

Everett Independent

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CRIMSON KIDS DURING FEBRUARY SCHOOL VACATION



Mayor Carlo DeMaria along with the Everett Recreation Department hosted a successful Crimson Kids vacation program last week for the local youth during the February school vacation. A variety of activities were available for the large number of children who attended, including basketball, ice skating and dodgeball.



Grant program to fund extreme heat solutions for the region’s most COVID-impacted communities kicks off third year

Staff report

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) announced the third round of a COVID-Safe Grant Program, which awarded \$1,089,020 total in 2020 and 2021 to fund municipal and non-profit community-based initiatives in seven eastern Massachusetts cities. With funding provided by the Barr Foundation, the grants offer critical assistance to mitigate extreme heat impacts exacerbated by COVID-19’s uneven burden on some of the region’s most diverse and economically disadvantaged communities.

Started in 2020, the COVID-Safe Cooling

Grant Program will once again fund effective and innovative summer cooling strategies in Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Everett, Lawrence, Lynn and Revere. Municipalities and community-based organizations in those cities are eligible to apply for grants beginning March 1, with proposals due April 8 and funding awards expected in May.

“Shade trees, green space, outdoor splash pads, and other features common in wealthier communities are far less common in Massachusetts’ older urban centers, where housing with central air or access to cooling is also rare. Residents of these communities have been hit harder not just by the COVID-19 pandemic, but also by asthma and

other ailments aggravated by extreme heat,” said MAPC Senior Clean Energy and Climate Planner Sasha Shyduroff. “The COVID-Safe Cooling Grant Program has helped mitigate these inequities over the past two summers and we look forward to funding another round of innovative cooling solutions in advance of this summer’s heatwaves.”

Six municipalities and 10 community-based organizations in Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Everett, Revere, Lawrence and Lynn last year received grants between \$25,000 and \$50,000. The COVID-Safe Cooling grants fund direct cooling relief, support efforts to build equitable, resilient community support systems, and help these communities in-

vest in strategies that will protect residents from extreme temperatures in the long-term.

Previous grantees have purchased and distributed personal cooling equipment such as energy efficient air conditioners, box fans, and cooling kits; provided utility bill assistance; conducted community outreach and education on heat safety; and made investments in infrastructure such as public water fountains, urban trees, and splash pads.

2021 grantees included:

- The City of Chelsea leveraged its COVID-Safe Cooling grant with additional ARPA funds to distribute over 240 air conditioners and provide utility assistance to low-income

See SAFE COOLING Page 2

Masking now optional for students, faculty in Everett Schools

By Stephen Quigley

The Everett School Committee voted 5-2 at Monday night’s meeting to make the mask mandate for students and faculty optional starting immediately. The Everett district now will be following many of the state’s other school districts, and Governor Charlie Baker’s lead, in calling for optional mask-wearing as a step toward returning to normalcy for students and staff.

School Committee at-large member Samantha Lambert introduced a motion seeking to have the mandatory mask policy remain in effect until March 14.

“Everett is not out of the woods yet,” she told her colleagues, citing as a reason that many students and families have just returned from February school vacation and that there typically is a five-day lag before a trend can be determined. “People traveled and we do not know the impact,” she added.

However, vice-chairperson Michael McLaughlin offered a motion to lift the mandatory face mask requirement immediately, saying, “The Cambridge Health Alliance has seen only minor COVID cases in students. Parents feel strongly that we should relax the mandate and make

face masks optional.”

Ward 1 member Millie Cardello echoed McLaughlin, saying, “We cannot wait to extend it any longer. There are social and mental issues to wearing masks.”

At-large member Cynthia Sarnie favored optional mask-wearing and said, “We have weakened the immune system of the children. We should allow parents to make the decision.”

Lambert then amended her motion to extend the mask mandate to March 7 after next week’s School Committee meeting, citing the need to wait the five days as recommended by the Center for Disease Control guidelines. However, the motion failed when none of Lambert’s fellow committee members seconded her motion.

McLaughlin then proposed his motion, which read, “Remove the mandatory mask mandate immediately and make masks optional for students and faculty.”

The motion passed with Cardello, McLaughlin, Sarnie, Michael Mangan, and Joseph LaMonica voting for the motion and Lambert and chairperson Jeanne Cristiano voting against.

See MASKS Page 2

MGC hears views on whether proposed Encore development falls within its jurisdiction

By Stephen Quigley

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) held a special meeting on Monday to get the public’s input on the proposed development in Everett on the Charlestown line by Encore Boston Harbor. Officials from Encore are before the MGC seeking a determination as to whether the new development across Broadway, with a pedestrian bridge to the Encore Casino, should be deemed part of the gaming establishment, which then would trigger regulation by the MGC.

Encore officials have resubmitted new plans for the development on lower Broadway with a smaller seating venue of 999 persons instead of the 1,800 originally submitted to the Everett Planning Board in January. Officials noted the many positives that the new pedestrian bridge will have on traffic flow and safety for pedestrians who have to cross the roadway by means of traffic lights.

The commissioners in their earlier February meeting kept prob-

ing where the pedestrian bridge would end and whether the users, particularly children, who would cross the bridge in order to get to the open green spaces outside of the casino could accidentally get onto the gaming floor.

Encore officials have noted that this scenario is highly-unlikely and are willing to add any safeguards to the exits that the MGC might require.

The public had until last Friday to submit written comments on the new project, with the public hearing for live testimony being held on Monday. A half-dozen speakers appeared before the MGC on Monday, and all voiced their opposition to the development without the MGC’s overview.

