

EVERETT KIWANIS DONATES GIFT CARDS



Everett Kiwanis recently donated over \$1,000 in gift cards to the City’s Toy Drive. The Club’s annual donation is called “The Angel Tree Project.” This donation is just one of the many ways Everett Kiwanis gives back to the community and its residents. Happy Holidays from your local Everett Kiwanis Club! Pictured with some of the gift cards from left to right are Past President John Mackey, Past President and Past Lt. Governor John Mattuchio, Past President KathyAnn Dottin, Past President Roland Hughes, Current President Fred Capone, Past President Dave LaRovere, and Past President Pat Roberto.

MSBA advances proposal to build new high school in Everett

Special to the Independent

Christmas came a little early to Everett this year with a vote by the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to advance the proposal Mayor DeMaria has been advocating for to build a new high school facility that has the potential to alleviate classroom size in all current Everett Public School buildings.

The MSBA Directors voted at their meeting on December 13, 2023 to accept the recommendation to invite the Statement of Interest (the “SOI”) for the Everett High School, serving grades 9-12, in the City of Everett (the “City”) into the MSBA’s Eligibility Period. The El-



The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) advanced the proposal that Mayor Carlo DeMaria has been advocating for to build a new high school facility that has the potential to alleviate classroom size in all current Everett Public School buildings. Pictured is the current Everett High School facility.

igibility Period is a 270-day process that formalizes the beginning of the MSBA’s grant approval

process for funding to construct a new school facility and includes a schedule with definitive milestones

for the City of Everett to complete preliminary re-

See NEW SCHOOL Page 2

Matarazzo’s historical anthology of Everett, ‘They Came From Everett’ now available in audiobook format

Special to the Independent

Mike Matarazzo’s historical Everett anthology They Came From Everett can now be enjoyed via audiobook format, with narration performed by Everett native son Chris Ciulla (EHS ’93). With each vignette, Matarazzo shares short stories of Everett legends and how they participated in the growth of Everett.

To further emphasize the city’s legacy, Everett’s own Chris Ciulla adds a

personal touch to each passage. Ciulla’s new audiobook publishing company Leonardo Audio is also proudly based in the city, proving that Everett’s ingenuity isn’t slowing down anytime soon.

They Came From Everett is currently available in audiobook format exclusively on Audible.

Free copies for review are available upon request.

Mike “Marty” Matarazzo was originally born in Somerville. He moved to Baldwin Avenue in Ever-

ett with his family when he was ten years old, where his love for Everett blossomed.

He was a City Clerk, a musician, an entertainer, a real estate broker, a loving husband and father, and is considered the Historian of the City of Everett. He also wrote a follow-up titled They Came from Everett Too, which is available in Paperback, Kindle and will be available in audio in early 2024.

Mike unexpectedly passed away in 2022.

Chris Ciulla is the Founder of Leonardo Audio and has narrated over 500 titles in his audiobook career. In 2023, he’s been nominated for a SOVAS award for Best Fantasy (They Split the Party, CamCat) and received two Audie nominations for

See AUDIOBOOK Page 3

Van Campen has the votes to be the next president of City Council

By Cary Shuman

Robert Van Campen, who made a triumphant return with his election as Ward 3 councilor in November, reportedly has the votes to be the next president of the Everett City Council.

Van Campen will be one of six new members of the City Council. The others who will take office at the Jan. 5 inauguration ceremony are councillors-at-large Guerline Alcy and Katy Rogers, and ward councillors Anthony DiPierro (Ward 3), Holly Garcia (Ward 4), and Peter Pietrantonio (Ward 6). The five returning officials are Councillors-at-Large Michael Marchese, Stephanie Smith, and John Hanlon, Ward 1 Councilor Wayne Matewsky and Ward 2 Councilor Stephanie Martins.

The new City Council will vote for president at its first meeting of the year on Monday, Jan. 8.

Matewsky, 65, had the inside track on the presidency, but he decided not to pursue it due to “recent health issues.” Matewsky proceeded to deliver his support to Van Campen.

“Robert is fair, knowledgeable, and an outstanding attorney,” said Matewsky. “I think he’ll do an excellent job as council president.”

Van Campen, 49, previously served for 14 years in city government, one term on the Everett Common Council and six terms on the Everett Board of Aldermen. He was president of the Board of Aldermen three times, last serving on the Board in 2014.

Van Campen asserted that nothing will be official until his colleagues cast their votes on Jan. 8, but he did acknowledge that there is talk that he will be the next president of the 11-member Council.

“At the end of the day, if I get elected and have the votes to become president, I’m looking forward to serving in that capacity,” Van Campen told the Everett Independent. “My goal would be to bring a stable voice to the debate, and I hope I can do that. I look forward to working with the new members, the existing members, the administration, and all the stakeholders in the community to keep things moving in the right direction and to try to get some stuff done.”

A former deputy mayor and city solicitor for the city of Melrose, Van Campen is currently the general counsel for AFSCME Council 93, a labor organization. He is a graduate of Melrose High School, Suffolk University and Suffolk Law School and has law offices on Beacon Street in Boston.

Van Campen and his wife, Lisa, have been married for 18 years, and they have two children, Lily, 17, and John, 14. Robert is the son of Marie (Ranelli) Van Campen of Everett and the late Richard Van Campen.

Van Campen said he will be attending the final meeting of the current City Council on Tuesday, Dec. 26 at which time the outgoing councilors will be recognized.



Ward 5 Councilor-Elect Robert Van Campen is pictured with his wife, Lisa, and their children, John and Lily.

