Everett Independent Neuer Landen Berteile der Neuer Landen Berteile de **Advertising Rep** (781) 485-0588

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

First week at **Encore saw** more than \$100 million wagered

By Seth Daniel

State gaming numbers show that Encore Boston Harbor took in more than \$100 million in wagers for the first seven days that it was open in June, generating \$16.8 million in gross gaming revenues and \$4.2 million in state taxes.

Those figures were just for seven days, and in that time, Encore nearly outperformed MGM Springfield for the entire month – with Springfield generating \$19.9 million in gross gaming revenues in 30 days.

The \$100 million figure includes the \$93.5 million in coin-in revenues from slot machines and the total gross gaming revenues for table games.

Encore and Wynn Resorts said it - being a publicly traded company - could not comment on the revenue figures right now. They said they would comment on them in their next investor call for the entire company.

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC), which tracks and reports the numbers, also did not wish to comment on the first revenue figures.

See ENCORE Page 3

COMMUNITY GROWERS VOLUNTEER DAY



Kaia McNally searched for worms in the garden. Worms, which are natural inhabitants of the garden, keep the plants healthy and growing. It was all part of the Everett Community Growers volunteer day at the Northern Strand garden on Saturday, July 13. See Page 6 for more photos.

After 21 years, Desisto has likely chaired his last ZBA meeting

By Seth Daniel

A change to the City's administrative code and a move to New Hampshire two years ago have brought to an end the 21-year stay of Zoning Board (ZBA) Chair Joe Desisto, as he was informed Monday night that his successor was in the pipeline and he would have to resign when that person is sworn in.

"It's been great helping watch and protect the City of Everett," he said after the meeting, which is likely his last. "I've always done my best. It's been fun and it's been frustrating – pretty much

would describe it. I met a lot of good people...One thing I told the City Council (quoting from others) is we're entering our most trying period and it's a period of success. You have to have control of success. Success is either going to destroy us or make us. Success brings higher real estate values and it bring high rents too. We can't complain because it's success."

Desisto chaired the meeting on Monday night, and after a short agenda that was shortened further due to a lack of members present, the item was brought up about his resignation and the rules chang-

City Clerk Sergio Cornelio explained that the new Administrative Code, no one could serve that doesn't live in Massachusetts. Similarly, no one can serve on the Boards if they don't live in Everett or don't own property in Everett. After living in Everett for 70 years, Desisto said he moved to Portsmouth, NH, two years ago.

Under the new rules, he does not qualify to chair the Board any longer, Cornelio said, and there are no grandfathering provisions.

"Your successor is not yet

See DESISTO Page 2

any adjective you can think of es. Unanimous Decision

Encore delivers a knockout with first boxing show

By Cary Shuman

It didn't take long for Encore Boston Harbor to establish itself as a major player in the New England boxing

A sell-out crowd of 2,300 fans enjoyed an action-packed show Friday night at the recently opened \$2.6 billion resort casino located in Everett. The show, promoted by Murphy's Boxing, drew what is believed to the largest crowd in years for a Boston-area boxing event.

Fans were awed by the ornate, spacious ballroom that was transformed in to a major-league, Las Vegas-style boxing venue. Fans had an unimpeded view of the ring from their seats.

The public address announcing system, lighting, special effects, and four huge, high-definition televisions made it a spectacular sight and sound experience.

The extra touches, like the free photo booth in which fans could pose in different boxing gear and instantly receive a free photo, was welcomed by all who participated in the experience.

Each fighter walked to the



ring to the accompaniment special awards during the of his own personal entry music. Former world champions Tony DeMarco of the North End and Mickey Ward of Lowell were honored with

Press conference, weigh-in kick off the show The press conference and

weigh-in for the fighters was held one day before the show and that, too, was a special experience as everyone knew

See BOXING Page 2



Pool Open

Allied Veterans Memorial Pool gets great reviews

By Seth Daniel

It's finally consistently warm enough this month to hit the pool, and those in Everett who hit the Allied Veterans Pool on Elm Street will have a brand new, \$2 million facility to cool off in.

Commissioner Leo Roy, of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), said the new pool had been under construction all last fall, winter and spring, opening up on June 22 to the public.

"Really this is a two-phase project in Everett," he said. 'We did the first phase last summer and that was the new spray deck...Last fall, we started the work on the new pool and deck reconstruction. The work was extensive on the pool, resurfacing the

deck, completely upgrading the pool and installing shade shelters. A big change to the pool is the zero entry. That's the biggest change because it allows people with physical challenges be able to go into the pool. They don't need to go down steps or go down a ladder. We're excited to have included that in this project because the Baker-Polito Administration is committed to access for everyone."

The pool project was a \$2 million expenditure, and it was combined with the \$500,000 spray deck last year for a \$2.5 million investment in Everett's summer recreation program.

Roy said it shows that the administration is looking to

See POOL Page 3



The new pool includes a zero entry system and new sun shades on the deck.

Lawsuit filed against Encore

By Seth Daniel

York man is accusing Encore Boston Harbor of not following the state's Blackjack rules when it comes to variations on the game – in particular the '6 to 5' variation.

A second piece of that suit alleges that electronic kiosks for redeeming winnings at the casino were withholding change, rounding down to the lowest dollar amount for the payment.

Encore, in a statement, denied the accusations.

And the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) said it is reviewing the allega-

"The MGC is aware of the A class-action lawsuit filed lawsuit and reviewing its con-Monday in Middlesex Superitent to determine next steps," or Court on behalf of a New said MGC Spokesperson Elaine Driscoll.

> Encore Spokesperson Rosie Salisbury said they have followed all of the state's rules for Blackjack and gaming since opening.

"Since opening, Encore Boston Harbor follows the Massachusetts Gaming Commission regulations for blackjack payouts," she said on Monday.

The lawsuit is filed on behalf of A. Richard Schuster of New York as a class action for all betters since opening,

See LAWSUIT Page 2



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Desisto // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

qualified, and you can continue to serve until that person is qualified and sworn in," he said. "When that person has been qualified, I or the mayor will immediately inform you and you will not be able to serve anymore."

Already, one new member has taken the place of Roger Thistle, who was an alternate member and resigned recent-

That new member, Carmine DiBattista (former owner of Bucci's), was sworn in Monday afternoon, but was not yet ready to attend Monday's meeting.

There was no word yet on whom was chosen to replace Desisto, but it was expected that person would be ready before the next meeting on Aug. 5.

Desisto served under three mayors, having been appointed in 1998 under former Mayor David Ragucci. His style was straight-forward and by the book. He was always able to calm many applicants, who frequently find the proceedings to be difficult and nerve-racking – sometimes it is their first interaction with City government.

Sometimes his style was bent on the philosophical, as his parting words about success above indicated. That was especially true over the past few years as the resort casino era has gripped the City and major changes have unfolded. He often talked about the crossroads that Everett was at, and how various projects fit into it.

He presided over meetings that reviewed some of the most transformative projects in Everett – including the Encore Boston Harbor resort, the Batch Yard, the Pioneer Apartments and others.

On Monday, he said he would always be from Everett, whether on the Board or

"Whenever anyone asks me where I'm from, I'm from Everett; I'll always be from Everett," he said.

The effort on the Zoning Board is but one of several changes that are being made by Mayor Carlo DeMaria's office, particularly with the passage of the new Administrative Code.

That Code has eliminated many people on the Boards from qualifying to serve.

The Library Board has been overhauled, as many on that Board did not live in Everett for many years. The same has happened on the Planning Board, where member Nancy Keury – who moved from Everett awhile back - will be serving only until her successor is picked.

Cornelio said it's all part of getting some new faces and fresh ideas on the Boards in the City - something Mayor DeMaria has been speaking about around the city since January.

"The administration is looking to get people to serve on boards," he said. "There are a few open positions. In the coming months, you'll see new faces and those that will continue to serve too. Other might serve on different Boards and Commissions... There is no big push to get rid of anybody, but to find those interested in serving in the

One of the biggest changes comes in the residency/property ownership requirement. For those that serve, and once lived in Everett but have now moved out, they will find that they no longer qualify.

from the dealer's hand and

not using a dealing machine.

"The dealer shall remove

DiDomenico delivers for Everett in state budget

By Seth Daniel

Sen. Sal DiDomenico and his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate recently passed a \$42.8 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2020, after three days of deliberations.

The budget recommends targeted investments to provide access to opportunity and economic vitality across the Commonwealth. As Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate, Sen. DiDomenico was able to secure a number of amendments providing additional funding for his local communities, bringing home resources for the city of Ever-

"After careful deliberation, the Senate has passed a thoughtful budget that both reflects the shared priorities of our chamber and addresses the pressing needs of our communities," said Senator DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. "This budget includes key investments in many of my top priority items that will have a positive and direct impact on Everett, and I am happy to report that many of my amendments providing additional resources for our community were also adopted to the final Senate budget. I would like to thank Senate Ways & Means Chair Michael Rodrigues and Senate President Karen Spilka for all of their great work to craft a budget that will undoubtedly help to move our entire Commonwealth forward."

