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CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

VOLUME 131, NO. 31

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021

35 CENTS

ON HIS GAME



Chelsea goalkeeper Arquimides Felix Barrero held off the strong Revere attack until he was injured forced to leave the game. See Page 9 for more photos.

Teachers Union stages walk-in

By Adam Swift

Chelsea teachers staged a “walk-in” on Monday as part of their efforts to demand what they consider to be a fair contract.

Teachers, staff, educators, and community leaders rallied outside the district schools on Monday morning before walking into the buildings together.

The most recent contract between the district and Chelsea Teachers Union Local #1340 expired at the end of the last school year. According to Kathryn Anderson, president of the union, the teachers’ top negotiation priorities include making pay competitive with nearby districts, paying paraprofessionals for translation services, reducing class sizes, and providing prep periods for all members, including weekly preps for paraprofessionals.

“I think the Chelsea community stands with us and recognizes how im-

portant the demands are for getting students the services they deserve,” said Anderson.

She said the support and participation from teachers across the district was high for the walk-in, and helped to show that there was unity among teachers beyond the leadership of the union.

Anderson said she believes one of the biggest issues on the school side is that there is a mindset locked into constant budget cuts over the years, and that some might not fully believe that Chelsea is going to see a major bump in Student Opportunity Act (SOA) money in the coming years. The SOA money coming into Chelsea is estimated to double from \$70 million to \$140 million over the next six years, and after the six-year phase, the increase from the state will become permanent.

See TEACHERS Page 2

Council votes against assessment for new vocational high school

By Adam Swift

Despite an appearance by Northeast Metropolitan Regional Technical High School Superintendent David DiBarri at a subcommittee meeting Monday night, the City Council unanimously voted to not authorize the payment of any share of the cost of a new \$317 million high school for the vocational district.

Several weeks ago, City Manager Thomas Ambrosino recommended the council not approve the borrowing and debt authorized by the vocational district vote in September,

noting that the burden would be too much for city finances and taxpayers. Because the 238 students currently attending the vocational high school is second only to Revere, the city will end up paying the second highest annual assessment to pay for the new building, under the state formula, or about \$1.9 million per year over the course of 30 years.

The no vote by the City Council is likely to trigger a district-wide vote from the 13 communities on the new high school building project. When asked by District 5 Councillor Judith Garcia if there are any

plans in place for Chelsea to leave the Northeast district, Ambrosino said it hasn’t reached that point yet.

“I have not given a thought to withdrawal, that is not going to be triggered by this vote,” said Ambrosino, rather, it would lead to the district-wide vote.

“If the (district) vote passes, we’ll have to come up with this money somehow, and as difficult a financial predicament that will put us in, we will have no choice but to do that,” he said. “If the vote fails, I think the district will have to get together because it

would mean the majority of the residents of the whole district did not want this school to move forward and they would have to come up with a different approach. Maybe it is a less expensive new building, maybe it is something else.”

DiBurro said that the issue of the funding formula is something that has only been recently raised by Chelsea officials. Under the formula, the percentage the 12 communities in the district pay is determined strictly by enrollment.

See COUNCIL Page 2

Public forums highlight use of federal school relief funds

By Adam Swift

School officials are looking for a final round of input on how it plans to spend nearly \$21 million in federal Covid-19 relief funds through the fall of 2024.

Over the past week, administrators have held several public forums on the proposed use of the ESSER (Emergency and Secondary School Relief) III funds.

During an online forum last Thursday evening, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta and Finance Director Monica Lamboy also outlined how the schools have put two earlier rounds of ESSER funding to use.

“The CARES Act ESSER I funds were available in the Spring of 2020 when we had just closed and there were substantial concerns about budget cuts,” said Lamboy.

Much of that funding was used to help pivot learning to a remote model in Chelsea.

The \$9.235 million in ESSER II funds are currently being used and a big chunk is being used to fund new positions in the schools.

“There were a wide spectrum of positions added, and they were added very quickly,” said Lamboy. In total, 67.25 positions were funded with the relief funds.

While some of the anticipated ESSER III funds will be used to continue to fund those new positions that were added, there’s a wider range of programming that school officials

plan to fund with the federal aid.

The biggest chunk of the ESSER III funds fall under the heading of mitigating learning loss and accelerating learning, at a total of \$13.05 million. Of that, \$8.1 million is earmarked to continue funding the positions added with ESSER II money through September of 2024, \$1 million is for new curriculum materials for math and reading, and nearly \$4 million are for relocation costs to move the Chelsea Learning Academy out of the high school.

Lamboy said moving the Chelsea Learning Academy, which is for the students in the district most at risk, will improve opportunities for those students and open up more learning space at the high school.

Just under a half million dollars are dedicated to Covid preparedness and response. In addition to continuing funding nurses, nurse aides, and the Covid manager hired under the last round of aid, there is money for temporary nursing services and covid testing and temporary

See FUNDS Page 2

LET’S GO FLY A KITE



Last Saturday, kids of all ages were invited to Mary O’Malley Park on Admiral’s Hill in Chelsea for some old-fashioned kite flying fun. Denia Romero gets mom, Shaula Romero to help with the tail. See Page 3 for more photos.

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Advocating for tenants, affordable housing and home owners

Increasing and improving food programs for seniors and families

Making sure our municipal employees kept their jobs during COVID

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LET’S GO FLY A KITE, SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF MARY O’MALLEY PARK

Last Saturday, kids of all ages were invited to Mary O’Malley Park on Admiral’s Hill in Chelsea for some old-fashioned kite flying fun. Kites, snacks, quality family time and a chance to meet new friends were the key goals of the event.

The event was sponsored by the Friends of Mary O’Malley Park, a non-profit founded to develop and coordinate activities to improve the park and provide activities for those who use the beautiful park facility. See Mary O’Malley Park on Facebook for more information.



The Friends of Mary O’Malley Park, Nahr Fonseca, Roger Bolduc, Mike Nappo, Vilma Tafawa, Suzanne Perez (event chairperson), Joan Donahue, Elizabeth Tousighnant, and Peter Trow.



The Herrera family, Rolando, Alejandra and Natalie are enjoying the day at Mary O’Malley Park.



Chelsea City Manager Tom Ambrosino (center) is at Mary O’Malley Park on kite day with Joan Donahue and Vilma Tafawa.



Hedaya Hachloufi enjoys her lunch with Mini Mouse.



Brandon Hernandez gets his kite off the ground.



Brian Hernandez looks for a little help from the wind.



Councillor Roy Avellaneda(2nd from left) with Peter Trow, Joan Donahue and Rodger Buldoc.



Marguerite and Isis Reyes at Mary O’Malley Park.



Things are looking up for Nelson Romero.

Chelsea

R E C O R D

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

GENERAL COLIN POWELL

The death this past week of General Colin Powell at the age of 84 removes from our country one of the most outstanding persons ever to serve the United States.

Colin Powell was both a soldier and a statesman. What Dwight Eisenhower was to America in the middle of the 20th century, Colin Powell was to our country in the latter part of the century.

The son of Jamaican immigrants, Powell was a decorated war hero through two tours of duty in Vietnam and became a trusted advisor to three American presidents in various capacities while serving on the National Security Council, as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and as Secretary of State.

General Powell was a trailblazer, becoming the first Black person to serve our country in those capacities.

His straightforwardness and honesty set him apart from his peers. Powell had no agenda, other than doing what he thought was best for the country and the world.

Whenever General Powell appeared as a guest on a TV news show, it was must-see TV, because unlike politicians and others, he always could be counted upon to tell the truth.

There was one glaring exception of course, and that was his support for the War in Iraq, which rates among the most disastrous, and certainly the most consequential, military endeavor in our nation's history.

Powell later conceded that his support for that war was a "blot" on his record. But that admission to making a mistake precisely is what set him apart from his peers.

In an interview with the New York Times, General Powell was asked to describe himself. Here is what he said:

"Powell is a problem-solver. He was taught as a soldier to solve problems. So he has views, but he's not an ideologue. He has passion, but he's not a fanatic. He's first and foremost a problem-solver."

Our nation and the world are the poorer for the loss of Colin Powell.

May he rest in peace.

GET YOUR BOOSTER STAT

With the FDA and the CDC recommending that already-vaccinated Americans over a certain age and with certain medical conditions receive booster shots, we urge all of our readers who qualify to receive a booster to do so as soon as possible (in medical lingo, STAT).

COVID-19 is not going away anytime soon, if ever, thanks to a combination of high-transmissibility of its variants and the refusal of a large number of Americans to become vaccinated.

We now know that the efficacy of the vaccines wanes over time, but that a third dose (for Moderna and Pfizer) and a second dose (for Johnson and Johnson) provides amped-up immunity.

COVID-19 is a terrible way to die and even for those who survive it, so-called long-haul COVID can have devastating health effects for up to 30% of those who contract the disease.

A vaccine -- and a booster -- are the best way to protect ourselves.

Forum

GUEST OP-ED

Cargo ships – America's old jobs floating at sea

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Cargo ships waiting to unload at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach California could keep some of America's store shelves bare for a while. These two ports handle the bulk of cargo coming from China. Cargo keeps coming from China, making the congestion craziness only worse. The dozens of ships floating in the pacific are carrying products that used to be some of America's good paying jobs.

Today, about 90% of non-bulk cargo worldwide is transported by container. Modern container ships carry over 21,000 TEUs and rival crude oil tankers as the largest commercial vessels on the ocean. A TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit) is a measure of volume in units of twenty-foot-long containers. If you have ever seen any of these cargo ships come into the port at Savannah, Georgia, or these California ports then you know its mind blowing the amount of cargo stacked and transported across the ocean. The weight of the cargo is estimated between 15,000 to 18,000 tons on most of the ships.