Everett Independent

President: Stephen Quigley
Editor in Chief: Cary Shuman

MERRY CHRISTMAS

This is the most wonderful time of the year, to paraphrase the popular song, with holiday music playing in the malls and on our car radios, resurrecting our earliest childhood memories of Christmases-past.

We choose just the right tree, decorate it carefully with our family-heirloom ornaments, and when we first turn on the lights, it brings a smile to the faces of even the most-jaded among us.

Despite our hectic rushing to and fro', everybody, it seems, is in a good mood. We endure the traffic and the long lines in stores because we know that what we are doing will bring joy and happiness to others.

For those of us with young children, we get to see Christmas through their eyes, giving us a second chance to experience the wonder and joy that we felt when we were their age.

Although all of us celebrate the holiday season in our own way, the common thread is one of peace, joy, and happiness, regardless of religious or secular beliefs. Whether it be Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or a Seinfeldian Festivus, the spirit of the season imbues us with a sense of togetherness that transcends whatever negativity may exist both in our own lives and in the world around us.

We wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

The stock market is booming and unemployment is near an all-time low, but there was the depressing news this past week that homelessness among Americans has increased by 12 percent in the past year.

The cold, harsh reality for many Americans in 2023 is that the promise of a booming economy still is only a dream in our country, where even those who are lucky enough to work full-time are barely getting by thanks to the crushingly-high cost of housing.

And for those who cannot find a job, or who are unable to work -- and especially for their children -- the holiday joy that most of us take for granted is just an illusion.

We recognize that in our hurry-hurry world where we barely have time to think, the Christmas season brings with it the pressure of last-minute shopping and holiday preparations. But we urge all of our readers, who have the means to do so, to take a deep breath and a brief "time-out" in order to consider doing something to make the holiday season a bit brighter for those who are less fortunate.

We can assure our readers that any gift of charity that you make, whether it be to a Toys for Tots program or to a Salvation Army Santa or a food bank donation, will be the most meaningful — and most satisfying — act that you can make this holiday season.

ENJOY THE LONG HOLIDAY WEEKEND SAFELY

The upcoming long-weekend means that most of us will be partaking in traditional gatherings with our families, friends, and co-workers to share the joy of the holiday season.

Unfortunately, this also means that many among us will be overindulging in holiday "spirits."

It is the responsibility of each of us to ensure that where alcohol is present, it is used responsibly, not only by ourselves, but by those around us at our holiday gatherings. None of us wants to wake up the next morning with the regret, "If only I had taken their car keys."

We wish all of our readers a happy, and safe, holiday weekend.

Everett Independent

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Independent Forum

UPCOMING EVENTS AT EVERETT PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The following is the schedule of upcoming events in Everett libraries.

Parlin Adult and Teens

- Nothing for this week

Parlin Childrens

- Drama Class. Parlin Children's Room.

Wednesday, December 27th at 3pm. Do you have a drama queen or king at home? Drama Class in the Parlin Children's Department is the perfect opportunity for your child to put those acting skills to use with our drama coach! Suggested ages 6-14.

- Combat Robotics. Parlin Meeting Room. Thursday, December 28th from 3-5pm. Build a robot, engage in friendly combat, and build some more! Presented by Guild Hall. Registration required, participants must be ages 8 and up.

- Friday Family Movie Night! Parlin Meeting Room. Friday, December 29th at 3 pm. Break out the popcorn! Come and watch Frozen 2 with your friends and family.

Shute Adult and Teens

- Nothing for this week

DIDOMENICO MEETS WITH DISTRICT FIRE CHIEFS AND PROMISES CONTINUED SUPPORT



Senator Sal DiDomenico recently met with fire chiefs from 35 fire departments across Metro Boston at a State House event, including Chelsea Fire Chief, Leonard Albanese, Everett Acting Fire Chief Sabato LoRusso, Cambridge's Assistant Chief, Brian Gover, and Revere's former Fire Chief, Gene Doherty. The event featured an informational session about the critical issues currently affecting the Fire Service in the Commonwealth and the support they need from the State Legislature.

"I am so grateful for all these public servants who sacrifice their wellbeing to keep our communities safe and put our minds at ease," said Senator Sal DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. "I will always be a steadfast supporter of fire departments in my district and throughout Massachusetts."

School / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

quirements assisting with determining financial and community readiness, identifying needs for planning, and budgeting. This process will commence on July 1, 2024 and conclude on March 28, 2025. Successful completion of all activities in the Eligibility Period will allow the City to be eligible for an MSBA invitation to the next step, which is Feasibility Study.

"Last week's vote by the MSBA Board of Directors is the critical next step that I have fought for in order for Everett to move forward with the only solution that will address our entire district's needs," said Mayor DeMaria. "Despite all political assertions to the contrary, the data and evidence show that spending tens of millions of dollars to renovate the former Pope John facility is fiscally irresponsible because that site does not have the capacity to solve class size across the whole district. I have a responsibility to take action that will benefit all students and to spend taxpayer dollars in the way that will provide the greatest benefit to our community, which proposals to use the former

Pope John location clearly would not."

"It is an honor to be among the select few communities to have its Statement of Interest selected by the Massachusetts School Building Authority," said Interim Superintendent of Schools William Hart. "The district looks forward to working with city and state officials on building a high school that fulfills all of our aspirations."

Building a new high school facility would alleviate classroom size across the district because it would create the option of using the current high school as a middle school. Creating additional space for a middle school would remove students from Everett's current K-8 schools and allow for space currently occupied by upper grades to be used to better meet the needs of lower grade students.

Mayor DeMaria also has advocated for a new high school facility to expand Everett's ability to offer Career and Technical Education (CTE) for students who do not have access to vocational options currently. "We need to make every effort to en-

sure that our young people have options to immediately enter the workforce after graduation from high school. With the economic development that is underway in Everett, we have the chance to create an educational pipeline for our students into a changing economy that will be dependent on a workforce that has skilled workers prepared for higher paying employment opportunities," said the Mayor.

