrant community here in Framingham.”

Other speakers stressed the economic benefits of the bill for all state residents. “Mass Budget estimates that the commonwealth would receive about \$4.5 million in fees from new applicants,” said the bill’s newest lead sponsor, State Senator Adam Gomez, of Hampden. “Fewer uninsured motorists and more drivers in insurance pools could also lower everyone’s insurance rates. In states like New Jersey, which recently passed this law, it’s estimated that insurance companies would bring in about \$233 million in additional premiums each year, and the state of New Jersey would take in a whopping \$11.7 million in license fees.”

Gomez concluded, “That’s why 140 businesses across the state, including Eastern Bank and the Alliance for Business Leadership, endorsed this bill last session.”

“On behalf of insurance companies and our people, I support this bill,” said Tiago Prado, CEO of BRZ Insurance and formerly an undocumented immigrant. “It will make insurance more affordable for all Massachusetts residents [because] the insurance risk will go down.... As an insurance agency owner, I witness this struggle every day.”

Other speakers noted that, even without Covid, the safety benefits of the bill are irrefutable. States from Connecticut

to California have enjoyed decreases of up to ten percent in hit-and-run accidents since passing similar laws, said another of the bill’s lead sponsors, Senator Brendan Crighton, of Lynn and environs. “If we want to have the safest possible roads in Massachusetts, we must have an equal system in place that allows every resident of age to have the ability to earn a drivers’ license – to take a driver’s education course, to take a road test, to take a vision test, and to get insurance. One’s citizenship status has nothing to do with their ability to safely operate a vehicle.”

According to the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, between 41,000 and 78,000 drivers in Massachusetts would obtain licenses within the first three years of the bill’s implementation.

“This legislation will increase the number of tested and insured motorists,” Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan agreed. “As a criminal justice professional, I know. I’ve represented people in district courts as a criminal defense attorney -- it was unnecessary. What we have right now is 16 states-- and Washington D.C. and also Puerto Rico --that have led the way. There’s no reason that Massachusetts can’t be a leader and make sure that all our immigrants are embraced, that we welcome them, not just into our communities, but onto the very roads that we are on.”

Throughout the press conference, immigrants attested to the human cost of linking driving privileges to federal immigration enforcement, regardless of the administration in Washington.

Irma Lemus, Community Leader at Movimiento Cosecha, shared the story of Nelson, who was stopped for driving without a license on route to care for his three-day-old daughter. As a result, he was detained for a year and then deported to Guatemala. “We have a lot of members of our community who have not even been able to know their own children,” Lemus said.

Everett Hospital security officer David Andrade spoke of the problem he faced when he suffered a temporary break in his DACA status. “Just one little hiccup, I lost my job, I lost my driver’s license. You

can’t live a normal life without that one simple I.D.”

Katherine Yessenia Lopez spoke about having to drive to two jobs while she and her two children were trapped in a life with her abuser. “When I left home every morning, I did not know if I was going to see my kids again because I knew if the police stopped me, they could call immigration,” she said. Once, while a friend drove her to get diapers, the police stopped them outside Framingham and impounded the car, leaving Lopez, her friend, and Lopez’s two toddlers stranded on the street. “I remember it was cold. My kids were scared, and my daughter asked, ‘Why did they take the car? I want to go home, mommy.’”

Eventually Lopez managed to leave her

abuser, and with the help of REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, she obtained the protections of a U Visa that have allowed her to gain permanent residency and become a medical assistant. But she knows she was lucky. “I was not sure which was worse, being arrested or being afraid of him,” Lopez said. “Maybe if I’d had a license, it could have felt safer to escape.”

“No matter what is happening on the national level,” Rep. Farley Bouvier stressed in her remarks, “driver’s licenses are squarely in the purview of state governments. And this allowing, requiring, all drivers’ in Massachusetts to have a license, to be trained, to be insured, is the single best way to help our immigrant neighbors in their lives every day.”

