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# CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

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35 CENTS



## Central Avenue shows to be a proven concept as it moves ahead in Chelsea

By Seth Daniel

With the finish line in sight on the Innes Apartments (Central Avenue) redevelopment project, both leaders of the development team at Corcoran Companies and the Chelsea Housing Authority (CHA) are touting the concept behind the public-private housing approach.

After more than three years working to create a mixed-income approach to redeveloping the public housing alongside market-rate units, the team recently cleared the last hurdle with the approval of a key tax agreement with the City in a 9-0 vote of the Council Dec. 23. More than just a development, leaders on both sides said it is a concept that will be proven possible in Chelsea.

"The most important thing here in Chelsea is it represents a proof of concept more than anything," said Joe Corcoran of the Corcoran Companies. "There is always the question about whether market-rate people will live with low-income people next door. It's always in the backs of people's minds. The fact they will has been proven before, but you have to go out and educate people every time. Today, we can say we have proof of this concept in Chelsea."

"We can tell you with a straight face we can do this," he continued. "We're developing it here. It's a model, though, that can be replicated anywhere. It's the marriage of private capital with public finance. Public-private

## CHELSEA TEACHERS UNION, AFT, FIRST BOOK DELIVER 40,000 NEW BOOKS TO RESIDENTS



Books for students of all ages from the Chelsea Teachers Unions Massachusetts AFT and "First Book". Shown in photo, Eighth-grade Teacher Matt Bennington, Diana Staco and Meghan Silk of the Clark School. See more photos on Page 8.

## Last Milestone Council unanimously approves TIF agreement for Central Avenue

By Adam Swift

It was an early Christmas present for the residents of the Innes Apartments and Corcoran Development at the City Council's Dec. 23 meeting.

The Council voted 9-0 to approve a Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) agreement allowing Corcoran Development and the Chelsea Housing Authority (CHA) to redevelop the Innes Apartments into a mixed-income community with new public housing units and new market-rate units – along with parking and some retail portions.

Councillors Giovanni Recupero and Enio Lopez were not present for the meeting, and so did not vote on the matter.

The 15-year TIF will give

the developer a tax savings of about \$6.5 million over 15 years, while still bringing more than \$4.6 million into the City coffers over that time.

While there was some discussion at a Council subcommittee meeting earlier in December about the 100-page document being dropped on the councillors desks without time to scour the agreement, the Dec. 23 public hearing on the TIF was more of a pro forma event.

One representative from the Corcoran Company spoke in favor of the TIF, alongside Chelsea Housing Authority Board member Juan Vega and City Manager Thomas Ambrosino.

"It's been a very long process, and I appreciate

See TIF Page 2

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

## As the decade comes to a close, we look back at Chelsea through the year

By Seth Daniel

From enlivening the downtown like never before to approving key projects like the Innes Public Housing redevelopment, the City embarked on a new era in 2019. While there continued to be more participation from long-time residents in the City, there were also new faces on the Council and School Committee, and a new superintendent picked to lead the schools.

•The Superintendent Search Committee and the search process are ironed out in January with the Collins Center of UMass-Boston. This School Committee will be the first in decades to choose its own candidate as it would be the first leader to be chosen since Boston University turned the schools back over to the city. In April, three candidates are submitted to the School Committee, which conducts several public interviews of the three can-

didates. On May 9, The School Committee votes to pick Almi Abeyta as the new superintendent. Abeyta did not get the vote on the first go-around, but ended up with unanimous support. Supt. Abeyta spends most of the fall shadowing outgoing Supt. Mary Bourque, and then takes the reins full-time in late December.

•Chelsea Prosper, the Chamber of Commerce and the City combine with major steps forward in livening up the downtown corridor. The ambitious Night Market project throughout the summer on Luther Place proves to be a welcome addition to the community, as was the Pupusa Fiesta in April and Fiesta Verano in June. The effort also gets a victory in securing new regulations

for signage in the downtown district by the Council over the summer, and also in the revival of Chelsea Day. The success is capped off by the largest tree lighting ceremony on Chelsea Square in years.

•Chelsea High Junior Stephanie Simon becomes

**The Year 2019:  
Progress and  
participation  
mark the  
year in review**

a national champion at the indoor and outdoor meets for track and field in 2019 – the first in decades to do so. She also received numerous state and conference honors along the way. Her key events are the long jump and triple jump – though she is also a very capable sprinter and hurdler.

•After four years and two major re-designs, the

Zoning Board in March approved plans for Forbes Park to be re-developed into a 500-unit mixed-use development on the former Forbes Lithographic site in Mill Hill. The development had once come in with 21-story skyscrapers, hotels and lots of retail. One key amenity for the community is a waterfront walkway around the development along Mill Creek.

•School Committeeman Julio Hernandez resigns suddenly in March despite being a rising star on the board. He cites family and financial considerations primarily, but also says he is frustrated by the lack of attendance by some members of the Committee. In April, Chair Rich Maronski also resigns from the Committee amidst frustrations that members are not attending meetings. He leaves shortly after voting for the new superintendent candidate. Later in the year, just before the City Election, Com-

mitteeman Frank DePatto announces he will not run again for his at-large seat – leaving yet another vacancy on the challenged board.

•In May, the MBTA Fiscal and Management Control Board awards a \$32.3 million contract for construction of a new commuter rail station in Chelsea – to be located adjacent to the Market Basket Silver Line Station. Later in the fall, the MBTA and Gov. Charlie Baker held a groundbreaking for the project. The new station will have all the amenities and will be accessible, unlike the current station on Arlington Street. The new station is to be completed by 2021.

•The new Chelsea Stadium is completed at the end of the school year, and the first games for soccer and football are played on the brand-new surface in the fall of 2019. There are high

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## Hundreds of residents enjoy Mrs. Toolan's Christmas Dinner

By Cary Shuman

Jake Toolan could only smile when he was asked what his mother's thoughts would have been as he and his team helped prepare Christmas dinner for 400 people Dec. 24 at the Salvation Army on Chestnut Street.

"This is such a wonderful event," said Toolan, executive chef at the Marriott Hotel, Peabody, who led a contingent of volunteers from the hotel. "My mother would be so happy knowing that we brought so many people together to enjoy a great meal and that we're cooking from our hearts."

The special holiday event was called "Mrs. Toolan's Christmas: Food Is Love" in memory of Jake's mother, Phyllis Toolan, who had a passion for cooking and

loved hosting family dinners at her home on Franklin Avenue.

John Mitchell and Debbie Clayman spearheaded the organizational efforts that began several months ago after Jake approached them with an idea aimed to bring some joy to local residents at Christmastime.

"John Toolan, a Chelsea son, decided to put together a dinner on Christmas eve in his hometown of Chelsea in remembrance of his mother, Phyllis," summarized Mitchell.