The Mayor's education to employment vision is one shared by local developers who are leading the way in creating those new employment options. "We applaud Everett's commitment to training the workforce of tomorrow," said Stephen Davis, President of The Davis Companies. "This type of vocational education is vital to the continued evolution of the Massachusetts economy and will help to propel the growth of our clean tech and high-tech manufacturing sectors. We look forward to working with the City in fostering this key component of a vibrant technology ecosystem."

The Davis Companies recently acquired the for-

mer Exxon Mobil assemblage in Everett and will be developing formal proposals for local consideration and approval to redevelop the site and transform it from its current outdated industrial use.

Building a new school facility is the best longer-term solution for Everett's educational needs. It is not the only option that Mayor DeMaria intends to pursue. "I was disappointed last week in the City Council's vote against using ARPA funding for temporary modular structure options, given the amount of time that has been spent on discussing the needs of the schools," said the Mayor. "I fully intend to keep my commitment to Everett students to do everything I can to find temporary and long-term solutions for them and will resubmit a request to use ARPA funding to alleviate space issues while we partner with the MSBA. I am hopeful that the incoming City Council members will have the same commitment to our students that I do and approve this temporary solution."

Your opinions, please

The Everett Independent welcomes letters to the editor. Our address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@everettindependent.com. Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

The Schiavo Club donates toys to City of Everett’s Toy Drive

Special to the Independent

City of Everett is still accepting toy donations at City Hall until Thursday, Dec. 21.

Everett, MA – On Monday, Dec. 18, Mayor Carlo DeMaria visited the Schiavo Club to accept a large donation of toys for the City of Everett’s annual Toy Drive.

The Schiavo Club, named after Carmen A. Schiavo, a U.S. Marine Corporal who was killed in action in Okinawa during WW II, was created in his honor just a few years after his death with

the aim of supporting Veterans, which is still one of the main causes that the club supports.

The Club in addition to the generous annual toy donation, holds a complimentary Thanksgiving Dinner for Seniors every year and donates the use of it’s function hall to many different organizations in need and contributes funds to support Veterans organizations and others, year round.

All of the toys given this year will benefit Everett families in need of assistance this holiday season.



Some of the toys donated by the Schiavo Club.



Shown left to right: David Radcliffe (Schiavo Club member), City Councilor Al Lattanzi, Mayor Carlo DeMaria and Dominic Puleo (Schiavo Club member).

‘We appreciate the friendship of the Schiavo Club’ said Mayor DeMaria. “You’ve always treated everyone with great respect and love. On behalf of the city of Everett, I want to express our gratitude for all that you have done, over many years, for the residents of our city”.

As a reminder, if you would like to help support

Everett families in need of assistance this holiday season, donations of new and unwrapped toys can be dropped off on the First Floor of Everett City Hall (484 Broadway) during

regular business hours until Thursday, Dec. 21. For more information, please call 617-394-2270.

Meet the Whittier School Leadership Team!

Young Students Named Principal, Assistant Principal for the Day

Second grader Juan Vaquerano Garmendia and first grader Lisa Cardozo were special Whittier School raffle winners, giving them the chance to serve as Principal and Assistant Principal for the Day on Tuesday, November 21, 2023. They are pictured right with Principal Michael McLucas and Assistant Principal Cara Fidalgo, who appreciated the top-notch assistance!

The students toured the school, said hello to staff and students, and had the chance to deliver daily announcements. Juan urged his classmates to try their best on the mid-year assessments, while Lisa reminded the students to listen to their teachers. And they found time in their busy schedules to enjoy pizza for lunch. All in all, it was a great day for Juan and Lisa and the Whittier School!



Lesley Professor and noted artist visits Everett High

Acclaimed artist and Lesley University Professor Michelle Lougee was a guest lecturer in Everett High School’s Fiber Arts class on Monday, November 20, 2023. Ms. Lougee’s work centers on sustainability and the environment. Specifically, she uses crochet techniques and plastic to create forms representative of sea life and ecosys-

tems. Ms. Lougee inspires students and fiber artists to be resourceful and innovative with their materials and processes. At Everett High, she showed students how to create their own yarn out of plastic bags. Students used single crochet techniques with their hooks, chaining their “plarn” (plastic yarn) six times, to create their own forms.




Looking for some Christmas spirit?

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"The greatest gift"

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

~John 3:16



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Audiobook /

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Best Thriller (Snowstorm in August, Blackstone Audio) and Best Multi-Cast (Star Trek: No Man’s Land, Simon and Schuster). He’s received six Earphones Awards from AudioFile Magazine, a 2022 SOVAS nomination for Best Mystery (No One Will Miss Her, HarperCollins), and an Odyssey Award (Sadie, Macmillan).

He resides in Montclair, NJ and Winthrop, MA.

Leonardo Audio is a New England-based, full-service audiobook publisher and production company for New England stories and authors. Our primary purpose is to bring the personal attention necessary to deliver the best possible New England auditory storytelling experiences. To achieve

this goal, we develop local narration talent and post-production teams to best support a successful pipeline of homegrown audiobook titles.

