

Everett Independent

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(Left to right) NBC10 reporters Sue O'Connell and Matt Prichard, Catherine D'Amato (CEO of The Greater Boston Food Bank), and State Senator Sal DiDomenico in the NBC10 studio.

DiDomenico champions food security on NBC10

Special to the Independent

This past week, Senator Sal DiDomenico was invited onto NBC10 Boston with Catherine D'Amato, CEO of The Greater Boston Food Bank, to talk about what we can do as a state to fully address food insecurity. This seg-

ment on @Issue, which is on after Face the Nation, aired on Easter Sunday at 11:30am.

"Countless people across Massachusetts go hungry every day, but we have the resources to address hunger in a significant way - we just need to generate the political

power to do it," said Sal DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. "I am proud to advocate for more SNAP funding, expanding investments in our emergency food assistance program, and increasing cash benefits for people in need, among

many other legislative proposals, to fight this crisis. I want to thank the NBC team, including reporters Sue O'Connell and Matt Prichard, for hosting us and for focusing on one of the most pressing issues facing our Commonwealth."

Council prepares for key vote on roof repairs at old EHS building

By Cary Shuman

The Everett City Council will vote on an order requesting approval to appropriate by borrowing \$11.4 million for improvements at the old Everett High School building at 548 Broadway.

The vote is crucial from the prospective of time. Mayor Carlo DeMaria, who gave a thorough presentation on the issue at a March 13 City Council Special Meeting, said the repairs must be made because the current insurance policy on the building expires in January and the City would not be able to secure a new insurance policy because of the unsafe condition of the roof.

At the Council's Special Meeting, Councilor Anthony DiPierro asked that the vote be postponed until April 8 so his colleagues could view the upper floors of the building before casting their votes.

Thanks to DiPierro's thoughtful gesture toward his colleagues, councilors have had additional time

to take a closer look at the building and the potential expenses associated with its future upkeep.

In fact, Councilor-at-Large John Hanlon, who had missed some meetings due to an illness, will visit the old Everett High School building today.

"I have a 10 a.m. meeting (Wednesday) on top of the roof before I make any decision," Hanlon said Tuesday. "I'm going right up to the roof and while I'm there, I'm going to examine the whole building."

Hanlon said he will ask Mayor DeMaria what his future plans are for the old Everett High School building.

"We have to maintain our buildings," said Hanlon. "I believe the old Everett High building is a fantastic building. I know we need additional school space for our students due to overcrowding issues. Someone has to look at this building and deter-

See COUNCIL Page 4

Lack of Executive Session minutes draws controversy at School Committee meeting

Staff Report

The issue of providing the non-existent official minutes from a December Executive Session of the previous School Committee had Mayor Carlo DeMaria, current School Committee members, and residents in the audience all scratching their heads and doing a lot of finger pointing at the former School Committee.

The issue was that no city official at the meeting who was dealing with the ongoing issue of naming a new Superintendent of Schools had recorded any formal and complete minutes of the Executive Session. And to compound the issue, the Attorney General's office has given the City of Everett until mid-April to forward the minutes of the Executive

Session to the Attorney General, who is investigating an Open Meeting Law violation.

However, representatives from Alma Advisory Group, which was hired to head-hunt for a new superintendent, did take minutes at the Executive Session, but it will cost the city an extra \$5,000 to get a copy of the minutes. Alma Group was not required to take minutes and there is an added expense to have them transcribe their notes, which they took for their own internal purposes..

"This is ridiculous," said DeMaria about the issue, though he added that it was unfair to throw former School Committee members "under the bus" for the problem.

See SCHOOL Page 2



EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL CRIMSON TIDE CREW TEAM

Show above, Head Coach Katie Mayes with the 2024 EHS Crew Team. Shown left, The EHS seniors with Head Coach Katie Mayes: Gurkiran Kaur, Michelle Gemain and Trinity Chen.

EVERETT CELEBRATES EASTER AND THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING AT THE RECREATION CENTER



PHOTO COURTESY THE CITY OF EVERETT

The City of Everett recently hosted the Easter Spring Fling with hundreds of families gathered at the Recreation Center to celebrate Easter and the arrival of spring. See page 6 for more photos.

DIDOMENICO CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH INVESTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT WITH FIRST LADY DR. JILL BIDEN

Senator Sal DiDomenico joined First Lady Dr. Jill Biden for a Biden-Harris administration announcement of a \$100 million investment in women's health research. This "Sprint for Women's Health" program is the first deliverable from the White House's new initiative on women's health research. This program will be led by the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), located in Cambridge.

"I want to thank the Biden-Harris administration and our state's federal delegation for bringing this fantastic program to our state that will accelerate research on heart and brain conditions, as well as chronic diseases, which disproportionately impact women," said Sal DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. "Women's health is far too often brushed aside, not taken seriously, and in many cases, not prioritized by the medical field. This initiative is essential to improving how we care



Senator Sal DiDomenico with First Lady Dr. Jill Biden.

for women in this country, and I couldn't be prouder that researchers in my district and throughout our state will be leading the way."

This event also featured U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, and Maria Shriver. With this funding, ARPA-H

will bring together researchers, clinicians, tech experts, and others to spur innovative ideas and private sector collaboration in order to improve women's health. Organizations and individuals interested in learning more about this initiative can visit the website: arpa-h.gov/engage-and-transition/sprint.

School // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

School Committee vice-chair Samantha Lambert pointed out that while she does not like to spend \$5,000, it seems that the only option is to pay the extra \$5,000.

DeMaria perhaps summed it up best for his colleagues with the observation, "Let's pay the \$5,000 and move on." The School Committee then voted 8-1 to do so, with member Marcony Almeida Barrios being the lone dissenting vote.

In other business, Lambert offered a resolution to request the state to provide an additional \$9 million to the city, which Lambert says represents the difference between the 4.5% increase that Everett received in school funding from the state for the fiscal year and the actual increase of 9% that the Ev-

erett School Committee appropriated for school programs.

The city presently receives \$117 million in state aid under the Student Opportunity Act (SOA). Everett receives a higher amount of state aid because the city is a gateway community. Senator Sal DiDomenico, who was at the meeting, was asked to give an explanation of the state funding formula and whether the state would give more money to Everett schools.

DiDomenico pointed out that Everett has received additional monies in the last five years, noting that in 2021 Everett schools received \$75 million and the amount has continuously increased each year afterwards.

It was at this time that certain members of the

audience started to heckle DiDomenico -- but he gave it right back, saying that he has been working on improving the quality of Everett education for students for years, not just for three hours at a School Committee meeting like some of the hecklers.

At this point chairperson Jeanne Cristiano reminded members of the audience to stop their heckling.

As for the chances of Everett schools receiving an additional \$9 million from the state, DiDomenico said that he is one vote out of 40 in the Senate, and that every school district in Massachusetts is being impacted by budgetary woes. However, he urged the School Committee to send out the resolution asking for the additional \$9 million.

NEWS IN BRIEF

EVERETT PUBLIC LIBRARIES TO DEDICATE KATHLEEN A. DONNELLY READING ROOM

The Trustees of the Everett Public Libraries are pleased to announce a dedication and ribbon cutting memorial ceremony to commemorate the establishment of the Kathleen A. Donnelly Reading Room.

This event will be on

Saturday, April 13, at 11 a.m. at the Parlin Memorial Library, 412 Broadway, Everett. Anyone interested in attending the ceremony is welcome to do so.

The dedication of the Kathleen A. Donnelly Reading Room is in honor of a former Everett resident who generously bequeathed a significant financial gift to the Everett Public Libraries at her passing.

The trustees feel privileged to recognize and to honor Kathleen's lifelong

commitment and passion to great literature, philosophy, religion, poetry, and the arts.

Her support will greatly help the Everett Public Libraries in their mission to inform, inspire, and expand access to the services to the Citizens of Everett.

Following the open house ceremony, guests will be invited to partake in refreshments provided by the library trustees and then tour the Parlin Memorial Library.

Massachusetts requires analysis of cumulative impacts for air quality permits near EJ populations

The Healey-Driscoll Administration moved to address air quality issues in or near environmental justice areas by announcing amendments to state air pollution regulations. The communities of Revere, Everett, Chelsea, Charlestown and East Boston are considered in environmental justice areas. The changes require certain facilities seeking air emissions permits in or near communities with environmental justice populations to conduct a cumulative impact analysis, which evaluates existing local environmental and health conditions in a community. The regulations also require enhanced public outreach, and meaningful involvement of, environmental justice populations in the permitting process. The new regulations are now in force and apply to permit applications filed with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) on or after July 1, 2024.

"Our administration is committed to addressing longstanding environmental injustice," said Governor Maura Healey. "Massachusetts is proud to make history as the first state in the nation to launch a statewide program to require a detailed, site-specific evaluation of cumulative impacts to consider public health and other factors. We hope to set the standard for others to follow as we seek to right past wrongs and build healthier, more inclusive communities."

"A cumulative impact analysis will offer a more complete picture of environmental and health conditions in affected communities and equip residents to be involved in the permitting process from the very beginning," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "This is a significant development as our administration continues to prioritize participation, transparency, and protection of public health in permitting decisions."

"This approach takes a holistic look at what existing conditions might be worsened by a new or increasing source of air pollution," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "It provides opportunities for residents to meaningfully engage in the permitting process to help identify mitigation strategies and ensure that these facilities are a benefit to -- not a further burden on -- environmental justice communities."

People are exposed to pollution through air, water, and land. Over time, these exposures can add up and interact with each other, and combined with existing health and socioeconomic conditions, can cause adverse health impacts.