Funds secured by Senator DiDomenico for the city of Everett include:

•\$500,000 for the hazardous materials response team in the cities of Cambridge, Everett and Boston

•\$75,000 for the Cambridge Health Alliance for increased access to office-based opioid treatment services in the city of Everett

•\$75,000 for music programming for public schools in the city of Everett

•\$50,000 for access to technology for students at the public schools in the city of Everett

•\$100,000 for a grant program for the Museum of Science to operate an engineering curriculum in elementary schools in the cities of Everett and Cambridge

•\$75,000 for the Everett middle school after-school robotics program

•\$6 million increase in Chapter 70 education funding Other budget amendments

filed by Senator DiDomenico include: •\$1 million in new funding to create a pilot program that

seeks to close the SNAP Gap in Massachusetts •new language to ensure high-needs schools continue using a breakfast after the bell model to boost school breakfast participation rates

•\$2 million to establish a grant program for statewide census outreach to support trusted community organizations and grassroots leaders to help reach historically hard-tocount communities

•\$300,000 to Nurtury to help expand their network of family child care providers

•\$250,000 for Operation ABLE, the only agency in Massachusetts committed solely to the employment needs of mature workers (those 45 years and older)

•\$200,000 for the 1199 SEIU Training and Upgrading Fund to help increase the quality of consumer, patient and resident care.

The Senate's budget also strengthens Massachusetts' commitment to being a national leader in ensuring children of all backgrounds have access to greater educational opportunities. Consistent with the Senate's long-standing commitment to supporting increased investments in education, this budget makes a significant down payment on the work of the Foundation Budget Review Commission (FBRC), and funds Chapter 70 at its highest level ever: \$5.176B, an increase of \$268.4M over FY 2019.

The city of Everett will receive over \$75 million in Chapter 70 education funding, a \$6 million increase over the previous fiscal year.

"With this budget, we are making it clear that we are serious about securing more funding for our K-12 public schools and reforming our state's outdated education funding formula," said DiDomenico. "This has been- and continues to be- my top education priority, and I am proud that my district will receive the additional funds that they deserve in the Senate budget.'

Other top priority items for Senator DiDomenico that were included in the Fiscal Year 2019 Senate Budget and will benefit Everett residents are:

•\$4.8 million for the state's pediatric palliative care network- a \$1M increase over FY19- to ensure there is no wait list for these critical services so children and their families have the extra care and support that they need;

•\$350 per child clothing allowance to help low-income families meet their basic needs

•\$12 million for grants to the Head Start program to maintain access to early education services for low-income families

•\$6.5 million for Youth-At-Risk Matching grants, including support for YWCAs, YM- CAs and Boys & Girls Clubs

The Senate's budget also invests in programs and policies to educate, train, and prepare Massachusetts workers in order to provide them with opportunities to grow and succeed. Opportunity investments include:

•\$38.5 million for adult basic education services to improve access to skills and tools necessary to join the workforce

•\$15.6 million for summer jobs and work-readiness training for at-risk youth, after adding \$1.2M on the floor

•\$7 million for the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund to connect unemployed and under-employed workers with higher paying jobs

The Senate's budget maintains the Senate's commitment to increasing access to quality, affordable housing, investing in low-income housing and homelessness services and supports. Housing investments include:

•\$178.7 million for Emergency Assistance Family Shel-

•\$110 million for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)

•\$48.3 million for assistance for homeless individuals

•\$30.8 million for the HomeBASE diversion and rapid re-housing programs

•\$21 million for Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT), including \$3M to continue expanding eligibility for individuals in need, including persons with disabilities, seniors, unaccompanied youth

•\$5 million for housing and supportive services for unaccompanied homeless youth

The FY 2020 budget furthers regional equity and supports cities and towns by directing significant resources to local and regional aid. Local investments include:

•\$1.129 billion for unrestricted general government aid to support community investments in education, health care, public safety and roads and bridges

•\$18 million for the Massachusetts Cultural Council to support local arts, culture and creative economy initiatives

•\$18.1 million for local ouncils on Aging to strengthen programs and services in senior centers in communities across the state

•\$11 million for Shannon Grants, which are distributed to municipalities for youth gang violence prevention

A Conference Committee will now convene to reconcile the differences between the Senate budget and the version passed by the House of Representatives in April. Fiscal Year 2020 begins on July 1, 2019.

Lawsuit // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and it delves into the ins and outs of Blackjack and all of its variations. Schuster allegedly visited the casino and played on July 11.

Specifically, the suit claims there have been problems with how the '6 to 5' variation of the game has been run at Encore. The '6 to 5' statistically can benefit the house, and it has been the primary Blackjack game offered on most occasions in the gaming floor of Encore, with the standard '3 to 2' game sometimes closed off and located at the back of the gaming floor.

The '6 to 5' term refers to the odds for the payout on a Blackjack, so that a \$100 winning bet pays \$120.

Part of Schuster's suit indicates that the casino is only paying out the '6 to 5' odds on a Blackjack, and should be paying out '3 to 2' odds according to the state law governing the game.

That law is not for the novice, and will require a careful review by experts at the

However, the rules do state odds that must be paid. Most wagers in the game are to be paid out at a 1-to-1 ratio. The payouts change, however, for a Blackjack – which is defined as "an ace and any card having a point value of 10 dealt as the initial two cards to a player or a dealer except that this shall not include an ace and a ten point value card dealt to a player who has split pairs."

That payout is what is at odds.

The MGC rules for Blackjack read that a Blackjack played at a '6 to 5' can pay out

"All winning wagers... shall be paid at odds of 1 to 1 with the exception of standard blackjack which shall be paid at odds of 3 to 2, or at odds of 6 to 5 for the 6 to 5 blackjack variation," read the regulations.

Also at stake is the numbers of decks of cards used in games of '6 to 5.' It is alleged the casino was using more than two decks, which some say is the standard for that game. However, the rules at the MGC are not entirely clear, stating that a minimum of one or two decks must be used. Nothing seems to state that there is a maximum number of decks for that variation.

"Notwithstanding the foregoing, the minimum number of decks used to play blackjack shall be...one or two, if the 6 to 5 blackjack variation is offered," read the regula-

However, in a totally different subsection regarding how to play '6 to 5' Blackiack, there seems to be an expectation that no more than two decks would be used and that they have to be dealt

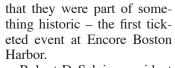
the shuffled deck or decks from the automated shuffling device, and shall place the single deck or two stacked decks of cards in either hand," read the state rules. "Once the dealer has chosen the hand in which he or she will hold the cards, the dealer shall use that hand whenever holding the cards during that round of play. The cards held by the dealer shall at all times be kept in front of the dealer and over the table inventory container."

There are also rules in that section about whether the cards in that variation are to be dealt up or facedown. The lawsuit does challenge that practice of how the game is dealt as well.

Much of the allegations are very detailed, and will require careful review by both a judge and the MGC. What is particularly at stake, it would appear, is whether or not the state's rules conform to the standards of such games of chance in other parts of the country and world.

The MGC did not say if there were other such complaints about the Blackjack rules in the Springfield MGM casino – the only other venue in the state where Blackjack is

Boxing // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Robert DeSalvio, president of Encore Boston Harbor, personally welcomed the boxing community and Murphy's Boxing to the five-star resort.

"Good afternoon, everyone, welcome to Encore Boston Harbor," began DeSalvio. "On behalf of the over 5,000 team members that have joined us here, as you know, we are a new facility and one of our main goals is that we could present a very diverse lineup of entertainment options and a sporting events for our guests that visit the prop-

"I can't tell you how pleased we are to have Ken Casey and Murphy's Boxing here for our first championship boxing event," continued DeSalvio. "We feel this is a great way to kick off this new venue."

DeSalvio's appearance and welcoming remarks were much appreciated by the box-

"This is awesome," said main event fighter Greg Vendetti of Stoneham. "I'm honored to be part of the first show [at Encore]. Everyone has been really nice.'

Vendetti would go on to win a unanimous decision over Michael Anderson and capture the IBA Junior Middleweight World Championship. Interestingly, Vendetti was a linebacker for the Northeast Regional Vocational High School (Wakefield) football team.

Ken Casey, frontman for the Dropkick Murphys and promoter, also spoke at the press conference.

"This [Encore] is amazing and we're honored to the first ticketed event, that is exciting stuff, that's history right there," said Casey. "We have big plans to bring amazing fights to this casino and hopefully some more world title fights."

