

Everett Independent

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Desi Fest Boston organizers join Councilors Stephanie Martins and Holly Garcia, Mayor Robert J. Van Campen, and First Lady Lisa Van Campen for a photo in front of the stage. See Page 5 for more photos.

EVERETT CELEBRATES DIWALI WITH COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

The City of Everett, in collaboration with Desi Fest Boston, welcomed residents and visitors to Rivergreen Park on Saturday, August 22, for a day of music, dance, food and community as part of the City's second annual Diwali celebration.



PHOTOS COURTESY THE CITY OF EVERETT

Two girls in traditional dress enjoy the Diwali Celebration at Rivergreen Park.

City of Everett completes energy-efficiency upgrades at Ferry Street Fire Station

Special to the Independent

The City of Everett has completed the installation of a new high-efficiency heat pump system at the Ferry Street Fire Station, replacing aging heating infrastructure while improving air quality and comfort for firefighters who live and work in the station around the clock.

The project was made possible through a \$126,675 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Competitive Grant Program, along with \$29,575 in incentives from National Grid. The

remaining \$10,000 was covered through National Grid's On-Bill Repayment program using solar credits from the City's power purchase agreement with Syncarpha. By combining these funding sources, the City was able to complete the upgrade at no cost to Everett residents.

"This is a great example of how we can make smart investments in our City buildings that benefit both our employees and our residents," said Mayor Robert J. Van Campen. "We replaced a failing system,

See UPGRADES Page 7



Dillan Patel, Northeast Regional Coordinator for Green Communities (left), joins Everett firefighters at the Ferry Street Fire Station following the completion of energy-efficiency upgrades to the facility.

TRASH DELAY

Due to the Labor Day
holiday on Monday,
September 7, 2026
Trash will be delayed
by one day
Capitol Waste Services, Inc.

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, SEPT. 7
IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY
DEADLINES FOR ADVERTISING AND NEWS ARE
FRI, SEPT. 4 @ 12 PM
FOR NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE

Primary Results

The Everett
Independent will have
the results of the
Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026
State Primary Election
posted on its website at
everettindependent.com

Everett

Independent

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Editor in Chief: Cary Shuman

ENJOY THE GREAT WEATHER ON LABOR DAY WEEKEND

With the weatherman predicting a great Labor Day weekend from Friday through Monday, we hope that all of our readers will have a chance to make the most of the final weekend of the summer season.

The Summer of '26 overall has been just the way we like it -- hot and humid -- with just enough rainfall (until recently) that our gardens did very well. This has been a banner year for vegetables and flowers of all types -- we have had more tomatoes than we know what to do with, as well as lots of basil and cucumbers.

Our petunias, marigolds, sunflowers, and other annuals burst into a riotous display of color all summer-long, and both ours and our neighbors' hydrangeas gave us blooms that were profuse and stunning.

This summer also has been an unusually calm one. We belong to a rowing club on the South Shore that ventures a couple of miles out into the ocean beyond Minot's Light (our readers who are boaters no doubt are familiar with it, as are those who have taken the ferry to Provincetown, which passes close to it) and we experienced many "flat water" days for our early morning rows.

But the summer also has been great for sailors. The winds usually picked up in the late afternoons, just in time for the evening races hosted by the area yacht clubs.

The weekends were generally sunny, providing us with plenty of perfect summer days that created memories that will last a lifetime for our friends, families, and ourselves. The promise of a dry and sunny Labor Day weekend gives us one final opportunity to enjoy a last taste of summer.

However, as always, we urge our readers to do so safely, not only for ourselves, but also for our family members, friends, and loved ones, whether we are on land or on the water.

None of us wants to be a tragic statistic, and that means making sure that both we and those around us do not overindulge in alcohol. Yes, accidents do happen even under the best of circumstances, but generally speaking, no one ever becomes a victim if they are sober. It's when "a couple of beers" become four or more that the chances for a tragedy increase exponentially, whether behind the wheel of a car, at the helm of a boat, or riding a bicycle.

We wish all of our readers a happy -- and safe -- Labor Day weekend.

Independent Forum

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE EVERETT CULTURAL COUNCIL SEEKS MEMBERS

From public art and performances to cultural festivals and educational programs, the goal of The Everett Cultural Council is to bring meaningful, enriching experiences to the people of Everett. Serving on the council is an opportunity to support local artists and organizations, help determine funding for community projects, and be a part of making Everett a more vibrant, inclusive place to live. If you're interested in joining the Everett Cultural Council or learning more, please email: EverettCulturalCouncil@ci.everett.ma.us

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.

NEW HOURS AND FALL EVENTS AT EVERETT PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The Everett Public Libraries are excited to announce the expansion of hours at the Parlin Memorial Library. The main branch will be open 9am - 5pm on Saturdays starting Saturday, September 12th. "We are excited to be able to offer more programs and services over the weekend," said Aubri, the Information Services Librarian. "Patrons have been asking for this for a long time, and we're glad it's finally happening."

In addition to the expanded hours, the Everett Public Li-

braries are looking forward to an autumn full of fun events for all ages! Be on the lookout for these upcoming events:

- Library Card Sign Up Month - All September
- Author Event: Jenn Bouchard - September 16th
- Everett: East to West Book Club - September 19th & November 14th
- Author Event: Robert Fitzgibbon - October 14th
- Library Masquerade - October 24th

Information about library hours and a full list of events are available online at everettpubliclibraries.org.

