



LOOKING BACK AT WOMEN’S HISTORY IN EVERETT

*EDITOR’S NOTE: The following is the first in a month-long series about noteworthy women in Everett, taken from vignettes written by former City Clerk Michael Matarazzo in his book ‘They Came from Everett.’ The histories of many women of Everett are stunning, with women playing a role in so many early parts of the formation of the country.*

VIRGINIA BABIKIAN: “Opera Singer – Educator”

When 26-year old Aaron (Aharan) Babikian arrived in the United States from Armenia in 1915, he was ready to dive head first in the American experience. Aaron got a job as a bell-boy at the Somerset Hotel and within three years was speaking and writing English. On his 1918 draft registration, he wrote that he was “ready and willing to fight for Uncle Sam.” Aaron never got the opportunity to take up arms in defense of the nation as he was assigned to the 73rd Infantry of the 12th Division that was organized in July of 1918. By the time it was ready for action, the Armistice had been signed. Aaron became a U.S. citizen in 1918 while serving in the US Army.

The Babikians lived on Pleasantview Avenue, and when at 33 years of age, Aaron met and married 21-year-old Ella Clark of Central Avenue, they originally moved in to the Babikian family home. However, when Aaron died in 1937 at the age of 48, the 36-year-old Ella and the Babikian children; 14-year-old Eleanor and 12-year-old Virginia moved in with Ella’s widowed mother on Central Avenue.

Music played a big part in the girls’ lives. After graduating from Everett High School, Eleanor studied music and became a beloved music teacher in various Massachusetts public schools. After Virginia graduated from Everett High, she attended the renowned Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New



Virginia Babikian.

Jersey, where she earned both her bachelor’s degree in Voice and Cello (1951) and master’s degree in Choral Conducting (1952).

After graduation from Westminster, she headed to Houston to serve as the first Minister of Music at the River Oaks Baptist Church. While serving in that capacity, she took advantage of the opportunity to further her study of the cello under Alfred Urbach, the principal cellist of the Houston Symphony and founder of the Houston Symphony Chorale. Urbach, though impressed with Virginia as a cellist, was more taken by the beautiful soprano voice that she possessed. Urbach encouraged Virginia to audition for Leopold Stokowski, one of the leading conductors of the early and mid-20th Century who was at the time Music Director for the Houston Symphony. Stokowski was also impressed with Virginia’s voice, and in 1956, he chose Babikian to make her professional debut as the soprano soloist for the Texas premiere of German composer Carl Orff’s Carmina Burana. Virginia’s successful performance earned her notice and Stokowski cast her once again in the American premiere of Orff’s The Triumph of Aphrodite. Stokowski was so appreciative of Virginia’s dedication and so confident in her talent that he recommended her for a Fulbright scholarship for intensive advanced vocal training with the Rome Opera.

Her stay in Europe led to concert tours of Italy and Spain and in 1957, she made her operatic debut in at the Teatro Lirico Sperimentale in Spoleto, Italy. Critics were unanimous in praising the wide-range of vocal resources in her possession and her sensitivity to the

lyrics and message that her voice was portraying.

Meanwhile, Stokowski was planning a revival of Carmina Burana and had secured a contract with Capitol Records for a recording of the performance. He immediately invited Virginia back to Houston to perform in the events. The recording greatly expanded Virginia’s audience and resulted in a boost in her career and opportunities.

After being honored by the New York Madrigal Society with their Town Hall Award and debuting there in 1958, Virginia decided to make New York City her base of operations. For the next six years, she would travel and perform throughout the United States, Europe, South America, Central America and East Asia, singing with world-renowned orchestras, opera companies and legendary conductors such as Leopold Stokowski, Leonard Bernstein, and Hermann Scherchen. Conductors love to work with Virginia for she was known as a “conductor’s soprano” because her musical knowledge made it easy for conductors to effectively relay their creative visions to her.

By 1964, Virginia, now almost 40 years old, was seeking a more stable life. She met and married George Stein and moved to his hometown of Seguin, Texas. Her new hometown embraced Virginia’s fame and was very proud that she lived in Sequin, albeit only for a short time. Virginia continued to perform, but in 1965 she became artist-in-residence and associate professor at Houston Baptist University. After a year of enduring a two and half hour commute each way, her family moved to Houston, where she remained for the next 27 years. She continued to teach at HBU until 1982 while occasionally performing both locally and internationally. In 1982, she joined the faculty at Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music and was appointed chair of the voice instruction department and professor of voice.

Despite being known throughout the opera world, Virginia’s legacy in Houston is her contribution to choral music and her everlasting effect on raising the

Houston Symphony Chorale to previously unreachable heights. She served as assistant conductor and vocal coach of the Houston Symphony Chorale. In 1977, she took over the reigns as the chorale’s director and over the next nine years, she vastly improved the chorale’s vocal standards and brought the group to a new level of respect and admiration within its genre. Virginia was able to impart to her pupils her vast knowledge of the human voice and music with patience and clarity. Many vocalists credit her with encouraging their careers and now pass on her techniques and love of music to new generations.

In 1987, Virginia Babikian retired to spend more time with her husband. George died in 1991 and in 1997 at age 72 Virginia joined him after a long battle with cancer.

The voice that echoed from Everett to around the world was now silent.

Westminster Choir College - 1952

ROSE M. LeCOURS: “One of a Kind”

One of a kind; there really is no other way to describe Rose LeCours. Known far and wide as Rosie the Cabdriver, she was a wife, mother, City official and the first female cab owner in the City of Boston.

Rose Hadad was born on August 24, 1907, to George and Annie (Asar) Hadad. The family lived on Hudson Street in Boston near South Station. Hudson Street on one side of Stuart Street was in the heart of Chinatown. On the other side, however, Hudson Street and the immediate area was comprised mainly of Lebanese families like George and Annie Hadad.

The Hadads (later Haddad), like many immigrant families at that time, struggled to make ends meet and feeling that they were not able to properly care for Rose, sent her to live with a family in Woburn.

Sometime around 1930, Rose, who was working as a stitcher in a dress-making company, moved to her uncle’s house, also on Hudson Street, to care for her sickly uncle Elias “Louis” and help him operate his local variety store, also located on Hudson Street.

Rose later met and married Harry A. LeCours of Cambridge, and moved to Compton Street which was a street in the Castle Square Area of Boston near the Benjamin Franklin Institute. It was while living on Compton Street that their only child, Harry, Jr., was born.

Harry, Sr. was a parking attendant at a local garage and in addition to selling noisemakers on Washington Street on New Year’s Eve and selling Christmas Trees during the holidays, Rose was working there too. Working at the garage did not pay well, but put Rose in contact with many of the local taxi drivers and sparked her interest for increasing her income by driving cab. In 1941, Rose approached Town Taxi for a job as a cab driver and they hired her.

For the next seven years, Rose would work for Town Taxi and then Yellow Cab; supporting her family by driving passengers through the streets of Boston and beyond. When not in school, Harry, Jr. would often sit up front with his mother as she plied her trade.

The year 1948 was a monumental year for Rose



Rosie with Gov. John Volpe. Courtesy of Harry LeCours.

and her family. While acting as the primary breadwinner for her family, Rose managed to save enough money, about \$6,000 to \$7,000, to buy her own taxi medallion and a 1941 Dodge. Police Commissioner Tom Sullivan decided that she had earned her opportunity and approved the sale, making Rosie the first woman in Boston to own her own medallion.

Also in 1948, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts released its Master Highway Plan for the Boston Metropolitan Area. The plan called for the construction of an elevated highway that would eventually run between Hudson and Albany streets.

As a family, Rose, her husband Harry and their son Harry, Jr., had lived on Hudson since at least 1933 and now with the impending construction of the Expressway, the building in which they lived would no longer be in a neighborhood but would be an abutter to an expressway. The family now needed to find a new place to live, and when Rosie’s relatives informed her of an available apartment on Fuller Street in Everett, the LeCours family jumped at the opportunity to move to this strictly residential area. While their neighborhood in Boston was coming to end, the legend of Rosie LeCours in Everett was just beginning.