Troy Siebels from the Massachusetts Performing Arts Commission said, “To say the new theater is not part of the casino is not in the spirit of the current law.” However, he mentioned that the current plan that calls for the entertainment center to seat up to 999 patrons “is

See MGC Page 2



"We are incredibly excited to be launching our largest season ever, with over 1,000 local girls slated to participate," says Olivia Mathews, the Executive Director of GOTR Greater Boston. "Having heard from school administrators that Girls on the Run was truly needed for girls over the past two

The Spring 2022 season will start the week

**See GOTR Page 3**

Miglioizzi brings over 25 years of experience to Everett Bank. Reporting to O'Neil, Miglioizzi will oversee the commercial and residential lending divisions. He will be entrusted with managing the existing real estate portfolio of \$520 million and work to build up assets in the coming years. Before joining Everett Bank, Miglioizzi managed com-

In addition to the appointments of Miglioizzi and Lynch, Everett Bank brought on Brian DeVenne as the business development officer. Serving under Lynch, DeVenne will represent Everett Bank in the community and be tasked with acquiring and developing new business and customer relationships. He joins from Century Bank, where he served as the branch manager for the Everett location. Prior to working at Century Bank, DeVenne

Founded in 1890 by a group of local business owners and civic leaders in the City of Everett, Everett Bank is a co-operative bank proud to have more than a century of experience serving the individual and business banking needs of residents of Everett and its surrounding communities. To learn more about Everett Bank, visit [www.everettbank.com](http://www.everettbank.com).

The Everett School Committee next will meet on March 7 at 6:30 p.m.

DiDomenico and coali-

Medford Mayor Breanna Lungo-KoeHN noted that Encore presently pays the Chevalier Theatre \$100,000 to support the theater and pays the City of Medford \$125,000 to its Community Fund. She noted that the proposed buildings with the bridge essentially will be

thus far has been working with organizations on the ground who not only understand resident and workers' needs, but also have the trust of the community to deploy effective

\$385,000  
\$665,000  
\$563,000  
\$607,000  
\$770,000  
\$630,000  
\$365,000  
\$430,000

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## Paramedic Training School scholarship program for Massachusetts’ EMTs announced

Staff Report

Transformative Healthcare announced a \$1,000,000 Paramedic Training School scholarship program to enable EMTs aspiring to become Paramedics access to state-of-the-art education at a fraction of the tuition expense. Over eighty (80) EMTs will receive scholarships to participate in the 2022 Paramedic training classes.

“In New England and throughout the United States, there is a significant shortage of Paramedics that are necessary to meet the emergency medical service needs of our communities,” said Thomas McEntee, CEO of Transformative Healthcare. “By establishing a \$1,000,000 scholarship program, Transformative

Healthcare aims to proactively address New England’s Paramedic shortage by making access to state-of-the-art Paramedic education much more affordable. Scholarship recipients in our 2022 Paramedic training classes will pay only \$1,500, an 83% discount to the \$13,000 tuition.”

While the EMS industry is characterized by a significant shortage of EMS professionals, demand for Paramedic and EMT professionals is projected to be amongst the fastest growing occupations in the United States. Demand for these professionals is projected to grow 6 percent from 2019 to 2029, faster than the average for all occupations[1].

Transformative Healthcare’s CoAEMPS[2] accredited Paramedic Train-

ing Program is the only educational program in Massachusetts to feature a range of state-of-the-art simulation technologies that vastly increase the efficacy of the learning experience. The technologies include Oculus Virtual Reality, Immersive Interactive’s immersive simulation technologies and specialized simulation mannequins by TraumaFx and LifeCast. Paramedic students experience highly realistic situations where they can train in real-life, virtual scenarios such as car crashes, burning buildings, , first-person shooter events and more. Moreover, students can treat mock patients where they experience high-tech mannequins that are bleeding, have broken bones, severe burns and more.

“Transformative

Healthcare’s Center of Excellence Education Team is dedicated to accelerating the development of our team members, and other Massachusetts EMTs, seeking to advance their careers as Paramedics,” said Andy Defrias, Director of Training and Education. “Our team offers the most advanced training and education program, so our Paramedic students can deliver the most effective patient care”.

About Transformative Healthcare

Company Highlights

- Leading medical transportation & logistics company in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine
- 1,500+ clinicians & professionals
- More than 150 years serving our communities
- 2,500+ facilities

served

- Millions of patients served with exceptional care

Transformative Healthcare delivers cost efficient, high quality patient outcomes by optimizing how patients and data move through the healthcare system. We create customized partnerships for municipal 911 emergency response, inter-facility medical transportation, mobile patient testing, vaccine administration, remote patient monitoring and logistics services. Our proprietary software and analytics improve patient outcomes while reducing healthcare costs.

End-to-End COVID-19 Solutions at Scale

Transformative Healthcare launched mobile & onsite COVID-19 testing and vaccine administra-

tion services starting in April 2020 to serve major organizations in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. We proudly support the risk management & return-to-work strategies of state governments, municipalities, skilled-nursing & assisted living facilities, private universities & colleges, and corporations.

Transformative Healthcare is proud to support the Commonwealth’s ‘Stop the Spread’ campaign and bring COVID-19 testing and vaccination programs to the most vulnerable populations. The company’s COVID-19 TRACR software platform (Test-Result-Authorize-Contact Trace-Report) has assisted Massachusetts to be at the forefront of pandemic management and response.

