



An artist's rendition of Gloucester Crossing intersection improvements now in the works.

CROSSING

■ *Continued from Page 1*

“It’s designed purposely to be more efficient and safe as you go through the corridor,” said Kevin Harutunian, chief of staff to Mayor Mike Cahill. The redesign changes the focus of the intersection. Previously, the design seemed to keep traffic going straight on Cabot Street, with a turn onto Rantoul Street. Now, the predominant traffic flow is along Route 1A, from Cabot to Rantoul streets.

One of the biggest changes at Gloucester Crossing is the elimination of the extended right on red. Vehicles traveling each way on Cabot Street could drive across the tracks and then take a right, either onto Rantoul Street from the north or onto Colon Street from the south.

“The new signals and the new configuration eliminates the need for that lane to flow through,” Harutunian said, noting that the existing design was never supposed to be permanent.

“My understanding is that was a temporary solution put up years and years and years ago. ... It was the solution until we could have the reconfiguration take place.”

The crossing will also have shrubs, street trees, a reconstructed traffic island and other streetscape improvements. That work is still ongoing.

Another significant part of the project was replacing the train tracks, which was done while the commuter rail line north of Salem was shut down earlier this summer.

“A lot of the complicated work is behind us,” Harutunian said.

That still hasn’t made things any easier for Carroll’s Florist, directly across from Burger King at the intersection.

“The past two months or more have been extremely difficult,” said owner Pamela Sherry-Landess, who has owned the 75-year-old shop for the past 25 years.

For the past few weeks, Sherry-Landess has been unable to use her driveway,

and parking in front of the shop has not been allowed due to the road work.

“This has been the epicenter of the intersection (work),” she said.

She is trying to stay positive, however, and is looking forward to the end of construction.

“I’m all for progress, and I’m biding my time,” she said, adding she has a “very loyal following of customers” who have helped the shop get through this time.

And the end of the work is near.

North of the intersection, crews plan to put down the final layer of pavement this coming week, Harutunian said. The rest of the paving, down toward the Beverly-Salem Bridge, is tentatively set for around Sept. 11.

“We’re really excited for the coming months and finishing strongly,” Harutunian said.

Arianna MacNeill can be reached at 978-338-2527 or at amacneill@salemnews.com. Follow her on Twitter at @SN_AMacNeill.

PAINTING

■ *Continued from Page 1*

As the audience applauded, Bedard stood motionless, looking over the portrait. After a few seconds, he started to smile. More time passed, and the smile gave way to a nod of support.

Bedard — and through replica copies, the Salem Police Department headquarters and Moose Lodge — received a portrait of Thor through a donation from the K9 Hero Portrait Project. The painting was paid for by officers and supporters throughout the department. A memorial stone will also be placed outside the department’s headquarters on Margin Street, engraved with Thor’s name and end-of-watch date.

Bedard, who now works with another dog, Echo, described the impact of Thor’s sudden death.

“It was lonely, very lonely, just terrible,” Bedard said. “There was always going to be that missing thing. Every time I look at my new dog, I think of my old dog.”

The painting helps bring closure, he said, by bringing a piece of Thor home.

“I’m very honored to have the dog, the picture,” he said, “everything.”

Thor was brought to the Salem Police Department after a crowdfunding campaign in 2012 raised money to buy and train three dogs: Thor, Axle and Turbo. They were the first K9s in Salem in 30 years, according to Police Chief Mary Butler.

The crowdfunding campaign was led by the Mack Park Association’s Rosemary O’Connor.

“She spearheaded this campaign, and they were able to raise funds to purchase, to train, to equip and maintain the K9s for a pretty long time,” Butler said. “And it’s been a great ongoing relationship that we truly enjoy.”

Sgt. Kathleen Makros and Detective Charlene Sano, who is married to Bedard, led the effort to get



John Bedard, a Salem Police K9 officer, hugs artist Loreen Pantaleone after she presented him with a portrait of his K9 partner at a ceremony at Salem Police headquarters. The police dog, Thor, died in January.

“It was lonely, very lonely, just terrible. There was always going to be that missing thing. Every time I look at my new dog, I think of my old dog.”

Salem Police K9 officer John Bedard speaking of when his police dog, Thor, died

a portrait of Thor, which was funded by donations from officers throughout the department.

Pantaleone, who drove from Pennsylvania to present the painting in person, kept a low profile at the event, initially sitting in the back of the room and not coming out front until asked to do so to accept a gift.

“I didn’t want to be

recognized for this,” she said after the ceremony. “I don’t know (Bedard); he doesn’t know me. But if he looks at it and goes, ‘That’s Thor,’ then it’s worth it.”