Every day, Rose would drive her cab from Miller Street in Everett to South Station, which would become the home base of her taxi routes. Hour after hour she would depart South Station en route to Logan Airport or elsewhere only to return thereafter to the same station. Her passengers were businessmen, movie stars, prominent politicians or simply families returning from vacation or taking a trip to grandma’s house. As the family’s breadwinner, Rose never enjoyed the trips that many of her fares were headed to or returning from.

Rosie’s hard work, professionalism and no-nonsense attitude earned her the respect of her fellow drivers, law enforcement and the general public and she was accorded the honors of being the first person to drive through the South Station tunnel when it opened in 1959, was the first motorist to drive over the Amesbury’s Deer Island Bridge (with Governor John Volpe as her passenger), and was the only taxi in the procession that inaugurated the Turnpike Extension. In 1962, Rosie’s colleagues named her the “Cab Driver of the Year” and with her fellow drivers, she was one of the founders of the Boston Taxi Driver’s Scholarship Fund, of which she also served as President.

When Harry, Jr. got married in 1961, Rosie continued to drive taxi but significantly cut down on her hours - driving only three or four hours per day. Six years later, she would make her first venture into local Everett politics.

At the time, Everett had the only municipal bicameral legislature left in the

United States with an upper branch, the Board of Aldermen, and the lower branch called the Common Council.

In 1967, she ran for a seat on the Common Council from the city’s largest area, Ward Three. Since three members are elected from each ward, six candidates would survive from that year’s preliminary. Rose finished ninth in the field of 11 and was eliminated in the preliminary.

Not one to give up easily, Rosie was back at it again in 1969 and this time she made the cut in the preliminary finishing in the sixth and final slot but finished fifth in the final - just five votes shy of fourth place.

Two years later the persistent Rosie was back again. In the 1971 preliminary she finished tied for third out of seven candidates, but in the final fell to 5th place.

There were seven candidates again in the 1973 preliminary and Rose finished second. This time she held on and on election night Dec. 6, 1973 she finished second to become the first female Common Councilor in the history of the City of Everett.

Prior to the 1977 election wards were not equal in population but that changed for the ’77 election and with ward lines more favorable to Rose, she topped the ticket for Common Councilor Ward Three.

As a councilor, Rosie always put the needs and concerns of senior citizens first and for the next 18 years, she was one of the top vote-getters as “her seniors,” as she called them, always came out for her in big numbers.

Just two days before the 1987 election, Harry passed away from cancer. Rose retained her seat finishing a strong third, but preparing for Harry’s funeral on the 5th took precedence over any celebration.

Rosie swept to victory over the next three elections; including her 1993 election, when she announced that she was retiring from driving cab after 52 years on the job. She faced no preliminary opponents in 1995 and in the final election Rosie lost - finishing fourth by seven votes. Hurt but not discouraged, she was back in 1997 winning her seat back with a third place finish by 83 votes. In 1999 she bettered her finish from two years prior finishing second, but in 2001 she finished disappointing sixth out of six.

Rose would never run again.

On July 29, 2007, Rosie died. Mourners from across the Commonwealth came to pay respect to this pioneer. Her fellow members of the Garden Club and Auxiliary Police Force stood in line to say goodbye and for the first time, members of the Everett City government formed an honor guard and lined the pathway as her coffin was taken from Ward’s Funeral Home to her final resting place; a tradition that is still practiced today.

Rosie LeCours was the first once again; for the last time.

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# EBNHC, Greater Boston preparing for coronavirus

By John Lynds

It was only a matter of time before the coronavirus, or COVID-19, that spread across China landed in Boston. The Boston Public Health Commission announced that as of Monday there was one confirmed case of coronavirus in Boston and eight cases that are presumed positive. The presumptive positive cases did not require hospitalization and are self-isolating at home. The CDC is currently testing to confirm these eight cases.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that includes MERS and SARS. The most recently discovered coronavirus causes coronavirus disease COVID-19. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019.

According to the BPHC there is no evidence of community transmission in Boston right now. The risk remains low, but this situation is evolving rapidly and changes day to day.

“BPHC is engaging in daily communications with the CDC, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), City of Boston departments and other community partners to make sure we have the latest information on guidance, best practices and recommendations,” said the BPHC in a statement. “BPHC will provide updated information on this website and on our social media channels as it becomes

available. We are confident the City of Boston will be ready for a safe and effective response as the situation develops.”

Over at East Boston Neighborhood Health Center U.S. Congressman and Senate candidate Joseph Kennedy III participated in a roundtable at the Health Center to discuss the status, needs and preparedness for COVID-19. The goal of the meeting was to provide assistance to Kennedy in disseminating appropriate and timely information regarding the virus. The discussion consisted of best practices and recommendations on how to respond to COVID-19.

Of particular interest was the potential impact on Eastie’s senior population, the role of our emergency department and the partnership with Massport and the City’s Public Health Department.

“The coronavirus outbreak is the number one priority for the Health Center and the communities we serve. Like other healthcare organizations, we have enacted our Emergency Operations Planning and put protocols into place to ensure the safety of our staff, patients and members of our Neighborhood PACE program,” said EBNHC President and CEO Manny Lopes. “We are fortunate that we have had no active cases of the coronavirus present here at EBNHC but regardless we must remain vigilant. East Boston Neighborhood Health Center has been providing

quality care to the residents of East Boston and our surrounding communities for the last 50 years and we remain steadfastly committed to caring for all in our community during this crisis. We will continue to work closely with the Department of Public Health, the Boston Department of Public Health and both State and Federal Government as every day brings forth new information and recommended guidelines.”

When the outbreak in Wuhan, China began, many patients reported links to a large seafood and animal market. This suggested that it was spread from animal to people. However, it is now clear that COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person. It is spread through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land on people who are nearby (within six feet). It may also be possible for a person to get COVID-19 by touching a contaminated surface or object and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes.

“To ensure the safety of staff and patients and to contain the spread of the coronavirus as much as possible, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center has instituted a very thorough screening process in our Call Centers and in our various clinical departments,” said EBNHC Chief Medical Officer Jackie Fantes. “Patients are screened for symptoms if they have had any exposure

or have traveled outside of the area recently. If testing is deemed necessary, the State Lab will process the results. We’re hoping to have access to private labs as well. Thankfully, flu season is subsiding and that should help eliminate a lot of confusion over symptoms in the coming weeks. Given that the elderly population is at the highest risk, we are focused on our Neighborhood PACE Program and are taking every step possible to continue giving high quality care both at our PACE Centers and in their homes without compromising their risks further. Throughout this crisis, we must still care for all of the health issues our community faces and it is important that people don’t avoid necessary care because of this crisis. We are grateful for our skilled and determined staff for the work they are doing every day.”

EBNHC Vice President of Human Resources Steven Snyder added, “The safety of our staff is always a priority for us. Balancing the need to care for the community during this crisis with the concerns of our own staff is no easy task, but we are fortunate to have an incredibly committed team here at the Health Center who always rises to the occasion. We will continue to take every step we can to see that our staff is utilizing best practices in infection control in the care of our patients, in their normal work day and in their personal lives.”

There is currently no vac-



EBNHC Chief Medical Officer Jackie Fantes and BPHC Executive Director Rita Nieves.



EBNHC President and CEO Manny Lopes and U.S. Congressman Joseph Kennedy III address the crowd during the roundtable discussion concerning COVID-19.

cine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus. BPHC recommends standard precautions to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, like those that cause the flu or a cold:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60%

alcohol.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Avoid spitting in public.
- Get a flu shot.

# Residents, Council push back against Verizon antennas

By Laura Plummer

Small cell technology is taking cities by storm as cellular providers scramble to ready their networks for the long-awaited 5G rollout that is expected to enhance cell phone performance exponentially.

But some Everett residents and City Councilors are speaking out against the antennas that form the essence of this technology.

Small cell antennas are attached to utility poles and are used to transmit data to and from wireless devices. Unlike the large cell towers found on rooftops and along highways, small cells are installed every few blocks and supplement the coverage of the larger cells.

