





## REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."  
-- Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities.

With Christmas fast approaching, most of us will be rushing about -- either to the stores and malls or on-line --- to do our holiday shopping in hopes of finding that "perfect" gift for our family members and loved ones. Although economic uncertainty, spurred by the after-effects of record-high inflation, continues to afflict almost every American household, most of us are doing okay, if not extremely well, thanks to unemployment rates that are near historically record-lows. However, the strong economy (from an employment standpoint) that is being enjoyed by the majority of Americans has not been shared by all. For a sizable number of our fellow citizens, the lingering effects of the pandemic, as well as the fraying of the fabric of our social safety net in recent years, have come together to represent an existential disaster.

Millions of Americans of all ages, in a percentage greater than at any time since the Great Depression, are struggling financially, even if they have a job. To put it in stark terms, more Americans, including families in our own communities, are going hungry than at any time in our recent history. One in eight households (12.8 percent) experience food insecurity, defined as the lack of access to an affordable, nutritious diet. An estimated 44.2 million Americans live in these households. A recent Feeding America survey found that 80% of network food banks reported either increased or steady demand for emergency food services, with almost 35% of responding food banks reporting an increase in the number of people they serve.

In addition, thanks to the lack of affordable new housing and sky-high rents, far too many of our fellow citizens, including children, live either in shelters or in similar temporary housing arrangements -- or on the streets -- because our economy literally has left them out in the cold. Millions of Americans of all ages, including those in our own communities, are struggling financially, often through no fault of their own, thanks to a combination of low-wage jobs and a strong real estate market that ironically has made apartments (let alone buying a home) unaffordable. This dichotomy is most evident and acute in cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and right here in Boston (most notably at the infamous Mass. and Cass intersection in the South End). Despite the vast wealth in those metropolitan areas, thousands of homeless Americans, including many who have full-time jobs, are living in tent and cardboard "neighborhoods" on city sidewalks.

The homeless always have been among us, but the scope and depth of the problem is far beyond anything that has been experienced in our lifetime. The vast discrepancy between the enormous wealth enjoyed by some Americans and the abject poverty being endured by others is similar to what exists in major urban centers in South America and India -- but it now is happening right here in the U.S.A.

For these millions of Americans, the holiday season brings no joy.

Psychologists tell us that the Biblical directive, that we should give to those who are less fortunate, is the best gift that we can give to ourselves. Helping others activates regions of the brain associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust, creating the so-called "warm glow" effect.

Never in the lifetime of anybody reading this editorial has the need for contributions to local food banks been more urgent. There will be ample opportunities in the coming days to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate, whether it be donations to local food banks and toy programs, or even just dropping a few dollars in the buckets of the Salvation Army Santas.

There simply is no excuse for those of us who are among the more fortunate for failing to make some effort over the next four weeks to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate.

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# Independent Forum

## DiDomenico and his staff recognized for passage of Universal School Meals

Special to the Independent

Recently, Senator DiDomenico and his staff were recognized for their leadership in passing legislation for Universal School Meals throughout the Commonwealth with Congressman Jim McGovern and Rep. Andy Vargas at Fenway Park. This academic year, Massachusetts became the eighth state to provide all Massachusetts K-12 students with free school meals, permanently. This achievement was secured through funding and language in the state budget.



Sen. DiDomenico and his staff (left to right): Yoshki Wurtz, Christie Getto Young, Senator DiDomenico, Ayla Thorntona, Eli Fenichel.

Senator DiDomenico has been working on this legislation to ensure that students and parents do not have to worry about paying for lunch and breakfast in school and eliminating the stigma of being seen as different from their peers. This landmark bill is a game changer for families in our state.

"This has been a top priority of mine for many years, and we could not have gotten it done without Senate President Karen Spilka, Speaker Ron Mariano, and the tireless work of The Feed Kids Coalition, led by Project

Bread," said Senator Sal DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. "This is a legacy-defining accomplishment for every person in our coalition that

will ensure kids across our state won't go hungry and will be able to concentrate on what's important in school: learning and having fun with their friends."



Sen. DiDomenico speaking alongside his team and Rep. Vargas.



Sen. DiDomenico and the Feed Kids Coalition, including Congressman Jim McGovern, Rep. Vargas, and Project Bread President/CEO Erin McAleer.

## Winter Prep / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and sidewalk plows to ensure the safety of the City's main arteries, side streets and sidewalks. In the days following major storms, the Department of Public Works (DPW) will continue the work of plowing and coordinating additional snow removal.

The City has reaffirmed its strategy for notifying residents of parking bans. Parking bans and restrictions will be implemented and enforced ahead of storms. Once the decision has been made to declare a snow emergency, the information will be made available to residents through robo-calls, postings on Everett Community Television (ECTV), social media (Facebook: /cityofeverettma; Instagram: @cityofeverettma; X (the platform formerly known as Twitter): @City\_EverettMA), cityofeverett.com website, and by the activation of the blue emergency lights along main arteries. Residents can also call 311 or 617-394-2270 for any information.

For this snow season, December 2023 to March/April of 2024, the year used for parking bans will be 2024 -- an even numbered year -- thus vehicles should park on the EVEN side of the street. For secondary streets, where parking is normally allowed on both sides when a snow parking ban is called, parking is ONLY allowed on the side of the street where the house numbers are even. This would apply for the entire snow season. However,

for streets that are one-sided parking, vehicles must remain on the side that is usually allowed. As always, there is no parking permitted on main arteries during a parking ban.

Main arteries include:  
•Chelsea, Hancock, Nichols, Norwood, Lawrence, Bell Rock, Bryant, Broadway, Main, Elm, Ferry, Fuller, Lynn, Bucknam, High, Garland, Alpine, Second, Tileston,

Tremont and Union.

Failure to follow parking ban and snow emergency regulations will result in the ticketing and towing of vehicles.

The Code Enforcement Department would also like to remind people when shoveling not to throw snow back into the street. This hinders the efforts of the City to effectively plow our roadways, and is subject to fines.

Also, using objects to reserve parking spaces on City streets is prohibited by City ordinance.

The Mayor and his administration ask that all residents help the City achieve a successful snow removal season by following these regulations, and thank everyone in advance for their cooperation. For more information, please call Constituent Services at 617-394-2270.