Contact Salem reporter Dustin Luca at 978-338-2523 or DLuca@salemnews.com. Follow him on Facebook at facebook.com/dustinluca or on Twitter @DustinLucaSN.

CLINICS

■ *Continued from Page 1*

council’s new Ad Hoc Medical Marijuana Subcommittee last week and slated for discussion on Sept. 14. Council President Joel Saslaw set up the ad hoc group to vet applications for pot dispensaries.

Phytotherapy Inc. wants to set up shop at 25 Newbury St., which is currently home to the Brothers Kouzina restaurant and a gas station. The other applicant, A Chara Development, would build a dispensary on a vacant 2-acre lot in back of the restaurant.

Both companies have provisional approval from the state, but need letters of support, or non-opposition, from city officials in order to move forward with the state process.

In a letter to councilors last Thursday, Bettencourt said he was giving that authority to the council, which would have to vote on a special permit anyway to allow a dispensary in the zone. The zone includes four parcels of land on the northbound side of Route 1 near Bertucci’s.

“That is one of the main reasons why I want the ad hoc subcommittee,” said Saslaw. “It’s important that we have some sort of, for lack of a better word, a report card to understand how to judge these facilities that come before us (and create criteria).”

The letter of non-opposition indicates only that the city is willing to entertain an application and allow a company to proceed into negotiations on a host agreement with the mayor, he said. Once that agreement

is ready, it would come back to the council, which would hold a hearing on the special permit required under the zoning.

Councilor-at-large Anne Manning-Martin expressed some concerns with that sequence of events. She said she wasn’t comfortable with signing a letter of support, only to have no say in the negotiations, and then be expected to vote on the special permit later.

“That doesn’t work for me,” she said, adding that it injects further confusion into the highly regulated and fluctuating process.

Phytotherapy plan

Phytotherapy Inc. is a new nonprofit that, according to city records, is owned by a limited liability corporation controlled by Alexander Athanas, who is the president of Phytotherapy.

The company is represented by James Smith of Smith, Costello & Crawford, who submitted a letter and supporting documents to the council. Smith, a former Lynn legislator and MBTA director, didn’t elaborate on construction or renovation plans for the property. He did note, however, that host agreements are now regulated under new legislation that says host cities cannot receive more than 3 percent of gross revenue each year and agreements cannot exceed five years in length.

A draft agreement supplied to the council states that Phytotherapy would pay 3 percent annually in a five-year agreement. Marijuana cultivation would not occur on-site.

Even though the company is a nonprofit, it can’t claim tax-exempt status, under terms stipulated by the state. Phytotherapy, in this case, would have to pay taxes on all real and personal property. The same would be true of the proposal from A Chara Development. The only difference would be that a separate entity — Wellness Connection of MA, Inc. — would operate

the facility.

The draft agreement also gives the city, if it seeks this ability, 30 days to review and approve the on-site manager and conduct criminal background checks. The Police Department would likely have a lot of sway in safety training and security at the facility.

In addition to Athanas, who has an address in Gilford, New Hampshire, the other directors at Phytotherapy are Penny Christopher of Peabody, Srikanth Kalapala of Chicago, Vincent Gallano III of Allston, and Pritesh Kumar of Atlanta. They organized June 26 as an LLC with the state.

A Chara Development plan

A Chara Development, who is represented by attorney Jack Keilty, has already submitted a special permit application. Saslaw said he wouldn’t accept that application, however, because it was incomplete in some areas. He wanted them to submit it again.

The owner of the vacant property is Turnpike Realty Co., but the application states there is a purchase agreement in process. The

new building would be approximately 5,000 square feet, and would be open seven days a week with 12 to 15 employees and parking for 25 cars.

A Chara Development and Wellness Connection, which are based in Revere, are currently building a 54,000-square-foot dispensary and cultivation site in that city and would supply the Peabody operation with products grown in Revere, according to the plans.

The directors for Wellness Connection are John Henry, a Plympton selectman; Elizabeth Jones of Middleton, the president and CEO of Everett Co-operative Bank; and Kathleen Donovan of Arlington, a longtime former school superintendent in Everett, Arlington and York, Maine. They say they have affiliates in Maine and Rhode Island.

In a separate memo, Keilty asked for the application to be considered a request for the letter of non-opposition as well. There was no draft host agreement.

Staff writer John Castelluccio can be reached at 978-338-2677 or jcastelluccio@salemnews.com.

