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CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

VOLUME 131, NO. 4

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022

35 CENTS

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING IN CHELSEA SQUARE

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

The City of Chelsea held its Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony Dec. 1 in Chelsea Square. City Manager Tom Ambrosino (photo below, right) led the countdown before the lighting of the tree and was joined at the ceremony by Chelsea residents and community leaders including (from left) Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell, CCC First Vice President Sue Gallant, and Supt. of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta. See more photos on Page 2.



School Committee members thanked for service

By Adam Swift

The Chelsea School Committee closed out the year at its Thursday, Dec. 1 meeting with honors for several committee members, and updates on enrollment and attendance for the current school year. “Every year, we like to say thank you to School Committee members for serving and for leading our School Committee,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta. The superintendent presented flowers and certificates to committee Chair Kelly Garcia, Vice Chair Ana Hernandez, and North Shore Collaborative representative Naomi Zabot. Committee member Shawn O’Regan was also honored, but he was unable to attend last Thursday’s meeting. “I would like to thank this entire School Committee for the work each of you do as a body, and I would to thank you for supporting me, our amazing leadership team, and all our teachers and students because without a strong leadership team at the School Committee level, we could not make the strides and do the amazing work we do in the Chelsea Public Schools,” said Abeyta. Garcia also had kind words for her vice chair. “Ana, you know how special you are to me,” said Garcia. “You’ve been here as one of the longest-serving members, you and Jeanette (Velez), and I want to thank you for your continued commitment not only to our students, but to our staff and our schools.” Dr. Tamara Blake-Canty, the interim assistant superintendent for teaching and learning, updated the committee on attendance and drop-out rates. “For first grade all the way through eighth grade, we are over the 90th percentile (for attendance), and for grades 9, 10, and 11, we are in the high 80th percentile,” said Blake-Canty. Blake-Canty added that the drop-out rate compared to last year is down from 2.3 percent to 1.8 percent. Abeyta updated the committee on enrollment, which is above the pre-Covid levels.

work we do in the Chelsea Public Schools,” said Abeyta.

Garcia also had kind words for her vice chair.

“Ana, you know how special you are to me,” said Garcia. “You’ve been here as one of the longest-serving members, you and Jeanette (Velez), and I want to thank you for your continued commitment not only to our students, but to our staff and our schools.”

Dr. Tamara Blake-Canty, the interim assistant superintendent for teaching and learning, updated the committee on attendance and drop-out rates.

“For first grade all the way through eighth grade, we are over the 90th percentile (for attendance), and for grades 9, 10, and 11, we are in the high 80th percentile,” said Blake-Canty.

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Abeyta updated the committee on enrollment, which is above the pre-Covid levels.

See SCHOOL Page 3

Councilors raise questions about 311 system

By Adam Swift

The 311 system is intended to give Chelsea residents a number to call if they have municipal issues they would like to see taken care of, from trash pick up to potholes and sidewalk repair requests. But at Monday night’s City Council meeting, several councilors had questions about the 311 service itself. District 6 Councilor Giovanni introduced an order requesting City Manager Thomas Ambrosino verify that 311 employees are working either out of an officer or their home. Recupero said he’s received a number of complaints lately from residents unable to get through to one of the city’s three 311 operators. “I don’t understand why it goes to a recorded message,” said Recupero. “People have complained to me, and I’ve called myself, and it went right to a recorded message.” Recupero said he understands that one of the 311 employees is pregnant and working from, which he said he didn’t see as an issue. Still, the councilor said he was flummoxed as to why so many calls go unanswered. “Who supervises these people?” Recupero said.

“It’s supposed to be the DPW, but I don’t understand how you have three people and it goes to an answering machine.”

District 4 Councilor Enio Lopez said he’s also heard complaints about 311 going unanswered. He said he was also concerned because when Spanish speaking residents call the line, there is not someone there who speaks Spanish.

“I thank Councilor Recupero for bringing this up,” said Lopez. “There are some answers that need to be given to our community.”

With changes in recycling for items such as textiles and mattresses, Lopez also noted that the calls to 311 from the community are also likely to increase.

District 1 Councilor Todd Taylor added to the chorus of those who have received complaints about 311.

See 311 Page 3

Changing of the Guards in Chelsea

Houghton officially sworn in as police chief

By Adam Swift

Vowing that his department will be community service officers first and foremost, Keith Houghton was formally sworn in as Chelsea’s police chief at the beginning of Monday night’s City Council meeting. “I am a son of this community, I was raised here, educated here, played here, worshiped here, and for 36 years I have worked here as a proud officer of the Chelsea Police Department,” said Houghton. “I learned quite a bit here in Chelsea, it is true what they say, it really does take a village of extraordinary individuals, and I have been blessed with their guidance and kindness over the years as it has exposed me to opportunities leading me right here to stand before you as chief.” During his remarks, Houghton thanked former Chief Brian Kyes, his department, the people of Chelsea, and most importantly, his family, for their support over the years. He noted that many of his close family members have worked for generations as firefighters, accumulating a total of 175 years of service to Chelsea. As chief, Houghton said it will take the attention of

See HOUGHTON Page 5

Iovanna receives oath as Chief Probation Officer of Chelsea District Court

By Cary Shuman

Revere resident Jessica Iovanna received her oath as the new Chief Probation Officer of the Chelsea District Court during an impressive ceremony on Dec. 1 at the courthouse. A Merrimack College 2005 graduate with a degree in Business Management, Iovanna, 39, began her career in the judicial system at Chelsea District Court in 2007 as a probation officer. In 2016, Iovanna, who is also a licensed social worker, was promoted to Assistant Chief Probation Officer in Chelsea.

Chief Probation Officer Jessica Iovanna receives her oath from Justice Matthew Machera.

Last Thursday, colleagues, friends, and family, including her parents,

See IOVANNA Page 6

A ROYAL VISIT TO CHELSEA

Princess Kate holds a bouquet of flowers that were given to her as she greeted the large crowd during her Dec. 1 visit to Roca headquarters in Chelsea.

Prince William is pictured in Chelsea during his visit to ROCA where he met with Executive Director Molly Baldwin and ROCA officials to highlight the success of the internationally recognized organization.

For the latest news in Chelsea that you need to know, check chelsearecord.com

INDEPENDENT Newspaper Group

www.chelsearecord.com

Three finalists have been selected to fill council vacancy

By Adam Swift

The City Council will choose a new at-large councilor at its meeting this Monday night.

Over the past several weeks, the council has met in subcommittee to interview about a dozen candidates to replace former Councilor-at-Large Roy Avellaneda, and has narrowed the list to three candidates.

Those candidates, former councilors Stanley Troisi and Brian Hatleberg and community activist and zoning board member Joan Cromwell, will appear before the full City Council at its regularly scheduled meeting beginning at 7 p.m. at City Hall Monday night.

“We will be asking them a series of questions that they will be able to answer in front of the pub-

lic, and they will also be able to give a five minute introduction on why they want to fill the vacancy,” said Council President Calvin Brown.

Following the interview process, the councilors will be able to nominate candidates, and whichever candidate receives six votes will fill the remainder of Avellaneda’s term.

Brown praised the strength of the candidates who were selected as finalists and of all those who interviewed.

“I think we can’t go wrong with whoever we choose and I’m looking forward to the process,” said Brown.

The selection process for a new councilor has not been without some controversy.

School Committee member Roberto Jimenez-Rivera, who was

a candidate for the council position, filed an open meeting law violation complaint following the Nov. 28 meeting where the three finalists were selected.

The council used secret ballots to narrow down the field to three finalists, in violation of the open meeting law. Councilor-at-Large Damali Vidot requested that the councilors put their names on the ballots since they were public documents, but that motion was defeated, with councilors Leo Robinson, Enio Lopez, and Todd Taylor voting with Vidot that the names should be on the ballots and Giovanni Recupero abstaining, while the remaining councilors voted to keep the secret ballots.

“We were trying to get the best candidates, obviously we did not believe

we were doing anything wrong,” said Brown. At the advice of town counsel, Brown said the councilors rectified the situation and eventually put their names on the ballots.

“It was not something we were doing to be malicious,” said Brown, who said he believes in open and transparent government.

At the most recent City Council meeting, Vidot introduced a motion asking for a subcommittee meeting to discuss Chelsea Community Cable taping and broadcasting all the council’s subcommittee meetings. She also asked that the city’s IT department be involved to look at ways that more people could be involved in city meetings remotely.

While not specifically addressing the Nov. 28 subcommittee meeting,

which was not televised, Vidot said that streaming all subcommittee meetings would increase transparency and participation for the council and residents.

Vidot noted that much of the work the council does is in subcommittee.

“I’m not accusing anybody of doing anything sinister or inappropriate, but I think it is better for the community when they can see all the conversations going on behind the scenes,” said Vidot.

Taylor said he supported the streaming of as many meetings as possible to increase transparency and improve the civic discourse.

During the public speaking portion of the last council meeting, Sarah Neville, Jimenez-Rivera’s wife and a community activist in her own right,

spoke in favor of increased streaming of meetings and greater transparency from the council and government bodies.

“Why have I come to rehash all this? We already know what happened last week in this room,” said Neville. “This is a larger issue than just one illegal action; the subcommittee where this happened was not recorded, so the people listening to see what happened or listening to this discussion unless they looked up the public notes, which are hard to find anyway.”

In addition to streaming and televising the subcommittee meetings, Neville suggested the city make its online documents searchable so it would be easier to find specific information in meeting minutes, agendas, and other online documents.

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING IN CHELSEA SQUARE



A Chelsea family pictured at the city's tree lighting ceremony Dec. 1 in Chelsea Square.



Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell, First Vice President Susan Gallant, and Office Administrative Assistant Carolina Bonilla.



School Committee Chair Kelly Garcia, Sen. Sal DiDomenico, and District 7 Councilor Tanairi Garcia.



The Silva family enjoys the tree lighting ceremony in Chelsea Square.



Jennifer Hassell, Susan Gallant, Mimi Graney, Supt. of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta, Sen. Sal DiDomenico, District 1 Councilor Todd Taylor, District 7 Councilor Tanairi Garcia, School Committee Chair Kelly Garcia, and City Manager Tom Ambrosino.



Chelsea Police Officer Joanne O'Brien, Police Chief Keith Houghton, Fire Chief Len Albanese, and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell.

Postal Service changes delivery times for holiday season

The Postal Service is keeping up the pace as the hustle and bustle of the holiday season gains momentum. To ensure customers get their holiday packages on time, our letter carriers will be delivering as early as 6:00 a.m. in many major metro locations across the country. So, if you hear the sounds of an early morning package delivery, please know it’s our way of helping Santa get an early start.

