

Everett

Independent

President: Stephen Quigley

Editor in Chief: Cary Shuman

USE COMMON SENSE WHEN DRIVING

Perusing through the police reports these days makes it apparent that the winter season is here -- and with it, the usual array of traffic incidents and accidents.

Although we have not had any of the big blizzard-type of winter events this season (at least so far), we now are in a period of a stormy weather pattern that is sending us small snow & ice events that in reality are even more treacherous than big storms.

The number of auto accidents seems to be inversely proportional to the size of the snowfall. It's as though motorists think, "This isn't too bad," and then proceed to drive too fast for the conditions.

In addition, we would remind our readers who have all-wheel drive vehicles that four wheels on ice are just as useless as the two wheels of a rear-drive vehicle, if you know what we mean. In other words, ice is ice is ice, regardless of what kind of vehicle you may be driving.

So during this upcoming period of stormy weather, if you do have to be out on the roads, please drive SLOWLY. There is no such thing as exercising too much caution in wintry weather

A NORTH POLE HURRICANE

Residents in Texas and along the Gulf Coast have become accustomed in recent years to a seemingly-endless onslaught of devastating hurricanes barreling up from the Gulf of Mexico.

Hurricane Harvey a few years ago dumped more rain and caused more flooding than any weather event in the region's history.

However, even with the hurricane season long-over, this part of the nation is being subjected to a weather event that has knocked out the region's power grid, leaving millions of residents without in the dark and without heat.

But instead of coming from the south, this latest force of nature has surged from the north thanks to a dip in the polar vortex from the Arctic. The result has been a cataclysmic storm that has crippled the entire region.

It's one thing to be without power amidst warm weather, but quite another to be without power when the temperatures are dipping to near-zero.

Climate change is not simply about global warming -- though it's true that the earth's average temperature has continued to climb year-after-year for the past decade.

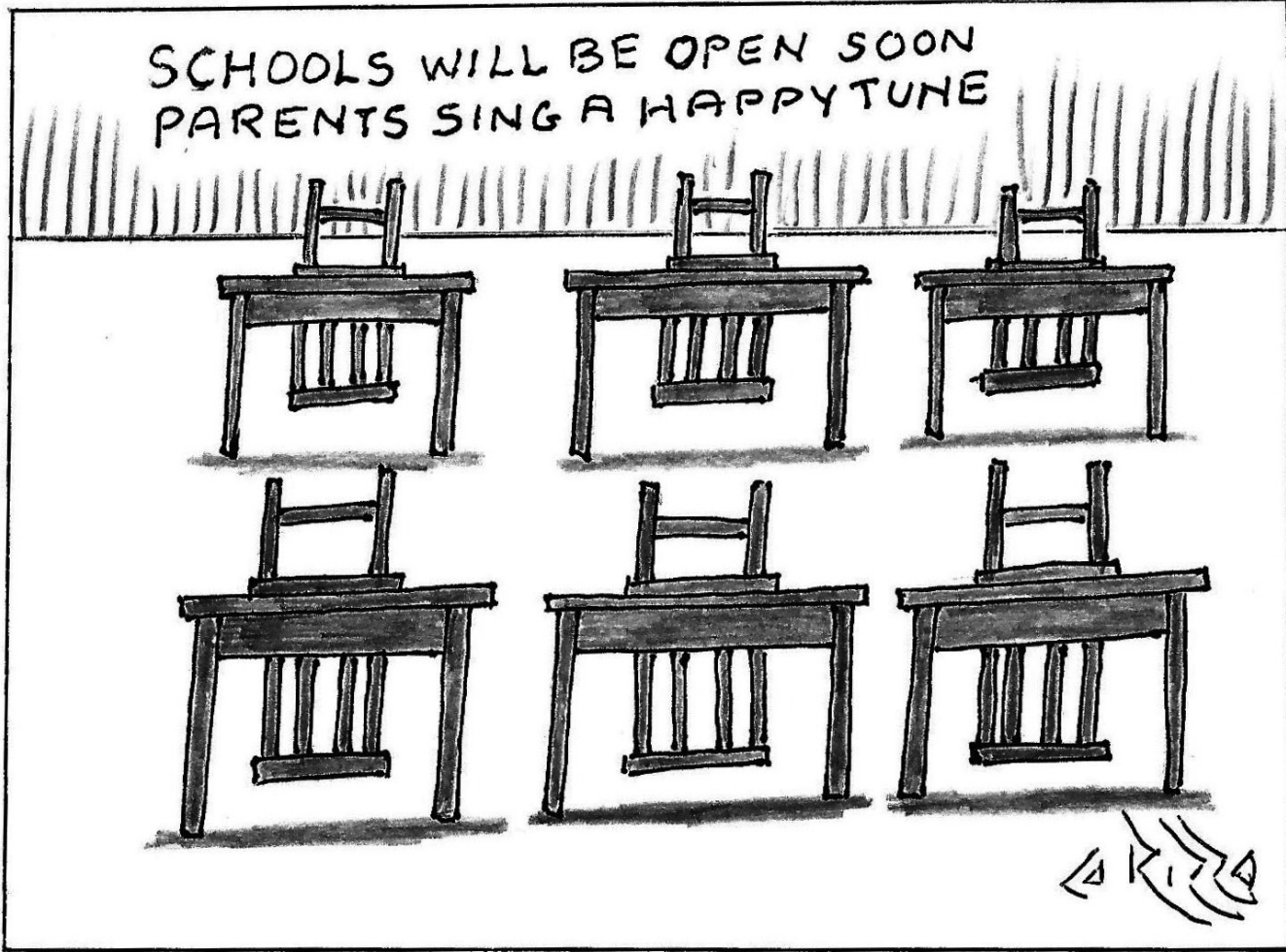
Climate change also is about extreme weather of the sort that wreaks havoc in unexpected ways.

The Texas power grid was completely unprepared for the near-zero temperature conditions that have struck that part of the country, with the result that millions of people are facing a dire, life-threatening situation.

Climate change is arriving faster than anyone predicted -- and whatever window we have to reverse course is closing rapidly, if it already isn't too late.

Yes, the pandemic is demanding our immediate attention, but climate change needs to be addressed urgently -- because if we fail to do so, the worst is yet to come.

Independent Forum



GUEST OP-ED

Mayor DeMaria says “vaccines do not replace testing”

By Mayor Carlo DeMaria

While the City of Everett has begun to vaccinate the community in accordance with guidelines detailed by the Commonwealth, I'd like to remind everyone that vaccinations are not a replacement for being tested. We have vaccinated our first responders and began to vaccinate our senior citizens. This is a sign of hope and I am proud to help protect our community from COVID-19. As we receive additional doses, we will continue to vaccinate our residents according to the Com-

monwealth's guidelines.

Unfortunately, due to availability of the vaccine, we are unable to vaccinate our entire community at once. This means that the virus is still present and we need to continue to take precautions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19! We encourage residents to get tested if you are displaying symptoms or if you have been exposed to someone who has the virus!

Testing remains available and free for our residents. We have established an indoor testing

site at the Samuel Gentile Recreation Center at 47 Elm Street. Testing is conducted Monday – Thursday 7 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2 p.m.-7 p.m. in addition to Friday & Saturday from noon-6 p.m.

We have also partnered with Kraft Center for Community Health, Mass General Brigham, and the Massachusetts General Hospital Community Health Centers to have a testing site for only Everett residents. Testing at this site will be conducted on Thursdays between 8 a.m.-noon. This site is a walk-up

mobile site located at the Norwood Street parking lot at 158 School Street.

Although our daily case numbers are trending lower than before, please remember to get tested. We still have active cases in the community that can spread and getting tested can save lives. Until we have defeated COVID-19, I encourage you all to continue to wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, and practice social distancing. We will persevere and get through it together.

Carlo DeMaria is the Mayor of Everett.

GUEST OP-ED

I do belong here

By Councilor Gerly Adrien

Black women are commonly stereotyped as too aggressive, too hostile, too angry. Categorizing us with these labels has caused Black women to question how we can look, dress, or even speak to provide a softer image to the outside world. These words can negatively impact our careers, our reputation, and how people look at us.

In 2019, I became the first Black, Haitian-American woman to be elected for the city councilor at-large seat in Everett. I did not run with the label of being the first or being Black. I campaigned on issues critical to my city, and Everett needed the most qualified person in the seat. With my background, family experiences, and work history, I believed I was that person. During my campaign, I spoke about my graduating from Bentley University, obtaining my MBA from Boston University, my eight years of work experience in the corporate and nonprofit sector, and about being a small-business owner.

In 2020, my City Council

colleagues went to the media and labeled me as too aggressive and said that my ideas were too bold for Everett. The labels reminded me of the many tropes Black women have historically heard for scores of years.

Being in the public eye, I noticed every moment was critiqued, including how I dressed or how I spoke. The extreme pressure to maintain my composure while being positive and likable was not what I expected. I learned to smile more. Smiling helped me to show the world that it cannot break me. I am stronger and more resilient than that. People told me I had to be like Michelle Obama, and keep my composure and stay calm. Yet no one ever questioned the behavior and antics of my colleagues. After being in office for 10 months, I was asked by my colleagues in October to resign because I chose to keep my family safe during the pandemic by not attending closed-room meetings with up to 15 people, many of whom did not wear masks.

Being in politics is not about keeping the status quo; I want to create real

change. I want people to relate to their elected officials. I want to speak my mind and, most important, I do not want to change who I am in order for my colleagues to like me.