General cargo vessels

carry packaged items like chemicals, foods, furniture, machinery, motor vehicles, shoes, clothing and more. Dry bulk carriers carry coal, grain, ore and other similar products. Reefer ships are refrigerated ships which specifically carry perishable commodities such as fruits, vegetables, meats and dairy products. Roll-on ships are designed to carry wheeled cargo, such as cars, trucks, semi-trailer trucks, trailers, and railroad cars, that are driven on and off the ship on their own wheels.

China's exports to the United States were \$452.58 Billion during 2020, according to the United Nations COMTRADE database on international trade. The top goods exported from China to the U.S. and their total values for 2018 were electrical machinery (\$152 billion), machinery (\$117 billion), furniture and bedding (\$35 billion), toys and sports equipment (\$27 billion), and plastics (\$19 billion).

Japan's exports to the United States were \$118.79 Billion during 2020, according to the United Nations COMTRADE database on in-

ternational trade. These products are vehicles, machinery, electronics, optical and medical, aircraft, pharmaceuticals, plastics, rubbers, toys, games and sports equipment.

United States Imports from Germany were \$117.39 Billion during 2020, according to the United Nations COMTRADE database on international trade. We import most of the same products from Germany as we do Japan including \$78 billion dollars in mineral fuels including oil.

We continue to hear about all the job openings in the United States. Amazon needs employees, Federal Express, UPS and all the trucking companies are begging for workers. I've seen several big banners on trucks begging for drivers at a starting salary of \$2,500 a week. Walmart advertises all the time for truckers with a beginning salary of \$84,000 a year. There is obviously a lot of work in delivering goods from the shipping ports of America. The shipping ports are all products made in China, Japan, Germany, and other places. We have and are pumping these countries

with billions and billions of dollars.

We hear a lot about infrastructure. We need good roads and bridges, Internet, new pipe lines throughout America to carry our water supply and American made chips for our cars, computers and phones and more. We also must start making all the products just mentioned in America. Our President and Congress must give companies every opportunity in reasonable tax breaks and incentives to compete with foreign countries. If we can bring manufacturing back to the United States then we will return to real jobs in this country that pay enough money for people to raise a family, own a car and save for retirement. Until this happens Americans will only see increasing financial hardships and more jobs floating away.

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.

LETTER to the Editor

RE-ELECT LEO ROBINSON

To the Editor:

Friends,

I am writing to ask that you consider casting a vote to re-elect Leo Robinson as Chelsea City Councilor At Large. I have known Leo since 1972 when I went to work for Community Action Programs Inter-City, Inc. (CAPIC) as a Health Organizer. At that time, Leo was working to develop low income housing for Chelsea residents. It was not long before I came to admire and respect his dedication, honesty and love of Chelsea. Leo guided me as my mentor and colleague and soon became a dear friend. Leo was employed by CAPIC until 1988 when his decision to run for politics enabled him to positively affect residents on a larger scale. As Councilor At Large and five times President of the Council, he enacted policy to bring equality to various sectors of the Chelsea community, always placing resident needs first. Having been a lifelong resident and Viet Nam Veteran, Leo had a clear understanding of resident needs. His compassion is second to none!

Leo actively worked during the Chelsea conflagration of 1973 to place over 200 families in permanent housing, while his own family was displaced as a result of that fire. Leo most recently was a major advocate for the re-development of the Innes Apartments, along Central Avenue that will provide state of the art housing for public tenants and private renters. Leo has always considered Fire and Law Enforcement to be a critical service that should be properly funded, along with our School Department. Leo has been a proponent of low income housing, sheparding through an ordinance to ensure low income housing is built for residents who are at 20% to 30% of the Median income. Leo and his brother Ronald created the Lewis Latimer Society to honor that black inventor, raised in Chelsea who was responsible for designing the critical filament in the light bulb. Leo has remained active in supporting youth sports and programs that led youth to educational opportunity. These are but some of the reasons that Chelsea needs Leo Robinson to continue serving as Councilor at Large and

I pledge my support in helping him continue to help Chelsea.

**Robert S. Repucci
CAPIC Executive
Director-Retired**

MARIA BELEN POWER, THE "POWER" HOUSE

To the Editor:

Maria Belen is a breath of fresh air in the political world. She is genuine, committed, tenacious, and continues to demonstrate through her community work and personal involvement that she is ready to lead in Chelsea.

Maria Belen possesses the knowledge and heart to represent residents of District 8. She is connected to the community which allows her to hear directly from constituents the needs and concerns facing our community. When Covid-19 hit the city of Chelsea, Maria Belen was at the forefront of advocating for our community. She teamed up with a group of concerned citizens and got the attention of Governor Baker which ultimately got Chelsea much-needed resources. She understood the complex and multifaceted problems covid imposed on our commu-

nity and she faced all the issues head-on, providing tangible and creative solutions. I am excited to see her leadership in action at the city council level.

Residents of District 8: if you haven't already met Maria Belen, I encourage you to say hello on her campaign trail. You will fall in love with her not only because she is a phenomenal woman, but because her passion for the community of Chelsea will come through within minutes of meeting her.

This Nov. 2, I encourage you to vote for Maria Belen Power for City Councilor District 8. She is the "Power" house we have been waiting for.

Zaida Ismatul Oliva

WHY I'M VOTING FOR MARISOL SANTIAGO FOR DISTRICT 3

To the Editor:

In 2018, I bought my first home - a red multi-family hilltop house - in Chelsea. There were many reasons I chose to move from Cambridge to Chelsea but, chief amongst them was my new town's close-knit sense of

See LETTERS Page 7

CHELSEA

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CHELSEA’S GREEN ROOTS BRINGS IN FAINTING GOATS TO HELP WITH NEW PARK



Kendra Gomez Pereria asks Alan Aulson a question about the goats.



The Mytonic (fainting goats) enter Mill Creek for a feast on brush, to help clear the Mill Creek area for the new park. The goats get their name because when startled the literally pass-out for a short period of time. The children were allowed to pet them and enjoy their company.

Last Saturday morning “Fainting Goats” were seen on Broadway Chelsea. The Mill Creek area behind 1000 Broadway is slated for a face lift, the area covered with brush

and Poison Ivy is to be cleared and a new park facility is to be built. Executive Director of Green Roots, Roseanne Bongiovanni decided to bring in 8 goats from

Great Rock Farm (Goats to Go) in Georgetown, Ma, that literally ate their way through the brush as an Eco-friendly way to dispose of the brush.

It was a great event, pumpkin decorating for the kids, pizza, donuts, juice and coffee for everyone, all getting a great event and a new park coming in the future.



As the goats quickly start to feast, Alan Aulson from Goats to Go explains the type of goats and how this is great for the eco-system, as a way of brush disposal. Executive Director of Green Roots Roseanne Bongiovanni videos the event for social media posting, for more people to enjoy the event.



A low (very low) voltage fence was set up around the parameter to keep the goats in the general area of feeding.



The plans for the new park were on display last Saturday, that have previously discussed 6 months earlier with residents. Shown from left: Chris Kenny, Councillor Damali Vidot, Stacy Amaral, Executive Director of Green Roots Rose Bongiovanni, Irma Mazzoni, John Maxson, Melissa Green, Emily Mueller-DeCelis.



Nothing beats a donut with sprinkles, just ask John Maya.



Chelsea Councillor at Large Damali Vidot (right) is shown with Nina Rosa and Judie Dyer at Mill Creek last Saturday.



Pumpkin decorating was enjoyed by Kendra, Leonardo and Matthew Peieria.

Re-Elect Leo Robinson
Councillor-At-Large
5 Term President of
Council • US Army Veteran
Homeowner • Co-Founder &
Director of Lewis H. Latimer
Society • 617-791-6756



RE-ELECT
Leo Robinson
Councillor **VOTE** At-Large

Leo has been working tirelessly for over 30 years as a Councillor At Large to represent Chelsea residents in a professional, honest, and courageous manner. Leo has established a clear and proven track record of accomplishments as a leader who understands resident needs, has compassion for the impoverished, and is sensitive to the needs of all Chelsea residents. Leo’s goal is to build a better Chelsea.

Leo ha trabajado duro durante más de treinta años como Concejal de la ciudad para representar a los residentes de Chelsea de manera profesional, honesta y valiente. Leo ha establecido un historial de logros claro y comprobado como un líder que comprende las necesidades de sus residentes, tiene compasión por los empobrecidos y es sensible a todos los residentes de Chelsea. El objetivo de Leo es construir una mejor Chelsea.

Ron Ronald Robinson *Bob* Bob Repucci

Serving You - Serving All of Chelsea
Paid Political Advertisement

THE CHELSEA FAITH AND BLUE KICK OFF EVENT

The Chelsea Faith and Blue Kick Off event brought together the Chelsea Police Department and the Chelsea Interfaith Alliance. The goal was to create an ongoing partnership that can focus on the mission and purpose of the Faith & Blue initiative. Participating faith organizations included:

Rabbi Oksana Chapman, Temple Emmanuel
Keila Velez, Centro Familiar Adoración
Diego Netto, Revive Community Church
Rev. Dr. George Walters-Sleyon, People's AME
Rev. Ellen Rohan Ball, First Congregational Church
Ida MacRae, Director, Seafarer's Friends Society
Not able to attend the event but members of the Chelsea Interfaith Alliance include:
Father Edgar A. Gutiérrez-Duarte. St. Lukes-San Lucas Episcopal Church
Mohamed Llamaallem, Al-Huda Society
Ricardo Valle, La Luz De Cristo

Representing the Chelsea Police Department include Chief Brian Kyes, Captain David Batchelor, Captain Dunn and Community Engagement Specialist Dan Cortez as well as Officers from various Divisions of the Department. Faith & Blue was launched to facilitate safer, stronger, more just and unified communities by directly enabling local partnerships among law enforcement professionals, residents, businesses and community groups through the connections of local faith-based organizations. The initiative aims to re-calibrate police-community relations through solutions-focused, in-person, socially distanced and/or virtual activities that are organized jointly by faith-based or other community groups and law enforcement agencies.



