

# THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, June 25, 2020



PRG Photo

## TRADE AND TALENT

Nelson Saldana works as a mechanic, speaks as an artist

By Cary Shuman

On weekdays, Nelson Saldana works as a truck mechanic at Thermo King on Ballard Street. On Saturdays, he reigns as Chelsea's "Magnificent Muralist."

Saldana is becoming an artistic sensation in his hometown of Chelsea, where his most recent work of art is attracting hundreds of visits daily to the downtown district on Broadway.

The 32-year-old artist first attracted the attention of Chelsea officials for previous large-scale murals he composed for another area of the city.

Those initial works in the city

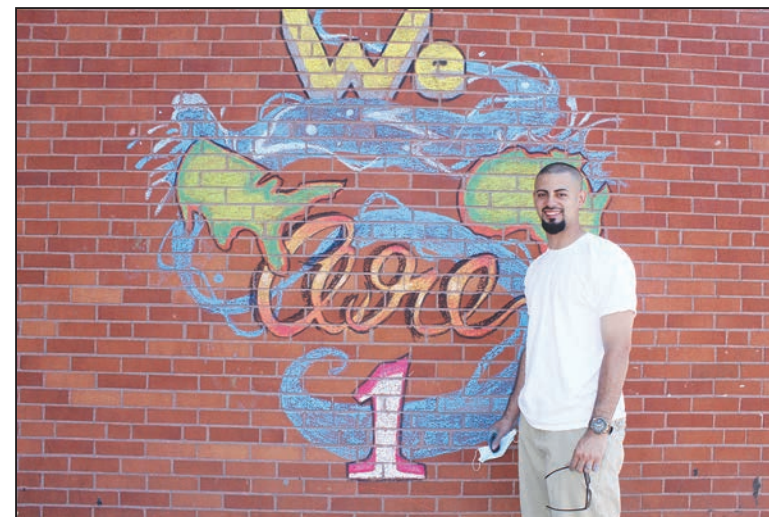
were so awe-inspiring that he was invited to participate in this summer's "Chelsea Prospers" project.

"They have continued to reach out to me to do more work and this was the next one on the list," he said humbly.

The theme for his current project is "We Come Together As One" and Saldana has portrayed the message in impressive fashion.

In the mural, Saldana centered "We Are 1" between the continents of North America and Africa. He drew bodies of water in

Please see TALENT Page 2



Nelson Saldana is pictured in front of his latest artwork, a "We Are 1" mural in downtown Chelsea.

Mayor McGee hoists the Lynn Pride Flag over city hall square. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

## Lynn Pride flag raising

Special to the Journal

The raising of the Pride Flag encourages the North Shore Pride members to express who they are and their personal individuality. This traditional event is a celebration to bring the com-

munity together no matter what sexual or gender you are.

In June of 1969 the Stonewall Rebellion in New York City brought people out to stand up for equal rights for all individuals regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. A

recent Supreme Court ruling prohibits work place discrimination on the basis of sex that equally applies to gay and transgender Americans.

Mayor McGee presented a

Please see PRIDE Page 6

## Avery named boys basketball head coach at Lynn Classical

By Cary Shuman

Marvin Avery is the new boys head basketball coach at Lynn Classical High School.

Classical Athletic Director Bill Devin made the announcement Wednesday, returning a legendary, state championship-winning coach to the basketball

scene. Devin was elated to have Avery at the helm of the school's basketball program.

"We went with a coach that has 15 years of head coaching

experience," said Devin. "Coach Avery has won a state championship. Importantly, he has many ties to the Lynn community. His teams are always gritty, they play relentless defense, and he uses all 12 of his guys on a varsity roster in a game, because he plays such an up-tempo style of basketball.

"But the main reason we want Coach Avery leading our program is because he brings a model of discipline, he stresses academics and being on time for school every day," said Devin.

"We're elated that Marvin is available and he told us that he still has a lot of gas in the tank and he's ready to lead the Rams."

Avery began his first interview as the new coach by saying how grateful he was to Classical Principal Amy Dunn and Athletic Director Bill Devin for the opportunity to coach at the school and to start "my dream job."

"I'm excited to get going and to be in Ram Country," said Avery.

Please see AVERY Page 5

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# EDITORIAL

## COVID-19 IS A PREDATOR -- AND WE ARE ITS PREY

The media, politicians, and others have likened our ongoing battle with the corona virus as the equivalent of "going to war."

The doctors and nurses in the overburdened ERs in New York City, when its hospitals were being overwhelmed with corona patients in March, put it this way in discussing the stresses and challenges they were facing when they lacked personal protection equipment, ventilators, and other essential medical needs: "It's like going to war, but without being given guns and ammunition."

But as we enter the fourth month since the start of the lock-downs in many of our states, the "going to war" metaphor does not seem entirely appropriate.

Rather, the corona virus, which is stealthy and unseen except under a microscope (it is 1/1000th the width of a hair on our heads), is more like a hunter seeking its prey -- and its main prey is the human race.

We like to think of ourselves as kings of the world, sitting atop the food chain. Even if we cannot match a shark in the water or a lion in the jungle, we have weapons readily at our disposal to cope with any threats we may face from the natural world.

But the corona virus has humbled us. We as a species have proven no match for this pandemic that Mother Nature has thrust into our midst.

As with any predator in the wild, the corona virus seeks out the easy targets, the old and the weak. Per Darwin's theory of evolution, only the strongest survive.

But intelligence also is a key to the survival of members of a species. The pandemic has proven that point as well, also taking as its victims those whose arrogance exceeds their common-sense, and whose folly makes them an easy target for a hunter that fears nothing and that will take advantage of any lapse in judgment.