Casey also thanked Encore for its hospitality.

how great Bob [DeSalvio] and his staff have treated us – it's a first-class venue all around. The set-up [in the boxing venue] is pretty awesome."

Everett fans join

large crowd at the show Boxing fans from Everett joined fans across New England at the show.

City Councillor Michael Marchese, a three-sport athlete at Everett High School who played football for Moody Sarno, said it was exciting to see Everett residents past and present, at the show. "This is a fantastic venue

and there's life back in Everett," said Marchese. "It's good to see people from Everett here and plenty of faces coming back to Everett. The boxing has been outstanding and I look forward to being back here in August for the next event."

cruiserweight Former champion Richie "The Mountain" LaMontagne of Everett drew a warm reception when "I can't say enough about he was introduced in the ring.

"I'm so proud of Everett -I love this venue for boxing," said LaMontagne. "It's beautiful here. Encore has done a great job. This is great for our city and New England boxing. Also seen in the crowd was

former Everett High tennis star Eric Glassoff, who is now a successful real estate agent. "I can't believe we're in

Everett, it feels like we're in Las Vegas," said Glassoff.

Winthrop School Committee member Tino Capobianco was also on hand for Encore's first-ever show.

"The show has been great," said Capobianco. "There was no traffic getting here. I took the ferry from downtown. Everyone here is having a great time. New England has a great history with boxing with Rocky Marciano, Mickey Ward, Marvin Hagler, and Johnny Ruiz and it's great to see Encore carrying on that tradition."

Murphy's Boxing will hold its next boxing show at Encore on Aug. 23.



'Larry and Magic' bring exciting touch to new Encore Boston Harbor ad campaign

By Seth Daniel

It took a trip to Scott Moore's brother's couch on Cape Cod during Game 6 of the Boston Bruins Stanley Cup finals for the Wynn Resorts chief marketing officer to get the idea to include Larry Bird and Magic Johnson together in Encore Boston Harbor's newest - and most iconic – advertisement to date.

Moore said it was both a highlight and lowlight of his marketing career when he and his brother settled on the idea, and he took it back to his team and created a commercial that has the entire Boston and Los Angeles markets buzzing with excitement and nostalgia.

"We were trying to find a celebrity spot in our campaign that would appeal to the Los Angeles and Boston markets, so I was asking around about who liked the Wynn brand," said Moore. "It turned out Magic Johnson likes Wynn. We thought it would be great if Magic was part of the Los Angeles piece of the spot. Magic came first. We were working on how to pull Magic in magically. So we were talking with his team and thinking about Boston, too.

"Then I went to my brother's house in Brewster where I grew up for his son's graduation," he continued. "We were huge Celtics fans when Larry and Magic were rivals. So, while we were sitting there watching Game 6 of the Bruins finals, my brother turned and said, 'Why don't you just put Larry Bird in your spot? That seems simple.' He runs an antique shop on the Cape. I was speechless. It was both a highlight and lowlight in my marketing career. I couldn't believe I hadn't thought of it. My brother was like, 'Dude, it's got to be Larry Bird.""

Upon leaving Brewster, Moore said he had a note in huge letters that read, 'Call Larry Bird.

Though he didn't know how to get ahold of Larry Bird or if Bird would even consent to being in the resort casino's advertisement for Boston, Moore said he was convinced he had to give it every effort.

After Magic Johnson's people reached out to Larry Bird's



A new advertisement for the Encore Boston Harbor and Encore Las Vegas properties is highlighted by celebrity cameos by Larry Bird and Magic Johnson – two iconic former rivals seen in the commercial riding the Encore elevator and emerging on the Boston gaming floor. The spots are running in Boston and Los Angeles right now.

team, there was a good re- gaming materials for Vegas sponse, and with a little time, things were ironed out and it

"It was pretty serendipitous to have Larry and Magic in it because we had wanted to do a celebrity cameo in our spot but couldn't think of the right ones," he said. "Larry and Magic were not the focus of the advertisement. We had a story to tell and we did it by highlighting things that were absolutely appropriate...That advertisement works whether you have Magic or Larry in there or not. It tells our story. It's just much better told with Magic and Larry."

The spot is currently appearing in Boston, and just started in Los Angeles – which is a major advertising market for the Las Vegas properties. The commercial is part of the 'A World Above' theme and highlights the elevator imagery that has been part of most of the Encore opening ads since May. This time, the elevator is going around the world seemingly collecting things for the Encore Boston

It stops at a field of flowers likely in South America; ry and Magic. It brought me then heads to an art auction right back to being a middle in Paris; brings in the musical school basketball player on

and food from Sinatra's into the elevator as well.

Towards the end, suddenly Larry and Magic appear on the elevator, and seconds later the doors open and they come out together on the gaming floor. It was a rare moment seeing them together, and Moore said it also coincided with the 40th anniversary of the beginning of their rivalry in 1979. Plus, it was a perfect blend of two iconic sports celebrities that are both historically revered and hated in either market.

It also fulfills the purpose of uniting both Encores - bringing west and east together, which was another purpose of the advertising spots, he said.

"Anyone who was around and alive and tied into these players understands the dynamic because it brings about a deeper connection (to the places)," he said. "It's not just a celebrity cameo or spot. There's meaning, and because these two are true legends, it resonates fast and quick...It's reminiscent and ties the property to these places in a classy way. That's what I think people see when they see Lar-

Encore // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mayor Carlo DeMaria said the numbers showed that the resort is attracting high-end customers and tourists.

"I am extremely pleased to see the strong results of the first week of operation of the Encore Resort," said DeMaria. "This shows the resort is attracting the type of clientele and international tourists we had hoped would come to Everett and knew the quality and luxury of this resort is second to none. My hope is that more and more visitors will be drawn to Everett by our growing entertainment and hospitality industries."

Councilor Michael Mc-Laughlin, whose ward includes the Encore, said to see such numbers in seven days is impressive.

"I am very pleased to see such strong numbers coming out of Encore in just seven days," he said. "I have always said that this project was about generating tax dollars, jobs and improvements in infrastructure and putting our city back on the map. It has proven over the last month that those thoughts have come to fruition in a great way. The fact that this one development has already added \$4-plus million in state taxes is a significant improvement that will only get better."

The numbers dwarf those put up in the first eight days at MGM Springfield last August. In its first eight days last REVENUE REPORT JUNE 2019 **GROSS GAMING REVENUE TAXES** ●A7 SLOTS \$19,954,469.30 \$4,988,617.33 SLOTS \$4,197,485.97 \$16,789,943.88 SLOTS \$13,542,525.14 TOTAL \$13,542,525.14 \$15,821,940.62

August, the Springfield casino saw \$74.7 million waged (which includes slot coin-in numbers plus the total table gross gaming revenues).

In that same period, MGM reported \$9.45 million in gross gaming revenues, and \$2.36 million in state taxes. That is compared to Encore's \$16.8 million in gross gaming revenues over seven - not eight days.

The slot payout for Encore in June was 90.25 percent, and the casino held 9.75 percent. That is comparable to the state's other properties, with Springfield at 91.59 percent in June, with a hold of 8.41 per-

In its first days of opening, MGM Springfield's slot payout was lower, at 89.88 percent.

Encore's slot gross gaming revenues for the six days in June were \$9.118 million.

While the numbers are good for the state tax coffers, and a great gauge for Everett to see how gaming is unfolding - none of those dollars come to the City directly. That's because Everett's host community agreement – unlike other host communities – is not tied to gross gaming revenues, but rather real estate taxes.

One of the most anticipated numbers yet to come will be the state and local meals taxes and the hotel excise taxes.

Those will be great indicators of how the non-gaming businesses are doing - with meals taxes showing how restaurants are performing, and hotel excise taxes giving an indicator of how full the rooms are each month.

Sources told the Independent that, at first glance on the meals taxes starting to come in, it appears the restaurants are doing quite well. However, official numbers have yet to come out.

Those taxes are collected from the resort by the state Department of Revenue and then distributed to Everett.

Month	Coin In	Slot GGR	Slot Hold %	Slot Payout %	Table GGR	Total Slot and Table GGR	Total (25%) in collected state taxes
June 23-30 2019	\$93,503,071.70	\$9,118,170.27	9.75%	90.25%	\$7,671,773.61	\$16,789,943.88	\$4,197,485.97
TOTAL	\$93,503,071.70	\$9,118,170.27			\$7,671,773.61	\$16,789,943.88	\$4,197,485.97



Pool // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

upgrade summer activities in the urban areas, not just in the far-flung campgrounds in western Massachusetts.

"The important thing is the administration is committed to these investments to create resources and opportunities in our urban areas," he said. "We understand that a lot of people in Everett or the region are not going to go to Lake Winnipesaukee or Cape Cod for the summer. The Allied Veterans Pool is their summer and that's why it's so important. The recreational facilities in underserved areas are so important to the quality of life."

