



Bus schedules inside!

Every school, every bus

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eastbayri.com

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2018

VOL. 182, NO. 34 \$1.00



Emma, David and Shannon Gray (from left to right) at Destiny's Diner on Gooding Avenue. Over the years, the folks at Destiny's have given the Grays much more than a good breakfast, hosting fundraisers in support of Emma's rare genetic disorder.

## For the love of Emma

*Family of child with rare syndrome finds they get by with a lot of determination, and a little help from their friends*

BY CHRISTY NADALIN  
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When Shannon and David Gray, of Rose-dale Drive, checked into Women & Infants Hospital for a scheduled Cesarean section in July of 2012, they anticipated a quick procedure and a healthy baby; the pregnancy had been uneventful.

The months — and years — since have been anything but uneventful.

Immediately after being born, Emma was having difficulty breathing and was diagnosed with pulmonary hypertension in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). She spend the next two and a half weeks in the Women & Infants NICU, before being transferred to the NICU at Children's Hospital in Boston on Sept. 5, then back to Hasbro



Children's Hospital on Sept. 21.

During that time, newborn Emma was hooked up to a ventilator, a nitric machine, sedated with Methadone and Ativan, given an ultrasound, a CT scan, several echocardiograms, a bone marrow biopsy, and a cardiac catheterization.

She was intubated five times and given PICC lines on four separate occasions; and she endured a lung biopsy and a gastric tube. Finally, before sending her home on Nov. 2, she needed to be weaned off the

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## Proposed aquatics center faces first funding hurdle

*Group needs to find money for a feasibility study, before moving forward with any plans, fundraising or construction*

BY CHRISTY NADALIN  
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If we build it, will they come? It's Field of Dreams, without the magical realism. And it's not a field at all, but a state-of-the-art aquatics center, and one day, ideally, it will be sited at the Bristol Community Center on Asylum Road.

But as much as proponents, like Bristol Aquatics Exploration Committee chairman

**"We have a lot of talent around the table. What we don't have is a lot of time."**

PATRICK MCCARTHY

Patrick McCarthy, want to see this pool of dreams a reality, they are residents and taxpayers, too. And they know that the costs of such a center, which will run several million dollars for

construction alone, don't end with the ribbon cutting.

"Sustainability is key," said Mr. McCarthy. "We want this to be sustainable." He envisions programs, fees and memberships supporting all operations, so the center does not become an ongoing expense for Bristol taxpayers. That is why he has always supported the idea of creating an aquatics center for more than just the people of Bristol. "It needs to draw from all the surrounding communities to be sustainable."

Potential user groups are many: senior citizens, school swim teams, first responder scuba diving training,

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