2023-2024 Snow Season FAQs

In the case of impending snow, stay up to date with the City's website, social media, ECTV, and City alerts. Sign up for City Alerts here: <https://bit.ly/3od86Xj>

During snow emergencies, residents should park on the **EVEN** side of the street. For streets with one sided parking, remain on the designated side. No parking on either side of main roads.

During snow emergencies, it is very unlikely that trash pickup is delayed. In the rare occasion that it happens, we will contact you through the avenues listed above.

An easy way to tell if there is an impending snow emergency is to check the flashing blue lights on main roads.

Our 311 Constituent Services Department is open during all snow storms. The alternative phone number is 617-394-2270. You can use this number for all snow related issues.

If your vehicle is towed due to noncompliance with snow emergency rules, you can locate your vehicle by calling:

Quealy Towing  
26 Garvey Street, Everett  
617-387-6877

Paul's Towing  
3 Buell Street, Everett  
617-389-2736

CASH ONLY  
\$140-\$160

DURING SNOW EMERGENCIES  
RESIDENTS MAY PARK IN  
MUNICIPAL LOTS:

Norwood Street Lot  
School St. Lots [Corey & Oakes]  
Victoria Street Lot  
Day Park Lot  
Floyd Street Lot

The Everett Independent reserves the right to edit letters for space, accuracy and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Everett Independent publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Everett Independent. Text or attachments emailed to editor@everettindependent.com are preferred.



**A true copy attested**  
**Sergio Cornelio, City Clerk**  
**11/29/23**







# PCSSI students hold food drive

Special to the Independent

This month, students at Pioneer Charter School I (PCSSI) Lower School in Everett held a food drive to benefit Project SOUP, a food pantry and soup kitchen in Somerville. Starting November 1st, students and their families collected canned goods for the cause. It is their seventh year participating in the food drive.

"November is the month we express our gratitude, and Pioneer Charter School of Science takes great pride in lending a helping hand to our community and the communities around us," said PCSS Chief Executive Officer Barish Icin. "We are grateful to our students and the Community Involvement Club for their commitment to this year's Food Drive."

Project SOUP was founded by the Somerville Homeless Coalition in 1969. Their mission is to lessen food insecurity in the Somerville community by providing healthy meals and groceries. In

addition to the pantry, Project SOUP also serves community meals and has a delivery service for those unable to leave their homes. Somerville Homeless Coalition also accepts donations of baby products such as diapers and wipes, hygiene essentials, and other household staples.

This season's drive resulted in over one hundred cans of food for the Somerville community pantry.

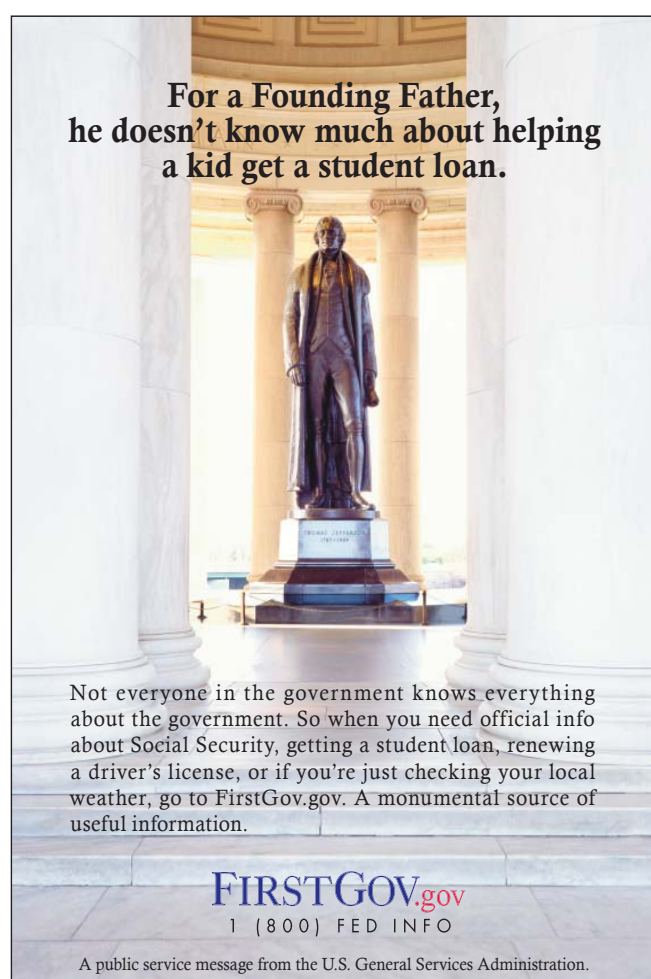
The mission of PCSS is to prepare educationally under-resourced students for today's competitive world. PCSS will help students develop the academic and social skills necessary to become successful professionals and exemplary community members through a rigorous academic curriculum emphasizing math and science. Balanced by a foundation in the humanities, a character education program, career-oriented college preparation, and solid student-teacher-parent collaboration, PCSS will meet its mission.



Shown left to right, PCSSI Lower School Students Sergine, Kamila, Hiba, and PCSSI's Ms.Nunez deliver Food Drive goods to Project SOUP



The Food Drive collection, located at PCSSI in Everett.



Not everyone in the government knows everything about the government. So when you need official info about Social Security, getting a student loan, renewing a driver's license, or if you're just checking your local weather, go to [FirstGov.gov](http://FirstGov.gov). A monumental source of useful information.

**FIRSTGOV.gov**  
1 (800) FED.INFO

A public service message from the U.S. General Services Administration

## CITY OF EVERETT TO HOST ANNUAL MENORAH LIGHTING



The Everett community gathered at last year's Menorah Lighting in front of Everett City Hall.

Mayor Carlo DeMaria is pleased to announce the City of Everett will be hosting the annual Everett Public Menorah Lighting on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. in front of Everett City Hall, 484 Broadway. Chanukah is the Jew-

ish eight-day “festival of lights” celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting and special prayers.

The City of Everett is pleased to, once again, collaborate with Rabbi Sruli Baron of the Tobin Bridge Chabad to enjoy a festive

community-wide celebration. After the menorah is lit, attendees are welcome to enjoy music, latkes, doughnuts, dreidels, chocolate gelt and more.

