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CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

VOLUME 121, NO. 10

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021

35 CENTS

Council puts some teeth behind fireworks ban

By Seth Daniel

The City Council voted emphatically, 9-0, on Monday night to create a new ordinance that not only bans fireworks, but also creates a \$300 non-criminal fine that the Chelsea Police intend to enforce vigorously after last summer's crazy battle with fireworks.

Councilor Todd Taylor said he had never gotten so many calls from so many corners of the City after he spoke up last summer about the barrage of fireworks during the pandemic from May to August. Nightly, fireworks boomed throughout the sleeping hours and disrupted the lives of many residents – with virtually nothing that could be done enforcement-wise due to the soft ordinance that was on the books.

Taylor has pushed a new ordinance with a \$300 fine attached to it that will follow the individual if they try to get permits, parking sticker and City benefits if they so choose not to pay up.

“From about a month before the Fourth of July and probably a month afterward, we were hit with fireworks going off all over the city at 2 a.m., 3 a.m. and 4 a.m.,” he said. “More than any other issue since I’ve been a City Councillor, I’ve never gotten as much feedback from the public as I did on this issue. People were legitimately traumatized... There is ample support for this out in the public. In fact, I would say overwhelming support.”

Councillor Calvin Brown also supported the measure, and said he was glad that it now had teeth.

“The police will be out there and we’ll be ticketing and coming after you,” he said.

Councillor Leo Robinson said it would be important to educate people about the state law banning fireworks, and about the new ordinance. He suggested a robust advertising campaign to inform everyone about the changes.

“We need to let people know we will not tolerate what happened here last year in regard to the fireworks,” he said. “At the Soldiers’ Home, many with PTSD had a lot of trouble with that.”

See FIREWORKS Page 5

MARKEY, PRESSLEY VISITS CHELSEA



Members of local community groups were on hand to join in with Senator Ed Markey and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, to support clean air Chelsea's Air Pollution Monitor site at Highland Park. Senator Markey also visited the Chelsea Collaborative. See Page 6 for more photos.

Nantucket Lightship returns home after seven months in Chelsea dry dock

By John Lynds

After seven months in a Chelsea dry dock undergoing extensive restorations and maintenance the Nantucket Lightship has returned to its home port along East Boston's Waterfront near Piers Park.

Since 2009, Eastie has played host to this national treasure and now the giant red lightship is docked back on Marginal Street at the Boston Harbor Shipyard and Marina after months of work.

“For the second time since 2011-12, LV-112 was

relaunched from the historic Fitzgerald Shipyard in Chelsea after slightly more than seven months of a major and comprehensive \$1.4 million structural restoration,” said leader of the ship's museum, the U.S. Lightship Museum (USLM), Robert Mannino, Jr. “Mostly implemented inside the bow section, the restoration included rebuilding the anchor manger, the forward port and starboard ballast tanks, bulkheads, hull frames, lower forward floor frames, and various other structural sections throughout the

ship including the mooring capstan on the bow weather deck. Also, more than a dozen sea-valves from the auxiliary engine room sea-chest were completely rebuilt, in addition to valves and piping associated with the ship trim and bilge pumping system.”

Mannino said routine maintenance also was performed, combined with an updated marine survey and ultrasonic testing (UT) of the ship's shell plating below the waterline.

In 1989, the lightship

See LIGHTSHIP Page 2



The historic Nantucket Lightship, also known as Lightship No. 112 or simply LV-112, recently left a Chelsea dry dock after seven months of restoration.

Candidates take out nomination paper for 2021 citywide election

By Cary Shuman

Chelsea's 2021 election season has begun.

Six candidates had taken out nomination papers for offices in this fall's election as of Tuesday afternoon.

Councillors-at-Large Leo Robinson and Roy Avellaneda took out nomination papers, an indicator that both officials will be candidates for re-election.

District 8 Councillor Calvin T. Brown took out nomination papers for his current seat. Norielez DeJesus took out nomination papers for the District 3 seat on the City Council. That seat is currently held by Naomi Zabot.

School Committee members Roberto Jimenez Rivera (at-large) and Yesenia Alfaro (District 8) have taken out nomination papers.

City Clerk Jeannette Cintron White said that nomination papers must be submitted to her office by Tuesday, Aug. 3 at 5 p.m. Cintron White said that depending on the number of candidates running for office, a Preliminary Election would be held on Tuesday, Sept. 21.

The Final Election is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Council unhappy with new Director's relocation choice

By Seth Daniel

There was nearly uniform disappointment on Monday night from the City Council due to the choice by the new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion director's decision to forego Chelsea and to live on Revere Beach. City Manager Tom Ambrosino informed the Council of a residency waiver at the Monday meeting.

Candace Perez, who comes from New York and is eminently qualified for the job, had requested a residency waiver from the City due to relocating from New York to Revere Beach. Already, the Council has grown weary of City employees almost weekly requesting waivers to live outside of the City, and said they were getting concerned about it at the

previous meeting. With the new director, who is to be immersed in the culture of Chelsea, five councilors Monday night questioned her dedication due to the decision to live in Revere.

And she doesn't even start the job until July 1.

“I did say I was disappointed that this person was relocating to Massachusetts and does not want to live in Chelsea,” said Councilor Leo Robinson. “I have some real concerns about that.”

Councilor Enio Lopez has been a vocal critic of the many resident waivers that have come of late, and said this one was unacceptable.

“I am against this waiver,” he said. “If this person is taking this kind of job, you should be in the City. How are you going

See COUNCIL Page 2

Broadway Capital proposes 30 units at St. Stanislaus campus

By Seth Daniel

With the closing of St. Stanislaus Polish Catholic Church last year, developer Broadway Capital has now advanced a plan to re-use the church as a residential complex offering home-ownership and rental opportunities.

Mike Vienneau, of Broadway Capital, said they will be bringing their project to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) next Tuesday and it will represent one of several projects they have just finished or have in the pipeline.

The proposed project - to be known as “The Cathedral” - includes the conversion of a church to 16-unit residential units and the razing of the older rectory structure to construct a 14-unit multi-family building. The ground level of that building will also include a total of 45 off-street parking spots: 1.5 parking spots per

residential unit. In total the proposed project will create 30 new residential units in the downtown area. The project will consist of 16 owner-occupied and 14 rental units. There will also be a shared open space terrace/ park area above the parking garage between the two building structures.

“We plan to keep the outside of the church intact and spruce it up with new windows and lighting,” said Vienneau. “They had to take all of the stained glass out with the church closing, so we'll have new windows there, and it's going to be a nice project... There's a lot going on now and we're excited because we have home-ownership opportunities. Most people aren't doing home-ownership. The City needs and wants owner-occupied units more than rentals.”

The project is in the R2 district, and is officially

See CHURCH Page 2



The former St. Stanislaus Polish Catholic Church and campus closed down last year, and now developer Broadway Capital has proposed a residential re-use with several home-ownership opportunities and ample parking for the downtown area.

INDEPENDENT
Newspaper Group

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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
See page 12 for Mother's Day Drawings



Chief Kyes, Officers Union comfortable with wearing new body cameras

By Seth Daniel

With new and pending police contracts containing language that will allow the City to move forward on implementing body-worn cameras for all Chelsea Police officers, this week local police officials said they were comfortable with the plan and anticipated no opposition.

Chief Brian Kyes said he and the members of the department are eager to implement the program. He said he still has to draft regulations for the cameras, and communicate expectations for their use – as well as go through the purchasing process – but is ready to get them on the street.

“I strongly believe that body-worn cameras can help improve the high-quality public service that is expected of Chelsea Police Officers which will in turn promote the actual and perceived legitimacy, impartiality and sense of procedural justice that our community relies on from the men and women of the Chelsea Police Department,” he said. “Many Police Chiefs that I know personally, both within the Commonwealth and across the country, who

are already deploying body-worn cameras in their departments tell me that the presence of the cameras often improves not only the performance and the professionalism of the officers who are wearing them but also the conduct of the community members who are being recorded as well resulting in far less civilian complaints.”

He also added that he expected an increased level of transparency and accountability in the rank, which he said is welcomed.

“I am confident that there will no doubt be an increased level of transparency and accountability within our ranks from the utilization of this equipment,” he said. “We are definitely eager to select a vendor and deploy the cameras with our assigned personnel as soon as we can.”

Patrol Officers Union President Anthony Morales said a lot of the members of his union support having cameras because it backs up their proper actions.

“I think with today’s challenges, a lot of officers are for them because it also hold the public

accountable for their actions,” he said. “The public likes to look at one part of a video and they cut in and don’t give the context of what led up to that moment. The officers I work with are for them, but they believe we should be compensated because it is a huge liability. It’s not a change in working conditions, but a huge responsibility within our working conditions.”