As I reflect on this recent presidential election, I remember when people questioned and ridiculed our now vice president, Kamala Harris, when she laughed and smiled. I can only assume how she felt, having to stay calm, disciplined, and courageous in the face of adversity. Simultaneously, doing what many women, especially women of color, often do, balancing being disrespected while maintaining professionalism. Smiling and laughing to get through the journey of showing others the importance of a Black woman rising above being labeled as too aggressive.

At last week's City Council meeting, the topic was linkage fees. The subject is important to me, since I have tried to fight for more funding to build affordable housing in a community that has needed it for 10 years.

During a robust debate with my colleagues on the issue, Everett Mayor

Carlo DeMaria attacked me. The mayor said he wished he could turn off "pictures" of some members of the council on the Zoom meeting because they were "laughing" and not taking the issue seriously. He was referring to me. So I raised my hand to speak, knowing I could not stay silent. I told him that his wish that he could turn off the video of the only Black city councilor was disrespectful. He wanted me to disappear, to show viewers that my voice was not significant, and that I did not belong. However, being elected by the people of Everett in 2019, leading the race with the most at-large votes, I knew the community needed me. Yet he tried to embarrass me and make me feel like I did not matter.

I will not change who I am or what I have to say.

No matter how others try to define me, I know this much is true: I smile because I like to smile. That will never change. I will continue to work hard on behalf of my city and my neighbors. Most of all, I do belong here.

Gerly Adrien is a Councilor-at Large in Everett.

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DIRECTORY

Advertising & Marketing

Director of Marketing
Debra DiGregorio
deb@reverejournal.com

Assistant Marketing Director

Maureen DiBella

Senior Sales Associates

Kathleen Bright
Sioux Gerow

Legal Advertising

Ellen Bertino

Business

Accounts Executive
Judy Russi

Editorial

Page Design, Copy Editing
Scott Yates
Kane DiMasso-Scott

Reporting Staff

Seth Daniel
(seth@reverejournal.com)
Cary Shuman
(cary@lynnjournal.com)

Printer

GateHouse Media

PHONE: 781-485-0588 • FAX: 781-485-1403
E-MAIL: EDITOR@EVERETTINDEPENDENT.COM

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Celebrating Black History Month

Looking Back at Black History in Everett

EDITOR’S NOTE: The following is taken from vignettes written by former City Clerk Michael Matarazzo in his book ‘They Came from Everett.’ The histories of many Black residents of Everett might surprise readers, as many of their stories

have never been fully told. There are judges, former slaves who become hotel operators, football players and a former ambassador. Matarazzo’s book is available at [bookblues.com](#).

MATTHEW BULLOCK: Coaching pioneer and

distinguished public servant

Jesse and Amanda (Sneed) Bullock were parents on a mission. Born into slavery in North Carolina, both Jesse and Amanda were determined to claim their piece of the American Dream

and prepare their children to do the same. Shortly after the birth of their second son, Matthew, on September 11, 1881, the Bullocks moved to Boston. Jesse worked as a day laborer wherever and for as long as his body would hold up. Through

hard work and sacrifice, Mr. and Mrs. Bullock saved enough to buy a home, and in 1895 the family moved to their new home in Everett on Winter Street. Matthew, now 14, began attending the Everett Public Schools where

Matt was recognized for his academic and athletic ability, as well as his affable personality. Matt entered Everett High School in 1896 and made an immediate impression; especially on the football field

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Districts /

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Norfolk (Quincy Rep. Bruce Ayers); and the 16th Worcester (Worcester Rep. Daniel Donahue). The 28th Middlesex seat is an Everett-only seat, meaning it doesn’t share any other communities, and it went from about 45 percent minority representation to 56.4 percent in the study. That was a jump of at least 10 percent, and it is predicted to be even higher once the 2020 Census figures are reported later this spring.

“I’m not surprised by this news and it’s truly indicative of how Everett is an evolving and changing community,” said McGonagle. “We are lucky to be a center for different cultures and diversity. In my position as state rep., I have had the opportunity to meet so many of these people who have welcomed me to explore their traditions, especially through their businesses, which thrive in Everett. I believe that together, we make Everett a great place to live and work.”

Three other House districts were also identified as nearly majority-minority, and that included the House district next door in Revere and Chelsea – represented by new Rep. Jessica Giannino. That district (16th Suffolk) represents mostly west Revere, but contains the Prattville neighborhood of Chelsea also. Like Everett, it had a dynamic shift in the numbers of minorities represented from that area, going from about 35 per-

cent to 45.1 percent. It is identified, along with a district in Jamaica Plain and a district in Plymouth, that could become majority-minority next year depending on how the new lines are drawn.

There were 20 of the 160 House districts certified as majority-minority districts in the last effort in 2012, and all of them remained that way in the study.

For Everett’s Senate district – Middlesex & Suffolk District – there was also a shift likely fueled by the changes in Everett. That district, represented by State Sen. Sal DiDomenico, encompasses Everett, Chelsea, Charlestown and large parts of Cambridge and Allston. The study showed the minority representation for that district went from about 46 percent to 51.2 percent.

It was the only Senate district that changed in the study, though the Second Essex & Middlesex was identified as a near majority-minority district – at 47.7 percent of the represented population.

There were three Senate districts that were majority-minority under the 2012 Redistricting plan, and all three remained so as well in the study.

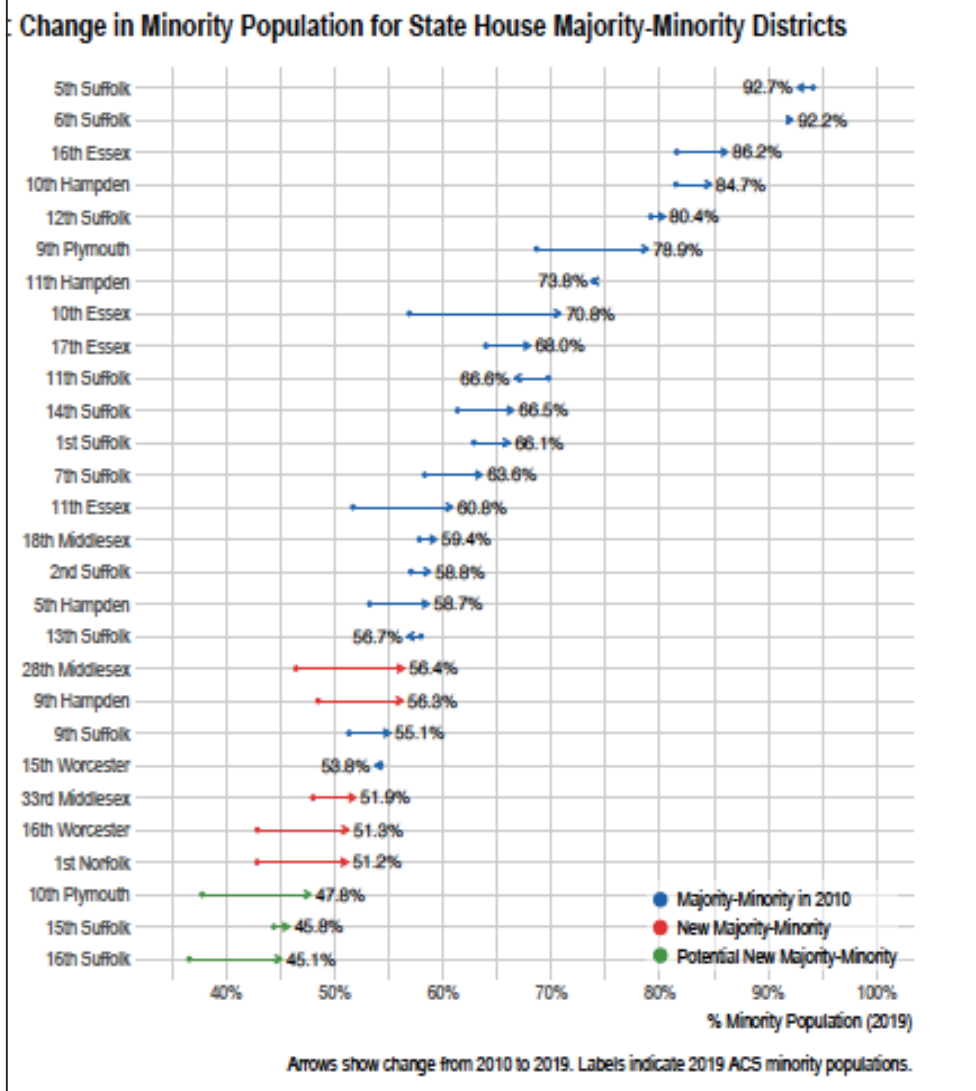
“As someone who has been actively engaged in my communities, this is not a surprise to me and should not be for anyone else,” he said. “I have long known that Black and brown residents make up the majority of my district, and I look forward to continue lis-

tening and responding to the needs of my constituents. I am very proud to represent one of the most racially and ethnically diverse districts in the state, and I have always said our diversity is our strength. From the very first day I joined the Massachusetts Senate, the number one priority of my office has been serving those who for far too long felt like they didn’t have a voice in their state government, as well as addressing many longstanding inequities in our neighborhoods.”

DiDomenico has made a point over the last year during his 10th anniversary in the State Senate to stress that he has always strove to better represent the vulnerable and those historically not at the table in policymaking.

“The work of my Senate office—whether it be the policies I have championed or the assistance we provide to my constituents—has always centered the most vulnerable among us, marginalized communities, and those who have historically been left behind,” he said. “The policies I’ve supported over the years and stances I’ve taken weren’t always the most popular, but they were always what I knew in my heart was right. As always, I want all of my constituents in every neighborhood I represent to know that they have a strong voice in the State House addressing their concerns and needs.”

Patti Cheever, of the Everett Democratic City Committee, said Everett



is a majority-minority city, but is not of one predominant demographic – making language access a key issue when talking about such issues. She said going forward they will focus on access to electoral opportunities and representation.

