

THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, February 18, 2021

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LYNN'S AMANDA MENA AUDITIONS ON 'AMERICAN IDOL' SUNDAY



St. Mary's High School student Amanda Mena will be featured on the Feb. 21 episode of "American Idol" as she auditions in front of the show's all-star judging panel, Luke Bryan, Katy Perry, and Lionel Richie. Lynn fans are expected to be tuning in and cheering on Amanda on the show that airs this Sunday at 8 p.m. on ABC-TV. Ryan Seacrest is the host of the beloved competition series.

Wendy Joseph begins as curator at GAR Museum

By Cary Shuman

When Wendy Joseph and her husband, Stefan Wuensch, moved to Lynn in 2002, she developed an immediate love of the city's glorious history and its landmarks.

Joseph quickly became a highly respected community leader and her work in commemorating the life of Frederick Douglass has been commended citywide, an effort that culminates with an annual Douglass speech reading held each year on the night before the Fourth of July. She co-chaired the Frederick Douglass 200th Birthday Series of events in Lynn in 2018 and is

a member of the Juneteenth Committee.

A brilliant student of history, Joseph has been appointed as the new curator and building manager at the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Hall and Museum, one of the city's most treasured buildings in the city. She began in her new, full-time position on Feb. 9 at the Museum which is located at 58 Andrew St., Lynn. The trustees of the Grand Army of the Republic selected her to the key leadership post.

"I am very excited to begin my new job," Joseph said Wednesday.

Please see WENDY JOSEPH Page 2



Wendy Joseph, the new curator at building manager at the Grand Army of the Republic Hall and Museum, Lynn, is pictured inside the GAR Hall Wednesday.

Lynn Literacy Day to hold kickoff event on March 18

By Cary Shuman

No one could have predicted the heights that the Lynn Celebrate Literacy Day Gala would reach in the past 10 years, not even Saritin Rizzuto, one of the founders of the event.

A vice president at Metro Credit Union, Rizzuto said that to have more than 300 guests attend the gala each year is an extraordinary show of support from the Lynn community for the committee's efforts to promote literacy and education.

The gala event is usually held

on the roof deck of the All Care Visiting Nurse Association building during the summer. The view of Lynn and Nahant is spectacular from the well-known building located across the street from North Shore Community College.

The committee intends to celebrate its decade of accomplishments at a kickoff event held virtually on March 18 at 6 p.m. The actual gala itself will be held in September.

Mayor Thomas McGee, who has been a strong supporter of the event since his days as Lynn's state senator, will deliver the opening

remarks. The keynote speaker will be Jamie Zahlway Belsito, former congressional candidate.

The 2020 recipients of the Excellence in Literacy Leadership Awards, Lynn school teacher Magalie Torres-Rowe, executive director and founder of Latina Center MARIA, and Sheila O'Neil, president of the Lynn Teachers Union, will reveal at the kickoff event which local non-profit organizations will be receiving the \$500 scholarships that the committee donates in their honor.