The response from the outset was overwhelming, according to Mitchell, who noted some of the many generous sponsors of the dinner, including East Boston Savings Bank, Atlantic Toyota, the Monkiewicz

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## CHELSEA MENORAH LIGHTING



PHOTO BY MARIANNE SALZA

Allison Bennett and Yildirim Ozdemir stand before the Menorah during the celebratory lighting for Chanukah in Chelsea Square on Sunday, Dec. 29. The Tobin Bridge Chabad congregation combined with several other Jewish organizations to hold the public Menorah lighting once again. See Page 11 for more photos.



# Review/Continued from Page 1

reviews for the field, the new track and other amenities at the Stadium, including the bright red ‘C’ in the middle of the field.

•After years of discussion, the Chelsea Soldiers’ Home water tower – which became an iconic symbol of the city known to many for miles around – is demolished on May 29. After a fun ceremony earlier in the year, demolition crews took about three-quarters of a day to bring down the old tower. The tower had to come down to make way for the new community living center at the Soldiers’ Home, a \$199 million upgrade to Quigley Memorial Hospital. That project began in January of 2019, and will continue through 2020.

•In May, the Class of 2019 enjoyed the fruits of a hard-fought civic battle to get their graduation ceremonies returned to the outdoors on the new stadium surface. The battle was courtesy of a core group of seniors who wouldn’t take ‘no’ for an answer – advocating with the leaders of the school system and appearing at Council meetings as well. In the end, the City invested in a covering surface to allow the graduation to be outside, accommodating many more family members and friends to see the ceremonies. The outdoor exercises went off without a hitch on a beautiful June afternoon.

•Encore Boston Harbor Opening – The opening of the Encore Boston Harbor took place on June 23 to great pomp and circumstance on a beautiful, sunny Sunday morning. However, the opening locally started in February when Encore began holding its first massive job fairs in Boston’s

Hynes Convention Center. Thousands were hired between February and May, with most reporting for their first day of work in early June. The excitement continued to build as the Encore Runner shuttles started to appear on the streets of Chelsea, followed by Encore buses coming and going from the Malden Center and Wellington T Stops.

On June 23, with Encore luxury yachts bringing visitors to the front door by water, and shuttles bringing visitors to the resort from public transportation hubs – dignitaries from the City, state and Wynn Resorts were on hand to welcome everyone inside. The doors opened as unique day-light fireworks exploded overhead in the cobalt blue sky, and ‘Nothing But the Best’ by Frank Sinatra played over the outdoor loudspeakers.

•Encore Post-Opening – If the build-up and opening of the casino was a major story of the year, a close second was the casino after its opening. While many – for years – predicted monstrous traffic jams daily at all hours caused by the casino, that just never appeared. After hundreds of hours of preparing for the worst, the worst never came. Still, traffic is very light at the resort in most hours – aside from a few busy periods. It was the surprise of all surprises for most. That surprise was followed up by the soft performance of the resort’s restaurants, hotel and retail offerings – which were expected to set a new standard for performance and quality in Greater Boston. While the casino portion of the resort has performed ahead of many other casinos around the United States, the hotel and restaurants – in partic-

ular – still seem to struggle to attract guests consistently. A new, surprise change in the leadership team last fall came without great notice, putting out long-time President Bob DeSalvio. That change is still unfolding, and it’s clear the resort is still testing the waters on how to brand and become Boston’s resort of choice. On the plus side, though, Encore quickly became a destination for boxing events, unique celebrity concerts and world-class nightclub DJs – such as Shaquille O’Neal, who highlighted the opening of the Memoire Nightclub on the property.

•Chelsea Cable Director Duke Bradley passes away on Aug. 12 after a sudden illness. Bradley had been the director of Chelsea Cable for years and was everywhere, all the time in Chelsea. He was known as a gentleman and a family man to everyone. He was a life-long resident of Chelsea, and many say the city lost an “icon” when he passed.

•Not everyone’s favorite topic, but certainly one that gained attention, was the Council’s approval of residents being able to keep chickens on their properties. Such approval of farm animals like chickens was previously only available with a permit from the Health Department. Now, residents are able to keep two hens by right – but no roosters. Some on the Council felt it was a waste of time.

•Housing Court expands to Chelsea District Court on Sept. 30 after years of fighting for the specialized court to come to Chelsea. The expanded court holds sessions every Monday for

residents, landlords and the City to take advantage of.

•In a sudden announcement in late September, Mystic Brewery founder Bryan Greenhagen reports he will close the popular brewery in Chelsea on Sept. 27. It was one of the first breweries in what became a very popular endeavor for local beer drinkers. For Chelsea residents, the brewery had become more than just a place where beer was brewed. It had been a gathering place for the Chel-Yea group monthly, and a place for political times and social gatherings also.

•The Landmark Student Opportunity Act – After being championed for years by State Sen. Sal DiDomenico, the “fix” to the educational funding system in Massachusetts finally became law in late November. DiDomenico said they got

# TIF/Continued from Page 1

your diligence,” Vega told the Council. “In order to carry this out for the residents of Central Avenue, there are a lot of preparations that have to happen for the families.”

Ambrosino said the City has worked hard to make the project a reality, providing new, quality homes for the residents currently living in the 96 Innes Development apartments. “This is the last milestone to make this project a reality,” Ambrosino said. The terms of the 15-year TIF include an 80 percent reduction in new value the first five years, 60 percent the second five years, and 50 percent for the final five years.

In addition to the 96

“everything they wanted” and that the bill will begin to change the landscape of education in urban communities like Chelsea, Everett and Boston. It is to be phased in over seven years, starting in the upcoming State Budget cycle. Supt. Mary Bourque said the money coming in will be used by the new school leaders to restore cuts made over the last few years, and then to fund dreams they had deferred.

•The City Election brought a few surprises and three new faces to the Council. Victories included Challenger Melinda Vega Maldonado beating Councillor Luis Tejada, and Challenger Naomi Zabot beating Councillor Joe Perlatonda. Meanwhile, in an open seat battle, Todd Taylor prevails in District 1 over Rick Pantano. The new Council will take their seats on Jan. 6 in a swear-

ing in ceremony. However, they will not have yet chosen a Council President, as the body was deadlocked over the leadership vote in a December meeting.

•After a year of meetings, some changes to parking and timeline, the Innes Apartments (Central Avenue) redevelopment project clears hurdle after hurdle along the way over the year 2019. From Zoning Board, to Planning Board to the City Council, the project wins over those concerned by density and parking. In late December, a critical tax break from the City prevailed in a 9-0 vote, which was the final obstacle in getting the project done on paper. The development is a partnership between the Chelsea Housing Authority and the Corcoran Companies and will re-build 96 units of public housing alongside several hundred market rate units.