All residents and families are welcome to attend this celebration as

we continue to spread holiday cheer throughout the season. For more information, please visit [cityofeverett.com/events/menorah-lighting-2023](http://cityofeverett.com/events/menorah-lighting-2023)

## EBNHC gives away Thanksgiving turkeys

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EB-NHC), the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts celebrated Thanksgiving by handing out 300 turkeys to community members ahead of the holiday weekend. Recognizing the crucial piece nutrition plays in patient health, EB-NHC has partnered with American Red Cross Food Pantry and Lovin' Spoonfuls to organize weekly food distributions from the center's Community Resource & Wellness Center at 282 Meridian Street in East Boston. Available by appointment, East Boston neighbors come to the center every Thursday to get groceries, produce, meat and canned items.

On Tuesday, ahead of Thanksgiving, EBNHC's

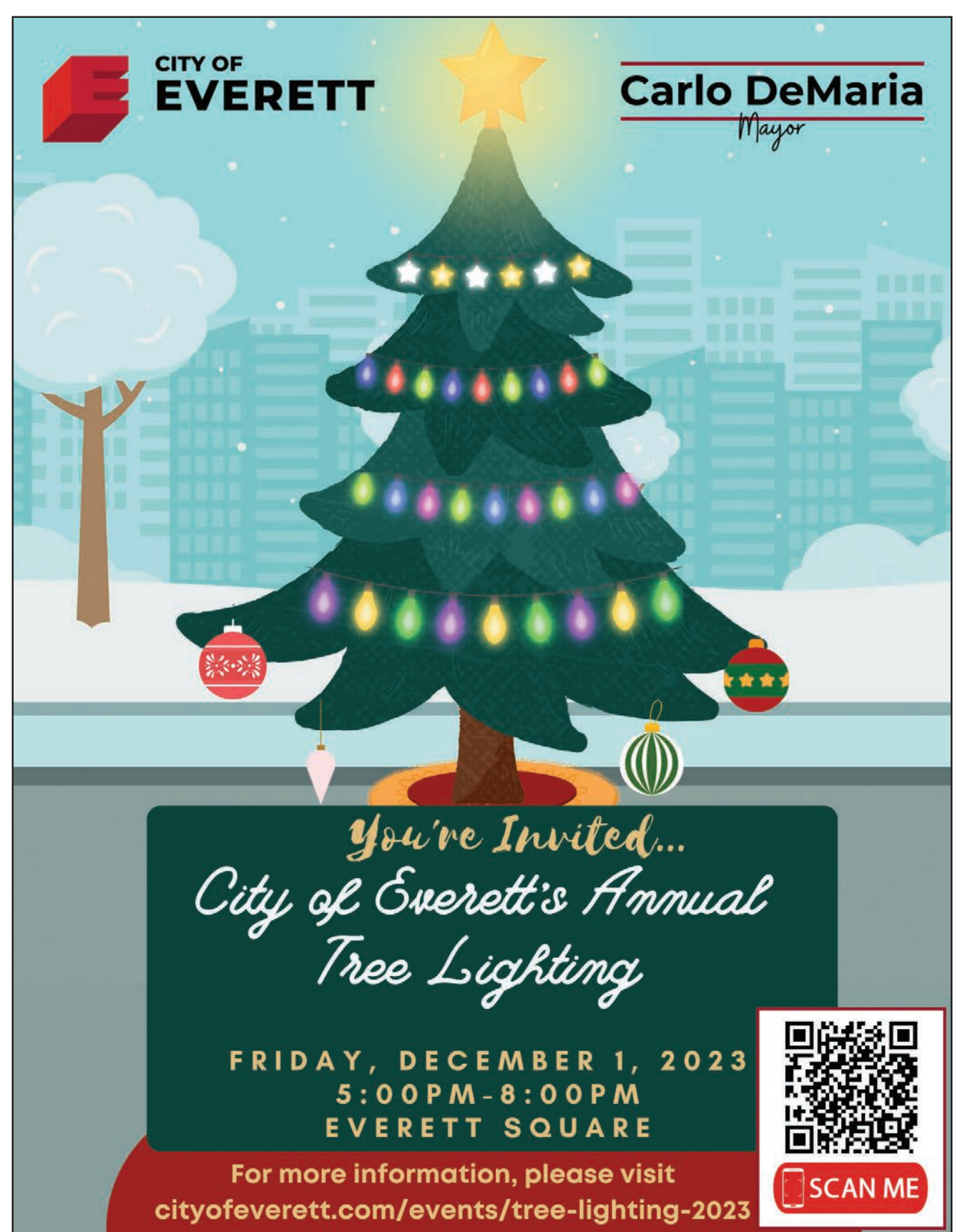


Dozens of EBNHC staff, led by Care Navigator Supervisor, Catharine Hemp, and Care Navigator Coordinator, Margaret Keithline, helped to distribute more than 300 turkeys and pork loin, thanks to EBNHC's continued partnership with the American Red Cross Food Pantry so all can enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

Community Resource & Wellness Center welcomed community members early to distribute Thanksgiving meal kits

including turkeys, potatoes, produce and more to East Boston families. From 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., 300 turkeys were distrib-

uted to help families celebrate the season of giving and gratitude and encourage healthy eating as a crucial piece of achieving health equity.

 **SCAN ME**



# Everett Citizens Foundation presents \$150,000 worth of grants to 26 local organizations

Special to the Independent

The Everett Citizens Foundation hosted the Year 5, Round 1 Grant Distribution event on Monday, November 20, in the City Council Chambers at Everett City Hall to award \$150,000 to 26 local organizations.

This was the most competitive round yet, as the Foundation received the highest number of applications for a single round

so far. To date, the Foundation has awarded over \$1 million in grants to local organizations which provide meaningful support and resources to Everett residents.

In its contract with Wynn, the City negotiated that they would provide \$250,000 worth of grants to organizations that benefit Everett residents yearly. This round was the first of two rounds that will be held this year.