## 2022 Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival is planned

Staff Report

The Revere Beach Partnership, in coordination with the City of Revere and the Department of Conservation and Recreation, is excited to announce that it will be hosting the 18th Annual Revere Beach International Sand Sculpt-

ing Festival from July 22 to 24. After hosting a modified and scaled-back version in 2021, the event elements will return in full including the return of the Master Sand Sculpting Competition!

“The mission of the Revere Beach Partnership is to preserve and enhance

America’s first public beach for the enjoyment of all. With this as our focus, we are committed to putting on a world-class event that invites visitors from all over the world and showcases the beauty of Revere Beach and all that Revere and its surroundings have to offer,” said John Hamel, Chairman of the Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival Committee.

The theme for this year’s event will be “Wonders of the World” and will feature an event centerpiece highlighting the world’s most famous landmarks. The event will

include its signature master sand sculpting competition featuring 15 master sand sculptors, three days of live entertainment, food trucks, specialty food vendors, exhibitors, amusement rides, as well as some special surprises that will be announced closer to the event!

“We are so excited to welcome everyone to Revere Beach for the 18th Annual International Sand Sculpting Festival,” said Mayor Brian Arriago. “As the first public beach in America, Revere Beach has always been a destination spot for visitors. We’re thrilled to see

that this year’s festival will have all the festivities as previous years - with live entertainment, fireworks, and access to enjoy food from local businesses, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.”

The Revere Beach Partnership is excited to see everyone on the beach once again for this free, family-friendly event that has become a New England tradition. More details and announcements about the event will be made at a later date. For the most up-to-date information about the event, please visit our website [www.rbissf.com](http://www.rbissf.com) or follow

us on social media.

About The Revere Beach Partnership

Revere Beach Partnership is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was established in 2001.

The mission of the Revere Beach Partnership is to preserve and enhance America’s first public beach for the enjoyment of all. The partnership is made up of a volunteer board that shares a love for Revere and Revere Beach. For more information, please visit [www.reverebeachpartnership.com](http://www.reverebeachpartnership.com) or [www.rbissf.com](http://www.rbissf.com).

**PROGRAM MANAGER (BILINGUAL)**

  
Raising A Reader MA works to close the childhood literacy gap by partnering with communities to provide caregivers resources and education to practice shared home reading habits.

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## Coalition calls for swift action on low-income fares

Staff Report

In the wake of the failure by the MBTA board to create a Low-Income Fare for MBTA riders, a popular proposal that garnered overwhelming support in public testimony, the Public Transit Public Good Coalition calls for swift action on providing a Low-Income Fare for MBTA riders.

Despite long-standing calls from environmental justice communities, labor groups and others for a low-income fare, the MBTA has refused to advance the Low-Income Fare program, citing budgetary constraints. The Public Transit Public Good Coalition calls on the MBTA to use a portion of the \$500 million it recently reallocated for use on a range of one-time

uses to fund a low-income fare pilot. We estimate a year-long pilot would cost \$42 million dollars.

“The idea of a Low-Income Fare began for a simple reason: folks were struggling to pay the cost of riding,” said Collique Williams, an organizer with Public Transit Public Good Coalition, convened by Community Labor United, in his testimony to the Board. “The fare had gone up in 2012, in 2014, in 2016, and in 2019. People needed some help to pay the fare and some assurance that the spiraling costs would not continue. Then, in 2020, the pandemic hit, bringing new economic hardships and health risks. The power to bring riders relief lies here with this body.”

See FARES Page 7

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Chelsea Housing Authority  
Request for Proposal  
Rental Lease Agreement  
Issued: Weds., February 23, 2022  
The Chelsea Housing Authority seeks multiple owners of developments or single rental units, within a 5-mile radius of Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150, with preference given to those apartments in Chelsea, MA (attachment A) with available 1, 2, 3, & 4 - bedroom units that will be available between May 1st-August 1, 2022, to enter into a master lease agreement, with the CHA, for a minimum of 18 months, with month-to-month extensions, up to 30 months of initial lease date. The CHA will enter into an agreement with multiple owners, to sub-

lease approximately 26 units, with an agreement signed for each unit occupied. Maximum gross contract rents will be as follows:

- 1-Bedroom units - \$1,924
- 2-Bedroom units - \$2,336
- 3-Bedroom units - \$2,906
- 4-Bedroom units - \$3,168

To receive the complete documents of the RFP, please email [avelazquez@chelseaha.com](mailto:avelazquez@chelseaha.com) or pick up at our main administrative office at 54 Locke Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

Proposal with all criteria met should be sent and received as follows, no later than 11:00 am on March 25, 2022. Proposals should be received in a sealed envelope 3/3/22, 3/4/22 EV, EB, R, C, W

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE  
Notice is hereby given by Rigano’s Towing Service 1081 Fellsway, Malden, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass General Laws, Chapter 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after March 18, 2022 beginning at 10:00 am by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale. Vehicles are being stored at Rigano’s Towing Service.

1. 2011 Acura MDX VIN 2HNYD2H68BH536487
2. 2018 Nissan Rogue VIN 5N1AT2M9JC843641

Signed  
Basil Rigano  
Owner

3/2, 3/9, 3/16



## EHS Roundup

### EHS BOYS BASKETBALL TO TRAVEL TO WORCESTER NORTH FRI. EVENING

The Everett High boys basketball team, the undisputed 2022 champion of the Greater Boston League with a 14-0 record, will make the long journey to Worcester North High this Fri. evening for an opening round contest in the Division 1 state basketball tournament.