The Allied Veterans Pool was showing its age, and while heavily used, it had leaks and paint often was peeling off of the bottom. The work essentially dug out the old pool and created a brand new structure in the same footprint. Crews could be seen last fall and this spring building new walls and creating a new design of the space. The deck was also resurfaced for better traction, and new shade structures were placed along the edges to help folks cool off when out of the pool.

"We're really happy with the pool and the spray deck and we know it will be happily used by the residents of Everett and the region," Roy

Meanwhile, this week, Gov. Charlie Baker announced that the Everett pool will be part of the Summer Nights extended hours again this year.

The Summer Nights Initia-

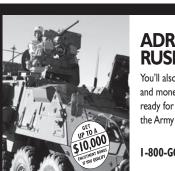


Lifeguard Odalitz Maldonado, Assistant Manager Clem Dupre, and Lifeguard Philippe Souza at the new Allied Veterans Memorial Pool last Thursday. The new pool was built with a \$2 million investment and opened June 22.

tive will aextend the operating hours (Thursdays in July until 7:45 p.m.; and, Thursday in August until 7:30 p.m.) through Aug.15.

"Our administration launched this program in 2015 to provide young people across the Commonwealth with the chance to participate in recreational and education-

al activities, and we're proud to kick-off another summer," said Gov. Baker. "The goal of Summer Nights is to provide safe, inclusive and fun events for kids in dozens of communities to enjoy our parks and pools and we are grateful for the organizations who participate in this program.'



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Everett

Independent

President: Stephen Quigley

Editor in Chief: Cary Shuman

YES, DRUGS ARE BAD, BUT ALCOHOL IS STILL THE WORST

We've all become aware of the opioid epidemic that has spread throughout the country in recent years and that has been responsible for about 60,000 premature deaths annually in the United States.

The dangerous and deadly drug fentanyl, which often is laced into heroin, chiefly has been responsible for the rise in opioid overdoses.

However, we should not lose sight of the fact that alcohol abuse still rates as the number one health problem in the country, as it has for decades.

Here are a few statistics:

It is estimated that excessive drinking is responsible for 88,000 deaths per year in the United States, about one in 10 deaths among working-age adults. The cost in 2010 was almost \$250 billion.

And drinking is a serious problem among adolescents. More than nine percent of those 12 to 17 years drink alcohol, and almost five percent engaged in binge drinking in the last month. Drinking in the teen years makes a person five times more likely to become an alcoholic than if they had waited to take their first drink after the age of 21.

For men, risky drinking is more than four drinks on any day or more than 14 drinks in any week, according to the National Institute for Alcohol Abuse. And for women, it's more than three drinks on any day or more than seven drinks in any week. (The institute defines a drink as 12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine, or 1.5 ounces of spirits.)

Among people aged 15 to 49, alcohol use is the single most common risk factor for death and disability. In 2016, alcohol accounted for 6.8 percent of male and 2.2 percent of female deaths.

Finally, alcoholic beverages are classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as a Group 1 carcinogen (carcinogenic to humans) -- the same category as asbestos -- with 3.6 percent of all cancer cases and 3.5 percent of cancer deaths worldwide being attributable to consumption of alcohol.

So here are a few ways to ensure that neither we nor our friends and loved ones become one of those statistics this summer:

- 1) If you are planning on going out for a night, leave the car at home and have your cell phone programmed to call an Uber. Drunk-driving lawyers say their business is way down thanks to Uber use by millennials -- so be smart and plan ahead while you're still sober and before you leave your house!
- 2) Friends don't let friends drive drunk -- take their keys and drive them home yourself or get them an Uber.
- 3) Do not drink and captain a boat -- it IS against the law (just like drinking and driving a car) -- and the risks to your passengers and other boaters on the water are huge if you are captaining under the influence.

Your opinions, please

The Everett Independent welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Our fax number is

781-485-1403.

Letters may also be e-mailed to **editor@everettindependent.com**.

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

Everett Independent

Published by the Independent Newspaper Group

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Independent Forum



GUEST OP-ED

How did Everett do it? They got to work on transportation

By Stacy Thompson

"How did Everett do it?" I get this question frequently from city agencies and advocates across the country. Maybe they saw a piece in CityLab or a LivableStreets tweet celebrating the installation of a new bus lane or the launch of a new bike share system. They all want to know how a city they've never heard of is undergoing one of the most impressive transportation transformations in the country.

What is so striking to outsiders isn't necessarily the projects - its the sheer pace of change. Cities ten times the size of Everett are struggling to do what Everett has done in a notably short amount of time

Often people want technical answers. "How long is the bus lane?" or "how many

bikeshare stations did they add?" The truth is, while the details matter, I tell them Everett is successful because city leadership fully and passionately supports these changes. And those leaders have empowered a creative and determined staff to do everything possible to give the people of Everett a world-class transportation system.

This hasn't always been easy. City leaders didn't bend to predictions of traffic Armageddon upon the opening of the Encore Casino or naysayers who didn't believe buses and bikes could be a viable alternative to driving. Instead, they got to work.

The results are striking. In a few short years Everett has added miles of dedicated bus and bike infrastructure, launched not one, but two bike share systems and is implementing complete

street projects across the city. They've worked closely with Encore to encourage employees and guests to leave their cars at home and walk, bike, take transit or water shuttles instead. The traffic Armageddon never did materialize, but a steady stream of cyclists have been spotted on the new Northern Strand Trail connection and on protected bike lanes leading in and out of the city. The Encore shuttles are filled to the brim, and MBTA bus ridership is up 5 percent in the last two years, bucking trends of decline elsewhere around Boston.

Everett could take a break and claim victory.

Instead they are pushing ahead with bolder and more ambitious projects. The city is currently working with partners to build a dedicated bike and pedestrian bridge over the Mystic River, completing

the last and most difficult link in a 12 mile trail system between Boston and the North Shore. They also have plans to expand their dedicated bus lane system, constructing a new dedicated bus lane on the lower section of Broadway in two years, with a goal of having Gold Standard Bus Rapid Transit from Everett to Boston in five years.

I am confident Everett will achieve these goals and that I will be fielding calls for years to come. When they ask, "How did Everett do it?", I'll say anyone can do it. All you need is a little red paint, some orange cones, an unrelenting commitment to prioritizing people over vehicles, and a belief that everyone deserves great transportation.

Stacy Thompson, executive director, LivableStreets Alli-

DiDomenico urges action on high quality pre-K

Sen. Sal DiDomenico recently testified before the Joint Committee on Education in support of his bill, S.265, An Act ensuring high-quality pre-kindergarten education. This legislation would expand preschool, using grants from the state, beginning with highneeds communities that are ready with a state-approved expansion plan.

"Across Massachusetts, people are ready for more preschool," said DiDomenico in his testimony before the Committee. "I have heard from countless parents who want this learning opportunity for their children, but often can't afford it or are on waiting lists. Local communities, led by community-based programs, school districts, and mayors, have solid plans for preschool expansion and are waiting for new public dollars to begin implementation. That is why I filed this legislation, and I am confident this bill is an important next step towards improving and expanding high quality early

education for our kids"

Pre-kindergarten education has been proven to have significant short- and long-term impacts on children's educational, social, and health outcomes. However, about 40 percent of 3- and 4-year-olds in Massachusetts do not



Sen. Sal DiDomenico testifies before the Joint Committee on Education

attend preschool. For those children who are enrolled in pre-K, many attend schools with high student-to-teacher ratios, low family engagement, and inadequate teacher qualifications. These children enter kindergarten at a disadvantage as compared to their peers who receive high-quality pre-kindergarten education. These initial setbacks in intellectual, social, and emotional development affect children

throughout their lives, as they regularly underperform in school and afterwards.

This legislation filed by Sen. DiDomenico would target underperforming school districts, providing 3- and 4-year-olds in those neighborhoods with pre-K education administered by qualified teachers in programs following federal Preschool Expansion Grant quality standards. Since his election to the Mas-

sachusetts Senate in 2010, fighting to provide kids in the Commonwealth with access to high quality early education has been one of Sen. DiDomenico's highest legislative priorities. This bill has remained a key component of the Senator's legislative agenda and is one of his top early education policy items this legislative session.

Bluebikes workshop part of City's larger cycling vision

By Laura Plummer

Bluebikes will host a free workshop in Everett on Thursday, July 25, with the goal of educating residents about how to use the Bluebikes bikeshare system and how to safely and comfortably navigate city cycling.

The class will include drills led by an instructor, followed by a short bike ride along the Northern Strand Community Trail. This safety course is part of the contractual obligations of Bluebikes for operating in the City of Everett. As of right now, it is the only one scheduled, though there is the possibility of others in the future.