## MVES Healthy Aging Program empowers seniors by offering information, peer support

Diabetes. Healthy eating. Stress reduction. Fall prevention. These issues all affect older adults yet many do not know where to turn for resources to help them address these challenges effectively. Enter the Healthy Aging Program at Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES), a comprehensive program of classes designed specifically for seniors wanting to remain healthy and independent in their own homes.

“Open to any older adult from the 11 communities served by MVES, our classes provide the perfect platform for learning and sharing,” says Donna Covelle, Healthy Aging Program coordinator for MVES. “In addition, our classes are made available at no cost, making them accessible to any older adult wanting to participate.”

MVES Healthy Aging Program offerings include a chronic disease self-management class, diabetes self-management class, healthy eating for successful living class, fall prevention class, and tai chi classes. Classes are held in series ranging from 6-8 weeks. Each class typically has between eight and 12 participants.

Prior to the onset of the pandemic last March, classes were made available in person at a number of area venues. Covelle points out that MVES was able to quickly pivot and shift some of the classes to Zoom starting last spring. More virtual classes will be announced this spring, all offering technical support for operating Zoom.

“Apart from providing a wealth of helpful information for local seniors, our Healthy Aging Program classes offer a way for seniors to socialize with others facing similar challenges,” says Covelle. “We have seen many friendships blossom from our programs.”

To make the Healthy Aging Program classes come to fruition in the past, Covelle partnered with local senior centers, housing authorities and libraries. Susan Tilton, outreach coordinator for

the Edith O’Leary Senior Center in North Reading, says, “It’s been great that MVES has been offering the Healthy Aging Program for North Reading seniors. They have learned to take more control of their health, live safely and more independently. Because of the programs you have offered over Zoom, you have reached more homebound seniors and opened them up socially.”

“I enjoyed every minute,” says Marie Cantone of Malden, who recently took the Healthy Eating series over Zoom. “The instructors did a great job introducing all of us to healthy options and helped us to set and reach goals. If I were to sum up what I am leaving these classes with, it would be the confidence to say ‘I can do it!’ – an amazing result that I am sure is shared by all participants.”

Medford resident Anna Jones explains, “My mother and grandmother passed away at early ages, so I did not have elderly role models to know what to expect now that I am 70 years old. The virtual Healthy Aging Program classes were a huge help to me because they taught me about aging, illness and prevention and how to care for myself.”

Jones continues, “The instructors who taught the classes were compassionate, understanding and knowledgeable. The virtual option was great because I didn’t have to worry about traveling. Please keep them coming!”

Covelle concludes that while MVES looks forward to reintroducing in-person classes in the future when it is safe to do so, the virtual offerings have proven to be a tremendous success. “Participant feedback is so important to us and we are delighted to hear from so many elders that these classes have served them well,” she says.

To learn more about the MVES Healthy Aging Program, please visit mv.es.org or contact Donna Covelle at dcovelle@mv.es.org or 781-388-4867.

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check  
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time in Revere, Chelsea,  
Everett, Winthrop,  
Somerville, Cambridge.  
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special! Call 781-485-  
0588.

LEGAL NOTICE

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**  
Notice is hereby given by  
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Service 1081 Fellsway,  
Malden, MA, pursuant  
to the provisions of Mass  
General Laws, Chapter  
255, Section 39A, that  
they will sell the follow-

ing vehicles on or after  
March 24 beginning at  
10:00 am by public or  
private sale to satisfy  
their garage keepers lien  
for towing, storage, and  
notices of sale. Vehicles  
are being stored at Riga-  
no's Towing Service.  
1. 2011 Dodge  
Caliber VIN 1B3C-

B3HA8BD120048  
2. 2010 Ford F-150 VIN  
1FTFW1EV8AFB13051  
3. 2010 Mazda CX9 VIN  
JM3TB2MV9A0233960  
Signed  
Basil Rigano  
Owner  
3/10, 3/17, 3/24

