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CELEBRATING NEW COMMUNITY LIVING CENTER AT THE CHELSEA SOLDIERS HOME.



Gov. Charlie Baker makes brief remarks at the ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the Community Living Center at the Chelsea Soldiers Home last Wednesday. The new, state-of-the-art facility will have 154 private rooms with shared living spaces and courtyards that will serve as a model for the long-term care for our veterans across the country.



Chelsea Soldiers Home Supt. Eric L. Johnson (far left) and the Chairman of the Home's Board of Trustees, Tom Lyons (far right), greet invited guests Carol Gladstone (the Commissioner of the state's Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance), Cheryl Lussier Poppe (the Mass. Secretary of Veterans Services), and Marylou Sudders (the Mass. Secretary of Health and Human Services) at last Wednesday's ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the new Community Living Center at the Chelsea Soldiers Home.



Chelsea High School Band Director Shannon Chick conducts the CHS Band during its outstanding performance of a rousing medley of armed forces songs for the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard to cap the ribbon-cutting ceremonies last Wednesday for the new Community Living Center at the Chelsea Soldiers Home.

Council considers more unified approach to traffic issues

Chelsea is a small city with a lot of traffic, and lately, that means the City Council has spent a lot of time discussing where the city should place speed bumps to slow that traffic down.

Monday night's meeting once again had a number of requests from councilors for speed bumps, traffic lights, and other traffic calming measures.

District 6 Councilor Giovanni Recupero requested the Traffic and Parking Commission place a speed bump on Essex Street.

That request was added to several previous

requests from District 3 Councilor Norieliz DeJesus for speed bumps at several locations on Clinton Street.

Councilor-at-Large Damali Vidot said the council needs to once again take a more holistic approach and meet with the public works department and traffic commission about a city-wide plan for speed bumps.

"We have a big issue in the city with so many people and so many cars, people are cutting through and speeding, and it is really creating a nuisance in the neighborhoods, particularly around schools and public parks," said Vidot. "I don't think it makes

sense for us to be piecemealing this, where every so often there is a random order where it's let put one on this street or one on that street."

Recupero said he agreed that the councilors should work together to determine the best spots for speed bumps in the city.

In other council business related to traffic, Recupero asked for an update on plans for a traffic light at Congress Avenue and Broadway.

"We had a meeting where we had a study to put a light between Congress Avenue and Broadway," said Recupero. "Nothing has happened,

and that issue is more problematic now that there is more traffic."

If there is a delay in putting in the signal, Recupero said the city should at least put a stop sign on Broadway at the intersection to make it safer for pedestrians and motorists trying to cross or turn from Congress.

Recupero also requested a subcommittee meeting with public works to discuss how traffic will be handled during construction projects on Central Avenue.

In other business, Recupero and District 4 Councilor Enio Lopez

See TRAFFIC Page 3

Ambrosino selected as Trial Court Administrator

By Adam Swift

City Manager Thomas Ambrosino has been selected as the next Court Administrator of the Trial Court in Massachusetts by the justices of the Supreme Judicial Court.

Ambrosino also served as mayor in Revere for over a decade, first defeating four-term Mayor Robert Haas in 1999.

In 2012, Ambrosino was hired as the executive director of the Supreme Judicial Court, and in 2015, he was selected by the Chelsea City Council to replace Jay Ash as City Manager.

"We are so pleased to appoint Tom Ambrosino as Court Administrator," said Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Kimberly Budd. "Tom is an experienced leader who has managed public sector entities with vision, professionalism, and compassion. We are excited that he will bring his many talents to the court system."

Ambrosino expressed his love for the city of Chelsea, and said that his time as City Manager was nearing an end, adding he expected to retire at the



Chelsea City Manager Thomas Ambrosino.

end of 2023.

"This has nothing to do with the city of Chelsea," he said. "I love the community and the time I have spent here."

However, Ambrosino said the court administrator position was one he was familiar with from his time with the Supreme Judicial Court and one he had an active interest in.

In addition to his experience in legal and court settings, Ambrosino said he hopes he can bring the leadership skills he has honed over the last seven years in Chelsea to his new

See AMBROSINO Page 3

Local leaders laud Ambrosino's service in city government

By Cary Shuman

Community leaders in Revere and Chelsea lauded Tom Ambrosino for his outstanding service in city government and offered their congratulations to him on his appointment as Massachusetts Trial Court Administrator.

Ambrosino will be stepping down as Chelsea City Manager on Jan. 13 after serving seven-and-a-half years in the top administrative position in Chelsea.

Following are local officials' comments:

Chelsea Councilor-at-Large Leo Robinson

"Tom did an outstanding job for our city. He will surely be missed when he leaves. He kept us on course to achieve the improvement of the city and moving the city forward."

State Rep. Jessica Giannino

"I wish Tom all the best in his future endeavors as chief administrator of the Mass Trial Courts. I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Tom as he led both the city of Revere and Chelsea with integrity and perseverance, and I know he will continue to do the same in his new role."

Revere Councilor-at-Large and CAPIC board member Anthony Zambuto

"I congratulate Tom on his new position and wish him the best. I'm very happy for Tom. He's a first-class, honest, decent, hard-working individual who is eminently qualified for this job. Everywhere he goes, he makes a difference. He made a difference in Revere. He made a difference in Chelsea. And he'll make a difference as the administrator

See SERVICE Page 3

INDEPENDENT Newspaper Group

www.chelsearecord.com

TRASH NOTICE

Trash will be delayed by one day due to Christmas Holiday observed on Monday, Dec. 26, 2022

Christmas Kids

See page 6

The Independent Newspaper Group office will be **closed** on **Monday, Dec. 26** in observance of the Christmas holiday..

Deadlines for next week's issue will be **Friday, Dec. 23 at noon**

Banks Team with MVES to support financial stability

The Money Management Program at Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) assists older adults and people with disabilities with budgeting, bill paying and keeping track of financial matters. MVES recently accepted generous donations and sponsorships from the following:

- Brookline Bank
- Eagle Bank
- East Cambridge Savings Bank
- Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
- EverettBank
- Metro Credit Union
- M&T Bank Foundation/People’s United Community Foundation of Eastern MA
- Northern Bank & Trust Company
- Patriot Community Bank
- Salem Five Charitable Foundation
- StonehamBank
- The Savings Bank/TSB Charitable Foundation, Inc.
- Wakefield Co-operative Bank
- Winchester Savings Bank
- Winchester Co-operative Bank

These banks have already contributed a com-



Larry Poirier, Money Management Program Manager, and Alex Ragusa, Program Associate, assist older adults and people with disabilities throughout the MVES service area. With support from local banks, said Poirier, MVES volunteers “make an immediate and meaningful impact in the community.”

bined total of \$55,000 this year to support the Money Management Program.

“Without the support of these banks, the Money Management Program could not accomplish its goal of helping people stay in the community and stay independent,” said Lisa Gurgone, MVES Chief Executive Officer. “We are truly grateful for our partners in the business community.”

Financial challenges are a growing problem for older adults. The average debt of households aged 65 and up nearly tripled from 1989 to 2016, according to a 2021 report

by the Congressional Research Service. The percentage of households aged 65 and up that held any debt increased from 37.8% to 61.1% in that time. In addition, the report found that in 2019, 4.9 million people aged 65 and older lived in poverty.

Since 1990, the Money Management Program has assisted older adults and people with disabilities throughout the MVES service area. The program’s trained and insured volunteers help prevent evictions and loss of utilities and safeguard residents from financial exploitation and abuse.

“We are grateful that providing financial education opportunities is a core value for these banks,” said Larry Poirier, long-time Money Management Program Manager for MVES. “With their generosity, our volunteers make an immediate and meaningful impact in the community.”

Please call 781-324-7705 or email info@mves.org if you are interested in sponsoring the Money Management Program, becoming a volunteer, or know someone who could benefit from the program.

Mystic Valley Elder Services is a non-profit agency that provides essential home- and community-based care and resources to older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers. Based in Malden, Mass., MVES serves Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, North Reading, Reading, Revere, Stoneham, Wakefield and Winthrop. Agency services include coordination of home care, transportation, Meals on Wheels, and information and referrals. For more information, please call 781-324-7705 or visit www.mves.org.

NEWS IN BRIEF

POSTAL SERVICE READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

At the Postal Service, we know the holidays are a hectic time of year. To make shipping convenient for customers, the Postal Service is extending hours at Post Offices across the nation.

Select Postal facilities in the Massachusetts / Rhode Island District are extending their hours and will provide full retail services, including stamp

sales and package acceptance. Customers may click this link 2022 USPS Post Office Holiday Closings & Hours | USPS for the USPS holiday service schedule. Enter a ZIP Code to search for a Post Office near you to see the available services and holiday hours.

The Postal Service is focused on delivering for our nation this holiday season.

The MA / RI District serves ZIP Codes 010 through 029.

DiDomenico named caucus co-chair and is a host of ending hunger forum

DiDomenico Named Caucus Co-Chair and Is a Host of Ending Hunger Forum

Senator DiDomenico joined his Food System Caucus (FSC) Co-Chairs in hosting a forum and strategy session about how Massachusetts can end hunger and tackle diet-related diseases this decade. Co-Chairs, other elected officials, and advocates also discussed takeaways from the momentous White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health in September.