Recently, T-Mobile received permission to install 27 devices on utility poles throughout the city to benefit its customers. Knowing that it was only a matter of time before other wireless providers descended on the city with small cell ambitions, Councilors hurried to establish an ordinance to regulate their proliferation.

As anticipated, representatives from cellular giant Verizon Wireless appeared before Council on Monday, March 9, to request permission to install its first cluster of small cell antennas at five locations throughout the city: 9 Jefferson Ave., 182 Springvale Ave., 27 Vaughn Street, 47 Winthrop

Rd. and 19 Woodlawn Ave. The company aims to install at least 50 small cell antennas in Everett.

Verizon provided a document claiming that radiation from small cell antennas is “well below standards” and would not cause harm to residents.

“All standards are vetted through multiple agencies through local and federal government,” said one representative.

He added that antennas could also be disabled on an as-needed basis if utility workers needed to access the poles.

Councilor Wayne Matewsky said that he wanted to see one of the devices “in person” before making his decision.

“If you took a tour of this neighborhood, you’d see some really ugly stuff on poles,” he said. “It may look small up on the pole, but I want to see the device physically. I want to be careful what I put on poles.”

When members of the public were given the chance to speak on the petition, they did not hold back. Their main concerns were health and appearance.

“We don’t know what [antennas] do to human beings,” said a resident of 36 Woodlawn Ave. “Verizon, a billion-dollar company, is telling us it’s harmless, but I’d like more information.”

“I don’t know why cell phones take precedence

over health,” said one resident of 27 Bond Street. “I don’t want to walk out my door and look at that aberration and wonder how it’s affecting my health and that of my family. The gentlemen from Verizon wouldn’t want that outside their front door and I don’t [either].”

“Wireless technology hasn’t been around long enough to know the side effects of these transmissions,” said a resident of 36 Madison Ave.

All residents within 200 feet of an antenna installation were notified by certified mail, but the Madison Avenue resident said that seniors and residents who don’t read English were unable to understand the full impact of the installation. She also claimed that Verizon was targeting blue-collar neighborhoods.

“We’re being preyed upon because we’re working class people who don’t know what the implications are,” she said.

“I don’t want to see this monstrosity outside my house,” said a resident of 19 Woodlawn Ave. “The wireless is out of control. Verizon is a monopoly and they’re trying to take over. I wouldn’t want to see any more units in the city.”

“When is enough, enough?” said another resident. “I worry what the city is going to look like in 10 years. Let us slow down and catch up.”

Regarding the certified

letter that was mailed out to residents, Councilor Gerly Adrien suggested making small cell antenna information available on the City’s website in a variety of languages.

Councilor Michael McLaughlin suggested that Verizon approach the City about organizing a community meeting large enough to invite all impacted residents, not just for the five initial antenna locations, but for Verizon’s ultimate vision for Everett.

“Verizon needs to hold a

neighborhood meeting immediately and listen to the residents before I will vote on any of the items before us,” he told Independent.

“Their fears and concerns are real.”

Council voted to postpone the request to its first meeting in April, which would give the petitioners the opportunity to answer Council’s questions and, hopefully, comply with their request to bring a hollo-

lowed-out antenna into the Council chambers.

Council votes on the in-

stallation of cell antennas largely as a formality, and lacks any real power to forestall the advent of cellular technology. However, it can hinge its approval on a company’s compliance with a number of requirements.

In just the past two weeks, headlines have been dominated by communities that are taking a stand against small cell antennas: San Anselmo, California; Lakewood, Colorado and Farragut, Tennessee, to name just a few.

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## 3 POUND BURGER CHALLENGE

Fuddruckers held its annual 3 Pound Burger Challenge in celebration of Fat Tuesday. Contestants signed up to eat a 3 lb. burger on a giant bun with a pound of French fries and a bottomless drink. Those that finished within an hour won Fuddruckers gift certificates. Richard Alves of Everett took the challenge at Fuddruckers in Reading. Despite his best effort, Alves wasn’t able to complete the challenge within the allotted timeframe. The winner was Shawn Butler of Lowell who plowed through the meal in a record-breaking 17 minutes. \$5 of every entry fee was donated to the North Shore Cancer WALK.

# Everett

## Independent

President: Stephen Quigley

Editor in Chief: Cary Shuman

### OUR UNDERPREPARED HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

The coronavirus pandemic that is sweeping across the world has highlighted how ill-prepared the U.S. health-care system has become for dealing with a national health emergency of this potential magnitude.

The U.S. has lagged far behind other nations in terms of testing our citizens to determine whether they have contracted Covid-19. Not only did our government not have anywhere near the number of test kits available to meet the demand for testing, but those that we did have were defective.

As a result, we have lost precious time in identifying how many of our citizens have the disease and the extent of the outbreak in specific parts of the country.

Cutbacks in the budgets of the federal agencies responsible for ensuring our nation’s health have reduced the ability of the federal government to respond to such threats speedily and competently.

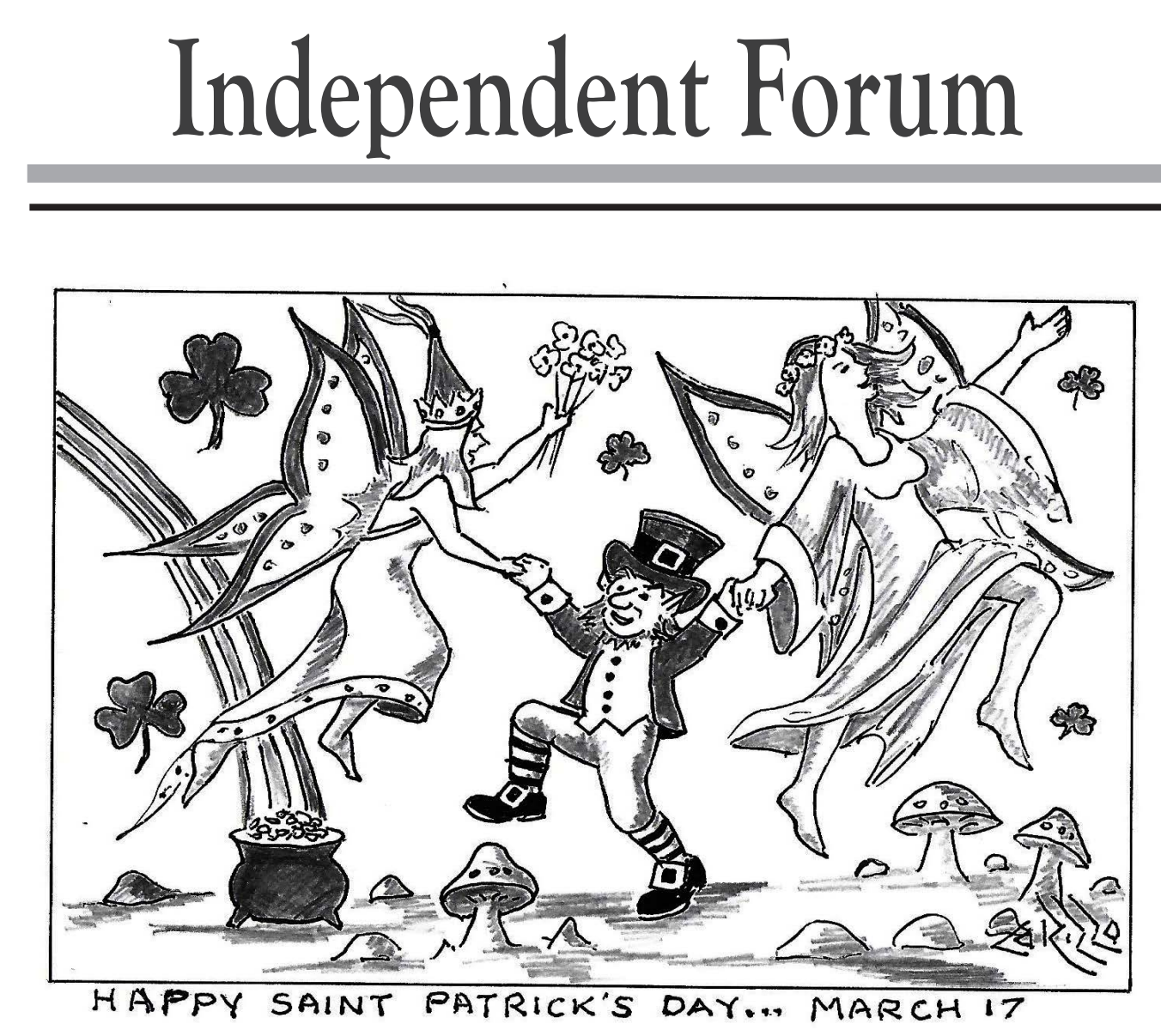
However, there is a much-deeper problem that has been looming for years.