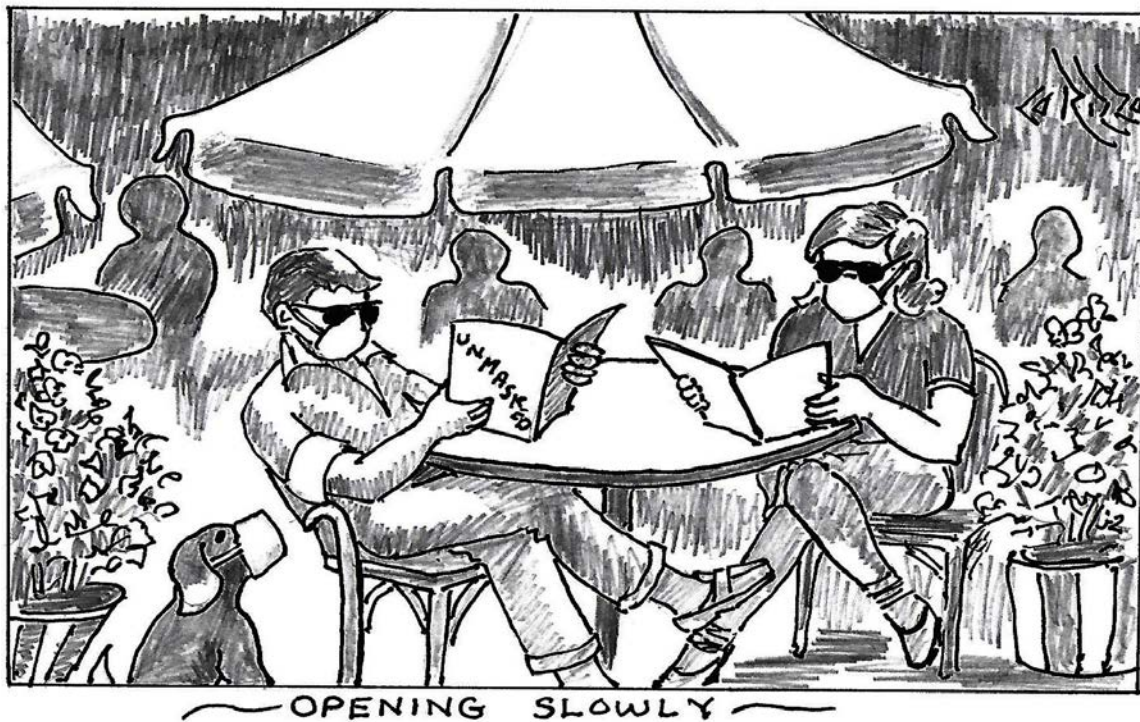
The early openings in the Southern states, where people have refused to wear masks and do not practice physical-distancing, and where infections now are predictably skyrocketing, have shown the folly of underestimating the power of the virus.

We think a more accurate way for us to view the corona virus is that it has reduced the human race to the equivalent of meerkats. (Timon in the Lion King is a meerkat.) Meerkats, small mongooses, live constantly on alert and retreat to their underground network of burrows upon sensing the slightest threat of danger. If they let their guard down for an instant when above-ground, they can become easy targets for predators.

We too, now find ourselves in a state of existence in which our movement is restricted. We must remain ever-vigilant and be aware that the corona virus is everywhere. As with any predator, the corona virus always is on the prowl and stalking, just waiting for any one of us -- its prey -- to make that one, fatal mistake.

As is becoming clear in the Southern states, we are fooling ourselves if we think that we have outwitted this virus and that three months of lockdown were sufficient to save us from its grip. The reality is that the corona virus never will cease hunting us and that we must devise a new normal if we wish to regain a semblance of our former lives.

Hopefully, our new way of life, whatever that will look like, will be something better than our present meerkat-like circumstances.



— OPENING SLOWLY —

## Talent/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

blue.

"I tried to make it like a globe, but not too much," he said. "We are one and that means the community coming together as one."

Saldana, whose family is originally from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, said he has been an artist "my whole life."

"But I've been working more in public the last 2-3 years, dis-

playing my art in galleries and things like that," said Saldana.

Saldana's artistic talents are known among fellow employees at Thermo King. "I've done a few portraits for some of my co-workers," he said. "I would love to branch out to Lynn. I know the city has some great murals."

Saldana graduated from Chel-

sea High School in 2007 and then attended trade school where he learned mechanics.

Nelson and his wife, Yesenia Saldana, have three children, Aliyah Saldana, who just graduated from Northeast Regional High School, Ivan Saldana, 3, and Melody Saldana, 1. Nelson's proud mother is Evelyn Rivera.

Asked about the wide attention he is receiving for his artwork, Saldana shrugged off the hometown fame.

"I'm an all-around artist," said Saldana. "I paint, I do murals, I do anything. My strength is my creativity. Hand me something to create with and I'll make something with it."

Mimi Graney, coordinator of "Chelsea Prospers," said that Saldana has a unique way of delivering an inspirational message through his work.

"I really love his style," said Graney. "He's a really sweet guy and I love that he's bringing together a message in the art that he is doing. It's not just a great design, but it is actually communicating something. This mural was a subtle way of communicating a racial justice message without being so explicit."

Graney has already contacted Saldana about being a part of the next big art project in Chelsea. Saldana will be involved in the design and painting of tabletops and stools adjacent to a major landmark in Chelsea Square later this summer.

## THE LYNN JOURNAL

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# City of Lynn COVID-19 update

The Lynn Public Health Department has confirmed that as of today, the number of active, confirmed positive COVID-19 cases is 840 with 9 new cases today. 2,700 Lynn residents have recovered and 98 have died. The total number of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in Lynn since March 21, 2020, including those who have died and recovered, is 3,638. Please visit the new City of Lynn COVID-19 Data Dashboard which is updated daily.

Today the Mayor and the Public Health Director signed an executive order rescinding the COVID-19 Guidelines and Procedures for all Construction Sites and Workers at all Public Work Projects in the City of Lynn. All construction sites in the City of Lynn will still be subject to the State's COVID-19 Construction Safety Guidance. Please visit the State's Construction COVID-19 guidelines at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-standards-and-checklist-construction>.

Lynn residents can visit the following link to submit their COVID-19 questions, comments or concerns about the City of Lynn's Phase 2 business re-opening guidelines. Submissions will then be forwarded to the appropriate department regarding your concern. Please visit [www.mass.gov/reopening](http://www.mass.gov/reopening) or the City of Lynn "Reopening Guidance" webpage at <http://www.ci.lynn.ma.us/covid19/reopening.shtml> for more information and resources on sector specific safety protocols as we continue to progress through the Commonwealth's Four-Phase Reopening Plan.

We will continue to provide regular updates on COVID-19 through the City website ([www.lynnma.gov](http://www.lynnma.gov)), social media, and the Smart 911 emergency notification system (sign up at [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com)). Actualización de COVID-19 de la ciudad de Lynn del 23 de junio de 2020. El Departamento de Salud Pública de Lynn ha confirmado que a partir de hoy, el número de casos activos, confirmados positivos de COVID-19 es 840 con 9 casos nuevos hoy. 2,700 residentes de Lynn se han recuperado y 98 se han muerto. El número total de casos positivos confirmados de COVID-19 en Lynn desde el 21 de marzo de 2020, incluyendo los que murieron y se recuperaron, es

3,638. Por favor, visite el nuevo registro de data de COVID-19 de la ciudad de Lynn que se actualiza diariamente. Hoy el Alcalde y la Directora de Salud Pública firmaron una orden ejecutiva que rescinde las pautas y procedimientos de COVID-19 para todos los sitios de construcción y trabajadores en todos los proyectos de obras públicas en la ciudad de Lynn. Todos los sitios de construcción en la Ciudad de Lynn todavía estarán sujetos a la Guía de Seguridad de Construcción de COVID-19 del Estado. Visite las pautas de Construcción de COVID-19 del estado en <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-standards-and-checklist-construction>.