“Massachusetts is leading the country’s efforts to end hunger and I was proud to lead the efforts to extend universal school meals in our schools, expanding access to SNAP benefits, and increasing cash assistance to our neighbors who are most in need,” said Senator DiDomenico, Food System Caucus Co-Chair and Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. “However, our discussion made it clear that we still need to work incredibly

hard next session and keep pushing to make sure we finally eliminate hunger completely by 2030. I am grateful we were joined by Project Bread President and CEO, Erin McAleer, The Greater Boston Food Bank President and CEO, Catherine D’Amato, Congressman Jim McGovern, and so many other colleagues and advocates who have helped our state come so far on addressing food insecurity.”

Senator DiDomenico will be a new Food System Caucus Co-Chair in 2023 after years of advocacy on this issue. Senator DiDomenico’s recent legislative accomplishments related to food access include passing Breakfast After the Bell and Universal School Meals to ensure no Massachusetts student goes hungry in school, increasing funding for food banks, creating a common application to expand access to SNAP benefits, and increasing cash assistance programs to families in need.

ZBA approves special permit for marijuana dispensary

By Adam Swift

The Zoning Board of Appeals approved a special permit for a retail marijuana dispensary at 320 Revere Beach Parkway last week, despite concerns raised by some city councilors that the business wasn’t the best fit for the Prattville neighborhood.

The ZBA voted 4-1 to approve the special permit for GVLP Corporation for the special permit, doing business as Vide Verde. The special permit was required to demolish and renovate the existing building to allow for a building that does not meet the use ordinance for the property and was short by three parking spaces for what is required under the city’s zoning ordinances.

The plan presented by Vide Verde is smaller than one originally presented by the applicants, with a smaller building footprint and additional parking spaces.

Attorney Anthony Rossi said the 16 parking spaces proposed for the business are an upgrade to the current business on the site. He also said there would be major landscaping and safety improvements that would improve the property, adding the

applicants have worked with abutters to address some of their concerns.

“This will all be a well lit area that doesn’t exist currently,” said Rossi.

He noted that the business will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays, and noon to 8 p.m. on Sundays. In addition to security lights and close to 60 security cameras inside and outside the building, Rossi said there will be security staff on duty monitoring the dispensary and the parking lot during all hours it is open.

“We are very pleased that the size of the building has decreased and the parking has increased,” said June Bowman, the owner of a nearby multi-family home on Adams Street. “The organization has been very helpful and came to us, and will hopefully work with the city to make sure this is a safe area.”

Precinct 1 City Councilor Todd Taylor said when the project was first presented, he told Vide Verde he was going to be neutral and see what the people of his neighborhood thought of the project.

“Between now and then, we just went through an election and I’ve been knocking on a lot of doors

and talked to a lot of people,” said Taylor. “The residents of Prattville, I noticed all the addresses you read off (of people who sent letters in support of the project) not one of them was in Prattville. The residents of Prattville are against this project.”

Taylor said the reduction in size of the dispensary has helped a little bit with the neighborhood feeling, but said that ultimately, he did not believe the business is what the residents of Prattville want.

“I am their voice, they elected me to represent them, so I ask you to take into consideration what the residents of Prattville want, and they do not want this marijuana facility in their district,” he said.

Councillor-at-Large Damali Vidot said she wanted to echo some of the sentiments expressed by Taylor in opposition to the project.

Vidot said she was concerned that many of the people who have spoken in favor of the project are either relatives or work for one of the three applicants for the site, La Colaborativa Executive Director Gladys Vega.

“I’ve come to these meetings, and we’re fanning over someone who

does incredible work in this community, and no one can take this away from this individual, however, this zoning board serves as a buffer between what is best for the community and doing the work of the people,” said Vidot.

Vidot also noted that the economic empowerment certificates for some marijuana businesses have been given to people who were impacted by the horrible drug laws of the past, and said that Vega has spoken against marijuana in the past and is now involved in the industry when there is an opportunity to make money.

Vega said that part of her interest in opening the location in Chelsea is to ensure that the business operates properly and by all the rules.

“I want to be a part of making sure that this is done the right way,” said Vega. “If there is anyone who would enforce that, for example, I don’t drink ... I don’t do anything, if there is someone there making sure we do everything by this regulated industry that is so strict, I want to be able to do that,” said Vega. “As a person who has worked for so many years to improve the quality of life for the residents of Chelsea, I would be responsible for making sure it is done the right way.”

District 5 City Councilor Judith Garcia asked the ZBA to consider the project on its merits and under the zoning guidelines, and not to pay attention to personal attacks. Garcia also noted that Vega is just one of three female applicants for the license.

“As a City Councilor, I can tell you that it pains me when applicants have the need to defend their interests and their desire to open a business here and to seek some sort of success and profit,” said Garcia, adding that the only abutter who spoke during the public hearing was the Adams Street building owner who spoke in favor of the project.

ZBA member Hugo Perdomo cast the lone vote against the special permit.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
20 Hysil LLC	Hysil Realty LLC	7 Hysil Ave	\$4,210,000
20 Hysil LLC	Hysil Realty LLC	20 Hysil Ave	\$4,210,000
Lemelin, Noelix	Marin, Jorge	21 Jones Ave	\$1,020,000
Quigley, Christian	Martinez, Katherine P	22 Congress Ave #1	\$475,000
Giri, Mohan	25 Second Street LLC	25 2nd St #302	\$590,000
Zhang, Wen	25 Second Street LLC	25 2nd St #304	\$604,500
Lunaesca LLC	Gulizia Josephine P Est	60 Franklin Ave	\$470,000
Rodriguez, Bernabe	Paris, Mark E	81 Broadway #7	\$359,000
88 Gerrish LLC	Atlas Historic Invs LLC	88 Gerrish Ave	\$14,948,000
Hejib, Aditya	Mag Chester LLC	93 Chester Ave	\$900,000
Gonzalez, Elmer L	Smith, Patrick	159 Bloomingdale St	\$522,500
Marcano, Brankely G	Wolfe, Gregory	505 Washington Ave #26	\$315,000

Are you lookin to Purchase or Sell?

TEXT/EMAIL JEFFREY BOWEN

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jeff@chelsearealestate.com chelsearealestate.com



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.

Ambrosino / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

position. Ambrosino will begin his new position on Jan. 30 of next year, where he will succeed John Bello, who will leave the position at the end of the year. “During the time that I worked at the SJC, one of my roles was to assist the Chief Justice in helping to onboard the inaugural Court Administrator, and I saw what a significant impact the position has,” said Ambrosino. “I now look forward to working with Chief Justice Locke and having the opportunity to advance the courts’ efforts to deliver justice with dignity and speed.” Locke said that he is confident that together, he and Ambrosino will continue to grow the capabilities of the Trial Court and build upon recent successes in using technologies and improving operations. Ambrosino said some of the accomplishments he is proudest of during his time in Chelsea include how the city reacted and mobilized in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, a focus on development in the city, especially downtown, the city’s relationship with the school department. He noted that he is proud of the strong relationship he has with current Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta. The Massachusetts Court Administrator co-leads the Trial Court, the

largest component of the Massachusetts Judicial Branch with seven court departments and over 6,000 employees, across 94 courthouses throughout the Commonwealth. The position of Court Administrator for the Massachusetts Trial Court was created by court management legislation enacted in 2011. Working together with the Chief Justice of the Trial Court, the Court Administrator is responsible for shaping administrative functions that support the Trial Court’s delivery of justice to the people of Massachusetts. Duties include budget preparation and oversight, labor relations, information technology, capital projects, security, and personnel policy. Ambrosino said it is up to the City Council to begin the process of finding a new City Manager, and he expected that process to get underway in early January. The past year has also seen several major departures in the city. In the fall, Council President Roy Avellaneda stepped down from the council. The year also saw long-time Police Chief Brian Kyes appointed as the US Marshal from Massachusetts, and long-time clerk to the City Council Paul Casino announce his pending retirement at the end of the year.

MAPC awards more than \$800k in “Accelerating Climate Resilience” grants to 13 municipal projects

Thirteen projects in the greater Boston region including one in Chelsea will soon put more than \$800,000 to work advancing local climate change resilience, thanks to a new round of “Accelerating Climate Resilience” grant funding announced this week. Municipalities will implement strategies that protect people, places, and communities from the impacts of climate change. Grants range in size from \$20,000 to \$100,000 per project and are designed to facilitate long-term, innovative changes leading to greater readiness for climate change. In particular, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) seeks to elevate projects that will advance climate equity, regional coordination, and social cohesion. This is the fourth round of funding distributed through the program, part of a partnership between The Barr Foundation and MAPC. The following cities/towns were awarded grants for their projects:

- Beverly: “Public Art to Illuminate Clean Energy Futures with Beverly Public School Students” – \$20,100
- Cambridge: “Shade is Social Justice” – \$100,000
- Chelsea: “White Roof Pilot for Heat Mitigation” – \$85,000
- Malden: “Beat the Heat: Cooling the Wicked Hot Outdoors” – \$100,000
- Medford: “Staff Capacity for Climate Change Zoning & Policy Capacity Building” – \$75,000
- Milton: “Energy Resilience: Winter Valley Microgrid” – \$50,000
- Milton and the Neponset River Watershed Association: “Neponset Estuary Climate Resiliency Group” – \$44,450
- Natick: “Tiny Forest and Tree Planting” – \$57,000
- Norwood: “Green Stormwater Design at Senior Center and Emergency Shelter” – \$50,000
- Reading: “Mattera Cabin Community Garden Phase II” – \$42,500
- Scituate: “Development of a Resilient Waterfront Park in Scituate Harbor” – \$100,000
- Watertown: “Edible Watertown” – \$70,600
- Winchester, Arlington, and Stoneham: “Sustainable Landscape Handbook and Trainings” – \$40,400