Leonardo Audio is the brainchild of CEO Chris Ciulla, an Everett native and Boston College graduate, as well as an award-winning narrator of 500 audiobook titles.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Buliens, Jacqueline	Kinfolk LLC	11 Appleton Ter	\$610,000
Coelho, Diogo	Porter Street 15-17 Rt	15 Porter St	\$706,000
K & F Real Estate LLC	Le, Quyen H	30-32 Autumn St	\$935,000
Vucinic, Mara	Hartford Raymond J Est	39 Parlin St #301	\$373,000
Pang, Michael Y	Linda L Bears 2021 RET	43-A Floyd St	\$795,000
Jules, Jean A	Antonio Florindi Irt	51 Garland St	\$725,000
Patil, Jatin J	Aloisio, Lauren F	120 Wyllis Ave #113	\$545,000
Charles, Jacques E	Mcdonald Jr, Edward A	153 Belmont St	\$530,000
Kingsley, Jorge M	Richard R Desalvatore	499 Ferry St	\$825,000
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Everett Arts & Culture Events

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For more info, please email
ECC Chairperson
Martha Chason-Sokol
martha@mchason-sokol.com.






MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS


From Mayor Carlo DeMaria & Family

& The Entire City Government






The Everett Independent




wishes you a Merry Christmas &
a Very Happy New Year full of
health and happiness in 2024





Happy Holidays!

STATE SENATOR
Sal DiDomenico
& Family





Seasons Greetings



STATE REP.
JUDITH GARCIA



Wishing all our Everett residents a Happy Holidays and Healthy New Year



John Hanlon
COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE






Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the Costa family


DARREN COSTA
WARD 3 CITY COUNCIL
Darren@Darren4Everett.com • Darren4Everett.com • (617) 544-7089

It's been an honor serving as your City Councilor, Thank you!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
WISHING YOU & YOUR FAMILIES A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Anthony DiPierro
Ward 3 Councilor







WISHING YOU A CHRISTMAS FULL OF BLESSINGS PEACE, JOY AND HOPE

MERRY CHRISTMAS

SACRO COMPANIES
Whitney Lorenti House Sacro Plaza Glendale Court



Wishing Everett residents a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year!

Mike McLaughlin



OBITUARIES

Angelina Acierno

Together with her late husband, she owned and operated Luigi's Grocery in Everett for 45 years

It is with Great Sadness that the Acierno family announces the passing of Angelina Acierno, 84, of Everett.

Angelina Vittoria Acierno was born to Maria and Domenico Vittoria on November 7, 1939 and raised in Sperone (AV) Italy. She was one of five children: Mario, Romano, Brigida, Angelina and Francesca. In February of 1961, she married her late husband, Agostino Acierno and they had four children: Luigi, Franco, Raffaella and Maria. In January 1973 Angelina and her family made their journey to America and settled in Boston to pursue the American dream.

Angelina's first job was at Converse Rubber Company in Malden. She was proud to be able to work a 40 hour work week that brought home a paycheck in her name. Angelina loved her role as homemaker too. Her passion was cooking and with food she showed her love to so many. Three years later, Angelina and Agostino acquired an Italian grocery store in Everett that they named Luigi's Grocery. Although Angelina was initially hesitant to leave her friends and colleagues at Converse, she was called to help run the business and she did not stop until a wise age and a pandemic closed the doors 45 years later. Angelina worked hard every day to run the business, with shop hours from 7



a.m. to 7 p.m.

Angelina became a widow in 1988 and ran the business for another 32 years. She rose to the occasion as a strong, independent, confident woman and became the best version of herself in order to become successful. Her business was a means to an end, but it became her passion and her social community as well. She loved her family, her customers and the neighborhood.

Angelina is survived by her dear and devoted children: Luigi Acierno and his wife, Maria of Lynnfield, Franco Acierno of Everett, Raffaella Scavone of New Jersey and Maria Acierno of New Hampshire; her loving and cherished grandchildren: Erica Acierno, Agostino Acierno, James Scavone, Julia Scavone, Alex Scavone, Gianna Bolaccio, and Vittoria Bolaccio; and devoted great-grandchildren, Mia Acierno and Cristiano "Joey" Paragona; and her dear brother, Mario Vittoria of Italy and the late Romano Vittoria, Brigida Capellucci, and Francesca Gaglione.

Relatives and friends attended her Funeral Mass in St. Anthony Church, 38 Oakes St., Everett, on Monday, December 18 and Entombment followed at the Holy Cross Chapel Mausoleum, Malden. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Angelina's memory to the American Cancer Society, 3 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701 would be sincerely appreciated. Arrangements by the Cafasso & Sons Funeral Home, 65 Clark St. Everett, 617.387.3120.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT HEADED TO MELROSE

CHELSEA -Deputy Superintendent of Schools Adam Deleidi has been selected to lead the Melrose public school department.

At last week's School Committee meeting, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta announced that Deleidi was leaving the Chelsea school district in June to take the superintendent's job in Melrose.

Deleidi was one of four finalists for the top school job in Melrose.

"We are all so proud of you and we are all going to miss you, this entire community," said Abeyta. "This is bittersweet for us, but we are very happy for you."

Before serving as Deputy Superintendent in Chelsea, Deleidi was the principal of the Berkowitz Elementary School and an assistant principal in Revere.

"As a product of Chelsea Public Schools and a resident for 30 years, this community will always hold a special place in my heart," said Deleidi. "While I am looking forward to this new challenge, I am certainly saddened to be processing what my departure will mean. I have learned so much from so many and want to thank the community for allowing me the opportunity to serve Chelsea."

Deleidi also had kind words for the Chelsea School Committee at last week's meeting.