Event organizer, Dan Cortez (right) with local clergy members, Pastor Diego Netto, Rabbi Oksana Chapman and Pastor Ellen Rohan-Ball.



Chelsea Police Chief Brian Kyes, organizer Dan Cortez, members of the CPD and local clergy gathered in Chelsea Square to bring unity and trust between the police and the general public. Clergy offering prayer and peace to keep the neighborhood safe, and bring public safety back to the residents.



Chelsea Police Officer David Delany and Lt. Dan Delany.



CPD Chief Brian Kyes and members of the Chelsea Police Department at the Faith in Blue event, recently held in Chelsea Sq. Following the speaking part of the program, CPD happily passed served ice cream to those in attendance.

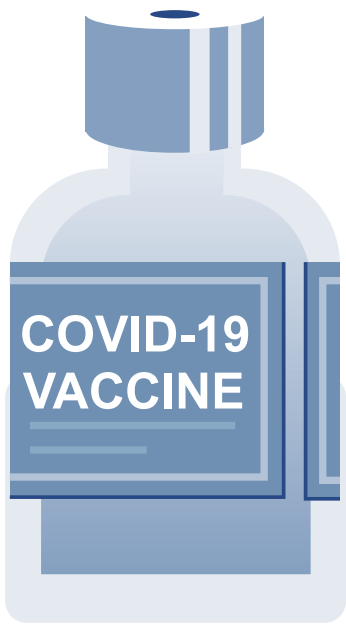
Wondering how the vaccine was developed so quickly?

There's a lot of information out there and it's natural to have questions.
Here's how it happened:

Coronaviruses aren't new. In fact, scientists had been studying similar viruses for years.

- ✓ When the COVID-19 pandemic began, public organizations, private companies, scientists, and experts across the globe came together to develop this vaccine safely.
- ✓ Vaccines were tested in three stages of clinical trials involving thousands of volunteers from all backgrounds, races, and ethnicities.
- ✓ After studying the data, three vaccines were deemed safe and effective by the FDA and CDC.
- ✓ Vaccines were manufactured in multiple labs to reach people across the country.

The vaccine was developed quickly, without cutting corners.



Have more questions?
Get the reliable information you need to make the decision that is right for *you*.

mass.gov/CovidVaccineFAQ



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The **VACCINE SAVES LIVES**



Letters / Continued from page 4

community and culture. In Cambridge, it was easy to feel like another number; I lived in the same house for 3 years, and never even knew my neighbors’ names! But, in Chelsea, you feel welcomed and seen.

Within days of moving into my home on Hooper Street, I realized my impression of Chelsea was accurate: The diverse and driven populace is never too busy to spare a minute to ask, “Hey, how are you” or “Hola, que tal?” And, because Spanish is my second language, I had the opportunity to build deep connections with other newcomers, including the Garcia* family, a lovely couple and three small kids, who moved into the first floor unit of my home. I also exchanged telephone numbers with several folks on my street and learned the names of a dozen other neighbors. One of those names was “Marisol Santiago”, a neighbor who struck me as vibrant, warm, and considerate; Marisol and I exchanged many pleasantries over the following two years, but it wasn’t until disaster struck in August 2020 that I truly realized how big-hearted she is.

On August 11, I received one of the worst phone calls of my life. There was a three-alarm fire at my home. The fire was absolutely devastating and all-consuming; my house would have to be rebuilt from the studs out. Fortunately, and by the grace of God, no one was home that evening. Unfortunately, that raging inferno deprived two families of our shared Hooper Street home. In the immediate aftermath of the fire, the Chelsea community gathered around us and offered thoughtful condolences. Still, in the midst of crisis, words and well wishes can only do so much.

My priority that night was locating and secur-

ing a family-friendly residence for my tenants; and, as you’d imagine, this was an extremely stressful and complicated task to achieve on a moment’s notice. That’s when I really understood the type of person Marisol Santiago is.

As a Chelsea High School graduate, Ms. Santiago has lifelong roots in the community, and she wasn’t satisfied with waiting on others to provide long-term housing solutions to neighbors in need. Rather, Ms. Santiago directed me to CAPIC and the school community, who made the necessary arrangements for my tenants in their hour of need. Because of Ms. Santiago’s consideration, my wonderful tenants were able to move into a family-friendly unit while our shared home was rebuilt. Ms. Santiago never asked for anything in return and her compassion turned a terrible nightmare into a manageable problem.

Quite simply, Ms. Santiago’s genuine concern and desire to help her neighbors impressed me tremendously; and, I fear to think where my tenants would have lived the past year without Ms. Santiago’s thoughtfulness and quick-thinking. It’s reassuring to know that your community has your back and that when times get tough; it’s refreshing to know that there are people who will do their utmost to help you without expecting compensation in return. People say these qualities are hard to find nowadays, but that’s certainly not true in Chelsea – especially when Marisol Santiago is around!

As an active community member, Marisol Santiago has connections and knows how to use her network to problem solve under pressure. Ms. Santiago is exactly the type of leader Chelsea needs in city hall. She will fervently fight for our interests because she genuinely cares

about bettering the lives of the individuals in our community. My vote for District 3 will go to Marisol Santiago, and yours should too.

Alex Fotta

I SUPPORT MARIA BELEN POWER

To the Editor:
This is a letter to residents of District 8 and residents of the city of Chelsea in Support of Maria Belen Power, candidate for City Council for District 8.

I am a resident of this city and one of those who led the fight to elect the first Latino in the city of Chelsea.

It is an honor for me to support and recommend that you elect Maria Belen Power. She is a professional woman, strategist and visionary. I am sure that if she is elected, she will bring new energy and vision to the City Council of this city that it so badly needs.

Maria Belen works as an environmentalist and has been an organizer not only for the improvement of the environment, but is also very supportive of the low-income communities and the immigrant community of this city.

Chelsea faces great challenges to meet the needs of the most marginalized population. Rent prices have risen. Large housing corporations want to come to build luxury buildings and displace the tenants who already pay exaggerated rents. I am sure that Maria Belen will always fight for the people of Chelsea.

Maria Belen was recently appointed to a national environmental committee by the Joe Biden administration. That is a great recognition earned with her own work and exalts the name of this city. We need councilors like her. With all due respect, I ask you to vote for Maria Belen Power on November 2.

Angel (Tito) Meza

DiDomenico urges passage of right to counsel legislation

DiDomenico Urges Passage of His Right to Counsel Legislation

Last week, Senator Sal DiDomenico testified before the Joint Committee on Housing in support of legislation he has championed in the Massachusetts Senate for several sessions: An Act promoting housing stability and homelessness prevention in Massachusetts, also known as the Right to Counsel Bill.

DiDomenico’s Right to Counsel bill, S.874, would make legal representation in eviction proceedings a right under Massachusetts state law. Currently, roughly 14% of renters in the Commonwealth are behind on their rent payments, and hundreds more eviction cases are being filed each week. Unfortunately, eviction proceedings disproportionately impact tenants with the lowest-income, especially immigrant families and the elderly, simply because they are unable to afford legal representation. This bill would provide legal representation for low-income tenants and owner-occupants landlords of two and three family homes in eviction proceedings.

In 2020, at the start of the pandemic, Senator DiDomenico filed similar emergency legislation to launch a Right To Council Pilot program to provide legal representation for tenants facing COVID-related evictions. Governor Baker incorporated key elements of DiDomenico’s Bill into the state’s Eviction Diversion Plan, now called the COVID Eviction Legal Help Project (CELHP). This emergency pilot program has had an overwhelming positive outcome.

Since its implementation in January 2021, CHELP has assisted approximately 7,000 in-

dividuals (including 2,300 children) and positively resolved 90% of cases. Of those 90% of cases, 70% resulted in the preservation of the tenancy, and 20% of cases were negotiated to afford the tenant(s) more time to find replacement housing. In just nine months, CELHP has proven the undeniable need and extraordinary benefit of granting a comprehensive right to counsel program in the Commonwealth. Unfortunately, the existing CELHP program is only temporary.

During his testimony, Senator DiDomenico highlighted the benefits of his permanent right to counsel bill. “Even where tenant cases are ultimately unsuccessful, the presence of council can assist when negotiating things like payment, extensions of time to vacate, finding alternative housing, or different lease terms that satisfy both landlords and tenants.” Citing a 2020 Boston Bar Association report, DiDomenico pointed out that “the monetary

benefits of representing eligible beneficiaries in eviction and foreclosure proceedings, far outweighs the costs of providing those services.” The report estimated legal costs at about \$9.49 million and the potential savings at over \$25 million. This legislation is imperative to keeping the Commonwealth’s most vulnerable of tenants and families-renters from becoming unhoused, homeless, and displaced.

This legislation will prove to be vital for low-income renters in Massachusetts as the pandemics effect on housing continues to take its toll. “This bill is timely and more important than ever.” DiDomenico stated, “This bill levels the playing field.” Backed by a coalition of over 200 organizations the bill has garnered unilateral support among tenant, homeowner, and landlord advocacy groups alike.

The bill is currently pending before the Joint Committee on Housing where it awaits a favorable report.