“This fourth round of Accelerating Climate Resiliency grants is our largest cohort yet in terms of the number of communities involved, the total amount of funding awarded, and the overall number of projects,” said MAPC Deputy Executive Director of Planning and Sustainability Katherine

Antos. “We are pleased to award a mix of one- and two-year projects that will advance a diverse range of goals – from education, engagement, and adaptation planning to implementation projects in public spaces that will green our communities and reduce harmful urban heat islands, support energy resilience, and manage coastal flood risks.” Full project descriptions, timelines, and local partners can be found at <https://www.mapc.org/accelerating-resiliency>. Grant recipients will also participate in MAPC’s Resilience Community of Practice, a peer-to-peer learning group that will bring together grantees regularly to discuss challenges and barriers to implementation, and share lessons learned for collective problem-solving. “Congratulations to this new cohort of Accelerating Climate Resilience grantees. It is very exciting to see the diversity of strategies and approaches being implemented to increase local preparedness and ultimately strengthen our region’s resilience to climate change. The Barr Foundation is proud to support such collective efforts through the ACR program,” said Kalila Barnett, senior program officer, climate resilience at

the Barr Foundation. “The Town of Scituate is thrilled to be a recipient of the MAPC Accelerating Climate Resilience Grant,” said Scituate Town Administrator James Boudreau. “As a coastal town, the threat of flooding from sea level rise is very real here. This funding will go a long way towards helping the Town remove a building and parking lot from the flood hazard zone and develop this new resilient waterfront park.” Josh Lee, Milton assistant town planner, and Meera Patel, environmental coordinator, spoke on behalf of the microgrid project: “We are very excited to move forward with this project that will advance climate equity, improve energy efficiency in both our municipal buildings and in affordable senior housing, and reaffirm the Town of Milton’s commitment to bold and innovative climate action. Through this microgrid, we will be able to maintain key emergency services and protect our senior residents when faced with climate-driven disruptions to the grid.” For more information and questions about the Accelerating Climate Resilience program, contact MAPC Senior Environmental Planner Van Du at vdu@mapc.org.

Service / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

helped Chelsea come out of the pandemic and countless other challenges stronger than ever. I wish him luck in his next steps.”

Chelsea Councilor-at-Large Leo Robinson

“Tom did an outstanding job for our city. He will surely be missed when he leaves. He kept us on course to achieve the improvement of the city and moving the city forward.”

Former Chelsea City Manager Jay Ash

I’m so grateful to Tom for his great leadership and collaboration he has exhibited as City Manager. Chelsea has benefited from his vision and stewardship and has become an even more vibrant and livable community for all. I especially admire him for all he did for the residents of Chelsea during the pandemic, and for the example he has set for integrity and accomplishment in office.”

Chelsea Police Chief Keith Houghton

“Tom Ambrosino was instrumental in transforming Chelsea into what it is today. I even told him I moved back to the city because of all the work that he has done. The city is safer, more prosperous, and much more welcom-

ing under his leadership.”

GreenRoots Exec. Dir. Roseann Bongiovanni

“Tom has been a steady, strategic, and community-minded city manager over the past, almost eight years. The pandemic challenged us all, but as the leader of one of the most impacted cities in the nation, Tom led with integrity and empathy. I feel honored to have worked closely with Tom over the past several years and congratulate him on his future endeavors.”

State Sen. Sal DiDomenico

“Tom Ambrosino has been an incredible leader, partner, and friend. He worked each day to help everyone in Chelsea, and his sole mission was to make life better for all residents. I spoke with him often, and almost every day during the pandemic, and he was always strongly advocating for Chelsea, and to make sure the city and residents got what they deserved. Tom has done so much for Chelsea, and his legacy will live on long after he leaves the office of City Manager. We all congratulate him and wish him well in his new role at the Trial Court. They are getting a star.”

State Rep. Dan Ryan

“Tom came into the

City Manager’s role when I was still a new state representative. He had big shoes to fill, literally and figuratively. He excelled. I always appreciated Tom’s professionalism and his ability to bring his extensive experience to bear on the issues facing Chelsea. I wish him well in his new endeavor and our continued work together.”

Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell

“It has been a true pleasure working with Tom Ambrosino, he has been very supportive of the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce. We wish him well in his new role and are forever grateful for the impact and commitment he has had for Chelsea over the years. He will surely be missed.”

Supt. of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta

“I have been so blessed to have been able to work with Tom over the past three years. As a new superintendent, it was nice to have someone with his knowledge and experience in the City Manager position because I could go to him for advice or ask for his thoughts on issues. During Covid he became a critical friend and colleague that I leaned on for support as we were

both leading in uncharted waters. During the pandemic I saw him lead with his heart and with so much love for the people of Chelsea. I admire his work ethic, integrity and kindness to all. I will miss him tremendously. I wish him all the best.”

Council President Calvin Brown

“My special thanks to our departing City Manager Tom Ambrosino on a job well done, and congratulations on his new job.”

It has been a pleasure working with City Manager Tom Ambrosino, a dedicated and talented man. I wish him nothing but success in his new job and in life.

I would like to thank Tom personally for all he has done in Chelsea. Tom built a talented team that did a wonderful job on so many projects under his leadership.

Not only did Tom work well with city staff, he took the time to make sure that all Chelsea residents had access to him.

Your leadership was unique and made a great difference in our community. I thank you for all the support and help you provided me during my time working with you, during your career as our City Manager.

Council / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

requested City Manager Thomas Ambrosino look into changing the schedule for private trash pickup in the city so that it does not interfere with the scheduled city trash pickup. At the end of the meeting, Council President Calvin Brown presented a

plaque to former Councilor-at-Large Roy Avellaneda for his years of service on the council. Avellaneda stepped down from the council earlier this year. Brown also thanked his fellow councilors for their work this year, especially

over the past two months, when he took over the council presidency after Avellaneda stepped down. “For me, it has been a very humbling experience in an eventful period of my life, but it was rewarding,” Brown said. “I

want to say thank you to the council members for being attentive and having a little patience and working together. I think that as we move forward, we will continue to try to build on that unity and trust amongst us.”

LOST PET?

FREE RESOURCES AND HELP ON FACEBOOK:
[www.Facebook.com/Groups/LostPetsNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/Groups/LostPetsNetwork)

LOST AND FOUND PETS NETWORK:
CHELSEA, EVERETT, MALDEN, REVERE



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

**CHELSEA
HEALTHCARE CENTER**

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PATIENTS

CHRISTMAS / NEW YEARS HOLIDAY HOURS 2022

CHRISTMAS	PRACTICES	URGENT CARE
Saturday, December 24	**CLOSED	CLOSED
Sunday, December 25	CLOSED	CLOSED
Monday, December 26	CLOSED	8:00 am – 4:00 pm

NEW YEARS

Saturday, December 31	8:30 am – 12:00 pm	8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sunday, January 1	CLOSED	8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Monday, January 2	CLOSED	8:00 am – 4:00 pm

****When a holiday falls on a Sunday, Ambulatory Practices are closed on the Monday after the holiday.**

AVISO IMPORTANTE PARA PACIENTES

HORARIO DE SERVICIO DURANTE LAS FESTIVIDADES DE NAVIDAD Y AÑO NUEVO 2022

NAVIDAD	CONSULTORIOS	SALA DE URGENCIAS
Sábado, 24 de diciembre	**CERRADOS	CERRADA
Domingo, 25 de diciembre	CERRADOS	CERRADA
Lunes, 26 de diciembre	CERRADOS	8:00 am – 4:00 pm

AÑO NUEVO

Sábado, 31 de diciembre	8:30 am – 12:00 pm	8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Domingo, 1º de enero	CERRADOS	8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Lunes, 2 de enero	CERRADOS	8:00 am – 4:00 pm

****Cuando un día festivo cae un domingo, los consultorios ambulatorios cierran el lunes después del día festivo.**

AVISO IMPORTANTE AOS PACIENTES

HORÁRIO DE ATENDIMENTO DURANTE OS FERIADOS DE NATAL E ANO NOVO DE 2022

NATAL	CONSULTÓRIOS	CUIDADOS DE URGÊNCIA
Sábado, 24 de dezembro	**FECHADO	FECHADO
Domingo, 25 de dezembro	FECHADO	FECHADO
Segunda-feira, 26 de dezembro	FECHADO	8h00 às 16h00

ANO NOVO

Sábado, 31 de dezembro	8h30 às 12h00	8h00 às 16h00
Domingo, 1 de janeiro	FECHADO	8h00 às 16h00
Segunda-feira, 2 de janeiro	FECHADO	8h00 às 16h00

****Quando um feriado cai no domingo, os consultórios ambulatoriais são fechados na segunda-feira depois do feriado.**

For Advertising Rates, Call 781-485-0588

Chelsea

RECORD

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

MERRY CHRISTMAS

This is the most wonderful time of the year, to paraphrase the popular song, with holiday music playing in the malls and on our car radios, resurrecting our earliest childhood memories of Christmases-past.

We choose just the right tree, decorate it carefully with our family-heirloom ornaments, and when we first turn on the lights, it brings a smile to the faces of even the oldest among us.