Please see LITERACY DAY Page 3

For the latest news in Lynn that you need to know, check

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EDITORIAL

USE COMMON SENSE WHEN DRIVING

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

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

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

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

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

A NORTH POLE HURRICANE

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

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

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

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

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

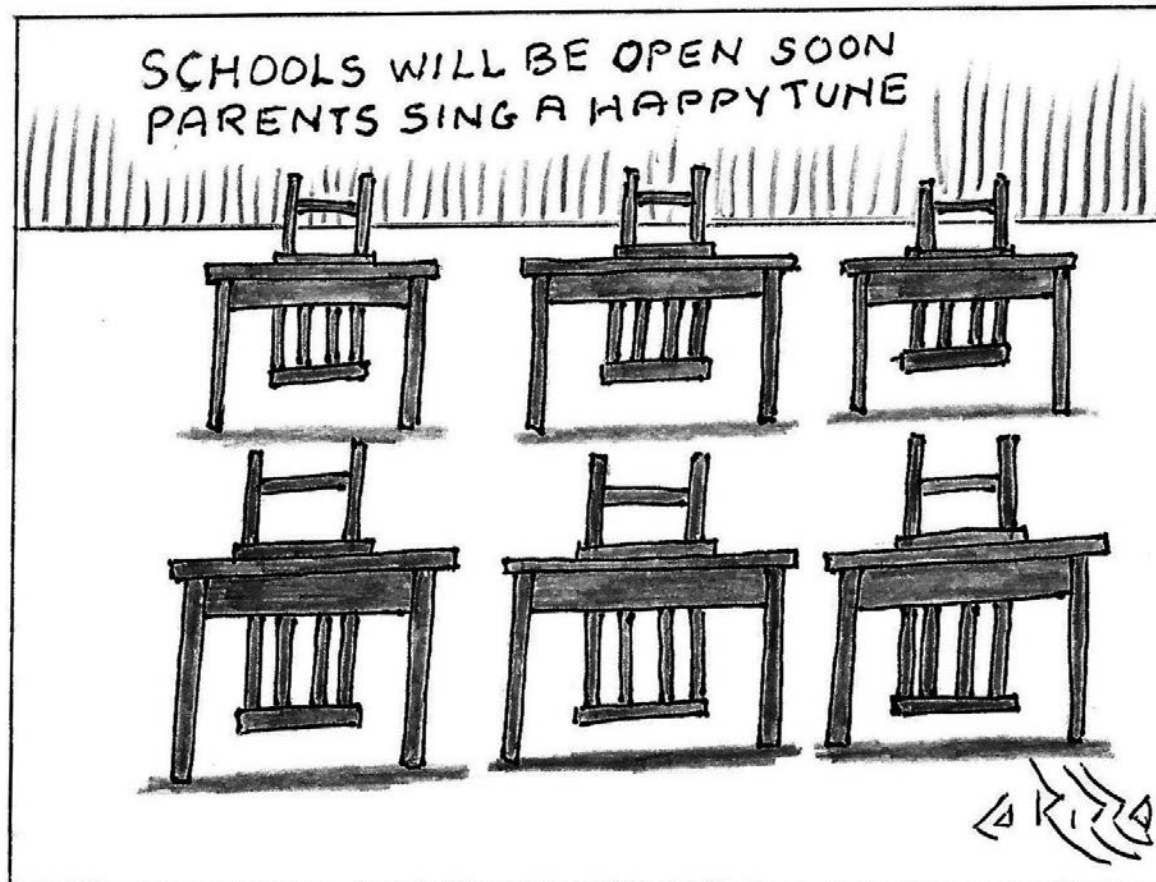
Climate change is not simply about global warming -- though it's true that the earth's average temperature has continued to climb year-after-year for the past decade.

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

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

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

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



Wendy Joseph / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Prior to becoming curator, Joseph was a member of the Civil War Roundtable and president of the Friends of the Lynn GAR, a charitable group that raises funds for the restoration of the building.

As the GAR.lynn website so precisely informs, "The Grand Army of the Republic Hall and Museum in Lynn is one of the last extant buildings in the United States still used for its original purpose to honor the men who fought to save the Union during the Civil War. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, for its significance in military, architectural, and social history."

Joseph understands the significance of her appointment while the city and the nation are observing Black History Month. Close to 180,000 Blacks served gallantly in the Union Army during the Civil War. Many of those brave veterans are honored inside Lynn's GAR Museum, one of the few buildings of its kind in New England.

"The GAR Hall was the association that the returning Union soldiers of the Civil War created to take care of the widows and the orphans," said Joseph. "We host meetings for the families of Union Army veterans and conduct the Civil War Roundtable, whose mission is to keep the memories of the Civil War alive."

Joseph has ambitious plans in her new role. She intends to

invite all Lynn students to tour the museum and view GAR-produced presentations about the Civil War (The COVID-19 pandemic has put those plans on hold). She has fielded individual requests from parents for current tours, notably from parents who are home-schooling their children.

"Anyone can come in here and get a tour and if their relative has served during the Civil War, we can give them a copy of their ancestor's photo," said Joseph.

Joseph has reached out to

Doneeca Thurston, director of the Lynn Museum, for a potential collaboration by the two organizations.

Joseph grew up in Bellingham and attended Salem University where she received a degree in Theater and Communications.

In addition to her work at the Museum, Joseph is currently volunteering as a member of the Lynn Literacy Committee that will be recognizing its tenth year during a virtual event on March 18.

THE LYNN JOURNAL

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Gang member pleads guilty to Lynn murder

By John Lynds

An MS-13 gang member pleaded guilty last Friday in federal court for his involvement in the 2018 murder of a teenage boy in Lynn.