**FHAP AGENCIES & OTHER STATE/LOCAL REFERRAL AGENCIES**  
**BOSTON FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION**  
One City Hall Plaza, Suite 966  
Boston, MA 02201-1054  
617-635-4408  
**CAMBRIDGE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
51 Inman Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139-1732  
617-349-4396  
**CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES**  
21 Grand Street, 4th Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106-1561  
860-541-3400  
**MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
51 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
207-624-6050  
**MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION**  
One Ashburton Place, Room 601  
Boston, MA 02108-1599  
617-994-6000  
**RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**  
180 Westminster Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Providence, RI 02903-3768  
401-222-2661/62  
**VERMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
135 State Street, Drawer 33  
Montpelier, VT 05633-6301  
802-828-2480  
**NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**  
2 Chenell Drive  
Concord, NH 03301-9053  
603-271-2767  
**NEW HAVEN COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**  
200 Orange Street, Room 402  
New Haven, CT 06510  
203-946-8160/8165

Zion Church - Everett

News and Notes

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

book page, "Zion Church  
Ministries."  
For more information,  
they can be reached on-  
line at zionchurchminis-  
tries.com or via email at  
office@zionchurchminis-  
tries.com

Mystic Side Congregational Church

News and Notes

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

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

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church

News and Notes

Grace Anglican Episco-  
pal Church is open and wel-  
coming to all.  
There are 3 services on  
Sundays: 10am English,  
1pm South Sudanese (Din-  
ka) and 3pm Haitian Cre-  
ole.  
Come all and let us walk  
together in this season of

hope, renewal and new be-  
ginnings.

Immaculate Conception Parish

News and Notes

Our Parish Staff: Father  
Joseph Chacha Marwa,  
S.M.A. Administrator;  
Father Ernest Egbedike,  
S.M.A. Parochial Vicar;  
Secretary Barbara Can-  
non  
Weekly Mass Schedule  
at Immaculate Conception  
is as follows:  
Saturday (Sunday Vig-  
il) 4:00 p.m., Sunday 7:00  
a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Family  
Mass), 11:00 a.m., and  
5:30 p.m.  
12:15 p.m. Spanish  
Community  
4:00 p.m. Haitian Com-  
munity  
Masses are being held in  
the Chapel.  
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 Benedic-  
tion 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 col-  
lected will go towards our  
Stain Glass Fund. Brink a  
Book and Buy a Book and  
make a donation. Our se-  
lections are great and var-  
ied. Please stop by the ta-  
ble and see what we have.  
Thank you

Glendale Christian Lighthouse Church

News and Notes

Sunday 10:30 AM Wor-  
ship 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 mas-  
ters," Colossians 3:23  
"In Pursuit of Spiritual  
Excellence"  
Righteousness, Godli-

ness, Faith, Love, Truth  
**GLENDALE  
CHRISTIAN  
LIGHTHOUSE  
CHURCH**  
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EVERETT,  
MASSACHUSETTS  
02149**  
**617-387-7458**  
**Rev. Larry Russi, Sr.**  
**Pastor**  
**pastorlarry@**  
**thelighthousechurch701.net**

Church at the Well Everett

News and Notes

Church at the Well Ev-  
erett is a new church for  
Everett that will begin  
meeting in 2021. Check  
us out on Facebook at  
www.facebook.com/  
churchforeverett to view  
weekly devotions and up-  
dates, visit us at 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 Meth-  
odist Church is open to all  
and we welcome people of  
all faiths, race, nationalities  
and sexual preference. No  
one is ever turned away. If  
you are looking for a new  
home church, we would  
like you to check us out and  
let us know what we can do  
to make church a better fit  
in your life.  
Bible Study: Consider  
joining us for Bible study  
on Sunday. We meet in  
the Church Parlor off the  
Chapel from 9:30 to 10:00  
a.m.  
Sponsor the bulletin! For  
a \$5 donation, you can ded-  
icate the Sunday bulletin to  
recognize family, friends,  
or special occasions. There  
is a sign-up sheet in the  
Pastor's study. Feel free  
to choose your particu-  
lar week and leave a copy  
of your dedication in the  
mail in that is on the Pas-  
tor's door. Please contact  
the Pastor if you have any  
questions.  
Boy Scout Troop 814:  
Meet in Cooper Hall on  
Tuesday evenings from 6-9  
p.m. Cub Pack 11 meets on  
Saturday mornings.  
NA Meetings – Mon.