# Get plugged in.

## Learn about a proposed substation project in East Boston.

Eversource is in the process of finalizing the exterior design of the proposed East Eagle Substation, part of the Mystic - East Eagle - Chelsea Reliability Project. This project will improve the electric system in the Greater Boston area, so customers will continue to have reliable power to meet their growing energy needs. As an important part of the process, residents of the East Eagle community are invited to attend and offer aesthetic design feedback at an upcoming open house.

### Open House:

Tuesday, January 14, 2020  
Drop in between 5:30–7:30 p.m.  
East Boston High School  
86 White Street, East Boston, MA 02128

Keeping the lines of communication open is an important part of our work in the community. The open house is designed to give residents an opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions about the next steps in the project.

For more information about this proposed project, please send an email to [ProjectInfo@eversource.com](mailto:ProjectInfo@eversource.com), call 800-793-2202 or visit [Eversource.com](https://www.eversource.com).

EVERSOURCE

# Conéctese.

## Infórmese sobre la propuesta del proyecto de la subestación en East Boston.

Eversource está finalizando el diseño exterior del proyecto de la subestación East Eagle, que forma parte del Proyecto de fiabilidad Mystic - East Eagle - Chelsea. El proyecto mejorará el sistema eléctrico del área de Greater Boston para que los clientes sigan contando con energía eléctrica confiable para satisfacer sus crecientes necesidades energéticas. Como parte importante del proceso, los residentes de la comunidad de East Eagle están invitados a la próxima reunión abierta para brindar su opinión sobre la propuesta estética de diseño.

### Reunión abierta:

Martes 14 de enero de 2020  
Acérquese de 5:30 a 7:30 p.m.  
East Boston High School  
86 White Street, East Boston, MA 02128

Mantener abiertas las vías de comunicación es una parte importante de nuestro trabajo en la comunidad. La reunión abierta está pensada para brindar a los residentes la oportunidad de dar su opinión y hacer preguntas sobre los siguientes pasos del proyecto.

Para obtener más información sobre el proyecto propuesto, envíe un correo electrónico a [ProjectInfo@eversource.com](mailto:ProjectInfo@eversource.com), llame al 800-793-2202 o visite [Eversource.com](https://www.eversource.com).

EVERSOURCE

DO YOU REMEMBER?



The Bevere family has been synonymous with Chelsea athletic greatness since Joe Bevere Sr.'s days as a standout athlete at Chelsea High School and later as a First Team All-American punter at Drake University. The photo above was taken after a CHS football game during the 1981 season. Pictured are Jolene Bovere, captain of the 1981-82 CHS cheerleading team whose sister, Jacqueline Bevere Maloney, was a captain of the 1979-1980 CHS cheerleading team; young Joe Bevere Jr., a superb high school (Malden Catholic) and college (San Diego City) athlete (shown wearing a 1975 hat commemorating the Division 2 Eastern Mass. championship CHS baseball team that was coached by his dad); Nancy Zarembo, a member of the 1981-82 CHS cheerleading squad and younger sister to Anne, Susan, and Jane Zarembo Szarythe, who was also a CHS cheerleader; and legendary CHS baseball coach and teacher Joe Bevere Sr.

Central Ave./Continued from Page 1

finance here is key.”

CHA Director Al Ewing said this was a challenging project, and one that many housing authorities weren’t willing to undertake. Many weren’t sure if it could be successful, but Ewing said they are paving the path in Chelsea.

When the program opened up three years ago from the state, Ewing jumped at the opportunity for the agency – which was coming out of state receivership following the tumultuous ending of the previous director’s tenure. He felt there would be several competitors for the funding, but as it turned out, only three (including Chelsea) were brave enough to give it a try.

He said success on the project was built on everyone being on the same page to get the project done.

“We all had the same goal, but different interests,” he said. “The key was everyone coming together and being at the table from the beginning. Getting the resident councils on board early was critical and helped us get the approvals at the Planning Board, Zoning Board and City Council. Building trust and relationships with residents

was a major part of this success. It’s been a challenge, but a necessary one. We knew the buildings were very old and past the point of remodeling them.”

Both Corcoran and Ewing said the time to rely on government to fix, build or maintain all public housing units has come and gone long ago. They believe this new concept will be the way that many communities like Chelsea struggling with maintaining their older public housing can escape with a victory.

Corcoran said they have financing in place now, much earlier than one might expect, due to the confidence that investors have in the project – that coming from the team being on the same page.

“We have all the financing totally committed,” he said. “That’s incredible to have it at this stage, which would be incredible for just a market rate development. We pushed that further up in the timeline to combat the disbelief in this concept...We have an equity investor. We have a number of construction lenders trying to get through the door and we have the permanent financing, which is a program

run out of Freddie Mac. They’ll provide the permanent financing once construction is done. There is confidence with the whole team and that’s what it’s all about.”

Ewing said he is happy to see that the City, and all of the leaders were on the same page to get this done for the residents – something he said in time they might be interested in repeating once people see the success at Central Avenue.

“Transparency has been a key,” he said. “We kept the City involved and the residents and Joe Corcoran Companies have been willing to share their numbers with us all the time...There was no disagreement something had to be done with the housing. There were issues with parking and density, but I think the community realized our residents shouldn’t be living in a 50-year-old development, but in a better environment. At the end, they put aside their community concerns to do something that will be better for the lives of so many people and their kids...I think it’s going to be a real showpiece down there and great for the entire community.”

POLICE Log

Monday, 12/02

Pedro Colon, 31, 54 Eastern Ave., Revere, was arrested on a warrant.

Edgar Nerys, 24, 61 Shurtleff St., Chelsea, was arrested for discharge within 500 ft of bldg. of firearm, assault with a dangerous weapon, carrying loaded firearm without license, possessing ammunition without an FID card.

Tuesday, 12/03

Kevin Chinchilla-Mendez, 23, 67 Condor St., East Boston, was arrested for operating motor vehicle with a suspended license and number plate violation.

Wednesday, 12/04

Juvenile Offender, 17, Chelsea, was arrested for malicious destruction of property and assault and battery.

Marcel Barahona, 18, 38 Francis St., Everett, was arrested for possessing large capacity firearm or feeding device, possessing a large capacity firearm and pos-

sessing ammunition without an FID card.

Katelyn Surles, 27, 63 Gillolly Rd., Chelsea, was arrested for possessing Class B drug.

Thursday, 12/05

Barry Boubacar, 61, 47 Ridgecrest Terrace, Roslindale, was arrested on warrants.