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MVES urges seniors to get both flu and COVID vaccinations ASAP

With the flu preparing to settle in for the fall and winter, it is crucial seniors take proactive steps against the flu. Public health officials are urging Americans, especially older adults, to get their seasonal flu vaccine early this year, especially with the COVID-19 Pandemic still in existence. Those over 65 years of age are more susceptible to both the flu and COVID-19. Both diseases prompt an inflammatory response in individuals and people with underlying health conditions, such as coronary artery disease, are already at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, according to the CDC. It’s more important than ever to get a flu shot this fall — and the sooner the better. And if you have not received both doses for your COVID Vaccine, please do so as soon as possible as well.

Mystic Valley Elder Services wants to remind individuals that it is offering free transportation services via one of MVES’

transportation providers to adults 60 years and older to local COVID-19 and Flu vaccine sites. You do not have to wait until you have booked an appointment to be vaccinated or to receive a flu shot to receive free transportation for COVID-19 vaccinations including any booster shots recommended by your primary care physician along with transportation for those electing to receive the annual flu vaccine.

The CDC stated the Pfizer COVID-19 booster is now available to individuals 65 years of age and older and individuals 60 years of age and older at risk for severe COVID-19 due to certain underlying medical conditions.


MVES understands that older adults are more susceptible to the flu and pandemic and feels it is important to help all older residents in its 11 communities served get vaccinated for both. So if you live in Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, North Reading, Reading,

Revere, Stoneham, Wakefield or Winthrop, give us a call at 781-324-7705. MVES offers translation services over the phone or on our website mv.es.org.

About Mystic Valley Elder Services

Celebrating 45 Years of helping older adults keep their independence, Mystic Valley Elder Services is a non-profit agency located in Malden, Mass., that provides essential home- and community-based care and resources to older adults, adults living with disabilities, and caregivers who reside in Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, North Reading, Reading, Revere, Stoneham, Wakefield and Winthrop, regardless of their income level. Agency services include coordination of home care, transportation, Meals on Wheels, and information and referrals. For more information, please call (781) 324-7705 or visit www.mv.es.org.

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CHELSEA PRIDE FOOTBALL HOSTS MINIATURE GOLF FUNDRAISER

The Chelsea Pride youth football organization held a miniature golf fundraiser Saturday at Carter Park. Families participated on an 18-hole course that was set up on the field at Carter Park.

Chelsea Pride Vice President Shawn O'Regan said the program currently fields four football teams: flag football for first-and-second graders, and tackle football for third-and-fourth, fifth-and-sixth, and seventh-and-eighth graders.



Chelsea Pride Vice President Shawn O'Regan, with Hailey Sotto and Noah Sotto and family.



Chelsea Pride football director Kevin O'Regan welcomes football player Justin Pressat and his mother, Argelia Pressat to the miniature golf fundraiser Saturday at Carter Park.



Enjoying the miniature golf fundraiser at Carter Park are, from left, 3rd and 4th grade football coach Jack Grigorian, Bryanna Grigorian, Myles O'Neil, 5th and 6th grade coach/football director Kevin O'Regan, Julian Castro, Hago Grigorian 7th and 8th grade coach/ equipment manager Manny Cetina, Chelsea Pride president/ 3rd and 4th grade coach Lou Cetina, and treasurer Theresa Cetina.

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Sports

CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL IN SOCCER ACTION AGAINST REVERE

Chelsea and Revere battled to a 1-1 tie Tuesday night at Harry Della Russo Stadium.



MAKE A MOVE: Chelsea's Christian Palacios (23) is confronted by Revere's David Paiva.



THE EYES HAVE IT: Chelsea's Jefferson Ruiz and Revere's Alex Diaz are wide-eyed as they follow the ball.



ARM IN ARM: Chelsea's Angel Rosales (7) tangles with Revere's Kayo DeSouza Lopes as they chase a ball up the sideline.



GETTING HIS KICKS: Chelsea's Jose Mendez (9) gets to the ball ahead of Revere's David Paiva.



COMING UP BIG: Xavier Orenella stepped into the net when starter Felix Barrero was injured and stymied Revere all night, leading Chelsea to a hard-fought 1-1 tie at Harry Della Russo Stadium Tuesday night.

CHS ROUNDUP

CHS FOOTBALL TEAM HOSTS MEDFORD TOMORROW

The Chelsea High football team will entertain the Medford Mustangs tomorrow (Friday) evening at Chelsea Stadium. The opening kickoff for the Friday Night Lights encounter is set for 6:00.

The Red Devils, who came up on the short end of a 38-20 decision to Northeast Regional last week, sport a 3-3 record under first-year head coach Michael Jackson.

CHS BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNS PAST REVERE, 18-40

The Chelsea High boys cross country was running on all cylinders last

Wednesday to earn a decisive 18-40 victory at Greater Boston League rival Revere.

Four Red Devils crossed the finish line ahead of their Revere opponents, led by Ian Padilla, who blazed across the course with a time of 17:59. He was followed by teammates Alejandro Zepeda in 18:15, Johnny Maldonado in 18:23, and Ruben Padilla in 18:36.

Alex Estrada was the fifth Chelsea runner across the line in eighth place in 19:42 to complete the scoring for the Red Devils.

Austin Freeman ran well with a clocking of 19:44, good for ninth place, and Nate Nadeau finished 11th in 20:35. Jimmy Merino clocked in at 26:11.

On the girls' side, Dari-

ly Sanchez was the first Lady Red Devil to finish, taking second place with a clocking of 23:34. Teammate Holly Hathberg was the fourth girl across the line in 24:37.

Coach Sam Fogel and his crew were scheduled to host Malden at Admiral's Hill yesterday (Wednesday) and will compete in the Greater Boston League Meet next Wednesday on the course at Macdonald Park in Medford.

CHS VOLLEYBALL TEAMS WINS PAIR

The Chelsea High volleyball team enjoyed a successful week, taking the measure of a pair of opponents.

The Red Devils defeated Greater Boston League rival Lynn English last Friday.

See ROUND UP Page 11



RIISING TO THE OCCASION: Chelsea's Oivan Mandez and Revere's Joshuan Flores leap for a ball in front of the Revere net.



STEPPING IN: Chelsea's Henry Vasquez (11) leaps in front of

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ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Pressley endorses candidates for Chelsea City Council and School Committee

Congresswoman Ayan-na Pressley announced her endorsement of Damali Vidot for Councillor At Large on the Chelsea City Council, Marisol Santiago for District Three Councilor, Maria Belen Power for District Eight Councilor, and Roberto Jiménez Rivera for Chelsea School Committee At Large.

“The people of Chelsea have experienced deep injustice for generations -- economic inequality, environmental injustice, disparate educational opportunities, transit inequities, and more -- conditions created by short-sighted, exclusionary policies. Damali,

Marisol, Maria, and Roberto have all devoted themselves to advocating for every Chelsea resident, to laying out a more inclusive, equitable vision for the City, and then fighting to make it a reality,” said Congresswoman Pressley. “At this critical inflection point -- when we have the power to pursue a more just, equitable future or risk falling back into an unjust, pre-pandemic status quo -- the people of Chelsea deserve leaders like Damali, Marisol, Maria, and Roberto.”

In 2018, after serving nine years on the Boston City Council, Congresswoman Pressley became

the first woman of color elected to represent Massachusetts in Congress, representing the Seventh Congressional District, which includes Chelsea, along with much of Boston, the entirety of Somerville, Everett, and Randolph, and parts of Cambridge and Milton.

Each of the candidates endorsed today has also received the Pressley Policy Pledge distinction, reflective of their commitment to a range of key policies, including reform of our criminal legal system, student debt cancellation, fare-free public transit, and more.

Joseph Perlatonda announces his candidacy for Councilor -At- Large

Joseph Perlatonda former City councilor announces his candidacy for Councilor -At-Large. Joseph who has lived in Chelsea for the past 17 years and as a Councilor for 6 years knows what it takes to serve the residents of Chelsea.

- The following is his statement:
- I know this has been a tough year for all of us but Chelsea needs a Councilor-at-Large person who you can count on and be around whenever needed.
- There are several topics that need to be addressed, especially Building a Safer and Better Future for all. Safety is always my number one priority along with:
- Education: As we continue to grow we must develop and continue to have a good education system for our future children.
- Housing: Create a stable home that is truly affordable for families.
- Employment: Must have a job market that provides stability for our entire citizens and residents of Chelsea.



- Parks: Ensure our parks are safe for not only Chelsea residents but for those who visit our city to enjoy.
- Parking: Provide a parking system that works for all of us here that will provide and accommodate the growing number of vehicles.
- Business: Strive to encourage keeping and bringing new businesses to Chelsea as they are the backbone that keep our city going.
- GreenSpace: Create and preserve Chelsea’s open green spaces by taking over abandoned parcels of land and using them to create parks for all of us to enjoy.
- And let’s not forget our elderly who are the pioneers of this city who have kept us going and may be

in need of services that we should provide, and our veterans who served us so we can live in a better place like Chelsea which will continue to grow.

As I propose all of these and will continue working with all of you 24-7 let’s not forget where we all came from and keep Building a Safer and Better Future for all and keep Chelsea the great and beautiful city and community that it is today.

With my help as a Councilor - at -Large there is nothing that can stop us from continuing moving forward and accomplish all and more of these things I discussed.

So if you want someone that is going to be around, show up for meeting and be your voice with past experience and willing to work with all of you no matter how big or small the issue may be, then you need to Vote for Joseph Perlatonda Councilor - At-Large on Tuesday November 2, 2021. Polls open at 7a.m.- 8p.m.

The Greater Boston Labor Council endorses Roy Avellaneda

The Greater Boston Labor Council – the umbrella labor union organization for the Boston area – has endorsed Roy Avellaneda for city council at-large in Chelsea, citing his ongoing commitment to union members and to creating an equitable economy. The Greater Boston Labor Council represents more than 100,000 union members in the region, including many in Chelsea.