The Crimson Tide, despite an overall record of 18-4 (which includes an MIAA-mandated loss by forfeit to Newton North, whom Everett defeated on the court), are seeded 17th in D-1. Worcester North, which finished at

17-2 in the regular season, is seeded 16th and hence will have the home court advantage.

The winner will advance to the Sweet Sixteen where they most likely will face undefeated and top-ranked Boston College High School. The Eaglets also will be in action Fri. against the winner of last night's (Tues.) preliminary round match-up between Lynn English and Woburn.

The Crimson Tide and B.C. clashed in the final week of the regular season in the championship round of the Comcast Tournament, with the Eaglets coming out on top, 78-64.

That contest most likely will be played on Monday or Tues. evening at B.C. High.

## Cirque du Soleil presents CRYSTAL, a performance on ice

Special to the Independent

Cirque du Soleil is thrilled to be on the road and touring once again, returning to Massachusetts with its coolest arena show yet – CRYSTAL – in Boston and Amherst, MA. This one of a kind performance blends circus art and the world of ice skating. CRYSTAL will take the audience on a journey into a whimsical frozen playground where ice skating of all kinds mingles with acrobatics and aerial feats. CRYSTAL will perform at the Mullins Center May 19 – 22, 2022 for 6 performances and at the Agganis Arena in Boston from June 1 – 12, 2022 for 15 performances.

Mike Newquist, Senior Vice President, Touring Shows Division said: “We are absolutely thrilled to finally bring CRYSTAL back on the road. For two years our performers have been waiting to skate again and experience the joy of the audience once more. It will be an emotional and magical return.”

More about CRYSTAL – A Breakthrough Ice Experience

Created by Shana Carroll and Sebastian Soldevila, Crystal, our misfit lead character, takes you on an exhilarating tale of self-discovery as she dives into a world of her own imagination. Feel the adrenaline as she soars through this surreal world to become what she was always destined to be: confident, curious, and creative. CRYSTAL invites you to suspend reality and glide into a world that springs to colorful life with astounding visual projections and a soundtrack that seamlessly blends popular



CRYSTAL performers shown skating and dancing on the ice.

music with the signature sound of Cirque du Soleil. CRYSTAL is suitable for all ages.

### Performance Schedule Mullins Center

Thurs., May 19 at 7:30PM

Fri., May 20 at 7:30PM

Saturday, May 21 at 3:30PM & 7:30PM

Sunday, May 22 at 1:00PM & 5:00PM

### Performance schedule Agganis Arena

Weds., June 1 at 7:30PM

Thurs., June 2 at 7:30PM

Fri., June 3 at 7:30PM

Sat., June 4 at 3:30PM & 7:30PM

Sun., June 5 at 1:00PM & 5:00PM

Tues., June 7 at 7:30PM

Weds., June 8 at 7:30PM

Thurs., June 9 at 7:30PM

Fri., June 10 at 7:30PM

Sat., June 11 at 3:30PM & 7:30PM

Sun., June 12 at 1:00PM & 5:00PM

Tickets for CRYSTAL are now available exclusively to Cirque Club members. Cirque Club membership is free and includes access to advance tickets and special offers. To join, visit [www.cirquedusoleil.com](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com). General tickets will be on-sale in Amherst and Boston beginning March 7, 2022 at 10:00AM ET. Tickets are available for purchase on-



Performers juggling on ice.

line at [www.cirquedusoleil.com/crystal](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/crystal).

Follow #CRYSTAL and #cirquedusoleil on social media: Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | YouTube | Snapchat | TikTok

Production images, videos, b-roll and press kit available here.

Originally composed of 20 street performers in 1984, Cirque du Soleil completely reinvented circus arts and went on

to become a world leader in live entertainment. Established in Montreal, the Canadian organization has brought wonder and delight to more than 200 million spectators in more than 450 cities in over 60 countries on six continents. Cirque du Soleil is owned and operated by Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group. For more information, visit [cirquedusoleil.com](http://cirquedusoleil.com).



Cirque du Soleil's CRYSTAL will combine acrobatics and ice skates.

## Judith Garcia announces campaign for State Rep. in new 11th Suffolk District

Staff Report

Chelsea City Councilor Judith Garcia announced her candidacy for state representative in the new 11th Suffolk District of Massachusetts. The daughter of a single, immigrant mother, Judith is a lifelong Chelsea resident whose career in advocacy, activism, and public service have all been anchored to the city she loves.

“I am a daughter of Chelsea,” said Judith. “This city raised and shaped me; it gave me everything and taught me one lesson above all else: There is nothing more powerful than a community that knows how to fight for itself. For too long, the residents of Chelsea & Everett have been denied a fair place in our state government. Now, this new district gives our communities a once-in-a-life time chance to seize the power that is rightfully ours. To do this, we need a candidate who represents all of us - not one group, one neighborhood, one political ideology or one faith. Unity is our superpower. As your next state repre-

sentative, I will be a voice for all of us.”

Judith was born and raised in Chelsea by a single mother, who immigrated from her native Honduras with almost nothing. To this day, her mother is an essential worker at a local factory in Chelsea. Judith attended Chelsea Public Schools, where her passion for public and community service developed. After graduating from Wheaton College, she moved back to Chelsea and began work with Health Care for All as a bilingual specialist, helping families secure free and low-cost health insurance.