Morales said many of the officers are more worried about the regulations that will go along with it than they are about the concept of having their actions on video all the time. He said they worry about what might happen if they forget to turn it on, or it’s not on properly.

“I’d say 90 percent of it is great, it’s just that 10 percent that worries our officers a bit,” he said. “It’s the first time for this. I think it will be good in the long run. When it does come out, let’s see how the public changes. In our city, we don’t have an issue with such things like they do in some other communities because our department is so ahead of the game with training...It will be a game-changer in policing here.”

NEWS Briefs BY SETH DANIEL

CHELSEA PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMS

- The Virtual Baby Sign Language program on June 12th at 10:30 a.m. is funded by the Chelsea Public Library Trustees. Please sign-up by emailing kpalencia@chelseama.gov.
- The May Storytimes will still be on Facebook.

Please join us at <https://www.facebook.com/chelseamapubliclibrary>. There will be Mindfulness Mondays at 10:30 a.m., Bear Time Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m., Stars and Outer Space Wednesdays at 10 a.m., and a special storytime with the Children’s Librarian on May 11th and 25th at 10 a.m.

- Mindful Einstein Pro-

gram. A virtual weekly session of simple and fun activities to encourage mindfulness and relaxation in children! Thursdays at 4 p.m., 6/3, 6/10, 6/17, 6/24. Sign-up for one or for all by emailing kpalencia@chelseama.gov.

See BRIEFS Page 5

PEOPLE OF CHELSEA

Emily Menjivar - 15 years old

(The following is one in a series of sneak peeks at the upcoming People of Chelsea additions by Photographer Darlene DeVita. The new work will ultimately appear on the fence of the Chelsea Public Library (CPL) this fall in a collaboration between the People of Chelsea project and the CPL.)

By Darlene DeVita

I’m a student at Chelsea High, and I lived here all my life. My mom immigrated from El Salvador in her 20s. She moved here for a better future for my brother, and then she had me! Her journey was smooth, but it was hard adapting to American culture. She didn’t immediately have papers, so she had to do jobs like cleaning. She’s a resident now, thank God. I don’t know where my father is. He left when I was around seven.

What is my day like in Chelsea? I do online classes, have my meals throughout the day. I’m a vegetarian. I have an hour to do homework, and then I have to go to work at RIOT. Then after RIOT I do some more homework and then end up sleeping!

The RIOT team is part of La Colaborativa. I’ve been with them since I was 14. I applied to the summer internship, and I was in the RIOT active group. We focus on door-knocking and housing issues. In RIOT, we try to fight social issues that might be happening, whether it’s a case in Chelsea or a partic-



ular case that is happening in the world. Now we’re focusing on the vocational schools to change their policy on how kids from middle school can get into vocational school instead of having a policy that you have to have perfect grades and attendance

I want to be a lawyer. And I want to go to Harvard, why not?! I want to help people who can’t get a lawyer or don’t want to seek help because they don’t have documentation or don’t have the money for it. I want them to have a fighting chance, to get the justice that they deserve. I realized I wanted to be a lawyer when my mom would go out to work, and she would leave my sister and me with my aunt to babysit, and we’d watch Law and Order. I grew up watching that show. I wanted to be the woman in the court saying, ‘Why did you do this?’

I was always grateful my mom worked so hard, so me and my sister could

always have what we needed. It was hard not to always have her around when I won an award or anything, but her work did pay off. With my mom’s hard work in America, my brother had a chance to go to university.

I feel like things are going well in Chelsea, but I think there is more that can be done. I’m glad that people realize that many people don’t have the choice of always paying rent on time because the jobs they get don’t even pay them minimum wage. And with the whole COVID thing you can see that housing is a problem. When people don’t have their jobs, how are they going to pay rent? Where is the money they need for food? The way people deal with not having a place to live is to either couch surf or sleep on a porch and rent that out in summer or a really small room with five people, and they’d still be charging them \$1000. That is the housing crisis going on in Chelsea. There might not be people on the streets, but it’s there. A shelter would be very good; they’d have somewhere to go. I’m not sure why there isn’t a shelter here. It’s something that La Colaborativa has been fighting for. We need to change laws with rent, rent control, and things like that. It’s hard for a family or a single mother like my mom. She gets paid the same pay for the same job year after year, and her rent rises up and up.

Please visit www.chelsearecord.com

Eres tú un niño o una niña y vives en Chelsea? ¿Tienes la edad de 7 a 15 años?



¿Te gustaría asistir durante una semana a un campamento de verano, día y noche sin costo alguno?

El Club Rotario de Chelsea está buscando 20 niños y niñas de 7 a 15 años de edad para patrocinarlos al Campamento Rotario, este se llevará a cabo en la ciudad de Boxford, MA., comenzando la semana del 27 de Junio al 4 de Julio, 2021.

El Club Rotario de Chelsea pagará los gastos de matrícula y registraron al campamento, también proveerá transportación de ida y vuelta al campamento. Todo gasto personal que se haga durante el transcurso de este campamento será la responsabilidad del niño(a) o familia.



Este patrocinio está abierto a todo niño o niña residentes de la ciudad de Chelsea, y que no han sido participantes de este campamento en el pasado.

Para aplicar, por favor envía una carta de una página al Club Rotario de Chelsea y explica el “por qué” el Club debería enviarte a este campamento este verano. Todas las cartas deberán ser enviadas por correo o personalmente a esta dirección:

Chelsea Rotary Club c/o Susan E Gallant, 778 Broadway, Chelsea, MA 02150 antes del jueves 13 de Mayo de 2021.

No olvides colocar tu nombre, dirección, edad y número de teléfono de tus padres. Todas las cartas serán leídas y revisadas por los socios del comité del Club Rotario de Chelsea, asimismo el comité notificará a todos los finalistas. El campamento empezará el domingo por la tarde y finalizará el día sábado por la mañana.

ENVIA TU CARTA ANTES DEL JUEVES 13 DE MAYO Y DISFRUTA DE UNA SEMANA EN LA CUAL PUEDES ESTAR NAVEGANDO, NADANDO, ESCALANDO, PARTICIPANDO EN FOGATAS Y MUCHAS DIVERSIONES MAS.

ARE YOU A CHELSEA BOY OR GIRL BETWEEN THE AGES OF 7 AND 15?

Would you like to attend a week of overnight summer camp at NO CHARGE?



The Rotary Club of Chelsea is looking for 20 children between the ages of 7 and 15 to sponsor at a week of overnight camp at Camp Rotary in Boxford, MA beginning Sunday, June 27th, 2021 and Sunday July 4th, 2021.

The Rotary Club of Chelsea will pay all registration fees and tuition. The Rotary Club of Chelsea will also provide transportation to and from Camp Rotary. Some personal expenses incurred while attending the camp will be the responsibility of the child and his/her family. Sponsorships are open to all Chelsea Residents who have NOT been sponsored by the Rotary Club of Chelsea at Camp Rotary in the past.



To apply, please send a one-page essay of why the Rotary Club of Chelsea should send you to Camp Rotary this summer. All essays should be mailed or hand delivered by Thursday May 13, 2021 to The Rotary Club of Chelsea, c/o Susan Gallant, 778 Broadway, Chelsea, MA 02150. All essays should include your name, address, age and telephone number. A committee of Chelsea Rotary Club members will review all essays. The committee will notify finalists. The camp week will begin Sunday afternoon and end Saturday morning.

GET YOUR ESSAY IN BY MAY 13th TO ENJOY A WEEK OF BOATING, SWIMMING, HIKING, CAMPFIRE AND LOTS MORE FUN SUMMER ACTIVITIES!!

Chelsea

RECORD

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley
EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

THE BIDEN DEAL IS LONG OVERDUE

The ambitious proposal set forth by President Joe Biden last week in his speech to a joint session of Congress has elicited the usual negative response from the usual suspects.

However, those who oppose Biden’s \$2 trillion plan to invest in America and its people display a total ignorance of history, specifically, the New Deal.

Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal policies raised the wrath of Republicans who, similar to Republicans today, claimed that the New Deal would cost too much and that it was tantamount to socialism.

But the reality of what the New Deal achieved dramatically transformed American life in countless ways and launched America onto its trajectory to becoming the greatest nation on earth. Among the highlights of the New Deal were:

- The New Deal lifted millions of Americans out of poverty, especially older Americans via Social Security;
- The New Deal gave power to labor unions, thereby leveling the playing field with corporate America and creating the great American Middle Class;
- The New Deal enacted necessary government regulation that reined-in the excesses of Wall St. and the banks that had brought the Great Depression; and
- The New Deal included much-needed investment in our infrastructure, including countless projects that still stand today in communities across the country.