The closing of community hospitals throughout the nation in the past few decades has created a crisis that already has placed our healthcare system at the breaking point -- a situation that will only get worse as the Baby Boomers begin to reach their late 70s and 80s.

Anybody who has been to a hospital emergency room recently knows all too well that our healthcare system is woefully inadequate even in the best of times.

The 46,500 beds in intensive care in the United States are occupied virtually 24/7/365 by mostly elderly persons with a wide range of health issues. Covid-19, if uncontrolled, might lead to up to 1.9 million ICU admissions, according to projections presented to the American Hospital Association -- a situation for which we have nowhere near the capacity or capability.

Even without a pandemic or similar national health emergency, our health care system is a disaster waiting to happen in the years ahead.



GUEST OP-ED

### Springtime, Encore, and the Waterfront

By Mayor Carlo DeMaria

With daylight savings upon us, Spring is certainly in the air. The Connolly Center and the Health and Wellness Centers are filled with residents looking escape cabin fever. The sun has been shining and the temperature has reached over 70 degrees.

What better time than now to check out Everett’s spectacular waterfront? Encore Boston Harbor offers magnificent amenities that residents should explore if they haven’t yet. Imagine:

a 5-star resort in our own backyard attracting people from all over the world built on the ashes of the land’s former resident, the pollution-heavy mega-corporation known as Monsanto Chemical.

Encore Boston Harbor is so much more than a Casino. There is far more at Encore than slot machines and table games. Their state-of-the-art spa rivals the finest in Boston. Their dining options have something for everyone. Where else can you get prime rib for \$29.99 at a top tier steak house like Rare? Their mid-week rates

for overnight guests are reasonable for such a beautiful facility. I am so fortunate to have witnessed this breathtaking facility literally rise from start to finish. Stacy and I have enjoyed a few overnight stays at Encore. Our most memorable was the opening day of the resort in preparation for the ceremonial ribbon cutting, a defining moment in our City’s history that I will never forget. Waking up to a view of our City from a now nationally recognizable landmark after years of intense advocacy was surreal.

As Spring approaches, I invite you to take a Saturday afternoon to explore the resort or the grounds that surround it. Take a stroll along the beautiful waterfront or the outdoor parks and vastly sprawling open spaces, all of which are free and open to the public. If you are feeling inclined, opt to treat yourself and stay mid-week for \$149. Our Everett is developing and progressing and I’m excited for the future.

*Carlo DeMaria is the Mayor of Everett.*

GUEST OP-ED

### Have a hippity-hoppity holiday

By Melissa Martin, Ph.D.

This year, Easter falls on Sunday, April 12. So, make your menu, sew your outfit, and decorate your dwelling while there’s still time.

Easter has become a commercial event catered toward children with baskets full of chocolate rabbits, dyed eggs, jelly beans, and other sweet treats. Easter is the second best-selling candy holiday in America after Halloween. Keep that a secret from your kid’s dentist.

How interesting that a dog is in the running to be the next Cadbury bunny—that will be one funny bunny. And I voted for the two-legged dog from New Richmond, Ohio, to be the 2020 candy canine. Bark for the bunny! Lt. Dan is named after the “Forrest Gump” character who lost his legs overseas in com-

bat. What animal lover can resist a disabled dog wearing long ears and a fluffy tail. Cadbury issued a casting call for all pets to enter the contest to become the next Cadbury Bunny. Lt. Dan the dog is competing against a mini-horse, llama, pig, hamster, duck and two cats. The winner of the contest will star in Cadbury’s new TV commercial and receive \$5,000. The Cadbury Bunny Tryouts Contest is sponsored by The Hershey Company in Hershey, Pa. Vote at [www.bunnytryouts.cadburyusa.com](http://www.bunnytryouts.cadburyusa.com).

How interesting that a giant bunny carries a huge basket and hops down the bunny trail to deliver colored eggs to children. Aren’t the hens steamed? It’s hard work laying eggs, only to give the credit to a happy hare. Plastic lookalike eggs have replaced boiled eggs in the annual Easter egg

hunts. The chickens don’t have to work as long during the season, but please give the poor cluckers a raise and retirement benefits. But no billionaire bunnies allowed according to Bernie.

The White House Easter Egg Roll is an annual tradition. Since 1878, when Rutherford B. Hayes was in office, American presidents have hosted the party on the lawn according to the White House Historical Association website. The liberals probably want to roll Trump down Capitol Hill—then he will have a bad ‘hare’ day. Sorry, I couldn’t resist a hair joke. Womp womp.

The following corny jokes were found at [www.southernliving.com](http://www.southernliving.com). Q: Therapist: What’s been up lately? A: Chocolate bunny: I don’t know, I just feel so hollow inside. Q: How can you tell which rabbits

are oldest in a group? A: Just look for the gray hares. Q: Where does the Easter Bunny go when he needs a new tail? A: To a re-tail store.

What’s for Easter Dinner?

“In early Jewish history, lambs were sacrificed as offerings to God and served regularly as part of the Passover feast. Then, when Jesus died during Passover, he represented the ultimate sacrifice for sin, the “lamb of God,” and the animal evolved into a potent symbol for Christians, especially at Easter. Many Orthodox Christians still follow the Jewish Orthodox customs of not eating any pork, so lamb takes center stage at their Easter meal. Others, however, wouldn’t imagine Easter without ham. Symbolizing “good luck”

See OP-ED Page 5

### LETTERS to the Editor

**EXACTLY WHAT THE BUSINESS DISTRICT NEEDS**

**Dear Editor,**

I am pleased to have supported the 600 project from the beginning. This \$28 Million project is exactly what the business district needs to spur new growth and revitalization. It will be the largest private investment made in the heart of the city for as long as I can remember and create over \$400,000 in new annual tax revenue to support our schools and city services. I am especially proud to have fought for and supported

the Mayor’s vision to implement Inclusionary Zoning across the city. Because of this new ordinance, the project will include 13 affordable rate units.

In 2012 I was pleased to support Mayor DeMaria’s linkage fee vision. I knew then as I do now that we needed to start looking at how we bring in smart growth development. This being said making sure our community wouldn’t be left out and left behind. We needed to see these large scale development’s giving back community benefits at the same time lessening

the burden on our Schools and Public Safety. Unfortunately at that time the Board of Aldermen didn’t see the importance of this vision. We at that point could have started to make meaningful impact towards affordable housing. Unfortunately we had to wait 4 more years until the Mayor offered another option. I was still fully committed to addressing the affordable housing needs in our city. It’s the reason why I voted in 2016 and 2018 for and amendments to inclusionary zoning.

I want to thank the mem-

bers of the Board of Appeals. I absolutely believe they did all they could to work between the residents, city and developers. While always having first priority of the resident’s concerns in mind. I am pleased that this opportunity will be developed under John Tocco who has proven to be a dedicated member of our community and I look forward to working with him and his team to reinvigorate our downtown.

**Michael J. McLaughlin**  
**Ward Six City Councilor**

### SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Everett Independent encourages residents to submit birth and engagement announcements, news releases, business briefs, honor rolls, social news, sports stories, and photographs for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at **385 Broadway, Citizens Bank Building, Revere, MA 02151**. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. The Independent also encourages readers to e-mail news releases to [editor@everettindependent.com](mailto:editor@everettindependent.com).