In 2015 Judith was elected to the Chelsea City Council, the first Honduran American ever to serve there, where she has been reelected for four straight terms. On the Council, she has championed issues ranging from affordable housing to access to education and environmental justice. When COVID-19 hit Chelsea hard, Judith led recovery and response efforts in the city, spearheading the creation of \$1.5M emergency relief fund for small busi-



Judith Garcia, candidate for state representative.

nesses, securing a \$25k relief fund for burial costs for Covid-19 victims, and raised \$10k for Chelsea’s food pantry. A rising political star in Massachusetts, she was recently selected by Vice-President Kamala Harris’ National Security team as an advisor for Honduran affairs. She has also served as a high-profile surrogate for Senator Elizabeth Warren and former Congressman Joe Kennedy III. Currently, Judith works at The Neighborhood Developers where she serves as a Communications Manager.

## Fares // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We know that T can afford a Low-Income Fare and it’s a matter of will to support the low-income riders who have been carrying the burden of T funding. We know that this board can make it happen,” said Karen Chen, Executive Director of the Chinese Progressive Association, a member of the Public Transit Public Good Coalition, in her testimony to the Board.

While delaying action on a low-income fare, the MBTA is rushing to a decision on a new \$3 fee on the Charlie Card. The proposed surcharge is part of a move to the controversial, expensive, and much-delayed ‘automated fare collection’ system outsourced to billionaire corporations Cubic and

John Laing. The MBTA is set to pay close to a billion dollars, including \$288 million in profit and overhead, for this privatized fare collection system.

“MBTA staff could not answer Board Chair Taylor’s question as to when the new fare collection technology is expected to come online,” said Williams. “Before deciding to impose new fees on riders, the MBTA should re-examine its fare collection contract, and adopt a Low-Income Fare that would save low-income people millions. We also call on the Massachusetts Legislature to advance legislation that would create a Low-Income Fare at the MBTA and provide assistance to RTAs to do the same.”

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Everett Independent

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# Everett

## Independent

President: Stephen Quigley

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### A TRAGIC AND DANGEROUS TIME

As we are writing this, the incredibly brave people and government leaders of Ukraine still are holding out against the despicable invaders from Russia.

It is clear that Vladimir Putin, the criminal Russian dictator, underestimated the resolve of the Ukrainian people and their armed forces. He also underestimated the united backlash from the rest of the world and the effects of the economic sanctions that are crippling Russia's economy.

On the other hand, he overestimated the power of his army, which clearly is not up to the task of overrunning a nation as large and as unified as Ukraine as quickly as he had expected.

However, we fear that as the Russians continue to pour military resources into Ukraine and undertake a military campaign that is targeting the civilian population with war-crime levels of bombardment, it is only a matter of time before the Russians take control of whatever will be left of Ukraine after Putin levels it, as he seems intent on doing.

Putin's barbaric invasion of Ukraine brought to mind a quote that often is applicable to dictatorial regimes such as Putin's: "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men, even when they exercise influence and not authority, still more when you superadd the tendency or the certainty of corruption by authority."

Although what is happening in Ukraine, though it is being broadcast into our living rooms and on our computer screens 24/7, may seem a world away, we should not be lulled into thinking that we are safe from Putin's maniacal machinations.

The reports that the 69 year-old Putin, who apparently was not content with being the richest man in the world, has become mentally-unhinged is a cause for concern because the lessons of history teach us that the evil deeds of dictators know no bounds.

Here is a quote from a book that came out this week about another would-be dictator:

"He stopped listening to his advisers, became manic and unreasonable, and was off the rails. He surrounded himself with sycophants, including many whack jobs from outside the government, who fed him a steady diet of comforting but unsupported conspiracy theories."

This is a quote from a passage in the new book by former Attorney General William Barr describing the final days of Donald Trump's presidency.

But it seems equally-applicable to Putin, who has raised the spectre of using nuclear weapons to bolster his failing military campaign and who has the ability to wage cyber warfare upon us to an extent that we have not yet experienced. In the 1950s, Americans conducted Civil Defense drills, which included telling children to duck-and-cover under their desks at school. But in an era of cyber warfare, there will be no place for any of us to hide.

We pray for the poor people of Ukraine, whose lives are being shattered literally hour-by-hour.

But we also must be aware that the after-shocks of what is happening in Ukraine will have far-reaching consequences for the entire world, including us.

### "CLIMATE CHANGE IS HARMING THE PLANET FASTER THAN WE CAN ADAPT, U.N. WARNS"

That was the headline in the New York Times this past Monday in its story on the report released by the United Nations regarding the ever-increasing damage that man-made pollution is causing to the environment.

The bottom line of the report is this: Unless we reverse direction immediately to limit the amount of greenhouse gases we are spewing into the atmosphere, the impact of climate change on our planet will be irreversible and will come so rapidly that we will have no ability to withstand the wildfires, floods, storms, and sea-level rise that are the inevitable consequences of climate change.

In short, life on our planet as we know it basically is doomed.

And it is going to happen much sooner rather than later.

## 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.

# Independent Forum

## GUEST OP-ED

### How much is freedom worth?

rut. Chances are we made choices that put us there. We have to make tough choices to climb out of the rut. We can easily become disabled physically, financially and domestically which will significantly limit our choices. Because of health, money, and maybe even age, our choices are often very limited. Most of the time, even when we have limitations, we can find freedom of choice.

The bottom line is we live in America and we cherish our freedom. We should remember our history and the great sacrifices made by so many. We should never take for granted the unimaginable hardships endured by the early settlers and every generation that has fought wars and lost tens of thousands of men and women in wars to keep our sacred and blessed freedom.

In his 1961 State of the Union address, President John F. Kennedy reminded us that every generation of Americans has had to win its freedom. We will never stay free unless we are willing to fight and sacrifice to keep our freedom.