The obvious benefits to the nation of the New Deal encouraged policy-makers to enact other programs of investment in America over the next to 40 more years under Democrats and Republicans alike, including the GI Bill (Truman), the national highway system (Eisenhower), Medicare (Johnson), and the Environmental Protection Agency (Nixon).

During this time frame, corporations paid their fair share of taxes, individual tax rates were much higher, and income-inequality was non-existent (by today’s standards). America was the unquestioned leader of the world.

Today however, thanks to the shortsighted policies of the past 40 years (beginning with Reagan and abetted by Democrats) that have been highlighted by corporate welfare, excessive military spending, ever-increasing wealth and income inequality, and underinvestment in our people and our infrastructure, America has become the equivalent of a Third World country in many respects.

In short, America has gone from first to worst.

President Joe Biden’s speech laid out a path to restore America to our former greatness.

To those who say that we cannot afford the Biden Deal, our response is simple: We can’t afford not to.

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Forum

GUEST OP-ED

Work on your Mother’s Day memories

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Plan your telephone call to say hello to mom this Sunday. Better yet, if possible, make a visit with a card or even some flowers or maybe some brownies or a special treat. Moms deserve to be treated special. Take her out to lunch or dinner if possible. It doesn’t have to be Sunday, maybe Saturday would work better. Tell mom what she means to you. Let her know that you love her and that you give thanks for all she has done for you. Let her know she was a good mother and that you are grateful for everything. Moms need to hear it and you’ll be glad for everything you do for your mother.

However, you may not be so fortunate. My mother Eula Hinkle Mollette, passed away many years ago. My son’s mother Karen Mollette passed

away in 2002. The years go by quickly. For too many, Mother’s Day can be a sad day because mom is no longer here. All you have is your many memories and too often memories are filled with mixed emotions. You remember what was wonderful, but you may start thinking about all you wish you had done or could do if you had her today. If you have your mother today then celebrate in every way you can.

Sadly over 200,000 women are in prison or jail in the United States today. Eighty percent of these women have minor children. Mother’s Day is a painful day for these women and their families.

Millions of children live with parents who are addicted to alcohol or drugs or both. These children are raised in sad environments where they have had to emotionally

and often even financially help their parents. Often, these daily struggles make it difficult to celebrate the “picture perfect” day that is touted by the flower and card companies. They may go to buy a Mother’s Day card but just cannot find one that really expresses how they feel. Many children have been raised in painful, abusive environments and Mother’s Day is depressing because they can’t conjure up that many good memories of mom. Many of these children want mom to be well and healthy. They want to know that they are loved by mom. Unfortunately, there are so many adults who have mothers who could never turn their lives around. They are often exhausted from trying to make “Mom and family” work.

Mother’s Day is our opportunity to try to do the right things again. Us-

ing words like, “I care, love, appreciate, thank you and any that express your heart’s desire to be connected are worthwhile expressions. When you do the best you can do, you can at least look back and know that you tried.

When Mom and our loved ones are no longer with us then all we have are our memories. If you have any time left to work on your Mother’s Day memories you won’t regret it in the years to come.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

GUEST OP-ED

Migrants to Massachusetts: The search for affordable homes

By Branden Garcia and
Destiney Williamson

Housing is a human right. One cannot live safely without shelter. Every person should have easy access to a reliable place to sleep, protection from the outside world, and a dependable location to store one’s personal belongings. Despite a sense of division across American politics, the idea that people should have access to affordable, stable housing enjoys widespread support; a poll conducted by the Opportunity Starts at Home Campaign found that 85% of Americans believe ensuring everyone has a safe, decent, affordable place to live should be a “top national priority.” Eight in ten people say that the president and Congress should “take major action” to make housing more affordable for low-income families. Affordable housing is defined by the Federal Government as housing that does not take up more than 30% of a household’s income. Within the Greater Boston Area’s low-income neighborhoods, 30% of a household’s income will barely cover half a month’s rent. Communities that experience prejudice, job discrimination, and marginalization--especially immigrant communities--are all at a greater risk of facing these hardships.

Upon arriving to the United States, immigrants have to contend with a system that actively discriminates against them even while they provide valuable labor. Professors Jody Vallejo and Lisa Keister detail how immi-

grants have been forced to endure “a historical legacy of structural racism and discrimination in U.S. financial institutions,” resulting in paying higher interest rates while being more often denied loans than white people even after working towards good credit. Immigrant workers are often dissuaded from reporting abuses that they suffer due to language barriers leaving them in a state of isolation and instability. The inequities the U.S. immigrant community face go hand-in-hand with how the American economy depends on immigrant labor. According to a 2019 study by the Migration Policy Institute, “Immigrants constituted 17 percent (28.6 million) of the civilian labor force (166.3 million).” At least 17% of the current American workforce and its production capacity relies on immigrants, yet inaccurate stereotypes which label these workers as “job-stealers” persist despite studies not finding that local immigrants depress wages of non-college or college-educated workers. In fact, many studies have found that immigrants benefit the economy in many ways. Immigrants have made and continue to make great contributions to this country with their presence, even increasing labor market interactions and efficiency as well as lessening the cost of transportation by simply making metropolitan areas more dense.

As it can be clearly seen, immigrant communities face unique economic and social hurdles. Housing is steadily be-

coming more expensive while families continue to struggle to keep up as they are already grappling with wage inequalities. In Massachusetts, this problem is overwhelmingly common. In 2017, the average Massachusetts worker would have to be paid \$27.39 an hour to even afford a standard 2-bedroom rental apartment without spending more than 30% of their monthly income. But, the Massachusetts minimum wage remains at a low \$13.50 an hour. This wage gap vividly displays that the current average Massachusetts minimum wage worker needs two full-time jobs to afford a standard rented apartment! How is this reasonable? This is just looking at a two bedroom apartment, imagine the strain this puts on large families who have other priorities as well such as childcare, educational costs, and more. The Greater Boston areas are plagued by high housing prices limiting multi-family production. Unsurprisingly, housing costs have risen faster than the income of residents in Greater Boston and discrimination, resulting in resident’s paychecks going towards their housing and sacrificing funds for essentials such as food, utilities, clothes, etc. some things that the average family will have to scrap together to get by. This absolutely displays the need for affordable housing, but in a nation and state that does not push businesses and companies to pay its workers a liveable wage, this does not seem feasible.

We as a community need to do better. We as

a nation deserve better. Though we acknowledge that as a society, we are doing better to increase the equity in housing and income inequalities, there is still much to do. President Biden has repeatedly discussed and failed in increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15, but as we have analyzed, that simply is not enough. We call for: increased funding in low income and marginalized communities while revisiting and revising zoning laws which dictate where property can go on land. Zoning laws have also limited the amount of housing allowed near commuter rail stations in Greater Boston communities; more affluent whiter neighborhoods having perfectly clear land that could be expanded upon for more housing. Lastly, we call for increased funding to community-based organizations, such as La Colaborativa and The Neighborhood Developers to better assist their communities and address the inequalities in housing.

Branden Garcia is a current senior at Chelsea High School in Chelsea, MA. Working as the Chelsea Youth Commission Secretary at Chelsea City Hall, he is very involved in the wellbeing and advocacy of the Chelsea community. As a youth, he aims to educate others in the Chelsea community on how to advocate to create change for the betterment of all and make the city of Chelsea as equitable as possible.

Destiney Williamson is a current senior at the University of Chicago Laboratory High School in Chicago, IL.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Chelsea Record encourages residents to submit birth and engagement announcements, news releases, business briefs, honor rolls, social news, sports stories, and photographs for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Citizens Bank Building, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. The Independent also encourages readers to e-mail news releases to editor@chelsearecord.com.

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LETTER to the Editor

LOOK INTO
ELECTRIC BUSES

To the Editor,
I thoroughly agree with a recent public opinion piece co-authored by Senator Joe Boncore and Maria Belen Power in which they rightly criticize the MBTA’s proposal to replace the Silver Line’s aging buses with more diesel hybrid vehicles instead of new electric buses. This project could be an opportunity for the Commonwealth to begin to address the huge disproportionate environmental burdens imposed by the State on East Boston and Chelsea. These are densely populated communities directly under Logan Airport’s flight paths and overrun

with major highways spewing toxic pollutants without interruption.
It is astonishing that the MBTA is unable to devise an engineering solution for an all-electric bus to serve the Silver Line route. It would certainly not be precedent setting. Perhaps the MBTA could dust off its archives that illustrate how all-electric buses were successfully operated for many years in East Boston and other communities, providing reliable, quiet and pollution free bus service before being replaced with diesel vehicles.

