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THE SALEM NEWS

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Dressed in traditional Portuguese garb, members of Rancho Folclorico of Peabody bring a parade of dance down Main Street through the Festival. DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

International Festival a ‘microcosm for peace’ in Peabody

By Caroline Enos
» Staff Writer

PEABODY — When the city’s late longtime Mayor Peter Torigian held Peabody’s first International Festival in 1984, his goal wasn’t to just bolster downtown with the allure of good food.

“Today, as we look around at this beautiful gathering, and I’m looking at the Armenian flag right now, sharing food, music, dance,

art, traditions from around the world, we see exactly what Peter cherished,” Torigian’s daughter, Sara Runnals, said during the festival’s main ceremony in Peabody Square Sunday afternoon.

“This city’s strength lies in its diversity and in the warmth in which this city welcomes all people, whether they’re citizens of Peabody or beyond the borders of the city,” she said.

About 70 food vendors

representing dozens of cultures lined Main Street during Sunday’s festival, which was postponed a week after it was rained out on Sept. 7.

There were Polish kielbasa sandwiches, Greek pastries like baklava, Mexican street corn, Colombian arepas, Filipino pancit noodles, Brazilian barbecue, Portuguese linguica and so much more that created a mouth-watering smell over downtown.

Two stages provided live entertainment in the form of cultural acts, like Caribbean music from Dis N Dat Band and traditional Armenian dancing by the Sayat Nova Dance Co. Local art was on display on Foster Street, where local vendors also sold goods, and a kids corner at East End Veterans Memorial Park provided family fun through face

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ICE confirmed to be on North Shore

By Caroline Enos
» Staff Writer

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents have been in parts of the North Shore over the last two weeks, local law enforcement officials confirm.

On Sept. 6, ICE launched operation “Patriot 2.0” to crack down on “the worst criminal illegal aliens living in the state of Massachusetts,” the Department of Homeland Security said in a prepared statement.

Early Friday morning, federal agents — including ICE agents — took a man who appeared to be working for a local landscaping company into custody after surrounding his work truck on Beach Street in Marblehead in four unmarked vehicles.

U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton said he was seeking answers from the FBI and DOJ why the situation was handled “so aggressively and unprofessionally.”

“Armed agents in unmarked cars surrounding a local landscaping truck and screaming at the driver in front of neighbors without even notifying Marblehead police or the district attorney is not law enforcement — it’s intimidation,” Moulton said in a prepared statement.

Salem police Chief Lucas Miller said Thursday that ICE was in the city during the first week of September and has been in Salem a couple of other times in recent months, and to his knowledge has taken two people into custody since January.

One was a person ICE arrested at their home directly, and the other was initially arrested by Salem police on charges unrelated to their immigration status.

Under Massachusetts law, state and local

SEE ICE, PAGE 5

Salem voters to narrow ward races in Tuesday preliminary

By Michael McHugh
» Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Salem voters will narrow down the field of candidates in four contested City Council races in preliminary elections for Ward 1, 2, 5 and 6. The top two vote-getters in each race will advance to the general election in November.

In Ward 1, incumbent Cynthia Jerzylo faces off against Walter Morrell and Erin Turowski. In Ward 2, William Legault, John Newhall and Andrew Smith are vying for the seat left open by Caroline Watson-Felt. In Ward 5, Zachary Calderon, John Hunt, Lydia King and Frederic Norton Jr. are contending for the seat left open by Jeff Cohen, who is not seeking reelection. In Ward 6, Robert Camire, Katelyn Holappa and Marlene Warner are seeking the open seat left by Megan Stott, who is running for School Committee.

The Salem News asked each candidate the following questions (Jerzylo was unable to submit responses by this paper’s deadline; Camire declined to provide answers ahead of the preliminary):

- What has motivated you to

- run for ward councilor?
- What do you see to be some of the greatest challenges for the city and/or your ward in the coming years?
- How do you plan to address the city’s housing crisis, while being cognizant of resident’s concerns about overdevelopment?
- How would you work to address and support the city’s growing homeless population?
- How can the city be more proactive about addressing the effects of climate change and advancing green initiatives?

Ward 1

Walter Morrell
Age: 34
Address: 14 Forrester St.
Family: Wife Bekah Morrell, and infant daughter
Profession: Director of education and outreach at NECA Boston
Education: Bachelor’s degree in art history from St. Lawrence University
Elected office experience: None; appointed member of Salem Bicycle and Shared Path Committee
Community service: Ran

Salem Community Garden at Palmer Cove for three years and helped with the transition to its new home; volunteered at my Brothers Table in Lynn for a year during COVID

Reason for running: Bekah and I have lived in Salem for over 10 years, eight years in the Point neighborhood and now near the Common. It’s a city we love. I think we can work to make it better. We’re raising our family here so getting the future right matters a great deal to us.

Challenges: For Ward 1, the development of Shetland Park and its impact on the Point community. The impact of climate change on our waterfront. Improving communication on city matters with residents and engaging more residents on city planning and initiatives. Citywide, building a new high school. Tackling the burden of rising housing costs.

Housing: We should ensure subsidized housing across the city and not confined to a single ward while continuing to retrofit defunct existing buildings like the Hawthorne Lofts as a good example. Overdevelopment is a concern, particularly around the Shetland Park site. But it’s also

an opportunity to develop much needed mixed income housing.

Homelessness: As a city councilor I will work with our partners across the city and state to ensure we are meeting people where they are and providing the resources needed to get folks back on the right track.

Climate: Continue to promote the Crowley offshore wind project and educate on renewable energy and its benefits so we are ready and bought in as a community when the project becomes financially viable. Help speed up permitting for coastal resilience efforts like the proposed Winter Island project.

Erin Turowski
Age: 41
Address: 63 Palmer St.
Family: Father, Lawrence Turowski; mother, Karin Turowski; sisters, Kirstin Green and Laurin Thuney
Profession: Veterinarian
Education: Bachelor’s in biological engineering, Ohio State University; doctor of veterinary medicine, Ohio State; post-doctorate in comparative medicine, MIT
Elected office experience:

None

Community service: Salem Transportation Commission (2023-present), Salem’s Safe Walking Advocacy Group (2022-present), New England Aquarium (2019-present), many litter cleanups with Keep Salem Beautiful and Salem’s Beautification Committee

Reason for running: As a trusted veterinarian, I’m skilled at listening, critical analysis, and recognizing financial limitations. Volunteering on the Transportation Commission taught me the process of local problem-solving, working cooperatively with residents to discuss problems and implement solutions. I’m ready to apply these skills to other ward issues as a city councilor.

Challenges: We are fighting climate change, the housing shortage, and diminishing affordability. Residents must be represented in the redevelopment of Shetland Park, using our leverage to advocate for affordable homes and resilient infrastructure. We must also restore our \$34 million for offshore wind, protecting jobs and our future in this industry.

Housing: Salem needs

diverse housing options for all residents, from space-efficient apartments to single-family homes. We must build a variety of housing types, including infill properties and accessory dwelling units, in walkable areas. This provides options for young families, first-time buyers, and seniors, ensuring everyone can find a place to thrive.

Homelessness: Homelessness is a housing issue. I would advocate for reformed zoning and permitting to diversify our housing supply. I would support Lifebridge’s expansion with a more “housing first” model. We must strengthen outreach to the most vulnerable and seek more statewide cooperation and funding to address this growing regional crisis.

Climate: Mitigation measures alone are not enough to combat climate change. We must proactively address root causes by reducing reliance on cars and encouraging public transit and micromobility, which will also reduce our infrastructure costs. Adhering to the Specialized

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WEATHER



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