Santos Canizalez, 19, 155 Pearl St., Chelsea, was arrested for carrying loaded firearm, possessing ammunition without an FID card,

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| NC 60A Chelsea LLC  | 6097 Corner LLC       | 99-R 2nd St            | \$3,000,000  |
| 25 Sixth LLC        | Jo-Al LLC             | 25 6th St              | \$2,500,000  |
| NC 60A Chelsea LLC  | 6097 Corner LLC       | 60 Arlington St        | \$3,000,000  |
| Binder, Steven G    | Sanon-Davis, James    | 131 Beacon St #5       | \$255,000    |
| Nash, Christopher   | Vega, Paula A         | 50 Boatswains Way #411 | \$400,000    |
| 66-68 Chester LLC   | 66 Chester LLC        | 66-68 Chester Ave      | \$1,275,000  |
| NC 70E Chelsea LLC  | 70 Harbour Pointe LLC | 70 Everett Ave         | \$28,800,000 |
| NC 90E Chelsea LLC  | P&A RT                | 90 Everett Ave         | \$13,500,000 |
| Zamiri, Parisa      | Urban Renewal 10 LLC  | 61 Hawthorne St        | \$925,000    |
| Alonso, Victor      | Cortes, Daniel        | 9 Orange St            | \$375,000    |
| Zepaj, Marenglen    | Lanzillo, Flaminio    | 75 Spencer Ave         | \$200,000    |
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# Chelsea

R E C O R D

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

## A NEW YEAR, A NEW DECADE

The arrival of a new year -- especially when it is the start of a new decade -- marks a time of reflection for all of us.

We pause to think back to the decade that has come and gone, and wonder too, what our lives will be like 10 years from now.

Each of us ponders the questions, “Where have I been? And where am I going?”

The latter asks us to foresee the future, which by definition is an impossible task. Though we may make our best guess to predict what may lie ahead -- and to plan accordingly -- none of us has a crystal ball. The vicissitudes of life more often than not throw us curve balls that lay waste to even the best-laid of our plans for the year -- let alone the decade -- to come.

However, coming up with an answer to the former question can be equally difficult. It requires both introspection and understanding, two qualities that are in short supply in our hurried lives. We barely have enough time to do all the things we need to do every day, let alone to try to figure out how we got to where we are, wherever it is we may be.

Life does not take a time-out. The years -- and decades -- will continue to march on. While we, individually and collectively, may have some control over our future, all of us inexorably will be swept along by the currents of time and fortune that will bring us to a destination that none of us can foresee.

In the spirit of a new year -- and a new decade -- we offer our readers the enduring words of the poet Alfred Lord Tennyson:

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

## HAVE A HAPPY -- AND SAFE -- NEW YEAR

Celebrating the New Year requires all of us to make sure not only that we ourselves do so safely, but also that we are vigilant regarding the safety of others.

Although most of us these days take precautions to ensure that we do not operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol (or anything else) on New Year's Eve -- whether by means of having a designated driver, or using Uber, or staying overnight in a hotel -- there still are too many among us who will get behind the wheel of a car after having had too much to drink.

The most important thing we can do at an individual level is to prevent our friends and loved ones from becoming another tragic story in the morning news by taking their keys or offering them a ride home if they appear incapable of driving soberly and safely.

New Year's Eve can be a time of joy -- it is up to all of us to make sure it does not turn into a tragedy.

We wish all of our readers a happy, healthy -- and safe -- New Year.

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# Forum



GUEST OP-ED

## The New Year's Noise Diet: Why you should cut the empty 'brain calories' in 2020

By Joe McCormack

If you're like most of us, you overindulged a bit too much in 2019. No, not on calories (well, maybe those too!), but on "noise." That's the name for the dizzying onslaught of information from work emails, app notifications, the 24/7 news cycle, social media updates, and other forms of screen time that leaves us unable to focus, listen, or do deep work.

A smidgen of noise now and again is okay. (We all have our guilty pleasures!) But consuming it mindlessly, all day long, is as bad as keeping a bag of chips, a monster-size soda, and a can of frosting at our desk and reaching for them every few minutes.

Too many empty brain calories won't make you fat but they will make you mentally anemic. Noise keeps you in a constant state of distraction. And like actual junk food, a high-noise digital diet is addictive, yet it never satisfies or nourishes you.

The real problem with giving into noise temptation isn't what you're doing; it's what you're not doing. You're tuning out what really matters. You're skimming the surface. When you're scrolling Facebook, for instance, you aren't learning a new language, refining that career-changing presentation, or engaging with your kids in a meaningful way.

The new year is the perfect time to put yourself on a noise diet. To help with your calorie count, let's take a look at what noise junk food looks like:

The irritating—yet addictive—parade of social media stock characters in your newsfeed. This band of noisemakers assaults your brain with their cries for attention. For instance:

- The humble bragger. Your college rival who subtly slips into her post that she just got another promotion at her swanky company. #blessed #gag

- The cryptic drama-stirrer. That self-righteous friend who calls out people anonymously for perceived slights or makes vague "poor me" pity posts. (Cue the wave of very concerned

commenters.)

- The over-sharer. We don't need a play-by-play of your colonoscopy. Thanks.

- The drop-of-a-hat rant-er. Whose day would be complete without a furious recounting of how the barista screwed up your nonfat, dairy-free, double-shot, decaf, extra-hot mochaccino with extra foam? The nerve!

- The overly zealous kid promoter. Yes, yes, we know Junior is the smartest, cutest, cleverest tot around—your other 15 posts this week made that perfectly clear.

- The amateur political pundit. Do not engage... just don't.

Dumb@\$ shows on TV. You don't need to waste your precious attention span watching Jerry Springer, B-list celebrity lip-synch contests, or those morning talk shows. Substance-free television combined with the lure of a cozy couch can quickly turn into a lost day or evening.

The 24/7 news carousel-of-darkness. Sadly, most news is bad news, and during a controversial election year it can also be fodder for controversy, vitriol, and the loss of civility with friends, family, and neighbors. (Hint: You don't need to totally disengage, but it's good to be discerning about what you let in—and about how often you engage in debates with the people in your life.)

Your work email. Your boss just had to email you at 9:30 p.m....again. The moment you jump out of the bath to write back is the moment work email becomes yet another source of noise.

Are you feeling that noise hangover settle in? Don't worry, you can kick off the new year with a different kind of diet—one that cuts the empty "brain calories" of digital distraction and gives you what you're really craving: a more intentional life. Join my "Just Say No to Noise" Movement and tip the scales in the other direction. A few suggestions:

Try going a week without social media. (We promise, you'll survive.) A short detox from social

media is a pretty painless way to unplug and reclaim a lot of lost time. When the week is over, you can see if you even want to go back to occasional scrolling.