"I'd be remiss if I did not acknowledge the joy I've had working with all

COATS FOR KIDS HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER AT DRYFT



Revere's Ward 5 Councillor-Elect Angela Guarino Sawaya (left), Ward 1 Councillor Joanne McKenna (center) and Felicia Napolitano shown with coats in hand to donate as part of the Eighth annual Ugly Sweater Praty for Coats for Kids, held at Dryft Restaurant on Revere Beach.

of you, but particularly, with the four of you who are leaving (the school committee)," he said. "As a prospective superintendent elsewhere, I can only hope that I can have the same kind of working relationship that I've been having as a deputy superintendent with you. It was really an important factor as I did my search to try to find a school committee that was as supportive and talented as you all."

MADARO APPOINTED TO ORRF BOARD

EAST BOSTON - Rep. Adrian C. Madaro (D-1st Suffolk), chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, was appointed to the Opioid Re-

covery and Remediation Fund ("ORRF") Advisory Council. The Legislature established both the ORRF and the Advisory Council in 2021 in anticipation of then-Attorney General and current Governor Maura Healey successfully reaching settlement agreements with several opioid manufacturers and distributors. These settlement agreements are intended to hold accountable several corporations that flooded Massachusetts with opioids and bring desperately needed relief to people who are struggling with substance use disorder.

Over the next 15 years, Massachusetts is projected to receive over \$600 million from companies that manufactured, marketed, and distributed opioids in

the Commonwealth, \$100 million of which has already been received and deposited into the ORRF. This is in addition to the \$400 million that cities and towns across the Commonwealth will receive, as well as significant industry changes required by the global resolution of the multiple state, local, and individual cases filed against these companies.

The ORRF is administered by the Massachusetts Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council began its work in the spring of 2021 and has directed millions to expanding harm reduction services, increasing access to medications for addiction treatment, supporting the workforce, strengthening supportive housing programs, and conducting community outreach and engagement.

"I'm proud to appoint Representative Madaro to the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "As House Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, Representative Madaro truly understands the catastrophic impact the opioid epidemic has had in our communities. I'm confident he will be a huge asset to the Advisory Council as they work to direct millions of dollars in settlement funds to meaningful programs."

"It's an honor to have been appointed by Speaker Mariano to serve on the Advisory Council, and I'm incredibly grateful to

See REGION Page 7

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

Roundup / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

44-22 decision to Malden in their season-opener last Tuesday.

"The girls played tough and hustled the entire game," said Dunn. "It was a tough loss, but we bounced back against Chelsea." Emilia Maria-Babcock hit for 10 points and pulled down six boards.

The Lady Crimson Tide will host non-league rival Acton-Boxboro next Wednesday over the Christmas break with the opening tip set for 2:30.

BOYS TRACK TOPS TWO GBL RIVALS

The Everett High boys indoor track and field team opened its 2024 dual meet season in fine fashion, defeating Greater Boston League (GBL) rivals Chelsea and Lynn Classical last Friday in a tri-meet at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Boston.

In the 57-36 victory over Chelsea, Jalen Jones led the way for the Crimson Tide with 11.25 points. Jalen won the 55 dash with a sprint of 7.01 and the long jump (which is a new event this season for GBL meets) with a leap of 18'-11". He also ran the anchor leg of the winning 4 x 200 relay team

Other first-place finishes for Everett vs. Chelsea were: Kayshaun Eveillard (who also ran a leg of the winning relay team) in the 300 dash in 38.58; Dawens Germain in the 600 dash in 1:39.03; Donald Michel in the 55 hurdles in 8.95; and Germain and Michel, who shared

first in the high jump with leaps 5'-0".

Scoring three points with second-place efforts vs. Chelsea were: David Huezio-Erazo in the two-mile; Shane MacKenzie in the shot-put; Khang Nguyen (who also ran a leg in the relay) in the long jump; Joao Luca Barreiros (who also ran a leg in the relay) in the 55 dash; and Lucas Nunez in the 1000.

Adding single points with third place finishes were: Domenico Delle Rosa in the two-mile; Matthew LaMonica in the 55 dash; Luvens Hector in the 300 dash; and Nischal Tamang in the mile.

In the Lynn Classical side of the meet, which the Crimson Tide won handily by a score of 72-18, also contributing points were Jason Stark with a second place in the shot-put; Fabrice Michaud with a third in the shot; Anthony Whitlow with a second in the mile; John Cardoso with a third in the mile; Jeremy Whitlow with a third in the 1000; Adrien Reyes with a second in the 600; and Dante Gell with a third in the 600.

Coach Jehu Cimea's Crimson Tide, who will be led this season by a trio of captains, Jalen Jones, Shane MacKenzie, and Nischal Tamang, will have their next GBL tri-meet on January 2 vs. Malden and Somerville at the Reggie.

TRACK GIRLS SPLIT IN OPENING TRI-MEET

The Everett High girls indoor track and field team split its season-opening

Greater Boston League (GBL) tri-meet, defeating Lynn Classical by a score of 58-9, but falling to Chelsea by a score of 57-28, last Friday at the Reggie Lewis Track and Field Center.

Suzanne Maharjan was the lone individual winner on the Chelsea side of the meet, winning the two-mile event with a clocking of 16:12.04. The quartet of Yelsa Garcia, Zylene Cannon-Mathis, Angelina Papa, and Isabella Pimenta also took first place in the 4 x 200 relay event with a time of 2:03.91, easily defeating their Chelsea counterparts, who finished in 2:08.41.

In the meet vs. Classical, the additional Everett individual winners were: Garcia in the 55 dash with a sprint of 8.09; Papa in the 300 dash with a time of 54.35; Nicole Fonseca in the 1000 with a clocking of 4:33.26; Tiffany Escobar in the mile with a run of

7:04.53; Garcia in the long jump with a leap of 12'-6"; Darrynn Desrameaux in the shot-put with a toss of 30'-9"; and Devin Gomez-Walrond in the 55 hurdles in 11.37.