This month, our carriers will be out delivering in the early mornings in many

communities. To help keep your letter carrier safe, we ask you to keep your porch light on, especially if you notice mail has not yet been delivered.

We have prepared all year to deliver certainty and continuity this holiday, and that means starting early in the morning.

Tips for a successful holiday mailing and shipping season:

- Use free Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes. They are available at Post Office locations or online at usps.com/freeboxes.

- Make it easy with the Click-N-Ship feature. You can create shipping labels and pay for postage online at usps.com/ship.
- Schedule a free Package Pickup when the carrier delivers your mail. It’s free, regardless of the number of packages. Pickups can be scheduled at usps.com/pickup.
- Mail and packages that weigh more than 10 ounces or are more than a half-inch thick and use stamps as postage cannot be dropped into a collection box or left for a carrier to pick up. Instead, take them to a local Post Office.
- Sign up for Informed Delivery. Keep an eye on your deliveries by registering at informedelivery.usps.com to see what packages are enroute and to receive daily emails showing what mail will be delivered.
- Monitor your front door. If you have a home security camera system, ensure it captures and saves activity at your front door and mailbox. If you catch any mail thieves in the act,

save the video and alert your local Postal Inspectors. Video surveillance goes a long way in preventing crimes and catching the bad guys. You can reach the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 877-876-2455.

- Don’t leave delivered mail and packages unattended. Just as wallets and purses shouldn’t be left on the front seat of an unlocked car overnight, mail and packages shouldn’t be left uncollected in mailboxes or on front porches for any length of time.

2022 Holiday Shipping Deadlines

The Postal Service recommends the following mailing and shipping deadlines for expected delivery by Dec. 25 to domestic addresses and Air/Army Post Office/Fleet Post Office/Diplomatic Post Office (APO/FPO/DPO) addresses*:

- Dec. 9 — APO/FPO/DPO (all ZIP Codes) Priority Mail and First-Class Mail
- Dec. 16 — APO/FPO/DPO (except ZIP Code

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State funding earmarked for Eastern Avenue flood protection project

Special to the Record

The city recently received a \$324,000 grant to address the mounting threats of coastal flooding and begin the planning and preliminary design of an Eastern Avenue flood mitigation project.

The city, in partnership with the North Suffolk Office of Resilience and Sustainability, GreenRoots, and the Mystic River Watershed, received the grant from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP).

The ultimate aim of the project, according to city officials, is to reduce flooding posing risks to vulnerable neighborhoods, fortify critical infrastructure, and bolster public waterfront access along Eastern Avenue, adjacent to the Chelsea Creek.

“Coastal flooding, a direct result of climate change, is a significant danger to vulnerable neighborhoods, businesses, and vital infrastructure,” said City Manager Thomas Ambrosino. “The City is grateful to the Baker Administration and MVP Program for its notable commitment to climate resiliency in Chelsea.”

The grave consequences of climate change will inordinately burden low-income residents and BIPOC communities, demanding concerted action, according to Alex Train, the city’s Director of Housing and Community Development.

“With resources from the MVP Program, we’re advancing the planning and design of critical in-

frastructure to safeguard the waterfront and surrounding neighborhoods for future generations,” said Train.

Enveloping a major floodplain, the Eastern Avenue district anchors a concentration of jobs, oil tank farms, the sole electric substation powering Chelsea, major transportation infrastructure, and vital community facilities, such as the Mary C. Burke Elementary Complex. A severe flood would sever power, interrupt transportation and commerce, and unleash a mix of flooding and, potentially, toxic chemicals, endangering surrounding Environmental Justice neighborhoods, according to officials.

“We must continue to center Chelsea residents in our efforts to ensure that our built infrastructure withstands increasingly intense rain storms, coastal storm surge, and sea level rise in order to ensure our community’s physical and economic well-being,” said Bianca Bowman, Climate Justice Organizer with GreenRoots. “We’ve seen how coastal flooding has impacted vulnerable areas like Eastern Avenue and its surrounding neighborhoods and businesses. Chelsea needs climate justice now.”

Darya Mattes, the resilience manager with the North Suffolk Office of Resilience and Sustainability, said the effects of climate change, like many environmental stressors, unequally burdens low-income communities.

“Residents experiencing poverty, communities of color, and vulnerable populations, such as seniors, are

more apt to reside in a flood plain or heat island, epitomizing the racial inequities of climate change,” said Mattes.

According to flood modeling performed by Woodwell, formerly known as Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, extreme storms that occur every 100 years will be three times more likely to occur by 2050. By 2080, 100 year storms will occur on an annual basis.

Flooding proportional to Hurricane Sandy will engulf Chelsea every year, and the Eastern Avenue district will be inundated with three to five feet of water. Similar to events in the Gulf Coast, intensive flooding could rupture oil and industrial facilities, unleashing plumes of toxic chemicals into nearby neighborhoods, according to city officials.

With MVP Program funding, the City, GreenRoots, and MyRWA will lead a feasibility analysis to consider approaches to streetscape, utility, and shoreline infrastructure to harden the district from coastal storm surge and sea level rise, while mitigating precipitation driven flooding.

The feasibility study will result in the identification of a preferred concept for flood protection, a combination of elevated infrastructure, living shorelines, stormwater enhancements, and public open space. The system, once conceived, will undergo preliminary design, informed by community input, resulting in validated plans, architectural models, and a cost estimate. Upon completion, the project will allow the City to pursue state and federal funding for final engineering and construction.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ASSISTED LIVING LOCATORS URGES ADULT CHILDREN TO HAVE LONG TERM CARE PLAN

The holiday season is a time of giving and sharing special moments with your family. As you decorate the tree and bake those cookies, don’t forget about an important gift you can give to your aging parent – the gift of a long-term care plan.

Assisted Living Locators Boston, a local senior placement and referral service, is urging adult children to have a very merry ... long term care plan to make sure their parents have personalized care and support when they need it.

As parents get older, many will turn to their adult children to help them in the next steps of senior living. Many of these adult children live an average of 450 miles from their parents and are having to assume the role of a long-distance caregiver. According to the National Center on Caregiving, approximately 5 to 7 million adult children in the U.S. are long-distance caregivers.

Assisted Living Locators Boston Vice President of Placement and Aging Strategy John Moniz, a Marshfield resident, stated that adult children, especially those who are long distance caregivers, should use the holiday season as an opportunity to assess the current lifestyle of aging parents and evaluate what can be improved to strengthen

their loved one’s health and happiness. “No matter what stage of life your parents are in, talking about long term care and creating a plan now for the future can help them live their life on their own terms,” he explained.

“Assisted Living Locators is a free service that can help you explore and understand elder care options,” said Moniz. “Our senior care advisors meet with each family to learn about their loved one’s needs, living conditions, and personal preferences in order to build a care plan.”

He noted that Assisted Living Locators website also offers an easy-to-use Assessment Tool that can quickly give one insight if it’s time to find a new environment and appropriate senior housing for your aging parent.

Moniz advises adult children to set these long-term planning goals in 2023:

- 1) Prepare and gather essential medical and financial documents for their aging loved one
- 2) Make a plan for paying for long-term care
- 3) Connect with the right kind of support and resources.

“The challenge families with aging parents face today is finding a single source for reliable assistance for a long-term care plan,” he explained. “Assisted Living Locators has a full roster of services for seniors around there need for in-home care or senior living arrangements. From relocation to respite care to alternative solutions for paying for long-term

care, our comprehensive resources can help you prepare for the future.”

DIDOMENICO SECURES \$150,000 FOR THE CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Senator Sal DiDomenico successfully included \$150,000 for the Chelsea Public schools in the wide-ranging Economic Development bill that passed last month. This funding will help Chelsea schools offer college and career assistance programs to their students. These programs will help students access internships and give staff the resources to take students on college tours in the area.

The college and career assistance programs provide Chelsea students with the resources and knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their future after high school. There is no single path for a high school graduate to take, and these programs help young people figure out which path is the best for them and how they can get there.

“I am proud to bring this funding to Chelsea so students throughout our community can access the resources they need to succeed after high school,” said Senator DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. “I will always prioritize funding for our schools and programs like this that provide our youngest residents with skills and opportunities to thrive.”

School / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Our enrollment is actually very steady and we’re climbing just a little bit,” she said. “We are now at 6,288 (students), which is about 88 more students than 2019, so we are at almost 100 more students. Not only did we get

caught up, we are surpassing our numbers, and that is actually showing mostly at our high school.”

In other business, the School Committee accepted several gifts and donations, including six \$50 Market Basket gift certi-

ficates from the Zonta Club of Chelsea, a collection of older National Geographic magazines and maps from Danny Marcus, and 200 pairs of Puma sneakers and 40 cases of sanitary wipes from Provision Ministry.

311 / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“As a councilor, I’ve been getting feedback from the community that this isn’t working,” said Taylor.

He said he understood from the city side that the 311 system might be more convenient that the older ticket-based computer system, but that it wasn’t working well for a number of residents.

“Some improvements need to be made if we are going to stick with this 311 system, otherwise we need to figure out something else, because this is not just coming from up here, this is real feedback coming from the community,” said Taylor.

Councilor-at-Large Damali Vidot said she has not heard the com-

plaints about 311, but recommended discussing the issue further at a sub-committee on conference meeting to hash out what the issues are and how they can be fixed.

“I think it does bring value, but we should have a discussion on how we can work out the kinks,” Vidot said.

USPS / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

093) USPS Priority Mail Express Military service

- Dec. 17 — USPS Retail Ground service
- Dec. 17 — First-Class Mail service (including greeting cards)
- Dec. 17 — First-Class packages (up to 15.99 ounces)

- Dec. 19 — Priority Mail service
- Dec. 23 — Priority Mail Express* service

Additional news and information, including all domestic, international and military mailing and shipping deadlines, and tips to keep mail safe can be

found on the Postal Service Holiday Newsroom at usps.com/holidaynews.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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WINTER SPORTS SEASON TO BEGIN FOR CHS TEAMS

The 2023 winter sports season will get underway next week for Chelsea High athletes.

Both the boys and girls basketball teams will be led by new head coaches, former CHS stars Cesar Castro for the boys and Leslie Santiago for the girls.

Both squads will open their 2023 campaigns next Tuesday (December 13),

CHS ROUNDUP

with the boys traveling to Lynn English and the girls entertaining Lynn English.

Chelsea will compete once again in the Greater Boston League (GBL). They will face their seven GBL foes -- Lynn English, Lynn Classical, Everett, Malden, Medford, Somerville, and Revere -- twice each.

The boys will have non-league encounters with Watertown (twice), Cambridge Rindge and Latin, and East Boston, while the

girls will meet Mt. Alvernia twice and Lynn Tech once.

