

HONOR SCHOLARS

INSIDE >> TOP STUDENTS FROM  
NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOLS • PAGES 6 & 7



SALUTE TO SENIORS

SPECIAL SECTION >> LISTS AND PHOTOS FROM  
NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOLS



# THE SALEM NEWS

WWW.SALEMNEWS.COM

75 CENTS

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2013

This 12-foot statue of St. Joseph was found during construction for the new apartment complex being built at the former St. Joseph Church site. The statue, a remnant of the original 1911 church, was removed in 1944 and later buried on the site.

Courtesy photo



## Workers find statue of St. Joseph

BY TOM DALTON  
STAFF WRITER

SALEM — Eleven days ago, while digging the foundation of a new building on Lafayette Street, construction workers made a startling discovery.

They found St. Joseph.

The large statue, which had not been seen for more than 60 years, was found where it was long believed buried, under the parking lot of the former St. Joseph Church.

Over the years, its whereabouts, or even existence, had become the stuff of urban

legend. Did it still exist after all these years? Where was it buried?

As church demolition and redevelopment plans moved forward the past few years, several longtime parishioners raised the issue of the statue. Its possible existence became so important it was

mentioned in a legal document governing redevelopment of the site.

In 1911, the finely detailed statue of a bearded St. Joseph had been placed between the twin towers of a church built by French-Canadian immigrants. When that church was destroyed three

years later in the Salem Fire of 1914, all that remained was the building's skeleton — which, remarkably, still included the statue.

The giant sculpture stood high in the church edifice for 30 years, more than 100 feet above ground, a lone sentry over a ravaged religious site. When it was taken down in 1944, a large crowd turned out to watch. Children posed for photos after the statue, wrapped in heavy ropes, was lowered to the ground by a crane.

STATUE, Page 12

### SSU graduate remembered for love of life, profession



## LOTTERY SET FOR

# STATUE: Unearthed and reburied after 60 years

■ Continued from Page 1

It was buried sometime before a new St. Joseph Church opened in 1950. Although there were no known records or photographs of the event, several older parishioners said they saw it being placed in the ground and could even point out the spot.

But finding it proved challenging.

The Planning Office for Urban Affairs, a developer associated with the Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, promised to record and rebury the statue if it was found during this winter's demolition of St. Joseph Church or construction of a four-story, \$20 million affordable housing apartment complex now underway.

They used sonar and ground-penetrating radar last year in the search for the statue, which was reported to be 12 feet tall and weigh 6 tons. They even cautioned construction workers to dig with care. But after several months of work, nothing was found and even faithful parishioners had all but given up hope.

And then it happened — on Friday, May 3.

"It was the very last footing for the foundation" of the new building, said Lisa Alberghini,



Courtesy photo.

City and church officials gathered last week for a small, private ceremony to rebury the statue of St. Joseph, which was found beneath the parking lot at the former St. Joseph Church property.

Timothy Murphy of Immaculate Conception Church and Mayor Kim Driscoll.

The statue was completely uncovered by last Monday, and put back in the earth just as quickly, possibly to avoid reigniting the controversy that dogged this project through years of legal challenges and this winter's church demolition, which drew a few protesters.

Last Tuesday, the statue was reburied in a private ceremony attended by a small group of invited guests that included the Rev. Lawrence Rondeau, the former pastor of St. Joseph; the Rev.

Timothy Murphy of Immaculate Conception Church and Mayor Kim Driscoll.

Surrounded by heavy equipment and the noise of construction, Rondeau said prayers and others spoke.

"St. Joseph was a carpenter, and it's wonderful and appropriate to honor him today at this active construction site where we are working to build new homes ... up out of this ground, for people in need," Alberghini said, according to notes of her remarks.

Rondeau was away yesterday and could not be reached.

The statue was interred in

accordance with church law, which requires religious artifacts to be burned, buried or destroyed, according to Alberghini. The developer said the Archdiocese was contacted prior to reburial.

A handful of church members witnessed the brief ceremony.

"I was so happy I was able to see it," said Betty Richard, a longtime St. Joseph parishioner who works as the secretary/cook in the St. James rectory. "It was just amazing it was in one piece."

The only visible damage, she said, was a chipped nose and broken fleur-de-lis in St. Joseph's hands.

Under a legal agreement, the developer took archival photos and recorded other details before burying it a short distance from where it was found. It was moved by construction equipment to what will be the courtyard of the u-shaped apartment complex.

While digging last week, workers also found the cornerstone of the 1911 church, which will be placed in the landscaped courtyard not far from the recently reinterred statue of St. Joseph which, after all these years and all this mystery, is safely back in the ground.

Route 114. The former taurant building has demolished.

The push to develop 10 acres in the western of town dates back al 10 years. At one time called for 11 building the site, a proposal led to years of contro The condos were n built, however, and

## ANDREWS: for candid

■ Continued from Page

needs to vote on the con extension.

The main reason for contract extension is t through next year's bu season and give select time to conduct the sear which could include And as a candidate, Whitt said.