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Library Card Sign-up Month is celebrated this September

This September, B sharp and sign up for a library card! Stop by the Parlin Memorial Library or Shute Memorial Library, or visit us online at www.everettpubliclibraries.org to sign up for your card today.



MAYOR VAN CAMPEN CELEBRATES LITTLE LEAGUE PLAYERS AT ANNUAL BANQUET

PHOTOS COURTESY THE CITY OF EVERETT

Special to the Independent

Mayor Robert J. Van Campen and members of the Everett City Council visited the Connolly Center to celebrate Little League players and the conclusion of another successful season.

Players and their families gathered for the annual banquet, enjoying food, bingo and activities for the kids. The celebration concluded with players receiving trophies and medals in recognition of their hard work throughout the season.

“As the parent of a former Little Leaguer, it’s always great to spend time with players and their families and celebrate

everything they accomplished this season,” said Mayor Robert J. Van Campen. “Beyond the game itself, these kids are learning the value of sportsmanship, teamwork and perseverance, lessons that will stay with them as they grow.”

Participating in youth sports gives children an opportunity to build friendships, gain confidence and develop important skills that extend well beyond the field.

The City of Everett congratulates all of the players and their families on a fantastic season and wishes the graduating players continued success as they move on to their next chapter.



Mayor Van Campen, Councilor Holly Garcia, and Councilor Stephanie Martins presenting an award to a Little League player.



Mayor Van Campen and a Little League player smiling for a photo.



Mayor Van Campen and parents of Little League players posing for a group photo.



Little League players posing for a group photo.

Homebuying 101

A First-Time Homebuyer Certificate Course

DATES

September 2, 9, 16, 25
from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

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City of Everett

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CITY OF EVERETT CELEBRATES DIWALI WITH COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

PHOTOS COURTESY THE CITY OF EVERETT

The City of Everett, in collaboration with Desi Fest Boston, welcomed residents and visitors to Rivergreen Park on Saturday, August 22, for a day of music, dance, food and community as part of the City’s second annual Diwali celebration.

Attendees enjoyed a variety of food, local vendors, live music, and cultural performances throughout the afternoon. The event featured performances by singer and songwriter Param, singer Ritu Sagar and singer and performer Rav Dosanjh, as well as a special performance by the Boston Bhangra Competition Team.

Acclaimed Punjabi singer Harjeet Harman also took the stage as the event’s featured artist.

“When we come together and share our light with one another, that light only grows brighter,” said Mayor Robert J. Van Campen. “That is what makes celebrations like Diwali so meaningful. We join together to celebrate our traditions, share our cultures, and learn from one another, while building a stronger community together.”

Diwali, known as the Festival of Lights, is an important holiday celebrated by millions of people around the world. The holiday represents the triumph of light over darkness,



Mayor Robert J. Van Campen joins attendees in traditional dress alongside First Lady Lisa Van Campen; City Councilors Anthony DiPierro and Holly Garcia; State Senator Sal DiDomenico; and Desi Fest Boston organizer Rajesh Kesar.

knowledge over ignorance and good over evil. Celebrations

often include lights, music, traditional foods, gatherings with family and friends, and other cultural traditions.

The City of Everett thanks Desi Fest Boston, event organizers, performers, vendors, volunteers and everyone who

attended for helping bring the community together and celebrate the rich cultural traditions represented in Everett.



A woman creates henna designs for attendees during the Diwali Celebration.



Attendees applaud as Mayor Robert J. Van Campen is introduced as a speaker during the Diwali Celebration.





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NeighborHealth 

Lieutenant Robert Hall retires after 33 years of service to Everett

Special to the Independent

Mayor Robert J. Van Campen and the City of Everett recently joined family, friends, colleagues and members of the Everett City Council to celebrate the retirement of Lieutenant Robert “Bobby” Hall following 33 years of dedicated service with the Everett Police Department.

Throughout his career, Hall served the Everett community

with professionalism, integrity and a deep commitment to public safety. His work included significant contributions to narcotics enforcement, helping protect residents in Everett and communities throughout Greater Boston.

Beyond his work in law enforcement, Hall became known throughout the department and community as someone who was always willing to help others and offer guidance when it

was needed. The outpouring of support at his retirement celebration reflected the impact he has made on countless colleagues, residents, friends and families over more than three decades.

“Bobby’s 33 years of service tell only part of the story of what he has meant to Everett,” said Mayor Robert J. Van Campen. “You could see from the number of people who came out to celebrate him just how many lives he has touched throughout his career. He served this community with integrity, compassion and a genuine willingness to help others, and I’m grateful for everything he has given to our city.”

“Bobby has been someone our officers could turn to for guidance, support and the benefit of more than three decades of experience,” said Everett Police Chief Paul Strong. “He cared deeply about this department and the people we serve, and that showed throughout his entire career. We’re going to miss having him here, but we couldn’t be happier for him as he begins this next chapter.”

Hall thanked those who supported him throughout his career and reflected on what serving Everett has meant to him.

“Thank you to everyone, my fellow officers, colleagues, friends and family, for your support throughout my career, and to all those who have reached out and wished me well over the past several weeks,” said Hall. “Thank you, Everett. It was truly an honor and privilege to serve this community. I will always be grateful for the people, the memories and the opportunity to serve alongside so many dedicated individuals.”