The CHS indoor boys and girls track teams will begin their season next Wednesday (December 14) against Lynn English. Coach Cesar Hernandez and his crew will meet each of their seven GBL foes on every Wednesday through January 25, with the All-GBL Meet set for February 3 at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

CLERK TO THE CHELSEA CITY COUNCIL

Part-time - 20 hours per week
Salary Range: \$30,409.60 - \$37,980.80

POSITION SUMMARY*

Under the direction of City Council President, the Clerk will contribute to the preparation and efficiency of city council meetings and ensure that overall parliamentary procedures are carried out in a timely manner. Attend all Committee meetings and serve as the Clerk, taking roll calls and recording all votes at the request of the Chair. Requires the ability to work effectively with elected and appointed officials and the public. The Clerk will also provide advice and opinions to city council on legislative process and related procedures. Also provides clerical assistance to members of the City Council and performs related work as required. Performs a variety of complex and confidential clerical duties requiring a thorough knowledge of organizational procedures and precedents, and municipal budgetary requirements. This position requires an understanding of the City Council and its members' obligations under MGL, the Ordinances of Chelsea and Rules of City Council.

QUALIFICATIONS Associates Degree or higher, or equivalent years of work experience and education. Minimum 5 years' related experience in public sector and municipal environments preferred. Working knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order and/or Parliamentary Procedure helpful. Chelsea residency preferred.

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TO VIEW THE FULL DESCRIPTION go to Job Openings on our website at www.chelseama.gov.

The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Chelsea

R E C O R D

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

STILL TIME TO SUPPORT THE CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE AT THE BROWN JUG

One of our all-time favorite Chelsea institutions, The Brown Jug, once again is conducting a Christmas Toy Drive for children in our community.

Donors should bring an unopened/unwrapped toy for a boy or girl to the Jug (which is located at 1014 Revere Beach Parkway in the Parkway Plaza shopping center) through Dec. 15th and are asked to be particularly mindful of the “tween” age group for youths ages 10-16.

All of the donated toys will be given for distribution to needy children to the Salvation Army of Chelsea.

For their part, the Jug’s proprietors, Michael and Cheryl Matrinko, will offer a special “thank you” gift for donors by offering one of the Jug’s delicious, signature, thin-crust pizzas with one topping for just \$5.00.

This is just one example of a local business doing its part for the Chelsea community. We thank Mike and Cheryl for their efforts -- and we urge all of our readers to take part in this worthy event (and get a one-topping pizza for \$5.00!).

FREEDOM ISN’T FREE: PEARL HARBOR WAS 81 YEARS AGO

It was 81 years ago this week that the warlords of Japan launched their attack on the United States at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941.

The very next day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt convened a joint session of Congress in which he famously declared the attack as, “A day that will live in infamy,” and asked Congress for a Declaration of War against Japan. Germany and Italy, allies of the Japanese who collectively were known as the Axis, then declared war on the U.S., setting the stage for what would become the largest conflagration in world history.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans would die in battlefronts stretching from the European continent to the jungle islands of the Pacific over the next three and one-half years before the German and Japanese war machines finally were subdued.

For more than two years prior to the attack, America had stayed out of the war that already had engulfed most of the rest of the world in the aftermath of the German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939. By the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hitler’s Nazis had conquered all of continental Europe and much of Africa, while the Japanese had invaded almost all of Asia, save for the U.S. outposts in the Philippines and other small islands in the Pacific.

Americans clung to the belief that our isolation, separated from the rest of the world by two oceans, would keep us out of the war. Americans had no appetite for re-engaging in another conflict just 23 years removed from the memories of World War I that still were fresh in our nation’s psyche.

But after Pearl Harbor, we no longer could keep our heads buried in the sand. Although America had re-instituted the draft some months prior to Pearl Harbor and had ramped up our military production capabilities, the suddenness of the Japanese attack still came as a shock to every American.

Americans realized that thanks to the capabilities of modern armaments such as Japanese aircraft carriers and German U-boats, even the continental United States was not insulated from attack by a foreign enemy. Citizens on the West Coast braced for a Japanese invasion in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor and curfews were instituted on the Eastern Seaboard.

Thanks to the countless number of documentaries and movies over the past 25 years that have told the stories of the brave Americans who fought in WWII, we are fortunate to have a living history of the sacrifices made by The Greatest Generation.

The lessons of Pearl Harbor are many, but chief among them is that freedom isn’t free -- and that we always must be vigilant to recognize the forces of evil that seek to destroy our way of life.

Your opinions, please

The Chelsea Record welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Our fax number is **781-485-0588**.

Letters may also be e-mailed to **editor@chelsearecord.com**.

Letters must be signed.

We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Chelsea Record is published every Thursday by the Revere -based Independent Newspaper Group. Periodical postage rates paid at Boston, MA. Subscription rates are \$30 per year in Chelsea, and \$60 per year outside the city. The Chelsea Record assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements, but will reprint that part of the advertisement in which the error occurs. Advertisers will please notify the management immediately of any errors that may occur. Chelsea Record, 101-680, at 385 Broadway, the Citizens Bank Building, Suite 105, Revere, MA 02151, is a weekly publication. Periodicals postage paid at Boston, MA 02110. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Independent Newspaper Group, 385 Broadway, Suite 105, Revere, MA 02151. Subscription price in-town is \$26 and out of town is \$50.

USPS NO. 101-680

Forum

GUEST OP-ED

Christmas rest and peace

Christmas should be a relaxing time. If you believe Santa Claus is coming then let him take care of the work. Surely, he will show up. Just ask him to bring dinner when he comes. Make sure he comes in the front door. I don’t know about bringing broccoli casserole down the chimney.

If you are putting up lights, now is the time to do so. You want to have time to enjoy the lights and the more you string together and cover your house the more electricity you are using. This is turn creates a big electric bill but you are keeping the paychecks going for the utility people.

The main thing is don’t go crazy this Christmas. You don’t have to buy everything. The stores love for you to max out your credit cards but you won’t love it in February and March when you are paying it back. Use commonsense when it comes to the entire season. Eat

a piece of pie but don’t eat the pie. Eat a slice of turkey but don’t eat the turkey. Decorate if you wish but you don’t have to spend a week putting up lights. They all have to come back down you know. Spend only what you can afford. If you can’t afford much then don’t press yourself to do what you cannot do.

Christmas is the birthday of Jesus but we often make it a day of bedlam. The birth of Jesus was in Bethlehem. His parents were poor. They had gone to an out of the way town to pay their taxes. There was no place for them to sleep. They slept in a barn and Jesus was born while they were there. Mary laid him in a cow’s trough. They were poor, tired and life was not very easy for Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

Keep in mind that Jesus came to save us from our sins. He came to give us peace. The Bible calls him the Prince of Peace. Most people need some peace

and one way to have more peace is to focus on the baby of Christmas. Christ is comfort and peace.

You don’t always find your peace at church. The church isn’t Jesus. If your church is stressing you out, harping about money every Sunday, and pulling you in ten different directions then you might consider taking a step back and reevaluating.

The season of joy is here. Don’t depend on others to create joy for you. Get alone with God every day and focus on him. You’ll discover a peace and a rest that only He can provide.

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.

National Grid recommends home preparations ahead of winter

With colder weather and storm season approaching, including the likelihood of rain and strong winds later today, National Grid is encouraging customers to proactively prepare their homes and businesses for the weeks and months ahead.

Every day, National Grid works to ensure that customers receive the safest and most reliable energy service possible. National Grid has secured sufficient natural gas supplies to keep customers warm this winter, and is continuously inspecting, investing in, and upgrading critical infrastructure, performing vegetation management services to keep power lines clear of obstructions, and preparing our crews to respond to major weather events.

In 2021, National Grid made more than \$800 million in infrastructure and related investments across Massachusetts, including work that upgraded and secured critical facilities that help power and heat homes and businesses. These investments along with other efforts have resulted in National Grid having strong system performance so far in 2022, with our electric network operating at 99.995 availability -- a nearly 7 percent improvement over 2021 -- providing customers with reliable electric service day-in and day-out.

“As we head into the late fall and begin winter, the chance for inclement weather to potentially impact our customers in Massachusetts is greatly increased,” said Tanya Moniz-Witten, Vice President of New England Electric Operations. “Ahead of storm season, we recommend all our customers make sure they are prepared in case of outages in their area. National Grid takes steps throughout the year to make our system more resilient, but major storms can cause significant damage. In the event of a power outage, our crews and support teams will be ready and work-

ing for as long as needed to safely restore service as quickly as possible.”

Winter will also mean higher electric and gas bills. National Grid recognizes increased bills will pose challenges for many customers. In September, the company launched its Winter Customer Savings Initiative, which is designed to help customers reduce their energy use and lower energy costs, manage their energy bills and payments, and help them secure available energy assistance if they need it. More information about the initiative can be found at ngrid.com/here-tohelp.

Before inclement weather brings challenges to the region, National Grid is offering customers the following tips and reminders:

Stay Safe:

- People who depend on electric-powered life support equipment, such as a respirator, should let National Grid know. To register as a life support customer, call the company’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-322-3223. News Release

National Grid Recommend s Home Preparations Ahead of Winter

National Grid is offering customers tips to make sure they are prepared for storm season

Prepare your home:

- Customers with generators are encouraged to conduct regular maintenance checks to ensure the generator is operating safely.

- If applicable, schedule a home’s furnace tune-up to ensure it is in proper working order, and ensure it and any water heaters are properly vented.

- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and change the batteries every year.

- Remove dead or rotting branches on trees.

- Schedule a free Mass Save home energy assessment to learn ways to reduce winter energy use. Call 888-774-3167 to schedule an appointment.

Prepare a winter emergency kit in the event of a major storm with the following items:

- Water – the American Red Cross recommends one gallon of water per person per day.
- Food – at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food, plus a can opener.
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First-aid kit.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- Personal hygiene supplies.
- Extra cash.
- Cell phone with chargers.
- Emergency contact numbers.

Other items to consider may be found on the National Grid website here.

Customers Should Stay Connected:

- Report power outages at www.nationalgridus.com or call 1-800-465-1212.

- Use a mobile device to

track outage information and storm-related safety tips through National Grid’s mobile site accessible at www.ngrid.com/mobile.

- Like National Grid on Facebook and follow on Twitter and Instagram; National Grid posts all the latest storm and restoration updates.

- Track outages and estimated restoration times at www.nationalgridus.com/outage-central.

- Make sure National Grid has updated email addresses and phone numbers on file. Update contact information at ngrid.com. Click on sign in/register.

- To stay connected during storms and outages, text to 64743 using any of the below commands.