Communities that are home to numerous sources of pollution -- such as highways or waste facilities -- often have higher rates of asthma and other serious health conditions. This is especially true in communities with environmental justice areas, where resi-

dents have higher instances of health issues related to socioeconomic conditions. Current air pollution regulations do not require new facilities to assess potential pollution in light of existing environmental and health conditions or existing pollutant sources in the area. By requiring new and expanding facilities that will emit air pollution to conduct a cumulative impacts analysis prior to applying for an air permit, residents will be empowered with practical information about potential impacts to their health and community.

"The cumulative impact analysis gives our agency and the public a better basis to evaluate project proposals in real-world contexts," said MassDEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple. "MassDEP has developed innovative tools and compiled comprehensive datasets that can be used by permit applicants and interested residents to assess local impacts."

"These new regulations will empower communities with information about the impacts of air pollution on their health," said Undersecretary for Environmental Justice and Equity María Belén Power. "As new facilities seek to come into neighborhoods, environmental justice communities will have the data and transparency they deserve. This is an important step towards achieving justice for all people in Massachusetts."

Community Engagement

Early community engagement and advance notification are key requirements of the new rules.

The regulations apply to projects that would emit significant amounts of air pollutants in or near environmental justice communities -- for example, certain power plants, large boilers, and manufacturing facilities. At least 60 days before applying for a new or modified air permit, the permit applicant must provide a notification and fact sheet about the proposed project to nearby environmental justice populations, local officials, and MassDEP. The applicant also must provide public involvement opportunities and document and respond to comments and concerns raised by the public.

Comprehensive Analysis
The new rules require permit applicants to assess existing community conditions by evaluating 33 environmental, health, and socio-economic indicators. These indicators help characterize existing pollution sources, health vulnerabilities, and other stressors that could be worsened by increased air emissions from the

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JOIN the EVERETT CULTURAL COUNCIL!

Help shape Everett's Arts & Culture
The Everett Cultural Council is a volunteer group that works to foster creativity, diversity and an arts & culture renaissance in Everett.
For more info, email: ECC Chairperson
Martha Chason-Sokol
martha@mchason-sokol.com



- LEGAL NOTICE - CITY OF EVERETT



ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
484 BROADWAY
EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS 02149
PHONE 617-394-2498 FAX 617-394-2433

To Whom It May Concern:
This notice is to inform you that a public hearing will be held on Monday April 22, 2024 at 6:00 PM, Everett City Hall, 3rd Floor George Keever Hearing Room. All interested parties may attend and opinions will be heard regarding the following petition.

Whereas a petition has been presented by:
Property Address:
141 Garland St.
Map/Parcel: M0-06-000135
Person Requesting:
Realty Trust /Hector Angel
45 High St.
Everett, MA 02149

Proposal:
The applicant seeks to add 1 (one) unit in the basement and 1 (one) unit in the third floor to a current 2 (two) family home to increase the total amount of units to 4 (four). The property of 141 Garland St is a 10,000 S.F. lot according to Medford Engineering and Survey. The plans provided by David Choi, a Massachusetts registered architect, state that the gross floor area is 4,270 S.F. The plans indicate that eight (8) parking spaces will be provided.

Reason for Denial:

1. Section 4.A.1 of the Zoning Ordinance limits conversions of buildings that predate zoning in the city to no more than three dwelling units. A variance is required.
2. The structure is lawfully nonconforming as to the rear setback of 25 feet required pursuant to Section 4.B.7.a of the Zoning Ordinance. The proposed alteration and change of use require a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals, pursuant to Section 3.F of the Zoning Ordinance.
3. The proposal does not satisfy the parking design requirements of Section 17 of the Ordinance. Specifically,
 - a. The plans indicate that the eight parking spaces provided will consist of four sets of tandem spaces. Tandem parking is prohibited pursuant to Section 17.J. A variance is required.
 - b. The plans submitted do not indicate how the screening requirements of Section 17.L will be satisfied. The Applicant should submit a landscaping and fencing plan.
 - c. Section 17.M prohibits park-

ing spaces within eight feet of a window to a habitable room. It appears that the two parking spaces closest to the structure will be less than eight feet from such a window. The Applicant must either demonstrate compliance with this requirement or seek a variance.
d. Section 17.O requires submission of a detailed parking plan for parking lots designed to contain more than five vehicles. No such plans have been provided.
e. Section 17.O.5 requires an access driveway of at least 18 feet in width for any parking lot designed to contain more than five vehicles. According to the plans submitted, the existing driveway is only 14 feet wide. A variance is required.

Please also note that Site Plan Review by the Planning Board is required, pursuant to Section 19.A of the Zoning Ordinance.

MARY GERACE -- Chairman
Board of Appeals
Roberta Suppa - Clerk
March 27, 2024
April 3, 2024

EVERETT POLICE DEPARTMENT HOSTS ELDER FRAUD AND SCAM PREVENTION PRESENTATION

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CITY OF EVERETT



Attendees listening to the Elder Fraud and Scam Prevention Presentation.

The Everett Police Department (EPD), in partnership with the City of Everett and the Office of Middlesex District Attorney Marian T. Ryan, recently hosted a presentation at the Connolly Center informing Everett's older adults about how to prevent being financially defrauded and scammed.

Everett Police Chief Steve Mazzie was pleased to be joined by Middlesex District Attorney Marian T. Ryan, along with representatives from Members Plus Credit Union and Mystic Valley Elder Services. Together, the speakers informed attendees

about the common and new ways criminals target and attempt to financially scam older adults. Attendees were also given information about how to properly handle potential scams and who to contact if they believe they are being targeted. Following the presentation, those who attended were able to ask any questions and discuss topics with the speakers.

If you believe a scam may be occurring or has occurred, residents can report it to the Everett Police by contacting the Everett Police business line at 617-387-1212.



Middlesex District Attorney Marian T. Ryan speaking to attendees.



Everett Police Chief Steve Mazzie speaking to attendees.



Everett Police Officer Nicole O'Donnell (left) and Revere Police Officer Chantal Ragucci.



The Everett Police Department joined Middlesex District Attorney Marian T. Ryan to host the Elder Fraud and Scam Prevention Presentation.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF EVERETT
PROCUREMENT
OFFICE
INVITATION
TO BID

Sealed Bids for the City of Everett, Massachusetts, LANDSCAPING SERVICES, contract 24-48 will be received by the Procurement Office, Everett City Hall, 484 Broadway, Room 14, Everett, MA 02149 until 1:00 pm on April 18, 2024 and at that time and place the bids will be publicly opened. Contract Documents may be obtained, at no charge, on or after April 4, 2024 at 10 a.m. via

Purchasing - Everett, MA - Official Website (cityofeverett.com) Each Bid shall be submitted in accordance with the Instructions and shall be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the amount Bid. The successful Bidder must furnish a Labor and Materials Payment Bond satisfactory in form to the City, each in the amount of 50% of the Contract Amount from a surety authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and acceptable to the City. Wage rates for this project are subject to the minimum wage rates as per M.G.L., Chapter 149, Sections 26 to 27H inclusive, as amended. The bidding and award of this

Contract will be under the provisions of M.G.L., Chapter 30, Section 39M, as amended. If, at the time of the scheduled bid opening, the bid opening location shall be shut down as the result of an emergency, the bids will be due and opened at the same time and location on the 1st business day the building is able to re-open. Bids will be accepted until that date and time. Bids shall be awarded to the lowest responsible and eligible bidder. The City of Everett reserves the right to waive any informality in or to reject any and all bids, for any reason the City determines to be in the City's and/or the public's best interest.

4/3/24
EV



EMERGENCY ALL BLOOD TYPES NEEDED.

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- LEGAL NOTICE - CITY OF EVERETT

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
484 BROADWAY
EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS 02149
PHONE 617-394-2498 FAX 617-394-2433

To Whom It May Concern:

This notice is to inform you that a public hearing will be held on Monday April 22, 2024 at 6:00 PM, Everett City Hall, 3rd Floor George Keverian Hearing Room. All interested parties may attend and opinions will be heard regarding the following petition. Whereas a petition has been presented by:

Property Address: 12 Clinton Pl
Map/Parcel: L0-01-000158
Person Requesting: Alusma Margaile
12 Clinton Pl.
Everett, MA 02149

PROPOSAL:
Renovate a single-family dwelling into a two-family dwelling. The plot plans provided by Real Map Info LLC show the lot to be 6,383 square feet.
Permit was Denied in accordance with the City of Everett Zoning Ordinance as follows:
Violations:
Section 4.B.2.b. Lot area two family dwelling 7000 square feet. In the plot plans provided the applicant provides a lot of 6,383 S.F. The applicant shall seek relief from the Zoning board of appeals.
The plans indicate that four parking spaces provided will consist of one tandem space. Tandem Parking is prohibited pursuant to Section 17.J. A variance is required.

MARY GERACE – Chairman
Board of Appeals
Roberta Suppa - Clerk
March 27, 2024
April 3, 2024

- LEGAL NOTICE - CITY OF EVERETT

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484 BROADWAY
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Property Address: 64 Corey St.
Map/Parcel: E0-04-000087
Person Requesting: 64 Corey St., LLC
417 Main St.
Melrose, MA 02176

Proposal:
To construct a two-story addition on the right side and convert the existing three (3) family residential building into a ten (10) unit residential building.
Violations:
Parking is shown to be stacked on the left side (3 vehicles) and several parking spaces will be backing into the street both onto Corey Street and Norwood Street. Also, vehicles are shown to be parking in the required setbacks both in the front (Corey St) and the corner (Norwood St)
Zoning Ordinance:
Section 17 Off-street parking: paragraphs J, K, M and O line 4.