Los residentes de Lynn pueden visitar el siguiente enlace para enviar sus preguntas, comentarios o inquietudes de COVID-19 sobre las pautas de reapertura de la Fase 2 de la Ciudad de Lynn. Las presentaciones se enviarán al departamento correspondiente a su inquietud. Visite [www.mass.gov/reopening](http://www.mass.gov/reopening) o la página web de "Reopening Guidance" de la ciudad de Lynn en <http://www.ci.lynn.ma.us/covid19/reopening.shtml> para obtener más información y recursos sobre protocolos de seguridad específicos del sector. Continuamos progresando a través del Plan de reapertura de cuatro fases de la Commonwealth.

Continuaremos brindando actualizaciones periódicas sobre COVID-19 a través del sitio web de la Ciudad ([www.lynnma.gov](http://www.lynnma.gov)), las redes sociales y el sistema de notificación de emergencia Smart 911 (regístrese en [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com)).

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## The North Shore Navigators will be playing baseball this summer

The Futures Collegiate Baseball League has formally unveiled its plans to begin the 2020 season with a six-team schedule on Thursday, July 2. Commissioner Joe Paolucci made the official announcement on Monday.

The Navs will open their season with one of the two Futures League games on the first Thursday of July, making a short trip north to Historic Holman Stadium in Nashua, N.H., to face the nearby rival Silver Knights for the first of 12 meetings between the teams this season.

"We are beyond excited to get Navs baseball back at historic Fraser Field," Navs President Derek January said. "Everyone involved from the league from the ownership groups to front office staffs should be commended for working to get this season going. The Navs have collaborated with the City of Lynn to put together a great plan to keep everyone safe while enjoying a night at the park. We can't thank Mayor Tom McGee, his staff and Rich Avery enough for working with us as the new ownership group of this great organization. We promise to make everyone proud both on and off the field."

The Navs' home opener at Lynn's 80-year-old Fraser Field is set for Tuesday, July 7 against the defending and four-time league champion Worcester Bravehearts. North Shore will play a total of 19 of its 39 regular-season games on home turf this summer.

In a change from the summer's original plans, all Monday-Saturday home games will begin at 6 p.m., while the start time of Sunday home games remains at 4 p.m.

The lone exception at this time will be on Sunday, August 16 when the Navs host the Westfield Starfires for a 2 p.m. doubleheader.

At least initially, Fraser Field will open at 25 percent of its capacity due to COVID-19 restrictions. The team will keep close track of bodies in seats and skip rows and seats as necessary to ensure that proper distancing is enforced all throughout the ballpark. Groups and hospitality areas will also operate with reduced capacities.

Ticket information will be released shortly.

The Futures League will consist of six teams during the 2020 season as the Pittsfield Suns will not operate. While Nashua marks the Navs' most common opponent this summer, they will play the Brockton Rox on 11 occasions and the Westfield Starfires seven times. North Shore is also set to oppose the first-year New Britain Bees five times and Worcester four times.

The 2020 regular season will run through Wednesday, August 19. Immediately following the regular season, the top two teams in the regular-season standings will move into a best-of-three series to decide the Futures League championship.

The Navs are now getting ready to begin the 13th season of collegiate ball at Fraser Field and their ninth in the Futures League this July. Stay up to date on the latest Navs news all summer long by visiting [nsnavs.com](http://nsnavs.com) and following us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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## TIME TO BE A FAN

# Mike Cella retiring, will enjoy grandchildren's high school careers

By Cary Shuman

From a being a football player to being a high school and college coach, Mike Cella been on the field and walking the sidelines in stadiums on fall weekends for six different decades.

Mike is the son of the legendary Silvio Cella, former Revere High football coach and athletic director. It was at the old Paul Revere Stadium [now Harry Della Russo Stadium] where Mike began his lifelong connection to football as a sideline assistant (ballboy) when his father was coaching the Revere Patriots in the old Greater Boston League.

As recently as two years ago,

Mike, 70, was an assistant coach on Paul Sobolewski's staff at Pope John High School when the 12-0 Tigers advanced to the Super Bowl at Gillette Stadium only to be denied a state title by St. Bernard of Fitchburg. Pope John closed its doors in 2019 and Cella sat out last football season.

Sobolewski is back as the head coach at Lowell Catholic High School and he wanted Mike Cella, who gave Sobolewski his first coaching opportunity at Revere High School, to be an assistant coach on the LC staff. But Cella, while grateful for the chance to resume coaching, has decided that his 60-plus years in football may be coming to an end.

"I was going to coach, but I want to watch my grandchildren play football," said Cella. "I thought about it but I don't think I can maintain the level of coaching that I wanted to do the way I am today, so I have to be back off, unfortunately," said Cella in announcing his retirement from coaching.

Cella recalls hiring Sobolewski on his RHS staff in the mid-1990s. Sobolewski said he learned a lot about coaching in those two seasons and when he became a head coach at Winchester, Georgetown, Cathedral, and Pope John, the first call he made was to Mike Cella to continue to be a coach on his staff.

### The Revere Years

Mike remembers his earliest days as a ballboy in the 1963 and 1964 seasons when [future NFL player] Jim Del Gaizo was the Revere High quarterback and his twin brother, John Del Gaizo was the leading pass receiver.

"Jimmy told me years later that my father was way ahead of his time with the offense he put together," said Mike.

Mike Cella played one year of freshman football at the Garfield School under coach Henry Hooten and three years of football at Revere High School for his father Silvio's varsity team. "I was a fullback and a linebacker all three seasons," said Mike.

He remembers his RHS football teammate Alan Drover, who went on to play at the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma. Mike himself went on to play college football at Northeastern University.

After first being an RHS assistant coach and then accepting an assistant coaching position on Ed Nizwantowski's staff at Peabody High, Mike returned to Revere High as the head football coach, succeeding former NFL football player John Miller.

### Remembering All-Scholastic running back Marc Silvestri

Mike Cella coached Revere when the school was a member of the Greater Boston League that included Everett, Arlington, Medford, Malden, and Somerville, among other schools.

"There were no easy games on the GBL schedule back then," said Mike. "I was never a fan of the Northeastern Conference who really didn't respect our league. I'm very glad that Revere

High is back in the GBL."

He coached some terrific football players at Revere High. Cella led Revere to a 5-5 record with Derek Dick as the star quarterback and George Campbell as the standout receiver on the 1990 team. He noted the exceptional talents of JoJo Giordano as well.

He calls All-Scholastic running back Marc Silvestri "one of the best players I ever had."

Silvestri, who is now the director of veterans' services in Revere, was truly in a class by himself, according to Cella.

"Marc was so tough coming out of the backfield," said Cella. "If he didn't run past you, he would run over you."

Mike said he's very proud of Marc Silvestri for serving with distinction in the United States Army. "That's the type of guy he was. He was always a great leader and motivating his teammates. I thank Marc for his heroic service to our country."

Cella said the other captain with Silvestri was Richard Gallucci, who is now the principal at the Rumney Marsh Academy.

### A Decision to Retire

Mike Cella is content right now to leave the game he loves and become a proud grandparent sitting in the stands and watching his two grandsons continue the family's legacy on the gridiron.