- o REG to sign up for text alerts

- o OUT to report an outage

- o SUM followed by your town, county, or state to get a summary of outages in your area

See WINTER Page 5

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Burlesque Troupe gets in holiday spirit at Chelsea Theatre Works

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BEAUTEASE BURLESQUE

By Adam Swift

Who wouldn't love a classic, embarrassing office holiday party without all of the day-after guilt? Thanks to BeauTease Burlesque's ScroogeCo. Holiday Party, that's exactly what you'll be able to take part in over the next two weekends at Chelsea Theatre Works.

The interactive theater experience will feature food, dancing, drinks, and lots of interactive singing, performing, games, and more, all in the best (worst?) tradition of holiday parties from Scrooge to Dwight Shrute and The Office.

"We've done interactive events before, but not for the winter holidays, we did a Halloween burlesque and haunted house," said the BeauTease Burlesque co-founder, impresario, and master of ceremonies known simply as Scratch.

"We've done many holiday shows before, but this is a different take on things."

BeauTease Burlesque is the longest running active burlesque troupe in the Boston area, having formed in 2006.

Most of the troupe's shows reflect the glitz, glamor, and kaboom of the classic burlesque shows of the 1940s and 1950s as they never quite were, according to Scratch.

The ScroogeCo. Holiday Party leans heavier on the improv skills of the eight performers who will be taking part, and was also more of a collaborative affair than the more scripted burlesque shows that Scratch typically pens himself.

The audience is fully part of the show, which Scratch said is influenced partly by the long-running Donkey Show in Harvard Square and by a host of favorite fictional characters indulging in holiday cheer.

"One can expect, in the best possible way, the cheesiest possible way," said Scratch. "We won't have the photocopier to photocopy people's butts, but we are going to have ice breakers like can-

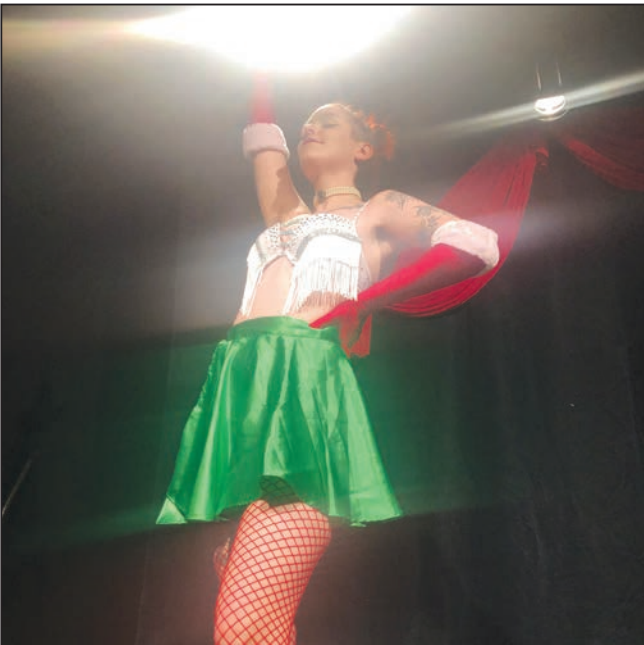


Performer Jeannie Martini as Doris Elfinski, food services at ScroogeCo HQ, participates in the employee talent show.

dy cane races, which are like the old carnival race with horses, pin the tail on the reindeer, and singing, dancing, and comedy.

It's a party where a show breaks out every 15 minutes."

While the performers can be expected to break



Elfin go-go dancers entertain the crowd at ScroogeCo Holiday Office Party.

into a song or dance at any minute, there will also be a DJ spinning tunes to add to the general merriment for everyone.

Performances are scheduled for Dec. 2, 3,

4, 8, 9, and 10 at Chelsea Theatre Works at 189 Winnisimmet St.

Tickets are available on the BeauTease Burlesque website at www.boston-beautease.com.

Winter / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

o HELP for the full list of commands

Additional safety information may be found at <https://www.national-gridus.com/MA-Home/Storm-Safety/>

About National Grid

About National Grid: National Grid (NYSE: NGG) is an electricity, natural gas, and clean energy delivery company serving more than 20 million people through our networks in New York and Massachusetts. National Grid is focused on build-

ing a path to a more affordable, reliable clean energy future through our fossil-free vision. National Grid is transforming our electricity and natural gas networks with smarter, cleaner, and more resilient energy solutions to meet the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

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the entire community to address the issues of the opioid epidemic, the mental health crisis, domestic violence, and the harm caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Only by working as a team and in unison will we be successful," said Houghton. "It takes my commitment as chief pledging to you that all Chelsea police officers are community service officers first," he said.

Houghton said his policing philosophy calls for he and all his officers to be fair, accountable, compassionate, and transparent in everything they do. He added that he will continue to make serving

the city's youth a top priority of the department.

"This is Chelsea's future," Houghton said. "Their safety, wellbeing, and ability to thrive should be vital areas of focus encompassing the entire community. It is imperative to make resources constantly available to them."

The new chief said he believes in a policy of engagement over enforcement, but said the department and city must remain diligent, aware, and prepared to address any uptick in gang activity and youth violence.

There will also be a major focus on the neighborhoods of the city, with

Houghton stating that he will recommit officers to each neighborhood in the city, expanding on the successful model of the downtown task force. He said he will also further efforts to increase equity and inclusion in the department.

City Manager Thomas Ambrosino said he was excited to take part in his first official swearing in of a new police chief in his nearly eight years in the city.

"I feel it is a rewarding moment because we are about to elevate and promote someone who is truly deserving of this honor," said Ambrosino. "Chief Houghton was

appointed to the Chelsea Police Department back in 1986 and he quickly worked his way through the ranks, becoming a captain in 2002."

In 2007, Houghton was appointed to lead the department's criminal investigation divisions, as well as serve as the public information officer for the department.

"He's really just had a myriad of successful assignments for the Chelsea Police Department in his long career," said Ambrosino. "In addition, he is academically well versed. He has a master's degree from Anna Maria College and is a graduate of the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia."

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Iovanna / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Andrew and Nancy Iovanna, sister, Karla Iovanna, and brother, Michael, looked on proudly as First Justice Matthew Machera administered the oath of office to Iovanna, who in her esteemed position will oversee the Probation Department at Chelsea District Court. Janelle Reppucci-O'Brien is the court's Assistant Chief Probation Officer.

Assistant Clerk Magistrate Edward O'Neil welcomed the assemblage to the ceremony, congratulating Iovanna on her well-deserved promotion.

"We are here for a wonderful occasion, the swearing-in of our new chief probation officer, Jessica Iovanna," said O'Neil.

Dr. Carmen Gomez, former chief probation officer at Chelsea District Court, said it was "an honor and a privilege" to speak at the ceremony.

Gomez commended Jessica's parents in her remarks. "Thank you [Mr. and Mrs. Iovanna], because you have raised somebody with great ethics, somebody with a big, big heart, somebody who understands the importance of this work, and somebody who from Day 1 has shown dedication and passion for the people we serve," said Gomez.

Crediting Iovanna's outstanding leadership and dedication to her responsibilities, Gomez said, "Jessica has done a lot of work to get to this point. I want to tell you how much I appreciate to know that I'm handing this over to somebody as capable and as committed and dedicated as Jessica is."

Justice Machera, the presiding judge of Chelsea District Court, also congratulated Iovanna on her appointment, stating, "I make a lot of decisions as a judge, but this ended up being one of the easiest decisions I've ever made. It's been a seamless transition, because everybody that knows you [Jessica], knows where your heart is."

Machera added that he received many positive recommendations about Iovanna. "They're too numerous to mention. It was a really competitive [candidates'] application process, but at the end, this is your home, this is where you belong," Machera told Iovanna.

After receiving her oath and being accorded a warm, standing ovation from the audience, Iovanna delivered her first speech as the new chief probation officer.

"This isn't overwhelming at all," Iovanna began wittily. "Thank you all so much for taking time out of your schedule to come be here with me for my greatest accomplishment of my professional career so far. I'm truly honored and humbled by all the support and encouragement I've received from everyone."

Iovanna added, "Today, I make a commitment to honoring the values and the mission of the Massachusetts Trial Court and the Massachusetts Probation Service. I understand the position I hold is one of public trust and carries with it a responsibility that isn't to be taken lightly. I will work to ensure that



Chelsea Police Chief Keith Houghton and CPO Jessica Iovanna.



Assistant Clerk Magistrate Carmen DiRuzza and CPO Jessica Iovanna.



CPO Jessica Iovanna and Assistant Clerk Magistrate Edward O'Neil.



Jessica Iovanna, with Chelsea City Manager Tom Ambrosino.



Chief Probation Officer Jessica Iovanna, with her proud parents, Andrew Iovanna and Nancy Iovanna, at the Oath of Office ceremony.



Chelsea District Court Clerk Magistrate Kevin Murphy, Chief Probation Officer Jessica Iovanna, Malden District Court Clerk Magistrate Erica Colombo, and Chelsea District Court First Justice Matthew Machera.



Chelsea District Court Chief Probation Officer Jessica Iovanna is pictured after the Oath of Office ceremony with her family. From left, are James Pettinichchio, Karla Iovanna (sister), Michael Iovanna (brother), William Ferullo (uncle), Marguerite Ferullo (aunt), Vincent Cammarata (uncle) DJ Canniff (nephew), Nancy Iovanna (mother), Chief Probation Officer Jessica Iovanna, Andrew Iovanna (father), Olivia DeLuca (niece), Karen Dalton (aunt) Justine Petino (cousin), Maureen Waddell (aunt), and George Waddell (uncle).

every individual is not only treated with the dignity and respected they deserve, but also feels heard and valued as a member of our community."

In a heartfelt message to her family and friends on the momentous occasion, Iovanna offered, "I wouldn't be who or where I am today, if it wasn't for your love, support, and

guidance. Each of you have always been there for me, through the good times and the bad times. I have confidence that each of you know how much I love you, how much I appreciate you, and how special you are."

"To Mom and Dad, "I don't know where I would be if it wasn't for you. Thank you isn't enough to

express my gratitude for all that you've done, and continue to do to ensure my success and happiness. By example, you have instilled in me the values of honesty, integrity, compassion, and respect, just to name a few."

A prolonged ovation, the second one of what was assuredly a most memorable day in her suc-

cessful career in the judicial system, accompanied Jessica Iovanna, new chief probation officer of Chelsea District Court, to her seat.

The day was emblematic that dedication, professionalism, and excellence in your job can lead to tremendous accomplishments and immense stature in your field.



Probation Commissioner Edward Dolan and CPO Jessica Iovanna.



Assistant Clerk Magistrate Jim Dwyer and CPO Jessica Iovanna.