MARY GERACE – Chairman
Board of Appeals
Roberta Suppa - Clerk
March 27, 2024
April 3, 2024

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Property Address: 51 School St.
Map/Parcel: E0-03-000100
Person Requesting: Jorge A. Valdivieso
51 School St.
Everett, MA 02149

Proposal:
Add a first and Second floor addition to rear of building.
Reason for Denial:
Permit was denied in accordance with the City of Everett Zoning Ordinance as follows:
The existing structure is nonconforming as to side setback requirements, pursuant to the Everett Zoning Ordinance, Section 4.6.A (requiring a side setback of 4 feet with a total of 16 feet.) where 2.6 foot is existing with a total of 18.4 feet. The proposal will increase the nonconforming nature of the structure. Accordingly, a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals is required in accordance with Section 3.C of the Zoning Ordinance.

MARY GERACE – Chairman
Board of Appeals
Roberta Suppa - Clerk
March 27, 2024
April 3, 2024

Everett Independent

President: Stephen Quigley

Editor in Chief: Cary Shuman

WATCH THE ECLIPSE SAFELY

With our area in the path of the solar eclipse this coming Monday (and with clear skies forecast), we urge any of our readers who are intent on watching the event to be sure to wear proper eyewear and to ensure that their children do as well.

A person can cause permanent damage to their eyes -- and even go blind (a condition known as solar retinopathy) -- if they do not use proper eye protection, such as eclipse glasses or a special solar filter. Regular sunglasses don't offer any protection and viewing the eclipse through your I-phone camera offers no protection for you and will damage your phone. (Photography experts say just pointing your smartphone camera at the eclipse could cause catastrophic damage to the phone if you don't have proper equipment.)

Individuals also have to be certain that the eyewear they are using is certified. There are reports that knock-offs that are being sold on-line are not legitimate.

One eye doctor, who was quoted in the New York Times, offered this advice: Don't look at the eclipse at all, even with proper eyewear.

But for those who are intent on watching this event, please do so safely.

RUSSIA IS OUR REAL ENEMY

Sunday's special report on the CBS news show 60 Minutes revealed that Russia has been the culprit in the hundreds of cases of debilitating neurological injuries that have struck American intelligence and law enforcement operatives around the world in the past few years.

The phenomenon has been dubbed "Havana Syndrome" because the problems first became apparent among a cluster of employees at the U.S. Embassy in Havana, Cuba. However, as the 60 Minutes report showed, these attacks on U.S. personnel (and their families), all of whom have worked with the CIA, the FBI, the military, the State Department, and the White House -- almost all of whom were working on areas of national security related to Russia -- have been occurring all over the world and even in our own country.

The "weapon" being used by the Russians is thought to be directed energy or microwaves fired from hidden devices that inflict serious and permanent injury on those who are targeted.

The 60 Minutes report makes it clear that Vladimir Putin is a monster who is using any means necessary to undermine our national interests. Our political leaders, especially the Republicans in Congress, must recognize the threat he poses and do whatever it takes to thwart him.

BIRD FLU IS NOT JUST FOR THE BIRDS

The second confirmed case of the bird flu infecting a human in this country (a Texas dairy farm worker who worked among infected cows) raises a red flag about the possibility of another pandemic ripping across the world.

The current bird flu outbreak not only has killed millions of wild and domesticated birds world-wide, but it also has killed many mammals across the globe, including the well-publicized devastation of an elephant seal population in Argentina.

Although the bird flu is not as fatal in cows as seals, it has sickened cows in states across the country, an indication that cows are infecting each other as they move around farms from state-to-state. The virus has been detected in the unpasteurized milk of these cows. More ominously, the detection of the virus in the dairy worker suggests that the bird flu can jump from one mammal species to others -- including ourselves.

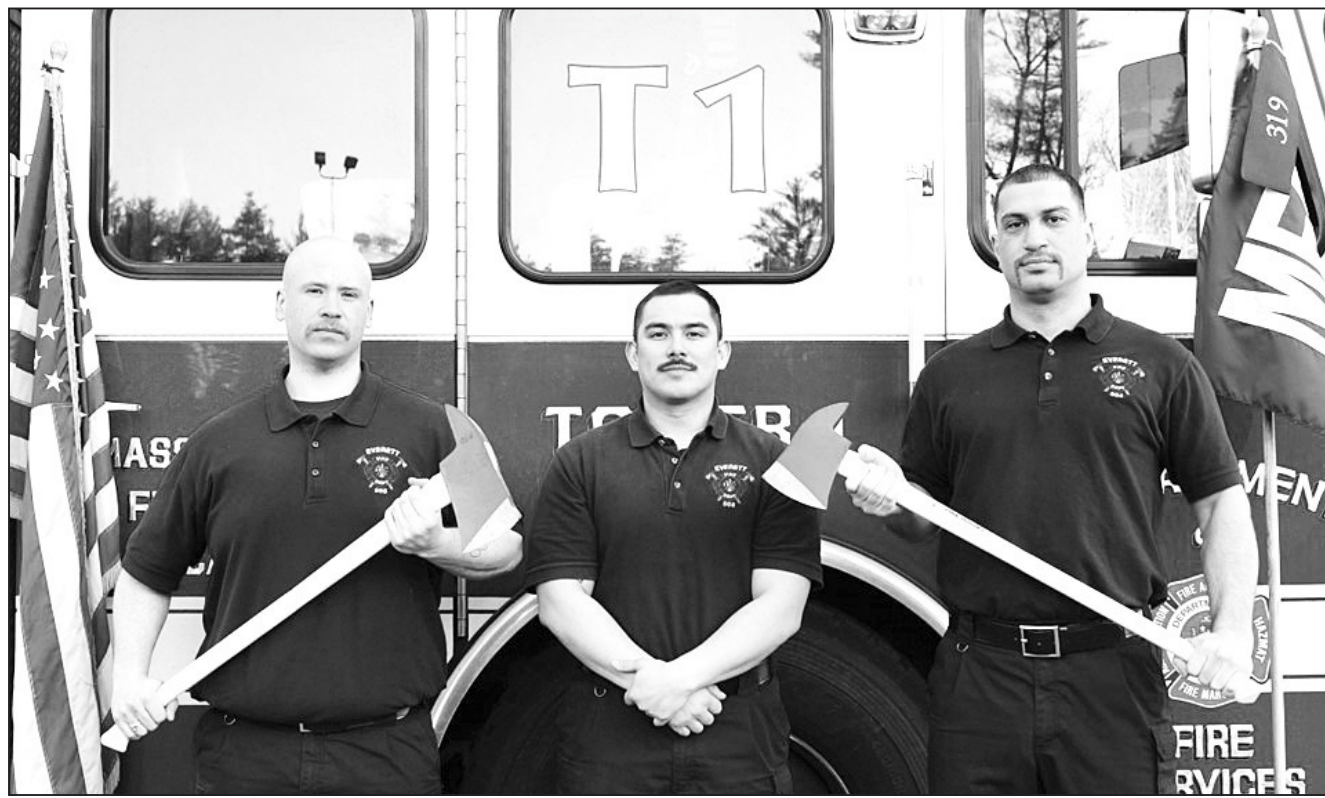
The bird flu -- also known as H5N1 -- wreaked havoc in many parts of the world, especially in Asia, in 2006. The U.S. largely was spared the ill-effects of the outbreak thanks to efforts by our national health authorities who worked in these foreign countries to contain its spread.

However, this new variant of H5N1 is being brought to this country by wild bird populations, which obviously is something we cannot control. If cows have been infected, it stands to reason that other animals, including our house pets, could become infected and spread the virus.

COVID-19 killed more than one million Americans. But as bad as the pandemic had been at its height, it was only killing about one percent of those who were infected, with substantially higher death rates among the elderly and those with prior-existing health conditions, including obesity.

However, the bird flu in humans is far deadlier, with death rates having been estimated at 50% during the 2006 pandemic in some countries. Even if the chances of a bird flu pandemic among humans are slim, the high mortality rate should be enough to raise the alarm bells among our public health officials.

Independent Forum



Everett's Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program graduates are Lucas McCain, Omar Herrera Cisneros, and Robert Machado.

EVERETT GRADUATES 3 FROM THE CAREER RECRUIT FIREFIGHTING TRAINING PROGRAM

State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy leadership announced the graduation of 34 firefighters from the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program.

"Massachusetts firefighters are on the frontlines protecting their communities every day, and today's graduates are needed now more than ever," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "The hundreds of hours of foundational training they've received will provide them with the physical, mental, and technical skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely."

"Massachusetts Firefighting Academy instructors draw on decades of experience in the fire service to train new recruits," said Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Eric Littmann. "Through consistent classroom instruction and practical exercises, today's graduates have developed the tools they'll need to work seamlessly with veteran firefighters in their home departments and in neighboring communities

as mutual aid."

The graduating firefighters of Class #319 represent the fire departments of Acton, Concord, Dracut, Dudley, Everett, Falmouth, Franklin, Haverhill, Lexington, Middleborough, Needham, North Attleboro, Norwood, Reading, Salem, Saugus, Walpole, Westborough, Westford, and Winthrop.

The Richard N. Bangs Outstanding Student Award, which is presented to one recruit in each graduating class, was presented to Firefighter Ian Ford of the Concord Fire Department. The award is named for the longtime chair of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council and reflects the recruit's academic and practical skills, testing, and evaluations over the course of the 10-week program.