Mayor Van Campen and the City of Everett congratulate Lieutenant Hall on an exceptional career and wish him a happy and well-deserved retirement.



Pictured from left: Mayor Robert J. Van Campen, Lieutenant Bobby Hall and Police Chief Paul Strong hold a City of Everett citation recognizing Hall's 33 years of service with the Everett Police Department.



Police Chief Paul Strong presents Lieutenant Bobby Hall with an award recognizing his 33-year career with the Everett Police Department.



Sergeant Kenney Kelley speaks about Lieutenant Bobby Hall's work ethic and character while sharing stories from their years working together.

FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

The First Day at School can be a very happy & special day for both parents, grandparents & children.

PLEASE SHARE THOSE PHOTOS WITH US

Please provide:

- Child's Name
- Newspaper to be published in

Email photos to:

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PHOTOS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE EVERETT INDEPENDENT ON SEPT. 16TH

PHOTOS RECEIVED WITHOUT INFO WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED

**DEADLINE
FRI, SEPT. 11TH**

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SCAN HERE, TO SEND YOUR
EMAIL! JUST ATTACH IT!**



Upgrades // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

created a healthier and more comfortable environment for our firefighters and reduced the City’s long-term energy costs, all without placing the financial burden on our taxpayers. These are the kinds of practical improvements we want to continue making across Everett.”

The project became a priority after the station’s steam boiler began to fail in 2024. Rather than simply replacing the aging equipment with another fossil fuel-reliant system, the City pursued grant funding to modernize the building with a more efficient heating and cooling system.

The new heat pumps are projected to reduce natural gas consumption by approximately 3,546 therms and cut greenhouse gas emissions by 12.21 tons of carbon dioxide annually. That reduction is rough-

ly equivalent to the emissions produced by burning 1,374 gallons of gasoline.

The system also provides an important benefit for the firefighters stationed on Ferry Street: improved indoor air quality. Because Everett’s fire stations operate 24 hours a day and serve as both workplaces and living quarters, maintaining proper ventilation and air circulation is particularly important. The new system brings fresh air into office and living spaces while filtration helps reduce dust, mold spores, odors, smoke and emissions that can enter from the attached apparatus bay.

“Our firefighters spend long shifts at the station, so this building is more than just a place where they report for work,” said Fire Chief Joe Hickey. “Having reliable heat-

ing and cooling and better air circulation makes a real difference in the environment our firefighters are working and living in every day. I appreciate the work that went into securing the funding and getting this upgrade completed.”

In addition to improving conditions inside the station, the project is expected to reduce annual utility costs by approximately \$1,500. Electrifying most of the building also reduces reliance on the former steam boiler and allows the remaining gas-fed areas to operate more efficiently.

The project is part of Everett’s broader effort to reduce municipal energy consumption and improve the efficiency of public buildings. Since becoming a designated Green Community, Everett has received approximately \$2.5 million

through Green Communities funding and National Grid incentives. Those funds have supported projects including building envelope and lighting improvements, solar installations, energy management software, and heating and cooling upgrades.

Collectively, the City’s energy-efficiency projects are expected to generate more than \$500,000 in annual savings while reducing Everett’s municipal carbon footprint.

The City plans to apply for up to \$500,000 through the Green Communities Fall Block

Grant this year to support additional energy-efficiency improvements at a municipal facility or school building. Everett remains committed to pursuing outside funding that can help lower utility costs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create healthier, more efficient public spaces.

For more information about the City’s sustainability initiatives or Green Communities projects, contact the City of Everett Planning Department at 617-944-0236 or kate.jenkins-sullivan@ci.everett.ma.us.

Library // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Nintendo Switch and PlayStation games whether you’re racing, battling, or teaming up for co-op fun, there’s something for everyone. No registration required. Recommended for ages 11 and up. This program will run every Wednesday from 2:30 to 4:30 PM unless otherwise noted on our online calendar.

Shute Children’s
Storytime at the Shute Shute Children’s Room. Mondays at 10 AM and Tuesdays at 12 PM. What’s better than a good story? Sharing it with friends! Join Miss Val at the Shute Library for Fairytale Fun!

Master Builders: Lego Free-play: Shute Children’s Room. Thursdays from 3-5PM. Free-play session with Legos and other building blocks. Bring a buddy, or make a new one, as you explore your imagination brick by brick! We provide the space and the materials to let your vision take shape. What

will you create?
Spintronics - Stem Free-Play Join us at the Shute Memorial Library every Friday afternoon from 2:30 - 4:30 PM for a STEM-based free-play session. Try “Spintronics,” and use mechanical circuits to solve puzzles, or try “Bridge or

Bust,” and see if you can build a bridge large enough to span the distance and sturdy enough to hold the weight. Both games will test (and expand) your ability to solve problems creatively. Will you rise to the challenge? For Ages 8 and up. Registration is not required.

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THE 2026 EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL CRIMSON TIDE FOOTBALL TEAM



Head Coach Robert DiLoreto with his staff and the 2026 EHS Crimson Tide Varsity Football Team.



Asst. Coaches Dylan Cyprien and Peter Forte with members of the Crimson Tide Football Team that they coached since these athletes were in the Everett Pop Warner Program.