Bring Your Own Book 7:30  
– 9:30 p.m.; Thurs. I Can't  
But We Can, 8:00 7:30 –  
9:30 p.m.  
AA Meeting – Saturday  
evenings from 6:30 to 8:30  
p.m.  
Pastor's Office Hours:  
Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Other times by appoint-  
ment.  
Bread of Life Donations  
– This outreach is being  
done to honor the Unit-  
ed Methodist Women's  
Group, who for so many  
years were our outreach  
source. Please bring any  
food item(s) to church and  
place in the box located on  
the altar.

**We are on the Internet**  
**http://www.glen-**  
**daleumc-everett.org**  
**Glendale United**  
**Methodist Church**  
**Pastor David Jackson**  
**392 Ferry Street (across**  
**from Glendale Towers)**  
**Please enter the church**  
**by the driveway on**  
**Walnut Street**  
**617-387-2916**  
**PastorDavidJack-**  
**son58@gmail.com**  
**Pastor's Office Hours:**  
**Saturdays 10 AM to 2 PM.**  
**Other times by**  
**appointment.**

Everett's Professional Service Directory

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## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### “LIZ” MCBRIDE DIES AT 100

CHELSEA - Mrs. Elizabeth “Liz” McBride, who served on the Chelsea School Committee for many years and was a member of the Chelsea Kiwanis Club, died on March 1. She was 100 years old.

McBride was a beloved public figure and attended numerous events hosted by local organizations and was warmly welcomed by all. She had incredible energy and spread her goodwill efforts throughout the community.

Mrs. McBride was a pioneer in the local Kiwanis Club, becoming its first female member. Kiwanis President Sylvia Ramirez lauded Mrs. McBride’s dedication to the club, stating that she was “a vivid and passionate member whose presence has been missed at our meetings.”

“We are saddened by this huge loss to our community,” said Ramirez. “I just hope to be at least a tiny percent of what she was for Kiwanis during my Kiwanis years. Not only was she active in Kiwanis, she was a member of the School Committee, engaged with our children, and passionate about bicycle safety – she was a great woman and we will miss her terribly.”

Ramirez said the members will be paying tribute to Mrs. McBride at her memorial observance. “We will all be wearing our red jackets to honor her.”

Councilor-at-Large Leo Robinson described Mrs. McBride as “a wonderful lady.”

“Liz devoted her life’s work to the Chelsea schoolchildren and Chelsea School Committee,” said Robinson. “Through the Kiwanis Club and her advocacy for our students, the Kiwanis Club has been a generous donor of scholarships to Chelsea High students and Liz made it happen,” said Robinson.

Chelsea School Committee member Rosemarie Carlisle served on the committee with Mrs. McBride. She was also a friend and neighbor on Sagamore Avenue.

“She was a wonderful lady who cared about all the students in the City of Chelsea,” said Carlisle. “She made sure that the

decisions she made in the educational system were in the best interests of the students. She cared about all the teachers and made sure the teachers were happy in the classroom.”

Carlisle recalled how Mrs. McBride would visit the Mary C. Burke Complex and read books to the elementary school students there. They would lovingly call her, ‘Grandma’,” related Carlisle.

Carlisle said she has great memories of serving on the School Committee with Mrs. McBride and being a partner in the effort to bring Boston University officials to Chelsea to manage the local school system. “Liz McBride, and Morry Seigal, Lydia Walata, Andrew Quigley, and Chubby Tiro – all of us worked together to bring Boston University to reality in Chelsea.”

As a neighbor, Carlisle often saw Mrs. McBride near her home in Prattville.

“I grew up with all her kids – she was a wonderful mother,” said Carlisle. “She loved her husband, John, and they were good parents to their kids. They were all brought up the right way in the City of Chelsea. They’re really Chelsea people.”