Despite the hectic rushing to and fro’, everybody, it seems, is in a good mood. We endure the traffic and the long lines in stores because we know that what we are doing will bring joy and happiness to others.

For those of us with young children, we get to see Christmas through their eyes, giving us a second-chance to experience the wonder and joy that we felt when we were their age.

Although all of us celebrate the holiday season in our own way, the common thread is one of peace, joy, and happiness, regardless of religious or secular beliefs. Whether it be Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or a Seinfeldian Festivus, the spirit of the season imbues us with a sense of togetherness that transcends whatever negativity may exist both in our own lives and in the world around us.

We wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

THANK YOU AND
CONGRATULATIONS,
TOM AMBROSINO

We wish to offer our congratulations to our City Manager, Tom Ambrosino, who was named last week to the position of Chief Administrator of the Massachusetts Trial Courts by the justices of the Mass. Supreme Judicial Court (SJC).

Tom previously served as the mayor of neighboring Revere for 12 years from 2000-2012 before stepping down to take a post as the Executive Director of the SJC for three years, and then becoming our City Manager for the past seven years.

Tom Ambrosino’s tenure as City Manager was marked by continued progress for our city. Chelsea has been fortunate to have had outstanding city managers for more than 20 years -- Guy Santagate, Jay Ash, and Tom Ambrosino -- and we can only hope that our next City Manager will be equally adept at managing our diverse and challenging city.

During his tenures as the mayor of Revere and the City Manager of Chelsea, Tom Ambrosino universally was recognized as among the top municipal leaders in our state. We always believed that, had he been so inclined, Tom Ambrosino would have been a great governor.

That the SJC decided to bring Tom back into the court system as its highest-ranking administrator speaks volumes to the faith that the justices have in his abilities.

We know we join with all of our fellow residents in wishing Tom the best in this next chapter of his life.

A GREAT WORLD CUP

We don’t claim to be big soccer fans, but even we were caught up in the excitement and the drama of the World Cup, which reached its climax this past Sunday with the exhilarating victory by Argentina in a shoot-out over defending champion France.

As long-time Boston sports rooters, we know of the passion that we and our fellow fans have for our local teams. But our enthusiasm does not even come close to that of the World Cup fandom for their heroes.

The raw emotion among the fans in the stands, their raucous celebrations in the streets back home, and the individual stories of fans who traveled thousands of miles (and who spent their life savings) just to be on hand were epic.

Moreover, it was a World Cup for everyone, including the U.S., which qualified for the cup for the first time in eight years and made it through to the knockout round, but especially for the fans of underdog Morocco, which became the first team from Africa and the Arab world to reach the semifinals of the World Cup.

At a time when there is so much misery and conflict in our world, the World Cup brought nations together as no other event can and we were happy to join in the world-wide celebration and joy that it brought over the past few weeks.

We’ll be looking forward to the 2026 World Cup, which will be hosted in venues across No. America in Mexico, Canada, and the U.S.

Forum



GUEST OP-ED

Light and strength for Christmas

Dr. Glenn Mollette

When I was a child at Tomahawk Elementary School in Martin County, Kentucky there were many kids who got little to nothing for Christmas. I had classmates who I would never ask if they got anything for Christmas because I already knew the answer. Some of these kids were just glad to be in school. At school they could receive a free lunch and have access to a bathroom which they didn’t have at home. This also meant they could wash their faces and their hands which was difficult at home especially in the winter months. While most of us didn’t have much, what we did have seemed like a lot to those who had nothing.

This is where you need to stop and think. You stress about all you may not have but what do you have in comparison to those who have nothing?

ing? Do you have a place to sleep? Do you have a comfortable bed? Is your house or apartment warm and comfortable? Do you know you will have food to eat on Christmas day? Do you have a television to watch? Do you have a telephone? Do you have a few dollars in your pocket?

I’m very aware there are millions of Americans who are below the financial income poverty level. They have it tough. Our cities are filled with growing numbers of homeless populations. People are sleeping under bridges, overpasses and on riverbanks. Too many of these have met with unfortunate circumstances in life due to bad choices, addictions, unemployment, mental illness, and family issues. The list is never-ending. This doesn’t make their lives any easier. Just because there is a reason for the problems doesn’t make their burdens light-

er or unnoticeable. Their reality is still harsh and painful.

Millions more immigrants are coming to America. Where will they sleep? Where will they work? Many of them will work for \$8 an hour and work hard but many of them will be homeless or stranded in homeless shelters on government dependence for a long time. Would any of us want to trade places with them? I don’t think so.

Whatever darkness you are facing this Christmas is your reality. Seeing the hurts of others doesn’t make your troubles go away. However, if you can be thankful for the life you have, then maybe Christmas will take on a whole new light.

Look to the most special gift of all this Christmas – the baby in the manger. Shepherds raced to see the baby just as the angels said they would. Wise men came from the

east and worshipped him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Mary and Joseph did the best they could as peasant parents of a new baby boy.

Keep the scripture of Isaiah 9:6 handy this Christmas. “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

May His peace comfort your heart and be your light and strength through this seasonand every day to come.

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

LETTER to the Editor

THANK YOU, CHELSEA

To the Editor,

“In 2020, I was first introduced as a candidate for State Representative in the City of Chelsea. From some of my first meetings, the community welcomed me with open arms. Just as the campaign was kicking off, our world as we knew it changed and the Covid-19 pandemic began. I was proud to be a part of a community that rose to face all the challenges that Covid-19 brought, becoming a shining example for all of the state to follow. Going to events in Chelsea always brought me great joy,

from celebrating Pride to Chelsea Day and everything in between,” said Representative Jessica Giannino (D-Revere). “One of the greatest joys of representing Chelsea was working with the great state delegation of this community. Working with Senator DiDomenico and Chairman Ryan was an incredible opportunity; I learned so much more about Chelsea and the issues that mattered to the city, through their leadership and friendship. I will truly miss sharing Chelsea with my partner in the House, Rep. Dan Ryan. In the coming year, I know that Representative Gar-

cia will continue to represent this community with the grace and skill that the city deserves. To the residents of Chelsea, from the

bottom of my heart, thank you for the opportunity to serve you; it has been my honor and privilege.”

Rep. Jessica Giannino

CHLSEA

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ANNUAL DIDOMENICO FOUNDATION TOY DRIVE IS A HUGE SUCCESS

Last Thursday the DiDomenico Foundation hosted their Annual Toy Drive to celebrate the holiday season and collect toys for children throughout the region. In preparation for the event the DiDomenico Foundation volunteers shopped at local stores to purchase \$35,000 in games, stuffed animals, bikes, sporting equipment, and countless more toys that nearly filled five U-Haul trucks. In addition to the DiDomenico Foundation toy donations, hundreds

of people from across the area and beyond came to the event with their own toy donations to add on to the toy drive. Senator Sal DiDomenico and volunteers spent the next several days delivering these toys to homeless and domestic violence shelters, parishes, community organizations, and local schools. “This was the biggest toy drive we have ever hosted, and it was made possible thanks to the countless friends, partners, elected officials, benefactors, and Founda-

tion members who spent their time and resources to make the holidays a little brighter for hundreds of children,” said State Senator Sal DiDomenico. “Thanks to these generous individuals and families, so many children will now have a brand-new gift for them during the holidays. They might not know our names or who we are, but they will know that there are people out there who care about them.” The DiDomenico Foundation is an all-volunteer organization and one of

its primary missions is to distribute toys to children in homeless and domestic violence shelters, parishes and local schools. The Wong family, owners of Kowloon Restaurant, once again generously hosted this year’s toy drive at their restaurant. In addition, U-Haul Boston also donated all of the trucks to transport the toys. This group effort is made up of so many people coming together to help families throughout our communities.



Senator Sal DiDomenico and his family thanks all who helped make this event a success. Shown below are scenes of DiDomenico Foundation volunteers shopping and organizing for the toy drive.



CHELSEA PUBLIC MENORAH LIGHTING CEREMONY SPONSORED BY TOBIN BRIDGE CHABAD

Cary Shuman photos

Rabbi Sruli Baron of the Tobin Bridge Chabad joined with City Manager Tom Ambrosino to lead the Chelsea menorah lighting ceremony for the first night of the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah Sunday in Chelsea Square. During his remarks, Rabbi Baron paid tribute to his late grandmother, Miriam Rosenbloom, as an example of someone who spread light, goodness, and kindness all around her. Also present were Rabbi Oksana Chapman, spiritual leader of Temple Emmanuel, and Edward Medros, president of the Walnut Street Synagogue.



Ronald Waxman and Misti Covitz.



Mr. Kaprol and David Oren.



Chelsea Police Chief Keith Houghton and City Manager Tom Ambrosino.



Rabbi Oksana Chapman of Temple Emmanuel and City Manager Tom Ambrosino.



Many Chelsea residents and friends are pictured at the Menorah candle lighting ceremony in Chelsea Square.



Lisa Santagate, Chelsea city official Mimi Graney, and Deb Zabot.



Walnut Street Synagogue President Edward Medros, Esther Berkowitz, Tom Barth, and Ken Wacks.



Naomi Zabot and Michele Peruch.



Jan Rubin, Mark Malkovich, and Roberta Rubin.