“Everett has long enjoyed the benefits of diversity and global perspective, and it is important to make sure that representation and advocacy happen,” she said. “Though we are a majority underrepresented population, we are not overwhelmingly any one demographic. Increased language access and an increased effort to reach out to provide a welcome and information on the resources available in our city are key to introducing newcomer residents to our community. Access and representation should be our main focus moving forward.”

Councilor Gerly Adrien said she has been watching for this report for some time, and said

it is exciting because it opens up opportunities for more diverse people to seek office and for that representation to look more like the overall community. She also said it might even open up doors for her political future.

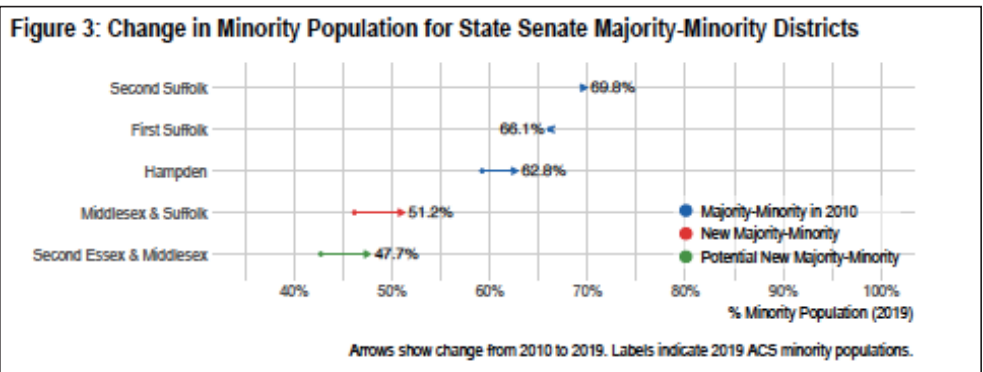
“As we are seeing that the population in Everett’s 28th Middlesex district has changed, it has been brought to my attention in evaluating what other opportunities that I could run for in the future,” she said. “I’m very excited about this. I think it’s great and it will encourage other people in the community who look like the community to run for office.”

School Committee-man Marcony Almeida Barros said he was also encouraged by the report, and has been looking forward to the data for some time. As the first Brazilian-American elected to the School Committee, he said such identified changes should send a message to policy-makers

about finding better ways to include everyone.

“Diversity is our strength, and as the first Brazilian-American elected to the School Committee, I welcome this news,” he said. “I’m proud to be from Everett, which is more diverse than when I first arrived here over 20 years ago. Our policy-making in all levels of government should reflect this diversity, ensuring that all voices are heard and everyone has a seat at the table. That’s why I sponsored the creation of the Subcommittee on Equity, Inclusion and Diversity so all Everett families are part of the decision-making process in our schools and beyond.”

The Redistricting process will not begin until full Census 2020 data is revealed later this spring and summer. The process typically takes a year to complete within the Legislature, likely finishing in early 2022.



O'Brien /

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

get his fellow Jakes coming through.

“I thoroughly enjoyed working with the guys I worked with on Engine 1,” he said. “Some are still on the job and they are like a second family. In 2010, I was pretty sick... It was Christmas time and I had five children at home and couldn’t do all my Christmas shopping. The guys...went out and got all the presents for me.”

A Deacon in his Catholic Parish, he said most times raising the kids was not as hard as one might think as he and his wife had schedules that meshed pretty well.

“They were great kids growing up and in a lot of ways they were very responsible,” he said. “We couldn’t have done it without the Fire Department. My wife and I were able to match our sched-

ules pretty well.”

During that time on Engine 1, he was also very instrumental in making sure defibrillators were added to every fire apparatus, and available for medical calls.

Nowadays, Capt. O’Brien works to make sure the EFD is properly trained and in compliance.

“My job today is primarily compliance,” he said. “There are tons of things now the Fire Service has to comply with... There’s an entire regimen the Fire Service now demands and that we’re trying to become compliant in. I think we’re about 85 percent done and that’s a testament to Chief Tony Carli for making this a priority.”

As part of that, Capt. O’Brien has a degree in Fire Sciences from Salem State University and is a

Certified Health and Safety Official from Keene State.

The job now also means he checks all the equipment and meters and apparatus for safety and compliance. He also trains the members of the EFD on things like proper CPR techniques and how to use the tools like Carbon Monoxide meters.

Beyond that, a key in the Fire Service these days is making sure the turnout gear is clean and safe. One of the key areas of the job is making sure firefighters are not exposed to contaminants that lead to occupational cancer. Cancer for firefighters is an epidemic these days, and Everett has experienced just such a death when Firefighter Susan Pipitone died in 2018.

“That was psychologically devastating to this

department,” he said. “We make sure all turnout gear now stays on the apparatus floor. It has to be clean and not contaminated. There are just a lot of things to consider. We brought the Fire Academy in and did night classes to tell the members what to be concerned about and what to look for when visiting the doctor – early warning signs.”

He has also positioned the Department to handle medical calls and have the proper equipment to treat medical issues in the field.

“The members have embraced that and we never looked back,” he said. “In terms of medical response, Everett Fire Department as a basic response is much further ahead than most communities.”

Fire Chief Tony Carli said Captain O’Brien has

been a great helping hand in transitioning the Fire Service to medical calls, and will be even more important if they go forward with the in-house EMS service.

“Capt. O’Brien is incredibly important to the Department,” he said. “He’s the training captain and the most senior captain...I lean on him greatly and he’s been instrumental in the EMS service we’re rolling out. Long before it was accepted, he was instrumental in us having and knowing how to use defibrillators on every apparatus. At the time, the union didn’t want to deal with that in the way they may not want to deal with progressive issues now. Tony comes here every day and wants to leave the place better than he found it.”

Fire Union President Craig Hardy said it is his

experience and knowledge of the Fire Service that makes Capt. O’Brien invaluable to the members.

Captain Tony O’Brien is a great man who truly loves the fire service,” he said. “He helps any members with anything they need and is always offering his knowledge to help us all. His decades of experience has truly made our department better and we are truly grateful to have him on our team.”

O’Brien said he is grateful to the Everett Fire Department for a great career that is still going strong.

“I am so grateful to the EFD to have been able to do everything I did,” he said. “I got a Bachelor’s Degree with them and raised five kids and was embedded in OSHA programs and it’s all because of the City’s Fire Service.”

Cases of COVID-19 show slight uptick over the past week

The numbers of COVID-19 cases in showed a slight uptick this week from the previous week, though cases were still quite low compared to the beginning of the year.

This week, there were 159 cases, which was up by 23 cases from last week. There were 136 cases last week. However, it still showed a continued steady decline from the recent surge of cases.

The most recent numbers are as follows:

- Tuesday, Feb. 16 - 13
- Monday, Feb. 15 - 10
- Sunday, Feb. 14 - 28
- Saturday, Feb. 13 - 28
- Friday, Feb. 12 - 22
- Thursday, Feb. 11 - 19
- Wednesday, Feb. 10 - 30
- Tuesday, Feb. 9 - 9

On Monday, Jan. 4, Everett moved its testing full-time indoors at the Samuel Gentile Recreation Center on Elm Street. Testing is done Monday to Thursday, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., and then 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. On Friday

and Saturdays, testing is done noon to 6 p.m.

Additionally, there is a new testing resource for Everett residents only via the Mass General COVID-19 testing van. The van is located every Thursday at the Norwood

Street Parking Lot in Everett Square. The hours are from 8 a.m. to noon and proof of Everett residency is required. Updates on the van are posted on the Kraft Community Health website.

DeMaria, Councilor Adrien spar on TV

By Seth Daniel

Following comments at a Feb. 3 Council Subcommittee meeting by Mayor Carlo DeMaria directed to Councilor Gerly Adrien about her “laughing” on camera being a distraction, Adrien has taken to the airwaves in Boston and to the print media in Boston to condemn the comments, while Mayor DeMaria is ready to go on GBH Radio this week to defend his comments.

Mayor DeMaria has held his ground on the issue this week as it has exploded into a bigger issue about respect – whether respect for Adrien or respect for the mayor.

“As demonstrated throughout my tenure as Mayor I invite open, honest, and robust conversation particularly when there are differing opinions,” he said. “On many occasions my colleagues and I have disagreed about policy, process, and problems that we face as a community. While we may not always agree on the issues and solutions, we must agree that everyone is entitled to a mutual showing of respect. This situation was not about differing opinions or disparate treatment but rather the lack of mutual respect and common courtesy while addressing important City business.”

DeMaria did also present a statement to the Braude show on Feb. 9, saying he observed a fellow official being “disrespectful” towards him and “dismissive” to his position on the issue while he was speaking.

“I don’t consider it acceptable for such conduct to be directed at my fellow elected officials, but that also means it is not acceptable for those same individuals to direct that behavior towards me,” read the statement. “Discussions about important public issues require equal and mutual respect for our focus to remain on advancing the important work of improving the quality of life for the residents and businesses of Everett.”

The heart of the matter came in what was just about 30 seconds of a nearly two hour meeting about Linkage Fees on Feb. 3 – a Council Committee of the Whole. In that meeting, Adrien can be seen smiling and at times laughing – at what it isn’t known. Perhaps she was disagreeing in a distracting way or perhaps she was simply presenting herself with a smile – which she said was the case. Maybe a little of both are true, but that cannot be determined from the video.

However, about one hour into the meeting, while Councilor Rosa Di-

Florio was asking some questions of the mayor, the mayor indicated that he wished he could turn the pictures or videos of some members off because they were laughing too much and being distracting.