The following is a list of the organizations that received a grant for Year 5, Round 1:

- ABCD Mystic Valley Opportunity Center - \$4,928
- Art Lab Everett - \$5,084
- Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) - \$5,163
- Church at the Well, Everett - \$5,163
- Everett Arts Association - \$4,000
- E Club of Everett - \$5,182
- Everett Girls Softball - \$5,084
- Everett High School STEM - \$4,928
- Everett Little League - \$5,084
- Everett Recreation Center - \$5,240
- Everett/Revere Youth Hockey - \$5,084
- First Baptist Church - \$4,928
- The Food Drive - \$10,000
- For Kids Only After-school - \$10,000
- Glendale Christian Lighthouse Church - \$4,693
- Grace Food Pantry - \$5,084
- Joint Committee for Childrens Healthcare in Everett - \$10,000
- Malden Warming Center, Inc. - \$5,163
- Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS) - \$5,006
- Mystic Valley Elder Services - \$5,000
- Mystic Valley YMCA - \$5,240
- Pop Warner - \$4,928
- Read to a Child - \$5,006
- Sober Shuttle - \$10,000
- Youth Power Group - \$4,928
- Zion Human Services Corp. - \$5,084



The Everett Citizens Foundation awarded \$150,000 worth of grants to 26 local organizations in the Council Chambers at Everett City Hall.

## MyWRA / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

court processes, specializing in evaluating systems that work with marginalized communities. She



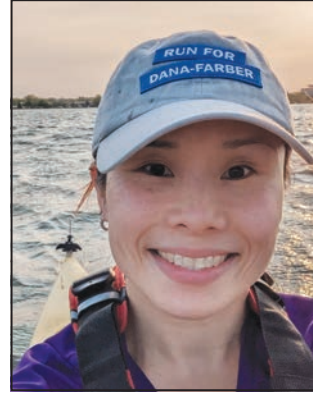
Monica Ghosh Driggers

has conducted long-term studies on topics ranging from domestic violence to parole to the rights of disabled persons. Having never lost her commitment to the environment, she volunteered for many years with MyRWA's Policy Committee. She is now a Senior Program Director at the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance, helping that organization expand all of the work it does to protect rivers. In her free time Monica walks her dogs along local riverways and

tries to become a better watercolor painter.

"Several years ago I moved to an area close to Upper Mystic Lake and noticed the Bald Eagles flying overhead. This beautiful welcome to my new neighborhood inspired me to learn more about the habitat of eagles and the other wonderful wildlife that we have here. That's when I discovered how much MyRWA does to protect the ecosystem supported by the Mystic River. I decided to do my

part by joining the Policy Committee and MyRWA has been a great part of my life ever since. MyRWA gives me the opportunity to do something for my community while teaching me new things about the places and the people that surround me."



Helen Quach

**Helen Quach** (she/her) was born and raised in Boston, and is now a resident of Wakefield. Her professional background is in the field of non-profit and public healthcare, and she is currently working as Executive Assistant to the Dean at the Office of Faculty Affairs at the Harvard School of Public Health. Helen has always been passionate about advocating and volunteering, and in the past has dedicated her time to the Department of Youth Services and Chinese Progressive Association. Now she spends most of her time helping with all things dragon boat related from the Boston Dragon Boat Festival to running her team, Living Root Dragon Boat, now based in the Rivergreen Park in Everett. Helen favorites include distance running, paddling, hiking, and walking miles upon miles with her senior beagle.

"I became involved

with the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) a couple of years ago, after volunteering at the annual Mystic River Herring and Paddle, plus running and paddling the race almost every year since 2015. I felt inspired by all the hard work that the MyRWA does to keep our waterways clean and accessible to underrepresented communities, and learned about the programs that they provide to enrich the lives of the communities, educational programs for youth, and overall, fostering a healthy and vibrant environment for the watershed. Just from reading their newsletter, you know MyRWA does a lot! As a board member, I hope I can contribute to spread awareness of MyRWA's mission, and represent the organization well in any capacity."

**Kelly Ryan** (she/her), CPA is a Vice President at JPMorgan. She has over



Kelly Ryan

15 years working in various aspects of the fund services industry. She has recently received a Certificate in ESG Investing from the CFA Institute. Kelly holds a B.A. from College of the Holy Cross, where her deep commitment to serving others was

ingrained. She is a resident of Boston and can often be found strolling around the Harbor.

"The Mystic River is part of my family history, and I am honored to be able to assist MyRWA in continuing its unbelievably powerful work for the watershed and all its residents as a board member."

At the Mystic River Watershed Association annual meeting, Charles Holley, Maricia Manong, John Reinhardt, and Britney Satterlee were also re-elected to second-terms on the Board of Directors. The board, which is now 17 members strong, is charged with organizational oversight, leadership in strategic planning and connecting to the wider community. MyRWA is led by professional staff and also organizes thousands of volunteers working together on a project-by-project basis.

The Mystic River Watershed Association works to improve the lives of the more than 600,000 residents of Mystic River communities through its efforts to protect and restore water quality, natural habitat and open space throughout the 76 square mile watershed. The Mystic River watershed is comprised of 21 communities: Arlington, Belmont, Boston (Charlestown & East Boston), Burlington, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lexington, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Reading, Revere, Somerville, Stoneham, Wakefield, Watertown, Wilmington, Winchester, Winthrop, Woburn. For more information see [www.MysticRiver.org](http://www.MysticRiver.org).



Carlo DeMaria  
*Mayor*

Together We Bring Light!

EVERETT

PUBLIC MENORAH LIGHTING



Thursday, December 7th  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
484 Broadway, Everett  
In Front of Everett City Hall



SCAN ME

To learn more, please visit  
[cityofeverett.com/events/menorah-lighting-2023](http://cityofeverett.com/events/menorah-lighting-2023)

Real Estate Transfers

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Kunsang, Tenzin	Madden, Kelly	3 Hampshire St	\$800,000
Bardales, Dalila	Leonard, Debra A	10 Waverly Ave	\$589,900
Dawadi, Kishan	King, Keith J	42 Sammet St	\$725,000
Duwal, Kishor	Germano-Valdez Lt	214 Main St	\$1,025,000



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Pat Roberto,  
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Pop Warner /

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Everett will bring a 10-0 record to Florida, having won the league championship and three playoff games over Billerica (6-0), Chelmsford (19-13 on a last-second touchdown by Jerai Boisrond-Rogers), and Hartford, Connecticut (20-0 in the New England final).

Mel Fiore is in his fourth season coaching this group of players, which includes his son, Tyson Fiore, the Tide’s starting fullback.

Tyson is one of the team captains along with Patrick Walsh, Lorenzo Papa, Amari Ssembito, and Ediell Diaz.

Walsh emerged as the best quarterback in the league this season, according to Coach Fiore. “He’s a true dual threat in our passing and rush-

ing games. Patrick and Jerai have really been the leaders of our offense,” said Fiore. “Josiah Val has been one of our standouts on defense.”