Rabbi Sruli Baron, with his son, Mendy Baron, and City Manager Tom Ambrosino, as the distinguished leader of the Tobin Bridge Chabad congregation led the Hanukkah Menorah candle lighting ceremony in Chelsea Square Sunday night.

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*All participants will receive a \$25 gift card after completion of their visit. To complete the visit, participants must create an account, give consent, agree to share their electronic health records, decide whether they want information about their DNA, answer health surveys, have their physical measurements taken (height, weight, blood pressure, etc), and give blood and urine samples, if asked.

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Lucas & William Amas



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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year Roman & Amani



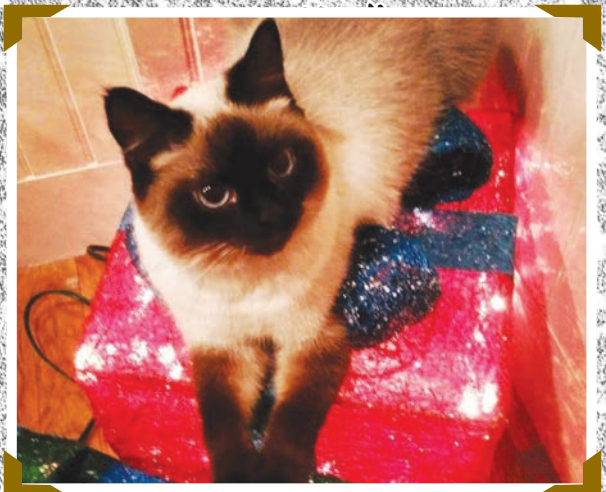
Charlotte & Oliver Hanton



Hannah & Kacey McGrath



Merry Christmas Anthony & Juli-



Fiona

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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Wishing you and your family a wonderful Holiday Season!

Sports

CHELSEA RED DEVILS TRACK TEAM TOPS LYNN

Photos by Bob Marra

The Red Devil boys and girls both ran to victory as Chelsea topped Lynn English in Greater Boston League indoor track action Wednesday, December 14 at the Salemwood School fieldhouse in Malden.



Gizelle Rodriguez clears the high jump bar.



Greandall Oliva won the shot put with a 34-foot toss.



Jhostin Salmeron (381) breaks from the starting blocks in the 50m dash. Lynn English Roland Browne (419) won the heat.



Darily Sanches turns heads into the home stretch on her way to winning the 300m run.

CHS ROUNDUP

CHS BOYS BASKETBALL TOPS SOMERVILLE, 55-46

The Chelsea High boys basketball team gift-wrapped an early Christmas present for their new head coach, Cesar Castro, with a 55-46 victory at Greater Boston League (GBL) rival Somerville this past Tuesday evening, marking the first win for Castro in his head-coaching career.

The Red Devils were led in the scoring department by freshmen JJ Williams, who popped in a game-high 17 points, and Abdi Mohammed, who also reached double-figures with 14 points.

“It was the first win of the season and also the

first win of my career,” noted Castro. “I just want to thank my amazing coaching staff for all the hard work that they do.

“I’m extremely proud of the team,” Castro continued. “My student-athletes play tough and with a lot of heart from start to finish every game. It can be anyone’s night -- we are not big on the stats. With being a small team, we take pride in defense. I remind them everyday that we have to play scrappy and get every 50/50 ball. It was a great team effort from all our guys.”

Castro and his crew are scheduled to be back in action next Tuesday, December 27, in the 2nd Annual Jack Fletcher Holiday Classic at Lowell Catholic against Rancho

Solano High School (Arizona) in the first round at 5 p.m. Lowell Catholic and Waltham are on the other side of the bracket. The championship/consolation games will be on the 29th.

CHS BOYS TRACK OPENS SEASON WITH WIN OVER LE

The Chelsea High boys indoor track and field team opened its 2023 season in fine fashion with a 51-28 victory over Greater Boston League rival Lynn English last Wednesday.

Coach Cesar Hernandez’s Red Devils took first place in six of the nine individual events and also captured the 4 x 400 relay.

The first-place victors



Emerson Melgar puts everything into this shot put heave.



Ashley Mejia carries the baton for Chelsea in her leg of the girls 4x440 relay.



Chelsea’s Kevin Flores is a blur as he outpaces Juan Reyes of Lynn English in the 4x440 relay



Kevin Flores reveals a slight smile as he crosses the finish line after topping the field with a 5:32.5 mile run.



Chelsea’s Rosalinda Rojas shares a laugh with Medford’s Rosalie Nicholson after they finished 1-2 overall in the 2-mile run.



Gizelle Rodriguez ran away with a dominant 3:32.8s to win the 1000m run.



Dahlia Christmas won the girls shotput event.



Nathaniel Nadow keeps pace on his way to victory in the 600m run in 1:37.3s.

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ZONTA CLUB OF CHELSEA & NORTH SHORE NEWS

The Zonta Club of Chelsea & North Shore recently held their annual holiday gathering at Lime Restaurant in Chelsea. At this gathering their Slate of Officers were installed and they installed a new member to the club, Lee Farrington, a Chelsea resident. At this time, they held a collection of toys for the holidays which will be donated to the Salvation Army in Chelsea.



Members of the Club gather for a group photo during their annual holiday gathering.



Installed officers- left to right, Liza Fama- Treasurer, Georgia Green-Recording Secretary, Christine DePrizio-Corresponding Secretary, Janice Tatarka-President, Mary Jane O'Neill-Vice President



-New member Lee Farrington being installed by Georgia Green, Recording Secretary

Roundup / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

for Chelsea were: Ali Warsame in the 300 dash in a clocking of 44.0; Nate Nadow in the 600 dash in 1:37.3; Jose Amaya in the 1000 with a time of 3:06.4; Alex Flores in the mile in 5:32.5; and Greandoll Oliva in the shot-put with a throw of 34'-0".

The winning 4 x 400 quartet consisted of Nadow, Flores, Warsame, and Jose Olivar. Their time of 4:15 outpaced their English counterparts by 4.7 seconds.

Adding three points to the CHS scoresheet with second-place performances were: Oivar in the 300 dash; Austin Freeman in the 600; Jason Rodrigues in the 1000; Sherwin Kim in the mile; and Ajay Singh in the two-mle.

Emerson Melgar contributed a point with a third place performance in the shot.

Hernandez and his crew were scheduled to take on GBL foe Lynn Classical yesterday (Wednesday) and will face Somerville next Wednesday.

CHS GIRLS TRACK OPENS WITH A WIN

The Chelsea High girls indoor track and field team opened its season with a 49-30 victory over Lynn English last Wednesday.

Gizelle Rodriquez paced the Lady Red Devils' winning effort with two first-place performances in the 1000 meter run in a clocking of 3:32.8 (which was 40 seconds faster than her closest English competitor, as well as 28 seconds faster than the winning run of the Medford vs. Malden meet also held that day) and the high jump with a leap of 4'-4".

Gizelle also ran the opening leg of the winning CHS 4 x 400 relay to tally 11.25 points for the meet.

Other first-place finishers for Chelsea were: Giselle Olivar in the 600 in 2:14.4; Hazel Hatleburg in the mile in 7:14.8; Rosalinda Rojas in the two-mile in 17:18.7; and Dhalia Christ-

mas in the shot-put with a toss of 27'-9.25".

Second-place performances, adding three points to the CHS side of the scoresheet, came from: Darly Sanchez in the 300; Lauren Nadow in the hurdles; Reina Martino in the 600; and Lamari Davis in the shot.

Adding single points with third-place efforts were Emily Singh in the 300 and Farrah Henderson in the 55 dash.

Joining Rodriguez in the winning 4 x 400 relay were teammates Olivar, Ashley Mejia, and Hatleburg. Their time of 5:21 outpaced the Lynn English quartet by 26 seconds.

The Lady Red Devils were scheduled to take on GBL foe Lynn Classical yesterday (Wednesday) and will face Somerville next Wednesday.

CHS GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM OPENS SEASON

Although the Chelsea High girls basketball team dropped its contest with

Somerville this past Tuesday evening, a much-bigger loss for the Lady Red Devils was an injury to captain Edissa Ndayikeza, who was sent to the hospital with an injury in the first quarter.

The final tally showed Somerville prevailing by a score of 49-28. Freshman guard Monica Cespedes-Cruz enjoyed a fine night, scoring 17 points, including four three-pointers.

Monica also turned in a solid performance in the team's season-opener last week with Lynn English, hitting for 14 points that included a trio of treys.

Captain Edissa added six points, junior Keara Chevez Trejo chipped in two points, and center Katerin Landaverde sank a free throw in the English contest.

First-year head coach Leslie Santiago and her crew are off through the vacation week and will be back in action against Everett on January 3 at the CHS gym.

BRUINS Beat by Bob Morello

Bruins and 2023 winter classic

The Bruins are currently gliding along with a record of 25-4-2, holding on to the first spot atop the entire National Hockey League.

Tonight (Thursday, 7:00pm), the Bruins will host the Winnipeg Jets who are playing well and sit near the top of the Central Division, followed by a three game road trip starting with the New Jersey Devils on Friday, 7:00pm, the Devils at press time were on a four-game losing streak, the Ottawa Senators on Tuesday, 7:00pm, the Sens are currently on a two-game losing streak, and end with a second visit to New Jersey on Wednesday to take on the Devils for the second time in less than a week. Following Brandon Carlo's goal in the Monday night 7-3 win over the Florida Panthers, every regular player (21) on the team roster has scored at

least one goal. An interesting note on NHL news indicated that Bruins stellar goaltender Linus Ullmark has now become the fifth

goaltender in franchise history with points in each of his first 12 home decisions in a season. This puts him on list with Tuukka Rask (20 GP in 2019-20), Gilles Gilbert (17 GP in 73-74), Gerry Cheevers (13 GP in 1976-77) and Frank Brimsek (12 GP in 1941-42). Ullmark continues to shine with a record of 18-1-0, goals-against-average of 1.89, and a save percentage of .937.