“I would love to be able to shut some pictures off of some people when I talk because sometimes I have a hard time when people are laughing and stuff...Yea, yea, this is a very serious matter,” he said, and then the meeting moved on.

Later, when Councilor Adrien was called on to speak, she first took umbrage with the comments.

“I find it very sad and very disrespectful that the leader of our City said he wished he could turn off the pictures and videos of people who are smiling and pointing that out to me...,” she said.

“Whoa, whoa, more laughing, laughing, just laughing,” interjected Mayor DeMaria.

Then the meeting went on unimpeded, with Adrien asking a question about a Linkage Fee study done by the City in 2019, but not made public to the Council as of Feb. 3. Later, it was made public at the Feb. 8 Council meeting prior to a vote on the new Linkage Fee ordinance, which passed with only Adrien voting against it.

However, on the Greater Boston show, the finger was also pointed at some other members of the Council. As stated above, Adrien said there is inappropriate behavior frequently on Zoom from her other colleagues and nothing is said.

Braude toasted that with a clip of Council President Wayne Matewsky from a meeting last summer, where he says he doesn’t see racism happening at City Hall. In the clip, he eludes to being Polish-American and said he’s never had any pushback for his ethnicity.

This week, Matewsky said he had heard that he was top billing on the Greater Boston show, and he also said it isn’t the first time GBH has used the clip of him speaking about being Polish and not experiencing racism personally.

He said the clip was totally out of context, however, as it did not come from the Feb. 3 meeting. Rather, it came from a meeting last summer when he was trying to pass an ordinance that would limit construction on weekends, using the police to enforce the ordinance. Adrien had concerns that the measure could be unequally enforced and could be used to target minorities or immigrants.

That’s when Matewsky made his comment about not seeing it as a racial issue.

“It really had nothing to do with racism,” he said. “It was about people working on their home on the weekends late at night...I don’t know Mr. Braude but he seems to like to show that clip of me. My grandfather did come from Poland and he bought a house in Chelsea. He then bought the house I live in now and I’m proud to be Polish. I would never try to insult anybody. I get along with everyone...I’ve actually had a lot of support from the Black community in my career. Without the Haitian community’s support, I would not have won the state representative seat (in the past). We bonded and hit it off. I enjoy and respect the Haitian community a great deal, and they support me.”

Matewsky said he wasn’t even at the meeting on Feb. 3, as he was not required to be there as Council President. He said he wasn’t sure why Braude’s show dragged him into the fray.

“Hey, I’ll go on his show to talk more about it,” he said. “I’d be glad to.”

Adrien published an op-ed in the Boston Globe on Feb. 8 regarding why, as a Black woman, she thought the mayor’s comments were inappropriate, and then appeared Feb. 9 on the Greater Boston TV show with Jim Braude on GBH. Since then she has appeared on other media outlets, and the mayor now is going to appear on the Margery Eagan and Jim Braude GBH Radio show this Wednesday, Feb. 17.

HOME DEPOT HELPS OUT



Everett Home Depot Store Manager Steve Radzikowski and Assistant Store Manager Sarah Dalton joined with Councilor Michael McLaughlin this week and donated more than 250 bottles of hand sanitizer and N95 masks to the City of Everett’s Vaccine Clinic. Radzikowski said Home Depot is proud to support the efforts of the Everett community, his hometown, to ensure residents can safely receive the vaccination that will ensure a return to a new normal.

“We as a company are always pleased to offer our support during these extremely challenging times,” he said. Councilor McLaughlin was once again thankful for Home Depot’s commitment to helping in such a time of need. “Home Depot, especially throughout the past year, has been a company we could count on when support was needed to ensure our city would make a full recovery safely and as quickly as possible,” he said. “I thank the individuals who have been working on the front line every day the past year and hope these PPE supplies will be helpful.”

DiDomenico shocked by unprepared vaccine rollout

By Seth Daniel

A number of state legislators, including Sen. Sal DiDomenico, are voicing shock over the lack of preparedness for the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine to the public.

DiDomenico said at first only about 50 percent of the vaccine sent was being used, with the rest being stored up in order to strictly follow the priority protocols prescribed by Gov. Charlie Baker. This week, he said the numbers are up to around 70 percent, but that still doesn’t excuse the fact that so many want the vaccine, there is ample supply, but most still cannot get it.

“I wasn’t surprised, but shocked at how many vaccines were in our hands and not distributed,” he said this week. “We’ve gotten better over the last several weeks, but the fact remains we have hundreds of thousands of doses still in our hands and not being used.”

DiDomenico said the fact that the state has had so long to prepare, and yet hasn’t managed the process well, is the most frustrating part to himself and his colleagues in the Legislature.

“We’re just more concerned about if you’re 75 or 65 or 61 than we are about getting shots in people’s arms,” he said. “We’ve had months to prepare for vaccination and the fact we weren’t prepared for this is unexplainable. The amount of time we had and to see it rolled out like this, and how confusing and inefficient it is, is unexplainable.”

Another major piece Sen. DiDomenico said he is concerned about is the lack of racial equity in the vaccine distribu-

tion process.

His sentiment isn’t alone in the State Legislature, as House Speaker Ron Mariano over the weekend voiced his displeasure with the rollout publicly on television. He said one of the frustrations is that a Commission was formed last summer to study the rollout and make recommendations. Not all of those recommendations were included in the priority document released by Gov. Baker in December.

Aside from that Commission, the Legislature was never consulted on the whole.

DiDomenico said it’s time to move forward and allow more groups, and that include educators.

“I have always felt the higher needs resident should go first, but we should also focus on educators who are on the front lines with students every day,” he said. “If they are going to go back to in-person learning, they should be vaccinated as well. You can’t have it both ways.”

In the end, he said the priority lists are being enforced too strictly, and it needs to be an effort where more people can get the vaccine quicker – especially since there is ample supply just sitting on the shelves right now, he said.

“Every day we delay is a day that could see more harm and potential death to residents in our community,” he said.

At the moment, those available to be vaccinated are those age 75 and older – as well as their younger caretakers – and groups that have previously gone through the effort, like health care workers and public safety officers.

Skin issues won't wait six months.

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Wood Waste changes get nod



Spring 2021 MBTA service changes virtual public meeting set for Feb. 17

Staff report

There are few, if any, changes that are slated for routes in Everett and

- Other key elements on MBTA's response to the pandemic.

These meetings are accessible to people with disabilities and those with limited English

For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation and/or language services, please email publicengagement@mbta.com.

New Hampshire man charged for illegally possessing firearms and intent to distribute narcotics at Encore

Special to the Independent

Matthew Gorman, 32, of New Hampshire, was indicted Thursday, Feb. 11, by a Middlesex County Grand Jury on Possession of a Large Capacity Firearm (2 counts), Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding Device (3 counts), Possession of a Firearm Without a License Outside Home Or Business

Pursuant to an investigation by the Massachusetts State Police Gaming Enforcement Unit at Encore Boston Harbor, Gorman was stopped in a motor vehicle on the casino premises and found to be in illegal possession of two semi-automatic pistols and three large capacity magazines. Gorman is also alleged to have been in possession of a con-

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

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Emil A. Ata and Assistant Attorney General Kristyn Dusel Kelly, both of AG Healey's Gaming Enforcement Division, with assistance from Digital Evidence Analyst Jobal Thomas of the AG's Digital Evidence Lab. The case was investigated by the Massachusetts State Police Gaming Enforcement Unit at Encore Boston Harbor with assistance from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, Encore Boston Harbor, Everett Police Department, and Middlesex District Attorney's Office.

Planning Board approves Transportation mitigation ‘menu’

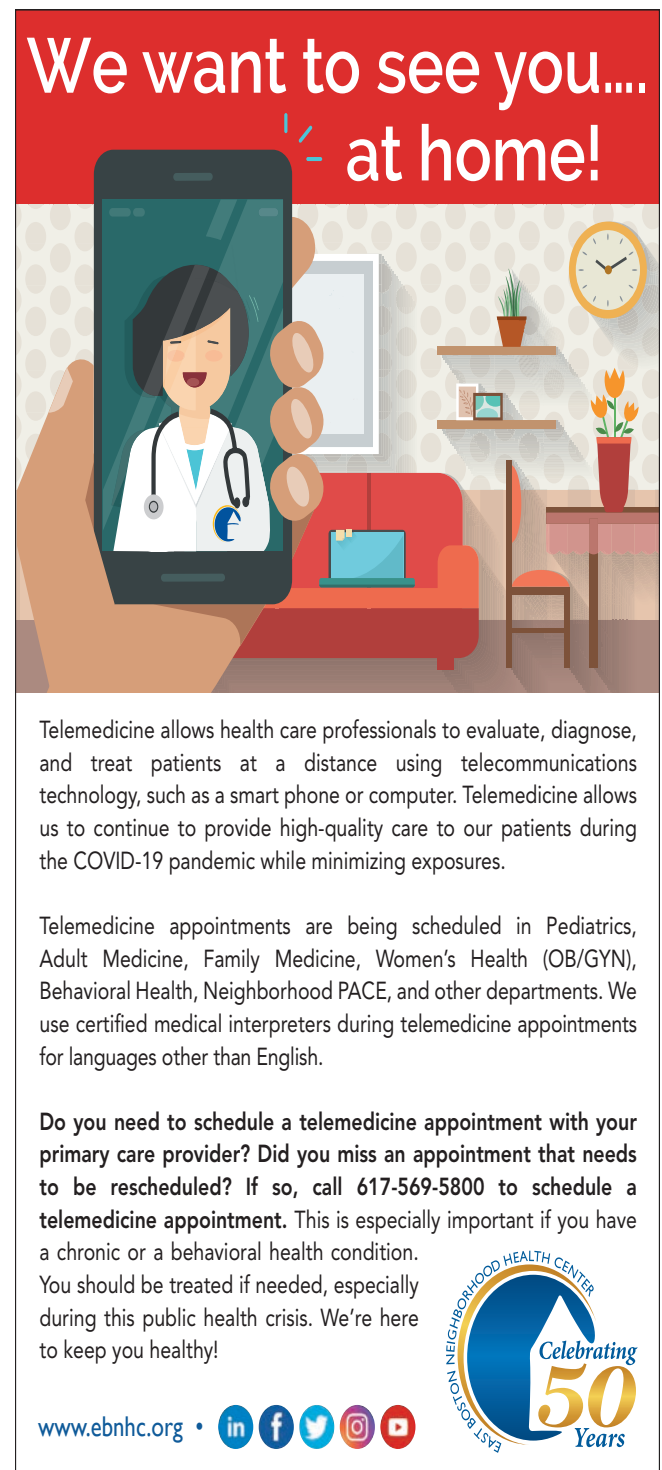
By Seth Daniel

Mayor Carlo DeMaria has endorsed the plan that his Administration has proposed via Transportation Director Jay Monty – something that is central to his philosophy of pushing public transit so there could be more density in the buildout along