Basic Firefighter Skills

Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety,

search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Career Recruit Program, all students have met the national standards of NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, and are certified to the levels of Firefighter I/II and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

Today's Firefighters Do Much More than Fight Fires

Modern firefighters train for and respond to all types of hazards and emergencies. They are the first ones called to respond to chemical and environmental emergencies, ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to gas leaks to industrial chemical spills. They may be called to rescue a child who has fallen through the

ice, an office worker stuck in an elevator, or a motorist trapped in a crashed vehicle. They test and maintain their equipment, including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), hydrants, hoses, power tools, and apparatus.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, recruits learn all these skills and more, including the latest science of fire behavior and suppression tactics, from certified fire instructors. They also receive training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids stress management, and self-rescue techniques. The intensive, 10-week program involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training, and live firefighting practice.

The MFA provides recruit and in-service training for career, call, and volunteer firefighters at every level of experience, from recruit to chief officer, at campuses in Stow, Springfield, and Bridgewater.

Council // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mine how we can fix it up. I will likely vote for the (\$11.4 million) appropriation so the building can continue to be used. It's just like it's your own building. You have to put a new roof on it. You can't let it fall apart. You have to do the repairs. It's not whether you want to do it -- you have to do it, it has to be done."

The vote is shaping up as a close one. Ward 1 Councilor Wayne Matewsky said he is leaning toward voting in favor of the \$11.4 million request, while Councilors-at-Large Stephanie Smith and Katy Rogers said they will vote against the measure.

"I will most likely vote for the appropriation so we can repair the roof and the City can continue to use the building and not have to oust the people

and programs (health and wellness center, Webster School Extension pre-K, and Broadway Boxing Club) that exist there now," said Matewsky. "I feel we need to keep the building safe and the programs up and running until further notice. I do not want to see the building close in January (due to the building not being insured)."

Councilor Smith said Tuesday, "At this time, I am not in favor of a new roof at the old EHS as I believe that it is not fiscally responsible to invest \$11 million-plus in a building that we do not have a long-term master plan for City usage."

Councilor Rogers weighed in on the crucial vote, stating Tuesday that, "As of now I'm voting 'no.' The old high school

is more than half vacant and there is a lot of uncertainty on how the rest of the building could potentially be used. I would feel more confident voting in

favor of a comprehensive plan that includes a discussion about utilizing more of the property for a public use."

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.

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EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS RECEIVE NARCAN TRAINING

Students and teachers at Everett High School (EHS) received training on how to administer Narcan – a medication that is used to reverse an opioid overdose – when needed.

The training, led by Fenway Health (ACCESS Drug User Health Program) Overdose Aftercare and Outreach Specialist Brielle Carelli, educated students on how to administer Narcan and when to use it. In addition to Carelli, Everett Public Schools (EPS) Youth Substance Prevention Specialist Ju-

liana Blodgett, Everett Fire Department Outreach Addiction Specialist Paul Guarino, and Assistant Director of Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Eric Mazzeo spoke about their roles in the community and how they will be interacting with youth going forward. The students also had the opportunity to learn about the effects of addiction and alcoholism on individuals, families and communities.

The goal of the trainings was to engage with EHS students and teachers

on what the meaning of harm reduction is and how Narcan can save lives. Additionally, the trainings helped spread awareness to all high school students about fentanyl, the dangers of counterfeit pills, and the importance of administering Narcan.

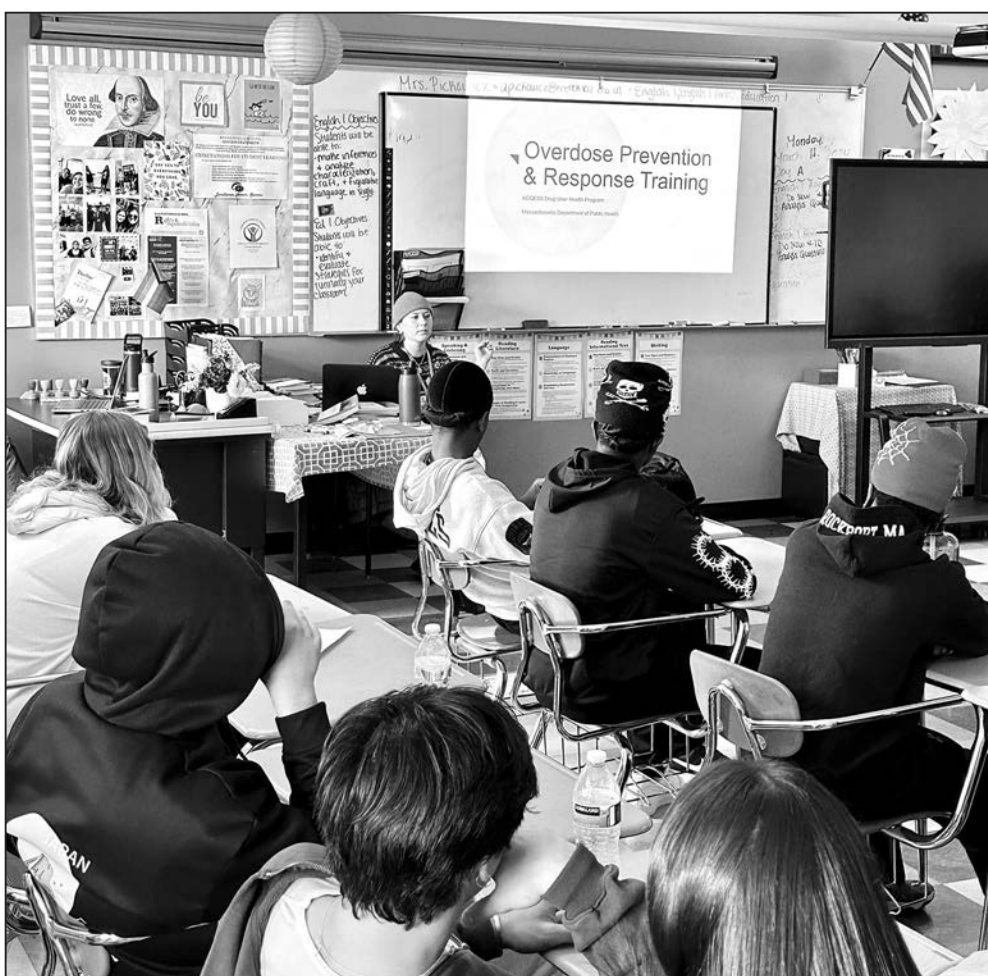
If you or someone you know is dealing with Substance Use Disorder, there are resources available. The Everett Fire Department offers the Roadmap to Recovery program, which helps individuals and families navigate

through community services that can access recovery resources. Roadmap to Recovery can be reached by calling or texting Paul Guarino at 617-879-0489. The Everett Recovery Connection (ERC) is a program within the Public Health Department that focuses on connecting the community to addiction and recovery support services. The ERC can be reached by contacting Substance Abuse Services Coordinator Chris Simionelli at 617-579-6421.

PHOTOS COURTESY THE CITY OF EVERETT



Assistant Director of Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Eric Mazzeo speaking to students.



Fenway Health Overdose Aftercare and Outreach Specialist Brielle Carelli speaking to students.



The presenters discussing the effects of addiction and the importance of Narcan training.



Everett Public Schools Youth Substance Prevention Specialist Juliana Blodgett speaking to students.



Everett Fire Department Outreach Addiction Specialist Paul Guarino speaking to students.

McGONAGLE TOURS MTPC LYNNFIELD ACADEMY



Rep. Joe McGonagle (right) is shown at the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) Lynnfield Academy. Here the Legislators toured the facility, spoke with employees and observed recruit training, including an officer from Everett Police Department.

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EVERETT CELEBRATES EASTER AND THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING AT THE RECREATION CENTER

PHOTOS COURTESY THE CITY OF EVERETT

The City of Everett recently hosted the Easter Spring Fling with hundreds of families gathered at the Recreation Center to celebrate Easter and the arrival of spring.

The annual event offered so many treats and fun activities for all to participate in. There were various activities for young attendees to enjoy like games and a live petting zoo to interact with animals like bunnies, goats and ducklings outside of the Recreation Center.

The gym was turned into a fun house with plenty of treats and goodie bags, face painting, art activities, balloon creations and memorable photos with the Easter Bunny. Bonaparte the magician had plenty of tricks up his sleeve and kept the children excited for what magical act was coming next. Toe Jam Puppet Band got children and families involved in their musical performance with props and fun songs to join them in. There was certainly no shortage of fun for all.

Mayor DeMaria would like to thank everyone who joined us for the City's annual celebration and everyone who came together to make this a successful event for the community. All of the upcoming City of Everett events can be found by visiting the events calendar on the City website at cityofeverett.com/calendar/category/events/list. You can also follow the official social media pages on Facebook, Instagram and X (the platform formerly known as Twitter). Facebook: [/cityofeverettma](https://www.facebook.com/cityofeverettma) and [/mayorcarlodemaria](https://www.facebook.com/mayorcarlodemaria). Instagram: [@cityofeverettma](https://www.instagram.com/cityofeverettma) and [@Mayor_DeMaria](https://www.instagram.com/mayorcarlodemaria). All are welcome to attend the events that are planned.



City of Everett youth volunteers handed out popcorn at the event.



Volunteers at Mayor DeMaria's table handed out bunny ears and goodie bags filled with candy, pretzels, easter eggs and stickers to all who attended.



High five from the Easter Bunny.



The Everett Police Department and youth volunteers assisted with handing out water and other activities at the event.



Bonaparte the magician invited attendees on stage to help him with the final magic trick.