In less than two weeks (January 2, 2023) the Bruins will be taking on the Pittsburgh Penguins in the 2023 NHL Winter Classic. Along with all the excitement of the Classic, the NHL has announced that the 2023 Discover NHL Winter Classic festivities will be held at newly renovated Boston City Hall Plaza with the NHL Winter Classic Plaza. The event is a free two-day, non-ticketed fan festival open to the public. On Friday, December 30 (2:00pm-8:00pm) and Saturday, December 31 (10:00am-6:00pm), fans will be treated to many fun interactions and experiences, including autograph sessions (Friday: Tuukka Rask, Shawn Thornton and Ray Bourque - Saturday: Terry O'Reilly and Adam Oates), featuring current and former Boston Bruins greats Fans can enjoy a myriad of family-friendly hockey interactives, giveaways, food, and the chance to take a photo with the Stanley Cup. The two-day, outdoor fan festival will serve as a preview of the 2023 Winter





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OBITUARIES

Jeffrey Zajac

Taken tragically, he had a great passion for life and people

Jeffrey W. Zajac, 51, was taken tragically on Saturday, November 5 while riding with the love o his life, his wife, Jessie in New Hampshire. A Funeral Service was held on Monday, December 19, in Vazza’s “Beechwood” Funeral Home. Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett with military honors.

Jeff was born in Malden on February 10, 1971 and raised in Malden, Everett, Chelsea and Revere. He attended Northeast Regional Vocational High School where he studied sheet metal and later became a mechanic. Jeff was a natural at fixing and repairing things, especially automobiles.

Jeff enlisted in the United States Army, serving his country and then becoming a reservist. Most of Jeff’s working career was spent as a mechanic and he thoroughly enjoyed it.

He had a great passion for life and people. He was a great friend to many people, affectionately known to many as “Uncle Jeff.” He was a surrogate uncle to so many of his friends’ children. He loved his motorcycle and loved riding. He was always very cautious and instructed many riders to always do the same.

Jeff was proud of being in the military and he also wanted to give back by being involved in an annual Wounded Veterans Bike Run.

Several years ago, Jeff met his best friend, soul mate and the love of his life, Jessica M. Edom. Jeff found out what true love was all about and genuine happiness. On August



8, 2022, he and Jessie got married on 8-8-22. They got married on this day because of DOUBLE infinity. It was a special day for them. They had planned their reception on November 12th, the week before their tragic accident.

Jeff leaves behind so many people who loved him and much heartache.

He is the loving husband of Jessica M. Edom – Zajac of Shirley, the stepfather of Kaila Lane of Illinois, Amanda, Nicole and Kevin Kolodziej of Brentwood, NH; the cherished son of Paula V. Zajac and her companion, Richard Larsen of Revere and the late Bert Paquette; dear nephew of Robert Zajac of Shirley and Karen Zajac of Chelsea. He is also survived by many loving, caring and lifelong friends who have become family, including all of his riding friends.

Donations in Jeff’s memory may be made to www.theyfoughtweride.com.

For online condolences and guestbook, please visit www.vazzafunerals.com.

Funeral arrangements under the care & direction of Vazza’s “Beechwood” Funeral Home.

James Herbert Carrasco

Amtrak Retiree

James Herbert Carrasco, 90, of Chelsea, loving husband of the late Concetta (Nazzaro) Carrasco, passed away on December 15 with his loving family at his side.

Jim (or “Herb” as he was also known) was born in Roslindale on May 20, 1932, the youngest of four children of the late Rossiter C. and Frances V. (Richter) Carrasco. A graduate of Roslindale High School with the class of 1950, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and proudly served our country in Korea during the Korean War.

He married Connie (also known as “Cee”) on July 2, 1961, with whom he shared a devoted unbreakable bond, with many laughs and warm vacations.

Throughout their lifetime, Jim and Connie were also passionate about helping kids in need. Their generous philanthropic efforts included support to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and Franciscan Children’s in Boston. With his career as a railroad worker, when his many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews came to visit him at work, he thrilled them all with a shared joy of watching trains wiz by and flattening pennies on the rails under the trains until he retired from Amtrak.

He was a passionate N.E. sports fan, inviting many loved ones to share in his season tickets to the Bruins and never willingly missing a Red Sox game, even if just on radio. He might pause work on a crossword puzzle to enjoy a Kelly’s turkey club rol-lup or a Harrow’s chicken pot pie, but nothing could interrupt his watching of Jeopardy, wherever he



might be! After retiring, Jim became an avid dog lover, sharing his home and love with Amigo and then Socks (of youtube singing fame).

Jim was predeceased by his wife, Connie, his sister, Ellen F (Carrasco) Aldous and his brothers, Albert R. Carrasco and Ralph C. Carrasco. He was the loving brother-in-law of Ann Maronski of Chelsea, the late Angelo Nazzaro and Gertrude Cipriani. He is also survived by many beloved nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, so many with whom he shared a special bond, forged over weekly dinners with desserts, a memorable illicit puff on his pipe or cigarette, rides to or from school and help with homework, or wise counsel on how to try to live up to life’s challenges.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Jim’s name may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105-1905, WWW.StJude.org/Donate.

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.



David Melendy

Automotive Technician AKA “Dave the Tune-Up Man”

David W. Melendy, 78, a longtime resident and community volunteer of Lynnfield, passed away surrounded by his loved ones in the peaceful surroundings of his Lynnfield home on Tuesday, December 20.

Born and raised in Melrose, he was the beloved son of the late Irving D. and

Laura (Mosley) Melendy. David attended local schools in Melrose and received his bachelor’s degree from Salem State College.

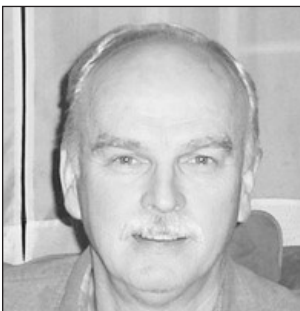
He enlisted in the US Navy in 1964 and served during the Vietnam War. Attaining the rank of Gunners Mate 3rd class, he was honorably discharged in 1969.

He was a lifelong automotive technician and was self-employed for many years as mobile mechanic operating as “Dave the Tune-up Man.. He finished his career as a Certified Mercedes Technician retiring from Flagship Motors several years ago.

He was married to Patricia (Welsh) Markarian in 1988 and together they resided in Lynnfield raising their children.

David was an active community member in Lynnfield serving on the Lynnfield Conservation Committee and Townscape Lynnfield. He was also an active community member of the First Baptist Church in Wakefield for many years.

In his lifetime, David loved anything and everything to do with nature and science, watching various TV programs, hiking and nature walks, bird-watching eagles and falcons, and avian visitors to his home birdfeeder. He also enjoyed home landscaping, traveling to Bermuda with his wife and making their annual retreat to Fol-



lansbee Inn in No. Sutton NH.

In addition to his parents, David was predeceased by his beloved wife of 32 years, Patricia (Welsh) Melendy. He was the devoted father of Garth Melendy of Virginia, Holly Alexander of Kentucky and Jennifer Grealey and her husband, John of Medford, Andrea Markarian Jones and her husband, Michel Jones of Lynnfield, Stephen Markarian and his wife, Elizabeth of Rowley; cherished grandfather to several grandchildren, including: Ethan Wilson, Madelyn Grealey, Kiley, Lucas and Emma Markarian and the dear brother of Meredith Turner of North Reading.

Relatives and friends are most kindly invited to visit at the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea on Tuesday, December 27 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. followed immediately by a Funeral Service conducted in the Funeral Home at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with interment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

In lieu of flowers, should friends desire, contributions in David’s name may be made to MSPCA-Angell Memorial Hosp. Attn; Donations, 350 So. Huntington St., Boston, MA 02130. or visit; MSPCA-Donate

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



Bruin Beat // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Classic game, between the Bruins and the Penguins at Fenway Park on Monday, January 2 (at 2:00pm). A game ticket is not required for entry to the NHL Winter Classic Plaza.