The event comes after a call

for more emphasis on bike vehicle accidents. Cycling adsafety from City Councilor Fred Capone, and is one part of the City's larger initiative to build a robust biking culture in Everett. Other components include additional bike lanes, improvements to bike trails, new road safety technologies and educating the public about biking regulations through ECTV and social media.

The administration acknowledges that bicycle safety is not only about educating cyclists, but also about educating drivers about how to keep cyclists safe.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, hundreds of cyclists die every year in motor vocates say drivers can reduce those deaths by understanding what is expected of them on

Cities around the world are taking different approaches to addressing this issue. In an initiative called Share the Road, New Zealand requires bus

so that drivers can learn to appreciate what it's like to cycle around heavy vehicles. This comes amid concerns that bus drivers were cutting off cyclists and generally behaving aggressively.

Cities have also been able to reduce cycling fatalities

drivers to take cycling classes with conscientious road design choices. According to a recent 12-city study in the Journal of Transport and Health, roads with protected or separated bike lanes make both cycling and driving safer. Fatal crash rates dropped by 44 percent in cities with the most separated bike lanes,

marked by vertical barriers, landscaping or differences in elevation.

The Bluebikes workshop will take place from 6-7:30 p.m. at the parking lot off Airforce Road and Tremont Street. Register at eventbrite. com/e/learn-to-bluebike-tickets-65174408410.

CHURCH News

Grace Episcopal Church

News and Notes

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church is open & welcoming to all.

There are 3 services on Sundays: 10am English, 1pm South Sudanese (Dinka) and 3pm Haitian Creole. We have Sunday school during each service in the Children's Room. Coffee Hour starts after the 10am service in the

Sunday 10:30 AM Worship

Wednesday hour of Pow-

er, worship, prayer and Bible

Study. We are studying about

Come join us in prayer ev-

Saturday, 12-3, Women's

Fellowship. Join our sisters

in worship, fellowship and

at it with all your heart, as

working for the Lord, not for

human masters," Colossians

"In Pursuit of Spiritual Ex-

Righteousness, Godliness,

• Domingo 9:30 am Escue-

Servicio de Alabanza y

• Miercoles Hora de Poder,

Oración, alabanza y Estudio

de la Palabra de Dios a las 7

Adoracion a las 10 am (en in-

la Dominical de Adultos. (en

"Whatever you do, work

God, come join us.

ery Friday at 6 am.

service.

prayer.

cellence"

inglés)

glés)

Faith, Love, Truth

pm (en inglés)

Parish Hall (entrance on 11 Liberty St.)

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

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church 67 Norwood Street, Everett, MA Phone 617-387-7526 or 508-243-8487

OBITUARIES

Phyllis Tricco

Retired Jordan Marsh Sales Auditor

Phyllis L. (Gill) Tricco of Everett, formerly of Chelsea, entered into eternal rest Saturday morning, July 13 at the Chelsea Jewish Nursing Home. She was 90 years old.

Born and raised in Chelsea, the daughter of the late Alfred and Hester A. (Noftle) Gill, Phyllis attended Chelsea public schools and graduated from Chelsea High School, Class of 1947. She worked as a sales auditor for the former Jordan Marsh Company in Boston. Retiring in 1992, she enjoyed playing bingo and watching her six grandchildren grow up. Phyllis has been a resident of Everett for 66 years and was a late member of the First Congregational Church in Chelsea. She will be greatly missed by all who loved her.

The wife of the late Charles L. Tricco, she was the beloved mother of David C. Tricco and his wife, Mary of West Roxbury and Steven P. Tricco of Braintree; dear sister of Jean Thompson of Revere and the late Alfred Gill and Doris

To place a

memoriam

in the

Independent,

please call

617-387-9600



Penney; sister-in-law of Rose Ann Gill of Everett and the late William Thompson and John C. Penney. Phyllis is also lovingly survived by six grandchildren: Andrew, Edward, Jacquelyn Tricco, Elizabeth Schwarz and her husband, D.J., Emily Leach and her husband, Owen and Dana

Her funeral services will be conducted at the First Congregational Church, 26 County Rd., Chelsea today, Wednesday, at 11 a.m. Services will conclude with interment at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett. Funeral arrangements are by the Carafa Family Funeral Home 389 Washington Ave. Chelsea.

J.F. Ward Funeral Home

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OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$100.00 per paper. That includes photo. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

- LEGAL NOTICE -CITY OF EVERETT



Library Board of Trustees

An Order by the Everett Library Board to accept the newly revised Rules of the Library Board.

The official copy of the Rules change shall be located in the City Clerk's Office and the Parlin Library for Public Inspection prior to the meeting.

Public Meeting to be held in the Public Meeting Room at the Parlin Library, Tuesday August 12, 2019 6:00 P.M. 1st Floor Parlin Memorial Library 410 Broadway, Everett, Mass.

July 17, 2019

Glendale Christian Lighthouse Church News and Notes

Adult Sunday School at orar todos los viernes a las 6 9:30 AM. Teaching about Holiness.

> abanza y adoracion a las 4pm (Servicio en español) Mayores informes de los

Domingo Servicio de al-

servicios en español (617) 306-3518

"No temas, porque yo estoy contigo; no desmayes, porque yo soy tu Dios que te esfuerzo; siempre te ayudaré, siempre te sustentaré con la diestra de mi justicia."

Isaias 41:10

"En busca de la excelencia espiritual Rectitud, Divinidad, Fe,

Amor, Verdad" GLENDALE CHRISTIAN

LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH **701 BROADWAY** EVERETT,

MASSACHUSETTS 02149 617-387-7458

pastorlarry@

• Ven unete a nosotros para thelighthousechurch701.net

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.

- LEGAL NOTICE -CITY OF EVERETT



CITY OF EVERETT BOARD OF APPEALS

This notice is to inform you that a public hearing will be held on Monday, August 5, 2019 at 7:00 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 h as been presented by: Property Address: 17 Rock Valley Ave.

Person Requesting: Ms. Charanjit Singh and Ranjir Kaur 17 Rock Valley Ave.

Everett, MA 02149 Map/Lot: A0-03-000041

To said Board of Appeals, asking for relief of the Zoning Ordinance of the City, as applied: The applicant seeks to construct an two (2) Story rear addition and an attached garage on the rear and side

Permit was denied in accordance to the City of Everett Zoning Ordinance Section 4 Dwelling Districts line (b)6 & (b)7. The applicant must seek relief in the form of a variance from the Everett Zoning

A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the City Clerk located at City Hall, 484 Broadway, Everett, MA and can be inspected during regular business hours.

BOARD OF APPEALS FOR THE CITY OF EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS Joseph DeSisto, III - Chairman Roberta Suppa - Clerk **Board of Appeals** 7/17/19, 7/24/19 EΥ

Glendale United Methodist Church

News and Notes

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

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

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

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

NA Meetings – Mon. Bring Your Own Book 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.; Thurs. I Can't But We

can, 8:00 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. AA Meeting - Saturday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30

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 AM to 2 PM. Other times by appointment.

Immaculate Conception Parish

News and Notes

ther Joseph Chacha Marwa, S.M.A. Administrator;

Father Ernest Egbedike, S.M.A. Parochial Vicar;

Secretary Barbara Cannon Philomene Pean, Pastoral Blessed Lord Associate.

Weekly Mass Schedule at Immaculate Conception is as follows: Saturday (Sunday Vigil)

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

4:00 p.m. Haitian Commu-

Masses are being held in the Chapel.

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

Our Parish Staff: Fa- in the Chapel. Each Thursdays' adoration will conclude the Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to spend a few moments with Our Bring a Book-Buy a Book

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

Parish 489 Broadway Everett, Mass 02149 Phone 617-389-5660

- LEGAL NOTICE -**CITY OF EVERETT**



CITY OF EVERETT BOARD OF **APPEALS**

This notice is to inform you that a public hearing will be held on Monday, August 5, 2019 at 7:00 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: 71 Kelvin Street Map/Lot: G0-01-000217

Person Requesting: Jackson Hewitt **Short Path Distributers** 71 Kelvin Street Everett, MA 02149

To said Board of Appeals, asking for relief of the Zoning Ordinance of the City, as applied: The applicant wishes to alter the existing use by Including "Entertainment", which is not specifically allowed in the Riverfront Overlay District.

Permit was denied in accordance to the City of Everett Zoning Ordinance Section 26(b) Uses: The applicant must seek relief in the form of a variance from the Everett Zoning Board of Appeals. A copy of the application is on file in the Office of the City Clerk located at City Hall, 484 Broadway, Everett, MA and can be inspected during regular business hours.