THE 2026 EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL CRIMSON TIDE FOOTBALL TEAM



Head Coach Rob DiLoreto with the EHS Crimson Tide seniors. Front row: Danensky Dorafilis, Colin Drye, Alex Auguste, Omarion Ayala, Tyler Freni, and Guerlins Christalin. Back row: Moises Interiano, Jamauri Dulin, Lerehiah Joseph, Kamari Washum, Amani Negron, Steven Thomas, Giovanni Debrosse.



Head Coach Rob DiLoreto with his Crimson Tide Captains: Front row: Steven Thomas, Jamauri Dulin, Omarion Ayala, Tyler Freni. Back row: Armani Negron and Kamari Washum.

EHS Roundup

EHS BOYS SOCCER
PREPARING FOR
SEASON OPENER
THIS TUESDAY

The Everett High boys soccer team has been working hard in the pre-season in anticipation of their season-opener this Tuesday (September 8) when coach Rodney Landaverde and his Crimson Tide will host non-league opponent Waltham.

The Tide engaged in a jam-boree this past Saturday at Saugus, taking on Saugus and Central Catholic. Everett won both scrimmage by scores of 1-0.

“We got to see a lot of the new additions to our team play and adjust to new positions,” said Landaverde. “I’m very happy with the group this year and looking forward to working with them, many of whom were underclassmen when I took over as head coach.

“Getting to see them grow, develop, and find their leadership style has been an amazing journey to watch,” Landaverde added.

The 2026 edition of the Crimson Tide includes three senior goalkeepers, Jadaiah Arrigo, Benjamin Lopez Pala-

cios, and Diego Teixeira. Additional members of the Class of 2027 are Luca Cruz, Sebastien Styl, Whitney Coimbra Pereira, Lucas Hercules, Rene Lainez Chavez, Kevn Renderos, Jorge Ayala, Pedro Do Nascimento Silva, Raynery Jean Charles, and Cesar Rengifo.

Juniors on the team are Junior Garcon, Jonathan Hernandez, Pedro Romero, Jason Santos Costancia, Christopher Lopez Rivera, Samuel Silva, Saymon Coelho, and Daniel Henriquez.

See SPORTS Page 11



The coaching staff of the EHS Crimson Tide Football Team. Front row: Dylan Cyprien, Joseph LaMonica, Robby Rich, Mark Love and Anthony Nazzaro. Back row: Peter Forte, Erick Brown, Claudy St. Juste, Head Coach Robert DiLoreto, Jason Gortillo, Duane Sigsbury, and Jay Holt.

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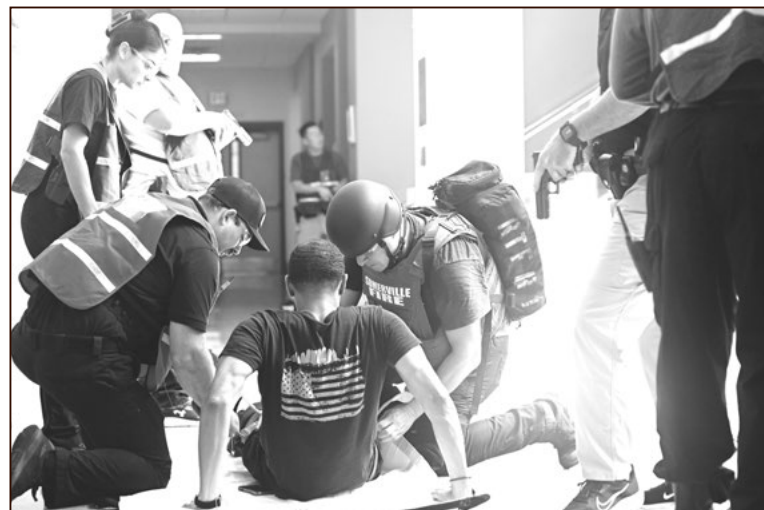
Healey-Driscoll Administration expands joint active shooter response training statewide

Special to the Independent

More than 1,000 police, fire and EMS professionals have completed joint active shooter response training across Massachusetts this year as the Healey-Driscoll Administration expands efforts to prepare first responders to act quickly and work together during a crisis.

One of the latest Active Attack Integrated Response courses brought approximately three dozen first responders to Tufts University for two days of classroom instruction, hands-on exercises, and realistic scenarios. Participants included personnel from the Massachusetts State Police, Arlington Police, Lexington Police, Lexington Fire, Medford Fire, Somerville Fire, Somerville Police, Stoughton Fire, Cataldo Ambulance, and the police departments of North Shore Community College, Tufts University, and Worcester State University.

“Massachusetts was the first in the nation to adopt an internationally recognized framework for consistent, statewide active shooter response training,” said Public Safety and Security Secretary Gina K. Kwon. “Our law enforcement, fire service, EMS, telecommunicator, and emergency management personnel are training together in courses like this one so they can work together in a real-world crisis.”



The Active Attack Integrated Response (AAIR) course was coordinated by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, the Municipal Police Training Committee, and the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center, with support from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.

The course was held August 18–19 in partnership with Tufts University and the Tufts University Police Department. Tufts also hosted AAIR courses in June and July.

“We significantly ramped up AAIR deliveries to meet increased demand after last winter’s active shooter event at Brown University,” said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. “So far this year, we’ve delivered 35 classes for first responders across Massachusetts, from Provincetown to North Adams. That’s more than 1,000 police, fire, and EMS professionals ready to stop the killing and stop the dying.”