**The Everett Independent assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements, but will reprint that part of the advertisement in which the error occurs. Advertisers will please notify the management immediately of any errors that may occur.**

### 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](mailto: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

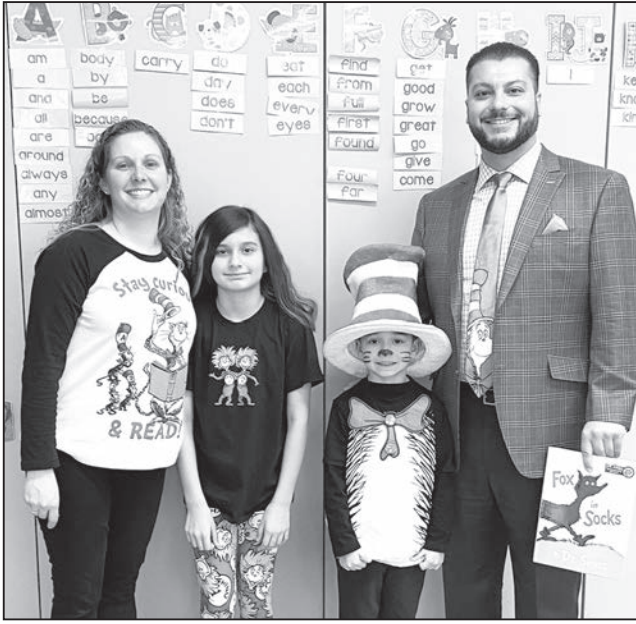
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CITY OFFICIALS PARTICIPATE IN READ ACROSS AMERICA AT EVERETT SCHOOLS

COURTESY PHOTOS

The Everett Public School continued on last week with the Read Across America tradition, with several City officials reading to classrooms across the city.



Councilor Anthony DiPierro read ‘Fox in Sox’ to Ms. Cataldo’s first grade class at the Webster School. He is pictured here with Mrs. Elizabeth DiPierro and his cousins, Ella and Anthony DiPierro.



Councilor Fred Capone read to Mrs. Denish’s third-grade class at Sumner Whittier.



Mayor Carlo DeMaria read to Ms. Reagan’s second grade class at the Lafayette School on Dr. Seuss’ birthday



Mrs. Reagan’s second-grade class at the Lafayette School was happy to welcome Councilor Fred Capone as a guest reader.



Mayor Carlo DeMaria read to students at the Whittier School last week.



Patti Frati from Everett Bank read to students at the Lafayette School on Friday, March 6, as part of Read Across America.

Op-Ed // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

for many cultures around the world, it made a fitting meal at all sorts of feasts and celebrations, according to the Encyclopedia of Religion. Some historians believe Easter’s spring timing also factored into the choice: Farmers typically slaughtered pigs in the fall and then took several months to smoke the pork, making a ham ready just in time for Easter dinner.” [www.goodhousekeeping.com](http://www.goodhousekeeping.com).

The Real Deal of Easter “The Bible makes no mention of a long-eared, short-tailed creature who delivers decorated eggs to well-behaved children on Easter Sunday; nevertheless, the Easter bunny has become a prominent symbol of Christianity’s most important holiday,” according to an article at [www.history.com](http://www.history.com). Easter is a deeply religious holiday for many, packed with significance

in the resurrection story of Christ. Good Friday marks Jesus’s crucifixion and Easter Sunday celebrates his resurrection. The crucifixion of Jesus is recorded in the New Testament books, known as the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Blessings to all my peeps at Easter! *Melissa Martin, Ph.D., is an author, columnist, educator, and therapist. She lives in Ohio.*

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SEN. SAL DIDOMENICO HOSTS ANNUAL ST. PATRICK’S DAY ROAST

Sen. Sal DiDomenico held his annual St. Patrick’s Day Roast in Charlestown on Friday evening, March 6, welcoming hundreds of friends and supporters. This year, the Golden Shamrock award was awarded to Lisa McGoff Collins of Charlestown. Politicians joked at one another’s expense and all enjoyed a traditional Irish corned beef dinner.



Bagpipers entertained the crowd at Sen. Sal DiDomenico’s St. Patrick’s Day event.



Tricia DiDomenico, Sen. Sal DiDomenico, and Councilor Anthony DiPierro celebrated St. Patrick’s Day on Friday in Charlestown.



Sen. Sal DiDomenico welcomed Attorney General Maura Healy.

PHOTOS BY KATY ROGERS



Marie Monziona and Ruth Giannasoli dressed in festive green attire for St. Patrick’s Day.



Senate President Karen Spilka and State Treasurer Deb Goldberg enjoyed traditional Irish food.



Congressman Joe Kennedy and State Sen. Joe Boncore saluted the flag.



Sen. Sal DiDomenico welcomed Everett Supt. Priya Tahiliani and Senate President Karen Spilka.



Councilor Stephanie Martins and School Committeeman Marcony Almeida-Barros attended.



Charlestown State Rep. Dan Ryan and Everett State Rep. Joe McGonagle joined the fun at the St. Patrick’s Day celebration.

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick

Annual Dinner!

Exciting New location:

Encore

BOSTON HARBOR

On Wednesday, March 18th from 6pm - 9pm.

Join Mayor Carlo DeMaria and State Rep. Joe McGonagle

for a grand night of Irish humor, dinner & drink!

Featuring Comedians...LENNY CLARKE & DAVE RUSSO!

Live Irish Band "Devri" will also perform.

Tickets: \$100 Per Person, \$900 Per table of ten.

All proceeds to benefit the Everett Kiwanis,

Bread of Life food pantry, Grace Ministries food pantry,

EHS Culinary Arts Program & EHS Music Dept.

For Tickets & Info, contact: [everettfsosp@gmail.com](mailto:everettfsosp@gmail.com)

Ticket includes free exclusive parking at Municipal Lot on Broadway, present ticket on arrival

Happy

St. Patrick's

Day!

Senator

Sal

DiDomenico



Congressman Joe Kennedy received assistance with his floral pin from Christie Getto Young.

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# Sports

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## ELIOT FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER HOSTS CHARITY HOCKEY GAME

The Eliot Family Resource Center held a charity hockey game on Saturday, Feb. 29, to benefit the Center – which is housed in the old high school building on Broadway. The Center’s team played Everett’s Finest – a team made up of Everett Police officers. The result was a great night at the rink for a great cause.



Mike Broderick, Brian Sparrow and Goalie DJ Schoanec.



PHOTOS BY EMILY HARNEY

Everett's Finest Team.



Norman Derochers (L) and Mike Broderick (R).



The Eliot Family Resource Center Team.



Eli Kim (L) and Anthony Matos (R) battle for the puck.



Shayne Lafee.



Gus Rego (L) and Ryan Silman (R) prepare for a faceoff.



Goalie Justin Keenan protects the puck from Brian Ramunno (R).



Nick Cristiano (EF).

## Academy Award

LCA star Andreotti scores her 1,000th career point

By Cary Shuman

Cara Andreotti wrapped up her superb basketball career for Lexington Christian Academy with an appearance in the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) championship game Sunday at Noble and Greenough in Dedham.

While Andreotti and the Lady Lions fell short to Vermont Academy in the Class D final, her achievements as a four-year All-Star and scholar-athlete have left a lasting legacy in the program led by head coach Steve Schmidt.

A 5-foot-5-inch point guard known for her uncanny ball-handling and play-making skills, Andreotti scored the 1,000th point of her career in a Jan. 31 game at Concord Academy. She swished a three-pointer from the top of the key to enter the esteemed club.

The referees stopped the game and teammates enveloped Cara with congratulatory hugs and high-fives along with a pre-made poster commemorating her accomplishment. Cara’s parents, Rocco and Cindy, and her grandfather, Jay

Andreotti – part of a family heritage dating back more than 100 years in Everett – were also present for the milestone moment. Cara also received the game ball, choosing to wear her sister’s Crimson Tide hoodie for the presentation ceremony.