Eliseo Vaquerano Canas, a/k/a "Peligroso," 21, an El Salvador national, pleaded guilty to racketeering conspiracy charges more commonly known as RICO. As part of Canas's guilty plea the reputed gang member admitted his involvement in the July 30, 2018 murder of a 17-year-old boy in Lynn.

MS-13 is a notorious street gang operating in Massachusetts and numerous other states, as well as countries such as El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. MS-13 members follow certain core rules and principles, including that members attack and attempt to kill members of rival gangs, and members do not act as informants or cooperate with law enforcement.

Canas was a member of a local MS-13 "clique", or smaller groups

that operate under the larger mantle of MS-13. Canas was a member of the Sykos Locos Salvatrucha clique of MS-13 and court documents showed that he had "home boy" status in the gang, which is generally achieved by committing a significant act of violence.

Canas was indicted in federal court in 2018 following an investigation into the murder of the boy whose body was found in a Lynn park on Aug. 2, 2018. The injuries to the victim's body indicated that the victim had been stabbed dozens of times.

As part of his guilty plea, Canas admitted that on or about July 30, 2018, he participated in that murder while a member of the MS-13 gang.

Canas faces a sentence of up to life in prison. He will also be subject to deportation upon the completion of his sentence. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based on the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

U.S. Senior District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf scheduled sentencing for June 18, 2021.



The Celebrate Literacy Day Committee, which will be holding a kickoff event on March 18 for its annual gala, is pictured on the steps of the Lynn Public Library Saturday. Front row are Sheila O'Neill and Magalie Torres-Rowe. Middle row are Wendy Joseph, Gina O'Toole, Natasha Magie-Maddrey, and Mikki Wilson. Back row are Saritin Rizzuto and Danielle Mackenzie.

Literacy Day / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Each year we recognize individuals and organizations that have gone above and beyond to educate the public about literacy in the Lynn community," said Rizzuto.

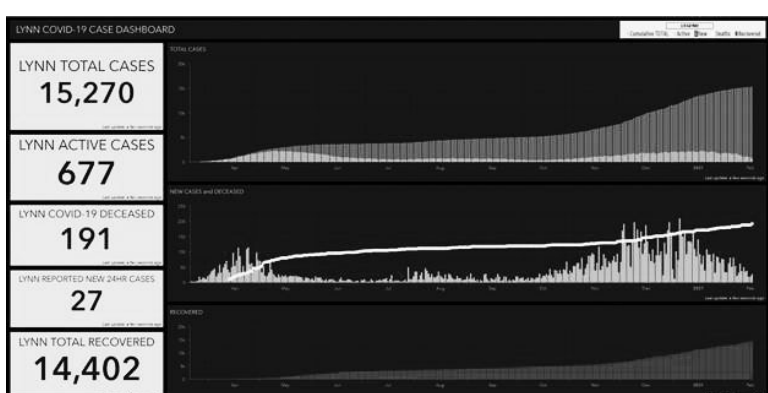
Rizzuto said she is proud of the volunteers who serve on the Cel-

brate Literacy Day committee including her Metro Credit Union colleague Diana Moreno, whose family has also been a leader in the advancement of the sport of soccer in Lynn.

"They have been dedicated individuals that have really taken time

out of their busy schedule to commit to celebrating Literacy Day," credited Rizzuto. "This committee so instrumental in making the event a success."

CITY COVID-19 UPDATE: FEB. 17, 2021



The Lynn Public Health Department has confirmed that as of Feb. 17, the number of active, confirmed positive COVID-19 cases is 677 with 27 new cases. 14,402 Lynn residents have recovered and 191 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 15,270. Please visit the City of Lynn COVID-19 Data Dashboard which is updated daily.

Phase 2 Step 2 of State Vaccination Plan begins today, Thursday, Feb. 18. Residents age 65+ and those with two chronic health conditions will be eligible to book a COVID-19 Vaccine appointment starting Feb. 18 at any state vaccination site, including Lynn Tech. You can visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccination-locations> for a full map of all vaccination locations in the state. The following individuals can get vaccinated under Phase 2.