BOARD OF APPEALS FOR THE CITY OF EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS Joseph Desisto, III - Chairman Roberta Suppa - Clerk **Board of Appeals** 7/17/19, 7/24/19

COMMUNITY GROWERS MAINTAIN THE GARDENS

The Everett Community Growers volunteered along the Northern Strand trail on Saturday, July 13, to maintain the gardens. Plants were watered, signs were painted, and people enjoyed utilizing the paths.



Jethro and Abby enjoyed a walk along the bike path to the garden.



The Everett Community Garden attracts birds and other wildlife.



Vanessa Harr looked over a list of garden tasks to be done.



Alyssa Chan painted new signage for the vegetable garden, this one for lettuce – or 'lechuga.'



The sunny day attracted bikers to the path alongside the garden.



Lenka McNally watered the flower garden.



Mats McNally picked weeds along the vegetable garden.

sometimes, the conversations you didn't know you needed end up being the most important.



Aortic aneurysms often have no symptoms, and left untreated, they can be dangerous or even deadly.

If you're over 65 with a family history of this condition, or a man with a history of smoking, you could be at risk.

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Talk to your PCP if you are at risk.

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Beth Israel Lahey Health

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center



FIRST BOXING EVENT AT ENCORE BOSTON HARBOR

Encore Boston Harbor and Murphy's Boxing held the first-ever sporting event at the resort casino on Friday night, July 12. It was a local and national card, with the IBA Championship on the line.



Former Profighter and title contender Richie "The Mountain" Lamontagne, who welcomed everyone to his home in Everett.

James Perella of Mansfield

lands a left hook on Bryan

Goldsby.



Promoter Ken Casey and IBA Champ Greg Vendetti.



Joe Ricciardi (L) of Saugus, who is the coach to Greg Vendetti (R).



Mr. and Mrs. James Perella of Mansfield watch at their son, James Perella, enter the ring for his fourth pro bout.





Joe Farina of South Boston lands a left hook of Jose Ortiz.



Luis Arcon Diaz celebrates with fans as he walks to the ring, led by Boston Police Officer and corner man Matt Ryan.



Promoter Ken Casey, Lowell's Micky Ward, the North End's Tony DeMarco and Promoter Sean Sullivan were honored guests.



Joe Farina of South Boston in the corner with trainer and top cut man John Curren.



George Vendetti (L) and Arthur Souza (R) cheers on their son and grandson, Greg Vendetti, on Friday at Encore Boston Har-



NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

ZBA DENIES SPECIAL PERMIT

CHELSEA - In a split decision, the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) denied a request for a special permit and variance for a proposed eightunit, four-story, market-rate condominium project at 254 Spencer Ave.

In a 2-2 vote, ZBA members Arthur Arsenault and Marilyn Vega-Torres voted to okay the project, while members Hugo Perdomo and Joseph Mahoney voted to deny approvals, siding with the recommendation of Planning Director John DePriest.

DePriest stated that the conversion of the existing two-family house to eight units was too large for the site, and that the developers did not meet the hardship requirements to gain approval for the special permit and variances.

While the Planning Department recommended no more than five units on the parcel, a number of neighbors and city officials came out in support of the project Tuesday night, much as they had done last month when the project was approved by the Planning Board.

"I would hate to see these units be abandoned, it is kind of an eyesore right now," said District 3 City Councillor Joe Perlatonda.

Perlatonda noted that the City has recently approved larger, affordable housing projects, such as at the old Midas site, and that 254 Spencer Ave. sits next to the 34-unit Acadia affordable housing development.

"The neighbors want this, I want this, and I don't think it should be limited to five units," said Perlatonda. "It's a great project, and I don't see why we wouldn't want it right

Richard Lynds, the attorney for developer Ricky Beliveau, said the four-story condo building would fit into the neighborhood by serving as a transition from the taller, five-story Acadia development on one side to the triple-deckers on the other side of 254 Spencer Ave.

To make the project work financially. Lynds said Beliveau needs the eight units at market rate. He said Beliveau would be investing \$2.5 million into the project, with units selling for about \$500,000 each.

"Ricky believes in the City of Chelsea," said Lynds. "For him to make this type of investment shows where his mind is and where his wallet

As the special permit and variance failed to garner the necessary vote, several of the supporters who attended the meeting voiced their displeasure to the board members and DePriest.

"We are going with what the law is in the books," said Mahoney.

After the meeting, Lynds said he and Beliveau will regroup to see what their next steps are for 254 Spencer Ave.

"It's too early to tell what we will do right now," he said. "We will look at all of our op-

Lynds said he was surprised by DePriest's staunch vocal opposition to the proj-

"This was an opportunity for good, market-rate units," said Lynds.

JEWISH NURSING HOME TO BE RENAMED

CHELSEA - Chelsea Jewish Lifecare has announced that the Chelsea Jewish Nursing Home, the flagship property of the organization, will be renamed The Katzman Center for Living in honor of

Elliot and Donna Katzman. The Marblehead couple, who made a significant donation to Chelsea Jewish Lifecare, have longstanding ties to the nursing home, the city of Chelsea and to the healthcare organization.

"We are enormously grateful to Elliot and Donna Katzman for such a generous gift," said Chelsea Jewish Lifecare CEO Barry Berman. "I have known the Katzman family for many years and am thrilled to have their name attached to the Chelsea Jewish

Nursing Home. Their support and friendship mean the world to us."

Elliot Katzman and Donna (Frangiamone) were classmates at Chelsea High, and will soon celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. Both are Salem State alumni and the proud parents of sons and daughters-in-law Matthew and Katie, and David and Emily. They are even prouder grandparents to granddaughters Nora, Maggie, Julia and Clara. Elliot, a general partner at Commonwealth Capital Ventures, a private venture capital firm, has built some of New England's most successful technology companies.

"Donna and I are truly thankful for the love and kindness that Chelsea Jewish Lifecare has shown our family," said Katzman. "Our involvement began when my grandmother was a resident of the nursing home over forty years ago. Ten years ago my parents moved to the Cohen Florence Levine Estates Assisted Living where today my dad, Myer, still enjoys being a part of this caring community. Donna's mom, Mary Frangiamone, is a resident of the Chelsea Jewish Nursing Home. We want to pay tribute to the mission of the organization's founders and the extraordinary leadership of Barry and Adam Berman."

Adam Berman, Chelsea Jewish Lifecare president, noted that the nursing home has played a significant role in the organization's history.

"The Chelsea Jewish Nursing Home is very near and dear to my heart," said Berman. "We are honored to have Elliot and Donna involved with this special residence and we truly appreciate their substantial contribution."

Founded in 1919, the non-profit Chelsea Jewish Lifecare is one of the largest providers of senior healthcare services in the region. The Chelsea Jewish Nursing Home, soon to be The Katzman Center for Living, underwent a dramatic \$16 million renovation in 2016.

Please see REGION Page 11

State approves Everett Square Urban Renewal Plan, City issues RFI on Bouvier Building

By Seth Daniel

The state Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has approved the City's Urban Renewal Plan (URP) for Everett Square, while at the same time the City has released a Request for Interest (RFI) to jump-start redevelopment of the key Bouvier Building in the Square.

The one requirement left for the URP is to clear state environmental regulators in the MEPA process, which was cleared with the Lower Broadway URP a few years back in what is usually a short process.

The idea of the URP is to exercise some control over blighted properties - which under the URP could be taken by eminent domain – and to give a jump-start to the redevelopment of the Square.

"My administration is working hard to attract new and retain existing businesses, encourage mixed-use development, improve circulation for pedestrians, vehicles, and public transit, enhance the visitor experience for business customers, and strengthen the quality of life for our residents," said Mayor Carlo DeMaria. "Working with the BSC Group, we developed an

Square, last year we completed the Everett Square Master

City Planner Tony Sousa said he expected the Everett Square URP to be much less controversial than the Lower Broadway one.

That overall plan stretches 20 years and includes a visioning plan for nearly every building and every lot within the Square's boundaries. It is a road map for future development of the area, and in some ways a wish list as well.

An early action item is the RFI released this week for the Square and the Bouvier Building - which is still owned by the Bouvier family, who have been embroiled in a long court battle with the City over the conditions and ownership of the building. With the URP, the City can shop the building around as a blighted property to see if anyone is interested in buying it. Potentially, the City could take it by eminent domain and re-sell it under the URP, but Sousa said the preferred method is a private sale.

"We could step in and take properties by eminent domain, but the person to person private transaction is always more advantageous in terms of time," said Sousa.

Mayor DeMaria said they

urban renewal plan for Everett are marketing the property in Real Estate Journals across New England and also in local circles as well.

"Today, we are actively marketing a Request for Interest to redevelop Everett Square," he said. "The goal of the RFI is attract developers from across the Commonwealth to redevelop municipal and privately-owned, underutilized property in the heart of the Everett Square by capitalizing on the unique character of the square and its history."