Reduce temptation by "hiding" distracting devices from yourself. Okay, you probably can't hide your computer but you can shut the office door. As for cell phones and tablets, treat them like what they are: gateways to digital distraction (and it is a very slippery slope). Find an out-of-the-way place to charge and store your devices so you're not constantly reaching for them.

Break the idiot-box "background noise" habit. It's easy to mindlessly turn on the TV when you get home. Problem is, it's broadcasting nonstop noise into your work-free hours. Instead, plan a time to watch your favorite shows. Daily exposure to the depressing litany of pain and conflict we call "news" isn't making your life better. Neither is watching the "Fatty McButterpants" episode of King of Queens for the 50th time. (Okay, we admit that one is pretty funny.)

Set some work/life boundaries with the 7-to-7 rule. The company won't crash if you stop answering emails around the clock. After 7 p.m., put away your devices for the night. Don't pick them up again until 7 a.m. the next day.

Insist on phone-free family dinners... Yes, the kids might whine at first, but soon enough they'll get used to conversing with the out-of-touch "Boomers" and "Karens" at the table.

...and screen-free family fun days. For instance, make video games and TV completely off-limits every Wednesday and Friday. Yes, even if the kids swear they have no homework. Instead, do something fun or productive as a family. Play a board game. Go bowling or skating. Cook a great meal together. Volunteer at the local animal shelter. Heck...maybe even read.

Learn to save your "appetite" for the stuff that really matters... Your "appetite" is really your attention span, and it's your most precious resource. Filling

up on headlines, emails, and social media means there's little left over for doing the deep and meaningful work that helps you reach big goals at work and in your personal life. Before you cozy into an hour of lurking on your ex's Facebook page, close the laptop and find something productive to do.

...and choose some meaningful goals to pursue. When you are able to sharpen and aim your focus, you can do some pretty impressive &%\$#. Want to start a website? Get a better job? Learn to code? These "North Star" goals are the best incentive to rethink your relationship with noise and see how your life changes.

We don't realize that very often our addiction to information is the thing holding us back from getting a huge promotion, becoming valedictorian, or training for a marathon, but that's exactly what happens as time passes. Once you think of it this way, it's so much easier to put yourself on a noise diet. Make this the year you take back your time and use it to do something that matters.

*Joseph McCormack is the author of NOISE: Living and Leading When Nobody Can Focus. He is passionate about helping people gain clarity when there is so much competing for our attention. He is a successful marketer, entrepreneur, and author. His first book, BRIEF: Make a Bigger Impact by Saying Less (Wiley, 2014), sets the standard for concise communication.*

*Joe is the founder and managing director of The BRIEF Lab, an organization dedicated to teaching professionals, military leaders, and entrepreneurs how to think and communicate clearly. His clients include Boeing, Harley-Davidson, Microsoft, Mastercard, DuPont, and select military units and government agencies. He publishes a weekly podcast called "Just Saying" that helps people master the elusive skills of focus and brevity.*

*To learn more, visit www.noisethebook.com.*

ST. JEAN’S RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

St. Jean’s Credit Union held its ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new branch office at Wonderland Plaza.

“This has been a culmination of three years of work,” said St. Jean’s Credit Union CEO C. David Surface, who thanked the Board of Directors for their leadership and guidance.

Mr. Surface also thanked Mayor Brian Arrigo and the Revere City Council for their support of the project.

He also noted the presence of Ward 2 Councillor Ira Novoselsky, “who sits on our Board of Directors

and has been a major contributor to his project.”

Mr. Surface joined SJCU Board Member Richard J. Dragone, Mayor Brian Arrigo, Council President Arthur Guinasso, Ward 1 Councillor Joanne McKenna, Ward 5 Councillor John Powers Councillor-at-Large Anthony Zambuto, Police Chief James Guido, Economic Development Official John Festa, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Wendy Millar-Page and SJCU employees in the official ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Council President Arthur Guinasso, St. Jean’s CEO C. David Surface, Ward 1 Councillor Joanne McKenna, and John Festa, Revere Office of Strategic Planning and Economic Development.



Bill Donahue, St. Jean’s CFO Steven Pedro, St. Jean’s Executive VP Kathleen Donahue.



Kathy MacDonald of SJCU, Amy Delaney of SJCU, Ward 2 Councillor and SJCU Board Member Ira Novoselsky, and Jaime Tiburcio of SJCU.



St. Jean’s Board Member Richard J. Dragone, CEO C. David Surface, St. Jean’s Credit Union employees, Mayor Brian Arrigo and city officials participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new branch office at Wonderland Marketplace, Revere.



Councillor-at-Large Anthony Zambuto, Mayor Brian Arrigo, and Police Chief James Guido.



Ward 5 Councillor John Powers and Mary Gillis.



As part of the grand opening festivities, St. Jean’s Credit Union dedicated the conference room in memory of beloved 40-year employee Nita Ludensky. From left, are Mary Gillis, CEO C. David Surface, David Tiburcio, Jamie Tiburcio, Sheryl Dornfeld, Jake Tiburcio, Devin Tiburcio, and Benjamin Bullard.



Kathleen Donahue, Enoy Souvannasy, Jim Metcalf, and Ariel Noesi of St. Jean’s Credit Union.




St. Jean’s CEO C. David Surface and Mayor Brian Arrigo.



Ward 1 Councillor Joanne McKenna and Revere Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Wendy Millar-Page.



Jane Rosenthal and Ariel Noesi of St. Jean’s Credit Union.




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# WALNUT STREET SYNAGOGUE HOLDS HANUKKAH PARTY

The Walnut Street Synagogue hosted a party to celebrate the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah Dec. 22 at the shul.

The guests enjoyed delicious food, including potato latkes and other treats. There was a menorah lighting ceremony marking the first night of the holiday

that continues for eight days and eight nights.

The Shirim Klezmer Orchestra provided outstanding musical entertainment.

Walnut Street Synagogue President Ed Medros thanked the guests for their continued support of the historic house of worship and Chelsea landmark.



Walnut Street Synagogue President Edward Medros and Councillor-at-Large Roy Avellaneda, who brought the official greetings of the city and wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah.



President Edward Medros and member Harold Mandell.



Chelsea philanthropist and long-time Walnut Street benefactor Herb Kupersmith and popular member Minna Karas Marino.



Walnut Street Syangogue member Richard Zabot, President Edward Medros, and community leader Herbie Kupersmith.



Ed Medros welcomes Barbara Deneault and Len Deneault to the Hanukkah celebration at the Walnut Street Synagogue.



The talented musicians in the Shirim Klezmer Orchestra, from left, David Sparr, Glenn Dickson, Kirsten Lamb, Grant Smith, and Mark Hamilton.