Former City Councilor Al Lattanzi, along with his wife Dolores and grandson, are pictured with City of Everett Health and Human Services Equity Access Officer Antoinette Octave Blanchard and her daughter.



The Toe Jam Puppet Band got children and families involved in their musical performances and even made it snow for the final act.



The Everett Fire Department handed out candy and goodies at the event.

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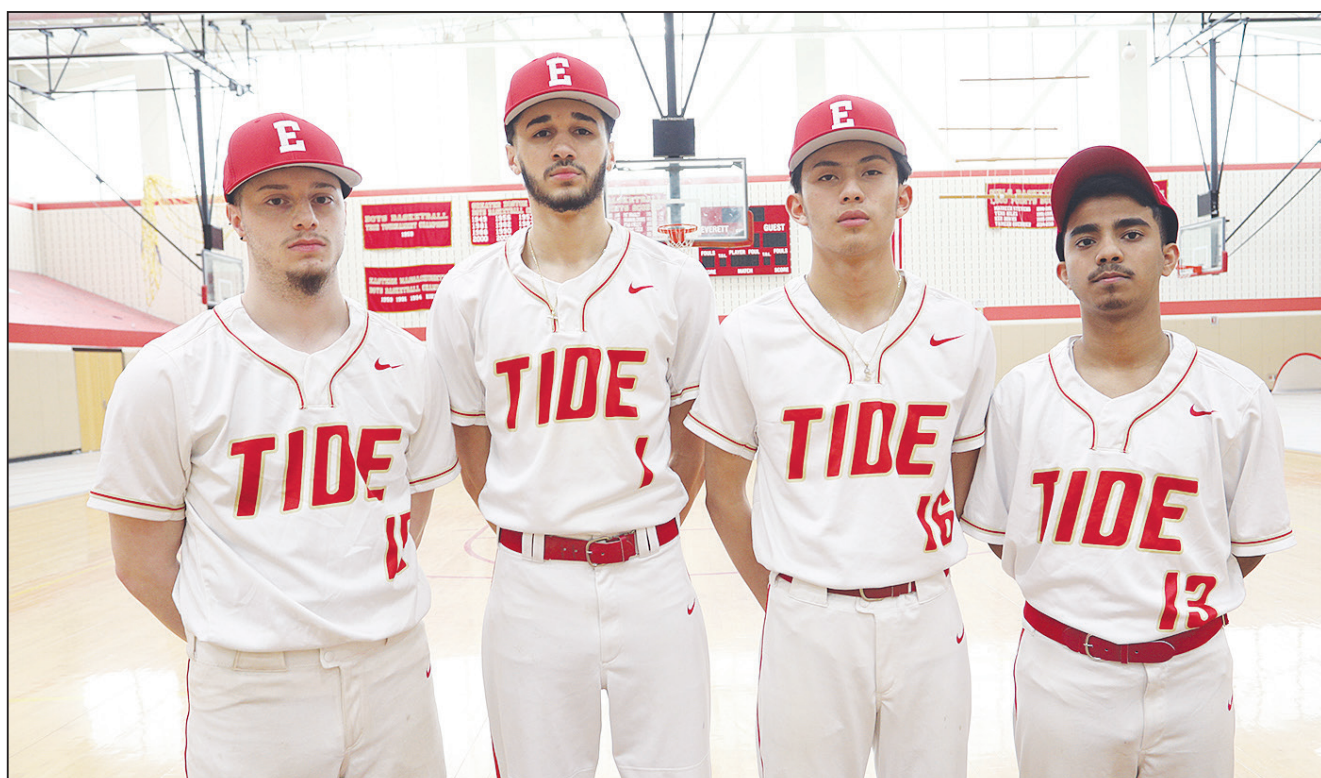
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EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL 2024 VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM



Senior Crimson Tide Captains: Justine Longmore and Alex Lara.



The seniors of the Crimson Tide Baseball Team: Justine Longmore, Alex Lara, Sebastian Fong and Aman Mustafa.



The Everett High School Crimson Tide Varsity Baseball Team.

EHS Roundup

EHS BOYS VOLLEYBALL OPENS WITH 3-0 VICTORY

The Everett High boys volleyball team opened its 2024 season on a winning note with a 3-0 shutout over non-league opponent Wakefield last Thursday.

"The team did well in our opener," said EHS head coach Mike Fineran. "It was a solid win, but not without its bumps. We lost to Wakefield early last year, so we knew we needed to be focused to get the win. We were clearly nervous to start, missing serves and hitting long."

"But we settled in, and we were led by junior cap-

tain Henrique Franca, who hit seven kills in the first set, which we won 25-18," continued Fineran. "Henrique is a tremendous player and he emerged as a star last season. He has the ability to calm things down with his passing, but he is also one of the most powerful hitters in the league."

"One of the promising things about this team is that we don't need to rely solely on him to win games. We have a deep and talented team," Fineran said. "Senior captain Hyan Soares is another three year starter and he added two kills in the opening set. The two senior assistant captains shined in the second set,

which ended 25-16. Outside hitter Nischal Tamang had two kills and hit all seven serves in and setter Mark Pierre led the team with 11 serves and four aces.

"Sophomore Christian Ramirez was a solid defender in his varsity debut," Fineran added. "Christian has been devoted to volleyball since last season and he will be one of our key players this season. He was 9-for-9 serving with two aces in the match."

"In the third set, we found ourselves down 17-7, but juniors Steve Flores and Matheus Queiroz led the comeback," Fineran

See ROUNDUP Page 8



Carlo DeMaria Mayor

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Roundup / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

continued. "Steve made a number of big plays at the net and Matheus served four in a row to tie the set 25-25."

Franca delivered his 12th kill of the match to give Everett a 27-26 lead and the Crimson Tide won the next rally to end the match.

"We showed a lot of heart coming back like that in the third set," concluded Fineran. "It wasn't perfect, but good teams find ways to win. I'm excited to see what we can do as we get more experience and grow more confident."

Fineran and his crew are scheduled to host Greater Boston League (GBL) rival Chelsea today (Wednesday). They will travel to Lynn Classical next Monday and will return home to entertain Lynn English next Wednesday.

The Crimson Tide will play a 19-match schedule, meeting their seven GBL rivals (Medford, Malden, Somerville, Chelsea, Revere, Lynn Classical, and Lynn English) twice and facing non-league opponents Wakefield and Essex Tech twice each and Pioneer Charter once.

EHS SPRING SPORTS SET TO OPEN SEASONS

The Everett High spring sports season is scheduled to get underway this week, though Mother Nature may play the spoiler role for some of the opening-week festivities.

The EHS softball team, which was rained out of its season-opener last Thursday with Cambridge, was hoping to beat the arrival of the foul weather this week with a contest against Greater Boston League (GBL) rival Chelsea yesterday (Tuesday). Coach Stacy Schiavo and her squad will travel to GBL foes Lynn Classical on Monday and to Lynn English next Wednesday.

The Lady Crimson Tide will play a schedule of 20 games, with 14 against their seven GBL rivals (Chelsea, Malden, Medford, Revere, Lynn Classical, Lynn English,

and Somerville) and six vs. non-league opponents Cambridge (2), O'Bryant High of Boston (2), Boston Latin Academy, and Lowell.

The EHS baseball team, under new head coach Malik Love, was hoping to open its season this afternoon (Wednesday) at Glendale against Chelsea. They will host non-league rival Lowell on Friday and entertain GBL opponents Lynn Classical on Monday and Lynn English next Wednesday.

Love and his crew will play a schedule of 20 games, with 14 against their seven GBL rivals (two each vs. Chelsea, Malden, Medford, Revere, Lynn Classical, Lynn English, and Somerville) and six vs. non-league opponents Charlestown (2), Greater Lawrence Tech (2), Mystic Valley, and Lowell.

Coach Chelsea McNiff and the EHS girls lacrosse team will try to get its season underway tomorrow (Thursday) vs. Malden at 7-Acre Park and then will trek to Somerville on Friday. They will host Medford on Monday

BOYS TENNIS DROPS TROUGH, 3-2 MATCH

The Everett High boys tennis team opened its season with a tough, 3-2 loss to non-league rival Lowell this past Monday.

"It was a heartbreaker," said EHS head coach Greg Bluestein.

The Crimson Tide's Bryant Jimenez won his match at first singles and Erik Vo won at third singles. The outcome of the match came down to the two doubles contests, with the Tide falling short by the slimmest of margins. Both the first-doubles duo of Tam Tran & Nilabhro Pal and the second-doubles tandem of Anthony Fontes & Gabe Lemus fell in tie-breaker sets that went to the last point.

The EHS girls tennis team fell in its opener vs. Lowell by a score of 4-1. Coach Courtney Meninger and her crew play at non-league opponent Saugus on Friday.

Everett Rec seventh-grade basketball team claims New England title



The Everett Recreation seventh-grade basketball team. Front row are Nicholas Savi, Thai Spencer, Chris DeSouza, Ralph Dagne, Carlos Flores, Stiven Menjivar, and Bryson Cabral. Back row are Coach Chris Stopford, Lucas Mason, Nicholas Young, Josiah Harris, Jacon Suncar, Kaleb Defreitas, James DeSouza, Samuel Wanyama, Mohammed Cheblaoui, Colin Fitzgibbon, and Coach Joseph Young.

By Cary Shuman

Playing its best basketball of the season, the Everett Recreation seventh-grade boys team captured the New England regional championship in the annual tournament at Mass Premier in Foxboro.

Coaches Chris Stopford and Joe Young guided their talented contingent to a 17-3 record and the Metro West League regular season title, qualifying for the New England Championships.