How much is freedom worth? The brave people of Ukraine and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy are showing the world what freedom is worth. Their lives. While many of the young and aged are exiting Ukraine, President Zelenskyy and thousands are risking their lives to keep Ukraine free from the aggression of Russia and the evil of Vladimir Putin. Putin is not our friend or a friend to the free world. His path to conquer Ukraine is an Adolph Hitler move. Destroying a city and attempting to conquer a nation while killing thousands in order to increase his domain is barbaric.

In the midst of all this, we are surely reminded that we must once again become energy independent. Russia is a supplier of 40% of the natural gas used by Germany and most of Europe. They and America must stop buying energy and anything else from Russia. We have made them a rich nation while sacrificing our own independence.

Watching as Ukraine's government hands out AK-47s and other guns

surely reminds us of the importance of being able to protect ourselves. Keep your guns, stock up on your ammunition, and never vote for anyone who wants to edit our Second Amendment.

We must pray for Zelenskyy and the Ukraine people but we must also help them with whatever aid necessary to push Russia out. Keep in mind that Russia is only 55 miles from Alaska's closest port. Putin just might decide that Russia should have Alaska back. We bought Alaska fair and square in 1867 for \$7.2 million and we won't be handing it back.

How much is freedom worth? Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the people of Ukraine are demonstrating how much freedom is worth.

*Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.*

## National Grid reminds customers how to keep energy usage low and comfort high

Staff Report

How you use energy can have a big impact on both your comfort and budget. That's why National Grid has a variety of energy efficiency and bill assistance programs that can help customers lower energy usage and better manage their bills in these cold winter months, without sacrificing comfort.

"We've been assisting customers throughout Massachusetts this winter by connecting them with our programs, as well as state and federal resources to help them manage their energy bills" said Helen Burt, National Grid Chief Customer Officer. "We encourage our customers to visit our website [ngrid.com/winter](http://ngrid.com/winter) for a complete list of available assistance options"

Customers may enroll in programs such as the Budget Billing Plan, which spreads monthly payments out more evenly throughout the year to offset periods of high energy usage. Additional payment options are also available, and we encourage our Massachusetts customers to learn more by visiting [www.ngrid.com/billhelp](http://www.ngrid.com/billhelp).

Along with this, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which provides eligible Massachusetts households with help in paying a portion of their winter heating bills is free and open for Enrollment through April 30, 2022 and covers energy usage from November 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022. To learn more about LIHEAP and eligibility, customers may visit <https://toapply.org/MassLIHEAP>.

National Grid customers should also take advantage of a variety of energy saving tips and programs that will allow them to start saving today. For example, customers who use programmable thermostats to adjust heating and cooling could save up to \$180 a year in energy cost. National Grid also offers No-Cost Home Energy Assessments for eligible customers, which provides a safe and effective way to look at your energy needs while keeping you and your family comfortable. Through this program, customers may receive no-cost energy-efficiency products shipped to them, as well as up to 75 percent or more off of approved insulation, no-cost air sealing and additional rebates toward qualifying energy-efficient equipment.

To learn more about how to manage your

winter bills and many of the programs mentioned above, please visit [ngrid.com/winter](http://ngrid.com/winter).

## OFFICER PETRELIS SWORN IN



The newest member of Everett Police Department, Officer Nick Petrelis was sworn in at Monday night's Council meeting before his family. Petrelis is shown above with Chief of Police Steven Mazzella. Shown below, Officer Petrelis with his family.



# Everett

## Independent

Published by the Independent Newspaper Group

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## SEND US YOUR NEWS

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March 9, 2022



# Baker-Polito announce small business relief program

The Baker-Polito Administration announced the launch of a new \$75 million grant program to support Massachusetts small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The new program is part of the plan to spend \$4 billion in American Rescue Plan funding that was signed into law by Governor Charlie Baker in December 2021. The new program is modeled after Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation's (MGCC) successful COVID-19 small business relief program. Under that effort, which became the biggest state-sponsored

business relief program in the nation, MGCC oversaw the distribution of approximately \$705 million to over 15,000 small businesses across Massachusetts. Today's announcement was made at Luanda Restaurant and Lounge in Brockton, a family-owned business that received financial support through MGCC's prior COVID relief grant program.

"We have been proud to support small businesses in every corner of the Commonwealth through the MGCC small business program during the pandemic, but we know that some challenges remain

for many businesses," said Governor Charlie Baker. "With the launch of this new effort, we can build on MGCC's successful work and direct important federal funding to those businesses with the greatest need quickly and effectively."

"Restaurants like Luanda are fundamental to the character of our neighborhoods, main streets and downtowns in every city and town in Massachusetts," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "This new initiative will ensure that businesses that need help the most will be able to take advantage of addi-

tional opportunities."

The \$75 million will be focused on small businesses that employ between two and 50 people, with \$25 million directed toward businesses that did not qualify for previous MGCC grants because of a lack of revenue loss in 2020; and \$50 million directed to businesses that reach underserved markets and historically underrepresented groups, or are minority-, women-, or veteran-owned businesses, or are owned by individuals with disabilities or who identify as a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

Under both categories, grants will range from \$10,000 to \$75,000, and will be capped at the lesser of \$75,000 or three months of operating expenses. Grant funding can be used for employee and benefit costs, mortgage interest, rent, utilities, and interest on debt.

"The challenges faced by Massachusetts' small businesses during COVID have been enormous, but in my district and across the state I have seen so many entrepreneurs and innovators respond with incredible perseverance and grace. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and they deserve our support," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka. "Today's grants represent a choice by the Legislature to center small businesses in our effort for an equitable recovery. I am grateful to the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation for their work to distribute these funds to so many deserving businesses and I am thankful to all of the small businesses who have done so much for Massachusetts."