Jessica Iovanna and Andrew Lauria of the Revere Police Honor Guard.



Revere Councillor-at-Large Dan Rizzo and Chief Probation Officer Jessica Iovanna.



Chelsea Police Chief Keith Houghton and Revere Police Chief David Callahan congratulate Jessica Iovanna on her promotion to Chief Probation Officer of Chelsea District Court.



Presiding Justice Matthew Machera congratulates Jessica Iovanna, the new Chief Probation Officer at Chelsea District Court. Also pictured are Probation Regional Supervisor Dr. Carmen Gomez and her children, Christopher and Christina Torres.



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for helping us win The Boston Globe's *Top Places to Work* for an eighth time. We are proud to be a team that delivers compassionate, high-quality care to our community.



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Mary Ann Pires honored with plaque at Cohen Florence Levine Estates for 60 years of employment

Special to the Record

It's a beautiful plaque, simply elegant in fact. But more importantly, it's what the plaque symbolizes, and that is a dedicated employee whose work is appreciated by an

outstanding Chelsea organization. Mary Ann Pires has worked for Chelsea Jewish Lifecare for 60 years in numerous positions at all three Chelsea locations. In 1962, Mary Ann started her career at Chelsea Jew-

ish Nursing Home (now known as Katzman Family Center for Living) as a nurse's aide. She has been indispensable ever since. Today, at age 80, she works full time as the adored receptionist at Cohen Florence Levin

Estates Assisted Living. Her broad smile, bubbly personality, and attention to detail have made her a favorite among both residents and staff.

In an impressive ceremony to celebrate Mary Ann's remarkable milestone, CEO Barry Berman presented Mary Ann with a plaque as her family and co-workers looked on proudly.

"For 60 years, Mary Ann Pires has dedicated her life to caring for the residents of the Chelsea Jewish organization, and we're just so proud to have known her for so many years, and we wish her continued good health," said Berman.

Mary Ann Pires accepted the honor in typically humble fashion, deflecting the spotlight and lauding her fellow employees. "The people are absolutely fabulous here," said Mary Ann. "It's a fabulous building and they give wonderful care, and Barry's been a wonderful administrator. He's the best."



Mary Ann Pires dedicated 60 years of her life to serving Chelsea Jewish Life Care. Mary Ann is pictured at the Plaque recognition ceremony with with CEO Barry and Cindy Berman.



Kristen Donnelly (left), executive director of Cohen Florence Levine Estates (left) and Jen Fazekas (right), director of marketing, are pictured with Mary Ann Pires, at the plaque recognition ceremony in her honor.



Derek Pires and the family proudly present Mary Ann with flowers at the dedication last Thursday afternoon.



Mary Ann Pires unveils the plaque in the main lobby commemorating her 60 years of service, while CEO Barry and Cindy Berman and family members applaud her dedication.



Mary Ann Pires with CEO Barry Berman and Cindy Berman, family members, Nancy Pires, Derek Pires, Guy GiBalski, Kim Yannetty, Lisa Pires, John and Gina Pires with Amanda Pires and Kevin Kelliger of Management Assoc.

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Boston Lyric Opera’s 2022-23 mid-season casting and ticket announcement

Casting and production announcements for Boston Lyric Opera’s (BLO) spring 2023 performances are being released today, including performers in BLO’s premiere production of Bluebeard’s Castle/Four Songs in March 2023 and the New England premiere of Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels’ new opera, Omar in May 2023. Public tickets for both performances are on sale December 1.

BLUEBEARD’S CASTLE/FOUR SONGS

Bass-baritone Ryan McKinny stars as the fictional, fairytale character Bluebeard in Béla Bartók’s one-act psychological thriller Bluebeard’s Castle that will be paired with the dramatic song cycle Four Songs (Vier Lieder) by composer Alma Mahler (wife of Gustav). The highly anticipated produc-

tion is directed by Anne Bogart, whose 2019 version of The Handmaid’s Tale for BLO received universal acclaim and was one of BLO’s best-selling shows. Naomi Louisa O’Connell sings the role of Judith, the bride who realizes she’s gotten herself into a much different post-nuptial situation than she envisioned. O’Connell also performs Mahler’s “Four Songs.” BLO Music Director David Angus conducts. Bluebeard’s Castle/Four Songs will play March 22-26, 2023 in an immersive, multi-genre experience that includes a salon-like atmosphere, dance and more installed at The Terminal @ Flynn Cruiseport in South Boston.

OMAR

Tenor Jamez McCorkle stars in Omar, the title role he premiered at the Spole-



Ryan McKinny.



Jamez McCorkle.

to Festival last spring and brought to LA Opera this fall. Omar is the story of Omar Ibn Said, a prominent scholar of the Islamic faith and many other subjects, who was born to a wealthy West African family. Enslaved in South Carolina at 37 years old, Ibn Said escaped his first place of enslavement and headed to North Carolina where he lived as a slave

until his death in 1864. His is the only known autobiographical essay written in Arabic by a Muslim man enslaved in America. Grammy winner Rhiannon Giddens wrote the libretto and composed the music in partnership with film and orchestral composer Michael Abels for a production conceived by Kaneza Schaal. Classical Voice San Francisco

called the production “a profoundly moving spectacle,” and lauded McCorkle’s performance as “a career-defining role.” Michael Ellis Ingram conducts the BLO Orchestra and Chorus.

Additional casting announced for Omar includes Cierra Byrd in the role of Fatima, Omar’s Mother and Daniel Okulitch playing the dual roles of enslavers James Owen / Johnson. BLO Emerging Artists (current and alumni) in principal roles include: Neal Ferreira as Auctioneer / Taylor; Emma Sorenson as Eliza, Little Daughter; Nicholas LaGessee as Abdul, Omar’s Brother / Abe; and Fred C. VanNess Jr. as Amadou-Renty. Catherine Daniel plays Katie Ellen/The Caller. Omar plays May 4-7, 2023 at the Emerson Cutler Majestic

Theater.

Omar is co-commissioned by Spoleto Festival USA, Carolina Performing Arts, L.A. Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago and San Francisco Opera. It is inspired by Dr. Ala Alryyes’s translation of Omar Ibn Said’s autobiography in his book A Muslim American Slave: The Life of Omar Ibn Said.

TICKETS ON SALE

Individual tickets for BLO’s Spring 2023 performances of Bluebeard’s Castle/Four Songs and Omar are on sale December 1. Two-show subscriptions, also available now, offer a 10% discount over individual tickets.

Subscriptions and individual tickets can be purchased online at blo.org, by phone at 617.542.6772 or by email at boxoffice@blo.org.

FRESH AND LOCAL

Canned Tuna: 101

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Canned tuna options have changed over the past few years, so we’ve decided to review some of your choices in the canned fish aisle. Many of us keep cans or jars of tuna on hand. This pantry-stable product is an excellent source of protein and can add essential nutrients like omega-3 fatty acids to your diet.

What’s in the Can or Jar?

There are several factors you should consider when choosing tuna. Start with a bit of label scrutiny. First, read the ingredients. We always like any processed food to have as few ingredients as possible. Our favorite canned tuna has just two ingredients: Skipjack tuna and salt. Other ingredients that might be in a can of tuna are olive oil, water, vegetable broth, vegetable oil, and soy.

Two ingredients may signify that the tuna was

only cooked once and should contain all the original omega-3 fatty acids. The government requires pressure cooking in the container for safe preservation. Some brands cook the tuna twice, and you lose some nutrition in the liquid left behind in the first round. Our choice puts raw tuna in the can and cooks it once. The fat and liquid in our can are all from the tuna.

We choose Skipjack for lower levels of mercury. The Environmental Defense Fund explains, “There are two main kinds of canned tuna: chunk light and solid or chunk white (albacore). All canned white tuna is albacore. Its mercury levels are almost three times higher than the smaller skipjack tuna, used in most canned light tuna products.”

Finally, other words indicate that the tuna in the can is more sustainable and better for the environment. These are “pole or line caught,” and “dolphin and turtle safe,” “No Nets

and No Long lines.” You may see certification from the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) or choose a brand on the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s Seafood watch list.

Quick Meal Starters

Many tuna brands have added packets, cans, or jars of tuna with seasoning or vegetables to their line-ups. These can turn a salad or a grain bowl into a meal in minutes. Since these are often single-serving sizes, you can try a few and add your favorites to your pantry.

At the end of a long day, you might reflect on what you ate and decide you didn’t get enough protein. When this happens, we grab a can of Freshé Sicilian Caponata or Provence Niçoise. You can have it with good bread, on top of a salad, or mixed with grains, legumes, or beans. We’ve added a few cans of these products to our emergency meal stash since canned tuna usually has an extended best-by



For a quick lunch, it took minutes to pull the tab on a can of Sicilian Caponata with tuna and arrange it on a bowl of arugula.

date. Our current supply has a date in 2026.

Zippy Ingredients

Flavored tunas can add zip to favorite comfort foods like tuna salads, tuna noodle casseroles, tuna melts, tuna patties, pasta al tonno, and salade Niçoise. As with any processed food, read the nutrition and ingredient information to decide if the

calorie count, sodium level, and percentage of saturated fat in these mixes are compatible with your family’s dietary needs and limitations.

As we all learn more to take better control of the food we eat, decisions require a bit more research. However, once you find a few products with flavor, nutrition, and sustainability standards that meet

your own, you can keep buying them. And, when you see something new, you’ll have a product that any new item will have to top to win a spot on your shopping list.

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

CHELSEA KIWANIS INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

On November 3, the Chelsea Kiwanis Club and family members met at El Potro Mexican Bar & Grill in Chelsea to install its officers and directors for the new Kiwanis year, which runs from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023. John Mattuchio of the Everett Kiwanis Club is the Lt. Governor for Division 12 of the New England & Bermuda District of Kiwanis and performed the installations. Rich Cuthie, Joe Carreiro, and Cassandra Thompson will reprise their roles as President, Treasurer,

and Secretary, respectively. Elaine Monge is Vice-President with Carolyn Boumila-Vega and Veronica Dyer-Medina as Directors.

In addition to installing the officers and directors, Roy Avellaneda was installed as a new member with his sponsor, Elaine Monge, pinning his lapel. Other members were honored for their years of service as Kiwanis, with belated awards being given that the pandemic had postponed. Elaine Monge and Renee Caso received pins and certificates for

10 years of Kiwanis service, while Tom Speropolous was honored for his more than 35 years as a Kiwanian. Additionally, Joe Carreiro and Veronica Dyer-Medina received Distinguished Service Commendations for going above and beyond in their support of the Chelsea Kiwanis Club over the past year.