Former Chelsea Youth Commission Basketball Program Director Morton Padulsky (front row, right) with his wife, Sandra Padulsky (back row, center), their daughters, Karen Poverman (left) and Lynda Diamond (right) and their granddaughter, Sarah Diamond (front row, left).



Richard Zabot, Rafaella Zabot Hall, Devra Zabot, and City Councillor-Elect Naomi Zabot.

# MRS. TOOLAN’S CHRISTMAS DINNER AT THE SALVATION ARMY



Tony Tiro Jr. and Lisa Tiro and their daughter, Gianna (left), were generous sponsors and food servers for the holiday dinner.



Salvation Army Capt. Isael Gonzalez delivers the prayer for the food.



Salvation Army Capt. Brenda Gonzalez, key organizer Debbie Clayman, Peabody Marriott Executive Chef Jake Toolan, Attorney Howard Greenspan, and Salvation Army Capt. Isael Gonzalez.



The many volunteers who helped make “Mrs. Toolan’s Christmas Holiday Dinner” a success are pictured at the event held Dec. 24 at the Salvation Army.

## Toolan / Continued from Page 1

Family of Kayem Foods, and the Bertolami Family of JB Sash and Door.

Looking out at the many food stations, Mitchell recognized Tony Tiro Jr., his wife, Lisa DiBerto Tiro, and their daughter, Gianna Tiro,

who helped serve the food and greet the many guests.

“The Tiro family is here – as you know “Chubby” Tiro was a football coach at Chelsea High for years and Tony and Lisa and the Tiro family are sponsors honoring his

memory,” noted Mitchell.

“And this wouldn’t have been possible without Debbie Clayman, whose husband was Richie Clayman, a very well-thought of son of Chelsea,” said Mitchell.

Clayman, carrying on the

philanthropy of her late husband, walked throughout the large hall making sure that the guests were having a great time and enjoying the delicious turkey, roast beef, and ham and all the accompanying sides and desserts.

Mitchell said he was so impressed by Jake Toolan’s culinary talents and work ethic and his desire to pay tribute to Mrs. Toolan in a special way.

“Jake is doing something for his mother and we all got

behind him to help our city,” said Mitchell. “It doesn’t matter where you live, you still have Chelsea roots and most Chelseans will never forget where they came from.”

# Sports

## 1999-2000 CHS GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM HONORED AT HALFTIME



Chelsea High School girls basketball head coach Gena Restiano and assistant coach Michael Stellato are pictured before the Notre Dame Academy-Chelsea game at the Saul Nechtem Gymnasium.



Margaret Gray and her daughter, Leslie Santiago, a key member of the 1999-2000 CHS girls basketball team that won the North Sectional championship and played in the state semifinals at the Boston Garden.



Chelsea High's All-Scholastic and 1,208-point scorer Autumn Lopez, with her proud family, mother Mamie Robinson Lopez (right), son, Z'Andre Lopez (front), Alissia Cofer, and Orlando Lopez. Also there in spirit was Autumn's father, Michael Lopez, the outstanding CYBL coach who helped set the foundation for his daughter's superlative basketball career.



Proud parents of CHS basketball players, Mamie Robinson Lopez (Autumn Lopez), Yvette Chappell (Denise Chappell), and Margaret Gray (Leslie Santiago).

### CHS Roundup

#### ANOTHER MEET, ANOTHER TITLE FOR STEPH SIMON

Chelsea High track star Stephanie Simon earned yet more accolades in the young indoor track season last Friday at the Boston Holiday Challenge track meet, which featured top athletes from multiple states in the Northeast. Stephanie had a great day, winning the long jump with a leap of 18'-2.5" (currently the number one jump in Mass. and ninth in the nation), taking third in the 55 meter dash in a clocking of 7.56, and then earning fifth place in the high jump with a height of 5'-3" (her first time competing in the high jump in a big meet this season).

After placing in all three of her events, Stephanie was given the Outstanding Overall Female Athlete of the Meet award. Last year Stephanie was given the Outstanding Field Athlete of the Meet at the same competition.

CHS teammate Ana Chang ran her first 300 this season at the Reggie Lewis Center and turned in a strong time of 44.48, placing 16th out of 108 runners.

On the boys' side, Red Devil Jazmany Reyes ran the 600 and improved his

school record to 1:28.56, placing 16th out of a field of 60 competitors. The following day, CHS head Cesar Hernandez and a contingent of Red Devils competed in the Distance Classic, which hosts only distance events and the shot put.

The highlight was Reyes setting a new CHS mark in the 800 (there was not one until now) with a clocking of 2:07.28 that placed Jazmany 11th out of 83 runners.

For the girls, Gabby Rivas also set the CHS 800 record with a time of 2:57.66.

"This was Gabby's first time running the event and we expect her to improve that mark, as she will have two more chances to run it this season," said Hernandez.

Teammate Jeselle Rendon turned in a strong performance in the shot-put, placing 14th out of 37 girls in that event.

#### CHS TRACKSTERS RUN PAST NASHOBA

The Chelsea High girls and boys indoor track and field teams both earned victories over Commonwealth Athletic Conference rival Nashoba Tech in a meet held before the Christmas vacation.

The Lady Red Devils

took first place in every event: 50 yard dash (Gloria Rodriguez); 50 yard hurdles (Stephanie Simon); 300 dash (Ana Chang); 600 dash (Jeselle Rendon); 1000 (Gabby Rivas); one-mile (Sade Rosales); two-mile (Percy Melgar); high jump (Stephanie Simon); and shot-put (Jeselle Rendon).

On the boys' side, first-place finishers were: 50 yard dash (Nasir Adams); 50 yard hurdles (Hector Rivera); 300 dash (Hikerth Sanitize); 600 dash (Jazmany Reyes); shot-put (Richard Flores); and the 4 x 400 relay (Jazmany, Hector, Hikerth, and Nate Nadow).

#### CHS GIRLS BASKETBALL EARNS FIRST WIN OF SEASON

The Chelsea High girls basketball team gave first-year head coach Gena Restiano her first career victory with an exciting 41-39 victory over Mt. Alvernia.

The contest went down to the wire, with Chelsea holding onto the victory when Mt. Alvernia missed a shot at the buzzer.

CHS junior Nancy Galdamez led the way with a fine, two-way effort. Nancy scored a game-high 15 points and made eight steals.

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CHELSEA POLICE, FBI BOSTON PRESENT TOYS AT JGBC

The Chelsea Police Department, the FBI Boston Headquarters, and the Jordan Boys and Girls Club (JGBC) collaborated to present gifts to JGBC members for the holiday seasons.

Chelsea Community Relations Officer Sammy Mojica and FBI Boston Division Special Agent in Charge Joseph Bonavolonta helped distribute toys to JGBC members who were overjoyed by the generosity and thoughtfulness of the two law enforcement agencies.