While Andreotti’s ability to hit long-range jumpers and drive past defenders for layups is affirmed by her career, double-figure points-per-game average (13 PPG this season) and a 34-point career-high performance versus Berwick Academy as a junior, it was her multitude of assists and unselfish floor generalship that elevated the team to the top seed in New England.

“Cara’s an incredible ballhandler and an incredible leader on the floor who can score, but she looks to make her teammates better first,” said Coach Schmidt. She’s also great defensively and was the leader of our offense.”

Andreotti helped anchor the resurgence of the LCA program that has been a playoff team the last two seasons. “We were rebuilding when she first got here and she was a huge part



Lexington Christian Academy basketball star Cara Andreotti of Everett holds the game ball that she received after scoring the 1,000th point of her career in a Jan. 31 game at Concord Academy.

of that transition,” said Schmidt. “We had tough seasons, but to be where we’ve been the last two years, it’s been great.”

Andreotti said this year’s team – with a terrific starting five including fellow 1,000-point scorer Brooke Krivickas and a third All-NEPSAC player, Emily Palmer – had high expectations entering this season. After being the No. 2 seed a year ago, the Lions marched to an impressive 17-6 record and earned the No. 1 seed in the NEPSAC playoffs this season.

See ANDREOTTI Page 8



Ann Fitzgerald, Eleanor Gayhart, Liliana Patino, Valentina Medina, Jennifer Joseph, and Mariana Patino.

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## Andreotti // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

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VISIT [EVERETTINDEPENDENT.COM](http://EVERETTINDEPENDENT.COM)**

COUNCILOR ANTHONY DIPIERRO HOSTS A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

PHOTOS BY KATY ROGERS

Councilor Anthony DiPierro hosted a birthday celebration at the Village Bar and Grill on Thursday evening, March 5. He welcomed friends and supporters to join him in celebrating.



Councilor Anthony DiPierro celebrated his birthday at the Village Bar and Grill on Thursday night.



Councilor Anthony DiPierro was joined by Greg Antonelli.



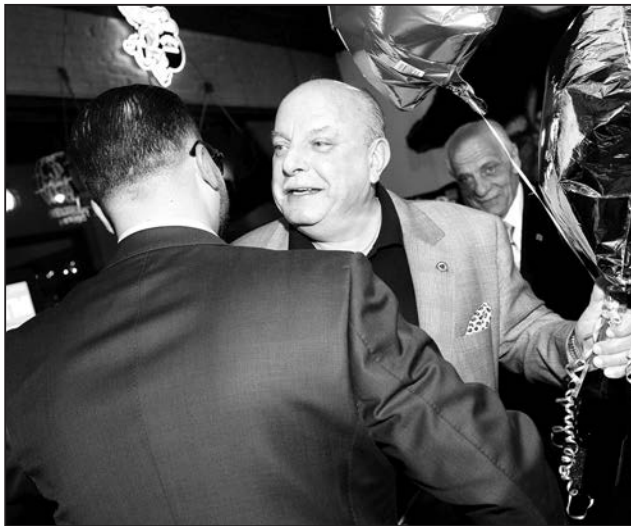
Councilor Anthony DiPierro was joined by his family, mom Tina, brother Sal, and father Jerry in celebration his birthday.



School Committeewoman Cynthia Sarnie posed for a selfie with Councilor Anthony DiPierro.



Anthony Diorio and Brendan Mangan joined Councilor Anthony DiPierro.



Councilor at Large Wayne Matewsky congratulated Councilor Anthony DiPierro.



Councilor Anthony DiPierro celebrated with Council President Rosa DiFlorio.



Councilor Anthony DiPierro hung out with his little cousin, Mikayla Fosco.



Councilor Jimmy Tri Le, School Committeeman Alan Panarese, and Carol Panarese wished Councilor Anthony DiPierro a happy birthday.



Councilor Anthony DiPierro celebrated with his colleagues, School Committeewoman Samantha Lambert, Councilor Peter Napolitano, Malden School Committee Rob McCarthy, Councilor at Large John Hanlon, School Committeeman Alan Panarese, and Councilor Stephanie Martins.

A SHORT STORY ABOUT A MOTORCYCLE. AND A SUDDEN TURN.

When she was a young college student, Elisabeth Marra had a serious motorcycle accident that ultimately changed her life. Two years after the crash, her painful open fractures had failed to heal. Then she heard about a new and complex surgery pioneered by a surgeon who used a patient's own stem cells to concentrate the healing process. This time, her surgery and subsequent therapy were successful.

Elisabeth's experience caused her to re-direct her own career aspirations. Inspired by the medical professionals who helped her reclaim her active lifestyle, she changed her major to study physical therapy—a profession where her own experience could help other patients prevail through difficult recoveries.

We tell Elisabeth Marra's story here to illustrate two of the most profound messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If reading it inspires just one more person to achieve something special, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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orthoinfo.org

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CITY OF EVERETT  
EVERETT PLANNING BOARD  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
484 BROADWAY, ROOM 26  
EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS 02149

Hearing on the following application:  
983 Broadway  
Site Plan Review

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Chapter 40A, Section 19 of the Everett Zoning Ordinance, the Everett Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on Monday, March 23, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Speaker George Keverian Room, Third floor, City Hall, 484 Broadway, Everett, MA 02149 to consider the above-listed applications in connection with the proposal to build a 9 unit (three story structure) as shown on plans entitled "Site Plan for Board of Appeals #983 Broadway" (the "Site Plan") on a parcel shown on the Site Plan, being a parcel of land referenced by Assessor's Department as A0-01-000147. The application with narrative and the Site Plan were received on February 19, 2020. The plans are entitled "Site Plan for Board of Appeals #983 Broadway, Everett, MA 02149" were prepared by Hayes Engineering, Inc, 603 Salem St, Wakefield MA and prepared for the owner REX-E LLC of Wakefield MA. The application was prepared by Atty. David W. Carr dated February 19, 2020

A copy of the application and plans are on file and available in the Office of the City Clerk and the Department of Planning and Development, both located at City Hall, 484 Broadway, Everett, MA 02149 and can be inspected during regular City Hall business hours. All persons interested or wishing to be heard on the proposal should appear at the time and place designated above. As items may be continued to later dates, please contact Shane O'Brien of the Department of Planning & Development at 617-944-0236 before attending.

Frederick Cafasso, Chairman  
March 11, 2020  
March 18, 2020

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# Everett resident running Boston Marathon for cancer research

On April 20, Kara Pilotte of Everett, is running to conquer cancer as a member of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team in the 124th Boston Marathon.

The Everett resident along with more than 500 Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge teammates from across the United States and around the world, will run Massachusetts’ historic marathon route from Hopkinton to Boston to raise \$6.25 million for cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

This year marks the 31st annual running of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge (DFMC). One hundred percent of the money raised by the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team goes to Dana-Farber’s Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research, which supports promising science research in its earliest stages. The Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge has raised more than \$100 million for the Claudia Adams Barr Program to date.

In 1990, Dana-Farber was among the first charity organizations to be recognized by the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.), which organizes the Boston Marathon. The Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team offers its members extensive fundraising support, training guidance from 1976 Boston Marathon men’s champion Jack Fultz, and Boston-area training runs, plus volunteer opportunities for non-runners. Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge runners who are not time-qualified for the Boston Marathon receive

an invitational entry into the race.

Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge runners include cancer survivors and patients, and family and friends of those who have been affected by cancer. Each team member must fulfill a basic fundraising commitment:

- Invitational runners, runners who receive their entry from Dana-Farber, have a fundraising commitment of \$7,500.
- Own entry runners, runners who have joined the DFMC after obtaining their own race entry, have a fundraising commitment of \$4,000.

A cornerstone of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge is its Partner Program. Each year, approximately 50 current pediatric cancer patients of Dana-Farber’s Jimmy Fund Clinic are paired with DFMC runners as “Patient Partners.” For the young patients, their partnerships with the runners provide a unique and friendly focus outside their illnesses. Another two dozen Partner Program families are paired with runners through the “In-Memory Program” in remembrance of their children.