John Vitagliano
Former Commissioner,
Boston Transportation
Department

Fireworks/ Continued from page 1

Councillor Judith Garcia said it was time for the Council to put its foot down.
“The timing is perfect,” she said. “Memorial Day is just around the corner and July 4th is coming. Education is very important on this issue, but it is time to put our foot down to say this will not be tolerated again.”

•FAIR SHARE PASSES WITH MAJORITY
The Council voted 6-3 on Monday night to support with a symbolic resolution the Fair Share Amendment, otherwise called the Millionaires Tax. The resolution voiced support for the measure and also support for putting the measure on the statewide ballot in 2022.

The Fair Share would tax anyone with income of more than \$1 million in a year at an extra four percent – with the proceeds of that Millionaires Tax to be pegged for education and infrastructure spending.

Councillor Garcia introduced the matter to the Council, and School Committee members Yesenia Alfaro and Robert Jimenez appeared to speak on the matter as well. The School Committee approved a similar resolution unanimously at a recent meeting.

“This is an opportunity to identify funds and target people who are making millions of dollars in income pay their fair share,” she said. “Ultimately, this is a symbolic gesture to show we approve this measure in our state.”

However, she was met with major pushback from Council President Roy Avellaneda, who gave a five-minute speech on why the matter makes no sense.

“I think this is divisive and unfair and participating in politics that is like class warfare,” he said. “I also think it’s hypocritical. As an economist, it will damage the state. And it won’t help Chelsea.”

In a long argument that was eventually called into question by Garcia, Avel-

laneda reasoned that implementing such a tax will only drive out the wealthy to other states that don’t tax them as heavily. Then, he said, no one wins and budget cuts locally are inevitable.

After some parliamentary wrangling, it was approved 6-3. Those voting against were Avellaneda, Robinson and Taylor.

•FROM OUT OF THE BLUE...
From literally out of nowhere on Monday night, while in the midst of a discussion on rules, Councillor Giovanni Recupero entered into a tirade about needing a hearing assistance device from the City to fully understand meetings.

While the timing of it was odd and left many confused by the suddenness of it, the matter was certainly serious.

“I am deaf in one ear and I’ve asked for an ear set and the City says it’s too expensive,” he said. “I want an ear set. I’m largely deaf in one ear and I can prove it...I demand that the City produce and give me an ear set so I can hear what is being said.”

And then, for a moment, there was silence.

•MARKET BASKET PLANS

Councillor Robinson put a piece on the agenda asking for the owners of Demoulas Market Basket to appear before the Council for an update on their plans for the former Mystic Mall property. He said the colossal supermarket originally opened in the Mall in 1981, and purchased all of the property in 1998. In 2005, the City changed the zoning with the ownership to revamp the property and build it out.

Since then, he said, nothing has really happened.

“From 2005 to now is unacceptable,” he said. “We should ask them to come to the Council and ask them what their future plans are for that property.”

DiDomenico highlights ‘School Meals for All bill’ at 53rd annual Walk for Hunger

Staff Report

In celebration of Project Bread’s 53rd Annual Walk for Hunger event, Senator Sal DiDomenico participated in a live panel discussion on his Universal School Meals legislation. Each year, Project Bread’s Walk for Hunger gathers people, organizations, and businesses together as a community to make the statement that hunger in Massachusetts is unacceptable. In addition to raising funds to support Project Bread’s anti-hunger work, this year’s Walk for Hunger helped to raise awareness on the new Feed Kids Campaign, an initiative led by Project Bread in support of SD519/HD1161, An Act relative to universal school meals, filed by Senator DiDomenico and Representative Andy Vargas.

An Act relative to universal school meals would allow every student who

wants or needs a school breakfast or lunch to receive it—at no cost to their family and with no requirement to sign up or provide income or other information. Just as no student is required to pay fees at public schools when they enter the classroom, there would be no financial barrier in the school cafeteria.

“It was a pleasure to joining Jen Lemmerman of Project Bread and my House partner Representative Vargas in this fantastic panel discussion on our Universal School Meals bill. Long before the COVID-19 pandemic, too many in our Commonwealth were struggling to meet their most basic needs. Today, the COVID crisis has shed a stark light on the state of hunger in Massachusetts, especially for kids,” said DiDomenico. “We have a moral responsibility to take immediate action to end childhood hunger in Mas-

sachusetts, and we simply cannot do so without providing universal school meals to every child, free of charge. I am so grateful for all that Project Bread does to fight hunger here in Massachusetts, and I am very proud to partner with them once again on this critical legislation.”

Right now, 1 in 5 Massachusetts families with kids is hungry, and 27 percent of children experiencing food insecurity in Massachusetts are not eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. However, as a result of flexibilities granted in response to the pandemic, every student in Massachusetts currently has access to free school meals. The barrier presented by cost and paperwork was temporarily removed at the federal level because this crisis put a spotlight on the need to ensure the right to the most basic of necessities—food—for all kids. Consequently, thou-

sands more Massachusetts children and teens have been able to get free breakfast and lunch at hundreds of meal sites across the Commonwealth.

Despite this important step forward, without state-level legislation in place, there is a possibility that barriers to school meals will return once the waivers expire post-pandemic. To keep school meals accessible for all students, Senator DiDomenico, Representative Vargas, and the Feed Kids Coalition joined forces seeking a bold solution to end childhood hunger by ensuring that every student receives the nutrition they need while they are in school.

This is the first legislative session this bill has been filed. More information about the bill and the Feed Kids Campaign can be found at the FeedKids-Ma.org.

Claire Massero appointed Director of Analytics and Performance Improvement at Legacy Lifecare



Claire Massero has joined Legacy Lifecare as director of Analytics and Performance Improvement.

CEO of Legacy Lifecare. “Claire possesses an intuitive understanding of the healthcare field and has an impressive track record in performance improvement. Going forward, Claire will play a critical role in the growth and expansion of our organization.”

Claire Massero is an

expert in data analysis, process improvement, and change management with over 10 years of experience in healthcare. Most recently, she served as Performance Improvement Manager at Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital. Claire led their PI team in supporting their quality, operational, and service goals. Her project highlights include the redesign of the care model of inpatient Psychiatry, design and implementation of the Daily Safety Huddle, and various flow related projects in procedural departments.

Claire holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Clemson University and a Master’s Degree from Northeastern University, both in Industrial Engineering. She resides in Milton with her husband, Chris, and 7-year old

twins, Hadley and Logan.

Legacy Lifecare Inc., a non-profit management resources collaborative, provides small-to-mid-sized organizations access to the infrastructure needed to succeed in today’s complex world. With deep expertise in strategy, finance, operations, and support systems management, Legacy Lifecare enables its not-for-profit affiliates to preserve their missions and identities while gaining access to sophisticated managerial services and collaborative opportunities ordinarily only available to larger organizations. Member organizations include Chelsea Jewish Lifecare, JGS Lifecare, Deutsches Altenheim and Sisters of Charity-Halifax (Wellesley).

Rep. Jessica Giannino on May is Mental Health Month

Representative Jessica Giannino Acknowledges May as Mental Health Month.

Mental Health Month raises awareness of trauma and the impact it can have on the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of children, families, and communities. Mental Health Month was established in May, 1949 to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness in Americans’ lives, and to celebrate recovery from mental illness.

“As someone who has struggled with anxiety for most of their adult life, it’s so personal to me that I acknowledge the impor-

tance of mental health and the impact it has on not only ourselves, but on our friends and families. You cannot help others without taking care of yourself first,” said Giannino. “It’s so important to me to end the stigma of mental health issues. So often, people are embarrassed of how they are feeling and embarrassed to seek help.”

Mental health is essential for a person’s overall health. Prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can recover from mental disorders and live full and productive lives. While 1 in 5 people will experience a mental illness during their lifetime,

everyone faces challenges in life that can impact their mental health. The COVID-19 pandemic has had profound impacts on the mental health of people of all ages, and now more than ever it is critical to reduce the stigma around mental health struggles that commonly prevents individuals from seeking help. Knowing when to turn to friends, family, and co-workers when you are struggling with life’s challenges can help improve your mental health. Living a healthy lifestyle and incorporating mental health tools to thrive may not be easy but can be achieved by gradually making small

changes and building on those successes. Seeking professional help when self-help efforts to improve your mental health aren’t working is a sign of strength, not weakness.

Giannino recently filed a late motion during the May 3rd Revere City Council Meeting to acknowledge May as Mental Health Month in her hometown, Revere, and encourages all residents of the Sixteenth Suffolk District in Revere, Chelsea and Saugus to commemorate and acknowledge the importance of mental health.

Briefs / Continued from page 3

ISLAND END PARK
SPRING CLEANING

Saturday May 22 (12:30-2:30 pm)
Join volunteers for a coastal cleanup and nature walk, learn about upcoming plans to improve Island End Park and more. Meet at Mary O’Malley State Park at 12:30 p.m. All ages welcome!