JGBC Executive Director Gina Centrella welcomed Mojica and Bonavolonta to the club serves hundreds of Chelsea youths each day in after-school programs.



Chelsea Police Community Relations Officer Sammy Mojica and JGBC Executive Director Gina Centrella (second from left) welcomed FBI Boston Division Special Agent in Charge Joseph Bonavolonta and other dignitaries and officials to the holiday toy distribution event at the JGBC.



CPD Community Relations Officer Sammy Mojica and FBI Boston Division Special Agent in Charge Joseph Bonavolonta are pictured with JGBC members, who received holiday gifts compliments of the two law enforcement agencies.



CPD Community Relations Officer Sammy Mojica and FBI Boston Division Special Agent in Charge Joseph Bonavolonta bring joy to JGBC members at the holiday toy distribution event at the clubhouse on Willow Street.



Collaborating on a great event for JGBC members were CPD Community Relations Officer Sammy Mojica and FBI Boston Division Special Agent in Charge Joseph Bonavolonta.



Helping to make it a great Christmas for JGBC members were Executive Director Gina Centrella and CPD Officer Sammy Mojica.

NOW, *THIS* IS A BOOK DONATION!



Brown Middle School students Cynthia and Eva Zapata with an armful of new books last Saturday morning.



Books of all sizes and kinds, Alexia Colindos and Genesis Duran are looking through the lot at the Burke Complex.



CHS educator, Cristina Tobar and Sebastian Lufkin are helping with the book give away program last Saturday and proudly wearing their AFT T- shirts.



Backpacks filled with books are shown with Chelsea students, Katherine and Jenni Merino and Christian Najorro.



Third-grader Gabrielle Barbosa has arm full of her favorites.

Chelsea Teachers Union, AFT and First Book Combine to Deliver 40,000 New Books to Chelsea Residents

Last Saturday morning at the Mary C. Burke Complex, the cafeteria combining the Sokolowski and Kelly elementary schools was filled with 40 thousand new books and a full house of Chelsea students of all ages. The books were free for the taking, from pre-school readers through high school level, all you can carry. Teachers from across the city were there to help distribute the books or to help in picking out anything in particular. Plastic bags were even provided, this wonderful gift to students of all ages, was through the efforts of the Chelsea Teachers Union, AFT Massachu-

setts and “First Book” organization. Many publishers were on board with this type of program and through marketing proposals were able to make all these books affordable for the program. Bags of books were leaving the Burke Complex as fast as new arrivals came through the doors to take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity. In an age of digital readers and on line book availability, it was a change to see students actually looking through a hard cover book with amazement, turning pages to see what’s coming next. Sometimes old school is still the best.



Jaliyah Santiago making her selections.



AFT Mass Brany Duncan, Chelsea Teachers Union Secretary Meghan Silk, President AFT Mass. Beth Kontos, CTU President Don Dabenigno and Brian LaPierre from Mass AFT.

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OBITUARIES

Ann Floyd

Retired Chelsea teacher

Ann M. Floyd, 87, of Chelsea, passed away on Monday, Dec. 23.

Ann attended Immaculate Conception School, class of 1950, Salem State Teachers College, Class of 1954, and Boston State where she obtained her Master Degree in Education in 1963. Ann was a former teacher at Chelsea Schools retired as a Title One Reading Program Director in 1991. Ann enjoyed worldwide traveling, and will be missed by all who knew her.

She was the cherished daughter of the late Leo A. and Anna (Maher) Floyd, loving aunt of James Floyd and his wife, Donna Marie, Joseph Floyd and his wife, Janet, Lawrence Floyd and his wife, Doreen, Robert Floyd, Richard Floyd and



his wife, Denise and Daniel Floyd and his wife, Debbie. Ann was predeceased by her brother, Leo Floyd and her longtime friend, Thelma Kirk. She is also survived by her great nieces and nephews: Eddie, Teddy, Andrew, Bill, Sarah, Max, Lucy, Harry, Lily, Asa, Kiely, Ben and Abby.

Funeral arrangements were by Vazza’s Beechwood Funeral Home, Revere.

James Lee

All around athlete, founded the Tommy Duval Athletic Club as a teenager, the Tommy Duval basketball league and the Afro-American Club in Chelsea



James Lee, former resident of Chelsea, departed this life on Monday, Dec. 23 at his home in Everett surrounded by his family.

James joined the U.S. Army when he was 22, served on the front lines during the Korean War and eventually achieved the rank of sergeant. He was proud to say that all his troops returned home.

James often spoke of his fond memories growing up on Arlington Street in Chelsea with his mom; two brothers, Charles and Henry Lee, and four sisters, Dorothy Crawford, Evelyn Moore, Lucy Robinson and Florence May.

James was an all-around athlete playing in various football, basketball and softball leagues around Chelsea. He shared his stories of growing up poor and playing football with no pads or helmets against teams that were fortunate enough to have equipment. Affectionately known as Jimmy Lee, he founded the Tommy Duval Athletic Club as a teenager and started the Tommy Duval basketball league. The league consisted of his brother, Charlie, first cousins, Ray and Gene Freeman, close friend, Huckle Mann and friends who lived in the neighborhood.

Growing up in a predominantly Jewish neighborhood, he learned the importance of getting along with those of other cultures and even learned to speak Yid-



dish to those he lived by.

James had a passion for organizing events and bringing people together. These events included long weekends to Montreal, Canada, summer casino trips to Mohegan Sun, and this year he organized the Lee-Richardson Family Reunion at Salem Willows in Salem MA, where approximately 150 had gathered. He also established the Afro-American Club in Chelsea, which organized and hosted a ton of events.

James was the beloved husband of the late Edith (Richardson) Lee, loving father of Eric Lee and his wife, Cheryl, Greg Lee and his wife, Gloria, Sheila Lee-Caldwell and her husband, Henry, Mark Lee and his wife, Tracey and the late Steven Lee of Malden. He will be missed by 21 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

A Homegoing Memorial Service will be held at Zion Church Ministries, 757 Broadway, Everett, MA, on Monday, January, 6, 2020. Greetings to the family will start at 10 a.m. and the service will begin promptly at 11 a.m.

Vincent Arthur DiGianni

Retired industrial lighting efficiency expert



Vincent Arthur DiGianni, 87, a lifelong resident of Chelsea, beloved husband of Margaret Elizabeth (Wall) DiGianni, passed away Monday, Dec. 23 at Salem Hospital surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Everett, the son of the late Joseph and Clara (Scarpetti) DiGianni, he was raised and educated in Chelsea and was a graduate of Chelsea High School. Later in life, he continued his education earning his Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from Northeastern University.