"I just can't give to the kids today the coaching I normally did, like getting down in three-and-four-point stances, firing off the ball, showing them steps - my knees and my hands won't give it to me," said Cella. "I was able to instruct the players but I had to have one of the better athletes show the other players the actual technique. That's not the way I wanted to coach. I'm 70 years old. I'm not a kid anymore."

Mike and his wife, Pamela, hope to spend this fall watching their grandsons, Julien Cella (Wilmington) and Domenic Cella Scalse (Peabody) begin their high school football careers.

Julien is the son of Steve Cella, who had a superb career at Peabody High before becoming a two-time All-American football player at Trinity College in Connecticut.

"When I was coaching at Revere, Steve was playing for Peabody and he made an interception, showed me the football, and he ran right past me on his way to the end zone for a touchdown. We didn't have dinner together



Coach Mike Cella

for the rest of the season," Mike said in jest.

Domenic is the son of Stephanie Cella Scalse, who played softball and ran track at Peabody High.

"Domenic is a kicker and we've been working out at Peabody High School," said Mike. "He's 14 years old and he's been kicking 35-40-yard field goals."

Mike will also be keeping tabs on his great-nephew, James Murphy who is a talented sophomore quarterback at Reading High School.

### The Silvio Cella Foundation

Mike Cella and his sister, Gina Cella, have carried on the family name in an impressive way. Together they founded the Silvio Cella Foundation to honor their father and his enormous contributions to high school football. The fieldhouse at Della Russo Stadium is named in memory of Mr. Cella.

The Cella Foundation holds an annual golf tournament every year and has donated more than \$100,000 in scholarships over the past 10 years.

"I have to say my father was a good man and a great father," said Mike. "He was Harry Agganis' freshman football coach at Boston University. Harry used to come with Silvio to the house and my grandmother [Louise Cella] would cook dinner for him."

Though Mike Cella will not be coaching on the sidelines, he said his heart will still be very much in the game of football and he will always carry forth all of the memories.

"I have great memories of being a part of Revere High football," said Mike. "And I want to thank Paul Sobolewski for putting me on his staff for all those years."

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# Assistance and Persistence

## The Astounding Partnership of Diaz-Mateo and the Boys and Girls Club of Lynn

By Cary Shuman

Ismael Diaz-Mateo is the recipient of the Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year for the entire state of Massachusetts.

That major honor is just one part of the incredible success story that is Ismael Diaz-Mateo.

He has been a member of the Boys and Girls Club since 2011. A 2020 graduate of KIPP Academy, Lynn, Ismael will be attending Tufts University, one of the nation's most prestigious colleges, this fall.

He credits the Boys and Girls Club, executive director Brian Theirrien and program director Rob Kennedy for being positive role models and for providing the guidance and opportunities that led to this prestigious award and his admission to Tufts.

"What I want to say to the leaders of the Boys and Girls who have helped advance my life and been such a positive influence is: Keep on doing what you're doing, because I am just one example of what young people are doing today. They offered help, asked me how I was doing, and made sure that each day I entered or left the club, I was smiling."

### Academic Programs

#### at the Boys and Girls Club

At the age of nine, Ismael came to the United States from the Dominican Republic with his mother, Josefa Mateo and his brother. His grandparents were already living in Lynn.

He joined the Boys and Girls Club of Lynn where he met program director Rob Kennedy. Ismael said he couldn't speak English when he arrived at the club.

"The Boys and Girls Club really helped me learn English, especially Rob," said Ismael. "That's one of the biggest reasons I want to give back to the club, because the club has shown me so much support and given me so many opportunities of learning while having fun as well."

At the Club, he enjoyed table tennis, table soccer, basketball, and being a member of Club Tech, where members learned computer technology. He also joined academic-oriented clubs.

"It was in the education program where I learned with Rob and did all my homework," said Ismael.

At KIPP, he excelled academically and participated in

volleyball and cross country. He graduated with a 4.2 grade point average, complemented by eight Advanced Placement (AP) courses. He will be a resident student at Tufts and major in chemical engineering.

As a result of being named the Mass. Youth of the Year, Ismael has received academic scholarships from the Myra Kraft Foundation, the Lynn Boys and Girls Club, Toyota Foundation, and Comcast, who is presenting him a laptop.

Rob Kennedy said he is "so proud" of Ismael and all his accomplishments. "I like to think we opened some doors for him and he took full advantage of every situation that was provided for him and I couldn't be more proud of him just working so hard to pursue his goals and attain them. And he's made me a better professional, so I'll always have a special place in my heart for him."

### On being the Mass. Youth of the Year

What's it like to be the Mass. Youth of the Year?

"It feels very unique – I can't really describe it," said Ismael.



Ismael Diaz-Mateo (center), recipient of the Boys and Girls Club's Massachusetts Youth of the Year Award, is pictured with Boys and Girls Club Program Director Rob Kennedy (left) and Executive Director Brian Theirrien (right).

"I'm very proud of myself but I also feel the road is still going. I want to try to represent the youth of Massachusetts as best that I can."

Ismael prides himself on stepping up as a leader at the Boys and the Girls Club, in the school community, and in the City of Lynn.

"I try to be a leader for many of the youths at the club and inspire them to reach out for their dreams and achieve them," said Ismael. "I want to help out as

many youths in Lynn as I can and I want to make sure the resources they need and that they are supported and are happy as well."

Ismael displayed his emotions when he was asked to reflect one last time on his years at the Boys and Girls Club of Lynn.

"I can't put it in to words how grateful I am to Brian and Rob and the Club – they have been such an amazing help," said Ismael.

## Avery / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Avery led the Lynn Tech Tigers to the Division 3 state championship in 2002 and oversaw a stretch of excellence that included 10 consecutive Commonwealth Athletic Conference championships and four appearances in the Eastern Mass. finals.

Three of his Tech players, Antonio Anderson (Memphis), Corey Bingham (Toledo), and Tony Gallo (Coppin State) went on to play Division 1 college basket-

ball, with Anderson ultimately playing for the NBA's Oklahoma City Thunder.

Avery has more than 240 victories in his illustrious coaching career.

One game that is already a "must-see" in Lynn will be the first meeting of Lynn Classical and Lynn English, who is coached by Antonio Anderson. That game will surely pack the gym.

## The Platters to perform at Kowloon Restaurant

Kowloon Entertainment Complex presents the official Grand Opening Celebration of the Kowloon Carhop and Drive-in, an innovative, outdoor dining experience featuring internationally acclaimed, Diamond, Rock & Roll, Vocal, and Grammy Halls of Fame recording group, The Platters.

Diners will be able to sit, relax, and enjoy Kowloon's signature Polynesian, Thai, and Sushi delicacies in the comfort of their vehicles, or may opt to dine in the outdoor, socially-distanced seating area or now-famous Tiki Bar. Kowloon patrons will be able to enjoy libations while listening to live music and watching major motion pictures on their newly built 40' by 25', open-air screen. A contemporary throwback to the early days of family entertainment.