### CITY HALL TOWER GETTING A FACELIFT

CHELSEA - While a lot of Chelsea City Hall has been modernized or upgraded in the last 10 years, the tower and dome have literally remained a time capsule – though the time may not have always been right on the tower clock.

Nevertheless, this month the City’s Department of Public Works began a complete restoration project for the tower – getting rid of 100-year-old rickety stairs, fixing leaks, re-pointing the brickwork, righting the clock and even applying a new layer of gilding to the Hall’s golden dome.

“We’re doing a full restoration of the tower, and that will include gilding the entire dome,” said DPW Director Fidel Maltez. “That will be done later this summer and when it’s done, it will really look awesome.”

The impetus for the restoration comes from many directions.

First and foremost, the leaks in the tower had become expensive and disruptive. The tower sits right above the Council’s Conference Room, and more than a few storms had brought water into the tower, where it stood in puddles and leaked down into the Conference Room. That caused extensive damage and lots of repairs.

“What happens is on the north side of the tower, we had a lot of water coming in and would destroy the Conference Room,” he said. “In my four years here, we’ve re-done that roof four times. That was the driving force of this project. Once we started that, we pushed the Council for a holistic project that restored the entire Tower. We believe after this we won’t have to tackle the Tower for another 100 years.”

That part of City Hall was built in 1909, and it does show.

Right now, Contracting Specialists Inc. (CSI) are working on the brick work and the masonry to stop all the leaks. They are also repairing all four faces of the clock, and the clock will be computerized so that it looks historic, but also keeps good time and resets itself automatically. In fact, all four faces of the clock were to be removed on Tuesday of this week.

They will also be installing new stairs on the inside of the tower, and, of course, the new gilding on the dome – along with some other smaller repairs.

Maltez said the plan is to have the restoration complete in June, and he hopes that upon completion, residents could be invited up to the tower to see the inner workings of the clock.

The Hall is on the National Register of Historic Places, and so the renovations are being held to historic standards.

The project costs a total of \$1.8 million, with the City getting a \$150,000 boost from the Community Preservation Committee.

### NOT FOOLING AROUND WITH RESTAURANT GUIDELINES

EAST BOSTON - Earlier this month when Mayor Martin Walsh said the City is taking swift

### RESTORATION OF CITY HALL TOWER, DOME



Looking out over Chelsea from the height of the clocks on the City Hall Tower, one can see Boston and beyond. The vista from the tower is incredible, and this rare view is courtesy of the full restoration of the tower that has started and should be completed by June.

action when establishments do not meet safety protocols he wasn’t kidding.

Since restaurants were able to reopen with capacity restrictions during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the Boston Licensing Board has instituted a weekly standing emergency hearing on Mondays to address any violations. Those hearings have resulted in immediate closures, when necessary.

Last week the Licensing Board issued a one-day suspension to La Hacienda Restaurant on Meridian Street for exceeding 40 percent of the restaurant’s normal seating capacity.

La Hacienda’s suspension was served on Monday of this week just as the city announced it was lifting seating capacity at area restaurants.

Throughout the winter the Inspectional Services Department worked with Boston Police, Boston Fire, the Licensing Board, and Boston Public Health Commission on enforcement. They had been in constant contact with business owners to make sure they understood the regulations.

However, some, like La Hacienda and several other Boston restaurants were unfortunately found to be in violation and issued suspensions by the Licensing Board last week.

On Monday, Walsh announced that the Governor announced that the State is moving forward in reopening.

“Starting today with Phase 3, Step 2; and starting on March 22 with Phase 4, Step 1,” Walsh said at a press briefing Monday. “Boston is also moving forward, but we have some important exceptions to the changes going into effect today. This is consistent with the City’s cautious approach throughout the crisis. We are moving up to 50 percent maximum capacity at many indoor businesses including

gyms, museums, offices, movie theaters, hotels, and stores. We are moving forward to allow the use of fitting rooms in retail stores.”

The city is lifting the capacity limit at restaurants but requiring six feet of space between tables, six people maximum per table, and 90-minute limits on seating. This, like the seating capacity restrictions, will be strictly enforced by the city.