Wear long pants and sturdy shoes and get ready to get dirty! (And don’t forget

your mask too. COVID-19 safety guidelines will be followed.)

FEDERAL
RESTAURANT
FUND

Owners of restaurants, food trucks, bars, bakeries and related businesses can now apply to the SBA Restaurant Revitalization Fund. Available up to

\$10 million per business in COVID-19 relief for pay-

roll costs, rental payments, debt service and more. If used correctly, these funds don’t have to be refunded. Priority will be given in the first 21 days to restaurants owned by women, veterans and socially or economically disadvantaged groups. Learn more about the restaurant revitalization fund at <https://www.sba.gov/restaurantes>. Get help with your application by calling 1-844-279-8898.

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Markey, Pressley visits Chelsea

AT CHELSEA'S AIR POLLUTION MONITOR SITE

Senator Ed Markey and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and State officials visit Chelsea's Air Pollution Monitor site at Highland Park.



Rosann Bongiovanni, Executive Director of Green Roots spoke on how the communities of Chelsea and East Boston have joined together to make their communities a better place to live and raise children free of asthma and other bronchial diseases.



Senator Ed Markey and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley welcomed the local residents and state officials to Highland Park. Markey and Pressley discussed the new permanent pollution monitor that is located at the park site.



Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley discussed the program to eliminate pollution and the chemicals that are making Chelsea a high health risk zone.



State Representative Dan Ryan was on hand Tuesday morning at Highland Park.



State Senator Sal DiDomenico has a few words with Senator Ed Markey before the press conference.



State Representative Jessica Giannino and her aide Rick Serino at Highland Park for the press conference with Senator Ed Markey.



State Representative Dan Ryan, Senator Ed Markey, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Roseann Bongiovanni, Senator Sal DiDomenico and State Representative Jessica Giannino were on hand for the press conference at Highland Park on Tuesday morning.



Executive Director Roseann Bongiovanni and her group from Green Roots with Senator Ed Markey and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley.

AT CHELSEA COLLABORATIVE ON BROADWAY

Tuesday morning Senator Ed Markey was in Chelsea along with other local and state officials to speak on clean air and his work with EPA to clean up Chelsea's horrible air condition and other environmental issues. Following that he planned a stop at 310 Broadway, the Chelsea Collaborative. Senator Markey was met by staff of the Collaborative and The East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. The Collaborative and EBNHC has been partnered up during the pandemic to provide vaccines to Chelsea residents and surrounding communities. Senator Markey took a brief tour of the facility and asked many questions on how the community was responding to the Program.



A friendly elbow bump by the Director of the Chelsea Collaborative, Gladys Vega to visiting Senator Ed Markey.



Senator Edward Markey was greeted at the Chelsea Collaborative/EBNHC vaccine center by Greg Wilmont, COO of East Boston neighborhood Health.



Gladys Vega discusses the registration of the clinic with Senator Markey, and that it's supplying 300 vaccines a day to residents.



Senator Markey speaks to Dr. Jackie Farkes, CMO of EBNHC and Kelly Hennessy, along with COO Greg Wilmont.



Senator Ed Markey and COO Greg Wilmont and Director Gladys Vega tour the vaccination room. Where the procedure is explained to the senator.

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MassDOT to close Sumner Tunnel over four months in summer 2023

By John Lynds

If the past is prologue, residents in Chelsea and East Boston are preparing themselves for another traffic nightmare in 2023. At back to back informational meetings last week, MassDOT announced it will close the Sumner Tunnel in Eastie for a full four months during the summer of 2023 to complete its ‘Sumner Tunnel Centennial’ project. Most northbound traffic out of Logan Airport will be detoured to the Tobin Bridge.

At last week’s meetings on Tuesday and Thursday, MassDOT’s Steve McLaughlin said the project, which will kick off in 2021/2022 with prep and advance work, will have significant impacts on the two neighborhoods. While the project calls for weekend closures during the first phase of the project that will last through spring 2023, it’s MassDOT’s plan to fully close the tunnel for four months beginning in summer 2023 that has residents on edge. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic residents dealt with daily gridlock in the neighborhood caused by what many residents felt was an ill-conceived reconfiguration of the Sumner Tunnel toll plaza. Almost every day residents spent close to an hour trying to commute out of Chelsea and Eastie into downtown with nearly every main thoroughfare jam packed with motorists from the North

Shore trying to avoid Route 1A traffic. Months after the reconfiguration MassDOT officials admitted they used outdated traffic projections that predicted traffic going into the tunnel would grow by only a half percent each year. Going on those projections traffic into the Sumner should have only grown by 2.5 percent from 2013 to 2018. However, MassDOT said that traffic exploded and there was a whopping 47 percent increase in tunnel traffic since 2013. That was nearly 45 percent more than MassDOT predicted over the same time period. With the massive failure to foresee the traffic the plaza reconfiguration would cause, many residents have little confidence in MassDOT’s plans for a full closure of the tunnel from May through September 2023. At the Thursday night meeting McLaughlin conceded that traffic was way down due to the pandemic but during 2019 there were 39,000 vehicles using the Sumner each day or nearly 200,000 trips during the work week. McLaughlin said that as more people return to work, school and traveling the numbers will tick up once again and the four-month closure will pose significant impacts. MassDOT plans to re-route Eastie, North Shore and Logan Airport traffic through the Ted Williams Tunnel during the closure. Route 93 northbound traffic out of Logan will be

rerouted to the Tobin in Chelsea. At last week’s meeting one resident asked how MassDOT would ensure traffic is kept off neighborhood streets. McLaughlin said MassDOT would only put detour signage on major routes but admitted that motorists using mapping apps like WAZE may prove to be a problem. “We will be signing the main major routes, we’re not signing anything on any other routes,” said McLaughlin. “We will have real time monitoring so we’ll know what the volumes are so that we can adjust the timing as much as we’re able to do so that people don’t go on to local streets. We’re informing all of the mapping companies that these are the detours. However, we can not dictate to them where they send people unfortunately.” Mapping apps like WAZE, were cited by MassDOT as an unforeseen problem when the plaza was reconfigured. These apps help motorists avoid traffic and provide shortcuts to a commuters final destination. In the case of the traffic caused by the toll plaza project, these apps redirected many North Shore commuters off Route 1A and onto neighborhood streets adding to the unbearable traffic each morning. Now with MassDOT planning to close the tunnel for four months at a time when traffic should return to normal levels post-pandemic, residents

are nervous that North Shore commuters will be getting off the highway well before the Ted Williams Tunnel and cut through Revere and the Eastie. Residents fear Bennington and Saratoga Streets will be used more heavily as a way to avoid highway traffic into the Ted Williams throughout the closure. “The City of Chelsea has been disparately impacted by COVID-19, due to chronic air pollution, environmental injustice, and historic inequities that continue to affect our community,” said Alex Train, AICP, Director of Housing & Community Development. “During the Sumner Tunnel closure, the City will inevitably experience an increase in traffic, which could lead to congestion, air pollution, and significant community impacts, as traffic is diverted over surface roads. We’re committed to working diligently on behalf of the community to minimize the local effects of this project, in coordination with City Council and our community based partners.” Chelsea Council President Roy Avellaneda said Chelsea public officials have been in regular monthly meetings with MassDOT concerning the traffic impacts presently happening in Chelsea. “I fully expect the same coordination to happen with the planned Sumner Tunnel work,” said Avellaneda. “It’s difficult to predict how North Shore Commuters will change

their driving patterns with the four month closing. But I would expect some of those drivers to avoid 1A and instead take the Tobin Bridge or Rt. 99 via Rt. 16 as an alternative. If that’s the case, then Chelsea should expect a greater amount of traffic along the Everett Avenue corridor and if so, have MassDOT explain its plans to mitigate that added traffic congestion.” Avellaneda said MassDOT should provide the City of Chelsea with funding for Chelsea Police Traffic details as mitigation. “Another would be to see if the MBTA plans on adding more buses for the 111,116 and 117 for those commuters expecting to avoid the traffic congestion and take public transportation,” he said. “My other concern here is that if the Ted Williams Tunnel has a greater commute time, then how many Chelsea Silver Line riders will seek alternative public transportation options and if the MBTA is planning on those adjustments.” The proposed project consists of resurfacing the tunnel roadway including pavement and lane markings; rehabilitating the overhead arch and ceiling, including deteriorating suspended ceiling supports; restoring the historic portal facades and addressing the functional system deficiencies of the Sumner Tunnel. Once the project has been completed, the Sumner Tunnel will meet modern fire and

life safety codes with fireproofing, fire standpipe, fire alarm and CCTV upgrades. The tunnel will feature new LED lighting and security systems; new utility conduits and cables under the roadway deck which will improve cell phone, GPS, and radio service inside the tunnel. McLaughlin said the advantages of weekend and the subsequent full closure would minimize safety risks to tunnel workers and motorists accelerates project completion; minimizes duration of disruption to local communities, businesses and road users; provides consistent detours and diversions for the traveling public; minimizes temperature and weather delays; and allows for high quality of work. “We have a tunnel that is about 100 years old and we’re not replacing the tunnel, we’re rehabilitating the tunnel so that we can get another many decades out of it,” said McLaughlin. “And to do this it requires some shutdowns. There will be pain but that’s the nature of living in an urban environment like this. These are the types of things that we have to go through. But we think our solution is sensible and smart and safe in the long term.” The next meeting will be a virtual design public hearing on Wednesday, May 19 at 6 p.m. For more info and updates visit <https://www.mass.gov/sumner-tunnel-restoration-project>.