There is no charge for the opening night; however, at future select future events, attendees with outdoor reserved seating will be required to purchase a \$20.00 per person food and beverage voucher. Vehicle reservations are required. Please call 781-233-0077 to reserve a spot and for more information.

The grand opening celebration kicks off Thursday, June 25, 2020, at 6 p.m. in the Kowloon parking lot, located on Route One North, Saugus, Massachusetts. The rain date is the following evening.

The Platters, who earned their place on America's Soundtrack after their first timeless hit, Only You (and You Alone), catapulted the group onto the national music charts, followed by The Great Pretender, recently featured in a vital scene on Disney's hit series

Empire. The Platters mega-hit My Prayer appeared on the Oscar® nominated soundtrack of The Curious Case of Benjamin Button. The classic, Twilight Time, was just featured in F.X.'s The X-Files and was recently the showcase piece for Sony PlayStation's international ad campaign. These placements prove that The Platters continue to engage music fans of all ages today with their vibrant, musical legacy.

The transcending vocal group was founded by naming member Herb Reed, a longtime Massachusetts resident who is the only vocalist to record on their more than 400 recordings. The Platters continue to travel the world today, playing theatres, arenas and will release their first L.P. with new music in more than 50 years in 2021.



Marvin Avery, the new head coach of the Lynn Classical High School boys basketball team, is pictured with his sons, Marquese and Marvin Jr.



# Pride/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

City of Lynn Proclamation recognizing the LGBTQ community and declaring June is Pride month; he said, “The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) took a positive stance against discrimination and to promote their dignity and equal rights in freedom and fairness”. He continued to state,

“The LGBTQ contribute greatly to neighborhood revitalization, economic vitality, arts and culture, and the social fabric of our city”.

Congratulations to the LGBTQ community celebrating Pride Month and their on-going community commitments in the City of Lynn.



North Shore Pride Board member Tanya Nash recites a personal poem “What Pride Means to Me”



Mayor Thomas McGee presents a City of Lynn Proclamation to Lynn resident Ana Masacote on behalf of North Shore Pride organization.



Emcee Coco Alinsug of North Shore Pride welcomes everyone to the Flag Raising Ceremony.



Barry Rocklin with Sunil Gulab who sang the song “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”



Kirsten Freni, President of NAGLY, holds a poster with all colors of the rainbow

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Family support for Tanya Nash– Jessica Beal, Mia Coleman, Daliah Campbell, Sonja Nash, Tanya Nash with Lojic Nash, Shrae Benton, and Crystal Nash

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City Officials attending the ceremony with Pride members: Tanya Nash, State Rep. Peter Capano, School Committee Brian Castellanos, Mayor McGee, Kirsten Freni, Coco Alinsung, Ana Masacote, State Senator Brendan Crighton, Ward 6 Councilor Fred Hogan, State Rep. Dan Cahill, and Ward 2 Councilor Rick Starbard

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# NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

## LOOKING AT \$5M DEFICIT

CHELSEA - The crisis of the City Budget is in full swing now as City Manager Tom Ambrosino submitted a \$181 million City Budget to the City Council this week that is down by \$2 million from last year – a first in many years – and also has a \$5 million deficit lingering.

“I would not characterize this budget submission as a positive effort,” said Ambrosino. “This is not the budget I had in mind when I was first proposing it in March. In fact, I had a budget for the first time in a long time not that did not rely on any reserves. We usually buttress our budget with about \$1 million in reserves every year. I had a fully funded budget that was healthy and positive. That was all thrown out the door.”

The one silver lining is that there will not be any layoffs right now of any City or School personnel – a stark contrast to Everett which just laid off 92 school workers and is looking to lay off or eliminate many City worker positions. The budget deficit of \$5 million will be filled with money from the Rainy Day Fund.

“This budget does represent using \$5 million in Stabilization Fund reserves to balance the budget,” he said. “We have hit so many problems with revenue and we have reserves and think now is the time to use it. Several unions have agreed to defer raises in their pay to prevent layoffs. We’re confident we can get through Fiscal Year 2021 without layoffs.”

A key problem for the City has been revenues, particularly hotel excise tax decreases and car rental decreases. Chelsea is heavily

invested in the health of Logan Airport, and with it being basically shuttered for the last three months, millions of dollars are lost and will continue to be lost.

“I’m not sure how fast the economy can come back for a city like Chelsea that is dependent on the travel industry,” he said. “We have a lot of businesses that depend on Logan Airport... Travel is down 95 percent and it has an impact on our two biggest revenue generators including the hotels and the car rental companies – particularly Enterprise. We have serious concerns going into FY 21. It’s no different than Boston or any other City or Town.”

Ambrosino said they are expected a cut of about 30 percent to State Aid payments, which make up a substantial portion of the City Budget. However, there are federal bills floating around that could make a huge difference, including the HEROES Act. Were that approved, there is a chance that State Aid could be level funded from last year and a lot of things could return.

“If that bill were to pass in some form, the state wouldn’t have to cut city and town funding so much,” he said. “That’s the same for the School Department too. They might be able to provide some of the Student Opportunity Act money that was promised. We have a budget now that has \$0 for Student Opportunity Act funding.”

He said that would prevent them from having to use the \$5 million Rainy Day Fund money as well.

So far, though they have been able to keep personnel on and have been able to save the Summer Youth Employment Program and the Navigators, there are things that had to be deferred. Most of those things include projects in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

For instance, Marlborough Street was to be reconstructed this summer, and it really needs it after years of neglect. However, that has had to be deferred until next year when things hopefully improve.

The City Budget now goes to the Council, who has already begun having hearings this week to review the submission. It must be passed by July 1.

## FIREWORKS A PROBLEM IN CHELSEA

CHELSEA - Fireworks have struck a COVID-19 nerve this year, with Chelsea residents up in arms as louder and bigger fire-

works seemingly go off every night all night long – and City officials and Chelsea Police are looking to crack down.

Councilor Todd Taylor said about five weeks ago he began getting angry texts from his constituents living next to Voke Park about fireworks going off at all hours of the night. Knowing Chelsea in the summer, fireworks are a part of life for about three weeks surrounding Independence Day, but this was somehow different.

“After getting five calls I went down to the park,” he said. “It was just littered with big fireworks. One of them was three feet tall and stuck in the middle of the field. That was exactly what the neighbors were saying. It isn’t like bottle rocket. It was bombs going off, and every night until about 3 a.m. or later.”

That same day, Councillor Taylor put up a Facebook post on Chelsea Happenings to see if anyone else was being bothered.

And boy were they.

“I had no idea what a nerve it would strike,” he said. “It ended up triggering about 400 complaints in the comments. People were really mad all over the city, while some of the younger kids on there were mocking their anger. Shortly after I read an article in the Boston papers about this being a problem in Boston, Revere, Everett and Somerville. It really appeared something was going on here.”

City Manager Tom Ambrosino and Chief Brian Kyes are taking the matter very seriously and have put on overtime to find those that are shooting off fireworks so late at night so consistently.