Monty compares it to a menu in a restaurant. The developer still has some choice as to what they will choose to mitigate the transportation impacts of their project, but the City sets the menu and what is offered. In that way, there are no surprises and the plan set forth by the developer must be approved at Site

The TDM proposal takes parking and transportation out of the hands of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), and puts it within the Site Plan Review process. That allows zoning to focus on zoning, he said, and the Planning Board to work on transportation and

An accompanying piece about codifying residential parking stickers – which have been not allowed for many new developments – is still being reviewed in the Planning Board.



HISTORIC PROPERTY

Zion Church had beginnings on Cottage Street

(The following is a weekly feature in the Independent based on the City’s 2018 Historic Property Survey done to note the many little-known historically significant properties within the city.)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The former Zion Baptist Church at 21 Cottage St. is a small wood-frame chapel constructed in 1929 and consisting of a gable-front sanctuary space flanked by a single square tower capped by a hip roof.

The building rests on a concrete block foundation that incorporates the 1896 cornerstone from the original church. The church is presently clad in vinyl siding; the original exterior material is not known. The entrance at the base of the tower consists of simple double doors with cut-out diamonds near the top; it is sheltered by a metal canopy. There is a rectangular leaded glass window above the entrance and another punctuating the front gable, adjacent to two narrow arched windows. Remaining win-

dows on the side elevations consist of a mix of modern double-hung 1/1 sash on the first floor and replacement 6/6 on the second floor.

The small lot is outlined by chain link metal fencing.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The beginnings of the Zion Baptist Church can be traced back to 1895 when several Everett citizens met regularly at the homes of Mrs. Douglas and Mrs. Thomas for church services. They met in a barn on Robin

Street before buying land and building a church at the corner of Bow and Washburn Streets (1896?). The church later moved to 20 Chelsea Street and was incorporated in 1899. At some point the name of the church changed from Immanuel Baptist to Zion Baptist Church. About 1927 the property on Chelsea Street was sold and land was purchased on Cottage Street where this church was built. Services were first held in this church on August 4, 1929.

On September 12,



The building at 21 Cottage St. was originally the third home to what is now the Zion Baptist Church.

1999 Zion Baptist Church relocated to a church at 757 Broadway. The building on Cottage

Street was sold to the Southern Conference of Seventh Day Adventist Church in 2000.

“Love Your Neighborhood” contest gives back to residents and businesses

Staff Report

Everett connects transit and community to support the economic recovery of its local restaurants and thriving neighborhoods.

The City of Everett and BostonBRT, a re-

search and community engagement initiative spearheaded by the Barr Foundation and managed by the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP), in partnership with Nift, last week launched the “Love Your

Neighborhood” contest that gives back to local restaurants fighting hard to survive winter during the COVID-19 pandemic while highlighting the city’s transit successes and goals.

Building on the BostonBRT Cares campaign, this free open-entry contest gives the greater Everett community the opportunity to share their favorite eateries within Everett for a chance to boost their business during these challenging times. Participants will receive a \$30 Nift gift card and are automatically entered to win a \$25 MBTA bus pass. Ten winners will be selected over the five-week contest period; each winner will receive \$100 per week for six weeks to spend at local restaurants (in-door dining or takeout) within the City of Everett, using the Nift platform.

Created by Ad Hoc Industries, a core member of BostonBRT and led by Creative Director Adrian Gill, the “Love Your Neighborhood” contest incorporates forward-thinking elements of transit and support for neighborhood businesses - both of which anchor local communities when they need it most.

“After a year like no

other, we took a deep look at how to continue to prioritize transit as essential to get people where they need to be, especially in a time of crisis, while helping alleviate other challenges that affect our communities” said Julia Wallerice, ITDP Boston Program Manager. “This contest does that. It showcases how transit is not separate from but an essential part of thriving neighborhoods. By making that connection between transit and community, we expanded our focus to do our part in helping local businesses survive the pandemic while bringing awareness to transit goals within the Everett community.”

Said Mayor Carlo DeMaria, “We are in a time of crisis and recovery. Yet, it is initiatives like this one that continue to heal and strengthen our community and its local businesses when they are most challenged. From better transit to thriving and resilient local businesses, Everett is persisting.”

“Transit and community are inextricably linked, the link is people, so it’s important for BostonBRT to recognize the moment and take action in new, creative



ways,” said Gill. “The idea for the “Love your Neighborhood Contest” was conceived with the perspective that food is central to most communities, and with that we wanted to create a virtuous circle giving both people and businesses in Everett a helping hand. The contest builds on a sense of community and emphasizes that Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is really about the people it serves.”

Participants can submit their entries on social media by commenting on @BosBRT’s posts across Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with

three favorite places to eat in Everett. For an extra entry, participants can post a picture of their favorite restaurant on their own channels, tag @BosBRT and use #EverettBRT. Submissions will be accepted from February 1st until March 10th in four different languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Kreyol). Winners will be announced every Wednesday for five weeks ending March 10. For more information about BostonBRT and the “Love Your Neighborhood” contest rules, visit www.bostonbrt.org/lyncontestrules.

OBITUARIES

Lillian Mavilio

Of Woburn and Florida

Lillian (Mastrianni) Mavilio of Woburn and Vero Beach, FL, originally from Norwood, entered into eternal rest Sunday, February 7.

The beloved wife of Dr. Alfred Mavilio, DDS of Woburn and Everett, she is also survived by her sister-in-law, Mary Mavilio of Malden as well as many nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements were by the Cafasso & Sons Funeral Home, 65 Clark St. (Corner of Main St.) Everett. Interment



was at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Weymouth.

James DeSantis

Sports enthusiast

James R. DeSantis, a lifelong resident of Revere, died on February 13 surrounded by his loving family at the age of 58.

Born in Revere on November 13, 1962 to Joseph DeSantis and the late Frances (DePaolo), he was the cherished father of Rachael DeSantis and longtime friend of her mother, Valerie DiSalvo Green, dear brother of Joseph DeSantis Sr. of Revere and Janice DeSantis and her longtime companion, Rob McPherson of Chelsea, adored uncle of Joseph DeSantis Jr. and his wife, Erin, John DeSantis and Janae DeSantis and great uncle to Lola DeSantis; beloved nephew of Richie DeSantis and his late wife, Lois and is also survived by cousins and countless friends.

James played hockey his entire life and more recently picked up tennis and racquetball. He coached all of Rachael’s



sports growing up and loved all the New England teams especially the Boston Bruins. James had a great knowledge of music going to every concert he possibly could and Rock and Roll being his favorite. He never missed a Revere High School football game on Thanksgiving.

A visitation will be held at the Paul Buonfiglio & Sons-Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere St, Revere on Friday, February 19 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. (capacity limits are in effect, please make visits brief so others may enter the funeral home). A Funeral Mass will follow at St. Anthony’s Church in Revere at 12 noon (names and temperatures will be taken upon entrance). Masks and social distancing are required at church and funeral home. Relatives and friends are kindly invited. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery. You can send flowers or donate to www.jimmyfund.org/gift. For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com

Subcommittee hears testimony from parents

Last week, Ward 5 School Committee-man Marcony Almeida-Barros called for a meeting of the Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Subcommittee to listen to parent feedback on the Everett Public Schools plan to return to the classroom in a hybrid model.

The meeting came after extensive discussion between the school administration, School Committee, and teachers’ union on the proposed plan. Almeida-Barros said he felt it was important to broaden parent voices at the table by directly hearing their concerns, especially the Special Education and English Learners programs, which form a sizable portion of students in the district.

Joining Almeida-Barros, who chairs and sponsored creating the subcommittee, were Ward 4 School Committeewoman Dana Murray, and At-Large School Committeewoman Samantha Lambert, along with Su-

perintendent Priya Tahliliani and her leadership team. The Subcommittee invited leaders of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC), Fernanda Rocha and Flavia Souza, to share their and other parents’ thoughts and concerns about the current remote learning and upcoming hybrid plan.

“Although the district has done a great job with remote learning, the experience for our kids with special education has been very difficult,” said Rocha. “Many children are falling behind with classes over Zoom. They don’t want to turn the camera on and engage in the class, parents that I spoke to have really seen a regression in their kids’ education.”

“I know we are in the midst of a pandemic, but there are other districts around us who are safely doing hybrid classes, and I’m hopeful we can do the same in Everett for the sake of our kids’ mental health,” said Souza, whose son attends

the Webster School.