Everett swept the regional tournament, defeating teams from Connecticut and Massachusetts.

"We had a very talented group of Everett

basketball players," said Stopford, who is a former EHS Crimson Tide basketball and baseball player (from 2003 to 2006) and coached the Everett fifth grade team to a New England title in 2023. "We knew we had a championship-caliber team after we won Saugus and Sudbury summer league tournaments. They worked hard all season and really played great team basketball in the playoffs. It was a pleasure for Joe and I to coach this group."

Suncar leads the way
Jacob Suncar, a 6-foot-2-inch seventh grade center, was the star among stars for the Everett con-

tingent. Suncar averaged 26 points and 12 rebounds this season.

"Jacob was the most dominant player in the league," said Coach Stopford.

Other major contributors in the starting five were forward Nick Young, a sensational player in the Everett Little League last summer, forward James DeSouza, and guards Samuel Wanyama and Carlos Flores.

Point guard Youssef Benhamada, a double-digit scorer and top playmaker, excelled during the regular season and in the state tournament, but was unable to suit up for the New England finals due to

an ankle injury.

Everett's key reserves included defensive stalwart Nick Savi, who like Nick Young, was a top-tier Little League All-Star, Ralph Dagne, Bryson Cabral, and Mohammed Cheblaoui.

Chris DeSouza and Thai Spencer were promoted from Everett's other seventh grade team and helped solidify the depth of the championship team.

Stopford said there will be a banquet to celebrate the team's championship season.

Mayor Carlo DeMaria has invited the coaches and players to City Hall for an April 22 awards ceremony.

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MVES PROGRAM OFFERS RELIEF TO FAMILY CAREGIVERS

You've probably heard the phrase "Caregivers need care too." It's certainly true, but it's often easier said than done. If you are a family caregiver who could use a little support, Mystic Valley Elder Services can help.

Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) is a nonprofit that specializes in supporting older adults, people with disabilities and their caregivers. MVES has found that many caregivers aren't aware of the guidance and services available to them – some think they can't afford it, while others believe their income is too high to qualify for help. In reality, there are resources to assist all caregivers and families, regardless of their income. You don't have to do it alone.

The state of Massachusetts awarded MVES a grant to develop new ways to support caregivers. The grant empowered MVES to provide monetary stipends to families that don't qualify for MassHealth, so that caregivers can take advantage of in-person and online programs that suit their needs.

MVES was also able to create a quarterly Saturday program at The Community Family's adult day health center.



Cutline: Local families attended Mystic Valley Elder Services' Memory Café featuring Fill My Heart With Song. A Memory Café, designed for people with memory loss and their loved ones to create positive experiences and develop a support network, is just one of the MVES programs that support family caregivers.

Designed for those caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia, this program gives caregivers a much-needed break during weekend hours.

Navigating Your Options

These opportunities are only one part of MVES' Caregiver Support Program. It can be overwhelming to find the

right information, care and resources. For over 45 years, MVES has helped families navigate the options and find solutions that work for them. The MVES Caregiver Support Program also offers:

- A wide variety of MVES services, whether your loved one needs them now or later, including: transportation, Meals on

Wheels, in-home services and insurance counseling

- In-person and virtual support groups

• Workshops, training and educational resources

- Referrals and help applying for programs

• Memory Café events for families dealing with memory loss

- Help for grandparents raising grandkids

• Guest speakers and other special events

You are eligible for the Caregiver Support program at MVES if you fit any of these descriptions:

- You care for an adult age 60 or older
- You care for someone with dementia (such as Alzheimer's disease)
- You are age 55 or older and care for a child under

18 (grandparent or other non-parent relative)

- You are age 55 or older and care for an adult with a disability

For more about the Caregiver Support Program, or any of the services offered by MVES, please contact 781-324-7705 ext. 100 or visit www.mves.org.

CITY OF EVERETT HOLDS MONTHLY LUNCH AND LEARN

The City of Everett recently held its Lunch and Learn for the month of March at Everett City Hall. This month's program was titled: "Neurodiversity in the Work Place."

City employees were pleased to be joined by Elise Wulff to discuss Neurodiversity, which is an umbrella term that can include ADHD, autism, or other learning differences such as dyslexia.

Those who participated were able to gain increased perspective and practical strategies to support Neurodiversity in the workplace. The training taught participants how to understand and access the unique talents of neurodivergent employees and build a workplace culture more inclusive of Neuro-



Elise Wulff and the City of Everett's DEI Officer Simone Holyfield.

diversity for all.

Lunch and Learn is a monthly program created and moderated by the City of Everett's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director Cathy Draine. It allows



City employees gathered in the Keverian Room and City Hall to discuss and listen to a presentation about Neurodiversity in the workplace from Elise Wulff.

City employees to come together, share ideas and

experiences, and discuss new topics while enjoying

lunch. The series is a part of the City's commitment

to engage, educate and elevate.

Air Quality / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

proposed project. The updated rules require a more comprehensive analysis of the impacts of these projects to local communities, including consideration of:

- Existing air pollution and health conditions.
- Vulnerabilities in affected communities; and
- Socioeconomic and demographic indicators.

MassDEP has developed guidance and tools in support of the new regulations that can be used by permit applicants and environmental justice populations. These include guidance on how to conduct a cumulative impact analysis, including public outreach, assessment of existing community conditions, and analysis of cumulative impacts; a Mapping and Data Application for use in the assessment of existing community conditions; and a Massachusetts Air Toxics Risk Screening Tool (MATRIST) that can be used in the cumulative impact analysis to estimate cumulative air toxics risks from proposed projects.

MassDEP plans to review this program within two years of the effective date of the regulations,

including by soliciting input and feedback from the public regarding potential updates.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has made environmental justice central to its climate and environmental agenda. Under Governor Healey, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs created the Office of Environmental Justice and Equity, led by Undersecretary María Belén Power and secured \$7 million for environmental justice staffing and initiatives across agencies, including MassDEP. The Office of Environmental Justice and Equity also recently announced the state's first Environmental Justice Strategy, which includes MassDEP's department-specific strategy to meaningfully engage with environmental justice communities.

"The new Massachusetts air permit regulations take a bold step to protect overburdened and underserved communities in a new way, requiring consideration of cumulative impacts from environment, public health and socioeconomic conditions as part of the permitting

process," said EPA New England Regional Administrator David W. Cash. "The combination of considering cumulative impacts and enhanced community engagement to address community priorities early in the process is foundational to environmental justice. We hope that this will serve as a model for other states across the country and bring new air quality and public health improvements to Massachusetts residents."

"For environmental justice communities and advocates, the concept of cumulative impact assessment – that some communities bear a greater collective burden than others – is fundamental. We applaud the Healey-Driscoll Administration and, in particular, the Department of Environmental Protection for moving the ball forward and incorporating cumulative impact assessment in the Commonwealth's air permitting process," said GreenRoots Executive Director Roseann Bongiovanni. "But we know that cumulative environmental impacts affect more than just the air we breathe; it affects our

water and is reflected in the land use decisions we make. We look forward to continuing to work with the Administration to fully implement cumulative impact assessment in all aspects of the Commonwealth's equitable protection of our environment and the health of its residents."

"Cumulative Impact Assessments will vastly improve our ability to protect air quality by making fact-based, historically informed decisions about permitting in vulnerable communities. We applaud the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Department of Environmental Protection for taking this first-in-the nation step to ensure cleaner air for all Massachusetts residents," said Amy Boyd Rabin, Vice President of Policy for the Environmental League of Massachusetts.

"Safeguards for overburdened communities that already experience too much pollution and health damage are sorely needed and are critical to make sure we don't deepen environmental injustices," said Cindy Luppi, National Field Direc-

tor, Clean Water Action. "We're grateful that the Healey-Driscoll Administration wants to address this on-going pattern of injustice in some of the Commonwealth's low-in-

come and BIPOC communities. Meaningful regulations offering the promise of a healthier and more just tomorrow and we hope that many more states follow Massachusetts' lead."

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Star Burst

PCCS student Isam Khorsi honored for exceptional performance on MCAS

By Cary Shuman

Isam Yanis Khorsi of Revere, a fifth grader at the Pioneer Charter School of Science in Everett, has been honored for his exceptional performance on the 2023 MCA tests.

Isam, the 11-year-old son of Malik Khorsi and Chahinz Khorsi, who emigrated from Algeria to the United States, received a congratulatory letter from Mass. Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Jeffrey C. Riley stating, "Your [MCAS] scores put you among the students in Massachusetts.

"I know you and your family are very proud – I know I am," said Riley.

Isam entered the Pioneer Charter School of Science in kindergarten. He has the opportunity to continue at PCCS through high school.

An all-A student, Isam currently has classes at PCCS in English, math,

history, and science, citing math and science as his favorite subjects. He has won prizes in two science fairs for his kinetic energy and water quality improvement projects.

Malik Khorsi said the family is very proud of Isam and credits PCCS for its outstanding teachers and the school's encouragement to excel in all areas.

"Pioneer is an amazing school," said Mr. Khorsi.

Said Isam, "I have great teachers and great classmates at Pioneer. They really inspire me. I also want to thank my parents. They're very helpful and supportive."

Isam said his sister, Luisa, 19, a Revere High School graduate and a student at UMass/Boston studying biology, has been a positive influence in his life.

A student with many interests

Isam's interests extend beyond the classroom. He



Malik Khorsi (left) and his son, Isam Yanis Khorsi, who was honored for his outstanding performance on the 2023 MCAS tests.

enjoys business, politics, reading books, watching CNN (Cable News Network), and music and movies from the 1980s and 1990s.