Ambrosino said they are telling residents to call 9-1-1 and report the location and police will respond.

Kyes said it was a breach of the public peace.

“We are issuing verbal warnings to apparent violators but if that does not work we have no choice but to impose monetary fines as a violation of our city ordinance,” he said. “The frequency and duration of these displays well after midnight is not only a nuisance and breach of the public peace but they are very dangerous as well as well in terms of a potential fire hazard. We can continue to do everything we can working with our concerned residents to respond in both a reactive as well as a proactive manner. We remain optimistic that we attain a high level of compliance

due to the public safety risk involved.”

Taylor said there appears to be something coordinated about the fireworks – particularly in that so much money would be required to buy so many to shoot off for so long every night. He said he believes law enforcement will get to the bottom of whatever the real motivation is.

“There does seem to be some sort of coordinated effort going on,” said Taylor. “I don’t know if it has any connection to the protests or not. I’ve been told that might be the case. It’s going on all over the City and I still have people calling me or texting me about when they start and when they stop. It’s every day. I’ve never seen people more upset in Chelsea than about this. The question becomes who is funding all of this because it has to be very expensive.”

Taylor said he has reports of elderly people, veterans with PTSD and pets being traumatized – not to mention the essential workers who are trying to sleep prior to having to work long, tough shifts.

He said he would be willing to investigate whether or not there needs to be a hearing at City Hall, and maybe a change to the ordinance to stiffen the penalties for shooting off fireworks, particularly very late at night.

## DeMARIA CALLS RACISM A HEALTH CRISIS

EVERETT - On Tuesday, Mayor Carlo DeMaria made a declaration officially declaring racism a public health crisis in Everett - ensuring that racism and discrimination both remain intolerable.

That was bolstered by the announcement of a review of policies and practices at the Everett Police Department, and a list of action items that have been initiated immediately – including barring chokeholds, continuing more diverse hiring, and creating regional reforms to the Internal Affairs departments in area law enforcement departments.

“The City of Everett is culturally rich and abundantly diverse,” he said. “Racism or discrimination, in any form, will not be accepted nor tolerated. It is with this in mind that I find it imperative to declare racism a public health crisis in the City of Everett.”

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**Region** // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Obama's call to mayors to pursue policing reforms, Mayor DeMaria signed the Mayor's Pledge issued by the Obama Foundation's My Brother's Keeper Alliance. The "Mayor's Pledge" commits the City of Everett to the following:

- Review police use of force policies;
- Engage communities by including a diverse range of input, experiences, and stories;
- Report review findings to the community and seek feedback; and
- Reform police use of force policies.

The City of Everett Police Department's policies and procedures strictly mirror and adhere to the guidelines set forth by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC). The MPAC is an organization responsible for the development, delivery, and enforcement of training standards of municipal police departments throughout Massachusetts.

The recommended use of force policies set forth by the "8 Can't Wait" campaign has resulted in a cursory review of current policies to ensure that nothing was overlooked, said the mayor.

The following action items have been taken as of this week, he said.

**•UPDATED USE OF FORCE AND DE-ESCALATION POLICIES**

The City of Everett Police Department is actively updating the use of force and de-escalation policies, as well as the rules and regulations with a duty to intervene clause.

"As a result of our initial review of the current Everett Police Department policies, our Department will soon be equipped with a policy surrounding Biased Based Policing," he said. "For years, the Everett Police Department has been trained to never initiate any police involvement with another person on the sole basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, or physical ability. Although it exists as a past-practice, such training has never been codified into a policy until now. This policy will be published and implemented within the next 10 days."

**•CHOKEHOLDS BARRED FOR SUBDUING PEOPLE**

Police utilization of chokeholds, strangleholds, or other tactics in which an officer cuts off the oxygen supply of another person in order to subdue them

has, rightfully, become a main focus in the national spotlight as it pertains to police departments' use of force policies. Chokeholds have never and will never be a method of restraint taught to the Everett Police Department, the mayor said.

In fact, chokehold training is explicitly barred in the State of Massachusetts, citing the inherent dangers which accompany that tactic.

"This is further reiterated to our Police force that, barring a situation in which an officer's life is in imminent danger and deadly force has thus been authorized, a chokehold shall never be utilized on a person as a means to subdue them," said the mayor.

**•MAYOR CALLS FOR REGIONAL INTERNAL AFFAIRS REFORM**

The Internal Affairs division of a Police Department refers to the enforcement arm within the department that investigates incidents and possible suspicions of law-breaking and professional misconduct attributed to officers on the force. This has been highly scrutinized based on current events.

Mayor DeMaria said on Tuesday he is seeking to form a Regional Internal Affairs Coalition to increase the transparency of police misconduct and the processes by which they are investigated. Mayor DeMaria said he will be calling upon local leaders to join him in forming this coalition to increase the impartiality of all Internal Affairs investigations. Additionally, the Everett Police Department have taken their own proactive measures in monitoring their internal affairs investigations. They are one of the few departments in Massachusetts that utilize the leading professional standards software, IA Pro and Blue Team, used by approximately 800 public safety agencies in five countries. The IA Pro and Blue Team software acts as an early warning system, helps frontline supervisory documentation, case management of internal affairs investigations, and overall organizational accountability.

"As the needs of society change, it is the responsibility of local leaders to implement changes," said Mayor DeMaria. "My Administration will not be defunding our police department; rather, we will be re-equipping the force by adding more tools to their duty belts."

**•RENEWED COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY**

**POLICING**

One of the greatest tools that a police department can use is their ability to use community policing to interact with residents and businesses alike, the mayor said. As part of their ongoing efforts in community policing, the City pointed to the fact that the Everett Police Department has engaged numerous organizations over the years in an effort to better serve their residents. These relationships, they said, have allowed the department to gain the trust of all Everett residents from the youth to the elderly population, and resulted in the creation of the Cops Corner at Everett High, the Junior Police Academy, and the 25 Days of Christmas tradition.

"The men and women of the Everett Police Department take their responsibilities seriously," said Chief Steven Mazzie. "We have always valued our relationships with our residents and strive to provide our services in a fair and impartial way. Over the years we have found that transparency, communication, and mutual respect have helped de-escalate volatile situations and often led to positive outcomes.

We acknowledge that now is an important time to reinforce our dedication to getting the job done right while protecting those we serve and building a lasting trust," he continued.

**•COMMITMENT TO DIVERSE HIRING**

It will remain the goal of the Everett Police Department, as it has been in over the past 10 years, the Chief said, to continue to hire police officers who are visually and culturally reflective of the community and its residents. The last class of police officers hired were predominantly of diverse backgrounds and ethnicities, speaking multiple languages. The Everett Police Department will continue to strive to recruit people of color so as to best represent our diverse community, said the Chief.