The red blazers worn by Kiwanians represent each \$1,000 raised by the Chelsea Club for the Kiwanis Foundation of New England which addresses pediatric trauma in New

England and other worthwhile causes everywhere.

The Chelsea Kiwanis Club is one of thousands of Kiwanis clubs around the world. Its members are just some of the hundreds of thousands of Kiwanians globally who are dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time. If you would like more information about the Chelsea Kiwanis Club, please get in touch at chelseakiwanisclub@gmail.com.



Seated (left to right): Roy Avellaneda, John Chirichiello (past Lt. Governor), and Tom Speropolous. Standing (left to right) Joe Carreiro (Treasurer), Alex Christmas, Elaine Monge (Vice-President), Lt. Governor John Mattuchio, Cassandra Thompson (Secretary), Renee Caso, Tricia Monkiewicz-Williams, Veronica Dyer-Medina, and Rich Cuthie.

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OBITUARIES

Karen Stahl

Retired Chelsea Soliders Home Medical Transcriptionist

A lifelong resident of Chelsea, Karen M. Stahl, 67, passed away unexpectedly in her home on Saturday, December 3.

Born and raised in Chelsea, she was the beloved daughter of the late Dean S. and Stella A. (Richard) Stahl. Karen attended local schools and graduated from Chelsea High School in 1973. She also attended MassBay Community College and received a certificate in healthcare sciences. Karen retired from the Chelsea Soldiers Home where she worked as a Medical Transcriptionist for twenty years.

She is survived by her aunt, Elsie Fenby of Florida and her life caregivers and supporters, Patricia Frank of Tewksbury and Thomas Caron of Wakefield. She is also survived by many loving cousins, extended family members

and friends.

Relatives and friends are most kindly invited to gather at the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea on Friday, December 9 from 9 to 10 a.m. immediately followed by services in the funeral home at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with interment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Should friends desire, contributions in Karen's name may be made to the Northeast Animal Shelter, 347 Highland Ave., Salem MA 01970.

Arrangements were given to the care and direction of the Welsh Funeral Home.

For online guest book or to send expressions of sympathy, please visit; www.WelshFH.com.



Manuel Vicente Gonzalez Doran

Landscaper

Manuel Vicente Gonzalez Doran passed away suddenly in his home on Friday, December 2.

Born and raised in San Felipe, Apastépéque, El Salvador, a beloved son of the late Ezequiel Gonzalez Molina and Victoria Gonzalez, Manuel worked as a landscaper for several local companies.

He is survived by family and friends in Chelsea and El Salvador.

Visiting hours will be held from the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea today, Thursday, December 8 from 4 to 8 p.m. Relatives and friends are most kindly invited to attend. Manuel will be placed to rest



in Apastépéque El Salvador at a later date.

Arrangements were given to the care of the Welsh Funeral Home.

For online guest book or to send expressions of sympathy, please visit; www.WelshFH.com



Phyllis Neri

Affectionately known as “Mema”

Phyllis (Gosciniak) Neri, 89, entered into eternal life on December 2.

Born and raised in Revere, Phyllis led a full life, leaving behind an adoring family: sons: Raymond Neri, Jr. and his wife, Rosemarie of Saugus and Edward Neri and his wife, Nancy of Peabody; grandchildren: Michelle Caron and her husband, Jason, Brian Neri, and Christopher Neri, all of Saugus; great-grandchildren: Kailee, Madison, Emma, Mackenzie, Jason Jr. and Lily Caron, all of Saugus; great-great-grandchildren: Liam and Knox McLellan and Mason Gillis, all of Saugus and many additional nieces, nephews and friends.

Phyllis lost her loving and dedicated husband of 66 years, Raymond Neri, Sr., of Chelsea, the previous year.

As the youngest of seven and the last surviving sibling, Phyllis was predeceased by her parents Stanislaw and Victoria (Kaczmarek) Gosciniak and siblings: Chester, Carl, Edward and Walter Gosciniak, Stella O'Brien, Irene Payne and Sophie Kozen.

While spending her years as a homemaker, Phyllis hand-made countless cherished gifts for her family through her passion for knitting and rug-hooking. In addition to enjoying classic Nintendo video games (no-



tably excelling at Tetris and Arkanoid), Phyllis enjoyed drives with her husband, Raymond to play games of chance at various casinos.

At the request of her family, services were held privately on Tuesday, December 6. Family members would like to express heartfelt thanks to friends and the Katzman House of Chelsea, for all their care, compassion and support.

Phyllis will be fondly remembered for her pride in her Polish heritage. Memorial contributions in her name may be made to the charity of your choice. In closing, her family kindly asks that you always remember to say “please” and “thank you” and hug your loved ones.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Carafa Family Funeral Home in Chelsea. We encourage family and friends to visit www.carafafuneralhome.com to offer condolences by means of the online guest book or to send a personalized sympathy card.

BRUINS Beat

by Bob Morello

Bruins on the road again

Boston's 14-game history-making home ice win streak is over, following the Bruins' 4-3 shootout loss to former Bs head coach Bruce Cassidy and his Vegas Golden Knights on Monday. The locals managed to come back from a 3-0 deficit to tie the game and advance to a shootout, while displaying the confidence and character that has them presently in second place overall in the National Hockey League standings. Second only to the Metropolitan Division leading New Jersey Devils who lead by two points (43-41), having played two more games than the Bruins (26-24). To be noted is the fact that the Devils have 21 wins – Bruins 20, but in percentage-wise wins, Boston has the better numbers (.854 compared to New Jersey's .827). Both teams are playing well, as each presently show a record of 8-1-1 for their last ten games.

There was plenty of emotion involved for the Bruins, having to face Cassidy, their recently deposed

head coach, and also for Cassidy, having to come to Boston, be in the visitor's dressing room, and what was probably a long walk for Bruce...to the visitor's bench. While he was probably not happy to see his Knights blow a three-goal lead, he had to be elated that his team left Boston with the two points, courtesy of former Bruin Reilly Smith's game-winning overtime goal.

All that is history, as the Bruins headed out on the road for a three-game road trip that began last night (Wednesday), with the locals being hosted by the defending Stanley Cup champion Colorado Avalanche. Coming into that game, Colorado was playing mediocre hockey (5-5-0 last 10 games), and probably still feeling the effects of last Saturday's 5-1 pounding by Boston on TD Garden ice. Colorado was expected to be missing their superstar forward Nathan McKinnon due to an injury suffered on Monday. McKinnon who leads the Avalanche with

34 points, is expected to be out several weeks due to an upper-body injury. The Bruins have played well on the road, having posted six wins in their nine road games coming into Wednesday's contest. Friday night (9:30pm) will have the Arizona Coyotes providing the opposition. At press time Arizona has only seven wins in their first 23 games, playing at a snail's pace of 1-6-3 for their last ten games. They are currently tied for last place in the Central Division with the Chicago Blackhawks. Things should turn very interesting, very quickly, as Sunday night's game (8:00pm) will be a 'revenge' match, as the Bruins will take their talents to Vegas, to face Cassidy's Vegas Golden Knights, for the second time in less than a week. Following their three-game road trip, Boston returns to TD Garden ice for the next five games, to begin a home stand that will include visits from the New York Islanders (Tuesday at 7:00pm), and the Los An-

geles Kings (Thursday at 7:00pm). Rounding out the home stand will be stops in Boston from the Columbus Blue Jackets, Florida Panthers, and the Winnipeg Jets.

David Pastrnak continues to lead the Bruins in scoring with 35 points in 24 games, including 17 goals and 18 assists. The balanced scoring which has helped the offense immensely, shows 11 players, who as of Wednesday night had double-digit points to show. Also, strength in goal with Linus Ullmark stats showing an impressive record of 14-1-0-0, a goals-against-average of 1.93 – and a .936 save percentage. Jeremy Swayman has also contributed with the workload, posting numbers of 5-2-0-1, 2.63 goals-against, plus a .899 save percentage. Boston fans will be looking forward to the team returning home to possibly see the locals start another home ice winning streak.

Girl Scouts in eastern Mass. are now selling Girl Scout Cookies

Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts kicks-off the 2023 Girl Scout Cookie season as Girl Scouts and their troops rally the community to support the world's largest entrepreneurial program for girls. The annual cookie program will run through Friday, March 10th.

Consumers can support their local Girl Scouts by purchasing their favorite varieties including Thin Mints®, Caramel deLites®, Peanut Butter Patties®, Adventurefuls™, Peanut Butter Sandwich, Lemonades™, Trefoil®, Caramel Chocolate Chip Cookie (gluten-free and peanut-free) and Toast-Yay!™.

In addition to everyone's quintessential favorites, Girl Scouts has a new, online exclusive cookie, Raspberry Rally, which is a thin crispy cookie infused with raspberry flavor and dipped in the same delicious chocolaty coating as the beloved Thin Mints cookies. This new cookie will be the first in the Girl Scout Cookie lineup to be exclusively offered for online sale and direct ship-

ment only, enhancing girls' e-commerce sales and entrepreneurial skills.

“The Girl Scouts Cookie Program is iconic in developing future women entrepreneurs. I have heard many times from women that their first experience in sales was through Girl Scouts,” stated Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts CEO Barbara Fortier. “As we enter what I think is the greatest time of year, I encourage people to remember that when you are purchasing a box of cookies, they are not only delicious but you are supporting a future entrepreneur.”

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the world's largest entrepreneurial program for girls. Girl Scouts' newly updated Financial Literacy badges offer entrepreneurial playbooks for every age level. From the Cookie Goal Setter badge earned as a Daisy to the Entrepreneur Accelerator for girls in high school, the Girl Scout Cookie Program teaches girls financial literacy, planning, budgeting, teamwork, innovative thinking, and confident decision making.

Girl Scout Cookies are

\$5 per package. There are many ways to support the Girl Scout Cookie program this season:

- If you don't know a Girl Scout, visit gsema.org/buycookies to find a cookie booth (pop-up shop) near you to purchase cookies from a local Girl Scout troop, or to connect with a local troop's online cookie shop to purchase cookies for a donation or shipment.
- If you know a registered Girl Scout, reach out to them to find out how they're selling cookies.
- Customers can make a purchase in-person or online and designate their purchase for donation to Cookies for a Cause to benefit first responders and healthcare professionals, the military and veterans' services organizations, local food pantries, and more.
- Visit www.gsema.org to have Girl Scout cookies shipped directly to your door. GSEMA will cover 50% of customers' shipping costs for all online Direct Ship orders of nine packages or more from February 1 – March 10.

Girls in grades K–12 can join Girl Scouts any time

during the year to begin their Girl Scout journey. As girls grow with Girl Scouts, they learn hands-on leadership skills they'll use to make their mark through the Gold Award and beyond. To join or volunteer, visit www.gsema.org.