“The GBLC engaged in a rigorous process to consider endorsements and we are very proud to stand with Roy Avellaneda in

this race,” said Darlene Lombos, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Greater Boston Labor Council (GBLC). “Roy Avellaneda has been a champion for workers’ rights and shares our vision for an economy that works for all of us. Chelsea needs leaders that not only understand what working families are up against, but are ready to tackle big challenges and reimagine our city to build back better for a truly equitable economy.”

Lombos continued, “We believe that these leaders will tackle the

urgent challenges of our time head on, from quality jobs, equitable development, affordable housing, pay equity, affordable and accessible child care and the escalating climate crisis. We hope that the voters of Chelsea will support labor’s endorsed candidates. With public support for unions at a 56-year high, people from all walks of life understand that a society is stronger when unions are strong. Together with unions, elected leaders can help bring equity and prosperity to all city residents.”

Marisol Santiago announces her candidacy for re-election to City Council

Marisol Santiago announced her candidacy for re-election to City Council. The following is her statement:

Dear Neighbors,

It has been an honor to serve you as your District 3 School Committee Representative. Throughout the pandemic, we have witnessed uncertainty, grief and significant loss in our community. As a mom of a child in our public schools, I understand firsthand the sacrifices we have had to make. From navigating remote learning experiencing job loss, housing and financial insecurities, and wanting to protect our loved ones, we have had to make tough decisions.

Our youth, parents and seniors deserve leadership on the City Council that can not only address the immediate needs of our district but also bring forth thoughtful planning for the future. A future that protects how we have grown together through this pandemic. We have made some progress but there is much more to do.

We have had to make difficult decisions as a city and I am proud to have been part of local leadership that immediately went to work for you. Switching to remote learning was not an easy decision but necessary to protect our families. Without much state guidance, my advocacy on the city’s pandemic task force and commitment to ensuring access to key resources remain a focus of my work at every level. That is why I brought my expertise as a statewide leader in the



Marisol Santiago.

effort to better fund our schools more fairly across Massachusetts. Because of our hard work together, we were able to pass the Student Opportunity Act that builds a stronger district and funds a strong Chelsea.

As promised, I focused on increasing community engagement with our schools, co-hosting a community budget process to foster transparency and worked with our Superintendent to deliver a five-year strategic plan. The District hired over 90 new positions and assured that community stakeholder voices were present at every step. These measures are indicative of my commitment to improve our City of Chelsea and work for you. Together we welcomed a new Equity and Diversity Officer, were able to launch a Parent to Paraprofessional Program and a Paraprofessional to Teacher Pipeline - to ensure our teachers are more

representative of our community and create paths that lift inclusion.

As we continue to build forward, Chelsea won’t be able to do it alone.

This is why I am running to continue to represent you on the Chelsea City Council. We deserve a bold, independent voice that carries our stories where it matters! We must stay on course and finish what we started. Our vibrant community deserves a voice they can trust and a demonstrated ability to lead with our neighbors side by side. As a voice during unprecedented times as your School Committee Representative, I am committed to continuing this work for our district on the Chelsea City Council.

Let’s continue to build a future that lifts every neighbor.

I humbly ask for your vote on Tuesday November 2nd.

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CITY MANAGER AMBROSINO HONORED



City Councillor Giovanni Recupero and the council recognized City Manager Thomas Ambrosino on Monday night in honor of Italian Heritage Month.

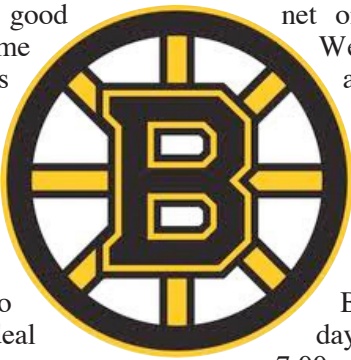
BRUINS *Beat* by Bob Morello

Bruins take to the road

The Bruins regular season games for 2021-22 got off to a good start last Saturday, with the initial game of the season ending in a 3-1 victory over the Dallas Stars. Bruins goaltender Jeremy Swayman performed well in net, Jake DeBrusk scored his first goal, (the game-winner) as part of what could be a potent third line, joined by recent additions Nick Foligno and Erik Haula. The

icing on the good news theme was Boston’s signing an eight-year deal with stellar defenseman Charlie McAvoy, to the richest deal in Bruins history.

As the Bruins take to the road, Swayman was listed to guard the Boston



net on the road Wednesday, as the Bs take on the Philadelphia Flyers, before making a stop in Buffalo Friday (10/22) @ 7:00pm to take on the streaking Buffalo Sabres. Following the two-game road trip, the team

will return to TD Garden ice on Sunday to host the San Jose Sharks in a Sunday matinee (1:00pm). The single game home-stand will be followed by another brief road trip, with stops in Florida to take on the Panthers on Wednesday (10/27 @ 7:00pm), and again on Thursday (10/28) @ 7:00pm), to face the Carolina Hurricanes.

MassDOT announces launch of local bottleneck reduction program

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing the launch of the new Local Bottleneck Reduction Program. Through the passage of the 2021 Transportation Bond Bill, the Baker-Polito Administration authorized establishment of a program that provides support to municipalities in their local congestion reduction efforts. The program will fund innovative solutions to address local congestion bottlenecks at intersections to improve traffic flow. Applications will be accepted until November 15, 2021. The Local Bottleneck Reduction Program will target individual signalized intersections or small corridors with multiple signalized intersections that contribute to travel delays. During Fiscal Year 2022, the program funding will be used to address operational delays that are created from

poor traffic signal timing, outdated equipment, or the lack of adequate vehicle detection to promote efficient movement of traffic for all approaches. In future program years, eligible bottleneck reduction strategies will be expanded to include larger efforts, such as intersection reconstruction. Typical eligible project types for Fiscal Year 2022 include:

- Traffic signal retiming
 - Traffic signal controller and cabinet upgrades
 - Traffic Signal Priority equipment (with endorsement from transit agency)
 - Vehicle detection installation, repairs, or replacement
 - Coordination of multiple traffic signals
- Municipalities do not need to apply for specific project types if they are not sure of the best solution for improving a particular bottleneck. Municipalities may

simply propose a location for funding if they believe it can be improved via an eligible project type. If selected for funding, MassDOT will develop a project scope within the parameters of the program based on information provided in the application as well as additional coordination with the community. While there are no maximum grant limits for this program, it is anticipated that project grants for Fiscal Year 2022 will range between \$50,000 and \$200,000. Project locations are proposed by municipalities and considered by MassDOT for funding through a competitive application process. A single application may propose improvements at multiple intersections in the same corridor. Only signalized intersections owned and operated entirely by a municipality may be considered. Selection is based

primarily on congestion and delay metrics. Additional evaluation criteria include:

- Project proximity to the State Highway Network
- Whether the project is located within an Environmental Justice Community
- Whether the project is located within one mile of a school
- Whether the project is located on a fixed transit route

Applications are now being accepted online through MassDOT’s Massachusetts Project Intake Tool (MaPIT). The deadline for application submission is November 15, 2021. Every municipality in the Commonwealth is eligible for this program. Only municipal officials may submit applications. Applications that are selected after an initial screening will be followed by a site visit to confirm the work to be conducted. If advanced to implementation, MassDOT will oversee the work. For more details on how to apply, visit: www.mass.gov/info-details/how-to-apply-to-the-local-bottleneck-reduction-program.

Round Up / Continued from Page 9

day by a score of 3-2 and then topped non-league opponent Cathedral this past Monday by a score of 3-1.

“Amy Herrera Castillo played exceptionally well and was a huge presence in the middle in our match with Cathedral,” noted CHS head coach Gabriel Morales.

Morales and his squad are scheduled to play at East Boston tomorrow (Friday) and at New Mission next Tuesday. They will host Northeast Regional in their season-finale next Thursday.

CHS BOYS SOCCER EDGED BY MALDEN, 3-1

The Chelsea High boys soccer team dropped a 3-1 decision at Greater Boston League rival Malden last Thursday.

After conceding the opening goal of the contest to the Golden Tornados, the Red Devils battled back to bring the contest to level when Anthony Medrano scored off a corner kick.

Xavier Orellana delivered a nice corner and Anthony rose above the crowd and headed the ball into the back of the Malden net.

However, Malden moved ahead by converting a free kick and then sealed the game with a penalty kick.

“We fought hard and had our chances,” said CHS assistant coach Luis Cruz. “We kept fighting until the end, but with about five minutes to go, Malden was awarded a penalty.

“It’s been a very long season for us and especially for the boys,” said Cruz. “They’ve had a lot of games and we can see how it has affected them. We have a lot of players in-

jured and it’s been hard to keep on competing when our roster is very limited.”

Head coach Mick Milutinovic and his crew battled Revere to a 1-1 deadlock this past Tuesday. They will wrap up their season with a pair of contests at Chelsea Stadium today (Thursday) against Medford and tomorrow (Friday) against Salem

CHS GIRLS SOCCER CONTINUES TO IMPROVE

Although the victories for the Chelsea High girls soccer team have been hard to come by this season, coach Randy Grajal has seen his team make a lot of progress during their 2021 campaign.

“The team played well,” said Grajal of his team’s performance in a 5-0 loss at Everett last Tuesday. “It is worth highlighting junior defender Ashley Navarro for her poise on the field and her ability to anticipate the plays coming her way.”

Two days later the Lady Red Devils came up short in a 7-0 decision to Malden at Chelsea Stadium.

“This was another game where the team fought until the end without giving up,” said Grajal. “They worked together to defend and were able to have some opportunities on goal.

