

Everett Independent

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PHOTO BY KATY ROGERS

The 30 ft. official Everett Square Christmas tree was lifted through the air by a crane to be placed in its stand last Thursday after a long trip down from Tewksbury. This year, the tree was donated by the Flynn family of Tewksbury, in memory of Everett Police Officer Glenn Briley who passed away in December, 2015. The Flynn family are friends with Michele Strong (Officer Briley's sister) and her husband, Lt. Paul Strong, of the Everett Police Department.

Census 2020 a critical count for Everett and state

By Seth Daniel

The Census 2020 effort has successfully kicked off this month, with community leaders hoping for a full count that could knock on the door of nearly 60,000 residents this time.

While most believe Everett has about 60,000 people living in the community, the City has historically

been hard to count due to language barriers, the large immigrant population, density in living conditions, and confusion about who can participate. That has resulted in artificially lower counts in population over the years, with the most recent count at under 50,000.

City Clerk Sergio Cornelio is the liaison to the Census effort for the City, and

he said the federal government has targeted Everett at around 52,000 for 2020, but he hopes the City can go higher with a coordinated effort.

"If we can fill out the Census with strong numbers, it just means more money for the schools and the community development block grant – which goes to street and sidewalk

repairs mostly," he said. "We're definitely 50,000. We're probably really closer to 60,000. Their numbers at 52,000 were based on three people per unit. That's low for us and that's where we get the 60,000 number. We should comfortably hit 52,000...If we can get between 55,000 and 60,000

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'Corvette Mike' returns to Everett where he fell in love with the car that changed his life

By Seth Daniel

Michael 'Corvette Mike' Vietro had seen Chevy Corvette cars all his life as a kid while pumping gas on Revere Beach Parkway, or

sitting on the wall by the Shute Library as the show-cars drove down Broadway, likely headed to Revere Beach.

But it wasn't until 1978 in California that the Ev-

erett native got behind the wheel of his own Corvette, pushed on the gas, and changed his life forever.

"I got my first Corvette, it was mocha colored, and I was driving that brand new Corvette and all the sudden my life changed," he said. "I was shaking. I was obsessed. From that one car in that moment, I built Corvette Mike. That car was life-changing. I had to do something that day. I wasn't a mechanic, so I couldn't work on the cars. But I could be a showman

for them, and I had just gotten into the car sales business so I kind of knew a little about that."

Vietro is now entering into his 39th year of business in Orange County, California, operating the successful Corvette Mike's dealerships. He has several dealerships across the country, including one in Carver, Mass., and has become the world's leading authority of vintage and classic Corvettes. He has

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PHOTO BY KATY ROGERS

Firefighter Craig Hardy (who is also quite a hockey player, we hear) sported a new E Club baseball hat after receiving the Citation of Achievement Award from the E Club. The annual E Club banquet was another hit this year, taking place at Spinnelli's on Rt. 1 last Weds., Nov. 20. See more photos on Pages 7 and 8.

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Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, Mon. 11/25, Tues. 11/26, and Weds. 11/27, regular schedule. Thursday pickups will be on Fri. 11/29; Friday pickups will be on Sat. 11/30

Capitol Waste Services, Inc.

The Independent Newspaper Offices will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28th and Friday, Nov. 29th

Have a Happy Thanksgiving

from Mayor Carlo DeMaria & Family & The Entire City Government

Tax Relief

Mayor DeMaria provides plan to reduce for residential taxes

Staff Report

City officials were expected to endorse a plan to invest \$7 million into tax relief at the City Council Monday night – a plan that would allow residential tax bills to decrease by about 3.5 percent on average despite double-digit value increases in those same properties.

Based on the estimated rates, single-, two- and three-family owner-occupied homes will all see average reductions of 3-4 percent on their tax bills. This despite the fact that assessments on one-, two- and three-unit properties increased between 10 per-

cent and 11percent for FY 2020 - reflecting continued strength in the real estate market.

On Monday, Nov. 25, Mayor Carlo DeMaria and his finance team were expected to present recommendations regarding the tax rate, which included the use of available funding sources, the Minimum Residential Factor (MRF) and the Residential Exemption.

Everett, along with many nearby cities and towns, adopts a split tax rate, shifting the larger percentage to the city's industrial and business sector, and thereby reducing the MRF, effectively easing the burden on

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Arrests, criminal activity are not unexpected at Encore Boston Harbor

By Seth Daniel

Police Chief Steve Mazzie said any criminal activity or arrests that have happened at Encore so far are not outside of anything they expected, and that none of the activity is spilling over to the neighborhoods.

Recently, two Boston media outlets – as well as the Independent - analyzed arrests and crime at Encore since the June 23 opening, and found that there were 161 people arrested and/or summonsed through October.

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EVERETT HIGH PRESENTS: 'ONCE ON THIS ISLAND'



PHOTO BY KATY ROGERS

Darren Pierre, as Agwe the God of Water, performed alongside Jhalyska Feliciano, as Ti Moune, during the excellent Everett High production of 'Once on This Island' last Friday evening. The full-scale musical featured dozens of Everett students performing onstage. See more photos on Page 12.

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