Fiore said he and the other coaches had high expectations for the team and it has delivered stellar efforts in each game.

“That [earning a national playoff bid] was the plan,” said Fiore. “We’ve come close every year. The players have played outstanding football all season. It’s exciting for everyone. It should be fun. We’re the first 10-U football team from Everett to make it to Florida.”

Fiore expressed his gratitude to longtime Crimson Tide Pop Warner president Brian Dimond and the organization’s dedicated board of directors.



Starting quarterback Patrick Walsh and center, Kaysen Victor.



The New England champion Everett team poses for a photo at Sacramone Park.

“Brian is always very supportive to the coaches and the kids,” lauded Fiore, 43, who was a hockey star at Matignon and a phenomenal baseball player as a youth while growing up in Chelsea and attending Our Lady of Grace School.

- The names of coaches and players are as follows:
- Head Coach: Mel Fiore
- Asst. Coaches: Joseph D’Onofrio, Jason Papa, Kendall Winters, Lenny Parsons, Jimmy Salie, Steve Golden
- Team Mom: Stephanie Fiore
- Captains:
- Tyson Fiore
  - Patrick Walsh
  - Jerai Boisrond-Rogers
  - Lorenzo Papa
  - Amari Ssembitto
  - Ediell Diaz
  - Jerai Boisrond-Rogers
- Players:
- Nazir Hall
  - Gamaliel Timoleon
  - Kayaki Battle (KJ)
  - Legend Dipaolo
  - Christian DeMaina
  - Julian Gomez
  - Mardoche Seide
  - Jovani Namey
  - Mason Marble
  - Symon Golden
  - Jimmy McLaughlin
  - Alexnder Keiven Soto
  - Rubin Seide



Head Coach Melvin Fiore (center) and his staff from left: Kendall Winters, Jay Papa, Lenny Parsons, Jim Salie, Joe D’Onofrio, and Steve Golden.

- Maximus Ware
  - Nehimhari Fields
  - Josiah Val
  - Amir Mohamed
  - Noah Yarde
  - Logan Salie
  - Richard Carapellucci
  - Mateo Osorio-Hernandez
  - Kaysen Victor
  - Jordyn Collins
  - Davonne Valentin
  - Tallin Allen
  - Barthelmy Fedna “B”
- Teams that will be competing:
- Eastern: Abington Raiders
  - Mid South: Coastal Cowboys
  - New England: Everett Crimson Tide
  - Pacific: Santa Cruz Seahawks
  - South West: West Lake Cats
  - Western: Santa Margarita Cowboys
  - South: Palmetto/Oakleaf
  - Mid America: Dixmoor Vikings

# Pop Warner team’s success rekindles great memories for assistant coach Joe D’Onofrio

By Cary Shuman

November has been a memorable month for former Everett High School and Anna Maria College football star Joe D’Onofrio.

D’Onofrio was elected to the Everett School Committee Nov. 7, proudly following in the footsteps of his father, Bernie D’Onofrio, who previously served on the board.

Joe is also celebrating another milestone achievement in his position as an assistant coach of the New England champion Everett Crimson Tide Pop Warner 10-U team.

“I played eight years of Pop Warner football in Everett, so I know how special this accomplishment is for our players,” said D’Onofrio. “We made it to the regional semifinals one year. I had some great coaches along the way like Peter Forte.”

D’Onofrio was a touchdown machine as a Pop Warner running back before playing four years of varsity football, two each at Pope John XXIII High School and Everett High School.

“We [Everett High] won the GBL title and made it to the state semifinals in my senior year,” said D’Onofrio, a starting running back on a John DiBiaso-coached team and a 2014 EHS graduate.

He spent a year at Bridgton Academy where he was the starting safety and had “a 100-yard Pick 6 against the Naval Acad-

emy prep team,” recalled D’Onofrio.

At Anna Maria College in Paxton (Mass.), D’Onofrio continued his brilliant football career, leading the entire nation in kickoff return yardage at one point. He finished No. 5 in the country in his sophomore year.

Now 28 years old, D’Onofrio is back on the sidelines as a youth football assistant coach in his hometown. He preferred to put all the spotlight on the Florida-bound Crimson Tide Pop Warner 10-U team, rather than illuminating on his own football-playing exploits.

“These players have

been together since they were six years old,” said D’Onofrio. “They’re so smart in their techniques and their knowledge of how to run a high school playbook. The 10-year-olds truly are star athletes. These kids are awesome. They pay attention. They’re poised in key situations. They’re respectful of their opponents. It’s been a great ride, and I’m so happy to be a part of their success.”

D’Onofrio will be sworn in as the Ward 6 representative on the Everett School Committee in January.

But first Joe D’Onofrio will join head coach Mel

Fiore, the staff, and players in Orlando, hoping to bring home to the City of Everett and Brian Dimond’s esteemed organization a national Pop Warner football championship title.

EVERETT INDEPENDENT

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14	15	16	17	18	19	18	19	20	21	22	23
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# Zamor, Lackland help Everett High football roll past St. Mary's in Thanksgiving game

By Cary Shuman

The Everett High football team made an emphatic statement on Thanksgiving eve, beating a very good St. Mary's team, 56-28, at Everett Memorial Stadium.

Seniors Christian Zamor and Damian Lackland, playing their final games for the Crimson Tide, led the Crimson Tide attack that generated 490 yards in total offense.

Zamor, who will be heading to Boston College, caught two touchdown passes from quarterback Carlos Rodriguez and was immense on defense as well, recording a strip sack of the St. Mary's quarterback and finishing as Everett's second-leading tackler.

Zamor wore jersey No. 18 in a tribute to his friend, Fabieri Fabert, who died in a swimming accident in June, 2022.

"Christian had some extra motivation, and he had another special performance," said head coach Justin Flores.

Lackland rushed for 142 yards on 11 carries and scored three touchdowns. "Damian had a big game," said Flores.

Rodriguez threw for 226 yards and three touchdowns in a superb finale for the junior quarterback.

"Carlos' poise and pocket presence was everything I wanted to see going into the last game," said Flores.

Meanwhile, Jayden Prophete made the defensive play of the game when he intercepted a pass and returned it 52 yards for a touchdown. Prophete also caught a touchdown pass.

Senior Domenic Papa led the Everett defense with a dozen tackles in a terrific performance to wrap up his outstanding career.