A photograph of a man with a beard and short dark hair, wearing a white shirt, holding a young child on his shoulders. The child, wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt, is reaching out with both hands to touch a tablet computer held by the man. The background is a bright, out-of-focus indoor space with some furniture and a plant.

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Area agency celebrates its one millionth meal delivered in Chelsea

Staff Report

The Shah Family Foundation, in partnership with Stock Pot Malden and the YMCA of Greater Boston, on Wednesday commemorated the millionth meal served to the Chelsea community through the Local Lunchbox program. Local Lunchbox is a program to maximize federal food funding by cooking healthy, locally-produced meals in the community, by the community, and for the community.

“The extreme circumstances of the Covid-19 crisis served for all of us as the mother of invention,” said Jill Shah, President of the Shah Family Foundation. “As unemployment skyrocketed and schools closed, we faced both unprecedented levels of food insecurity and increased federal funding to address it. Through Local Lunchbox, we leveraged that funding to create a new food distribution model – one that puts the money back into the local

economy by using locally-produced foods to cook culturally-relevant meals and create dozens of local jobs. It’s inspiring to see how this program has taken off over the past year as we mark our millionth meal, and we’re looking forward to expanding this model across Massachusetts.”

To commemorate the millionth meal, Governor Charlie Baker and First Lady Lauren Baker today toured the meal prep site at Stock Pot Malden



Dignitaries tour the Lunch Box on Wednesday.



(L to R) Jill Shah, President, Shah Family Foundation; Francis Gouillart, CEO, Stock Pot Malden; Governor Charlie Baker; First Lady Lauren Baker.

and spoke with several of the workers employed through this program.

“Our administration is grateful to the Shah Family Foundation for its commitment to providing children and their families with healthy, reliable and locally sourced meals,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “During this challenging year, programs like Local Lunchbox have been invaluable tools in addressing food insecurity and instability

for families throughout the Commonwealth, and we are glad to celebrate its millionth meal prepared.”

As the Local Lunchbox program reaches this milestone, today the Shah Family Foundation also unveiled a new resource – LocalLunchbox.org – for other communities interested in participating in the program. Already, the program has expanded to Fall River, Lowell, New Bedford, and Wareham.

The Shah Family Foun-

ation supports innovative and transformative work in education, healthcare and the community. We believe that interesting and lasting solutions sit where these intersect. Our primary work and support is centered in Boston, with the goal of sharing broadly the programs and innovations that prove successful in our home town. Learn more at: <http://www.shah-foundation.org>.

District Attorney Rollins convenes Hinton Lab initiative summit

Opening a summit to craft a systemic response to the malfeasance of the “management” of the Hinton Lab, District Attorney Rachael Rollins today said that any results from the lab while it employed two convicted chemists are inherently suspect.

“As members of law enforcement, we must be held to a higher standard. We hold immense power in the criminal legal system and have virtually unchecked discretion to arrest, document, charge, and seek pre-trial detention. We are cloaked in credibility due to the reasonable presumption that everything we do is ethical, morally sound, and constitutional. And it should be. Anything less is a disservice to the communities we serve and erodes trust in the criminal legal

system,” DA Rollins said. “It is never too early to address egregious and systemic misconduct, and it is never too late to rectify an injustice.”

Crafting a comprehensive response to the systemic harm caused by the now-closed William A. Hinton State Laboratory Institute requires the collaboration of a full range of stakeholders. The Summit gathered some 70 colleagues, including prosecutors, defense attorneys, members of the Trial Court, academics, data scientists, and policy professionals from across Massachusetts and beyond. Through a collaborative, multi-pronged approach, the group began the process of crafting a global and equitable resolution for all controlled substance convictions re-

sulting from analyses conducted at the Hinton Lab between May 1, 2003 and August 30, 2012, the period of time in which either disgraced chemists Annie Dookhan and/or Sonja Farak worked at the facility until its closure by Governor Deval Patrick. The Initiative potentially impacts tens of thousands of defendants in Suffolk County.

Last month in a court filing DA Rollins announced her Hinton Lab Initiative, pledging to vacate Suffolk County drug convictions for any individual whose drug certification was done at the Hinton Lab between May 2003 and August 2012.

The Hinton Lab Initiative, a sweeping reform built on a unique platform of collaboration, is needed because the Com-

monwealth failed “to adequately and appropriately manage a forensic agency that provided prima facie evidence used to convict” defendants, an utter failure that “constitutes misconduct and demands the result here,” the filing said. The extraordinary effort is outlined in an assent to a defense motion for a new trial for Justino Escobar, whose 2009 plea was “unfortunately one of too many where the integrity of the conviction is now suspect due to the notorious misconduct” that occurred at the Hinton Lab.

In all, chemists working at Hinton during this nine-year period analyzed and certified some 82,800 samples from Suffolk County. More than 7,800 of those cases were already reviewed and vacated with prejudice as part of the Supreme Judicial Court’s 2017 ruling in Bridgeman and others v. District Attorney for the Suffolk District and others. But there are some 74,800 Suffolk County certifications that were not reviewed, and they will be the subject of the proposed global resolution. Since one certification may be evidence used against multiple defendants and one defendant may have multiple certifications, the precise number of defendants impacted by this initiative is still to be determined.

At the summit, four working groups met indi-

vidually to begin the work of the Hinton Lab Initiative. The Data Working Group will bring together technical specialists to efficiently identify impacted individuals and streamline the process of repairing systemic harm; the Sentencing Integrity Working Group will develop strategies to rectify collateral consequences, especially unjust sentences and immigration actions, that stem from Hinton Lab analysis; the Global Remedy Working Group will pursue an appellate systemic solution to the impact of the Hinton Lab, focusing on strategic litigation in the Massachusetts courts; and finally, the Systemic Response Working Group will develop safeguards to prevent future misconduct and create new strategies to equitably respond to systemic errors. DA Rollins appointed her General Counsel Donna Patalano and Chief of Major Felony Ryan Mingo as co-Directors of the Initiative.

“This is not an academic exercise. The collateral consequences of a criminal conviction can have life-long impacts on an individual’s capacity to gain employment, attend college, secure housing, and use government benefits, as well as many other opportunities,” DA Rollins said. “It is why correcting the injustice and harm related to the Hinton Lab is so important.”

In a related matter, DA Rollins’ Integrity Review Bureau today asked a Single Justice of the state’s Supreme Judicial Court to vacate all remaining List Three convictions, which once totaled 117 cases, and now is less than 110. Last year, David Lewis, the Chief of DA Rollins’ Integrity Review Bureau, asked a Single Justice to vacate all remaining identified List Three convictions in Suffolk County. The List Three cases were those that District Attorneys did not move to vacate following the SJC’s landmark decision in Bridgeman and others v. District Attorney for the Suffolk District and others. In Bridgeman, the Commonwealth’s District Attorneys were required to certify that they could produce evidence at a retrial, independent of Dookhan’s signed drug certificate or testimony, that the substance at issue was the drug alleged in the charge. The Single Justice at a hearing in December asked for more information on each defendant, and that information has now been provided.

“Overall, today was a big day in Suffolk County. We just took a giant first step toward admitting and rectifying past harm and misconduct by the government surrounding the Hinton Lab. And there will be more to come,” said DA Rollins.

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OBITUARIES

CHS ROUNDUP

Joseph Edward Arsenault

Happy Heavenly Birthday May 10

Joseph Edward Arsenault (Eddie) was born on May 10, 1931 and passed away at his home in Chelsea from natural causes on January 9, 2020. He was 88 years of age.

Born in Saugus, then raised in Chelsea and becoming his lifelong residency, he was the beloved son of the late Sylvere and Josephine (Gaudet) Arsenault. Joseph was raised Catholic by faith and attended local schools. He resided most of his life in the family home at 145 Clark Ave. in Chelsea until he married and lived at 90 Grove St, Chelsea.