**•MORE CITY FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH**

The City has committed to adding the necessary personnel to support police officers in the City of Everett. Mayor DeMaria said he will be reallocating Everett Police Department funds to hire mental health professionals, therapists, and additional personnel who will provide access to services needed by the City. This will be done in partnership and conjunction with local nonprof-

its and mental health providers. This collaboration will allow for a heightened ability of the Everett Police Department to achieve preventative results, rather than to respond with reactive measures.

**ZBA APPROVES PROJECT**

EVERETT - The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) voted to approve plans for a 396-unit residential building at 65 Norman St. that came via one of the largest home builders in the nation - Lennar Development.

"Over the past few years the Village has become one of the hottest neighborhoods north of Boston," Mayor Carlo DeMaria said. "We have created a recreational entertainment district, boating, biking, rock climbing, axe throwing, basketball, hockey soccer, along with Village Fest, Nightshift, Bone Up, Short Path Distillery, Village Bar and Grill, all having outdoor dining. Now we are transforming an old, industrial wasteland and creating a unique residential community, bringing hundreds of residents to take advantage of this unmatched area."

Councilor Michael McLaughlin - who represents the area - had expressed concerns with the project at the Planning Board two weeks ago, calling for a neighborhood meeting. Local Attorney David O'Neil represented Lennar and helped to coordinate meeting with neighbors.

McLaughlin said on Monday all of his concerns and those from neighbors had been resolved, and questions about traffic impacts and construction mitigation were also addressed.

The new state of the art building will consist of 81 studios, 181 one-bedrooms, and 134 two-bedrooms and will also have amenities such as an outdoor pool area and Cyberdeck. There will also be 59 affordable units within the development to add to other affordable units being built in Everett including St. Theresa's and the proposed veteran's housing at Pope John.

The new development will replace the blighted and underutilized property, which held freight containers. In addition to the residential units, the development will also create open space where containers now exist, a pocket park and a number of areas to sit.

Mayor DeMaria added, "This development will provide additional public access for Everett resident to our revitalized waterfront and Riverwalk. I am truly excited not only for this development but for all the future investment that I know will come following this pioneering project. I am so happy to see so much private investment in the area after we have opened up our waterfront."

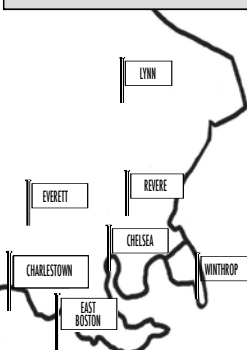
The goal is to transform the area into a vibrant, active neighborhood with recreational activities, outdoor restaurants, breweries and art galleries for current, new residents and the public.

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### SNHU ANNOUNCES WINTER 2020 DEAN'S LIST

It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Winter 2020 Dean's List. The winter term runs from January to May.

Eligibility for the Dean's List requires that a student accumulate an academic grade point average (GPA) of 3.5-3.699 and earn 12 credits for the semester.

Julianna Beratis of Lynn

Jordan Frye of Lynn

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with an 87-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 130,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers over 300 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as the "Most Innovative" regional university by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at [www.snhu.edu](http://www.snhu.edu).

### LOCAL STUDENT GRADUATES FROM CENTRE COLLEGE

Luis Barreras graduated from Centre College during the College's virtual Senior Celebration held on Sunday, May 24.

Barreras of Lynn was awarded a bachelor of science degree in behavioral neuroscience. A graduate of Salem Academy Charter School, Barreras's parent is Ana Ortiz of Lynn.

Centre held the virtual Senior Celebration to honor the 352 members of the Class of 2020 on the date originally scheduled for Commencement. President John and First Lady Susie Roush recognized the graduating class live on Zoom from the stage of Newlin Hall in Centre's Norton Center for the Arts. The event was not meant to take the place of an in-person Commencement weekend, which will occur in the future when conditions allow.

Founded in 1819, Centre College is a U.S. News top-50 national liberal arts college, and named one of Forbes top-15 college/university in the South seven years in a row.

### CURRY COLLEGE ANNOUNCES SPRING 2020 DEAN'S LIST

Curry College congratulates roughly 1,000 students who were named to the Spring 2020 Dean's List. To earn a place on the list, full-time undergraduate students - those who carry 12 or more graded credits per semester - must earn a 3.3 grade-point-average (GPA) or higher.

Fidelia Eleazu of Lynn and majoring in Community Education

Jaclyn Keighley of Lynn and majoring in Communication

Mathieu Gokas of Lynn and majoring in Management

Jared McAvoy of Lynn and majoring in Management

Paige Fialho of Lynn and majoring in Nursing

Tayjaha Wilson of Lynn and majoring in Nursing

Natalie Manfra of Lynn and majoring in Psychology

About Curry College

Founded in 1879, Curry College is a private, four-year, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Mass. Curry extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth, Mass. Curry offers 28 undergraduate majors, as well as graduate degrees in business, accounting, education, criminal justice, and nursing, with a combined enrollment of over 3,700 students. The student body consists of approximately 2,000 traditional undergraduate students, and 1,700 continuing education and graduate students. Approximately 1,575 of its students reside on the Curry campus. The largest majors are business management, communication, nursing, criminal justice, and education, and the college is also internationally known for its Program for the Advancement of Learning (PAL). The College offers a wide array of extra-curricular activities ranging from 15 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre program. Visit us on the web at [www.curry.edu](http://www.curry.edu).

### GIGUERE RECEIVES DEGREE FROM WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY

Eric Giguere, of Lynn graduated with a BS Business Administration from Western New England University in May 2020.

Giguere was among over 950

students who received degrees from 25 states and six countries. The top five fields of study were Mechanical Engineering, Criminal Justice, Sport Management, Psychology and Accounting.

A Salute to Undergraduate students of the class of 2020 featuring a driving parade of the Western New England community, conferral of degrees, memories of the journey, and a live chat can be viewed here (<https://youtu.be/ruftr3pw-1o>).

A Salute to Doctoral, Master's, Law, Pharmacy, and Occupational Therapy students of the class of 2020 can be viewed here (<https://youtu.be/XqJt1bKKjY>).

All Class of 2020 students will be warmly welcomed back to campus for a traditional ceremony when it is safe to do so.

Having just celebrated its Centennial, Western New England University is a private, independent, coeducational institution. Located on an attractive 215-acre suburban campus in Springfield, Massachusetts, Western New England serves 3,825 students, including 2,580 full-time undergraduate students. Undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs are offered through Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and the School of Law.

### SMITH OF LYNN GRADUATES FROM COLBY COLLEGE

Danya M. Smith of Lynn, Mass., was one of 480 seniors who graduated from Colby College in Waterville, Maine, May 24, 2020, receiving a bachelor of arts degree.

Smith, who majored in urban studies (independent), attended Pingree School and is the son of Tawnya Smith of Lynn, Mass.

"This was to be the day that we would gather on Miller lawn for your formal commencement exercises and all that they represented in terms of your learning, accomplishments, and growth," said President David A. Greene, speaking live from Colby's Lorimer Chapel.