“The AAIR curriculum provides life-saving training to first responders at every level of experience,” said Captain Amy Fanikos (Ret.), Deputy Executive Director of the Municipal Police Training Committee. “From classroom instruction to hands-on exercises to increasingly complex scenarios, it builds the skills necessary for law enforcement and fire/rescue to work seamlessly together when every second can

be the difference between life and death.”

“I received great feedback from the Somerville firefighters who took part in this course,” said Somerville Fire Chief Charles J. Breen, Jr. “It builds on many of the emergency medical skills we already use, and it provides a strong foundation for working with our police partners. Trainings like this one could help save lives in a crisis most people don’t want to contemplate.”

“Massachusetts is doing some of the most aggressive AAIR training in the country,” said John Cantarella, Northeast Regional Manager for the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center at Texas State University.

In 2022, Massachusetts became the first state to adopt NFPA 3000, Standard for an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response Program, as a statewide framework for active shooter response training through the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, Municipal Police Training Committee and State Police Academy.

Developed following the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida, NFPA 3000 emphasizes the importance of law enforcement, fire, EMS, and other public safety partners planning, training, and coordinating before an emergency.

AAIR puts that framework into practice. The curriculum uses plain language and common terminology to help first responders establish command, stop an attacker, and reach injured people as quickly as possible. It also trains participants in the Rescue Task Force model, in which law enforcement protects fire and EMS personnel as they provide immediate medical care and evacuate patients.

The Department of Fire Services and Municipal Police Training Committee also offer Active Attack Incident Man-



Shown are scenes from the joint active shooter response training program.



agement, a course for chiefs and senior officers focused on command-level strategies, and Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events, which teaches civilians how to protect themselves and others until first responders arrive.

Together, these interagency training programs have reached more than 7,000 police officers, firefighters, EMS providers, public safety dispatchers, and other participants across Massachusetts.

NeighborHealth and BMC celebrate 10 years of expanding access to care in Winthrop

Special to the Independent

NeighborHealth and Boston Medical Center (BMC) celebrated ten years since the historic opening of a shared facility in Winthrop, Mass., marking a decade of collaboration to bring comprehensive health-care services closer to home for patients in Winthrop and surrounding communities.

The shared clinical facility at 17 Main Street opened to patients in 2016 to address the need for more convenient access to primary, specialty and rehabilitation care in Winthrop, East Boston and Revere, communities geographically separated from many of Boston's major health care facilities. The spacious waterfront building, designed by leading healthcare design firm ingenuity, provides convenient access to NeighborHealth's Family Medicine and Specialty Care services, including sports medicine, gas-

troenterology, pulmonology, podiatry and endocrinology, alongside BMC's state-of-the-art Physical and Occupational Therapy clinic and gym.

The anniversary celebration brought together dozens of leaders, providers, staff, patients and community members to recognize the patients and care teams who have shaped the partnership over the past decade.

"Over the past 10 years, this partnership has made it easier for our patients to get the care they need, closer to where they live and work," said Dr. Mothusi Chilume, Medical Director, Family Medicine at NeighborHealth. "By bringing primary, specialty and rehabilitation services together in one location, we are helping patients spend less time navigating the health care system and more time focusing on their health. That kind of access is what commu-

nity-based care is all about."

Over the past decade, the partnership has helped create a more seamless experience for BMC and NeighborHealth patients in need high-quality rehabilitation services north of Boston, allowing access to skilled care without crossing the harbor.

"This facility is a testament to what hospitals and community health centers can achieve when we work together," said Karen Mattie, Senior Clinical Director, Boston Medical Center. "By joining BMC's leading rehabilitation care with NeighborHealth's family medicine expertise, we have created a model that has allowed our organizations to respond to thousands of patients' needs in a more connected way. This partnership continues to be an example of how collaboration can strengthen the continuum of care and create lasting value

for communities."

In addition to providing an integrated model of care for Winthrop and surrounding communities, the space continues to bring two leading employers to the beachfront community. Earlier this year, NeighborHealth was named a 2026 USA Today Top Workplace and BMC was named a 2026-2027 Best Regional Hospital by U.S. News & World Report.

For more information about NeighborHealth and BMC's Winthrop location visit: www.neighborhealth.com.

NeighborHealth, formerly East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, is one of the nation's largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, serving over 120,000 people and recognized by the Health Re-

sources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a National Quality Leader. For more than 55 years, NeighborHealth has offered access to comprehensive primary care, specialty care and emergency care for patients in the Commonwealth. In a first-of-its-kind merger in 2020, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center joined forces with the South End Community Health Center and expanded services to patients who live and work in Boston's South End and Roxbury neighborhoods. NeighborHealth is licensed through Boston Medical Center and champions innovative care models to actively bridge health equity gaps in our low-income and immigrant communities with services unique from other healthcare providers in our state. For more information, visit www.neighborhealth.com.

Sports // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Sophomores are Calleb DeSouza, Mateus Callahan Bueno, Merlin Christalin, and Ziad El Bribri.

Samuel Rengifo is the lone freshman.

Landaverde will be assisted by associate coach Andres Ruiz. Gabe Moya will head the junior varsity squad and Sollon Damasceno will coach the freshmen. Emerzon Umana Martinez is the team manager.

The Tide will travel to Beverly this Friday for their last scrimmage ahead of Tuesday's season-opener. They will trek to non-league opponent Methuen next Saturday (September 12).