Earning second-place finishes vs. Classical were: Layla Betancur-Cardona in the shot; Nicole Brandao in the long-jump; Mile-ana Antonio in the 600; and Pimenta in the 55 dash.

Tiana Allen added a third-place point for the Everett cause in the shot-put.

Coach Jehu Cimea and his Lady Crimson Tide crew, who are captained

this year by the quartet of Darrynn Desrameaux, Nicole Brandao, Layla Betancur-Cardona, and Suzanne Maharjan, will take on GBL foes Malden and Somerville at the Reggie on January 2.

EHS BOYS BASKETBALL AT LYNN ENGLISH TONIGHT

The Everett High boys basketball team, which opened its season last week with victories over Greater Boston League rivals Malden and Chelsea, will face its toughest test of the season when new head coach Gerry Boyce and his Crimson Tide trek to Lynn English to meet the Bulldogs tomorrow (Thursday) evening.

The Crimson Tide will take part in the Malden Catholic Christmas Holiday tournament next Wednesday when they will take on North Hampton for a 3:00 tip-off.

EHS HOCKEY HITS THE ROAD

The Everett/Revere/Malden/Mystic Valley Tide co-op hockey team will be road warriors in the coming week, as coach Craig Richards's squad is set to trek to Connery Rink tonight (Wednesday) to take on the Lynn Classical/Lynn English co-op team; to Salem State College on Saturday to face Swampscott; and then to the Porrazzo Rink in East Boston next Wednesday to meet East Boston High.

The Tide presently stand at 1-2 on the season.

FRESH AND LOCAL

Braising can save time and money

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

You might ask, “How can I save time by braising? Those recipes can take hours to cook.” A braise may take a long time to simmer away. However, it doesn’t need much attention while that’s happening. An occasional peek, turn, or stir is all that’s required. Moreover, the aroma

drifting from the kitchen reminds you that something delicious is cooking and invites you to check on it.

A Braise Can Wait
Many braised dishes are better after the flavors have had an opportunity to meld. That means you can prepare a meal for family or a gathering ahead of time and pop it in the oven to warm

when needed. That also makes braises great leftovers or, in some cases, meals to freeze for later use.
If you’re entertaining, a braise makes timing easy. While a roast leg of lamb has a rosy moment when the meat is perfect, a braise can sit in a warm oven and wait until your friends and family are seated at the table. This ability to improve from

reheating makes braises great dishes for potluck meals or buffets. A crockpot or warming tray can keep this dish at a safe temperature.
We often double a braising recipe to have ingredients for a different meal. We might braise a big batch of chicken thighs and freeze some meat for another day. Braised pork butt, when shredded, makes fabulous pulled pork sandwiches. Our favorite braised lamb shank recipe becomes an amazing lamb chili later in the week.

Homey, Comfort Food
Many classic braises are comfort foods that use this long cooking process to tenderize and stretch less expensive cuts of meat. Our favorite braises include lamb shanks, short ribs, chicken thighs, whole chicken, and beef or pork pot roasts. These simmer away in delicious stocks and share the pot with lots of vegetables to bal-

ance the meal and stretch the meat.
While earlier generations learned to braise by helping the family cook, today, we may have to do a bit of self-education. That said, braising is a very forgiving technique. You can substitute a similar ingredient or more vegetables if you don’t have everything a recipe calls for. (The exception to this rule is powerful flavors like chilis.)
If you’re watching your budget, you can reduce the ratio of meat to vegetables or serve your braise over a filling side dish like rice, polenta, beans, or legumes.
Another way a braise is excellent for your budget is that very little special equipment is needed. You need a big pot and a heat source. You can braise on the stove top, an induction burner, in the oven, crockpot, or Instant Pot. You can combine stovetop and oven as long as your pot (and its handle) can go into an oven.

How to Braise
For a Braising 101 course, we recommend Michael Ruhlman’s book, “How to Braise: Foolproof Techniques and Recipes for the Home Cook.” Rhuman has a way of breaking down cooking concepts into step-by-step lessons with photos and a selection of recipes that invite you to follow his lead.
While we braise all year round, winter is the perfect time to braise. A bubbling pot of comfort food will add warmth and humidity to your home in this dry season. When the forecast indicates you might want to work from home and stay close to the hearth in the days ahead, add something to braise to your grocery run for milk and bread.
Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.



PHOTO BY YUHAN DU
Besides braising meat, you can braise vegetables like the cabbage served alongside this braised shank.

Region / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

the Speaker and my colleagues for their continued commitment to prioritizing behavioral health, including substance use services and supports, in both funding and legislation. I’m also grateful to Governor Healey for leading the national effort to get these settlement funds, and for the work that has been done by the Council already. I’m looking forward to listening and learning as I get up to speed, and to contributing to the important work of the Council.”

COUNCILLORS SEEK ADA PLAYGROUNDS

REVERE - Ward 5 City Councillor John Powers wants to put safety first at the Oak Island Playground.
At last week’s council meeting, Powers submitted a motion asking Mayor-elect Patrick Keefe to use Community Improvement Trust Fund money to resurface the playground with a handicap accessible rubberized surface.
“The park at Oak Island is probably the park in the city that doesn’t have a rubberized mat,” said Powers. “The mulch is not that effective, and I think that the people down there in Oak Island certainly deserve this. If this saves one child from being injured or worse, then we have

spent money well and we have done our job.”
Councillor-at-Large Gerry Visconti said he supported the motion.
“I believe we chatted about this issue at the park at the budget hearings this year knowing that there were problems with that park,” said Visconti. “Thank you for putting this motion in. I know the administration was aware of this, and I would just love to see this get done because I know that there are quite a few kids who utilize the park.”
Visconti added that there have also been some needles found at the park, and that the city needs to be proactive to keep the area safe and clean.
“There is money in that account, let’s utilize it for the residents,” said Visconti.
Powers added that the Community Improvement Trust funds are not raised through taxes.
“When a developer builds something in the city, these are some of the rewards, if you want to call it that, that we get in return, a certain amount of money where we can handle these problems,” said Powers.
Councillor Marc Silvestri said that Ralph DeCicco, the head of the city’s disability commission and its ADA compliance director had reached out to home and asked that the playground at the Paul Revere School be added to Powers’

motion.
“The playground at the Paul Revere School currently has wood chips and that is against ADA compliance,” said Silvestri.
Powers said he had no objection to that playground being added to the motion, but added that he would like to see the cost involved and how much money the city has in the Community Improvement Trust Fund.