Expressing similar sentiments were parents whose kids are in the English Learners Program.

EPS Lead Family Liaison Mirlande Felisaint and Family Liaison Esthela Borghesan read testimonies from parents who shared their struggles with remote learning. A parent originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo whose son attends the Parlin School shared that his son is losing English skills he was learning before the pandemic because he doesn’t understand what is taught through Zoom.

“He is confused, lost interest in school, and now is back speaking French only,” read the testimony. “My son needs to go back to school.”

Another parent whose kids attend the Parlin and Everett High Schools indicated that her kids’ teachers said that they are not doing well in school and missing classes.

“I don’t know what

to do because they don’t want to connect online, and I don’t speak English well enough to be able to speak with the teacher and help my kids. I really hope there’s a way that they can go back to school safely,” read the testimony.

Almeida-Barros said despite the testimony, he remained optimistic.

“We know that there are lots of different opinions and emotions through these conversations, but hearing the voices of those who usually do not have a seat at the table is the goal of this subcommittee,” said Almeida-Barros. “I hope we can continue to work together on a safe path forward, including vaccinations for our educators and other safety measures, so we can slowly go back to in-person classes and help those kids in need. Our staff and students’ safety should always be in the forefront.”

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CHURCH News

Zion Church - Everett

News and Notes

Senior Pastor Bishop Robert G. Brown will be hosting Virtual Masses to bring the people together, spiritually while they can't physically. Their virtual sanctuaries can be accessed via their facebook page, "Zion Church Ministries."

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

Mystic Side Congregational Church

News and Notes

Mystic Side Congregational Church is located in Everett, on Malden-Everett border, at 422 Main Street. We offer a warm, inviting atmosphere, and all are welcome. Our Sunday Church service starts at 10:30 a.m. and Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month. A very pleasant coffee hour and socializing follow our services. Parking is available in our lot next to the church on Wyllis Ave. (one way off Main Street). We look forward to welcoming you this Sunday.

Mystic Side Congregational Church

422 Main Street

Everett, MA

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church

News and Notes

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church is open and welcoming to all. There are 3 services on Sundays: 10am English, 1pm South Sudanese (Dinka) and 3pm Haitian Creole. 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

Church Phone 617-387-7526 or 617-389-5765

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.

Glendale Christian Lighthouse Church

News and Notes

Sunday 10:30 AM Worship service.

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

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

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Rev. Larry Russi, Sr. Pastor

pastorlarry@thelighthousechurch701.net

Church at the Well Everett

News and Notes

Church at the Well Everett is a new church for Everett that will begin meeting in 2021. Check us out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/churchforeverett to view weekly devotions and updates, visit us at www.for-

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 so many years were our outreach source. Please bring any food item(s) to church and place in the box located on the altar.

We are on the Internet

http://www.glen-daleumc-everett.org

Glendale United Methodist Church

Pastor David Jackson

392 Ferry Street (across from Glendale Towers)

Please enter the church by the driveway on Walnut Street

617-387-2916

PastorDavidJackson58@gmail.com

Pastor's Office Hours: Saturdays 10 AM to 2 PM.

Other times by appointment.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

CHELSEA KIWANIS CLUB GROWING

CHELSEA - Anybody who watched Sylvia Ramirez build Chelsea Pop Warner into one of the premier youth football organizations in eastern Massachusetts knew the Chelsea Kiwanis Club would be in good hands.

Ramirez, the high-energy president of the Kiwanis Club, revealed that the club has enjoyed an increase in membership to a total of 25 members overall. The new members of the Chelsea Kiwanis Club are Carolyn Boumila-Vega, Mirna Diaz, Alexandria Christmas, Veronica Dyer Medina, Sharlene McLean, Elizabeth Novak, Cassandra Thompson, and Noel Velez.

“We have welcomed eight new members to our club,” Ramirez said humbly. “I’m extremely happy and excited and so proud of our members for doing membership outreach. We started talking about membership early in the fall. We’re a small club and some of our long-standing members are starting to retire and we need new leadership in our club, which is one of the reasons we did this membership drive.”

Ramirez said the club hosted a virtual wine tasting and trivia night and the response among members was that the event was “very enjoyable and fun.”

Seventy-one people – a sizable turnout during the COVID-19 pandemic that has impacted work and social schedules - participated in the wine tasting and trivia night. “It was unbelievable – we even had people from other clubs outside of Massachusetts,” said Ramirez.

But the best response came in the form of prospective members reaching out to Sylvia Ramirez to join the club.

“Right after that event, we had eight new members join us, which is absolutely a huge accomplishment for our club,” added Ramirez.

Ramirez said the club is participating in Black History Month with a reading event in coordination with the Chelsea public schools. On March 2, the members will take part in Dr. Seuss National Red Across America Day.

Ramirez, who is the operations and evaluations manager at La Colaborativa, said the new members were installed by the Kiwanis Lieutenant Governor and Chelsea Kiwanis Club meetings are held remotely on Thursdays.

The biographies of

the new members of the Chelsea Kiwanis Club follow below:

Carolyn Boumila Vega: She is a lifelong Chelsea resident, 49 years to be exact. Carolyn is a Licensed Social Worker with South Bay Community Services. She enjoys watching reality TV, cooking, volunteering, and staying on top of Social Media. I have been involved in so many community events and organizations, too many to mention. I want to be as useful as I possibly can and one of my most proud achievements is receiving a Social Work master’s degree at age 45. I am bilingual even though people may not think so, proudly Latinx.

Mirna Diaz: She has worked in Chelsea for 10 years. Mirna has a private law practice in Chelsea. I enjoy riding my bike, volunteering with my daughter, and reading fiction and thriller books. My goal is to be more involved in the community, I know being part of the Kiwanis club of Chelsea will allow me to do that. I want to have an opportunity to create new ideas and opportunities to help the club expand.

Alexandria Christmas: Alexandria has been a Chelsea resident for over 20 years. She works as the payroll manager for Zerto, a tech company in Boston. Alex is extremely involved in the community, in groups such as: St. Luke’s Food Pantry, First Congregational Church produce packaging, Community Garden, Transit justice, Youth group mentorship, she is part of the Library Board of Trustees, Chelsea Bike and Ped Committee and hosts the Chel-Yea Woman who wine Facebook group. Her hobbies are cycling, running, camping, gardening, skiing and motorcycles. Alex hopes to bring her organizational and event planning skills for fundraising events and/or service projects.

Veronica Dyer Medina: Veronica has lived in Chelsea her whole life, 40 years this May. She is part of the Chelsea Public Schools Administration office, as the Superintendent Administrative Assistant and the Clerk for the Chelsea School Committee. She loves cooking and feeding people. Loves a good mystery/drama movie or book, enjoys dancing and listening to much and arts and crafts with her two children. Her Kiwanis goal is to raise awareness of the great work Kiwanis does. Bringing community organizing and advocating skills to help engage children in our community who need to

be directed to the righteous path.

Sharlene McLean: Chelsea resident for 20 years. She works for WilmerHale LLP as a Patent Assistant/Legal Secretary. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, crochet and baking. Sharlene brings to our club her passion for the community and is not afraid to say what she thinks and believes in.

Elizabeth Novak: Chelsea resident for 12 years, works as a Marketing Executive recruiting and retention for the Army National Guard. She enjoys reading, cross stitch, camping, canoeing, travel and playing all sorts of games. Interesting fact is that, when younger, she was an award-winning classical pianist and avid horseback rider. She is the Chair of the Chelsea Library Board of Trustees and an organizer of Chelsea Hill Community’s Safety and Clean up walks. She enjoys being active in the community. Joining Kiwanis, she wants to give back to the community and her main goal is by far to be an active volunteer in service projects.

Cassandra Thompson: Cassandra grew up in Chelsea and has lived her for 34 years. She works in HealthCare for Mass General Brigham as an Administrative Coordinator/Project Coordinator. She enjoys baking, hiking, fitness and traveling. Her main goal by joining Kiwanis is to get more involved in community events and volunteer her time. She is most proud of being a mommy of two girls, 9 & 4. She brings to the club her organization skills, event planning, creative design, and people person.

Noel Velez: He was born and raised in Chelsea. He works as the Financial Analyst for Chelsea Public Schools. His hobbies are collecting memorabilia from sporting events, wrestling and coming books. I also enjoy making music and playing video games with my boys. My goal with Kiwanis is to assist our community of Chelsea any way possible. I have been extremely committed to our community, especially children and youth. One of my most proud accomplishments is my marriage and children. I bring to Kiwanis public speaking skills, great writing capacity to request funding and support with fundraising ideas.

NATIONAL GUARD TO HELP WITH VACCINATIONS

CHELSEA - After

EBNHC, LA COLABORATIVA WORK TOGETHER TO VACCINATE CHELSEA



With La Colaborativa Director Gladys Vega and City Manager Tom Ambrosino in the background, EBNHC Director Manny Lopez (above) announces the rollout of a vaccine clinic inside La Colaborativa on Broadway. The clinic is a three-pronged partnership between the organizations and will be able to ramp up to as many as 500 vaccines a day if demand is there. Meanwhile, after being vaccinated, Ramelo Frometa (right) raised his arm to the sky and said, “Hallelujah!”

spending significant time with food relief efforts in Chelsea last spring, the National Guard has announced it will be returning with a medical mission to help support vaccination sites here.

As part of the Commonwealth’s COVID-19 Vaccination Plan, the Massachusetts National Guard has begun providing support of vaccination initiatives. Beginning last week, 10 medically qualified Guard members are partnering with the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) to administer vaccines in East Boston.