Public Announcement Concerning a Proposed Health Care Project

Lahey Health System, Inc., located at 41 Mall Road, Burlington, MA 01805 (the parent of Lahey Clinic Hospital, Inc., 41 Mall Road, Burlington, MA 01805, Northeast Hospital Corp., 85 Herrick Street, Beverly, MA 01915, and Winchester Hospital, 41 Highland Avenue, Winchester, MA 01890), CareGroup, Inc., located at 109 Brookline Avenue, Boston, MA 02215 (the parent of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Inc., 330 Brookline Avenue, Boston, MA 02215 (which in turn includes Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Milton, Inc., 199 Reedsdale Road, Milton, MA 02186, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital – Needham, Inc., 148 Chestnut Street, Needham, MA 02492, and Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital – Plymouth, Inc., 275 Sandwich Street, Plymouth, MA 02360), New England Baptist Hospital, 125 Parker Hill Road, Boston, MA 02120, and Mount Auburn Hospital, 330 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA 02138), and Seacoast Regional Health Systems, Inc., located at 25 Highland Avenue, Newburyport, MA 01950 (the parent of Anna Jacques Hospital, 25 Highland Avenue, Newburyport, MA 01950) (collectively the “Applicant”), intend to file an Application for Determination of Need (“Application”) relative to a proposed affiliation involving the Applicant (the “Project”).

The Applicant is submitting its Application as it intends to affiliate to create a new comprehensive, distributed, high quality and high-value non-profit healthcare delivery system to serve patients throughout Eastern Massachusetts. To facilitate the level of economic and clinical integration required to better manage the health of a broad population and meaningfully impact care delivery in the state, the Project would establish a new parent company that will function as the sole corporate member of each hospital, and will also include the participation of the organizations’ accountable care organizations.

The Total Value of the Project is estimated to be approximately \$5,323,154,000. There is not expected to be any anticipated price or service impacts on the Applicant’s existing Patient Panel. Any ten Taxpayers of Massachusetts may register in connection with the intended Application or amendment by no later than October 16, 2017, by contacting the Department of Public Health Determination of Need Program, 250 Washington Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02108.

The Salem News

(USPS 477-600 / I.S.S.N. 1064-0606)

Periodicals postage paid at the Lawrence, MA, Post Office. Published by North of Boston Media Group, 100 Turnpike Street, North Andover, MA 01845, daily except Sunday and Christmas.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Postpaid by mail to all parts of the United States; 1 month \$27.08; 12 weeks \$75.00; 24 weeks \$150.00; 48 weeks \$300.00. Carrier home delivery: \$6.25 per week. All subscriptions will include up to five premium issues per year valued up to \$5.00 each. Premium issues are a subscriber benefit included in the current subscription rates. Premium issues scheduled to date are: February 14, June 6, September 5, November 7 and the Thanksgiving edition on November 23, 2017. The schedule for premium issues and subscription prices are subject to change.

For questions about your subscription, please call customer service at 1-800-836-7800.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Salem News, 32 Dunham Road, Beverly, MA 01915.

Advertisers should check their ads the first day. The Salem News will not be responsible for typographical errors, but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which a typographical error occurs if notified immediately.

The right is reserved to reject, omit or edit any copy offered for publication.

MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION

Telephone: 978-922-1234

Classified Advertising: 800-927-9200

■ NORTH SHORE NEWS IN BRIEF

The Ipswich River Watershed Association will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a birthday party on Sunday, Sept. 10, from noon to 3 p.m., at Ipswich River Park, 15 Central St., North Reading. The event will begin a canoe parade down Ipswich River. Paddlers are encouraged to decorate their boats; attendees will vote for their favorites and prizes will be awarded to

the winners. Live music, food, activities, and a raffle will also be held. Admission is free. For more information, call 978-412-8200 or visit www.ipswichriver.org.

In celebration of Ipswich River Watershed Association’s 40th anniversary, Ipswich Moving Company will present “Dance on the River,” an aerial dance installation, on Thursday, Aug. 24, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at Thunder Bridge on East Street in Middleton. Dancers Danielle DiVito and Tabitha Rodger will perform to the sounds of a live a cappella chorus while suspended over the Ipswich River. Admission is free. For more information, call 978-412-8200 or visit www.ipswichriver.org.

New England Masonry
760-484-2547

- Fireplaces (Indoor/Outdoor)
- Stone Walls
- Patios
- Driveways
- Fire Pits
- Outdoor Kitchens

- Cobblestone Arbors
- Waterproofing Chimneys
- Masonry Repairs

Richard Rogers
newenglandmasonry@gmail.com
760-484-2547

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
www.salemnews.com