EARLY LITERACY AND PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM EARNS PRAISE

WINTHROP - The Winthrop Parents Network has had a big impact on the development of the town’s youngest children and their families over the past decade-plus.
At Monday night’s School Committee meeting, Winthrop Parents Network coordinator Anita Preble gave an overview of the early literacy and parent education programs the network provides.
“I’ve been running the program since 2010,” said Preble, who is also the school adjustment counselor at the Arthur T. Cummings School. “Prior to that, it was the CPC grant, Communities for Partnership. Then the grant was changed to the CFCE

grant, which is Coordinat-ed Family and Community Engagement, which is when I started doing the grant.”
The CFCE is a grant from the Department of Early Education and Care and is primarily geared for families of children from birth to eight years old.
Through the grant, the Winthrop Parents Network runs the early literacy program through the playgroups at the E.B. Newton Center.
“Currently, we have about 55 families that are enrolled that attend weekly,” said Preble.
There are four playgroups in English and one on Friday that is in Spanish.
“We give priority to immigrant families or families whose children are not

See REGION Page 8

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NSPO presents the 2023 Sounds of Christmas

Special to the Independent

Music filled the air Sunday night when the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra performed the 2023 Robert A. Marra Memorial “Sounds of Christmas” concert before a huge audience that packed St. Anthony’s Church. Music Director Robert Lehmann and guest soprano Katie Oberholtzer had the crowd on their feet and calling for more as the Orchestra concluded the concert with the traditional “Let There Be Peace On Earth.”

Concert patrons started to stream into the church an hour before the 4 p.m. start, and they were generous with their donations to the Revere Food Pantry in the Food Drive that is part of the holiday season celebration. “It’s a wonderful audience,” said Music Director Lehmann, who has led the conducted the concert since 2000. “Every year you can feel their heart is in the season, and their donations to the Food Drive prove that...and their love of the music. My holiday season doesn’t begin until we play this concert”

“To me it’s a magical experience,” said Ms. Oberholtzer, who was making her first appearance with the North Shore Philharmonic. “To be in the middle of the orchestra and singing to so many people, bringing joy the crowd in the holiday spirit ,” Katie told a RevereTV audience after the concert. “It really is magical.”

The audience loved Ms. Oberholtzer’s sparkling renditions of “Ave Maria”, Mel Torme’s famous “The Christmas Song”, among others. Event co-chair Dom Bocchino remarked, “I was getting text messages from people watching the concert at home, saying how wonderful she



A full audience enjoyed the music as St. Anthony’s church was transformed into a grand concert hall, much like the historic churches of Europe where the great Masters of the art performed their music.

Mayor-elect Patrick Keefe addressed the audience during the concert, looking out at the audience and saying “This is the Revere I see, People coming together, enjoying each other’s company, and helping their neighbors,” he said.

As he introduced the evening’s guest narrator, Revere High senior Maya Merino, Mayor Keefe cited the accomplishments of previous Revere High seniors going back to 2015 who wrote essays that they read at the concert . “The Revere High students who have participated in this concert have told personal stories that reveal what is best about Revere, how precious it is to be their home,” Keefe said. “And the students, themselves, represent the best of Revere.”

In her essay, Merino cited several personal experiences and observed “...These moments all

glitter, like snowflakes in my mind, each one unique and perfect,” she said. “The community and love that they hold is what distinguishes them as my definition of the holidays, reminding me that it doesn’t really matter what, when, or how you celebrate; it’s the simple act of being together with those that you love that make the holidays exactly what they are.”

Ms. Merino concluded her essay by asking the audience, “What memories are you reflecting on? Which ones will you go on to build?”

Event organizers

praised the volunteers who devoted time and effort into making the concert and food drive a success. Members of the St. Anthony’s Church Confirmation class set up the altar area of the church with chairs for the concert and arranged hundreds of boxes to collect the food as patrons arrived. Members of the St. Anthony’s Holy Name Society welcomed the patrons and packed the boxes, and members of the Revere High football team contributed their strength and enthusiasm to load all the food—several tons of it—into a truck for transport to the Revere Food



Music Director Robert Lehmann has led the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra in Revere’s “Sounds of Christmas” concert since 2000.

Pantry. The Concert was principally sponsored by Bocchino Insurance, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, Massport, Comcast, Astound/RCN Broadband, and Action Emergency Services.



North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra horn player Annalisa Peterson dons a Santa hat as plays during the concert.



Revere High senior Maya Merino narrated a touching personal essay recounting memories of her own experience. “These moments all glitter, like snowflakes in my mind...” she said.



A young concert patron was one of a dozen who used Conductor Lehmann’s “Magical Baton” to lead the Orchestra in excerpts from The Nutcracker”

Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

enrolled in any other type of preschool program, although we do have some kids that come who also have other programs,” said Preble.