- Individuals 16 and older with two or more of certain medical conditions (defined below) are in Group 2 of Phase 2. This group will be eligible to receive the vaccine beginning Feb. 18
- Individuals 16 and older with one of these certain medical conditions are in Group 4 of Phase 2. This group is not yet eligible.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

CHELSEA KIWANIS CLUB GROWING

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

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

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

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

Seventy-one people – a sizable turnout during the

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

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

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

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

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

The biographies of the new members of the Chelsea Kiwanis Club follow below:

Carolyn Boumila Vega: She is a lifelong Chelsea resident, 49 years to be exact. Carolyn is a Licensed Social Worker with South Bay Community

Services. She enjoys watching reality TV, cooking, volunteer, and staying on top of Social Media. I have been involved in so many community events and organizations, too many to mention. I want to be as useful as I possibly can and one of my most proud achievements is receiving a Social Work master's degree at age 45. I am bilingual even though people may not think so, proudly Latinx

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

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

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

children in our community who need to be directed to the righteous path.

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

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

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

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

skills, great writing capacity to request funding and support with fundraising ideas.

NATIONAL GUARD TO HELP WITH VACCINATIONS

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

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

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

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

The Massachusetts National Guard's first priorities are to save lives and protect property, and Guard personnel have assisted the Commonwealth since the earliest days of the crisis, providing a wide range of services to state agencies and local authorities. As a diverse and highly trained

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force whose members live and work in communities across the Commonwealth, the Guard has a proven track record of success supporting civilian authorities during and after state emergencies, and its units frequently train side-by-side with state and local first responders, making them well-suited for domestic operations.

DeMARIA DELIVERS STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

EVERETT - One year ago, the Council Chambers were packed to an overflow level to welcome in the new City Council and hear Mayor Carlo DeMaria give his annual State of the City Address.

It seems like a time and place from another world – a world without masks, distancing requirements or fear of sickness, job loss and hunger.

It was, though, just one short year ago, and on Thursday, Feb. 4, Mayor DeMaria hearkened back to those fine days as he delivered an online State of the City that detailed what was done to help COVID-19 in 2020 and looking forward to what 2021 could bring.

“There were over 200 people gathered in the Chambers - hugging, smiling, laughing,” he said. “We celebrated and I had the privilege of informing our residents about the City’s bold and innovative plans for 2020. Little did we know, two months later, that our City, our State, and our Country would be facing challenges unlike any others in our lifetime. The COVID-19 pandemic was unexpected, and unwelcomed.”

In an online address that lasted 33 minutes, the mayor first detailed all that had been done by the City and by the community to help out with COVID-19 and the effects that followed the sickness – such as job loss, food insecurity and housing insecurity.

“The people of Everett have displayed their strength and resiliency,” he said. “On behalf of Stacy and myself, from the bottom of our hearts, we would like to personally thank each and every one of you for every sacrifice you have made for the betterment of our City. I have never been more proud to be your Mayor.”

That was followed with a moment of silence for the 67

lives that were officially lost to COVID-19 in the City of Everett.

He highlighted the decision to close schools on March 12, long before any other community. He lifted up the first responders, such as the police, fire, EMS and 9-1-1 dispatchers. He also noted medical workers, front-line workers, educators and volunteers that staffed the food pantries such as the Connolly Center and Grace Food Pantry.

Providing food and services was also a major part of 2020, and the mayor said the City and local organizations distributed more than 1.2 million pounds of food in 2020. As well, those that were homebound received approximately 120,000 meals delivered to their doors.

Then, after talking about all the ways that Zoom filled in the gaps for regular, in-person meetings, he said it was time to move forward in 2021.

“Needless to say – most of us are ready to ZOOM into 2021,” he said.

The first and longest part of his platform for 2021 revolved around equity and the new Diversity and Equity Advisory Board – which has been in place since the mayor declared racism a public health crisis last summer.

Right now, he said the Board is in the process of reviewing the Everett Police Department’s use-of-force policy – and listening candidly and confidentially to the experiences of people of color with the Everett Police.

“Once they share their findings and recommendations with the Administration, I promise to work diligently to address any issue that that will help our residents feel safe and included,” he said.

He added that members of his Administration have been meeting every other week with the Everett Safe and Welcoming Coalition, and the City has also expanded its language access at City Hall with a contracted interpretation service called Lionbridge – which is also being used in the Everett Public Schools.