EHS FALL SPORTS SEASON GETS UNDERWAY THIS WEEK

The 2026 fall athletic season shifts into high gear this coming week for Everett High athletes,

starting with the EHS girls volleyball team trekking to non-league opponent Lawrence High tomorrow (Thursday). Coach Mike Fineran's squad will host Greater Boston League opponent Chelsea next Wednesday (Sept. 9).

Coach Brian Haesy and the EHS cross country teams will host Lynn Classical on Wednesday. The EHS field hockey team, under the direction of new head coach Yasmeen Akib, also will swing into action on Wednesday, entertaining Malden.

Coach Dom Persuitte and the EHS girls soccer team will travel to Lowell next Thursday (September 10) for their season-opener.

The Crimson Tide football team opens its season next Friday evening (September 11) with a match vs. former Greater Boston League rival Arlington. The opening kickoff for the Friday Night Lights contest with

the Spy Ponders is set for 6:00 at Everett Veterans Memorial Stadium.

NEW FORMAT THIS YEAR FOR GBL IN SOCCER, HOOP, BASEBALL; GBL CUP INTRODUCED

The Greater Boston League (GBL) has adopted a new format for its eight schools in the sports of soccer, basketball, and softball/baseball for the 2026-27 season.

Instead of each school playing its seven GBL foes twice each, each school now will play its GBL rivals just once. The team with the best record in those seven games will determine the GBL champion.

In addition, there also will be a GBL Cup at the end of the season. Teams will be seeded 1-4 and 5-8, with both brackets playing semifinal and finals

contests. The winner of the 1-4 bracket will be awarded the GBL Cup. In addition, the losers in the semis in both brackets will meet in consolation games.

The GBL is switching to the new format reportedly because one of the schools felt that playing each GBL school twice adversely affected its MIAA power rankings, which determines

qualification and seeding for the post-season MIAA state tournaments.

Each school is free to schedule more than one game per season with a GBL foe, but the second contest will be deemed an exclusionary game for purposes of deciding the GBL championship and seeding for the GBL Cup.



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MyRWA offering free trees for residents!

Special to the Independent

Do you want to be a part of making your city greener, cleaner, and healthier? The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) is raising awareness about multiple programs offering free trees to plant on your property this fall:

Greening the Gateway Cities MA Urban Canopy Project – for residents of Chelsea, Everett, Malden, & Revere

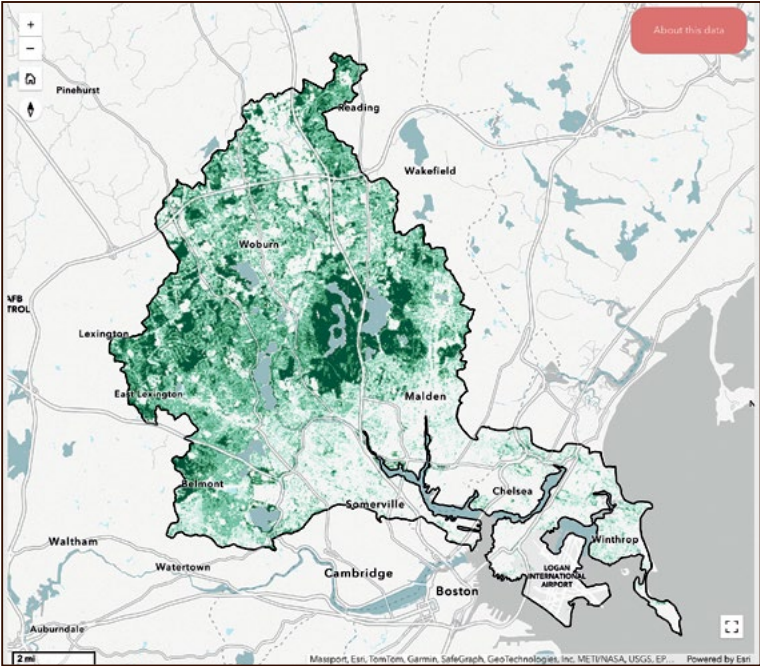
TreesMedford Fall 2026 Giveaway – for residents of Medford

Green Cambridge Canopy Crew Tree Program – for residents of Cambridge

You can learn more about these opportunities and sign up to receive a free tree at www.mysticriver.org/trees.

The benefits of trees are not just aesthetic. Trees lower temperatures and provide shade, which helps communities weather increasingly hot summers. The most urban communities in greater Boston—with the least tree cover—are often the hottest. These communities also tend to have the highest percentages of low-income residents and/or people of color. When MyRWA asked residents what changes they wanted to see to address this problem, trees were one of the top solutions.

Trees bring other benefits beyond shade and cooling. They can improve air quality by absorbing pollutants, and tree roots soak up water, reducing the volume of polluted runoff into rivers and streams. Trees create habitat for beneficial birds, insects, and other wildlife. More greenery in a community can also reduce stress and improve mental health. Finally, trees can save you money! Tree cover reduces energy usage, bringing down cooling and heating costs, and more greenery can increase property values.



Tree Cover in the Mystic River Watershed.

The Mystic River Watershed Association is committed to building solutions so that all people across the watershed, no matter who you are or where you live, have safe and easy access to nature and a healthy environment. MyRWA is working with cities and towns to plant trees on public property, including parks, paths, and parking lots. So far, the organization has helped plant over 1,000 shade trees, but resident tree planting is key to expanding the canopy even further. Request a free tree today!

