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# THE SALEM NEWS

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## A major milestone



SSU Trustee Emeritas Pamela Scott signs the final beam.

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

## SSU celebrates progress on 3 projects with beam signing

By Michael McHugh  
Staff Writer

SALEM — Campus leaders and local officials came together Wednesday to sign the final steel beam that will be installed at the top of the Meier Hall addition — a significant milestone toward completion of three interconnected large-scale renovation projects on campus.

The Meier Hall construction project, set to be completed by fall 2027, is part of SSU BOLD, an \$84 million campus unification and modernization project at Salem State University.

The project, in addition to the renovation of the Horace Mann Laboratory building, is being done concurrently with a North Campus decarbonization project, which will create a second

geothermal wellfield to heat and cool the newly built spaces, according to university officials. The Meier Hall addition, which began last June, is expected to result in seven new, high-intensity teaching labs and support spaces for the university. It will provide modernized lab space for several programs in the Meier Hall building including biology, chemistry and geological sciences.

“This beam represents more than a steel structure,” Salem State President John Keenan said at the signing ceremony on Wednesday. “It symbolizes our commitment to a campus that unifies health, human services, arts and the sciences, a campus where physical and psychological barriers are removed and where collaboration becomes second nature.” The Horace Mann Laboratory



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Salem State University President John Keenan offers remarks.

renovations, which began last May, will see the building, which has been vacant since 2018, be transformed into a facility for the majority of the Maguire Meservey College of Health and Human Services.

Interior renovations of the Horace Mann building will

include the creation of nursing simulation suites, bedside skills and occupational therapy labs, student hubs, flexible classrooms, and more. Construction will also update the building with a new accessible

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## Trooper testifies in Gravel murder case

By Jill Harmacinski  
jharmacinski@eagletribune.com

LAWRENCE — Retired State Police

Detective Lt. Elaine Gill identified for jurors the wallet, checkbook, family photos, makeup, library card, sunglasses and more found in a bag near Claire Gravel's body in a wooded area off the highway in Beverly.



CARL RUSSO

Claire Gravel's senior portrait.

On June 30, 1986, Gill was among the first to respond when Gravel, 20, a Salem State College student, was found strangled to death 50 feet off Route 128.

Gravel, who was part of a large North Andover family, was last seen two days earlier, during a gathering with friends at Major Magleash's Pub in Salem, Mass., after a softball game.

John Carey, 67, formerly of Gloucester and Hamilton, is now on trial for Gravel's murder nearly 40 years after the crime.

Prosecutors say Carey strangled the young woman to death with her tank top for sexual gratification.

The DNA match did not occur until after Carey was convicted in a 2007 strangulation, attempted murder case and was serving a state prison sentence. He was indicted and arraigned on the murder charge in 2022.

In 1986, Gill had been a state trooper for four years and was assigned as an investigator with the Essex County District Attorney's office. Retired from MSP since 2009, Gill is now the deputy chief of police at Merrimack College in North Andover.

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## Salem mulls fine hike for snowy sidewalk scofflaws

By Michael McHugh  
Staff Writer

SALEM — The Salem City Council will consider a proposal to increase fines for failing to clear snow and ice from sidewalks at this Thursday's council meeting.

The change, proposed by Mayor Dominick Pangallo, would amend city ordinances so that owners of residential properties would be fined \$100 each day for neglecting to remove snow and/or ice from sidewalks, and owners of commercial properties would be charged \$200 each day to encourage compliance.

Previously, residential and commercial property owners with snow on their sidewalks would be fined \$25 for the first offense, and \$50 for each subsequent offense. For

ice, residential and commercial property owners would be fined \$50 for each offense.

“As I understand the mayor's intent, this isn't about catching people who've been plowed in or fining residents who are making a good faith effort or are physically unable to shovel,” Councilor at-Large Ty Hapworth said. “The frustration seems to center on repeat situations, typically involving commercial property owners or landlords, where no effort is made at all to clear sidewalks storm after storm.”

Hapworth also said there's a broader discussion the city needs to have around examining what resources the city needs to consistently set the example for removing snow and ice on city-owned properties, if they are

to consider higher penalties for noncompliance.

“Resources are thin, and there are important sidewalks that have remained un-shoveled during these storms,” Hapworth said. “If we're asking others to meet a higher standard, we need to make sure we're meeting it ourselves.”

In the last three weeks, Salem and surrounding communities have been inundated with over 3 feet of snow from multiple storms.

Residents can report plowing issues, cases of snow left on or obstructing sidewalks, and other similar snow-related issues at snow@salem.com.

Michael McHugh can be contacted at mmchugh@northofboston.com or at 781-799-5202

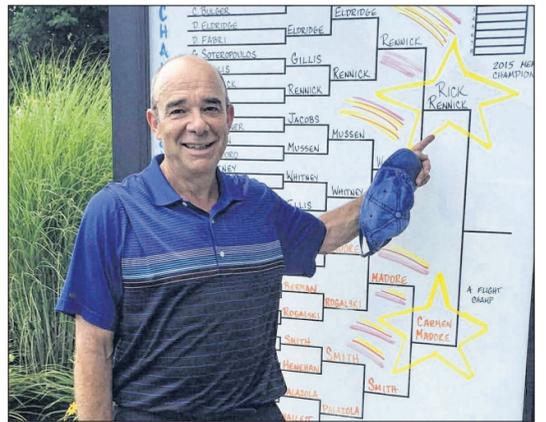
## Golf tourney planned for popular player

By Caroline Enos  
Staff Writer

BEVERLY — A golf tournament will be held at the Beverly Golf & Tennis Club on Aug. 17 to raise money for a new outdoor clock at the course in memory of longtime member Rick Rennick.

Rick had been a member at the club since the 1970s. He was a fixture on the greens, well known to the club's many golfers, and a two-time tournament champion of the course.

“It wasn't even Beverly Golf & Tennis when he joined,” his son Kyle Rennick said. “They went from United Shoe Country Club to Folly Hill Country Club and then



COURTESY PHOTO

Rick Rennick poses after winning the Beverly Golf & Tennis Club men's golf tournament in 2015. Rennick's son is organizing a memorial golf tournament in August at the club to fundraise for a new outdoor clock that will go in his father's memory.

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