The program runs on the same calendar as the school year, and there is a six-week summer program that is offered, as well, at the Pond Street

Park. “Up to now, we have provided early literacy and parenting education to over 500 families, if you go back the 12 or 13 years that we have been doing this,” said Preble.

In addition to literacy experience, the playgroup programs also offer socialization for the children, and an opportunity for parents to meet one another.

“I’ve had a lot of parents tell me they are new to town and they didn’t know any other adults or parents,” said Preble. “This is an opportunity for them to socialize themselves and meet parents of

kids of the same age.” In addition to the playgroups, the Winthrop Parents Network also offers monthly family events at the Gorman Fort Banks School. Those nights, which include emoji bingo, a family game night, and yoga, also provide a parenting education piece, said Preble.

One of the most popular events, the International Night, is coming up on Jan. 18 and will be held at the Old Middle School gym.

“There is another thing that the program provides, and that is developmental screening for free for any family that is interested,”

said Preble. “All of our playgroup families participate in this, which is called the Ages and Stages questionnaire. It’s for babies up to age 5, and it’s a bunch of questions that go through all the different domains to see if a child is on target for their developmental level.”

The questionnaire is not a diagnostic test, but if a parent has concerns as a result of the screening, the parents group can provide resources or send them in the direction of early intervention or the school department, depending on the age of the child.

“It is a great way for a parent to see how their

child is doing, and for us to notice if there is anything that a child needs help with at an early age,” said Preble.

Other initiatives by the group include welcome to Winthrop resource booklets, working with Casa as part of the Youth Mental Health Work Group, and kindergarten transition activities.

“I applaud Anita’s push, she is relentless, but the collaboration with everyone else too, and the networking her and her folks do to make sure that this is happening for our kids is just awesome,” said Superintendent of Schools Lisa Howard.

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CHURCH News

Mystic Side Congregational Church

News and Notes

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

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

Mystic Side Congregational Church
422 Main Street
Everett, MA

Glendale United Methodist Church

News and Notes

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

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

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

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

NA Meetings – Mon.

Zion Church - Everett

News and Notes

Bishop Robert G. Brown and Zion Church Ministries invites you to join us every Sunday at our 10:00 a.m. Worship Service for a time of worship, praise and preaching, at 757 Broadway, Everett, MA. You can also join

Immaculate Conception Parish

News and Notes

Our Parish Staff: Rev. Joseph Chacha Marwa, S.M.A. Administrator, Rev. Gustavo Buccilli S.M.A Parochial Vicar, Barbara Canon Secretary, Parish Secretary.

Weekly Mass Schedule

ate the Immaculate Conception Parish is as follows:

1: Monday-Saturday at 7:00a.m. in the Chapel.

2: Saturday at 4:00p.m. (Sunday Vigil) and at 7:30p.m. Vietnamese Mass Upper Church.

3: Sunday at 7:00a.m. and 10:00a.m. English Masses. At 12:00p.m. Spanish Mass and 4:00p.m. Haitian Creole Mass.

4: Confessions are on Saturdays from 3:00-3:45

at the Confession Boots in the Chapel, and at 11:15 a.m. 12:00p.m. in Spanish.

5: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Chapel on Thursday from 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Bring a Book buy a Book a new Fundraiser Program at the back of the Church. All books are a dollar. Any money collected goes to our Stain Glass Fund. You are most invited to make a donation for this course. Most welcome to worship with us on Sunday and weekdays. Thank You.

Immaculate Conception Parish
489, Broadway,
Everett MA 02149 Phone
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Glendale Christian Lighthouse Church

News and Notes

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Worship service.

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

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,” Colossians 3:23

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Church at the Well Everett

News and Notes

Church at the Well Everett is a new church for Everett. Check us out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/churchforeverett to view weekly devotions and updates, visit us at www.foreverett.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.




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Grace Anglican Episcopal Church

News and Notes

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church is open and welcoming to all.

There are two services on Sundays: 10 a.m. English, 1 p.m. South Sudanese Dinka

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

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church
67 Norwood Street,
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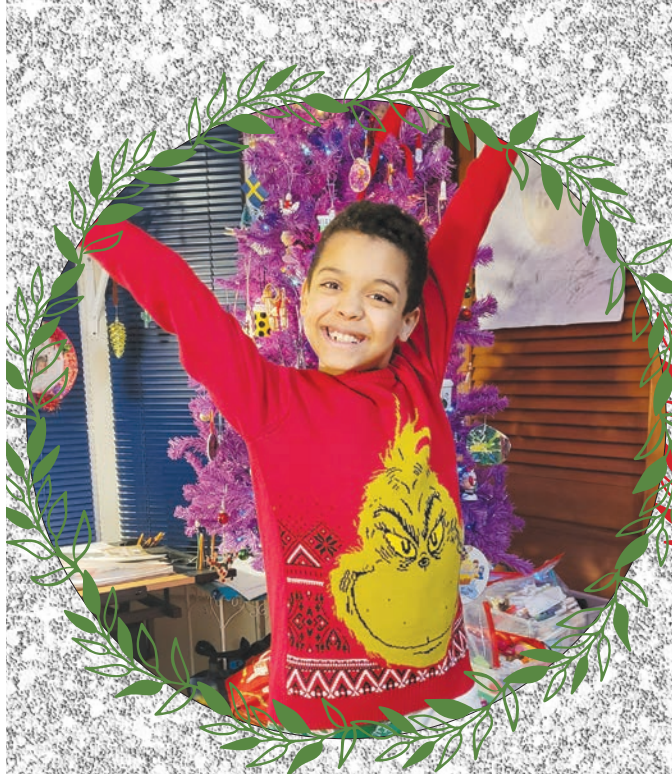
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