Sousa said proposals would come in later in the summer, with a cut-off in August, and owners of properties like the Bouvier Building could sell the building based on that interest, or they could partner with interested developers as well.

The RFI also presents an opportunity to land-pool properties and combine parcels under different owners to form larger parcels for development.

One caveat, Sousa and the mayor said, was the RFI states there is preference for developers willing to work with current uses and tenants in the buildings.

"Any developer would be preferred if their plan included retaining the barber shop or the law office," he said.



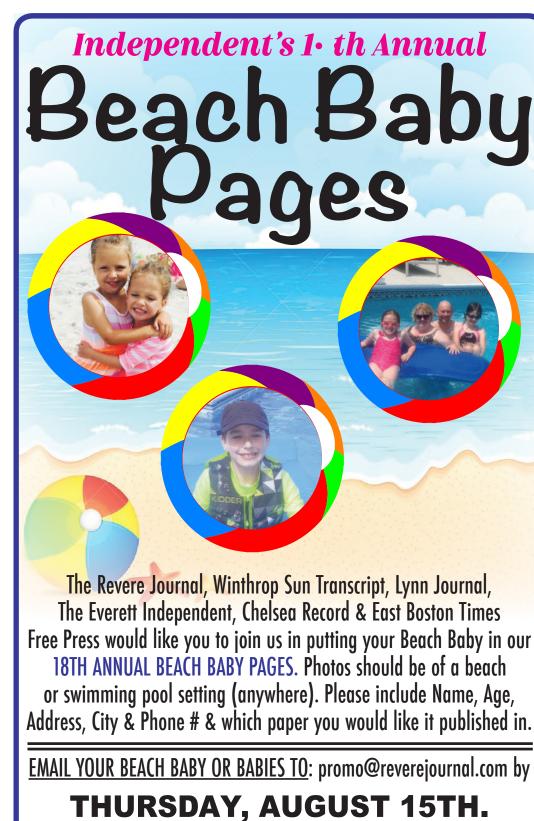
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The photos will be printed in our August 21st & 22nd issues of

The Revere Journal, Winthrop Sun Transcript, Lynn Journal,

The Everett Independent, Chelsea Record & East Boston Times.

School Supt. Search Committee convenes for first meeting

The search for a new superintendent of schools has officially begun this week after the Search Committee convened for its first meeting on Monday night at the School Administration Building.

Led by Glenn Koocher, executive director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), and School Committee Chair Tom Abruzzese, 12 of the 13 members of the Search Committee were present.

One of the first orders of business was making introductions and then working on the timeline and job description for potential candidates.

"This is a process that takes at least eight to 12 weeks," said Koocher. "It is a true process...We have a rough draft (of the description), but we want to get this done first so we can have it ready to go out at the end of August to cast a net for candidates. The job is out there now. Anyone can see it. We've had inquiries – a number of people who might be interested in applying. However it is vacation season and people are away, and we expect the interest to pick up in August."

Those on the Search Committee include: Yrma Fiestas, Dorothy Martin-Long, School Committeeman Frank Parker, Oswaldo Costanza, Teacher Devon Abruzzese, Football Coach Theluxon Pierre, Teacher Union President Kim Auger, EHS Art Director Amanda Gil, School Committeeman David Ela, School Committeeman Marcony Barros, Police Chief Steve Mazzie, Retired Teacher Richard Liston, and School Committee Chair Tom Abruzzese.

Missing from the meeting Monday was parent Fernanda

Already, the MASC and School Committee have run focus groups of parents, educators and residents. Those groups were very diverse, and

encompassed people from all over the city. The minutes of those meetings will be presented to the Search Committee to be used when prioritizing candidates.

Koocher said it will be the job of the Search Committee to narrow down the field of candidates. They can narrow it down to anywhere from three to six candidates – typically.

He said when they get all of the applications in, they will sift through them and do an initial vetting. Of those, they will present the Search Committee with all of the resumes and a document ranking the applicants according to the view of the MASC.

"That's a document some Search Committee members look at and some do not," he said.

He also said the Search Committee might be one of the best recruiting tools for the position as well, noting that anyone who they encourage to apply be referred to the MASC and that no promises

The remainder of the meeting was focused on what Search Committee members wanted to see from the process, the job description, and the new candidates.

Coach Pierre said he wanted to make sure candidates knew that Everett was an urban district, and that the diversity now here be reflected in the applicant pool.

"Everett has changed drastically demographically," he said. "We need to talk about that and about the well-being of the students. We need to make sure a candidate is ready to address the social-emotional needs of the students in the buildings.

"I think that's important. We have to get someone that understands Everett the way we do," he continued.

There was some discussion of a report in a local newsletter saying the Search Committee was already leaning to a certain candidate, which

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Saturday, July 27: 10AM-10PM

Sunday, July 28: 10AM-8PM

drew a lot of laughter from the group as they had not even met yet when the report came out. Koocher warned that such accounts can be published by the press even if they aren't true, and members of the Committee shouldn't put much stock in reports from those kinds of newsletters.

Martin-Long said she wanted to make sure a candidate stays for a long period of time, and that point resonated with many in the room.

"I think it's going to be very critical that we talk about long-term planning," she said. "We are looking for different things to happen with the education system and they cannot happen in two years. It's like the four-year mayoral term. We got that so there can be long-term planning. We can't have someone come in with a five-year plan and leave in two years. We have several areas we are kind of weak in."

Koocher said it should be a destination job, but there are things that the Search Committee cannot ask during the interviews – which he noted would come in executive session to protect the confidentiality of those applying.

"You have the right to expect this could be a destination superintendent," he said. "You have the right to expect them to come and stay. You do not have the right to ask them how long they have until retirement...You can look them in the eye and ask them if they'll be here in five years."

A lot of the time, he said, the Search Committee needs to look in the eyes of the candidates and ask hard questions, reading them and their reactions.

"Your job will be to smoke them out and figure it out and we'll help you," he said.

The Search Committee meetings are open to the public, and will likely be held in school buildings around the city. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

LOCAL RESIDENTS **GRADUATE FROM** CURRY COLLEGE

Curry College graduated a total of 754 undergraduate and graduate students at the 2019 Commencment on May 19 at the Xfinity Center in Mansfiled, Massachusetts. The following local students received their degrees:

Jerry Abraham recevied a

Sophia Marchant recevied Kenya Teixeira recevied a

Dylan Vieira-Owens recevied a BA

Business, civic, and philanthropic leader John Fish, Hon. '19 served as Commencement speaker. Fish, the chairman and CEO of Suffolk, one of the nation's leading construction management companies, received an honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree.

ENDICOTT COLLEGE ANNOUNCES 2019 LOCAL GRADUATES

Endicott College, the first college in the U.S. to require internships of its students, held its 79th annual commencement exercises this past week. At a May 23 ceremony for Endicott's Van Loan School of Graduate and Professional Studies at Hempstead Stadium on the Endicott campus in Beverly, Mass., the commencement speaker was Latoyia Edwards, news anchor at NBC-10 Boston, who

received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at the cer-

Of local interest, the following students received degrees: Ernst Desir, Master of Business Admin, Business Administration

Riley McIlwain, Bachelor of Science, Business Management

Muhammad Yousaf, Master of Business Admin, Business Administration

Endicott College offers doctorate, master's, bachelor's and associate degree programs at its campus on the scenic coast of Beverly, Mass., with additional sites in Boston, online, and at U.S. and international locations. Endicott remains true to its founding principle of integrating professional and liberal arts education with internship opportunities across disciplines. For more, visit endicott.edu.

MYSTIC VALLEY REGIONAL **ANNOUNCES** FOURTH QUARTER **HONOR ROLL**

Mystic Valley Regional Charter School recently released its 4th quarter Honor Roll. All in all 311 MVRCS students in Grades 7-12 achieved either High Honor Roll or Honor Roll Recognition. Twenty nine young men and women hailing from Everett were part of the list. To be on the Honor Roll a student needs to finish the quarter with no grade lower than a B-, to be on the High Honor

Roll a student needs to finish the quarter with no grade low-

er than an A-. Students Honor Roll

From Everett •High Honor Roll

Grade 7: Eva Truong Grade 9: Amine Jamoug Grade 10: Rachel Silva, Crystal Truong

Grade 11: Alexis Martin, David Nguyen

Grade 12: Alfonso Carbo, Domonic Sacramone, Joshua

•Honor Roll

Grade 7: Eva Boudreau, Esther Souza, Niamh Stewart

Grade 8: Sofia Blandino, Chrisler Gilet, Eaven McKin-

Grade 9: Serena Eliscar, Darnelle Felisier, Carissa Loesch

Grade 10: Frances Charaigne, Conor McKinnon, Bryant Nguyen

Grade 11:Andrew Almas, Stephen Munafo, Isabel Ospi-

Grade 12: Anastasia Bessler, Brittany Cockell, Shermarie Hyppolite, Steve Nguyen, Amerra Omar.