For more information on Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts, please visit www.gsema.org, or follow their social media channels, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn, for the latest updates on the organization.

Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts (GSEMA) is 30,000 strong, with 20,000 girls and 10,000 volunteers in 178 communities in eastern Massachusetts, building girl scouts of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. GSEMA is the largest girl serving organization in Massachusetts and the 10th largest Girl Scout council in the United States. Girl Scouts is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. To volunteer, reconnect, donate, join, or learn more, visit gsema.org.

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Region / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

an hour nightly to find parking in the area.

“Honestly, I know that you increased the amount of parking spots by 30% – good job – for me, I mean, the minimum is a one-to-one ratio at this point. I mean, there’s just no place else,” said Zuluaga.

While parking is undoubtedly a significant issue, safety is another, considering the Donald McKay School is a direct abutter to the proposed development.

Jason Meland, the school’s principal, outlined his concerns explaining that 90% of students live within one mile of the school, meaning many kids and their families walk to school.

Meland voiced that he wanted to hear plans for minimizing traffic disruption during potential construction in a high-traffic area with kids making their way to and from school.

He also mentioned apprehensions about dust production during construction as students spend a lot of time outside in a recess yard right behind the job site.

“As the school principal, my primary responsibility is the safety of our school, our students, and their families,” said Meland.

Susan Huang, the Director of Operations at the Donald McKay School, echoed Meland’s sentiment saying, “I do think the size and scope of the project raises safety concerns for our students and families, and I just hope that the developers will take these points into consideration.”

Overall, the project seems to have made some moves to quell concerns, but it is clear that residents are still worried about the issues it could cause.

However, Armindo Goncalves, who presented the updated plans, took all the feedback Monday and emphasized that this meeting is only the beginning of a community discussion.

“This is the beginning of a discussion and so let’s start that today, and hopefully, we’ll come up with something again we can all be proud of,” said Goncalves.

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) will hold a virtual public meeting to field more comments on the project Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m. Further, the public comment period is open until Friday, Dec. 16.

To leave public comments and register for the upcoming public meeting, residents can visit <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/9-mckay-place>.

COUNCIL REMEMBERS RICHARD SASSO

EVERETT - The Everett City Council honored the late Richard Sasso with a moment of silence at Monday’s Council meeting.

Mr. Sasso, who owned and operated the 8/10 Bar and Grille on Nor-

wood Street for the past 16 years, died on Nov. 25. He was 62 years old.

“He was a wonderful man,” said Councilor Wayne Matewsky. “Everybody knows what a great restaurant it is, with great food and great employees. And he was one nice guy.”

Matewsky said that Mr. Sasso worked hard to build a successful business in Everett. “He opened a business here. He bought the building after opening the restaurant. His father, Attorney Joseph Sasso, is a former alderman in this city.”

Councilor Al Lattanzi recalled his strong friendship with Richard Sasso.

“Richie and I were great friends – the last couple of years we got even closer when he had some issues with his health,” said Lattanzi. “I used to call him all the time and check on him. My wife told me on Saturday morning that he had passed. I was in shock. Tears came to my eyes. He was such a nice guy. I’m going to miss him a lot. His dad and his mother are great people. I’ve been to their house.

“Richie had that wonderful restaurant on Norwood Street,” continued Lattanzi. “It was a gathering place for most of the Council. His dad was a councilor in 1963-1964. Richie will be sorely missed. He was a great friend and I’m just broken hearted.”

TAX BILLS TO REMAIN FLAT

REVERE - Revere homeowners will see their property tax bills stay fairly even in the next fiscal year.

The City Council approved the minimum residential tax factor, a vote that shifts the burden of property taxes to commercial property owners.

“That allows us to shift the tax rate 175 percent onto the commercial (property),” said Chief Assessor Dana Brangiforte. “Doing so allows us to adopt the lowest residential tax rate possible.”

With the tax shift approved, the state’s Department of Revenue still has to approve the project tax rate.

It’s expected that the residential tax rate for FY23 will be \$9.51 per \$1,000 of valuation, while the commercial rate would be set at \$18.98.

Also taken into account in the amount residents will pay on their tax bill is the valuation of the properties.

“Single family homes, value wise, were up around 10 percent,” said Brangiforte.

With the proposed tax rate, the average single-family homeowner in Revere will see an increase on their tax bill of \$33 for FY23. The average single-family home value in the city is about \$473,000.

“Some will pay more and some less, but on average, it is not a substantial increase,” Brangiforte said.

Condominium owners can expect to see a decrease in their bills of

about \$40 on average, and owners of two-family homes a decrease of about \$20. The average tax bill on three-family homes will increase by about \$90, according to Brangiforte.

On the commercial side, he said property owners can expect to see a 14 percent increase in the tax bill, although he said that increase is more dependent on the size of the property, with owners of smaller businesses and properties likely not seeing as large of a hike.

Brangiforte also touched on the total amount of money the city can raise through property taxes in FY23, noting there was about \$3 million of new growth, raising the levy limit from about \$102 million last year to \$107,656,000 in FY23. Under state law, the city can increase the levy limit by 21/2 percent per year, and then add in the new growth.

Growth is anything that is subject to new taxation for the first time, from new building to renovations.

There was about \$1 million in residential new growth for FY23, with the main drivers being development at 656 Ocean Ave., the old G&J towing site on Whitin Avenue, 257 Washington Ave., and the planned residential development at the Suffolk Downs property.

Commercial new growth nearly doubled the residential growth at about \$2 million, with the the major parcels being the commercial development at Suffolk Downs, the new Amazon facility on Squire Road, and a new hotel at 400 Ocean Ave.

LETTERIE’S NOTES 20th ANNIVERSARY

WINTHROP - Letterie’s Italian Market in Winthrop Center is celebrating its 20th anniversary under the ownership of Jim Letterie.

The current president of the Winthrop Town Council, Letterie spoke about the history of his store.

“The store’s been in Winthrop since 1956 with the Abbatesa’s (formerly Terrie’s Food Mart),” noted Letterie. “I bought it in 2002 and we’re celebrating the 20th anniversary this month. It’s been an incredible opportunity for my family and me.”

Letterie’s has been a popular lunch-time destination for Winthrop families throughout the store’s history.

“I think what I get the most enjoyment out of is to see a whole generation of kids come through the store,” said Letterie. “Basically, when I started, they were just born and now they’ve graduated from college. To see a whole generation of children grow up, it’s really special. Winthrop is a unique town and a special place. And as I like to tell everybody, it’s just a great place to live, work, and raise a family.”

Letterie’s has a wide variety of specialties and submarine sandwiches, with the Italian and “Fig-glesworth” subs topping the list of favorites. As the Letterie’s Italian Mar-

ket website proudly proclaims, the store is known for “its continued tradition of quality cold cuts sliced to order, its famous in-store roast beef, the tremendous line of subs, wraps, and salads all made to order, and its increasingly popular catering business featuring Italian specialties, homemade calzones, and our signature wrap platters, along with custom-made subs up to eight feet in length.”

Letterie has served in town government for 17 years. He is entering his second year as council president.

Jim’s wife, Dawn Letterie, has been a Winthrop schoolteacher for 35 years. Their son, Jake, is a 2020 graduate of George Washington University and now lives and works in the nation’s capital.

Their daughter, Jenna Letterie, is a senior at Middlebury College, where she is the captain of the reigning NCAA Division 3 national championship women’s ice hockey team. The team was undefeated in the 2021-22 season. “That was an incredible experience and she’s now the captain of this year’s team hoping to defend the title.”

Letterie said he was grateful for the residents’ support and patronage of his business over the past two decades.

“I can’t thank the residents of Winthrop enough for their patronage over the past 20 years and all the employees who have worked at the store. I would be remiss if I did not mention the Abbatesas for their 40-plus years owning the former Terrie’s and laying the foundation

that I could build upon,” said Letterie.

Rep. Turco offers his congratulations

State Rep. Jeff Turco is among the many residents who have stopped by the store to offer their congratulations to the business owner and long-time member of the Winthrop Chamber of Commerce.

“It is with great honor that I congratulate Letterie’s Italian Market on their 20th Anniversary. They have graciously fed the people of Winthrop delectable Italian food for two decades. It is always a pleasure celebrating the success of small businesses in Winthrop. Congratulations and to many more years of achievement serving the great community of Winthrop,” said Rep. Turco.

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Notice of Openings for Boards and Commissions in the City of Chelsea

Pursuant to the City of Chelsea Charter, Section 9-5(d), this is a Notice of all Board and Commission upcoming vacancies in the City of Chelsea through June 30, 2023.
During that timeframe, openings will occur in the following Boards and Commissions:
The Board of Library Trustees, the Board of Registrars of Voters; the Community Recreation Advisory Committee; the Community Preservation Act Committee; the Council on Elder Affairs; the Cultural Council; the Chelsea Disability Commission; the Economic Development Board; the Historical Commission; the Licensing Commission; the Traffic & Parking Commission; the Youth Commission; and the Zoning Board of Appeals.
Information about each of these Boards is available at www.chelseama.gov/board-openings. All of these Boards have three year terms except for the Economic Development Board, which is a five year term, and the Youth Commission, which is a one year term. Those interested in applying should send both a letter of interest and a resume either by mail to the City Manager, Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150 or by email to tambrosino@chelseama.gov.
Materials should be received by the close of business on Friday, February 3, 2023.

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The Art of the Brick

Story & photos by Marianne Salza

Nathan Sawaya shapes rigid, plastic LEGO blocks into intricate and dynamic figures in his exhibition, The Art of the Brick, on display in the Back Bay through Sunday, April 23. The contemporary artist is returning to Boston following sold-out shows in Faneuil Hall in 2014. Twice as large, this installation features over 90 of his newest sculptures assembled from nearly one million LEGOs that are individually glued together.

“I think the role of an artist is to inspire. I hope that by sharing this work with the community, they are inspired. I have found over time that art is not optional,” a message Sawaya emphasizes throughout the exhibition. “If you have a little art in your life, you’re going to be smarter.”

Visitors can explore three floors of original artwork and re-imagined masterpieces. The collection includes a description and the number of LEGOs used in each design.

On the first floor, one can view a version of Van Gogh’s “Starry Night” (3,493 pieces), and a three-dimensional, full-scale, mosaic-like replica of Gustav Klimt’s oil and

gold leaf painting, “The Kiss” (18,893 pieces), of a couple embracing on a bed of grass and flowers.

Stand beside “Dinosaur Skeleton,” (80,020 pieces), a 20-foot-long Tyrannosaurus rex, which took Sawaya an entire summer to construct; or peer into “Pop-Up Book” (19,822 pieces), in which a castle appears from the middle of an open story book.