Flores was impressed by the visiting St. Mary's (6-5) team, who were the reigning Division 6 Super Bowl champions and

qualified for the playoffs this season. Everett and St. Mary's were playing on a one-year agreement, which means that Flores will likely be seeking a new Thanksgiving opponent.

"We're going to see what we're going to do for next year on Thanksgiving," said Flores. "The ultimate goal to have a permanent opponent so the program and the city can look forward to a game on Thanksgiving every year."

## A successful first season for Coach Justin Flores

Everett finished with a 9-2 record, winning the Greater Boston League championship in a successful debut season for Justin Flores. Everett's losses were to Xaverian in the season opener and to Central Catholic in a consolation game. Though Everett finished with a 7-1 record in the regular season (and a high ranking in the Boston newspaper polls), it fell short of a playoff berth due to some of their GBL opponents not producing enough rating points.

"We lost to Xaverian on the final drive of the game," said Flores, while noting that Xaverian will be playing in the Division 1 state championship game against St. John's Prep. "We were getting better as the season progressed. We didn't get the opportunity we had hoped for in the playoffs, but we made the most of our chances afterwards."

Flores is excited about the future of the program.

"I'm looking forward to having a full year getting the team ready for the 2024 football season," said Flores. "We're going to lose a lot of seniors, but as it is in Everett, we have a lot of talent here, and a lot of freshman and sophomores gained varsity experience. I'm excited to see some of our young guys step up and our juniors come back and take their next step forward heading into the college recruiting process."

EXCELLENCE IN THE EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Artist's Journey Stops at EHS



Greater Boston-based artist Ray Raja recently delivered a presentation to Everett High School (EHS) art students about their inspiring personal and professional journey. Ray immigrated to the US from Pakistan at the age of 16 and quickly discovered a passion for art. Ray discussed her work in fiber arts, animation, sculpture, performance art, and painting. Students immediately recognized Ray's fashion design work, adding to the energy and engagement of the presentation. Following the talk, Ray responded to questions and comments from students about being an artist, entrepreneur, as well as various materials and processes. Additionally, Ray talked to the EHS students who are enrolled in the Massachusetts College of Art and Design's Saturday Studios Youth Program via scholarships available through a partnership between EHS and the college. Pictured above (above right) are Art Coordinator Caroline DiCicco, artist Ray Raja, and EHS art teacher Josephine Dougan, who helped two students register for scholarships to the Saturday Studios program. Above left, Ray Raja delivers an inspirational presentation.

## Liaisons and Parents Attend Family-School Partnership Summit

Community Engagement Manager Jeanette Velez led a vibrant team of representatives from the Everett Public Schools (EPS) to this year's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Better Together

Strengthening Family School Partnership Summit in Marlboro.

Ms. Velez appeared on workshop panel entitled, "The Wonderful World of Our Family Liaisons." Fittingly, EPS Family Liaisons Iris Monge, Da-

vid Capera Sanchez, and Monica O'Brien were on hand for the discussion. Eliot Family Resource Center Director Liliana Patino was also in attendance.

And, for the first time, the district provided trans-

portation to and from the event for EPS parents Maria Tejada, Gladys Avila, Yarenis De Leon, Vilma Aguirre, and Juana Merino.

EPS Arts Coordinator Cari DiCicco displayed student artwork at the Summit, and the Everett High School Marching Band gave what an event organizer called an "extraordinary performance." DESE, in fact, was so impressed with the district's involvement that it awarded a \$500 donation to the EPS arts department as a show of gratitude.

Congratulations to everyone in the district who contributed to this multifaceted event that generated such positive exposure for our students, staff, and families.



Everett High School Marching Band performed at the event.

## Everett Arts & Culture Events

### JOIN the Everett Cultural Council!

The Everett Cultural Council is a volunteer group that works to foster creativity, diversity and an arts and culture renaissance in the city of Everett. There are openings for new members. For more info, please email ECC

Chairperson Martha Chason-Sokol  
[martha@mchason-sokol.com](mailto:martha@mchason-sokol.com).

## BE THE CHANGE!

Don't miss "Be The Change", the Sculpture exhibit is at Glendale Park until Dec. 15.



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# DiDomenico secures funding for new Everett High School Music Program truck

Special to the Independent

Senator Sal DiDomenico secured funding in the state budget so that the Everett High School Music Program could purchase a brand-new truck for their competitions. The school's marching band, percussion ensemble, and color guard will use this truck to transport their equipment as they compete and perform throughout Massachusetts and the United States.

"This amazing and talented group of students has dedicated countless hours perfecting their performances and they deserve

a new truck like this one that reflects their passion and care for the marching band, percussion ensemble and color guard," said Senator Sal DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. "I am a longtime supporter of Everett's music program and now they will have a modern truck for many years to come as they travel to their competitions and events. The students deserve it and I look forward to the continued success and accomplishments of our student-musicians and the dedicated staff."



Senator DiDomenico speaking in front of students and parents.



The new Everett High School Music Program truck.

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NOTICE OF TIER CLASSIFICATION

97-107 BOSTON STREET EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS RELEASE TRACKING NUMBER 3-37785

A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has occurred at this location, which is a disposal site as defined by M.G.L. c21E, §2 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. To evaluate the release, a Phase

I Initial Site Investigation was performed pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0480. The site has been classified as Tier II pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0500. On November 27, 2023, CI-GS Elan Everett Phase II, LLC filed a Tier II Classification Submittal with the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). To obtain more information on this disposal site, please contact Mr. Chris Legacki of CIGS Elan Everett Phase II, LLC, One Federal Street, Suite 1804, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110, (857) 299-7203.

The Tier Classification Submittal and disposal site files can be viewed at the MassDEP website using Release Tracking Number (RTN) 3-37785 at <http://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/wastesite> or at MassDEP, Northeast Regional Office, 150 Presidential Way, Woburn, Massachusetts 01801, (978) 694-3200. Additional public involvement opportunities are available under 310 CMR 40.1403(9) and 310 CMR 40.1404.

11/29/23 EV

## Anthony “Red” Morelli, Sr.

Church organist and retired letter carrier

Anthony G. “Red” Morelli Sr. of Everett entered into eternal rest on Thanksgiving morning, November 23 in the Oosterman’s Rest Home in Melrose. He was 94 years old.