He is also quite proficient and knowledgeable about those topics, demonstrating during the newspaper interview that he knows the abbreviations for CEO (chief executive office), COO (chief operating officer) and the leading candidates for President of the United States – President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump – and their party affiliations (Democratic and

Republican respectively). Isam also enjoys playing soccer with his friends.

"I'm very proud of Isam because he has an interest in many subjects, is competitive in a healthy way, works hard in everything he does – and he's a good kid," said Malik Khorsi, who attended Northeastern University in Boston.

As one would expect from a budding academic superstar, Isam would like to attend one of the nation's most prestigious colleges, putting nearby Harvard at the top of his list.

Isam said he aspires to be a research scientist at



Isam Khorsi, a fifth-grade student at Pioneer Charter School of Science in Everett, had aspirations to be a NASA research scientist.

the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Earning praise from the PCCS administration

Isam's academic excellence has been lauded by leaders of the Pioneer Charter School of Science.

"Isam Khorsi stands as one of our high-performing scholars within our school community," said Dr. Akin Osturk, executive director of the Pioneer Charter School of Science. "Demonstrating high proficiency and resilience, he consistently rises to meet the challenges presented

to him in the fifth-grade curriculum. His ability to navigate demanding academic tasks with ease and grace is commendable, earning him a well-deserved position on the honor roll. At PCSS, we take immense pride in nurturing such bright talents, and Isam's achievements serve as a testament to the unwavering commitment to academic excellence that permeates our institution. We are honored to have Isam as a member of our school family and eagerly anticipate witnessing his continued growth and success."

Sod experts offer spring lawn care tips

By Valerie Smith of Sod Solutions

With the first day of spring approaching, warmer weather signals plants to come out of dormancy and start flourishing again. The time for spring lawn care tips is right around the corner! Even if your lawn and garden never went fully dormant, you can still expect your home landscape to begin thriving with warmer temperatures.

Pretty soon, your lawn and garden will be full of color and activity again! If you have a warm season lawn, your turfgrass will come out of dormancy and if you have a cool season lawn, snow in your area will start to melt and you'll enjoy a greener environment.

1. Begin Mowing Your Lawn at the Proper Height Again

The timing for which the first mow of the spring for your mature, established turfgrass widely varies depending on the area you live in. Grasses come out of dormancy differently depending on the environment and temperatures your area encounters.

For example, if you live in South Florida, your grass may have never entered dormancy at all during the winter. Many homeowners who live in South Florida will mow their lawn every other week during the winter—oftentimes starting in September and resuming a regular, weekly mowing schedule again in mid-March.

Generally speaking, however, mid-March is about the time for you to begin your regimen for spring green-up and mowing. It's important to note that the first mow of the spring shouldn't take place while warm season grass is dormant.

Mowing heights vary for each grass type, but you should never remove more than a third of the leaf blade of any grass type. If you mow less than this, you may risk scalping the grass.

Lastly, a good tip for spring is to make sure your lawn mower blades are sharpened so that the mower blades neatly slice through the grass in place of ripping them. If the grass blades aren't cut

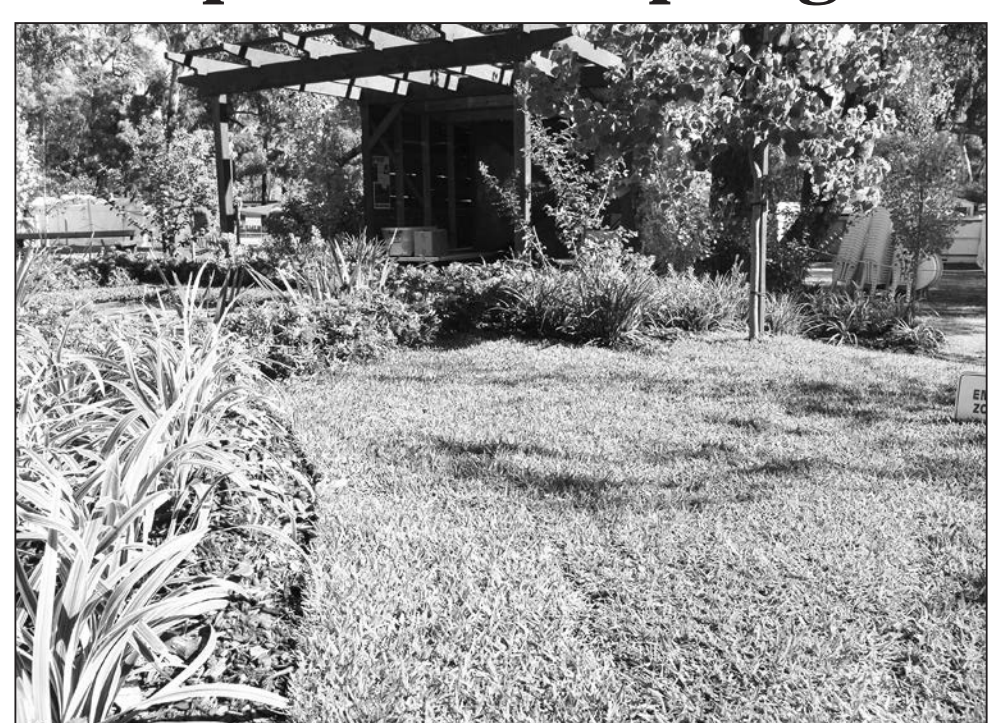


PHOTO COURTESY SOD SOLUTIONS

The timing for which the first mow of the spring for your mature, established turfgrass widely varies depending on the area you live in.

neatly, the mower is ripping them and opens the grass up to the possibility of disease.

Performing regular maintenance on your mower is good practice for the end of the mowing season or before spring takes place.

2. Start Your Lawn Off Right with the Appropriate Spring Fertilizer This Year

Spring is one of the most important times of the year to use fertilizer. Warm season grasses are coming out of dormancy, so you will want to promote healthy roots and the return of green leaf blades.

Be careful when making your first fertilizer application of the year though—a lot of homeowners see their grass green up and immediately pull out the fertilizer and lawn mower. We advise that you typically wait until the last frost has hit.

If you fertilize your lawn and another frost hits, your grass will go right back into dormancy, and you'll have a harder time getting it to green up again. This does more harm than good.

With that being said, the date of the last frost varies from location to location. In the Florida Panhandle, for example, grass doesn't ever go truly dormant and reaches its full green-up in early February (depending on how cold the winter was).

Even then, you won't

want to apply fertilizer until after Easter once the last frost has passed.

Sod University recommends two different options for spring fertilization: Lawnifi® Foundation, a slow-release granular option that comes in 25 lb. bags and lasts for three months, and our Lawnifi Spring Fertilizer Box, a liquid fertilizer program that includes three bottles of liquid fertilizer that can be applied monthly with a hose-end sprayer.

Each option covers 5,000 sq. ft. Our patented nano-fertilizers with Catalyst Technology™ give your lawn the jump-start it needs to emerge from dormancy, green up fast and thrive throughout the spring months.

Check out Why Use Lawnifi Fertilizer? for more information about Lawnifi.

Next, it is important to mention that if you have a warm season lawn, you may start to notice spots of brown or straw-like grass while the rest of your lawn comes out of dormancy. This is usually a sign of disease.

You do not want to apply fertilizer to a lawn with disease as the nitrogen in the fertilizer will feed the disease and promote its growth.

Apply a systemic fungicide first and then wait several weeks before following with a fertilizer application.

3. Set Up a Spring

Irrigation Schedule

Dormant, warm season turfgrass doesn't need much water until the active growing season kicks in and your grass starts to green up. If you have a dormant, warm season lawn, it is not dead—it's just "sleeping".

Although dormant grass requires much less water than it would while it is actively growing, it will still need water. Once your grass starts to green up from winter dormancy, you should resume watering your lawn with about 1 inch of water per week including rainfall.

If you aren't sure how to measure how much water your lawn is receiving, an irrigation audit may be beneficial to you. Irrigation audits provide measurable information about how much water each area of your lawn is receiving within a given amount of time.

If you're a homeowner who lives far enough south and your warm season grass doesn't go dormant during the winter, you may continue to regularly water your lawn in the winter.

However, if you live in South Florida, for example, you may turn your irrigation off completely during the winter and during the months of June–August when it rains a lot.

The atmosphere in South Florida isn't usually evaporating much water and the grass isn't using

it much during the winter, so frequent irrigation isn't needed.

The next few tips in this article discuss spring lawn treatment with fungicides, herbicides or insecticides. If any of these control products or fertilizers are granular, you will need to water the product in so that your lawn absorbs it.

When watering granular products in, you will already be watering your lawn with the appropriate amount of water during the week of application.

The same can be said with any liquid products as they are either products that attach to the end of your garden hose or require tank mixing with water.

Above all, read and follow label instructions thoroughly before watering any products in.

4. Control Weeds with a Pre- or Post-Emergent Herbicide

Pre-emergents should be applied during the spring when ground temperatures reach about 55 degrees Fahrenheit. A pre-emergent herbicide functions to prevent weeds from emerging from the surface of the soil, as its name suggests.

The exact dates for these applications differ depending on the area you live in, but generally speaking, pre-emergents should be applied between the beginning and middle of March in the spring.

Apply post-emergent herbicides throughout the spring as needed to control summer annual and perennial broadleaf weeds like crabgrass, goosegrass, sandspurs, dallisgrass, dandelion, chickweed, white clover, knotweed, spurge, dollarweed, dove-weed and lespedeza.

5. Watch Out for Insects That May Begin Coming Out

If your lawn has suffered from insect damage around this time in the past, it is a good idea to apply a broad spectrum insecticide at this time to prevent them from coming back again.