"I am pleased to hear that the small business grant program, created through the Legislature's ARPA bill, is now accepting applications, and will soon be distributing these funds to our small businesses," said Speaker of the House Ronald J. Mariano. "Delivering on the Legislature's intent to pass a bill truly focused on equity, a significant portion of the funds from the small business program will specifically target minority-owned, women-owned, and veteran-owned small businesses, as well as small businesses that didn't receive previous grants during the pandemic. Small businesses are oftentimes the backbone of our communities

and local economies, and I look forward to seeing these investments remain a priority for the House of Representatives moving forward."

"When help was needed the most during the pandemic, the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation scaled up a nation-leading program to support our small businesses and the families and entrepreneurs behind them," said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy. "I'm grateful to the MGCC team for once again stepping up to direct vital funding to the neighborhoods and communities that continue to face challenges created by this unprecedented public health crisis."

"MGCC is pleased to be an instrument of recovery for the smallest of businesses throughout Massachusetts most affected by COVID-19 with these two new grants programs," said Lawrence Andrews, CEO and President of MGCC. "The Baker-Polito Administration and the Legislature recognize that certain communities have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, and the goal of this funding will bring relief and stability to additional businesses throughout the Commonwealth."

In addition to prioritizing applications from businesses that did not qualify for prior aid and businesses owned by individuals from historically underserved populations or operate in underserved markets, eligible businesses must currently be in operation and based in Massachusetts. Applicants must also demonstrate that business revenues for 2020 were between \$40,000 and \$2.5 million.

Learn more at EmpoweringSmallBusiness.org.

## OBITUARIES

### Robert Colameta

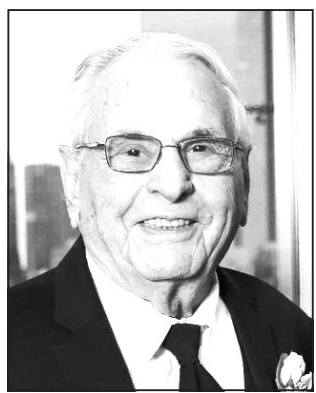
Former Everett Building Inspector

Robert J. Colameta of Everett entered into eternal rest Saturday, February 26 at home surrounded by his loving and caring family. He was 90 years old.

Born in Everett, Bob was a lifelong resident. He worked for Gorins which became Almy's as a project manager. His final 14 plus years of employment was with the city of Everett as a building inspector. His job was to oversee all aspects of building construction and modifications.

He was a U. S. Army veteran who served honorably during the Korean Conflict and was discharged as a Corporal.

The beloved husband of Eleanor A. (Giannantonio) for over 69 years, he was the dear and devoted father of Robert J., Jr. and his wife, Patricia of Everett, Michael and his wife, Theresa of Tewksbury, Diane Lynch and her husband, Douglas of Middleton, Stephen and his wife, Kathleen of Ipswich and Susan Murray and her husband, Glenn of N. Reading; dear brother of Joseph and his wife, Marion of Everett, Thelma DeVito and her husband, Ralph of New Hampshire and the late Richard; loving grandfather of Michael and Tracey Colameta, Andrea and Jim Wright, Kristin and Brian Turcott, Mathew and Kayla Lynch, Brian and Brittany Lynch, Michele Colameta, Lauren and Chris Howe, Rob-



ert P. Colameta, Jonathan and Christiana Murray, Sarah Murray, Emily Murray, Joshua Colameta, Justin Colameta and Sandra Colameta and loving great-grandfather of Michael, Nicholas, Annaliese and the late Charlotte Colameta, James and Connor Wright, Brayden, Kara and Eric Turcott, Ralph, Oscar, Louie and Vera Lynch and Olivia and Cameron Howe. Bob is also survived by several loving nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Bob's visiting hours in the Cafasso & Sons Funeral Home, 65 Clark St. (Corner of Main St.) Everett, today, Weds., March 2 from 5 to 7 p.m. and again on Thurs. at 10 a.m. with a funeral home service to follow at 11 a.m. Interment, with U.S. Army Military Honors, will be at the Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Robert's memory to the charity of one's choice would be sincerely appreciated. Parking with attendants on duty.

### Winson Clifford Snook

Member of Mount Vernon Galilean Lodge AF&AM, the Star of Bethlehem Lodge AF&AM, the Scottish Rite Valley of Boston, Aleppo Shriners-Transportation Unit and Teamsters Local 379

Winson C. Snook passed away peacefully on February 26. He was 94 years old.

Though born in Chelsea in 1928, he was a lifelong resident of Everett.

The husband of the late Florence R. (Traniello) with whom he shared 71 years of marriage before her passing in 2021, Winson attended Everett High School and played on the Crimson Tide football team.

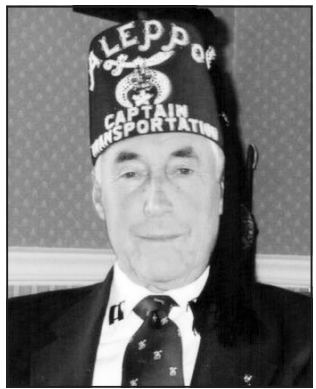
He enlisted in the US Army and was assigned to the Army Air Corps in Japan. He served as part of the Allied Occupation Force setting up radar stations throughout Japan and was honorably discharged.