Some time in the 90s, he sold the family home and rented a place just two doors down from his familiar surroundings at number 147 Clark Ave., becoming very good friends with his new landlord. Then, in the year 2000, he finally settled into an elderly establishment called the Margolis building, at 260 Clark Ave. He never really left the neighborhood!!

Joseph was a veteran of the US Army, serving from August 1953 to July 1955, in which time he was honorably discharged. He also worked for many years as a bricklayer, becoming a lifetime member Of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers. In his lifetime, he acquired many friends and enjoyed taking walks, playing his numbers, and getting together with old friends and family whenever he could.

In addition to his parents, Joseph was also predeceased by a cousin named Leo, his former wife, Dorothy (Regan, Arsenault) Tully who passed in 2000, two of his sisters:



Matilda (Arsenault) Karwanski and Helen (Arsenault) Field and two of his brothers, Alfred Joseph Arsenault (Buster, also known as Jimmy) and Arthur Joseph Arsenault. He also lost a son, Edward Anthony Arsenault in 1980 at the age of 24, and a Stepson, Francis L Holland III, who passed away on March 30, 2016.

Joseph is survived by another sister, Thelma (Arsenault, Fisher) Machado of Stoughton and her sons, Raymond Fisher and Dennis Machado, a cousin, Theresa O'Driscoll of Chelsea and her family, from both Winthrop and Chelsea, a son, Thomas Richard Arsenault of Casselberry, Florida, a Stepson, James A. Holland of Bradford, Ma., and a devoted daughter and son-in-law, Theresa (Arsenault, Kelley) Plante and David Plante of Peabody. He is also lovingly and tenderly survived by his many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Dad, you were a soldier, even in the end, always living an independent life. We truly thought you were going to outlive us all with all your spunk!! God just wanted you now. Lovingly and Sadly Missed
Your Family and Friends

Joseph DiGianni, Jr.

Dedicated family man



A Funeral Mass was celebrated in the Immaculate Conception Church in Revere on Monday, May 3 for Joseph R. DiGianni, Jr., 88, who died on Wednesday, April 28 at the Massachusetts General Hospital following a brief illness. Services concluded with interment and Military Honors in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Joe was born in Everett, raised and educated in Chelsea and a graduate of Chelsea High

School, Class of 1950. He went on to Boston College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Business Management & Accounting. Joe enlisted in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict and was honorably discharged following his faithful service to his country.

On September 12, 1959, he married Marie (Reddington), sharing over 61 years of marriage together. The couple began their family together and moved to Revere in 1967 where they remained.

Joe had a wonderful education and a true knack for business. He worked at Raymond

Silver, later becoming Towle Manufacturing & Syratech. He worked there throughout all the buyouts and personnel changes because he was an asset to the company. Joe was in the accounting department and salesforce. His steadfast personality and knowledge is what made him such value to the company. He retired after 49 years of dedicated and proven service.

His love for family was most important to him. Joe was a dedicated family man through and through. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and brother. He and his wife enjoyed some trav-



eling in their later years to Italy and the Midwest. He was an avid reader, especially political books being his favorite reads.

The beloved husband of 61 1/2 years to Marie C. (Reddington) DiGianni of Revere, he was the loving father of Linda M. Hunter, Michael E. DiGianni, Sr. and his companion Donna Hoey, all of Revere and Richard J. DiGianni of Everett; devoted son of the late Joseph R. DiGianni, Sr. and Clara A. (Scarpetti) DiGianni); cherished grandfather of Joseph J. DiGianni of Everett, Michael E. DiGianni, Jr., Kristian Anderson, Brittan Anderson and Kayla DiGianni, all of Revere; adored great grandfather of Dylan, Luna, Addison and Ariella; dear brother of Donna Pantano and her husband, Alfred of Saugus and the late Vincent A. DiGianni and his wife, Margaret E. DiGianni of Peabody. He is also lovingly survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. Remembrances may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 309 Waverly Oaks Rd., Waltham, MA 02452. To send online condolences or for more information, please visit www.vertuccioandsmith.com.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to the care and direction of the Vertuccio & Smith, Home for Funerals.

BOYS SOCCER WRAPS UP FALL II SEASON

The Chelsea High boys soccer team competed as new members of the Greater Boston League in the recently-completed GBL's Fall II season.

The newly-composed GBL is comprised of eight schools: long-time GBL rivals Malden, Medford, Everett, and Somerville, who had played in the Northeastern Conference (NEC) for three years before regrouping back to the GBL; Revere, which returned to the GBL after jumping to the NEC in 2005; Lynn English and Lynn Classical, both of whom had been members of the NEC since 1970; and Chelsea, an original member of the GBL in the 1950s before leaving for the Commonwealth Athletic Conference in the early 1990s.

Among the highlights of the 2021 Fall II spring campaign for long-time head coach Mick Milutinovic's squad were a 3-2 victory over Lynn Classical and a 5-5 tie with a strong Somerville team,

which finished in second place in the league and which handed GBL champ Revere its only defeat.

CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM COMPETING IN GBL

The Chelsea High boys cross country team has been competing in the Fall II season as a member of the Greater Boston League under new head coach Samuel Fogel.

The five members of the 2021 Red Devil squad are junior Johnny Maldonado, sophomores Jose Olivar and Nate Nadow, and freshmen Alejandro Zepeda and Greandoll Oliva.

In a recent meet held on their home course at Admiral's Hill against Lynn Classical, the Red Devils came up on the short end of a 13-23 decision. Zepeda was the top Chelsea runner, coming across the line in fourth place in a time of 20:46. He was followed by Olivar in fifth place in 21:35 and Maldonado in sixth spot in 21:41.

DA Rollins unveils mural on survivors

Staff Report

Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins today unveiled a mural at the DA's Offices at One Bulfinch Place.

"We announced the commissioning of this work at the 10th Annual Survivors of Homicide Breakfast and we are amazed by its power, beauty and hope it will be a source of reflection for everyone," DA Rollins said. "This mural represents and reminds us that the lives lost were members of Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop, who lived, worked, played, and were important parts of our community. It highlights mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, and everyday people who are deeply loved, valued, missed, and never forgotten," said DA Rollins. "They are individuals who are so much more than the label of homicide victim."

The work was created by some 20 teenage artists working with Artists for Humanity's 3d Design Studio. The mural is portable and will be taken to the annual Survivor of Homicide Breakfast held each December. The mural, which features landmarks from around the county representative of the communities in which victims, survivors, and their loved ones live, will be housed in the homicide unit.

"After meeting with families, I often reflect on the damage and impact of homicide," said DA Rollins. "It tends to take over the narrative of who a person was and the people that loved them. A homicide is not just a life cut short, it is a life stolen. It's an act that has a ripple effect far beyond the act itself. It is trauma, it is pain, it is grief, and it is devastation felt by loved ones and communities."

Assistant District Attorneys, victim witness advocates, detectives, and families will be reminded of the commitment, and dedication to families of homicide victims by SCDAO. They will also remember that behind every name is a person that is loved and a part of the community we serve.

"What I can say and promise is that we will try our best to show up – not just in that horrific moment; not just at the Mother's Day Walk for Peace, not just during National Crime Victims' Rights Month, or the annual Survivors of Homicide Breakfast," DA Rollins said. "We will show up every night and every day. We will honor the legacies of those lost by attempting to ensure accountability. This mural will remind us, focus us to continue to do everything in our power to help on the journey towards healing."

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and whispered come to me.
With tearful eyes we watched
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Although we loved you dearly,
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A golden heart stopped beating,
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Bill, Kathy, Brian, Eileen,
and grandchildren

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CONSTRUCTION

UPDATE

Chelsea Curves construction look-ahead

through May 15

This is a brief overview of construction operations and traffic impacts for the Tobin Bridge/Chelsea Curves Rehabilitation Project. MassDOT will provide additional notices as needed for high-impact work, temporary ramp and street closures, and changes to traffic configurations beyond those described below.

ROUTE 1 TRAFFIC IMPACTS

•ROUTE 1 SOUTH-BOUND LANE TAKING (4/12 - 5/7)

*From Monday, 4/12 through Friday, 5/7 Route 1 Southbound where it passes through the Chelsea Viaduct portion of the combined Tobin Bridge/Chelsea Curves Rehabilitation Project will experience 24/7 closure of the right lane. The two other lanes will remain open throughout the closure period during peak travel times.

*The right lane closure

will assist in completing work in removing temporary asphalt and waterproofing, milling and paving, and stripping the roadway.

•ROUTE 1 NORTH-BOUND: Approaching the Tobin Bridge from Boston, the work zone begins in the right lane. 2 of 3 travel lanes will be open during daytime hours (5 a.m.–10 p.m.).