“As Mayor, I will continue to embrace the diversity that exists in our great community,” he said. “There is no tolerance for racism in our City, and you have my word that my Administration will constantly strive toward ensuring equity

and equality for people of all backgrounds, heritages, sexual orientations, genders, creeds and economic statuses. Our City must be one in which every resident is able to peacefully share and exchange ideas, one where we can respect and celebrate our differences, and one where we are united in making sure that Everett is a place that we are all proud to call our home.”

Finance was also a big subject in the address, and while many municipalities suffered financially during the pandemic, the mayor said Everett has done well. New construction projects continue to roll in, and revenues aren’t down as much as many feared. He said Everett continues to be a community that many in the region and nation look to for innovative ideas.

He touched on the affordable housing project now emerging at the former St. Therese’s Church site on upper Broadway.

He said one of the things that will need to be considered moving forward is looking at familiar places differently than in the past – such as the Commercial Triangle and other areas that are attractive to developers right now but historically have been considered inferior properties by residents.

“Moving forward in Everett means looking differently at areas of the City and having the ability to see the places we all know in a new way - in a different way,” he said. “We have made significant progress in the revitalization of the Commercial Triangle Area, the area encompassing Revere Beach Parkway and Second Street in Everett.”

That led to the unveiling of a new initiative to increase the footprint of the Urban Renewal Plan in Everett. He said the current plan will add the Lower Broadway Master Plan, the Commercial Triangle, the GE Parcel and Everett Stadium. That was a new and interesting initiative.

“We have big goals, aggressive goals, but I’m confident they can be accomplished,” he said – calling on the City Council to work together with him to move forward in 2021 on such things.

Development talk quickly morphed into amenities and

protecting the environment, and he said developing the City can also mean improving the environment.

He highlighted the new kayak ramp at RiverGreen, the restoration of North/South Creek, and the expansion of the Northern Strand Community Path. He highlighted 20 new BlueBike Stations, and the advancement of the Mystic River Pedestrian Bridge that would unlock an uninterrupted path from Nahant to downtown Boston and Cambridge. At the same time, he highlighted the continued progress on public transportation, including the new Silver Line expansion study that kicked off this week.

He said strong public transit is a must to grow the city.

“Mobility remains the key to sustained economic development and enhanced quality of life for our residents,” he said.

Finally, he said that 2021 will be about – more than anything – making sure the vaccine for COVID-19 arrives in Everett and is distributed to anyone that wants it.

“I am proud that the vaccine has arrived in Everett and that our first responders have been vaccinated,” he said. “Over the next year, I will work to ensure that our entire community has the opportunity to be vaccinated.”

Winding down his Address, he referred to some silver linings that have come out of COVID-19. For his family, that has meant being under the same roof again and spending more quality time together. For the mayor’s family, he said that has meant gathering nightly around the dining room table to play the Uno card game.

Now, however, he said it’s time to move into 2021 and continue the progress that the City left off with in March 2020 when all things normal came to a halt.

“It’s now time to focus on 2021,” he said. “We will continue to make strides towards bettering our community in all aspects – with transportation, capital improvements, and our infrastructure. The pandemic required the City to shift gears and adapt to a global crisis however, we are ready to pick up where we left off and continue to move Everett forward.”

The full online State of the

City Address is available on the City’s Facebook page and on its website.

DeARAUJO APPOINTED TO BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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

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

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

“I’m excited,” said DeAraujo, who lives in Eastie with his wife and two children. “I’ve been thinking about this for a while and then I saw the opportunity open up and I applied. It is a pretty extensive application process. Then you go through an interview process with different educators, administrators, and community people. Then they (the 13-member Citizens Nominating Panel) recommend a slate of candidates to the mayor. At that point it’s the mayor that chooses who he really wants on the committee and so it worked out.”

Historically, DeAraujo will become only the third Eastie resident to serve on the school committee behind former School Committee President John Nucci and Pixie Palladino. However, DeAraujo

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will become the first appointed member from Eastie since the committee switched from being an elected body to an appointed one.

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

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

“In my interviews, I talked a lot about East Boston and everything that is going on here with our mix of different populations,” said DeAraujo. “There is also a kind of the baby boom we are experiencing in Eastie that other parts of the city hasn’t seen. So I think a lot of our needs are different from other parts of the city so I definitely want to highlight that and then work together with the Superintendent and her team to listen and hear what the needs are across the district but in particular, East Boston. The first thing I’m going to do is meet with all East Boston school heads. I want to listen. I’m going to plug into the parent groups, welcoming folks to reach out and hope to speak with community groups or any one that cares about the system and can help. I really want to listen and do whatever I can to improve schools.”