Andrews, the former W ham town administrator, hired on an interim b to replace outgoing T Administrator Jeff Chelg Andrews' original cont went through August 2012 was later extended to Jun

Andrews could not reached for comm yesterday.

Whittaker said it unlikely a town adminis tor search would be c pleted before the bu process gears up in the f

"We thought it was im tant to have consistent l ership through that proce Whittaker said. "The t administrator is certai an important part in t process."

He admitted the sea is starting later than ant pated as the town wor through some more press issues, such as hiring a c sultant firm to get the t through the budget seas; the wake of the resignat of Paula Bartlett, the tow finance director.

Selectmen also held of the town's Government St Committee developed a rep which could have include recommended change to administrator's position.

The online petition star by resident Michelle B ley asks selectmen to I together a search comm

## ■ NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, MAY 14

**PEABODY:** Celebrate the benefits of planting, 4 to 8 p.m., James Street Park, 1 James St. Volunteers from Northeast Nursery Inc. and Brian Stone Landscape of Peabody present a public planting as part of the "Don't Just Stand There ... PLANT SOMETHING!" campaign, which seeks to get more people to enjoy gardening and support local, independent nurseries, garden centers, landscapers and growers. Event includes a special dedication ceremony in memory of Edward G. Chmiel, a World War II Bronze Star recipient nicknamed "Mr. Peabody Little League," followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new James Street Playground addition, then a public planting. [www.plantsomethingma.org/May15](http://www.plantsomethingma.org/May15).

**SALEM:** Preservation Awards and Lecture, 5:30 p.m., Salem Five Community Room, 210 Essex St. Historic Salem Inc. will hold its 69th annual meeting, featuring a reception with light refreshments at 5:30 p.m., a business meeting at 6 p.m., followed by a presentation of HSI's 2013 Preservation Awards and a lecture by Anthony Flint, fellow and director of

Wildlife Sanctuary, 87 Perkins Row. Learn how to canoe or brush up on skills. During a twilight paddle, explore areas of the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary that aren't normally open for canoeing. Close-up views of marsh birds, beavers, muskrats, otters and more. Necessary equipment and basic instruction provided. \$32/adult. \$28/Mass Audubon members. Registration needed at 978-887-9264.

**SALEM:** Mack Park Neighborhood Association Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Moose Hall, 50 Grove St. Features Chief Paul Tucker of the Salem Police Department discussing community safety and ways to help provide safety to neighborhoods in light of the recent events in Boston. Also, updates by Councilor Paul Prevey and MPNA Chairperson Rosemary O'Connor. [mackpark.org](http://mackpark.org) or [mackparkorg@gmail.com](mailto:mackparkorg@gmail.com).

**HAMILTON:** "Raising Financially Responsible Children," 7 to 8 p.m., Hamilton-Wenham Public Library, 14 Union St. A program for parents of children ages 2 to 18, presented by Caleb Harty, a financial planner with New York Life. Harty will offer tips on how to encourage children to be "thoughtful savers, careful spenders and intentional donors." Reserve a spot to ensure a handout

Highland Ave. Features Lynn Gatti Walton, director of cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services at Union Hospital, presenting "Cardiovascular Risk Factors - Learning How to Manage Can Help you Live Better." May is National High Blood Pressure Month, and lowering stress levels can help reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke. Refreshments served. New members welcome. 978-825-6286.

**PEABODY:** Golden Age Club meeting, 12:45 p.m., Torigian Community Life Center, 79 Central St. Everyone age 60 and above is invited to attend and join the club. Tickets for the June 5 banquet will be on sale, and details of special summer events and trips will be outlined. Refreshments served.

**BEVERLY:** Homecoming Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Beverly Cooperative Bank, 254 Cabot St. Volunteers are needed to assist with fundraising events, media and website information.

**SWAMPSCOTT:** Cupcake Wars, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Swampscott Public Library, 61 Burrill St. Teens can participate by themselves or with a team of friends. Newman's Bakery is donating undecorated cupcakes and half-moons. Celebrity judge Austin Sagan and other members of the Swampscott Public

England," 7 to 8 p.m., Hamilton-Wenham Public Library, 14 Union St. Mae Taylor, an adjunct professor at Salem State University, presents an exploration of the common sharks of New England and the lesser-known ones, as well. There will be time for questions. Free. Suitable for children ages 8 and older. [www.hwlibrary.org](http://www.hwlibrary.org).

**SALEM:** Seven Lectures at Seven Gables: Paranormal Salem, 7 p.m., The House of the Seven Gables, 115 Derby St. Part of Gables' annual lecture series honoring Nathaniel Hawthorne and his literary works. Kimberly Bizjak will explore the paranormal side of Salem's history. Learn the history and theory of ghost hunting, debunking and equipment. Bizjak will share her spooky findings in Salem, and maybe find some more during the lecture. [www.7gables.org](http://www.7gables.org).

**IPSWICH:** Wednesday Evening Lecture Series, 7:30 p.m., Ipswich Museum, 54 S. Main St. Northeast Region Cultural Resources specialist for The Trustees of Reservations Susan Hill Dolan will present "Art in the Landscape: Three Major Sculptors at Castle Hill." The lecture will explore three major American artists who