Red was born in Boston and lived in Everett for most of his life. He was a letter carrier with the United States Postal Service retiring after 30 plus years of service. Red was also an accomplished organist having played the organ at various churches for Masses until he was unable to do so.

He was the son of the late Nicholas and Margaret (Ferrara) Morelli, the beloved husband of Doris M. (Stevezzoli) Morelli, celebrating their 69th wedding anniversary on November 21, 2023; the dear and devoted father of Nancy Womboldt and her late husband, Howard of Waltham, Anthony G. Morelli, Jr. and his wife, Rita of Wakefield, Richard Morelli and his wife, Kathryn of Saugus, Elaine O’Donnell and her husband, Brian of Millis and the late Albert Morelli and his surviving wife, Angela of Indiana; the dear brother of the late Nicholas and his wife, Evelyn Morelli; the loving Papa of Danielle Womboldt and Von, Marc Womboldt and Patricia, Stephen Morelli and his wife, Melissa, Brian Morelli and his wife, Colleen, Ariana Fosco and her husband, Marco-Antonio, Anthony Morelli and his husband, Josh, Paul Vrooman and Giovanna, Amanda Vrooman and



Steve, Allison Sickles and her husband, David, Nicholas Morelli, Gabriel Morelli and Angelica, Abigailjane Morelli; the loving great Papa Red of eleven; the dear uncle of Nicholas Morelli, Michael Morelli and Margaret Connell; and brother-in-law of Claire Stevezzoli.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Anthony’s visiting hours in the Cafasso & Sons Funeral Home, 65 Clark St. (Corner of Main St.) Everett today, Wednesday, November 29 from 4 to 7 p.m. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in St. Joseph-St. Lazarus Church, 59 Ashley St., East Boston, Thursday at 10 a.m. (Please meet directly at the Church). Burial will follow at the Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Anthony’s memory to St. Joseph-St. Lazarus Church, 59 Ashley St., East Boston, MA 02128 or to Most Holy Redeemer Church, 65 London St., East Boston, MA 02128 would be sincerely appreciated. Parking with attendants on duty.

## OBITUARIES

### Jeannine Cardillo

Recipient of the prestigious Golden Apple Award as a longtime dedicated employee of the Everett High Cafeterias

Jeannine L. (Nichols) Cardillo of Stoneham and Saugus, formerly of Everett, entered into eternal rest on Sunday, November 19 in the Arbors of Stoneham. She was 94 years old.

Jeannine was born in Amesbury and lived in Everett for many years prior to relocating to be with her daughter, Dianne. She lived recently at the Arbors. She worked tirelessly for the Everett Public Schools for over 45 years as a cafeteria worker at the Everett High School. Jeannine was even awarded the prestigious Golden Apple Award for her dedicated years of service within the school department. She was also a former member of the Saugus-Everett Lodge of Elks, Emblem Club.

Jeannine was the devoted daughter of the late John and Leah (Roy) Nichols; the beloved wife of the late Edward A. Cardillo; the dear and devoted mother of Dianne Russell and her companion, Brian Griffkin of Saugus and Lisa J. Cardillo and her companion, Richard Price of N. Reading; the sister of the late Robert J. Nichols; the loving grandmother of Lauren Botte and Leah Jeannine Russell and great-grandmother of Traverse Botte.

Relatives and friends attended Jeannine's visiting hours in the Cafasso & Sons Funeral Home, 65 Clark St. (Corner of Main



St.) Everett on Sunday, November 26 and a Funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, November 27 in the Immaculate Conception Church, 487 Broadway, Everett followed by Burial at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Jeannine's memory to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN, 38105 would be sincerely appreciated.

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## Everett

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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**

Glendale United Methodist Church

News and Notes

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

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

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

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

NA Meetings – Mon.

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

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

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

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

**We are on the Internet  
http://www.glen-daleumc-everett.org  
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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:  
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Grace Anglican Episcopal Church

News and Notes

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church is open and welcoming to all.

There are two services on Sundays: 10 a.m. English, 1 p.m. South Sudanese Dinka

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Zion Church - Everett

News and Notes

Bishop Robert G. Brown and Zion Church Ministries invites you to join us every Sunday at our 10:00 a.m. Worship Service for a time of worship, praise and preaching, at 757 Broadway, Everett, MA. You can also join

Zion Church Ministries via livestream on Facebook and YouTube.

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

Immaculate Conception Parish

News and Notes

Our Parish Staff: Rev. Joseph Chacha Marwa, S.M.A. Administrator, Rev. Gustavo Buccilli S.M.A Parochial Vicar, Barbara Canon Secretary, Parish Secretary.

Weekly Mass Schedule at the Immaculate Conception Parish is as follows:

- 1: Monday-Saturday at 7:00a.m. in the Chapel.
- 2: Saturday at 4:00p.m. (Sunday Vigil) and at 7:30p.m. Vietnamese Mass Upper Church.
- 3: Sunday at 7:00a.m. and 10:00a.m. English Masses. At 12:00p.m. Spanish Mass and 4:00p.m. Haitian Creole Mass.
- 4: Confessions are on Saturdays from 3:00-3:45

at the Confession Boots in the Chapel, and at 11:15 a.m. 12:00p.m. in Spanish.

5: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Chapel on Thursday from 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Bring a Book buy a Book a new Fundraiser Program at the back of the Church. All books are a dollar. Any money collected goes to our Stain Glass Fund. You are most invited to make a donation for this course. Most welcome to worship with us on Sunday and weekdays. Thank You.

**Immaculate Conception  
Parish  
489, Broadway,  
Everett MA 02149 Phone  
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Glendale Christian Lighthouse Church

News and Notes

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Worship service.

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Church at the Well Everett

News and Notes

Church at the Well Everett is a new church for Everett. Check us out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/churchforeverett to view weekly devotions and updates, visit us at www.foreverett.church

to sign up for our newsletter and see how we can help you, or connect with the Everett Community Aid Network at www.ev-erettcan.com to request any additional help.



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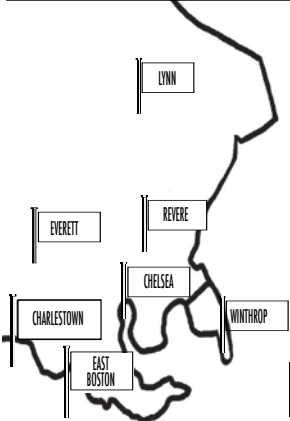
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# Mike D'Itria begins tenure as head basketball coach at Pioneer Charter

By Cary Shuman

Mike D'Itria enjoyed a tremendous run of basketball achievement at St. Mary's High School in Lynn. He was an assistant coach of a state championship boys team, and as a proud father, he and his wife, Tami, had the opportunity to support their daughter, Nicolette, and son, Anthony, as they helped the Spartans win state titles as outstanding individual contributors.