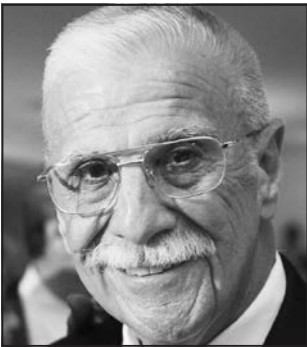
An honorably discharged, disabled veteran, he served his country as a member of the United States Army during the Korean War. He served as a Drill Sergeant and earned the Rank of Corporal. He was proud of his service to his country.

Mr. DiGianni had been employed for many years as a plant manager and efficiency expert in the Industrial Lighting Industry until the time of his retirement at the age of 83.

He began his career with Smith Craft and matriculated to Lam Lighting, was then associated with Towle Manufacturing and spent many years with Life Time Brands. He was known for his ability to communicate and manage his team. He was a diligent worker and was known for completing the most difficult tasks with ease. He truly enjoyed working in his profession but his greatest gift was the relationships he formed with his team members.

Vincent was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle. A lifelong resident of the City of Chelsea, he enjoyed spending time cooking and painting. He was an avid reader and enjoyed cheering on his favorite New England Patriots.

Vin had a special way about him, in that he al-



ways knew the right thing to say. He endeared himself to others easily and was always the life of the party. He loved to sing and would often grab the mic, even without being asked, and shared his vocal talents with all. He loved people and social gatherings and had a quiet confidence always. He was a man who commanded great respect without saying a word. He loved his wife and family immensely and truly enjoyed seeing others smile. He will be deeply missed.

Vincent is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Margaret Elizabeth (Wall) DiGianni, his daughter, Elizabeth Terchiak and her husband, Scot of Peabody, his sons, Vincent DiGianni and his wife, Rose of Seattle, John DiGianni and his wife, Lisa of Danvers; his grandchildren: Emily, William, Patrick and his fourth grandchild on the way, his sister, Donna Pantano and her husband, Alfred of Saugus and his twin brother, Joseph DiGianni and his wife, Marie of Revere and several nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. He was the father of the late Robert “Bobby” DiGianni.

Funeral arrangements were by the Peterson-O’Donnell Funeral Home, Danvers. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made in Vincent’s memory to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis TN 38105. To share a memory of offer a condolence, please visit [www.odonnellfuneralservice.com](http://www.odonnellfuneralservice.com).

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THIRD ANNUAL PUBLIC MENORAH LIGHTING AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Chanukah, an eight-day spiritual journey celebrating the holiday of meditation, joy, and hope, rejoices

in the power of light. On Dec. 29, the final day of Chanukah, members of the Tobin Bridge Chabad

congregation presented the third Annual Public Menorah Lighting and Community Celebration at Winnisimmet Park, in Chelsea Square, with latkes, music, and hot apple cider. “Chanukah is about light: bringing kindness and goodness into the world,” proclaimed Rabbi Sruli, who sang blessings to the Lord, and recounted the origins of the festival. “The first lesson of Chanukah is that even when things seem difficult, we need to stand up for what’s right.” More than 2,000 years ago, Israel was conquered by the Syrian Greek army, and Emperor Antiochus outlawed Jewish practice; sending many Jews into hiding to secretly practice their religion until the Mac-

cabees, a small group of courageous Jews, fought for what they thought was just. “The story of the community of faith through perseverance over tyranny and oppression means a lot to the current residents of the City of Chelsea,” said City Manager Tom Ambrosino. “We can take comfort in knowing that, with great faith, we can overcome even the most insurmountable of obstacles.”

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Rabbi Sruli, of the Tobin Bridge Chabad.



City Manager Tom Ambrosino celebrating the power of perseverance.



Devra Zabot and Foxy.



Rabbi Sruli's child, Mendy, singing blessings to the Lord, with Donna Rebibo, and Joyce Black.



Rabbi Sruli with members of the Tobin Bridge Chabad congregation.



Kim Bress, Laurel and Heather Segal, Jessica Slavin Connelly, and Sean and Owen Connelly.

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CHELSEA CITY EMPLOYEES HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



Odelisa Macedo, who did an outstanding job helping to organize the event, and DJ George Athas, who provided the musical entertainment.



Sharon Rodriguez, Laurie Taraskiewicz, and Diane Gulizia.



Steven Haley and Gina Guange of Hilton Garden Inn, Councillor-at-Large Leo Robinon, and City Manager Thomas Ambrosino.



Front row, from left, Nancy Gifford, Sony Bel Quinones, Mary-Lou Ireland, Vanessa Colon, and Ruth Velez. Back row, from left, Jim Sullivan, Angel DelValle, Steve Abate, Ramon Garcia, and Jorge Velez.



City Council Administrative Assistant Ledia Koco (right) and her mother, Manjola Koco.



Rebecca Wright, Yeni Solis, Odelisa Macedo, and Mariana Ceja.



Judy Velasquez, Cristina Quijada, and City Clerk, Jeannette Cintron-White.



Some of the many guests are pictured above at the Chelsea City Employees Holiday Celebration.



City Council President Damali Vidot, Council Administrative Assistant Ledia Koco, and District 5 Councillor Judith Garcia.

Northeast Metro Tech recognizes local Adams Scholarship recipients

Supt. David DiBarri and Principal/Deputy-Director Carla Scuzzarella are pleased to announce that 82 seniors at Northeast Metro Tech High School are among seniors statewide to receive a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship.

This scholarship is available to students whose MCAS performance puts them in the top 25 percent of their district. To be eligible, students must either score Advanced on the English, Math and Science exams, or Advanced on one exam and High Proficient on the other two.

“We continue to have a high number of our students qualify for the Adams Scholarship, and the Class of 2020 is no exception,” Principal/Deputy-Director Scuzzarella said. “We are extremely proud of our seniors and the example they have set for our younger students.”

Recipients of the Adams Scholarship are granted four years of free tuition at Massachusetts state colleges and universities. Students who receive the Adams scholarship must complete their college program in four years or less

and maintain a cumulative 3.0 grade point average.

Northeast Metro Tech High School honored its scholarship recipients with a breakfast for students and their parents on Friday, Nov. 15.

The following Northeast Metro Tech High School seniors have earned an Adams Scholarship:

Chelsea – Cassidy Chhoeun, Nadia DiFranco, Jerlin Erazo, Dilcia Izaguirre Quiroz, Evelin Mancina-Magana, Carlos Rivera-Molina, Saida Sanchez, Travis Smith, Shania Vellega, Bianca Zarzar.



A total of 82 seniors at Northeast Metro Tech High School are among seniors statewide to receive a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship award for their performance on the MCAS exam. (Photo courtesy Northeast Metro Tech High School)

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