Medically qualified soldiers and airmen began assisting with vaccine administration. Their assistance at EBNHC is expected to continue for at least three weeks to support four vaccination sites throughout EBNHC’s service area including East Boston, Chelsea, Revere and the South End. The mission is federally funded. The Guard will continue to make qualified personnel available to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services for deployment to facilities requesting assistance.

The National Guard has personnel with a range of applicable expertise within its ranks, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, emergency medical technicians, and medics. These individuals have already administered the vaccine to 1,000 eligible Massachusetts soldiers and airmen, and now shift their focus to assisting in clinical settings for eligible members of the public.

The Massachusetts National Guard’s first priorities are to save lives and protect property, and Guard personnel have assisted the Commonwealth since the earliest days of the crisis, providing a wide range of services to state agencies and local authorities. As a diverse and highly trained force whose members live and work in communities across the Commonwealth, the Guard has a proven track

record of success supporting civilian authorities during and after state emergencies, and its units frequently train side-by-side with state and local first responders, making them well-suited for domestic operations.

DeARAUJO APPOINTED TO BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

EAST BOSTON - Mayor Martin Walsh recently appointed East Boston resident and East Boston Neighborhood Health Center Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel Ernani DeAraujo to the Boston School Committee

“I am pleased to welcome Ernani DeAraujo to this pivotal role on the Boston School Committee at a time when our work on behalf of the students of Boston has never been more important,” said Walsh. “Ernani has strong roots in his community, and over the course of his career he has worked with an intentional focus on bringing equity and access to diverse Bostonians. He joins a group of leaders on the Boston School Committee committed to best serving the students of the Boston Public Schools.”

The seven-member Boston School Committee is responsible for defining the vision, mission, and goals of the Boston Public Schools; establishing and monitoring the annual operating budget; hiring, managing, and evaluating the Superintendent; and setting and reviewing district policies and practices to support student achievement.

“I’m excited,” said DeAraujo, who lives in Eastie with his wife and two children. “I’ve been thinking about this for a while and then I saw the opportunity open up and I applied. It is a pretty extensive application process. Then you go through an interview process with different educators, administrators, and community people.

Then they (the 13-member Citizens Nominating Panel) recommend a slate of candidates to the mayor. At that point it’s the mayor that chooses who he really wants on the committee and so it worked out.”

Historically, DeAraujo will become only the third Eastie resident to serve on the school committee behind former School Committee President John Nucci and Pixie Palladino. However, DeAraujo will become the first appointed member from Eastie since the committee switched from being an elected body to an appointed one.

“I believe I’m the first millennial school committee member,” he said. “I have comfort with remote and virtual technology and I hope I can bring some of that knowledge to the table.”

DeAraujo is a lifelong resident of Eastie where he is very involved in the community through his work at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, and as a former neighborhood liaison for Eastie during the late Mayor Thomas Menino Administration. He is the former President of NOAH Community Development Corporation, where he oversaw the East Boston-based community development corporation and worked to create affordable housing and community building, especially through youth development and environmental justice. He co-founded a program for East Boston High School, named the Mario Umama Public Service Fellowship that works to connect students with internship opportunities in government and summer programs and helps students apply to college.

“In my interviews, I talked a lot about East Boston and everything that is going on here with our mix of different populations,” said DeAraujo. “There is also a kind of the baby boom we are experiencing in Eastie that other parts of the city hasn’t seen. So I think a lot of our needs are different from other parts

See REGION Page 9

Real Estate Transfers

| BUYER 1 | SELLER 1 | ADDRESS | PRICE |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Nguyen, Phong | Costa, Felipe | 43 Ashton St | \$560,000 |
| Hall, Rose | Paone, George G | 29-31 Auburn St | \$950,000 |
| Boston Better Living LLC | Lucena, Sander V | 25 Devens St | \$685,000 |
| D A FT | 25 Floyed Street RT | 25 Floyd St | \$420,000 |
| Tiwari, Gaurab | Wright, Franklin H | 12 Hamilton St #7 | \$260,000 |
| Machado, Paulo M | Walsh Michael C Est | 14 Wall St | \$550,000 |
| Yu, Hui L | Nalen, Anthony W | 27 Windsor St | \$630,000 |

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Everett man arrested in connection with fatal shooting of 18-year-old in Malden

Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan and Malden Chief of Police Kevin Molis have confirmed that Sifeddine Rogadi, 20 of Everett was arrested last month on charges of murder, armed assault with intent to murder, assault and battery by discharge of a firearm, possession of a large capacity firearm, and possession of ammunition in connection with the fatal shooting of Jaden Brito-

White, 18, of Malden that occurred on December 29, 2020.

On December 29, at approximately 7:03 p.m., Malden Police responded to a report of a shooting that had occurred on Bowdoin Street. Upon arrival, officers located Jaden Brito-White suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. He was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital, where he was later pronounced

dead.

The preliminary investigation suggested that Mr. Brito-White was standing outside of his apartment building when two males allegedly approached him and shot him.

During the subsequent investigation, officials were able to gather surveillance video from the area that allegedly showed a Chevy Malibu with a distinct paint color in the area at the time of the shooting.

Massachusetts State Police assigned to the Middlesex District Attorney’s Office subsequently located the vehicle while it was being driven by Mr. Rogadi. The car was seized and a search warrant for the car was obtained. During the execution of the search warrant police located a loaded 9mm handgun consistent with the type of gun used in the fatal shooting. The serial number plate located under-

neath the gun barrel was blank. As the serial number was absent, and not obliterated, investigators believe the weapon may be a “ghost gun”. These guns are often manufactured from firearm parts kits, often lack identifying marks and are made to be untraceable.

During a further review of the evidence and surveillance video collected in the area of the shooting investigators were

allegedly able to identify Rogadi as one of the individuals involved in the shooting.

Rogadi was arrested without incident in Cambridge by Massachusetts State Police, Cambridge Police and Malden Police.

The investigation into this matter, including the identity of the second individual involved, and the motive, is still open and ongoing.

Black History // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

where he started at left tackle as freshman.

The 1896 and 1897 Everett High School football teams won Everett’s first two state championships with the legendary James “Hub” Hart running behind a stellar offensive line that included the young Matt Bullock.

The 1898 season, however, would see the Everett team fall victim to infighting and discontent. Prior to 1902, the football team was coached by whomever was elected captain. The 1898 team was coached by team captain Chester Lothrop, who resigned and was succeeded by future Everett Mayor William Weeks. The situation got so bad that the team disbanded on November 16, thereby forfeiting three games.

When the team gathered in 1899 to choose a new coach/captain, it was important that they chose someone who could pull the fractured team together and regenerate team spirit and pride. The person they chose was senior left tackle and four-year starter Matthew Bullock; perhaps the first African-American to coach a predominately white high school team.

Under Bullock’s leadership and outstanding ability to open holes for his freshman running back and brother, Henry Bullock (who would coach the team in 1901), the 1899 team would bring a third state championship to Everett. The local media praised Bullock not only for his play on the field, but also for his game preparation and for the leadership that he brought to team. He was touted by the media as “good timber for a college tackle.”

An outstanding student, Matthew entered Dartmouth College in 1900. The young man arrived at Hanover, NH, carrying only one suitcase but with \$50 given to him by his hard-working father, an amount equal to \$1,428.57 in today’s dollars. While the relationship between

Dartmouth and Matthew may have been originally based on his status as a star athlete, he quickly showed his diversity academically as a member of Paleopitas, the senior honors society, athletically in track where he specialized in broad jump and high jump for four years, in football where he was one of the college's top football players for three years and musically, singing in the Church and Chapel Choirs and several glee clubs. According to one article from the Worcester Telegram, “he was blessed with a marvelous baritone singing voice...and sang professionally as a Dartmouth student and after he graduated.” (Worcester Telegram, Spring 1988, in Dartmouth Alumni Files).

An incident in 1903, however, marred Matthew’s senior year at Dartmouth. Bullock and the Dartmouth team were scheduled to play Princeton in New Jersey and to stay at the Princeton Inn on campus. The Inn, however, would not provide accommodations for Bullock because he was black, so the team, unwilling to be separated from their teammate, stayed in New York City and made the 50-mile trip to Princeton on gameday.

On the first play of the game, a number of Princeton players piled on Bullock, breaking his collarbone. Considering that Matt was a tackle and did not carry the call, the Dartmouth players were incensed and accused Princeton of purposely hurting Bullock because of his color. While the Princeton players did not deny purposely hurting Matthew, they claimed that it is their intention in every game to take out the best player as early as possible. The injury ended Matt’s season and college career; a season in which Walter Camp stated that, until the injury, he was sure to name the tackle as an All-American.

He graduated from Dartmouth in 1904 and

headed to Harvard Law School, from which he graduated in 1907. To pay for law school, Bullock coached football; starting at Massachusetts Agricultural College (now UMass-Amherst) in 1904; which made him the first African-American to coach a predominately white college football team.

He had a very successful first year as the team, going 5-2-1, but for the next two years the Athletic Department had trouble raising the \$251.03 for a coach’s salary and Matt went to coach at Malden High School for the 1905 and 1906 seasons.

In 1907, Massachusetts Agricultural hired Bullock back and he coached there for the next two seasons. He left there with a reputation for impeccable game preparation, an insistence on proper conditioning for his players, and a record of 13-8-5.

By 1909, Jesse Bullock’s years of hard work began to catch up with him and on May 17, he died from symptoms caused by diabetes and complicated by what doctors termed exhaustion. He was only 60 years old.

Shortly after his father died, Matt accepted a position at Atlanta Baptist College (now Morehouse College) coaching football and teaching economics, Latin, history and sociology and eventually, he would add Director of Athletics to his resume as well. With all that was going on in his life, Matt still had time for love, and in 1910, he married Katherine Wright of Boston. Katherine, the daughter of Peter and Julia (Heatherlee) Wright, was a fashionable dressmaker and milliner.