If the insecticide is a granular product, be sure to water it in so that it soaks into your soil. On the other hand, if it's a liquid product, you will either need to

attach it to the end of your garden hose or tank mix it.

Some of the most common of insects in the springtime are white grub worms, chinch bugs, sod webworms and billbugs. White grub worms can be found in most turfgrasses at this time while chinch bugs are more likely to be spotted in St. Augustine grass, sod webworms in bermuda grass and billbugs in zoysia grass.

Sod webworms are typically more of a summer or fall pest, however, they can still cause a significant and costly nuisance to lawns located throughout the Southern regions of the U.S. during the spring season.

6. Prevent Disease as Temperatures Begin to Warm Up

As previously mentioned, if you have a warm season lawn, circular brown or yellow spots, also known as spring dead spot, may start to show up as it comes out of dormancy.

Other potential disease outbreaks include brown patch and gray leaf spot.

If you notice any disease outbreaks, you may need to make applications of a systemic fungicide. Even if you don't have disease in your lawn, it's still good practice to apply it preventively to keep disease from taking over—especially if you've had disease in the past around this time.

Systemic fungicide applications should take place before you apply any spring fertilizer. If you have fungus in your lawn, the nitrogen found in fertilizers oftentimes feeds it and helps it spread. Apply a systemic fungicide and wait a few weeks before applying any fertilizer.

Read product labels thoroughly.

There are a few other optional things that can be done to help your lawn thrive in the spring.

Before the onset of summer heat, lawn patchwork and light top dressing with a sand and topsoil mix is a great way to recover any weak areas. Plugs can be purchased to fill in areas of the lawn with bare spots.

Aerating your lawn is also an ideal way to help

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Zion Church Ministries via livestream on Facebook and YouTube.

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

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 at 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
Call 6173895660

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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Glendale Christian Lighthouse Church
701 Broadway, 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 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.

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 sea-

son of hope, renewal and new beginnings.

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

Tips // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

deliver nutrients and really break up compacted soils. We typically recommend doing this once every couple of years. If you notice thatch that is thicker than 1/2 inch, dethatch in late May.

Spring maintenance tips somewhat differ from maintenance practices that take place during the rest of the year because the weather is starting to warm up and everything starts to turn green again.

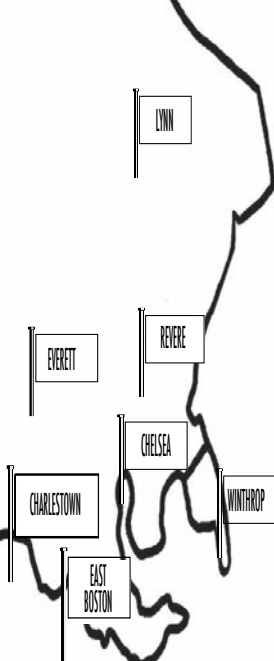
Although cool season grass doesn't usually go dormant during the win-

ters, snow in a lot of the areas up north starts to melt and your lawn will receive more sunlight. It is important to partake in spring maintenance so that you can set your lawn up for success for the rest of the year.

Want to learn more about achieving a great lawn? Check out more Sod University tips and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

This article was written by Sod Solutions Content Strategist, Valerie Smith.

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A LOOK AT EXCELLENCE IN THE EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Award-winning Everett High actor Gia Price, who played the role of El Coyote in the Theatre Company's production of "Augusta and Noble."



A portion of the "Augusta and Noble" set, which received judge's awards throughout the three rounds of the 2024 METG Drama Festival.

Everett High School Education Pathway

First-Ever Mentoring Day a Huge Success

Everett High School (EHS) received three awards following its performance of "Augusta and Noble" in the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild (METG) 2024 Drama Festival Finals. Recognized for their excellence in the various aspects of a theatrical production were:

- **Gia Price: Excellence in Acting Award for the role of El Coyote**
- **Isabella Vaz, Cecilia Troches Cruz, Anne Souza, Na'Tayeja Robinson, and Milton Garcia Gonzalez: Technical Excellence in Costume Design**
- **Milton Garcia Gonzalez, Keyly Ortega, Ace Donnelly, and Sarah Jasmin: Technical Excellence in Scenic Painting**

EHS was one of 14 schools to perform in the three-day festival, held from March 21-23, 2024, at the Back Bay Events Center in Boston. It was Everett's first appearance in the METG finals in several decades, and it

concluded one of the most successful festival runs in the history of the EHS theatre program.

"Participating in the Festival Finals is a memory of a lifetime, one our students and teachers made the absolute most of," said Superintendent William Hart. "They performed with confidence and style and showed their peers and theater educators from around the Commonwealth why they belong on the biggest stage, under the brightest lights."

The production of "Augusta and Noble" was directed by the faculty-led team of Artistic Director Evan DeMarzo, Scenic Director Briana Pierce, Costume Director Josephine Dougan, Theatrical Advisor Britt Mitchell, and Scenic Construction Advisor Eric Pierce.

In a description of the performance of "Augusta and Noble" prepared by members of the other state finalists, the EHS actors and crew were praised for "featuring deep emotions

and staying true to character and family connections" and for its "use of a detailed and versatile set to create a beautiful portrayal of folklore."

EHS's cast and crew included: Gabrielle DeGouveia, Gia Price, Eva Pappas, Gianna Rodriguez-Sanchez, Anthony Santizo, Kawanne Martins, Nilabhro Pal, Dannie Foster, Rebecca Louine, Sophia Melo, Ace Donnelly, Cecia Troches Cruz, Milton Garcia Gonzalez, Anne Souza, Jack Whiting, Yasmine Laabadla, Alanna O'Brien, Joao Vitor Demo, Randy Maldonado, Isabella Vaz, Na'Tayeja Robinson, Shane Fitzgibbon, Melodie Ghiraldelli, Apollo Blatt, Keyly Ortega Estrada, and Sarah Jasmin.

While the festival season is over, the EHS Theatre Co. is far from finished. Students and faculty are hard at work on a spring production of "Chicago," set for June 6 and 7, 2024, in the EHS Center for Performing Arts.

Spotlight on Self-Recognition

EHS Holds Latest VOG Awards Ceremony

Everett High School (EHS) held the third of five ceremonies in its year-long Vision of the Graduate (VOG) Recognition Awards program, held on Friday, March 22, 2024, in the EHS Library.

Superintendent William Hart joined Principal Dennis Lynch and Vice Principals James Murphy and John Sutera at the event, which, as always, was organized and hosted by Health and Wellness Coordinator Julie Ann Whitson and English Language Arts Department Chair Ryan McGowan.

Ten (10) EHS students were presented with VOG Recognition Awards for Self-Awareness during a ceremony inside the EHS Library on Friday, March 22, 2024. They were nomi-

inated by one of their teachers for demonstrating "Integrity, Self-Management, Responsibility, Thoughtfulness, and Open-Mindedness."

March's winners, and nominating teachers, are as follows:

- Fernando Arias Garcia (Nominating Teacher: Adrian Curtain)
- Hadassa Benjamin (Dana Lipper)
- Bryan Oajaca Rojop (Amanda Pickowicz)
- Melodie Ghiraldelli (Sarah Simmons)
- Nicole Flores (Anastasia Kolokithas)
- Miguel Silveira (Nhan Bang)
- Christian Zamor (Steven Blake)
- Adam Bousbaa (Carissa Thekaekara)
- Diego Murcia Matute

(Samantha Uga) Na'Tayeja Robinson (Josephine Dougan)

Throughout 2023, EHS participated in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation process. While NEASC's formal decision will be released and shared with the community later this year, the process has already yielded important results. Chief among them was the creation of the VOG, which states: "Everett High School graduates will be: Resilient, Innovative, Self-Aware, Empowered, and Service-Minded."

Earlier VOG reports are included in the Issue 15 (March 5, 2024) and Issue 11 (January 4, 2024)



The March Vision of the Graduate Award recipients.

Making a Statement — at the State Level

EHS Students Participate in Computer Science Event

Students in Mr. Neil Plotnick's cybersecurity class had the chance to exhibit their work during a special showcase at the Massachusetts State House. Held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, the event was hosted by the organization CSforMA, a leader in providing professional development for computer science educators in the Commonwealth.

"It was a great day for everyone, as the students got to showcase their work in our cybersecurity classes and the Computer Science Honor Society," Mr. Plotnick said.

The Everett High

School (EHS) students set up a table and laptops in the Great Hall of Flags, where they showed and talked about their work with Linux (a family of open-source operating systems), Bash (a command processor), and Python (a general-purpose programming language). The students interacted with their peers from around the state, as well as State Senator Sal DiDomenico and State Representative Joseph McGonagle.

Rep. McGonagle brought the EHS contingent to the Grand Staircase, where the official State House photographer

took a group picture of the students and Mr. Plotnick. Sen. DiDomenico is one of the primary sponsors of proposed legislation that would mandate that all Massachusetts high school students take at least once computer science class to graduate.

CSforMA is the Massachusetts Computer Science Education Hub for passionate stakeholders dedicated to ensuring that all K-12 students have access to high-quality computer science coursework. Its priority is to broaden the participation of females, students of color, rural students, and other underserved populations.



State Rep. Joseph McGonagle (left) and State Sen. Sal DiDomenico (right) join Everett High School (EHS) computer science teacher Neil Plotnick and EHS cybersecurity students at the 2024 CSforMA Day at the Massachusetts State House.

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Puerta, Hoover	Lamadzema, Lajla	15 Ferry St #44	\$260,000

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