DeAraujo’s experience at EBNHC, which opened up a full service satellite clinic at East Boston High several years ago, has given him insight to

the connection between health and academic performance.

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

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

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

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

newest colleague.

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

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

ZONING BOARD TRACKING SYSTEM SENT TO COMMITTEE

REVERE - The City Council has referred Ward 6 Councilor Richard Serino’s motion about starting a Zoning Board of Appeals tracking system on the city’s website to the Economic Development and Zoning Subcommittee.

Serino said that the “ZBA Tracker” would allow residents to quickly access and gather information about ongoing projects that are before the Board of Appeals.”

Serino said the City of Boston has launched the tracker system successfully “and I think the City of Revere would be well served by a similar tool.”

He said through the system residents would be notified in advance that a project or zoning change was being planned for their neighborhood.

Lor Holmes, a Ward 2 resident, expressed her support for Serino’s plan. Holmes said the ZBA tracking system would make the entire process “more transparent.”

“I look forward to learning more about it and this motion looks to me as a signal in that

direction that the Council as well wants to learn more about how we can learn from best practices of other communities,” said Holmes. “I look forward to being a part of the process.”

Serino said he was encouraged by the favorable reception for his “ZBA Tracker” proposal and that he is looking forward to the discussion at the next subcommittee meeting.

“Although all ZBA agendas and hearings are properly noticed and advertised in Revere, oftentimes, residents don’t realize something has received ZBA approval until after reading it in the newspaper after the matter has been taken up. A tool like this would allow residents to periodically check in on projects that are before the ZBA in their neighborhoods,” said Serino.

COUNCIL APPROVES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

REVERE - The City Council unanimously approved a loan order in the amount of \$5.875 million for Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Improvements.

Viscay said the funds would be used for “deferred maintenance” and equipment operations by city departments.

He asked the Council to approve a bond that would accelerate the purchase of one additional fire pumper truck and one city-owned trash truck among other capital improvements.

“Rates are historically low right now,” said Viscay. “We feel it is a good decision for the city to bump up a couple of these pieces of equipment and sell one bond for the entire amount to fully execute the 2021 Capital Improvement Plan and Budget.”

DPW Supt. Paul Argenzio spoke in favor of the bond authorization.

“There are several pieces of equipment that the DPW desperately needs, one of being a sweeper, a trash truck, two all-wheel drive, six-wheel dump trucks, and a sign utility vehicle,” said Argenzio. “In all cases, these pieces of equipment replace pieces that are [year] 2006s, so they’re on their last legs and we really need to have this equipment to operate properly.”

Argenzio added that the dump trucks are necessary to bolster the department’s snow-fighting capabilities, especially in the hilly sections of Revere.

Argenzio also expressed support for a \$1.4 million appropriation targeted for repairs of public stairs in the city.

“Over the last couple of years, we’ve been able to replace the three sets of wooden stairs and now we’re faced with either total reconstruction or major repairs to the other sets of all-concrete stairs throughout the city,” said Argenzio. “We have the engineering work done and we’re ready to move on this.”

Chief of Infrastructure Donald Ciaramella also spoke in favor of the prospective purchases of new equipment.

“The equipment that’s needed is very valuable to our operations, snow removal, and the cleanliness of our streets in regard to the street sweepers,” said Ciaramella. “It’s badly needed equipment and we’ll put it to good use.”

Julie DeMauro, transportation manager for the city, said she supported the \$1.4 million appropriation for the rebuilding of the public stairs in Beachmont.

“I’ve been working with Paul Argenzio, along with [Councillors] Joanne McKenna and Ira Novoselsky, and several members of the Beachmont Improvement Committee to get these stairs rebuilt,” said DeMauro. “This is really important. Two of the steps are in complete disarray and you would need a complete demolition, so this money is definitely needed.”

Ward 3 Councillor Arthur Guinasso said he was pleased to see an upgrade in city-used equipment.

“I’m very pleased with the purchases for the DPW and the Fire Department,” said Guinasso. “This is the type of thing that we need in our community. We need modern and updated equipment in order to service our community the best we know how.”