To contribute to the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge, visit RunDFMC.org or contact the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge office at (617) 632-1970 or dfmc@dfci.harvard.edu. Follow DFMC on Facebook: www.facebook/marathonchallenge. On Twitter: #RunDFMC.

Dana-Farber’s Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research

Since its inception in

1990, the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge has raised more than \$100 million for the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research. Dana-Farber Trustees J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver founded the program in 1987 to honor Mrs. Weaver’s mother, Claudia Adams Barr, who lost her battle with cancer 30 years earlier.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is one of the world’s leading centers of cancer research and treatment. It is ranked in the top 5 of U.S. News and World Report’s Best Hospitals for both adult and pediatric

cancer care. Dana-Farber’s mission is to reduce the burden of cancer through scientific inquiry, clinical care, education, community engagement, and advocacy. We provide the latest in cancer for adults through Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women’s Cancer Care and for children through Dana-Farber/Boston Children’s Cancer and Blood Disorders Center. Dana-Farber is dedicated to a unique and equal balance between cancer research and care, translating the results of discovery into new treatments for patients locally and around the world.

## LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

### EVERETT STUDENTS NAMED TO HONOR ROLL AT BC HIGH

Boston College High School is proud to announce that the following students from Everett have been named to the school’s Second Quarter Honor Roll.

For High Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.80 quality point average and all grades “C+” or higher. Freshmen need a 3.6 qual-

ity point average and all grades “C+” or higher.

- Lucas Santos
- Antoine Fauche
- Christian Topinio

About Boston College High School: Boston College High School is a Jesuit, Catholic, college-preparatory school for young men in grades 7 to 12. Founded in 1863, the school enrolls approximately 1,500 students from more than 140 communities in eastern Massachusetts. For more information please visit bchigh.edu.

## CHURCH News

### Immaculate Conception Parish

#### News and Notes

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

Weekly Mass Schedule at Immaculate Conception is as follows:

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

p.m.  
12:15 p.m. Spanish Community  
4:00 p.m. Haitian Community  
Masses are being held in the Chapel.

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

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

Bring a Book-Buy a Book - We have a new Fundraiser Program in the back of the Church. It’s called Bring a Book-Buy a Book. All books are a dollar and any money collected will go towards our Stain

Glass Fund. Brink a Book and Buy a Book and make a donation. Our selections are great and varied. Please stop by the table and see what we have. Thank you

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

### 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.

### 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 at the 1pm service in the Children’s Room. Coffee Hour starts after the 10am service in the Parish Hall (entrance is on 11 Liberty St.)

Holy Week Services: Maundy Thursday, April 9, 6p to 7p

Good Friday, April 10, 5:30p to 7p

Easter Sunday, April 12, 10a, 1p, 3p

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**

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### Glendale United Methodist Church

#### News and Notes

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

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

Sponsor the bulletin! For a \$5 donation, you can dedicate the Sunday bulletin to recognize family, friends, or special occasions. There is a sign-up sheet in the Pastor’s study. Feel free to choose your particular week and

leave a copy of your dedication in the mail in that is on the Pastor’s door. Please contact the Pastor if you have any questions.

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

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

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

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

Bread of Life Donations – This outreach is being done to honor the United Methodist Women’s Group, who for

### Glendale Christian Lighthouse Church

#### News and Notes

Adult Sunday School at 9:30 AM. Teaching about Holiness .

Sunday 10:30 AM Worship service.

Wednesday hour of Power, worship, prayer and Bible Study. We are studying about God, come join us.

Come join us in prayer every Friday at 6 am.

Saturday, 12-3, Women’s Fellowship. Join our sisters in worship, fellowship and prayer.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as

working for the Lord, not for human masters,” Colossians 3:23

“In Pursuit of Spiritual Excellence”

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• Domingo 9:30 am Escuela Dominical de Adultos. (en inglés)

Servicio de Alabanza y Adoracion a las 10 am (en inglés)

• Miercoles Hora de Poder, Oración, alabanza y Estudio de la Palabra de Dios a las 7 pm (en inglés)

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## Homeland Security implements Public Charge final rules

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on Monday implemented the Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds final rule, a new rule looking at the likelihood of new immigrants not being self-sufficient and having to seek government benefits.

Under the final rule, DHS will look at the factors required under the law by Congress, like an alien's age, health, family status, assets, resources, and financial status, education and skills, among others, in order to determine whether the alien is likely at any time to become a public charge. The rule now applies nationwide, including in Illinois.

Self-sufficiency is a long-standing principle of immigration law. Since the 1800s, inadmissibility based on public charge has been a part of immigration law. Since 1996, federal laws have stated that aliens seeking to come to or remain in the United States, temporarily or permanently, must be self-sufficient and rely on their own capabilities and the resources of family, friends, and private organizations instead of public benefits.

"President Trump continues to deliver on his promise to the American people to enforce our nation's immigration laws. After several judicial victories, DHS will finally begin implementing the Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds final rule," said Ken Cuccinelli, the acting deputy secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. "This rule enforces longstanding law requiring aliens to be self-sufficient, reaffirming the American ideals of hard work, perseverance and determination. It also offers clarity and expectations to aliens considering a life in the United States and will help protect our public benefit

programs."

The final rule defines "public charge" as an alien who has received one or more public benefits (as defined in the rule) for more than 12 months, in total, within any 36-month period.

The final rule defines "public benefits" to include any cash benefits for income maintenance, Supplemental Security Income, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), most forms of Medicaid and certain housing programs.

Applicants for adjustment of status who are subject to the final rule must show that they are not likely at any time to become a public charge by submitting a Form I-944, Declaration of Self-Sufficiency, when they file their Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status.

To determine whether an alien is inadmissible on the public charge grounds, USCIS will not consider, and applicants and petitioners do not need to report, the application for, certification or approval to receive, or

receipt of certain previously excluded non-cash public benefits (such as SNAP, most forms of Medicaid, and public housing) before Feb. 24, 2020. Similarly, USCIS will not consider as a heavily weighted negative factor receipt of previously included public benefits (such as SSI and TANF) before Feb. 24, 2020, in a public charge inadmissibility determination.

The final rule requires most aliens seeking to extend their nonimmigrant stay or change their nonimmigrant status to show that, since obtaining the nonimmigrant status they seek to extend or change, they have not received public benefits (as defined in the final rule) for more than 12 months, in total, within any 36-month period beginning Oct. 15, 2019. Due to litigation-related delays in the final rule's implementation, DHS is applying this requirement as though it refers to Feb. 24, 2020 rather than Oct. 15, 2019. Therefore, with respect to applying the public benefits condition to applications and petitions for extension of nonimmigrant stay and change of nonimmigrant status, DHS will

not consider, and applicants and petitioners need not report an alien's receipt of any public benefits before Feb. 24, 2020.

Certain classes of aliens are exempt from the public charge ground of inadmissibility (such as refugees, asylees, certain VAWA self-petitioners, U petitioners, and T applicants) and therefore, are not subject to the Final Rule.

After Monday, USCIS will reject prior editions of affected forms, including in Illinois where the rule remained enjoined until Feb. 21, 2020, when the U.S. Supreme Court granted a stay of the statewide injunction. If USCIS receives an application or petition for immigration benefits using prior editions of the forms postmarked on or after Feb. 24, 2020, then USCIS will inform the applicant or petitioner of the need to submit a new application or petition using the correct forms. For applications and petitions that are sent by commercial courier (such as UPS, FedEx and DHL), the postmark date is the date reflected on the courier receipt.

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PLEASE  RECYCLE

# Exelon // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mark Rodgers, a spokesman for the Mystic Station plant, said they are negotiating with the union and are in the midst of talks now.

“Exelon Generation is currently negotiating with the Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA), Local 369 to renew the contract for 38 of our employees at Mystic Generating Station Units 8 & 9 in Everett,” read the statement. “We have a long history and strong working relationship with the represented employees at this facility. Exelon Generation provides generous and highly competitive salaries and benefits to our workforce and we are seeking a contract that appropriately balances the interests of our employ-

ees and our company. In the meantime, qualified, experienced and state-licensed personnel with extensive plant knowledge from across the region are safely operating and maintaining the facility during the work stoppage.”