“We are not moving forward with live music in restaurants until at least March 22,” said Walsh. “We are not opening indoor performance venues like concert halls and theaters until at least March 22. And we are not opening higher-contact indoor recreation like roller skating, laser tag, or trampolines until at least March 22. On those steps, as well as Phase 4, the City of Boston will move forward on March 22, if our case data and public health guidance supports it.”

The Mayor emphasized that the City of Boston is committed to economic recovery and at the same time, keeping people safe and continuing to slow the spread.

“This must be our first priority,” said Walsh. “Our economic recovery depends on our public health progress.”

### CANNABIS DISPENSARY IS ONE STEP CLOSER

EAST BOSTON - The adult-use cannabis dispensary proposed for Orient Heights Square is one step closer to becoming a reality after it was approved by the Boston Cannabis Commission (BCC).

Following a hearing last month with the owners of Local Roots, the BCC voted to greenlight the proposal. Local Roots will now enter into a Host Community Agreement with the city and seek final approval from the Boston Zoning Board of Appeals.

Local Roots ownership team consists of current Tufts Tobacco owner Jimmy Sheena, former City Councilors Michael Ross and Sal LaMattina, as well as Nicole Modica, (the daughter of Carla Santarpio of Santarpio’s Pizza Dave Modica, who owned Ecco for many years), Lorraine Curry, Jane England and Tracy Glissman.

“Everyone on the team lives in the neighborhood so we all got together and are attempting to do this Local Roots business,” said Ross. “Over half of the ownership are East Boston residents or have had roots here or done business here for decades and that’s why we decided to name the company Local Roots.”

Local Roots plans to take over Tufts Tobacco on Bennington Street in Orient Heights Square--a business owned by Sheena for over 25 years.

At the hearing Ross said Sheena has experience running a successful and highly regulated business in the community. Like Tufts Tobacco, no one under the age of 21 would be able to step foot into the adult use facility once it is operational, so Ross said it made sense to have Sheena on the Local Roots ownership team.

At the hearing representatives from the offices of City Councilors Lydia Edwards and Anissa Essaibi George, Rep. Adrian Madaro and Sen. Joseph Boncore, as well as the Mayor’s Office, all went on record to support the proposal.

The proposal also received backing by well known local residents and community leaders like Joe Mario, Mary Berninger and Nancy LoConte--who all testified in favor of the proposal at the BCC hearing.

Other residents, like Orient Heights Neighborhood Council President Toni Noble, used to live above Tufts Tobacco and said Sheena was a great neighbor and the Modicas, who owns the building, were a responsive landlord.

“I am here to voice my personal support for this proposed recreational marijuana facility,” said Noble. “I actually used to live directly above Tufts Tobacco and the Modicas were always very responsive landlords--not just to my own concerns as a tenant--but if I had any questions about the community at all. I also

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**'BOMB CYCLONE' TESTS EVERETT RESIDENTS**

Firefighters Lewis, DeSisto loaded for saving tenants on Hillside Street

Everett, Jan. 29 (City News) - Firefighters Lewis, DeSisto, and other firefighters from the Everett Fire Department were on duty on Hillside Street on Wednesday night, Jan. 29, when a fire broke out in a building. The fire was caused by a gas leak and the building was evacuated. The firefighters worked for several hours to contain the fire and the building was eventually saved. The firefighters were praised for their bravery and the building was eventually saved.

LEWIS, DeSISTO AND OTHER FIREFIGHTERS FROM THE EVERETT FIRE DEPARTMENT WERE ON DUTY ON HILLSIDE STREET ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT, JAN. 29, WHEN A FIRE BROKE OUT IN A BUILDING. THE FIRE WAS CAUSED BY A GAS LEAK AND THE BUILDING WAS EVACUATED. THE FIREFIGHTERS WORKED FOR SEVERAL HOURS TO CONTAIN THE FIRE AND THE BUILDING WAS EVENTUALLY SAVED. THE FIREFIGHTERS WERE PRAISED FOR THEIR BRAVERY AND THE BUILDING WAS EVENTUALLY SAVED.

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