The City Council also approved loan orders in the amount of \$60,000 for the replacement of windows and doors at the Lincoln School and \$60,000 for the design and replacement of a new boiler

Region / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

system at the Beachmont School.

TOWN RECOVERS FROM CYBER ATTACK

WINTHROP - During last week's school committee meeting Superintendent Lisa Howard shared the details surrounding the recent Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks that interrupted learning time throughout the district.

On February 4, after several days of slow internet service and bouts of disrupted service, the district's technology investigations team informed administrators that the Town and school servers were the target of a malicious computer attack which prevented students and teachers from utilizing internet-based resources such as Google Classroom, email, video conferencing and other services while in school buildings. The attack, which also caused a disruption for town municipal offices, eventually caused the services to shut down from 8:00 am un-

til 2:30 pm, the exact timeframe when students are in school.

Howard also confirmed that the outages only occurred on days during in-person learning.

"Over the past few days I've learned far more about technology than I ever knew before, and despite the issues this has caused for learning, we have a solid plan in place that will prevent this from happening again."

After recruiting the help of the Winthrop Police Department, Comcast, Lan-Tel Communications, and Balsam Technologies, to get to the source of the problem, a mitigation package was put in place, and going forward, Comcast will be alerted of any suspicious activity before it reaches the district's system. Added NetFlow monitoring on the sonic wall will collect and record real time information going in and out. In addition, Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) has been put in place as another layer of monitoring and protection.

"This will help us as we move

forward, and the SNMP monitoring will allow a network map to show where things are connected, and any unrecognized devices will be alerted and shut down."

Howard said that the revised bandwidth management will prevent any device in the system from exceeding more than one gigabyte of bandwidth, which is more than enough bandwidth to support the schools' systems. The initial DDoS emergency mitigation services fees were waved by Comcast, and going forward, the district will pay a monthly subscription fee to ensure that a DDoS attack does not happen again.

"It's important to note that these attacks have occurred in multiple public school districts across the state. At this point we believe the issue has been resolved and we are grateful to have the collaborative efforts of everyone involved."

The attack, known as a Distributed Denial of Service attack (DDoS), is designed to overwhelm the bandwidth resources with large amounts of data, which is what prevented students and teachers from accessing the online learning resources. No student, employee or financial data was accessed as a result of the attack.

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ST. MARY'S VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL CCL QUARTER FINAL PLAY-OFFS

The Spartans of St. Mary's of Lynn advanced to the Semi-finals by beating their rivals Bishop Fenwick 73-64, at home in the Tony Conigliaro Gymnasium. The next game will be on Feb., 17, time and place TBA, with the 5. Coaches Peter Gobel and Daria Millerick

N final game scheduled for the CCL title on Feb. 20.



Senior Sammy Batista goes for one his scores in the first quarter.



Nick Sacco plays a tough defense against the Crusaders.



Anthony D'Itria setting up a play for the Spartans.



Future Spartan Cheerleaders watch the game from the stage.



Derick Coulanges tries to make a play to David Brown.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

BOSOMPEN GRADUATES FROM OHIO UNIVERSITY

Moses Sefah Bosompem from Lynn, graduated with a Master of Information and Telecommunication Systems from Ohio University's Scripps College of Communication in Fall 2020.

More than 2,300 students graduated with bachelor's, master's or doctorate degrees from Ohio Uni-

versity for fall semester 2020.

The graduates represented many areas of the United States and an abundance of countries, including: China, India, Saudi Arabia, Peru and Canada.

About Ohio University
Ohio University strives to be the best student-centered, transformative learning community in America, where students realize their promise, faculty advance knowledge, staff achieve excellence, and

alumni become global leaders. OHIO is committed to fostering, embracing, and celebrating diversity in all its forms. Our Athens Campus offers students a residential learning experience in one of the nation's most picturesque academic settings.

ABREU COMPLETES RESEARCH PROJECT

Lynn resident Dianjenis Abreu,

a member of the class of 2022 majoring in Electrical & Computer Eng. at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that recently completed an intense research project titled Global Lab Europe with Venice Project Center.

At WPI, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology to addresses an

important societal need or issue. Nearly 90% of students typically complete a project in collaboration with partners in communities across the country and around the world, through the university's 50-plus project centers. Students usually travel to the project center for seven-week terms; this fall, however, due to the global coronavirus pandemic, they worked remotely, using video conferencing.