The strike has garnered the attention of local and state leaders, with Mayor Carlo DeMaria and Congressman Joe Kennedy III immediately backing the workers.

“I applaud the workers for their courageous actions in bringing public awareness to their safety concerns at the Exelon plant,” said Mayor DeMaria. “They will have the full support of my office and the City of Everett throughout the strike. I

am calling upon Exelon to do the right thing. Listen to these workers, do whatever you can to retain these well trained and vital workers to ensure that residents and businesses alike are protected from high pressure gas and steam. Exelon is a \$34 billion company. They can make the necessary investments to keep our community safe and prosperous.”

Senator Kennedy spoke at a rally on Sunday afternoon, saying he will never compromise his commitment to labor. He pledged his support to the workers of Local 369 as well.

Councilors Michael McLaughlin and Stephanie Martins were also at the rally, and both joined Kennedy on the picket lines.

“I spent my Sunday in the picket line supporting the workers of Local 369,” said McLaughlin. “The members of the Exelon Power Plant unfortunately had to go on strike. They need to defend their benefits and rights against another greedy billion-dollar corporation. One of the many things that has been threatened is their health care coverage for themselves and their families. In the face of the Coronavirus, we should be making health care accessible and more affordable for every person, not finding ways to eliminate hard workers’ benefits. We now have the largest power plan run by inexperienced and unqualified individuals.”



Councilors Michael McLaughlin and Stephanie Martins joined Congressman Joe Kennedy III on the picket lines at Exelon's Mystic Station power plant last Sunday afternoon. Workers at the plant went on strike over the weekend. Exelon said it is in the middle of contract negotiations with them, and that they've brought in trained professionals from around the region to operate the plant in the interim.

# McGonagle // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Health Care Finance and Transportation.

Those issues are all connected, he said, and they are the perfect blend of committees for Everett.

“Housing, Transportation and Health Care Committees are very good committees for me and that’s because they affect the daily lives of Everett residents,” he said. “Housing is the number one issue I face, whether low-income, workforce, and even market rate housing. There just is not enough of it. We’re losing young people that are moving out. There’s no room for them. We have plenty of jobs, but there’s nowhere to live. I feel like in a lot of ways transportation and

housing coincide. Transportation has changed. It’s changed how people get to work. It’s generational. Young people don’t want to own a car. They want to use public transportation.”

That’s where McGonagle said experience locally and at the State House are invaluable. Already, McGonagle has been able to expand his staff so that Staffer Dianne Lees keeps office hours at Everett City Hall. That allows McGonagle and his staff to be able to bring information back and forth between the State House.

Having a positive relationship with Mayor Carlo DeMaria, he said, has helped to coordinate

support for things involving the MBTA – including the innovative dedicated bus lane and other pilot programs championed in Everett. Having that relationship also helps in advocating in a unified way with the mayor, State Sen. Sal DiDomenico and Gov. Charlie Baker on things like the Housing Choice Bill proposed by the governor. That’s a bill that most everyone believes will help Everett unlock more housing production, but also a bill that is bogged down in the Legislature due to pieces in it regarding local approvals, McGonagle said.

Right now, he said his organization is getting energized for the campaign

season, and he is preparing organizing meetings and fundraising times.

More than anything, he said he believes his record and experience is going to speak to voters.

“I was sitting with Rep. Kevin Honan with members of the Senate on a Conference Committee not long ago and just seeing how it all works,” he said. “I did a lot of listening because it was my first Conference Committee, but when you’re in the room and seeing it happening, you get that experience. That kind of experience is invaluable and it takes a lot of time and effort to get into that room.”

# RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE



U.S. Air Force Reserve Technical Sergeant Gershon Patterson received recognition from Councilor Anthony DiPierro at Monday's Council meeting for his continued service to his community and his country. Patterson has served nine years in the Air Force, five of them as a reservist. His unit is being deployed to the Middle East for several months. Patterson is the son-in-law of Clerk of Committees John Burley.

# Artists from several communities to organize in Chelsea this month

By Seth Daniel

When Karyn Alzayer of Integral Arts Everett and Mimi Graney of Chelsea Prospers began reaching out to their artist communities in Everett and Chelsea – they soon found that there was a need in the region to connect artists in those two cities and also in neighboring areas like Revere, Malden, East Boston and Winthrop.

Many artists felt isolated, and weren’t connected to fellow artists, with some of them having been displaced from areas like Cambridge, Somerville and Boston in recent years. When Alzayer and Graney began to talk with one another, they said they sensed a clear call to organize regionally.

“When I was putting together the Everett Art Walk last fall, the sentiment among the artists was they needed a network to meet other artists,” Alzayer said. “Then when I was in Malden, I heard the same sentiment. I realized there was a theme there. Then when I met with Mimi to work on some collaboration in Chelsea, she said artists she met were asking for a network. So, we decided this needed to be done.”

Added Graney, “We were looking for artists in Chelsea to do murals for our downtown initiatives.

We found quite a few new artists here, but then found out none of them knew each other. They expressed a desire to have a more formal way to meet regularly. I met Karyn while doing the Chelsea Night Market last summer and she is a powerbroker. We were think of it for Chelsea, but found there was the same sentiment in Everett and surrounding communities. We felt this first schmoozing could bring about a spark... Gathering everyone together could maybe get some synergy.”

This month, on March 24, they will kick off an effort called Creative Mystic that looks to align and spark connections between artists in Chelsea, Revere, Everett, Malden, Winthrop and East Boston. The event will take place in the Apollinaire Theatre in Chelsea (189 Winnisimmet St.) from 7-9 p.m.

Already they’ve had a great response from the communities, with 35 people signing up within 24 hours of going public with the effort. They hope to continue to get more artists from the region, and that

includes all sorts of artists – from performance artists to musicians to the traditional visual arts media.

Alzayer said there is plenty of structure for artists in Boston, Cambridge and Somerville. She said the North Shore also has a great existing network. However, the middle areas such as they represent, aren’t as connected.

“There are a lot of creatives in the middle here,” she said. “We don’t match up with Boston and we can’t go so far as the North Shore. There were enough of us here that it was a good idea to make these connections.”

Graney said one of the reasons people aren’t connected is there are a good many artists who are relatively new to the community.

“I have been meeting more and more people who have been displaced from East Cambridge or Somerville,” she said. “They lost their workspace and are moving to these areas. They’re bringing their organizational energy and know-how and hopefully it will help unite these cities.”

Alzayer said as a working artist, making those connections is critical. She said she hopes that by introducing artists from all over the area, it can lead to people contacting one another outside of the group.

If they hit a creative roadblock, they can text any number of fellow artists for some ideas. That can lead to new ideas or new directions, she said.

“We’re sparking ideas and we’ll see what happens,” she said.

While the first event will be in Chelsea on March 24, Graney said they hope to have a second event on May 1 in Everett.

To register for the event, go to the Chelsea Prospers Facebook page or go online to Eventbrite under ‘Creative Mystic Meet Up.’

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A SHORT STORY ABOUT A MOTORCYCLE. AND A SUDDEN TURN.

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Elisabeth's experience caused her to redirect her own career aspirations. Inspired by the medical professionals who helped her reclaim her active lifestyle, she changed her major to study physical therapy—a profession where her own experience could help other patients prevail through difficult recoveries.

We tell Elisabeth Marra's story here to illustrate two of the most profound messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If reading it inspires just one more person to achieve something special, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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Showtime is Wednesday, **March 25<sup>th</sup>**, at **6:30pm**, at the **Showcase Cinemas de Lux - Revere**.

A live panel discussion will follow with one of the film's subjects, veteran Sylvia Bowersox, with local experts.

*\*Note: Guests and family members are welcome, however, the film deals with mature subject matter/language and may not be suitable for younger audiences.*

To attend the showing, please visit [www.reelabilities.org/boston](http://www.reelabilities.org/boston)