The couple returned to Atlanta and Atlanta Baptist, but 1912, Matt was ready to practice law full-time and did so until 1915. He returned to academia as the Dean of the Alabama State Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes, now

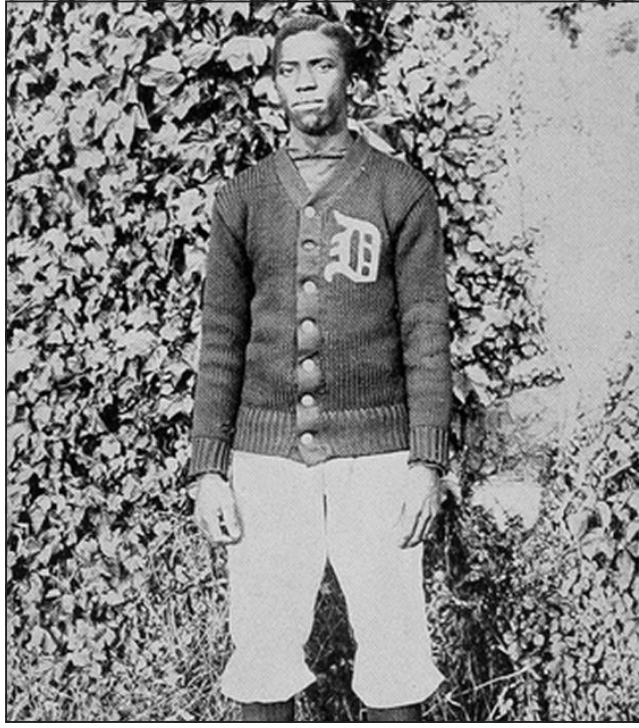
Alabama A&M, and also coached football there, as well.

With the outbreak of World War I, Matthew attempted to enlist but was rejected because of what was called athletic heart, a condition commonly found in athletes who routinely exercise more than an hour a day, in which the human heart is enlarged, and the resting heart rate is lower than normal.

Unable to serve in uniform, Matthew went to Camp Meade as an educational secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association organization which served the military forces. He was sent to France with the 369th Infantry, becoming a part of the American Expeditionary Forces. He served 15 months in France and at the end of the war was chosen to represent the “Y” at the Burial of the Unknown Soldier. However, while in France, he was recommended for the Croix de Guerre for his leadership and bravery during his frontline service but the colonel of the regiment refused to approve it for reasons of bias.

After the war, and with two children at home, Matthew Jr., born in 1920 and Julia Amanda, born in 1921, he returned to Boston where he practiced law, served as executive secretary of the Boston Urban League and in 1925 received his first public appointment when Republican Attorney General Jay R. Benton appointed him as a Special Assistant Attorney General. Bullock served in that capacity until 1927 when Republican Governor Alvan Fuller appointed him to the State Board of Parole and the Advisory Board of Pardons.

While Matt’s legal training and commitment to the safety and welfare of the public served him well on the Parole Board, on one occasion so did his time on the gridiron. After denying him parole, a convict charged angrily



Matthew Bullock, born to parents that had been born into slavery, excelled at everything from football in Everett, to coaching to law. The man from Winter Street played and coached Everett High to its first state championships in the late 1800s.

at Bullock, but Matthew quickly wrestled him to the ground rendering him helpless until guards could take him into custody.

He was not reappointed to the Parole Board by Democratic Governor James Michael Curley, serving instead as an assistant to the commissioner of corrections, for six years when Republican Governor Leverett Saltonstall convinced him to serve on the Parole Board again. Bullock continued in that position until his retirement.

Matthew Bullock’s reputation soon expanded beyond academia and Massachusetts state government when, in 1945 as WWII was coming to an end, he was asked by Secretary of the Navy, James Forrestal, to serve on a commission to investigate relations between black and white enlisted men in the Pacific theatre. This assignment triggered a sense of great pride to Matthew, and resulted in a report that began the process of racial integration of the United States Navy.

Matthew was unable to relish in his accomplishment however as 1945 was also the year that his beloved Katherine died.

Bullock would continue to work for several more years but his attention was

gradually turning toward his Baha’i Faith that he had accepted in 1940.

Starting in 1953, Matthew spent his winters in Curacao, Netherland West Indies as a member of the Baha’i community. Bullock often made public appearances on behalf of the Baha’i Faith and served as a member of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’i Faith in the United States.

For his efforts in opening new territories to the Faith during its Ten-Year Crusade from 1953-1963, he was given the title Knight of Bahá’u’lláh and his name was added to the Roll of Honour that stands beneath the entrance door to the Shrine of Bahá’u’lláh; the most holy place for Bahá’ís.

By 1967, he moved to Detroit where his daughter lived and with his health gradually diminishing he entered a nursing home. In 1970 Harvard University conferred upon him an honorary degree, and in 1971 Dartmouth College honored him with the honorary degree Doctor of Laws.

Matthew Bullock, a true pioneer in so many arenas, died in Detroit on Dec. 17, 1972. His life, legacy and accomplishments are just recently being recognized.

Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

of the city so I definitely want to highlight that and then work together with the Superintendent and her team to listen and hear what the needs are across the district but in particular, East Boston. The first thing I’m going to do is meet with all East Boston school heads. I want to listen. I’m going to plug into the parent groups, welcoming folks to reach out and hope to speak with community groups or any one that cares about the system and can help. I really want to listen and do whatever I can to improve schools.”

DeAraujo’s experience at EBNHC, which opened up a full service-satellite clinic at East Boston High several

years ago, has given him insight to the connection between health and academic performance.

“When you focus on closing any achievement gap you focus on bringing resources to where they are needed and that is what EBNHC did at the High School,” said DeAraujo. “If you have kids that are struggling with depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, uncontrolled asthma it’s going to be really hard for them to learn. So that condition feeds into that cycle of absenteeism, poor performance and other academic struggles. I want BPS to do more of that through the Boston Public Health Commission and really address those issues and get more

resources like the Health Center did at East Boston High.”

DeAraujo attended Boston Public Schools, including Bradley Elementary, Umana Academy, and Boston Latin School (BLS), and went on to receive a B.A. from Harvard College and a J.D. from Washington and Lee University School of Law in Lexington, VA. In addition, DeAraujo is a Trustee of the BLS Association, Board Secretary for the Center for Community Health Education Research and Service, Inc., and is Vice Chairman of the John William Ward Fellowship, where he helps coordinate public service programs for BLS students.

“I’m grateful to Mayor Walsh for entrusting me with this opportunity to give back to the Boston Public Schools that have so positively impacted my life,” said DeAraujo. “From the Bradley Elementary School in East Boston to the Boston Latin School, BPS gave me a foundation of academic, social, and emotional strength for adulthood. I want to add my efforts on the School Committee to ensure that all BPS students have the opportunities I did. I look forward to working with the Committee, Superintendent Caselli, and the dedicated staff of BPS to bring kids and staff back to school safely through this pandemic and continue the course of rebuilding and

reimagining BPS to spread excellence across all of our kids and families.”

Alexandra Oliver-Dávila, chairperson of the Boston School Committee, said on behalf of the Boston School Committee, she was pleased to welcome DeAraujo as its newest colleague.

“He has strong connections in the community, a demonstrated passion for helping students succeed, and great experience as a graduate of our schools,” she said. “I look forward to working alongside him in service to the students, families, and educators of the Boston Public Schools and commend Mayor Walsh for this appointment and his ongoing commitment

to ensure the Boston School Committee represents the diversity of our schools and our city.”

The members of the school committee are Boston residents appointed by the Mayor of Boston to serve four-year staggered terms. Mayor Walsh made these appointments based on a list of candidates recommended by a committee of parents, teachers, principals, and representatives of business and higher education. Under the legislation that established the appointed School Committee, “the Mayor shall strive to appoint individuals who reflect the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity of the city.”

MALDEN CATHOLIC HOLDS ROLLING RALLY FOR ACCEPTED STUDENTS

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

Malden Catholic High School (MC) held an Accepted Students Rolling Rally on February 13 to welcome the incoming Class of 2025. Families paraded in line through the back parking lot, honking their horns in celebration to begin the spirited festivities that included triumphant music and a performance by the MC cheerleaders. “This has been an outstanding enrollment season,” announced Mr. John Thornburg, Headmaster. “We are up to 140 students enrolled.”

Scholars filed individually through a line of applauding cheerleaders as their names were announced. With a burst of confetti, Mr. Thornburg presented each student with a certificate of admission on stage. “Malden Catholic is the only school in the area that has continued to hold in-person classes,” explained Mr. Thornburg. “What Malden Catholic has to offer cannot be delayed.” Students received a special \$500 waived registration fee, and Malden Catholic backpack gift for registering.



Peter Walsh, holding his certificate of admission, with Headmaster Thornburg.



Katana O'Keefe holding her certificate of admission, with Headmaster Thornburg.



Isabella Mejia receiving her MC backpack gift for registering



Isabella Mejia, of Revere, with her family, sitting in the parade line of cars for the Accepted Students Rolling Rally.



Morgan Hardy, holding her certificate of admission.



Lopi, as the Lancer mascot, and juniors, Khloe Camblin and Lily Baglio, bursting confetti into the air as each student walked on stage



Headmaster, Mr. John Thornburg, welcoming the Malden Catholic Class of 2025.



Cheerleaders performing during the opening celebration of the Accepted Students Rolling Rally.



Seth Sullivan receiving his certificate of admission from Headmaster Thornburg.



Valentina Tate, of Revere, walking through a line of cheerleaders.

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