The third floor is an interactive area. In “Pink Dreams” (102,938 pieces), sit on a pastel, wingback armchair that is surrounded by whimsical accoutrements like a heart-shaped pillow and giant soft serve ice cream cone. Families can design cars to race on a track in the creative LEGO brick play stations.

Sawaya grew up in a small, Oregon town. He has loved playing with LEGOs since he was 5-years-old; even bringing the nostalgic toys to college and storing them beneath his bed as a source of comfort.

Later in life, Sawaya discovered LEGOs as an art medium. He still enjoys receiving sets as gifts, as he finds building according to instructions to be relaxing. The 1x2 jumper -- with one stud in the middle of a plate -- is Sawaya’s favorite LEGO

brick to use because it provides him options for details.

“I don’t feel the passage of time when I’m building. I go into a trance; and I am building away. I’ll do 10-12 hours with no problem. Office work for 10 hours was mind-numbing and draining,” groaned the former New York City corporate lawyer. “This is a different type of work that I really enjoy. I found my passion.”

Sawaya’s skills in contract negotiations have helped him as a businessman. His LEGO sculptures have been on display in over 100 cities in 24 countries.

“The role depression played resulted in certain works,” revealed Sawaya, whose sculptures reflect the construction of identity. “There are themes of emerging, transition, and metamorphosis that come out of the time I was a lawyer.”

When Sawaya initially began approaching galleries to feature his LEGO creations, he received opposition; once he began using movement in human form, the art world began to open. He was approached by Warner Brothers Pictures to create a 1:1 scale replica of the Central Perk coffee shop



Nathan Sawaya sitting in his interactive sculpture, “Pink Dreams” (102,938 pieces).

in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Friends sitcom.

“I was trying to showcase how you could put emotion into the art,” explained Sawaya. “It had to be life-size for it to work.”

In The Art of the Brick, Sawaya collaborated with photographer, Dean West, to produce brick-infused images. He imitated the flow of fabric in “Red

Dress” (62,750 pieces), an asymmetrical cocktail dress with a sweetheart neckline that is worn by a model in one of West’s photographs.

“In this gallery, called ‘In Pieces,’ we see the integration of the work into photography. That was pure joy because I got to take LEGO in a new direction. It wasn’t just putting art on a pedestal,”

said Sawaya. “That was an amazing time for me.”

View the Art of the Brick in the newly-renovated museum space located at 343 Newbury Street (previously Forever 21) Sunday-Thursday 10am-6pm, and Friday-Saturday 10am-8pm. Tickets cost \$24 for children and \$28 for adults. Visit www.ArtofTheBrickExhibit.com for more information.



“Red Dress,” 62,750 pieces, part of Sawaya’s collaboration with photographer, Dean West.



“Little Dancer of Fourteen” (7,100 pieces), “The Scream” (3,991 pieces), and “The Thinker” (4,332 pieces).



Contemporary artist, Nathan Sawaya, standing beside his 20-foot-long “Dinosaur Skeleton,” made of 80,020 bricks.



The first floor of The Art of the Brick exhibition features art replicas such as, “The Kiss” (18,893 pieces), and full body statues like, “Venus de Milo” (18,483 pieces), “Augustus of Prima Porta” (22,300 pieces), and “David” (16,349 pieces).



Sawaya’s original designs on the first floor: “Pop-Up Book,” “Baseball Player,” “Ball and Jacks,” “Pointing,” and “Crayons.”

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Public program honors Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day at Charlestown Navy Yard

National Parks of Boston hosted a commemorative service and a wreath-laying ceremony at the USS Constitution Museum and on the World War II-era destroyer USS Cassin Young to remember and honor those who perished in the attack on the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The free three-part public program on Wednesday, December 7, was held in Charlestown Navy Yard, followed by an outdoor ceremony beside USS Cassin Young, and a return to the Museum for refreshments, generously sponsored by the Mayor’s Office of Veterans’ Services.

Participating in the ceremony was National Parks of Boston Superintendent Michael Creasey, USS Constitution Museum President & CEO Anne Grimes Rand, USS Constitution Commander Billie J. Farrell, USN, Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Affairs Cheryl Poppe, Boston Commissioner of Veterans’ Services Robert Santiago, and other special

guests including Kay Van Valkenburgh, great grandson of Captain Franklin Van Valkenburgh of USS Arizona. The program will include the USN Color Guard and rifle and cannon salutes from both Cassin Young and Constitution. The public will also be invited to participate in the Museum’s “50,000 Letters of Gratitude” initiative to send letters of appreciation to veterans, active service members, and their families.

USS Cassin Young was named for U.S. Navy Commander Cassin Young, recipient of the Medal of Honor for his distinguished and heroic actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor, which initiated the United States’ entry into World War II. As commanding officer of USS Vestal, which was moored to USS Arizona, Comdr. Young took personal command of his ship’s three-inch anti-aircraft gun at the beginning of the attack. When the forward magazine of Arizona was hit, Cmdr. Young was thrown overboard and incredibly swam back to

his ship amidst burning oil on the water between the two ships. Despite the subsequent bombing of Vestral, Comdr. Young moved his ship away from Arizona to save the ship and countless lives.

Cassin Young has similarly served the country with distinction. It was built in San Pedro, California, typical of the many Fletcher-class destroyers constructed in the Charlestown Navy Yard during World War II. The ship was commissioned at the end of 1943 and first saw action in the Pacific Theatre in 1944. It took part in the landings in the Philippines, rescued survivors from the stricken carrier USS Princeton, screened the American force that sank four Japanese carriers in the battle of Cape Engano, and survived two separate kamikaze hits, one of which killed 21 crew members. No stranger to Charlestown, the ship was recalled to service in 1951 and underwent modernization at the shipyard on several occasions during the next decade before finally hauling down

her commissioning pennant in 1960. “It is fitting that we remember this day aside Cassin Young at Charlestown Navy Yard, one of the first of six Navy Yards in the country,” said National Parks of Boston Superintendent Michael Creasey. “The National Park Service protects the Cassin Young and provides a home base for USS Constitution, to honor the service people of the United States Navy past and present, and provide current and future generations the opportunity to forge meaningful connections to these national treasures and iconic cornerstones of the American story.”

The National Parks of Boston is a collection of three National Park Service sites – Boston National Historical Park, Boston African American National Historic Site, and Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park. Established by individual legislation and for designated purposes, the three units have come together under a unified organizational umbrella to collaborate in ways that celebrate our cultural heritage, reconnect people to history and nature, and provide outdoor recreation opportunities on land and on the water. For more information, visit: nps.gov/bost, nps.gov/boaf, and boston-harborislands.org.

The USS Constitution Museum serves as the memory and educational voice of USS Constitution by offering award-winning exhibits where all ages can have fun while learning and exploring history together. The Museum’s mission is to engage visitors in the story of Constitution to spark excitement about maritime heritage, naval service, and the American experience. The Museum is open seven days a week with a pay-what-you-wish admission policy, and the Virtual Museum is open 24/7. The USS Constitution Museum is a 2022 winner in USA Today’s 10Best Readers’ Choice in the “Best History Museum” category and Boston Parents Paper’s Family Favorites in the “Historic Sites & Tours” and “Museums & Attractions” categories. For more information, visit usscm.org.

USS Constitution, America’s Ship of State, is the world’s oldest commissioned warship afloat and played a crucial role in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, actively defending sea lanes from 1797 to 1855. USS Constitution was undefeated in battle and destroyed or captured 33 opponents. The ship earned the nickname of Old Ironsides during the War of 1812 when British cannonballs were seen bouncing off the ship’s wooden hull. The active-duty Sailors stationed aboard USS Constitution provide free tours and offer public visitation as they support the ship’s mission of promoting the Navy’s history and maritime heritage and raising awareness of the importance of a sustained naval presence. For information, visit www.navy.mil/uss-constitution/.



MELROSE ARTS AND CRAFTS SOCIETY

On December 12, the Melrose Arts and Crafts Society will hold the December monthly meeting at the First Baptist Church on 561 Main Street, Melrose. This December meeting has a definite holiday theme. Class instructors are Judi Lamntea on making jewelry, Sue Camberlain on making diamond dot projects and Lori Rossi on making poinsettia ornaments. Lida Camberlain and Lori Rossi will be handing out holiday sing-along sheets and leading holiday activities fun for all! Members contributed to a table of their homemade wares at the Melrose Unitarian Universalist Church Alternative Fair on December 3. The January Monthly Meeting will be held at the same address as above. New members are always welcome whether from the surrounding communities or not. If interested, please call Dorothy Iudice at 781-662-2099. Hope to see you there.

Goldberg receives the Freda Johnson Award

Northeast Women in Public Finance (NEWPF) along with the Bond Buyer will present State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg with the Freda Johnson Award at the Bond Buyer’s Annual Deal of the Year Awards ceremony in New York City on December 6, 2022.

The Freda Johnson Award has been created in honor of NEWPF Founding Board Member Freda Johnson, whose highly successful career in public finance has been an inspiration to many people, particularly women in the industry.

The award recognizes a woman serving or who has served in a position for a public or non-profit issuer who exemplifies the qualities that Johnson brought to the financial industry as a trailblazer, leader, innovator, and mentor.

“Treasurer Deborah Goldberg is dedicated to improving the lives of the citizens of Massachusetts through both her public position and her non-profit work,” said Freda Johnson. “She is a dynamo, a role model, and an outstanding mentor to women.”

Since taking office in 2015, Treasurer Goldberg has brought an innovative leadership style, and an unwavering commitment to create opportunities for every Massachusetts resident. Her initiatives and programs have supported and advocated for policies that advance effective strategies and foster long-term, sustained growth and stability for everyone.

“The Treasurer has demonstrated a commitment not only to public finance, but also to the women within it,” said Vivian Altman, Managing Director of Northeast Women in Public Finance. “For her pioneering work and a highly accomplished career in public finance, for her unwavering

dedication to diversity and supporting, promoting, and developing women in the industry, Massachusetts Treasurer Deborah Goldberg embodies all the qualities of the Freda Johnson Award. It is with the greatest esteem that we award her the 2022 Freda Johnson Public Sector Award.”

In 2016, the Treasurer started the Women + Finance Fellowship, the first fellowship of its kind sponsored by a government organization. Understanding the importance of building a network and pipeline, the Treasurer wanted to identify and foster diverse talent for the financial industry, and advocate for the placement of women and non-binary people in leadership roles.

“To receive an award named after someone who was a tremendous trailblazer and overcame incredible barriers is an unbelievable honor,” said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. “Freda exemplifies everything about staying the course, persevering, hanging in there, and then succeeding. So being awarded the Freda Johnson award is thrilling.”

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