A truck driver for over 42 years with Patent Scaffolding Co in Medford, he was a member of the Mount Vernon Galilean Lodge AF&AM, the Star of Bethlehem Lodge AF&AM, the Scottish Rite Valley of Boston, a member of the Aleppo Shriners-Transportation Unit in Wilmington and Teamsters Local 379 in Boston.

Winson established W.C. Snook & Sons, doing carpentry jobs on the weekends in the area.

Upon retirement, Winson and Florence enjoyed many years traveling together throughout the United States and Canada as part of the Shriner's Organization. They also enjoyed summers at their cottage in York Beach, Maine with their large family and many friends.

Winson is the devoted father of seven children - JoAnn L. Kelly of NH, Robert W. Snook of FL, Richard D. Snook, Dennis J. Snook, both of WA state,



John D. Snook, Douglas K. Snook, Christopher M. Snook, all of MA. He is also lovingly survived by 15 grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Winson was the youngest child of Thomas Snook and Sarah (Flight). He was preceded in death by brothers: Leonard, Walter, Thomas, Jr. and sister, Iona.

Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend visiting hours in the Carafa Family Funeral Home, 389 Washington Ave., Chelsea on Friday, March 4 from 3 to 7 p.m. A Masonic Service will be held in the Funeral Home at 6:30 p.m.

Winson's Funeral Service will be conducted in the Funeral Home on Saturday at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with interment at Glenwood Cemetery in Everett.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children, Office of Development, 51 Blossom St., Boston, MA 02114.

Per order of the Chelsea Board of Health, masks are required in all public spaces of the funeral home.

We encourage family and friends to visit carafafuneralhome.com to offer condolences at this time by means of the online guest book below or to send a personalized sympathy card.

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CHURCH News

Mystic Side Congregational Church

News and Notes

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

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

**Mystic Side  
Congregational Church  
422 Main Street  
Everett, MA**

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 face-

book page, "Zion Church Ministries."

For more information, they can be reached online at [zionchurchministries.com](http://zionchurchministries.com) or via email at [office@zionchurchministries.com](mailto:office@zionchurchministries.com)

Glendale United Methodist Church

News and Notes

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

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

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

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

NA Meetings – Mon.

Glendale Christian Lighthouse Church

News and Notes

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Worship service.

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

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

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Pastor**

**[pastorlarry@  
thelighthousechurch701.net](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/churchforeverett) to view weekly devotions and updates, visit us at [\[everett.church\]\(http://everett.church\) to sign up for our newsletter and see how we can help you, or connect with the Everett Community Aid Network at \[www.everettcan.com\]\(http://www.everettcan.com\) to request any additional help.](http://www.for-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church

News and Notes

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church is open & welcoming to all.

There are 2 services on Sundays: 10am English, 1pm South Sudanese Dinka

Come all and let us walk together in this sea-

son of hope, renewal and new beginnings.

**Grace Anglican  
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DEMARIA ANNOUNCES ‘LUNCH AND LEARN’ PROGRAM

Courtesy Photos

Mayor Carlo DeMaria is pleased to announce a new program for city employees titled: Lunch and Learn. This is a new initiative crafted by the City’s new Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Cathy Draine gives City employees the opportunity to join together and share a meal while listening to their colleague’s experiences and areas of expertise.

“Each of our employees comes from a different background and have endured different obstacles that have led them where

they are today. I am hopeful that this new initiative will allow for a healthy exchange of ideas while creating a more robust sense of community,” said Mayor Carlo DeMaria.

Each month will include of a different topic as well as different presenter(s). February’s program focused on Haiti’s importance in the movement for freedom and beyond as well as current issues impacting the Haitian community and was held by Monica Ulysse and Mirlande Felissaint. March’s meeting will focus on women’s history month.



Photos shown depict February’s “Lunch and Learn” program, which focused on Haiti’s importance in the movement for freedom and other current issues currently impacting the Haitian community.



LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

**MALDEN CATHOLIC STUDENTS ACHIEVE HONOR ROLL – FIRST AND SECOND QUARTER**

Malden Catholic students have completed the coursework required for the first and second quarter of the 2021 - 2022 school year. The school

has three categories for outstanding academic performance honors: Headmaster’s List (90 - 100 in all classes,) First Honors (85 to 89 in all classes) and Second Honors (80 to 84 in all classes.)

**Malden Catholic Honors QUARTER ONE Headmaster’s List (90 to 100 in all classes)**

Luca Morelli  
Lisbeth Monteagudo  
Kristen Marchant  
Angelina Ang  
Evelyn Maradiaga

**First Honors (85 to 89 in all classes)**

Vincent Carbone  
Fredrika Noel  
Maya Fu  
Lily Van Campen

Lexy Dormevil Florez  
Gwendolyn Vaughn  
Wilhelmine Remy

**Second Honors (80 to 84 in all classes)**

Markus Noel  
Jonathan Beauvoir  
Ortello Hamilton

**Malden Catholic Honors QUARTER TWO Headmaster’s List (90**

**to 100 in all classes)**

Luca Morelli  
Lisbeth Monteagudo  
Kristen Marchant  
Angelina Ang  
Evelyn Maradiaga  
Fredrika Noel

**First Honors (85 to 89 in all classes)**

Markus Noel  
Jonathan Beauvoir  
Vincent Carbone

Maya Fu  
Lily Van Campen  
Lexy Dormevil Florez

**Second Honors (80 to 84 in all classes)**

Ortello Hamilton  
Kenneth Ramirez  
Gwendolyn Vaughn  
Wilhelmine Remy  
Sophia Ingrando




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