“We’ll continue to work with the team as we move to our final two weeks of the season,” added the coach.

Grajal and his crew are scheduled to play at Medford today (Thursday) and will make the long trek to Salem tomorrow (Friday).

They will entertain Revere on Tuesday and will wrap up their season the following day at Northeast Regional.

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Please note that FEDERAL FAMILY applications will only be accepted from Monday, November 1, 2021, to Tuesday, November 30, 2021.
All applications must be received no later than 2 p.m. on Tuesday, November 30, 2021.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE CHELSEA HOUSING AUTHORITY, AND CAN BE REQUESTED BY CALLING (617) 409-5310.

APPLICANTS ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO APPLY ONLINE AT WWW.CHELSEAHA.COM.



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APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2021, NOR AFTER NOVEMBER 30, 2021.

All timely applications will be entered into a lottery to determine waiting list placement.
Application date will not affect placement on the waiting list.

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PLEASE NOTE: APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, CREED, RELIGION, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, OR MARITAL STATUS.



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Sen. DiDomenico testifies in support of the VOTES Act

Senator Sal DiDomenico and his colleagues in the Massachusetts State Senate recently passed S.2545, An Act fostering voter opportunities, trust, equity, and security, also known as the VOTES Act. This comprehensive voting reform bill permanently codifies the popular mail-in and early voting options used in Massachusetts in 2020. The bill would also enact same-day voter registration, increase ballot access for service members serving overseas, and make a series of other improvements to the Commonwealth's election administration process.

"As one of the very first co-sponsors of this legislation, I am very proud of the Senate's recent action to pass the VOTES Act," said Senator DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Sen-



Sen. Adam Gomez and Sen. Sal DiDomenico (right).

ate. "This bill will prove to be critical in expanding voting access across the Commonwealth by making several COVID-era voting provisions permanent, including expansions to early voting, vote-by-mail, and absentee ballot access. Additionally, the legislation takes a historic step to implement same-day voter registration and will ensure greater voting access to all eligible vot-

ers. These are all policies that I have long supported, and I am very pleased that the Senate has affirmed our commitment to making voting easier and more accessible for all."

Responding to trends in voting and building off previous actions taken by the Legislature, the VOTES Act contains the following key provisions:

Same-Day Voter Registration

- Individuals would be able to register to vote during early voting periods or on the day of a primary or election.

- Twenty other states and the District of Columbia already use same-day registration.

Early Voting In-Person

- The bill would require two weeks (including two weekends) of early voting in-person for biennial state elections and any municipal elections held on the same day.

- The bill would require one week (including one weekend) of early voting in-person for a presidential or state primary and any municipal elections held on the same day.

- The bill would allow municipalities to opt-in to early voting in-person for any municipal election not held concurrently with another election.

Permanent No-Excuse Mail-In Voting

- The bill would require the Secretary of the Commonwealth to send out mail-in ballot applications to all registered voters on July 15 of every even-numbered year; the Secretary of the Commonwealth would have the option to include these applications as part of mailings already required to be sent by the Secretary.

- As in 2020, postage would be guaranteed for mail-in ballot applications and ballots.

- As in 2020, mail-in ballots would be accepted for a biennial state election if mailed on or by election day and received by 5PM on the third day after the election.

Additional Flexibility For Local Officials

- The bill would give municipalities the option to set up secure drop boxes for mail-in ballots.

- The bill would allow election officials to pre-process mail-in and early voting ballots in advance of Election Day.

- The bill would give municipalities discretion as to the use of a check-out list at a polling location.

Accommodations For People With Disabilities

- The bill would allow a voter with disabilities to request accommodations from the Secretary of the Commonwealth to vote by mail for state elections.

- Accommodations would include: electronic and accessible instructions, ballot application, ballot, and a voter affidavit that can be submitted electronically.

Jail-Based Voting Reforms

- The bill would help en-

sure that individuals who are incarcerated who are currently eligible to vote are provided with voting information and materials to exercise their right to vote in every state primary and election.

- Through inclusion of an amendment, the bill would ensure that individuals who are incarcerated are properly notified of their right to vote upon release and given the opportunity fill out a voter registration form

Joining the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)

- The bill would require the Secretary of the Commonwealth to enter into an agreement with ERIC no later than July 1, 2022.

- Thirty other states have already joined ERIC, which helps states keep more updated and accurate voting registrations to ensure voting integrity

The Senate also unanimously approved an amendment to the VOTES Act targeting vote-by-mail ballot access by U.S. service members residing overseas and allowing for them to cast their vote electronically.

The bill, through inclusion of an amendment, would also instruct the Secretary of State to conduct a comprehensive public awareness campaign to highlight the new voting and registration options.

This vote follows previous action by the Legislature to temporarily extend vote-by-mail and early voting options through December 15, 2021.

The VOTES Act now advances on to the Massachusetts House of Representatives for further consideration.

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News in Brief

MVES BELLYFUL OF LAUGHS SHOW

Mystic Valley Elder Services 12th rendition of its comedy show Bellyful of Laughs will be held on Saturday, January 29, at Anthony’s of Malden, located at 105 Canal Street in Malden, and will feature the comedian talents of Steve Sweeney, Will Noonan and Dave Rattigan. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the comedy show starts at 8:00 pm. Tickets are now on sale for \$50 each, which includes the comedy show, a buffet dinner, dessert, cash bar, raffles and chance at a fabulous door prize. A table of 10 cost \$475. Proceeds benefit Mystic Valley Elder Services’ programs that keep elders independent and in their homes. Tickets are selling out quickly so call our Development Office at 781-324-7705 or visit www.mves.org.

Located in Malden, Mass., Mystic Valley Elder Services is a non-profit agency that provides essential home- and com-

munity-based care and resources to elders, adults living with disabilities, and caregivers who reside in Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, North Reading, Reading, Revere, Stoneham, Wakefield and Winthrop. Agency services include coordination of home care, transportation, Meals on Wheels, and information and referrals. For more information, please call (781) 324-7705 or visit www.mves.org.

EARLY VOTING BEGINS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

Early Voting will be available to all residents who are registered to vote ahead of the City Election on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

Beginning on Saturday, Oct. 23, and extending through the following week, registered voters who wish to cast an early ballot may do so in person at the City Clerk’s Office in City Hall.

The days and hours for early voting are:

- Saturday, Oct. 23 | 9:00am-1:00pm
- Monday, Oct. 25 | 8:00am-4:00pm
- Tuesday, Oct. 26 | 8:00am-7:00pm
- Wednesday, Oct. 27 | 8:00am-4:00pm
- Thursday, Oct. 28 | 8:00am-4:00pm
- Friday, Oct. 29 | 8:00am-12:00pm

Residents interested in voting by mail may do so by contacting the Elections Department at 617-466-4050 to receive an application.

CAPIC FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CAPIC Fuel Assistance serves residents in Chelsea, Revere or Winthrop. Any household within the income guidelines may be eligible. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) services homeowners and renters (including renters whose heating costs are included in their rent). Eligibility is determined on the combined gross income of all family mem-

bers over 18.

Services CAPIC provides include:

- Aid with paying utility bills.
 - Free electrical assessments.
 - The opportunity to enact energy conservation measures in your home and more.
 - This year, with ARPA funding from the State, those who qualified under LIHEAP will also be eligible for assistance with their water bills. More information is available at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/lihwap>
- Any interested resident may apply by calling 617-884-6130 or online at http://www.capicinc.org/Eng/E_FuelAssistance.html.

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

Cherry Street and Second Street @ Chelsea Square

The City of Chelsea will be reconstructing sidewalks, roadways, and making pedestrian improvements along Cher-

ry Street, from Williams Street to Fourth Street, and at Second Street at Chelsea Square. Construction will begin this October and wrap up in the Spring of 2022.

Beacham & Williams Reconstruction Efforts

The City of Chelsea continues construction along Beacham & Williams Street from Spruce Street to the Everett City Line. Underground utility work is wrapping up this Fall. This Winter and Spring, new sidewalks and a freshly paved roadway will be implemented, with lighting and landscaping features to come after.

Mace Tot Lot Improvements

The City of Chelsea received a grant from the State to lead a community design process and subsequent renovations at Mace Tot Lot, off of Crescent Avenue. Construction will begin this Winter of 2022 and wrap up during the Early Summer of 2022.

Renovations at Quigley Park

The City of Chelsea

received a grant from the State to begin a community design process for the renovation of Quigley Park. Public meetings and community surveys will provide forums for feedback. The park will then be renovated during the Spring of 2023.

Any questions about these projects can be directed to Project Manager, Ben Cares at bcare@chelseama.gov, 781.300.3016

APPLY TO BECOME A YOUTH COMMISSION MEMBER!

The Chelsea Youth Commission is currently accepting applications! Any Chelsea resident ages 13-20 who are enrolled in high school are eligible to apply. Members of the Youth Commission advise City of Chelsea governing bodies including City Council, School Committee and the City Manager on how to best accommodate the needs of youth in Chelsea.

Mass General Brigham announces \$25 million in new funding for scholars program



Happy scholarship winners.

An ongoing investment to support academic success and career growth in our local communities Mass General Brigham today announced \$25 million in new funding for its Scholars Program and a commitment to extend the successful program for another ten years. The program, which was launched in 2012, was created to expand the horizons of young people interested in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Mass General Brigham Scholars aims to help students from the greater Boston area succeed over the course of their educational career and beyond, promoting careers through mentorship, and investment in the future of these students.

“Over the course of the last decade, this program has not only made a lasting impact on the lives of thousands of students and their families in the communities we serve but has created an important diverse pipeline for our workforce,” said Elsie Taveras, MD, MPH, Chief Community Health Equity Officer for Mass General Brigham. “Research shows that educational attainment is highly correlated with economic status and is the largest predictor of health status.