•ROUTE 1 SOUTH-BOUND: Approaching the Chelsea Curves from the North Shore, the work zone is in the median. 2 of 3 travel lanes are open during the daytime hours (5 a.m.–10 p.m.).

LOCAL STREET CLOSURES

•ORANGE STREET: Beginning Monday, 5/3 to Friday, 5/7 Orange Street will experience daytime closures (7 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

WORK HOURS

•Most work will occur during daytime working hours (7:00 a.m. – 3:30

p.m.) on weekdays. Some work will take place on a 2nd shift (2 p.m. – 1 a.m.) and overnight hours (9 p.m. – 5 a.m.) and on Saturdays (7 a.m. – 7 p.m.).

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

•ROUTE 1 NORTH-BOUND: Work includes installing strip seal joint, solid snow fence, milling, paving and rumble strip.

•ROUTE 1 SOUTH-BOUND: Work includes installing solid snow fence, milling, paving and rumble strip.

•UNDER-VIADCUT & STREET/PARKING LOTS: Work includes installing Fire Standpipe, drainage, underground electrical, grading parking lots, installing curb, placing sidewalks, painting, underdeck lighting and landscaping.

For more information about the Tobin Bridge/Chelsea Curves Rehabilitation Project, please visit the project website.

COMPLETED WORK

•All remaining work is within the Chelsea Viaduct portion of the job. Work continues on the reconstruction of parking lots underneath the Chelsea Viaduct.

TRAVEL TIPS

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

The contractors are coordinating with local event organizers and police to provide awareness and manage traffic during events. For your awareness, there will be no events at the TD Garden during this look ahead schedule.

Care Dimensions celebrates Nurses Week, May 6 - 12

Staff Report

Care Dimensions, the largest provider of hospice and palliative care services for adults and children in Massachusetts, celebrates National Nurses Week, May 6 -12 by honoring its 301 nurses, many of whom are board certified in hospice and palliative care.

The organization recognized Erin Barker, RN, of Chelsea for her professionalism, leadership, and commitment to excellence in patient care at Care Dimensions.



Erin Barker, RN, of Chelsea.

“We are so proud of our nursing staff and their

capacity to go above and beyond, adapt and rise to every challenge while bringing critical expertise and compassion to every patient and family,” said Care Dimensions’ President and CEO Patricia Ahern, RN, MBA, FACHE, a 44-year veteran in the field of nursing. “More importantly, their dedication has never wavered during our response to the COVID pandemic. Our nurses are gifted with the ability to discern the worry and apprehension that folks can’t quite get into words when they have

been feeling as vulnerable and isolated as they have in this last year. Their strong communications skills help guide families through life’s most difficult moments.”

Since our founding in 1978 as the Hospice of North Shore, our nurses have helped to make the time of advanced illness dignified and meaningful for patients and their families. We welcome new members to our team of caring, compassionate nurses. Visit www.CareDimensions.org/careers to learn more.

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All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper. Includes photo.No word Limit. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

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The Word!



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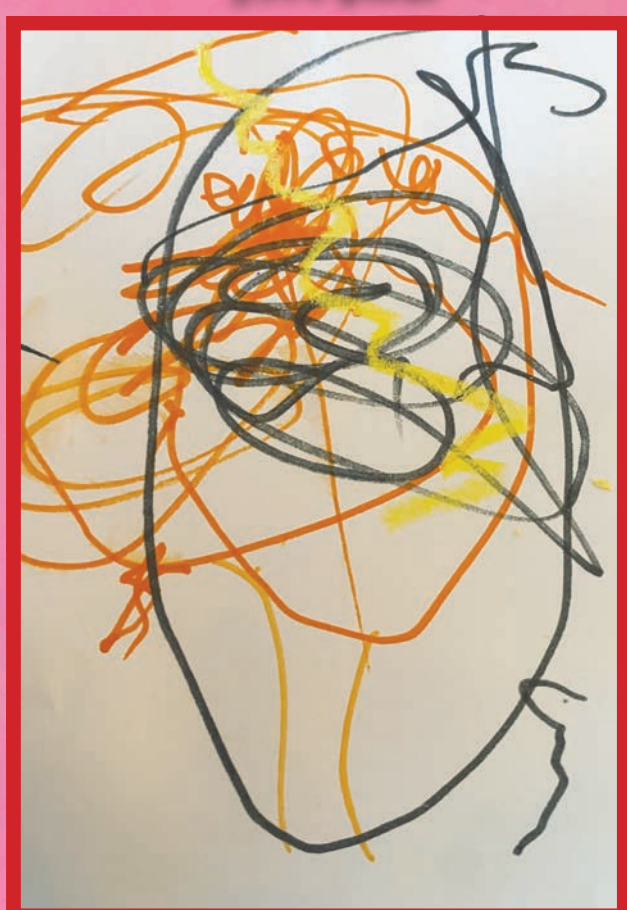
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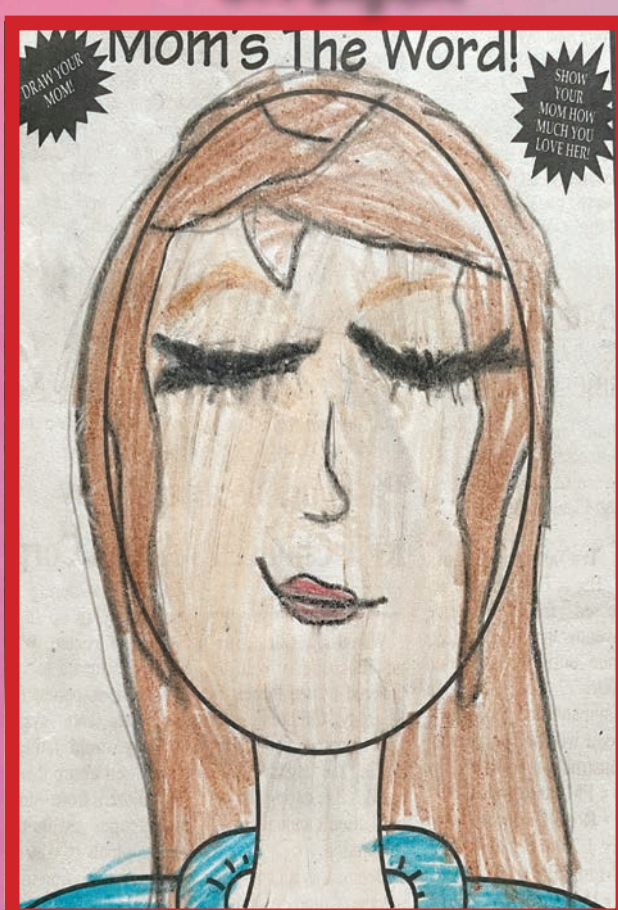
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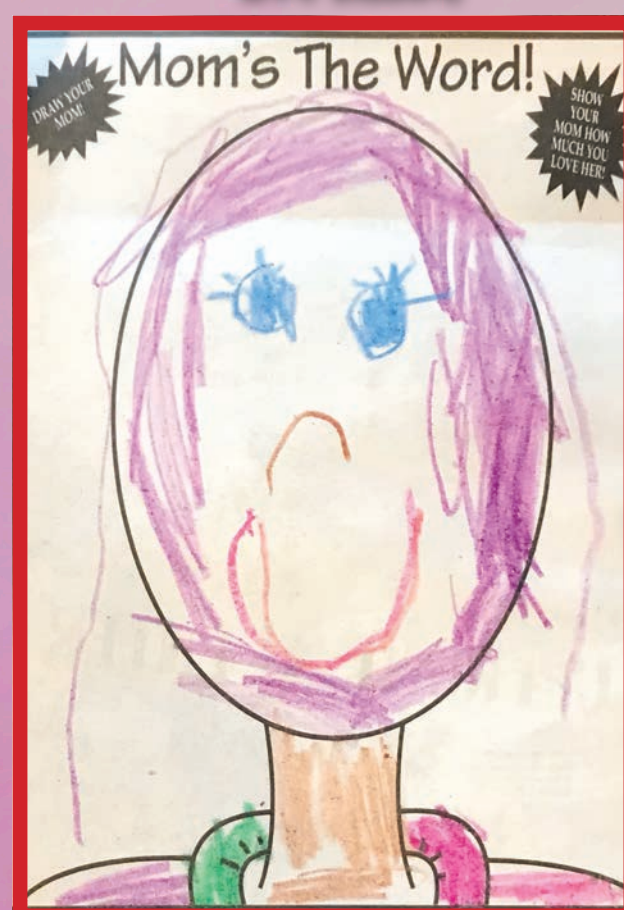
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