SAINT JOSEPH PREP ANNOUNCES FOURTH QUARTER **HONOR ROLL**

The following students from North of Boston at Saint Joseph Prep in Boston were named to the honor roll for the fourth quarter:

Honors with Distinction (All A's and no more than two B's, no B-): Isabel Wade '22

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Perpetuo, Edson F Lucky 87 LLC Bono, Joseph T Augusto, Antonio J Littman-Quinn, Jack Mcewen, Kevin J Qin, Shu

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Longtime Encore community liaison John Tocco leaves company

By Seth Danie

One of the first people Encore Boston Harbor hired to pound the pavement for the resort casino was John Tocco, and the longtime community relations expert announced this week he is leaving his role at Encore Boston Harbor to pursue private consulting.

Tocco said he plans to work with his wife and their consulting practice, which has grown substantially since he left years ago to take the job with Encore.

"I look forward to supporting my wife and her team grow A10 Associates into a nationally recognized Government Relations firm," he said. "Additionally, I am excited to continue to work with Mayor DeMaria and regional elected officials to bring new investment to the region and realize the vison that we have all worked so hard to create. As we said during the campaign, 'It's Our Time,' and I look forward to working closely with the community to achieve this dream."

One of the clients he will be working with initially is Vineyard Wind, a project for wind power off of Cape Cod.

Tocco advocated for the project early on in Everett, helping to create Everett Unit-



Encore Boston Harbor Community Liaison John Tocco announced this week that he will be leaving the casino and working in a private consulting business with his wife. He has been the face of the project in Everett, Charlestown and Chelsea for the past seven years.

ed – the grass-roots support group that led the community vote of approval.

Outside of Everett, Tocco was often the face of the resort during contentious meetings in Charlestown and Somerville. He was a well-known figure in Charlestown during discussions about the jobs and traffic aspects of the resort.

State Sen. Sal DiDomenico said Tocco was crucial for getting the resort off the ground, and wished him the best.

"John Tocco has been instrumental in the development and opening of the Encore Resort," said DiDomenico. "He is a true professional who fully integrates himself into the community and he has a passion to bring all parties together to reach a solution. I am proud to call him a friend and we were fortunate to have him on this project from beginning to end. This is a loss for us today, but I know he will continue to be a part of our community going forward and I wish him and his family all the best in this next chapter."

Tocco said he was thankful to have worked with everyone while with Encore, including Everett Mayor Carlo De-Maria, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh, City Councilors in Everett and Boston, Chelsea City Manager Tom Ambrosino, Charlestown State Rep. Dan Ryan, Everett State Rep. Joe McGonagle, and State Sen. Sal DiDomenico – among others.

"Seven years on this project is like a doctorate in development," he said. "I think it's simply the turning to a new chapter."

CADETS GRADUATE FROM MIDDLESEX SHERIFF'S OFFICE YOUTH PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY



Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian congratulated nearly 200 graduates of the Youth Public Safety Academy (YPSA) from Billerica, Everett, Wakefield and Woburn during a ceremony at Chelmsford High School on Friday, July 12. It was the first of six such graduations planned for this summer. For six weeks each summer, the Middlesex Sheriff's Office (MSO) offers youngsters ages 8-12 from Middlesex County communities the opportunity to participate in educational and confidence-building activities alongside members of the MSO as well as their local police and fire departments. YPSA staff incorporate multiple learning styles to teach personal safety and teamwork while building relationships between youth and public safety officials. "This is the 20th year we have hosted YPSA, and every year we see the positive impact it has on youngsters across the county," said Sheriff Koutoujian. "Cadets at this camp learn lifelong skills in areas like fire safety

and emergency preparedness, but just as importantly they foster bonds with their community officials in a way that keeps that educational curiosity alive far beyond one summer."

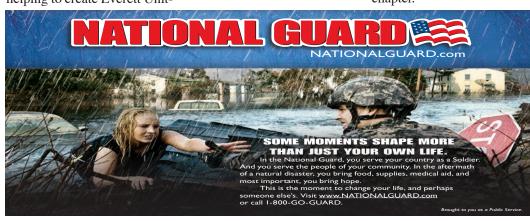
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Marcony Almeida Barros School Committee Member Ward 5



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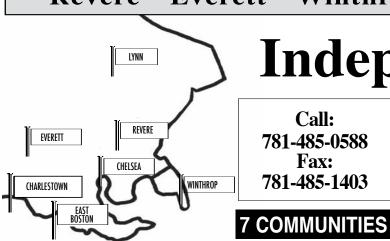
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Region Continued from Page 8

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SOCIAL CENTER RECEIVES GRANT FOR **NEW WINDOWS**

EAST BOSTON -Mayor Martin Walsh announced that the East Boston Social Centers and 17 other nonprofit organizations across the city would share in \$550,500 in grant funding through the City's Partners with Nonprofits Program (PNP).

The funding will allow the Social Centers and others to make public facility upgrades and onsite physical improvements, and

will help them leverage more than \$1.7 million in capital improvements.

"I am proud that the Partners with Non-Profits program invests directly in organizations that offer so much to the people of Boston," said Mayor Walsh. "The commitment of the community service organizations receiving these grants is what helps make our city so strong. This program is an important tool we use to ensure that these organizations are able to continue their work that benefits our neighborhoods and our residents."

Executive Director of the Social Centers Justin Pasquariello said his agency would be using the funding to remove and replace windows at the Central Square location. "The City of Boston's Partners

with Nonprofits program continues to provide critically needed funds for maintenance of our facilities, and we are deeply grateful to Mayor Walsh, Chief Dillon, and all who have made this possible," said Pasquariello. "This investment in window replacement will help us prevent water damage to our building and will improve our building's energy efficiency--enabling us to continue to provide highest quality services to the nearly

ical day." Since 2014, the Partners with Nonprofits program, operated by the City's Department of Neighborhood Development (DND), has awarded more than \$2.8 million in grants to neighborhood non-profits.

600 people we impact on a typ-

The program provides funding of up to \$40,000 for capital improvements, such as handicap accessibility upgrades, code repairs, or other infrastructure renovations, to neighborhood-based non-profit organizations through a competitive Request for Proposals process. Grants are made possible by the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

NEW STREET LIGHTS AT SINGER BRIDGE

REVERE - Ward 1 Councillor Joanne McKenna started her personal crusade 18 months ago to fix the lights on the Rita

WINTER

SPECIALS

Singer Bridge after hearing from a parent of a 20-year-old daughter who had to walk daily from Beachmont Station over the bridge to her apartment.

"It was dark and the young lady was afraid to cross over the bridge because of the fact there were no lights," recalled McKen-

Following the December, 2018 tragedy in which two children were killed on Revere Beach Parkway, McKenna stepped up her efforts concerning the lighting problems on the entire parkway.

McKenna conducted her own survey and learned that 17 lights in total were malfunctioning on the Parkway. She brought her concerns to a Revere City Council meeting where she blasted National Grid officials.

"The [Revere] Journal put a story about it on the front page," said McKenna. "Speaker [Robert] DeLeo read it and said, 'We're going to fix all these lights." "Within a three-week period, all the lights on the Parkway were fixed."

McKenna was crucial to the effort by taking down the lighting pole numbers and submitting those numbers to Speaker DeLeo's office. DeLeo reached out to State Highway Department and National Grid officials and the situation was take care of - very quickly.

The new lights represented a big victory for the McKenna-DeLeo team and all the residents and motorists who use the Parkway.

"Getting those lights helped the people with safety," said McKenna. "There are a lot of young people living in these apartments and they walk. I've been on the council for five years and that is why we serve: to make Revere a better place to live. It helped the people, that's how I feel."

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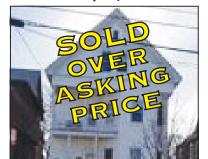


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MYSTIQUE OPENING.



Mayor Carlo DeMaria and his wife, Stacy, in front of Mystique, the new Asian Fusion concept to Encore Boston Harbor during the opening day events. Joining them are Encore's Jacqui Krum, Brian Gullbrants (Encore Executive), Ed Kane of Big Night, Joe Kane of Big Night, Randy Greenstein of Big Night and guests.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LOUIE

Louie Mazzarella on the occasion of his 90th birthday on June 15 at the Kowloon Banquet Room. The popular Spring Street resident was proud to announce the admission of his grandson and caregiver, Dennis, to Holy Cross College. Asked what the secret to his longevity is, Louie said it is "a good send of humor, family and friends." Shown with Louie are his grandson, Dennis, and longtime friend, Councilor Wayne Matewsky, who presented proclamations on behalf of Mayor Carlo DeMaria and the City Council.

More than 100 family,

friends and neighbors at-







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