While Nicolette is now a starting guard at Salem State University and Anthony is competing in track at Colby College, Mr. D'Itria is beginning a new journey, having been named the head coach of the Pioneer Charter School of Science (Everett) boys basketball team.

**Building a program**  
D'Itria said he is excited to make his debut as the head coach at Pioneer Charter.

"I've always eventually wanted to have my own program," said D'Itria, who was an assistant at St. Mary's for seven seasons and four state title game appearances. "I'm very excited. We have a great group of kids.

Pioneer is an excellent

school and I'm thankful to [Athletic Director] Phil Signoroni to be their head basketball coach."

D'Itria said PCSS is a member of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association. "We'll be playing a lot of the charter schools and at the end of year, we'll compete in the state charter school tournament (MCSAO) before the MIAA Tournament. Pioneer made the MIAA tournament for the first time last season."

D'Itria said the No. 1 goal is to qualify for the MIAA playoffs. "That's definitely the goal - to make the tournament and make a little noise," he said.

## Assistant coaches from Revere

D'Itria has selected former high school standouts Marcus Brunson and Calvin Boudreau as assistant coaches on his staff.

"I coached Calvin growing up in Revere and Marcus for two years at St. Mary's," said D'Itria. "They've always had an interest in coaching, so I thought it would be great to have two younger

coaches helping me out in this program."

## Looking back at his years at St. Mary's

D'Itria reflected on his coaching days at St. Mary's High School.

"It was a great seven years. I loved it there," said D'Itria. "I learned a lot. David [Brown] really taught me how to run a program and how to be a successful program and just take care of the students, too. And there are not many athletic directors better than Jeff Newhall."

David Brown, head coach at St. Mary's, said that D'Itria was a tremendous asset to the Spartans' program.

"Mike did an excellent job as an assistant coach at St. Mary's," said Brown. "I wish him the best of luck in his new position."

St. Mary's Athletic Director Jeff Newhall offered his congratulatory wishes.

"I congratulate Mike on becoming a head basketball coach," said Newhall. "He was an outstanding member of our athletic staff at St. Mary's, and he had a positive impact on the student-athletes at our school."

## A star football player at Dom Savio High School

Interestingly, Mike



New head basketball coach Mike D'Itria is pictured inside the Pioneer Charter School of Science gymnasium in Everett.

D'Itria played football and some basketball at St. Dominic Savio High School in East Boston, graduating in 1994. "I realized when I was young, that I was more of a football player than a basketball player," said D'Itria. "We played in the Super Bowl when I was a sophomore [offensive tackle and defensive end]. I played football for Coach Bill

Maradei for three years and Coach Gavin Monagle for one year. Bill Maradei was tough on you, but at the end of the day he made you a better player. You knew it was genuine that he really cared about you, so you could deal with it."

Following high school, D'Itria attended Northeastern University, where he enrolled in the pharmacy program and had a

co-op position at Brigham and Women's Hospital. He is currently a pharmacist at Brigham and Women's Hospital where he has been employed for 27 years.

This week Mike D'Itria began his tenure as a head basketball coach, realizing a long-held dream.

## CITY PAWS Holiday Temptations

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The last thing you want included in the holiday season is an emergency veterinary visit. The weeks ahead are busy for everyone. Meanwhile, your animals face more temptations from visitors, decorations, celebratory food, holiday events, and less watchful guardians. Those with a new furry companion may not know that critters can decide to eat items we might not see as dangerous.

### Shopping Notes

When you shop, take note of possible dangers for your cat or dog. Perhaps the rest of the year, you don't put a bowl of candy on an end table or hang cookies on a tree.

String and ribbon are a particular danger to cats. They could end up in surgery if they swallow

it. Emergency veterinarians talk about the items they've removed from canine digestive systems. Socks, pacifiers, and small toys are common problems.

Consider dangers from the toys you purchase for your pets and take a good look at anything someone gives them as a holiday gift. Some toys may be dangerous if left alone within the animal's reach.

Your cat may adore playing with a feather on a string toy. This toy can be safe when you actively supervise the play and examine the toy for any weak spots. Anything that can be pulled apart and swallowed might cause a blockage.

A dog's interaction with toys and the danger posed depends on the animal's size and the vitality of their chewing. Our Westie Poppy doesn't tear stuffed

animals apart but is hard on chew toys. Our experience with small terriers is that they can destroy a regular Kong toy but not the Kong Extreme designed for the hardest chewers.

### Visitors and Gatherings

The lack of group celebrations during the pandemic may have made us less aware of how visitors can add to the possibility of exposing our pets to items they've not seen, smelled, or been tempted with before.

A handbag or coat pocket left within reach could contain something as simple as sugarless gum, mints, or candy your dog might ingest. These products often contain xylitol. The FDA says that if your dog eats this artificial sweetener, "...the consequences could be deadly." They warn, "If you think your dog may have eaten a



PHOTO BY JAMIE STREET

If a visitor walks your dog, remind them that a stick, even this large, can be dangerous if a piece is swallowed while chewing.

product containing xylitol, call your vet, emergency clinic, or animal poison control center right away."

Guests might slip your animal a tasty tidbit from their plate or bring a treat or toy that's not appropriate for your cat or dog. We don't give our dog wheat treats since those can cause skin problems in Westies. If someone offers an unknown biscuit to Poppy, we give them one of our oatmeal treats instead.

### Festive Settings

Holiday wreaths, trees, and plants can also interest dogs and cats. For the most part, plants that are labeled toxic are not necessarily deadly. For example, poinsettia is irritating, can cause discomfort and vomiting, and should be out of reach of pets. On the other hand, a piece of a broken glass ornament could damage the mouth and GI system if ingested.

One of the best ways to protect your animals is to see your world from their

point of view. Play a quiet game of follow and see where they go and what they can reach. Watch what interests them. And, when you know you will be busy, consider asking someone else to supervise your animals during a gathering. You might even hire a young person who loves animals for this task.

*Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.*

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