2023 NHL Winter Classic Festivities: Free and open to the public during the hours listed above, fans can enjoy hockey-themed experiences that include: BioSteel: Fans get to show off their best move at the #BioSteelNext Gen Move Mini Rink and hydrate like NHL Players with samples of BioSteel. Boston Bruins: Fans are invited to play trivia, get your face painted and meet members of the Boston Pride for autographs and photos. Caterpillar: Hockey fans can shoot for prizes, check out Cat equipment, and learn about Cat services. Discover: The Discover activation will feature a giant air hockey table and allow fans to challenge their friends in a game of over-sized air hockey. A drop trailer will distribute premium items and host display cases with memorabilia that fans can explore. Plus fans will have the chance to pose for a unique and shareable photo opportunity on Discover’s ice throne. DraftKings: Will offer fans 21 and older a chance to stay warm at the DraftKings Chalet, and grab

an adult refreshment with NHL Alumni. Extreme Networks: Think you can hit all four corner targets, come and test those skills at Extreme’s Accuracy Challenge. Fanatics: Will feature a wide assortment of Winter Classic apparel and products available for purchase. Fastenal/MCR Safety: Visit this tent to play cornhole and possibly win some safety gear. Great Clips: Practice like the pros and test their stick skills by shooting pucks into a stacked washer and dryer unit. Hockey Fights Cancer: A joint initiative of the NHL and the NHL-PA, which supports our official charity partners, the American Cancer Society and the Canadian Cancer Society. Honda: The official automotive partner of the NHL in the U.S. will display vehicles at Boston City Hall for fans to check out. A visit to the Winter Classic Plaza will give fans a chance to try their luck at the Honda Puck Drop game, or show their hockey skills with Goalie Power Play to win prizes. NHL Fan Access App: This official event app – NHL Fan Access, features maps, schedules, the “Ask Stanley” virtual assistant, opportunities to win prizes and much more. NHL Network: Gives fans the chance to test their shooting skills with a target in-

flatable, and NHL Tonight will air extensive pre- and postgame coverage of the Winter Classic. Stanley Cup Display: Fans can take a photo with the Stanley Cup on Friday, 12/30 (2:30pm–7:00pm) and Saturday, 12/31 (10:30am– 4:00pm). Truly: Truly Hard Seltzer will be at the Winter Classic Plaza on both days. Fans 21+ can faceoff on their Bubble Hockey Games, take a picture in their interactive photo booth, or just check out views from

their rooftop deck. Upper Deck: The NHL’s exclusive trading card partner will be onsite creating personalized Winter Classic trading cards for fans in attendance. Fans can also get a free set of Winter Classic trading cards for a limited time on UpperDeckEpack.com. Verizon: SCAN, PLAY, SCORE – Fans will be invited to play a fun, digital game, that educates consumers on Verizon product and services for a chance to win some amazing prizes.

OBITUARIES

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

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EBNHC hosts listening session

On Thursday, December 15, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) was proud to host a listening session with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) Director Melanie Fontes Rainer on President Biden's Executive Order on Securing Access to Reproductive and Other Healthcare Services. The meeting provided an opportunity for federal, state and local public health and community leaders, including Massachusetts State Representative Marjorie C. Decker, to discuss the essential role of federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) in increasing access to reproductive health care, a critical part of advancing women's health equity.

EBNHC is a leading provider of care to women in our community, and this year alone, provided high-quality women's health care to more than 37,000 patients, 74% of whom are Hispanic and 83% of whom are a racial/ethnic minority.

For more information about your Reproductive Health Rights in the U.S., visit <https://reproductive-rights.gov>. For more information about how the U.S. Department of Justice is working to protect access to reproductive health services under federal law, visit www.justice.gov/reproductive-rights.

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) is one of the nation's largest Federally Qualified



Featured from left to right – Everett Handford, HHS Region 1, Regional Director; Susan Rhodes, Regional Manager, Office for Civil Rights (OCR); Assaad Jean Sayah, M.D. Cambridge Health Alliance; Greg Wilmot, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC), President & CEO; Melanie Fontes Rainer, OCR Director, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Rep. Marjorie C. Decker, MA. House of Representatives; Dr. Julio Mazul, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, EBNHC; Ernani DeAraujo, Chief Legal Officer, EBNHC; Dr. Jackie Fantes, Chief Medical Officer, EBNHC; Phil Johnston, CEO, Johnston & Associates.

Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community health center in Massachusetts, serving over 100,000 patients and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administra-

tion (HRSA) as a Health Center Quality Leader. For more than 50 years, EBNHC has offered access to comprehensive care for the underserved populations of Chelsea, East Boston,

National Grid encourages customers to enroll in heating assistance and bill help programs

As colder temperatures take hold, National Grid is reminding Massachusetts customers to take advantage of energy programs that can help them pay and manage their energy bills.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), commonly referred to as Fuel Assistance, provides eligible households with help in paying a portion of winter heating bills. Enrollment for LIHEAP is free and open through April 30, 2023, and covers energy usage from November 1, 2022, to April 30, 2023.

LIHEAP is open to both homeowners and renters, including households whose cost of heat is included in rent, and eligibility is based on household size and the gross annual income of every household member 18 years of age or older. Household income cannot

exceed 60% of estimated state median income. This program provides assistance through a fixed benefit amount for the cost of the primary source of heat, which includes, but is not limited to: electricity, oil, natural gas, propane, kerosene, wood and coal.

“National Grid recognizes that high energy bills can be a real challenge for many customers – especially as we get into the colder months,” said Helen Burt, Chief Customer Officer at National Grid. “The LIHEAP program can provide much needed assistance to customers who are struggling to keep up with their energy costs. We also encourage customers to look at options in our Winter Customer Savings Initiative, to consider a payment program, or see if they are eligible for rate discounts.”

To apply for LIHEAP:

- Apply online at <https://www.toapply.org/MassLIHEAP>
 - Visit and apply at an agency in your area.
- For more information concerning LIHEAP:
- Visit <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-about-low-income-home-energy-assistance-program-liheap>.
 - Customers may also call the Cold Relief Helpline at (800) 632-8175.
- National Grid recognizes increased bills pose challenges for many customers. This fall, 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. The company recently donated \$1 million com-

- The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund is available to any Massachusetts residents who, because of temporary financial difficulty, cannot meet a month's energy expense and is not eligible for state or federal energy assistance
- Furthermore, several bill help options and payment plans are available for customers in need of assistance. Customers may enroll in programs such as the Budget Billing Plan, which spreads monthly payments out more evenly throughout the year to offset periods of high energy usage.
- National Grid remains committed to providing customers a variety of energy-saving tips and billing options to help offset the increases in this winter's energy prices. Customers in need of billing assistance or additional support can visit ngrid.com/heretohelp to learn more.
- 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 building 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.
- For more information, please visit our website, follow us on Twitter, watch us on YouTube, like us on Facebook and find our photos on Instagram

Fuel assistance benefit levels increased to \$2,200

At the urging of ABCD and other Community Action Agencies, more LIHEAP funding is now available to people in need this winter. The maximum benefit level has been increased to \$2,200, from \$1,600 which will help struggling families, individuals and elders to make it through the harsh winter season. ABCD continues to accept new applications for Fuel Assistance and

encourages everyone to explore the potential for assistance.

Residents are urged to see if they meet the guidelines for the increased benefit. The program will run through April 30, 2030.

Residents of Boston, Brookline or Newton can apply by calling at 617-357-6012. Residents of Malden, Medford, Everett, Winchester, Melrose, Woburn or Stoneham can

call 781-322-6284. Visit bostonabcd.org/heat for information about ABCD's Fuel Assistance Program including a listing of neighborhood centers.

Application assistance is available in-person by appointment at all ABCD neighborhood centers including:

ABCD Central Office; ABCD Roslindale; Allston/Brighton Neighborhood Opportunity Center; Brookline Fuel Assistance; Chinatown; Dorchester Neighborhood Service Center; East Boston; John F. Kennedy Center; Mattapan Family Service Center; Mystic Valley Opportunity Center; Newton Fuel Assistance; North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center; Parker Hill/Fenway Neighborhood Service Center; Roxbury/North Dorchester Neighborhood Opportunity Center; South

Boston Action Center and the South End Neighborhood Service Center.

A Massachusetts-based nonprofit human services organization, ABCD provides disadvantaged residents in the Boston and Mystic Valley areas with the tools, support, and resources they need to transition from poverty to stability and from stability to success. Each year, we serve more than 100,000 individuals, elders and families through a broad range of innovative initiatives as well as long-established, proven programs and services. For 60 years, ABCD has been deeply rooted in each neighborhood we serve, empowering individuals and families and supporting them in their quest to live with dignity and achieve their highest potential. For more information, please visit bostonabcd.org.


LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE


(LEGAL NOTICE)
CITY OF CHELSEA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Small Business Technical and Digital Marketing Assistance Program
The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Request for Proposals for "Small Business Technical and Digital Marketing Assistance Program". Request for Proposals will be available on or after December 22, 2022 by contacting Dragica Ivanis, Chief Procurement Officer at divanis@chelseama.gov or by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php. Proposals must be sealed and clearly marked "Small Business Technical and Digital Marketing Assistance Program" and submitted to the Office


of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 11:00AM on Thursday, January 12, 2023. The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any or all proposals and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City. In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond. The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer. This Request for Proposals is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B. Dragica Ivanis Chief Procurement Officer
12/22/22 C

LEGAL NOTICE


NOTICE OF HEARING
Case No. 2022-34
In accordance with the


Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A, a public hearing of the Chelsea Planning Board will be held at City Hall, Council Chambers, 500 Broadway Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 6:00 p.m. with reference to the application of: DMS Trinity, LLC for Major Site Plan Review to establish a recreational marijuana dispensary at 260-270 Second Street All interested parties are encouraged to attend. Plans and copies of the application and petition may be viewed at the office of the City Clerk, Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, during City Hall business hours.
12/22/22, 12/29/22 C

LEGAL NOTICE


NOTICE OF HEARING
Case No. 2022-38
In accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning

Act, Chapter 40A, a public hearing of the Chelsea Planning Board will be held at City Hall, Council Chambers, 500 Broadway Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 6:00 p.m. with reference to the application of: Concrete Garden Inc for Major Site Plan Review to establish a recreational marijuana dispensary at 307 Broadway All interested parties are encouraged to attend. Plans and copies of the application and petition may be viewed at the office of the City Clerk, Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, during City Hall business hours.
12/22/22, 12/29/22 C