"At Colby," he said, "you lived in a community where relationships are central to everything we do. The irony that we all recognize is that learning and living through deep, meaningful relationships-the most fulfilling, enlightening way to live-is threatened when this pandemic limits close personal interaction. But this threat will not last.

"The knowledge that we are better together," he said, "that human connection and the bonds of community are essential to humanity will drive us to eradicate the damaging impact of this virus."

President Greene also highlighted the class's scholarly and creative talents, its courage in challenging community norms, its athletic championships, and its engagement with the city of Waterville.

Founded in 1813, Colby is one of America's most selective colleges. Serving only undergraduates, Colby offers a rigorous academic program rooted in deep exploration of ideas and close interaction with world-class faculty scholars. Students pursue intellectual passions, choosing among 58 majors or developing their own. Colby's innovative and ambitious campaign, Dare Northward, will support deeper connections between the College and the world and a fully inclusive experience for all Colby students. Colby is home to a community of 2,000 dedicated and diverse students from more than 65 countries. Its Waterville, Maine, location provides unique access to world-class research institutions and civic engagement experiences.

### UNION COLLEGE HONORS CLASS OF 2020 DURING VIRTUAL CEREMONY

The 90-minute event, "Honor-

ing U: A Tribute to the Class of 2020," premiered on YouTube and Facebook. It featured the conferral of degrees on the 477 members of the class by President David R. Harris.

These students included:

Jennifer Duran, of Lynn, graduated with a Bachelor of Art degree cum laude majoring in Economics.

Corinne Jean-Gilles, of Lynn, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude majoring in Political Science.

Union College, founded in 1795 as the first college chartered by the New York State Board of Regents, offers programs in the liberal arts and engineering to 2,100 undergraduates of high academic promise and strong personal motivation. Union, with its long history of blending disciplines, is a leader in educating students to be engaged, innovative and ethical contributors to an increasingly diverse, global and technologically complex society.

### LASELL UNIVERSITY HONORS CLASS OF 2020

Congratulations to the graduates of the Lasell University Class of 2020!

Brandon Diniz of Lynn: BS in Criminal Justice

Bertine Fils-Aime of Lynn: BS in Accounting

Francisco Villacorta of Lynn: BS in Psychology

You'd think at least one of them could tell you how to renew a passport.



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

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





Pictures are recent NSCC Machining Training graduates.

## NSCC wins 2020 Patrick Prize for Community Colleges for Machining Training Program

The Boston Foundation is pleased to announce that North Shore Community College has been selected as the recipient of the 6th Annual Deval Patrick Prize for Community Colleges. NSCC was awarded the \$50,000 prize in recognition of the Machining Training Program, a collaborative partnership between NSCC, technical training institutions and local employers to prepare unemployed or underemployed workers for advanced manufacturing jobs.

North Shore established the Machining Training Program in its current form in 2017, building upon established machining training efforts. The six-month, full-time certificate program combines foundational skills coursework at the college with hands-on technical training at local technical schools with career readiness components provided by the MassHire-North Shore Career Center. Local employers

provide input into the curriculum and best practices, ensuring that students completing the program are well-matched for local advanced manufacturing jobs. The program boasts a nearly 100% employment rate.

“COVID-19 has placed unprecedented strain on our workforce and economy – but it is also challenging labor markets to open opportunities for innovation and collaboration,” said Paul S. Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation. “Our region’s community colleges are playing a critical role in developing our future workforce, and programs like the Machining Training Program can serve as a model for educators and employers to work together and prepare young people for family-sustaining jobs with living wages.”

“On behalf of North Shore Community College, I thank the Patrick Prize committee for this award,” said Dr. Patricia A. Gen-

tile, President of North Shore Community College. “The Machining Training program has been the product of the effort of a number of partners, and we are pleased to share the award with them. Together with employers, technical training providers, NAMC (the Northeast Advanced Manufacturing program) and the dedicated work of the people at the heart of this program – the students who exhibit their dedication, hard work and tenacity every day – we are able to create opportunities for men and women to explore new careers.”

Currently, about 40 students annually complete the program. The Machining Training Program is also being used as the model for a regional workforce development program – the Advanced Manufacturing Expansion Program (AMTEP), funded by a grant from the GE Foundation, which will greatly expand the Advanced Manufac-

turing pipeline with the goal to train more than 900 participants by 2024, including unemployed and underemployed adults and underrepresented populations such as veterans, people of color, women, those without high school credentials, and non-native speakers of English.

The award comes as Dr. Gentile closes out seven years as President of North Shore Community College, retiring from the college effective July 6.

“While Dr. Gentile’s leadership will be sorely missed, we are proud to be able to recognize the impact of her work with this award,” added Grogan. “She has left a lasting imprint on the college, its work and the North Shore region.”

The Boston Foundation, Greater Boston’s community foundation, is one of the largest community foundations in the nation, with net assets of more than \$1 billion. In 2017, the

Foundation and its donors paid \$130 million in grants to non-profit organizations and received gifts of more than \$194 million. The Foundation is a close partner in philanthropy with its donors, with more than 1,000 separate charitable funds established either for the general benefit of the community or for special purposes. It also serves as a major civic leader, think tank and advocacy organization, commissioning research into the most critical issues of our time and helping to shape public policy designed to advance opportunity for everyone in Greater Boston. The Philanthropic Initiative (TPI), a distinct operating unit of the Foundation, designs and implements customized philanthropic strategies for families, foundations and corporations around the globe. For more information about the Boston Foundation and TPI, visit [tbfo.org](http://tbfo.org) or call 617-338-1700.

## MWRA water report is in the mail

Throughout the month of June, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority will be mailing its Annual Water Quality Report to every household in its service area.

The report also ensures that the water system meets every federal and state drinking water standard.

“Of course coronavirus is first and foremost on everyone’s mind this year. While this report looks back on water quality results from 2019, I want to assure you

that your drinking water does not contain or carry the virus and that your water quality remains as excellent,” said MWRA’s Executive Director Fred Laskey. “The dedicated women and men who run this critical water system have been hard at work throughout the pandemic – protecting the watersheds, running the treatment plants, taking samples every day and performing maintenance.”

The report is distributed to over 850,000 homes in the

MWRA service area as required under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Community-specific inserts also provide information about municipal water systems.

The report is also available on-line and a Spanish language version will be available soon. A larger- print version is available upon request.

For more information, please visit MWRA’s website at [www.mwra.com](http://www.mwra.com) or call 617-242-5323.

OFF MY WAVE.

Together We Are Stronger.

Ocean Beach native and local surf legend Steve Bettis was diagnosed with MS in 2006. Although surfing is still central to his life, he hasn't been able to get out on the water in 10 years. For a man whose daily routine always included a few waves, more than a decade out of the surf is just too long. This is why the National MS Society teamed up with his buddy Robert "Wingnut" Weaver and used virtual reality to get Steve back on his wave. See their experience and find out how you can share yours at [WeAreStrongerThanMS.org](http://WeAreStrongerThanMS.org).

National Multiple Sclerosis Society