These continued supports have proved particularly helpful for students who face institutional barriers and experience systemic forms of discrimination because of their race, ethnicity, or economic background.”

The Scholars program is part of Mass General Brigham’s overall com-

mitment to working with its communities to promote economic opportunity and better health. Students are offered ongoing, holistic support throughout the school year that focuses on both their current academic success as well as future academic and career goals. The program offers tutoring and college prep, coaching for things like interviews, guided tours of colleges and trade schools, professional mentors, hands-on learning at our hospitals, as well as internships.

These internships, offered to high school students year-round and to college students during the summer, are a critical component of the Scholar’s experience. Each year, students are provided with paid internships related to their majors and career interests. The Scholars have worked in over 60 different departments across the system, representing everything from patient care, to materials management, clinical administration, and even research labs. Several students have served as co-authors on research studies they worked on during their internships. As part of the program, students also have opportunities to engage in networking and career exploration events with Mass General Brigham employees and leadership teams.

The Mass General Brigham continuum of youth programs supports over 2,000 students from middle school through college each year. Since 2013, an average of 98%

of students have matriculated into college after



Scholarship winners proudly show off their awards.

graduating from high school. The students—who hail from nearly two dozen different Boston-area schools—overwhelmingly represent diverse communities. In 2020, 77% of students came from low-income families, 69% were female, 58% spoke a first language other than English, and 61% were first generation college students.

In order to better connect with the community, Mass General Brigham works with local partners such as East Boston High School, Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers, Revere and Chelsea high schools, the Charlestown community, and Becoming A Man (BAM) to connect with interested student candidates.

RonAsia Rouse, MPH, Program Manager for Health Equity at Mass General Brigham, participated in the Scholars program through Brigham and Women’s Hospital more than a decade ago. After graduating from University of Massachusetts Amherst with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health, she went on to obtain her Masters in Public Health from George Washington University. She now works on the Community Health and Health Equity team to operationalize programs that support patients and community members in vulnerable communities.

“The Scholars Program exposed me to careers beyond traditional clin-

ical roles and propelled me into a career in community health,” she says. “Through the program, I have had the opportunity to experience a variety of roles within a healthcare system and gain experience in public health that ultimately help me decide on my career path. From my first internship experience in the Operating Room and now 10 years later as Program Manager, I am grateful for the experience and opportunities the program has provided me.”

This past year, in addition to helping students navigate SATs, college applications, and the rigor of student’s first college classes, the Mass General Brigham Scholars program also helped students navigate the uncertainty of remote learning during COVID. The Scholars program offered critical supports for students trying to succeed where there was no roadmap. Not only did the program offer access to laptops, they also continued to offer weekly programming as a way to check-in on students’ wellbeing. These weekly meetings served as a safe and supportive space to

express complex emotions and get connected with mental health professionals. There was also the opportunity to connect with social workers for students experiencing things like housing or food insecurity.

Atiyah Adams, a current Scholars student in the Class of 2023, first connected with Mass General Brigham in middle school. Over time, she’s seen the depth and breadth that our continuum of youth programs has to offer.

“When I first joined the Mass General Hospital Science Fair program in 7th grade, I remember our trips to the hospital every Friday would be the highlight of my week. We were able to explore the different parts of the hospital and learn so much with our mentors. After completing that program, I was able to sign up for the Scholars program through Mass

General Hospital,” she says. “The Scholars Program has exposed me to many different career paths and so many new opportunities. I’ve met so many amazing people that have taught me so much about the medical field and what it takes to get to

their positions. I’ve even been able to make friendships with some of the other scholars and they’ve also helped me find opportunities.”

About Mass General Brigham Mass General Brigham is an integrated academic healthcare system, uniting great minds in medicine to make lifechanging impact for patients in our communities and people around the world. Mass General Brigham connects a full continuum of care across a system of academic medical centers, community and specialty hospitals, a health insurance plan, physician networks, community health centers, home care, and long-term care services. Mass General Brigham is a non-profit organization that is committed to patient care, research, teaching, and service to the community. In addition,

Mass General Brigham is one of the nation’s leading biomedical research organizations and a principal teaching affiliate

of Harvard Medical School. For more information, please visit mass-generalbrigham.org.



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NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Tan Huynh to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Community Lending, Incorporated, dated December 21, 2004 and recorded in the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 36165, Page 203 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Community Lending Incorporated to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee of the Home Equity Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Trust Series INABS 2005-B, Home Equity Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, recorded on October 15, 2013, in Book No. 52235, at Page 84 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 9:00 AM on November 1, 2021, on the mortgaged premises located at 59 Clark Avenue, Chelsea, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT: THE LAND IN CHELSEA, SUFFOLK COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, BOUNDED

AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: NORTHWESTERLY BY CLARK AVENUE, FIFTY (50) FEET; SOUTHWESTERLY BY PARKER STREET, SIXTY-FIVE (65) FEET; SOUTHEASTERLY BY LOT C FIFTY (50) FEET; NORTHEASTERLY BY LOT B SIXTY-FIVE (65) FEET. BEING SHOWN AS LOT A ON A PLAN OF LAND IN CHELSEA BY JOHN MACDONALD DATED MARCH, 1922, AND RECORDED WITH THE SUFFOLK COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS, BOOK 4357, PAGE 157. FOR TITLE REFERENCE SEE DEED RECORDED HERewith. For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Suffolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 36165, Page 201. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be

required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR HOME EQUITY MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED TRUST, SERIES INABS 2005-B, HOME EQUITY MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES INABS 2005-B Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 17758 10/7/21, 10/14/21, 10/21/21 C

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING
Case No. 2021-29
Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A that a Regular Meeting of the Chelsea Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 6:00 p.m. Chelsea City Hall - 500 Broadway - City Council Conference Room, 3rd Floor With reference to the application of: Mikael R. Vienneau Broadway Capital Development, LLC For Special Permit

Case No. 2002-10
Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A that a Regular Meeting of the Chelsea Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 6:00 p.m. Chelsea City Hall - 500 Broadway - City Council Conference Room, 3rd Floor With reference to the application of: The Neighborhood Developers For a request for modification to previously approved Special Permit at the premises known as: 110 Chestnut Street A copy of the application and petition is available for review at: The City Clerk's Office during normal business hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. - Friday, 8 a.m. to noon 10/21/21, 10/28/21 C

LEGAL NOTICE

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6:00 p.m. Chelsea City Hall - 500 Broadway - City Council Conference Room, 3rd Floor With reference to the application of: Ola Bayode For Special Permit seeking approval for the retail sale of marijuana at the premises known as: 267 Broadway A copy of the application and petition is available for review at: The City Clerk's Office during normal business hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. - Friday, 8 a.m. to noon 10/21/21, 10/28/21 C

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Division INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
Docket No. SU21P1750EA
Estate of: Jonathan J. Davey, Esq. of Quincy, MA. Jonathan J. Davey, Esq. of Quincy, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 10/21/21 C

Suffolk Division INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
Docket No. SU21P1750EA
Estate of: Marion F. McDonough
Date of Death: November 05, 2020
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner Brian P. Monahan of 86 Nashua Road, P.O. Box #156 Londonderry, NH 03053-0156. A Will has been admitted to informal probate. Brian P. Monahan of 86 Nashua Road, P.O. Box #156 Londonderry, NH 03053-0156 has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 10/21/21 C

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Division INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
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Baker-Polito administration declares October ‘Massachusetts Cranberry Month’

Continuing the Commonwealth’s support of cranberry farmers and encouraging Massachusetts residents to purchase locally produced cranberry products, Governor Charlie Baker today declared October as “Massachusetts Cranberry Month.” Massachusetts is the oldest cranberry growing region in the country. There are approximately 13,000 acres of commercial cranberry bogs in the state, primarily in Plymouth, Bristol, and Barnstable counties. In 2020, the total value of utilized Massachusetts cranberry production was approximately \$64.9 million. Cranberries represent the top commercial crop grown in the Commonwealth, producing nearly 23% of the nation’s cranberry supply.

“Recognizing the cranberry as an important crop to the Commonwealth’s history and economy, the Baker-Polito Administration is once again proud to build on our longstanding support of the cranberry growing industry and ensure that the official state berry of Massachusetts continues to thrive for generations to come,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. “Aside from it being a delicious and quintessential New England staple, the production of cranberries provides enormous environmental benefits to the Commonwealth and our local growers are true

stewards of their land, incorporating the latest in technology and equipment to harvest their fruit in ways that conserves water and protects natural resources.”

In August 2020, the Baker-Administration announced \$7.75 million in funding to support infrastructure upgrades, including the design, construction, retrofitting and outfitting of enhanced laboratory space, at the UMass Cranberry Station located in Wareham. The funding will be used by the Cranberry Station to modernize and expand its research facilities, improve the environmental profile of the facility, and provide the tools needed to support vigorous research programs in cranberry water, pest, and nutrient management. The Station is a vital outreach and research center charged with the mission of maintaining and enhancing the economic viability of the Massachusetts cranberry industry. While construction for this renovation project is already underway, plans for an official groundbreaking ceremony are planned for later in the month.

The Massachusetts’ cranberry industry, through crop production, processing and manufacturing, is a major sector of the state’s agriculture economy. Additionally, increasing the efficiency of water use in cranberry production is key to conserving water, while

minimizing off-target movement of nutrients and pesticides, which will help to preserve water quality and ensuring the sustainability of cranberry production in the Commonwealth.