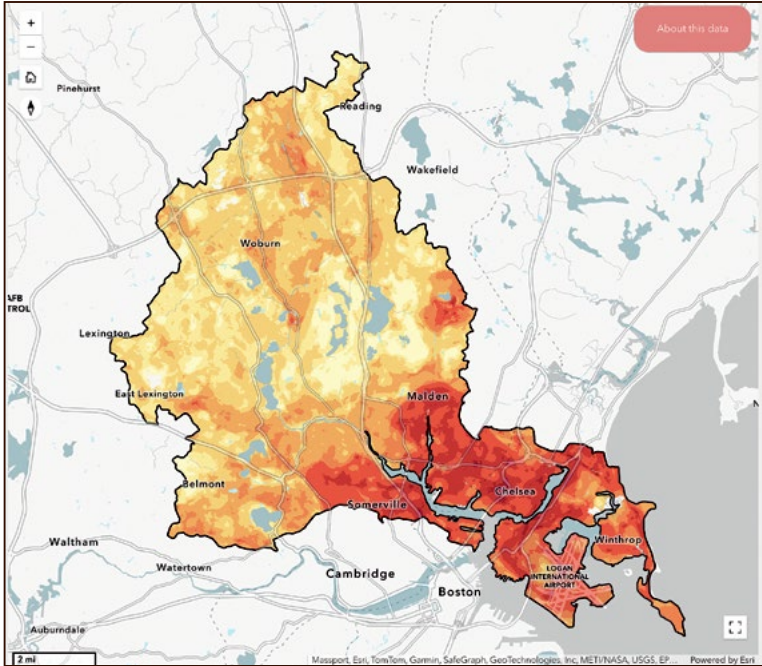
Mystic River Watershed at a Glance

The 76-square-mile Mystic River watershed stretches from Reading through the northern shoreline of Boston Harbor to Revere. An Anglicized version of the Pequot word missi-tuk (“large river with wind-and tide-driven waves”), it is now one of New England’s most densely populated, urbanized watersheds.

Its 21 municipalities are home to 600,000 residents, including many who are disproportionately vulnerable to extreme weather: environmental justice communities, new

Americans, residents of color, elders, low-income residents and employees, people living with disabilities, and English-language learners.

The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) builds



Wicked Hot Mystic Afternoon Heat Model.

shared solutions so that all people, no matter who you are or where you live across the Mystic River Watershed, have safe and easy access to nature and a healthy environment. MyRWA believes that understanding the

roots of current inequity, access to information, and opportunities to learn about the natural world empower us all to work together for a better future in the Mystic.



Mystic River Watershed Association tree planting in Chelsea.

The Legend Continues

EHS football great Gennaro Leo selected to Trinity College Wall of Honor

By Cary Shuman

Gennaro Leo, the 2001 Boston Globe Division 1 Player of the Year at Everett High School and one of the greatest players in school history, has added another impressive achievement to his spectacular football career.

Leo was selected to the Trinity College Wall of Honor in recognition of his accomplishments in the Bantams' program where he set the all-time rushing touchdown record (26) in three seasons (2004-06), led the NESCAC in rushing and all-purpose yards as a senior

captain, and was a two-time NESCAC All-Conference First Team selection.

But more importantly, Leo excelled as a running back on teams that built an amazing 31-game winning streak. It was the nation's longest unbeaten streak at that time and acquired fame on ESPN.

Leo said he is excited about his Wall of Honor recognition, cementing his status as one of the greatest players in the 149-year history of the program.

"I haven't really revisited my football career much, other than my [wrist] surgeries that I continue to have, but this

honor is a little special, it's really cool to be up there with all those Trinity players," said Leo. "I can't even believe it's true. I was just able to play on some great teams. It's nice to be recognized for all the hard work that went into it since I was a little kid learning football from my dad [longtime youth football coach Chuckie Leo] and playing at Everett High School."

Leo said he is happy to share the honor with Walter Falas (Class of 2011) of Everett High, who has also ascended to the Wall of Honor. He also noted that one of the quarterbacks

during the Bantams' championship seasons was Eric McGrath of Lynn Classical.

"Eric was just awesome," said Gennaro. "When he came to visit Trinity as a senior in high school, I was Eric's tour guide."

Gennaro graduated from Trinity with a double major in Economics and Italian.

"The reason I went to Trinity was because of Mr. [Tom] DiBenedetto [an alumnus of the college]," said Gennaro. "He was a great mentor to Everett students and I'm immensely grateful to him."



Gennaro Leo

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See LEO Page 14

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Please be informed that a hybrid consultation session has been scheduled in relation to the following project.



NEW ENGLAND
REVOLUTION STADIUM
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SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

TIME:
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FOR THE ONLINE
REMOTE MEETING:



Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole interpretation will be provided at the meeting. To request other oral language interpretation, please contact Holly Palmgren (hpalmgren@vhb.com) by September 10, 2026.



PROJECT INFORMATION AND MATERIALS:

 <https://www.revolutionsoccer.net/everett-stadium>



PROJECT CONTACT:

Holly Palmgren
hpalmgren@vhb.com | 617.607.1707

Leo// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

sional sports industry, living in Denver, Leo will be forever remembered in Everett and Massachusetts football lore for “The Leo Leap,” a conversion rush during which he soared from the 5-yard line to just inside the pylon to give Everett the go-ahead points in an 8-7 victory over Bridgewater-Raynham in the Division 1 Super Bowl at BU’s Nickerson Field.