“Whether served alongside a Thanksgiving Day dinner, in dried form on top of a salad or consumed in a glass as a beverage, the cranberry is a versatile fruit that has been enjoyed for generations here in Massachusetts and across the country,” said MDAR Commissioner John Lebeaux. “Taking place from late September to early November, the cranberry harvest season coincides with the fall foliage season, providing a double dose of visual splendor and making October the perfect month to celebrate.”

“Although our growers are nurturing the native perennial cranberry vines the whole year through, we once again are honored that the Commonwealth has recognized our industry in its most identifiable harvest month, October,” said Brian Wick, Executive Director of the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers’ Association, serving growers from all of Massachusetts. “With record rains this past summer, this year’s cranberry crop faces the opposite challenge from last year when there was a drought. Still, the industry has seen strong domestic sales of cranberry products this past year as a result of

consumer interest for healthy, immune-boosting products which cranberries naturally deliver.”

Following recommendations from the Administration’s COVID-19 Command Center’s Food Security Task Force, which promotes ongoing efforts to ensure that individuals and families throughout the Commonwealth have access to healthy, local food, the Administration in June 2020 launched a new \$36 million Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program to address urgent food insecurity for Massachusetts residents as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since January 2021, through six funding rounds, the Administration awarded over \$35.5 million to support over 360 projects to increase food security in the Commonwealth, including four awards to Massachusetts cranberry growers. The administration recently announced a second round of the program, funded at \$15 million for FY22. The program is currently accepting applications through October 31, 2021.

“I am very grateful for Baker-Polito Administration’s continued support of cranberry growers and the cranberry production industry,” said Senator Michael J. Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “Their longstanding championing of vital programs such as the UMass Cranberry Station and the agricultur-

al cranberry enhancement grants to support growers revitalize cranberry bogs have helped keep this unique industry - critical to Southeastern Massachusetts - thriving and on the cutting edge of agricultural technology.”

“Here in the Commonwealth, and especially in the Southeast region, the cranberry is the backbone of our regional agricultural sector,” Dean of the Massachusetts Senate Marc R. Pacheco (D-Taunton). “With over 13,000 acres of commercial cranberry bogs in Massachusetts - primarily throughout Plymouth, Bristol, and Barnstable counties - I am very pleased that we are taking the time to recognize our statewide cranberry industry by officially declaring October ‘Massachusetts Cranberry Month’. Many thanks to all the growers, farmers, and agricultural workers who have helped make the cranberry synonymous with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.”

“The cranberry industry has been of vital importance to agriculture in the Commonwealth and especially here on the south coast,” said State Representative Susan Gifford (R-Wareham). “We are grateful to have an Administration that recognizes the important role cranberries play in our economy and the challenges that face our growers. I was honored to have served as a member of the Cranberry Revitalization

Task Force.” “Cranberries and cranberry growers have been an important part of our regional history and economy for more than 200 years, and with continuing state support, Massachusetts bogs should continue to serve as one of the top producing regions in the world,” said State Representative Bill Straus (D-Mattapoisett), Co-Chair of the Cranberry Station Board of Oversight.

In October 2019, the Administration announced \$991,837 to 21 cranberry growers for bog renovation projects MDAR’s Massachusetts Cranberry Bog Renovation Enhancement Grant Program to help renovate existing cranberry bogs, providing higher yields and more efficient methods of cranberry production for participating growers. Furthermore, in June 2017, the Massachusetts Cranberry Revitalization Task Force released its final report with recommendations to preserve and strengthen Massachusetts’ cranberry industry. The Task Force, composed of 18 government officials and stakeholders within the cranberry industry, was created by the Legislature in July 2015 to examine the status of the industry and the complex challenges ahead, and to develop a multi-pronged action plan geared toward stabilizing and revitalizing the cranberry industry.

ABCD says low-income residents face perfect storm as home heating costs rise

With dramatic increases in home heating costs predicted, ABCD warns that residents of the Boston area and other cold-weather regions will face a perfect storm of painful conditions as winter cold descends.

The rise in home heating costs is sparked by a 30 percent increase in the cost of natural gas. The National Energy Assistance Directors Association said this week that, based on national data, the average residential natural gas bill will increase from \$572 to \$859 while heating oil costs per household can rise from \$1,272 to \$1,900. Costs are higher in the Boston-New England region.

Bitter winter weather means prices can go even higher because of increased demand with a significant impact on low-income households. Last year, 29 percent of families surveyed by the U.S. Census Bureau said they had to reduce spending on essential items such as groceries and medications in order to heat their homes. Many also postponed making rent payments, putting their families at risk of eviction and homelessness.

With the pandemic still delivering a harsh blow to disadvantaged neighborhoods where unemployment remains high and with housing and food costs continuing to rise, many families and seniors are barely getting

by. Major assistance with winter heating bills is vital to keeping them in their homes and avoiding homelessness, hypothermia or hospitalization. Last year ABCD processed 21,501 applications – 2,000 more than the previous year.

ABCD providing \$600 per household maximum benefit Right now the maximum fuel benefit in Massachusetts is \$600 for families and seniors living at 100 percent of poverty. That poverty level means an annual income of \$26,500 for a family of four or \$12,880 for a person living alone.

ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew said that given the plight of the tens of thousands needing help in Massachusetts, ABCD estimates that a minimum of at least \$1,800 will be needed to get them through the winter.

“The imminent winter will compound problems already facing low-income families and the elderly and disabled,” said Drew. They are contending with housing and food insecurity, medical problems, getting children back to school – and here comes winter with spiking costs for heat, warm clothing, everything. We expect the state to increase fuel benefit levels as the winter progresses and encourage residents to submit their recertification forms if they received assistance in prior years or to fill out a new application.”

Kathy Tobin, ABCD

Director of Energy Services, pointed out that it is important to find out if you qualify for help. She noted the dangers and high cost of residents finding themselves in a no-heat situation: “They may resort to space heaters, which can cause fires if not used safely. They close off rooms and huddle in the kitchen around a stove and pipes in unused rooms burst. They boil water for the heat. Kids wake up cold and go to school sick. Older people are susceptible to hypothermia. It costs everyone more in the end due to illness and fires and poor educational achievement.”

How to apply

ABCD provides home heating fuel assistance to income-eligible residents in Boston, Brookline, Newton and seven communities north of Boston in the Mystic Valley region, including Malden, Medford, Everett, Melrose, Stoneham, Winchester, and Woburn.

Residents of Boston,

Brookline and Newton can apply by calling ABCD at 617-357-6012. Residents of the Mystic Valley region can call 781-322-6284. They can also call their neighborhood center and make an appointment to fill out fuel assistance forms in person. Previous fuel recipients received recertification forms in the mail which they should fill out and return. First-time applicants can apply online at toapply.org/MassLIHEAP

Help is also available on a sliding scale for those slightly above poverty level, to prevent them from falling through the cracks. For example, a family of four earning \$78,751 or a single person with an income of \$40,951 may qualify for the current maximum benefit of \$430 in fuel assistance.

Even those who are unsure whether they qualify should apply. It is critical to determine eligibility and get into the system at the beginning of the winter season. Once a family

qualifies for fuel assistance, benefits are paid directly to the household’s fuel vendor.

More information including a list of Boston-area neighborhood site locations and phone numbers may be found at bostonabcd.org/fuel-assistance.


ABCD also offers qualifying families a comprehensive range of energy services to keep families warm, safe and healthy including repair and replacement of inoperable or highly inefficient heating systems, utility discounts, weatherization, programs to improve energy conservation, and much more.

Donations gratefully accepted

ABCD is grateful for any private donations to the ABCD WINTER FUND which will be used to help those in fuel assistance emergencies after using up their allocation. Your generous gift can save a household from hypothermia, stop a family from turning to dangerous heating substitutes, pre-

vent sickness, and dramatically improve the quality of life. If you’d like to donate to the ABCD WINTER FUND, please call 617-348-6559, email give@bostonabcd.org or visit bostonabcd.org/give.

ABCD is Greater Boston’s antipoverty agency providing low-income residents with the tools, support and resources they need to transition from poverty to stability and from stability to success. Each year, the nonprofit organization serves more than 100,000 individuals, elders, and families through a broad range of innovative initiatives as well as long-established proven programs and services. For nearly 60 years, ABCD has been deeply rooted in every neighborhood and community served, empowering individuals and families and supporting them in their quest to live with dignity and achieve their highest potential. For more, please visit bostonabcd.org.



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AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR PETER REYNOLDS VISITS JOHN SILBER EARLY LEARNING CENTER

By Marianne Salza

Authors/illustrators Peter and Paul Reynolds visited the John Silber Early Learning Center on October 15 for a special reading of “The North Star,” and other books with lessons about bravery, creativity, and resilience. Peter read aloud to 570 pre-kindergarten – first graders, asking his new friends to imagine their constellation of dreams to encourage them to explore their potential.

The twin brothers grew up in Somerville; and although they travel around the world, Peter and Paul wanted to increase their focus to their home state of Massachusetts to provide teachers with more love and appreciation. Peter and Paul, who gifted students with books to take home, own The Blue Bunny Books & Toys, in Dedham, and create fun video games with no violence.



Brothers and authors/illustrators, Paul and Peter Reynolds.



Kiara, Pre-K, speaking with author/illustrator, Peter Reynolds.



Peter and Paul Reynolds with Veronica Dyer Medina, Superintendent’s Office, and her son, Rudy Medina.



Peter Reynolds asking students about what they want to be when they grow up.



Kindergartener, Heylee, raising her hands.



Michael leading his classmates in a cheer for Paul and Peter Reynolds.



Trisha Maronski-Yee’s kindergarten class.



Peter Reynold speaking to an auditorium of kindergarteners during his October 15 guest reading at the John Silber Early Learning Center.



Diane Capelotti’s kindergarten class.

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