Many Everett fans consider Leo’s two-pointer and Coach John DiBiaso’s gutsy decision to go for two with 30 seconds left in the game as the launching pad for the Everett High football dynasty in this century.

“I was not surprised that Coach DiBiaso decided to go for two,” said Leo. “We had played enough football. It was a very hard end of the year losing to Cambridge (13-7) on Thanksgiving and then four nights later playing against St. John’s Prep (whose quarterback was Dan Ross Jr., son of Cincinnati Bengal Super Bowl champion Dan Ross Sr.) with all those Division 1 players and pulling a major upset on Tuesday night. So, we played Thursday, Tuesday, and the following Saturday against Bridgewater-Raynham.”

Interestingly, Everett had played Bridgewater-Raynham in the preseason on Cape Cod.

“It was our first scrimmage and that’s the first time we realized, ‘We might be good,’ because we were so young and were very competitive against one of the preseason favorites,” recalled Gennaro.

Further reflecting on the game-winning conversion, Leo

said that quarterback Matt Nuzzo pitched the ball to him.

“Matt was also the lead blocker when we ran the Double-T, and as a freshman, 14-year-old kid, Matt made an amazing block,” said Gennaro. “I was already to the sideline and I jumped – it happened really fast. I just took that leap. The funny part is that my left foot and knee are coming down before the goal line and the edge of the football was rubbing up against the pylon – I’m just so thankful of that play.”

“And do you know who was holding the yard-down marker at the goal line?” remembered Gennaro. “It was Bobby Prestera, who was one of the umpires on the sidelines, and I had played baseball for Bobby in Everett, so it just felt right him being over there.”

The state’s best football player as a senior, Gennaro humbly deflects to his former teammate, Diamond Ferri, as the originator of Everett’s run of excellence.

“Diamond put us on the national stage – he was the best football player I’ve ever seen at any level,” said Gennaro. “Even in Pop Warner, Diamond showed us what greatness was.

And the best leaders I was every around were Nicky Nazzaro and Matty Nuzzo. I’m very appreciative to all my teammates, Coach DiBiaso, the assistant coaches, and the whole school for supporting our team.”

Leo’s style of running combined instant acceleration out of the backfield, speed, elusiveness, and toughness.

“My dad taught me how to play football, so I know how to play football,” lauded Gennaro. “I grew up down Sacramone Park. That was like my home because my father was coaching there.”

From his Everett Eagles’ Pop Warner career to his All-Scholastic accomplishments for the Crimson Tide to his Bantams’ Brilliance on the Trinity Wall of Honor, Gennaro Leo’s legacy will live on forever in Everett and Hartford.

And the next chapter in the family’s history is getting underway.

“Have you seen my nephew (Crimson Tide Youth Football player Mance McKinney, son of Timmance McKinney and Taylor Leo) play yet? Check him out, he’s special,” said Gennaro proudly.



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EVERETT CELEBRATES GLOBAL CULTURES AT 20TH ANNUAL EVERETT MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

Special to the Independent

The City of Everett joined Latinos Unidos en Massachusetts (LUMA) to celebrate the 20th annual Everett Multicultural Festival, bringing residents together for an afternoon of cultural performances, international cuisine and family-friendly activities.

On Sunday, August 30, families, community members, small businesses and local artists gathered to celebrate the milestone anniversary and Everett's rich cultural diversity. Attendees enjoyed food and drinks from around the world, including pupusas, tacos, banh mi, fresh juices and Vietnamese coffee. Musicians and dancers performed throughout the afternoon and into the evening, while children enjoyed an inflatable obstacle course and other activities.

"I'm proud to be from Everett, where we welcome people from different cultures and nationalities from across the globe," said Mayor Robert J. Van Campen. "Our diversity is one of the things that makes Everett such a vibrant community, it's woven in the fabric of

this city. So, it's always exciting when we have the opportunity to come together and have fun."

Founded in 2002, LUMA works to empower and advocate for the Latin American community through direct services, civic and cultural engagement, and advocacy. The organization's work also focuses on immigrant and workers' rights and helping community members have a voice in shaping their future.

"This festival once again shows that, although we come from different countries, we speak different languages and have different traditions, we can unite as one community," said Lucy Pineda, Executive Director of LUMA.

For 20 years, the Everett Multicultural Festival has provided an opportunity to celebrate the many cultures represented throughout the city while bringing neighbors together as one community.

The City of Everett thanks LUMA, the performers, vendors, volunteers and everyone who helped make the 20th anniversary celebration a success.



Mayor Van Campen and Lucy Pineda, Executive Director of LUMA.



Mayor Van Campen presenting a citation to a volunteer in the LUMA community for their service.



Mayor Van Campen, Lucy Pineda, and community members smiling for a group photo



Mayor Van Campen and volunteers in the LUMA community with their citations

Everett Arts & Culture

Join The EVERETT cultural council

From public art and performances to cultural festivals and educational programs, our goal is to bring meaningful, enriching experiences to the people of Everett. Serving on the council is an opportunity to support local artists and organizations, help determine funding for community projects, and be a part of making Everett a more vibrant, inclusive place to live. If you're interested in joining the Everett Cultural Council or learning more, please email us at: EverettCulturalCouncil@ci.everett.ma.



Community members holding flags from different countries and an Everett Multicultural banner.