LEGAL NOTICE


NOTICE OF HEARING
Case No. 2022-40
In accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A, a

public hearing of the Chelsea Planning Board will be held City Hall, 500 Broadway, Rm 305 Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 6:00 p.m. with reference to the application of: Enterprise Rent-A-Car Company of Boston, LLC for Major Site Plan Review for storage of vehicles for hire or return from hire at the premises known as: 245-257 Marginal Street 146-150 Williams Street & 65 Pine Street All interested parties are encouraged to attend. Plans and copies of the application and petition may be viewed at the office of the City Clerk, Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, during City Hall business hours.
12/22/22, 12/29/22 C

LEGAL NOTICE


NOTICE OF HEARING
Case No. 2022-41

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A that a Regular Meeting of the Chelsea Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 Chelsea City Hall - 500 Broadway - City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor 6:00 p.m. With reference to the application of: St. Mary Orthodox Church For Special Permit seeking approval for a curb cut at the premises known as 8 Addison Street A copy of the application and petition is available for review at: City Clerk's Office during normal business hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. - Friday, 8 a.m. to noon
12/22/22, 12/29/22 C

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
- CLASSIFIED LEGAL AD-

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DIVISION OF CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE
Electronic Bids submitted in the format furnished by the Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance (DCAMM) and clearly identified as a bid will be received through DCAMM's E-Bid Room at www.bidexpress.com/businesses/10279/ home no later than the date and time specified and will forthwith be publicly opened remotely by DCAMM Bid Room personnel and read aloud over a conference call line. Persons interested in accessing the remote bid opening can do so by using the following phone number: Audio Conferencing Dial-In Number (617)-315-0704, Meeting Number 2333 916 4237#. If prompted for attendee ID, please press #.
General Bids at 2:00 PM: January 17, 2023
This Project bid in accordance with M.G.L. Chap-

ter 30 Section 39M. Mass. State Project No. IFM2305 Contract No. 7003
Fire Alarm and Fire Protection Services for a Certain State Building in Chelsea, MA E.C.C. S123,368
This project is scheduled for 365 calendar days to substantial completion with three one-year options to renew. Scope: Testing, inspection, preventive maintenance, repair, replacement and emergency services (24 hours a day, seven days a week) for all Fire Alarm Systems and Equipment (Fire Alarm S&E) and Fire Protection Systems and Equipment (Fire Protection S&E) in the referenced building. A Pre-Bid/Site Visit will be held on December 28, 2022 @ 10:00 AM at 200 Arlington Street, Chelsea, MA. Bring a valid ID and register at the front desk prior to going through screening. Minimum rates of wages to be paid on the project have been determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Labor Standards. These rates

are incorporated into the bid documents. Bid documents for this project may be accessed or downloaded at no cost to potential bidders exclusively through DCAMM's E-Bid Room <https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/10279/> home. A hard copy set can be made available for viewing in DCAMM's Bid Room located at One Ashburton Place, 15th Floor, Boston, MA during normal business hours by appointment only by contacting DCAMM's Bid Room. In order to access bid documents and submit bids through DCAMM's E-Bid Room potential bidders must first be verified by DCAMM's Bid Room and then register with the E-Bid Room vendor. Instructions on the processes can be found on DCAMM's website www.mass.gov/dcam/bids or contact DCAMM's Bid Room at (617) 727-4003 or bidroom.dcam@mass.gov. Carol W. Gladstone COMMISSIONER
12/22/22

Transportation Security Administration is prepared for winter holiday travelers

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) anticipates airport security checkpoints nationwide will be busier this holiday travel season compared to last year.

TSA expects travel volumes to be close to pre-pandemic levels. The busiest days are expected to be Thursday, Dec. 22 and Friday, Dec. 30.

“During the Thanksgiving travel period, we saw the highest throughput volume since 2019, and we expect that trend to continue over the upcoming holiday travel period,” said TSA Administrator David Pekoske. “We are prepared for the increased volume and expect to meet our wait time standards of 30 minutes or less in standard lanes and 10 minutes or less in TSA PreCheck® lanes. However, there may be some situations where the capacity of a checkpoint is exceeded.”

Additionally, to provide a higher level of assistance for travelers with questions about airport security screening procedures, airline passengers may now send a text using any mobile device to “AskTSA” (275-872). A virtual assistant is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. For more

complicated questions, AskTSA staff are available daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST. Passengers may still reach out to AskTSA (@AskTSA) on Twitter or Facebook Messenger with questions and comments.

TSA also has several videos for parents and families to watch with young children. Our latest edition in the “TSA KIDS” series is for families traveling with gifts. TSA KIDS videos cover various travel tips, including traveling with snacks and traveling with electronics. More information on our TSA KIDS videos may be found on our YouTube page.

Travelers should keep these top 10 tips in mind while traveling:

1 Do not attempt to bring a firearm through a TSA checkpoint; doing so compromises the safety and security of other passengers and our officers in the checkpoint. Passengers who do attempt to bring a firearm through a checkpoint can expect to receive a civil penalty (fines may be as high as \$15,000) and lose eligibility for TSA PreCheck. Additionally, local law enforcement will be called and because these passengers may present additional risk beyond the

firearm, they will receive enhanced screening.

2 Beyond firearms, there are other items that are not permitted in the checkpoint. These include explosives, flammables, knives, razors and replica weapons. To see if an item is prohibited, check the TSA website under “What Can I Bring?” Prepare for security when packing for your trip and be aware of what can go in carry-on or checked bags to ensure there are no prohibited items. If you can spill it, spray it, spread it, pump it or pour it, then it is subject to the 3.4-ounce limitation. As always, passengers may bring solid foods such as cakes and other baked goods through the TSA checkpoint.

3 Ensure gifts are unwrapped and can be inspected. TSA encourages those traveling with gifts this holiday season to use gift bags that can be easily opened or gift boxes with lids that can be removed, so that contents can be inspected if required. Fully wrapped gifts may need to be opened if deemed necessary by a TSA officer. Instead, consider placing your unwrapped gifts in your checked bag.

4 Bring an acceptable ID. Before heading to the air-

port, travelers should make sure they have acceptable identification. At many airport checkpoints, the Transportation Security Officer (TSO) may ask you to insert your physical ID into one of our new Credential Authentication Technology units. Residents of Arizona, Colorado and Maryland may even use their Apple mobile device to store their ID in Apple Wallet and use their mobile device in certain TSA PreCheck lanes at participating airports.

5 Become a Trusted Traveler. The TSA PreCheck program offers expedited security screening at the airport, connecting low-risk passengers with a more efficient air travel experience. Just in time for the holidays, the enrollment fee dropped from \$85 to \$78 for a five-year membership. Online renewals cost just \$70. TSA PreCheck members keep their shoes, belts and light jackets on and their laptops and liquids in their carry-on bags. Program member benefits include less physical contact, fewer items on the conveyor belt, and faster screening. Many new enrollees receive a known traveler number within three to five days.

6 Request passenger

support. Travelers or families of passengers with disabilities and/or medical conditions may call the TSA Cares helpline toll free at 855-787-2227 at least 72 hours prior to travel with any questions about screening procedures and to find out what to expect at the security checkpoint. TSA Cares also arranges assistance at the checkpoint for travelers with specific needs.

7 @AskTSA. Travelers can get assistance in real time by submitting their questions and comments to @AskTSA on Twitter, Facebook Messenger and via text message using any mobile device to “AskTSA” (275-872). An automated virtual assistant is available 24/7 while staff is available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST daily, including holidays and weekends. Travelers may also reach the TSA Contact Center at 866-289-9673. Staff is available from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends/holidays; and an automated service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

8 If You See Something. Say Something®. Public awareness remains a key element in transportation

security and we all play a role in keeping our communities safe. For additional information, please visit the DHS website.

9 Practice good cybersecurity habits. Effective cybersecurity habits are not limited to the home or office. Those who are traveling – whether domestically or internationally – should continue to practice safe online behaviors. Take proactive steps to secure internet-enabled devices. Practice the concept of stop, think and connect prior to connecting to any public wireless hotspot, such as those at airports, hotels and cafés. For more cybersecurity tips, visit cisa.gov.

10 Show gratitude to frontline workers. Thank a TSO, a flight attendant, a gate agent or someone who serves at the frontlines of transportation. TSOs complete about 200 hours of training to become certified and are committed to transportation security while ensuring all travelers are treated with respect and courtesy. Pack an extra dose of patience, especially during higher passenger volume travel days, and show gratitude to those who are working diligently to get everyone to their destinations safely.

National Fire Protection Association urges added caution this holiday season

Many hallmarks of the holiday season, including Christmas trees, holiday decorations, and festive meals, present potential fire hazards that contribute to an annual increase in U.S. home fires at this time of year. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Christmas Day and Christmas Eve are among the leading days of the year for home fires.

“December is a leading month for home fires, in large part because many of the activities we engage in during the holiday season reflect leading causes of home fires year-round,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. “Plus, as colder temperatures impact much of the country, use of heating equipment increases significantly.”

Fortunately, Carli notes, the majority of winter fires can be prevented with a little added awareness and planning.

“By knowing where potential fire hazards exist and taking some basic safety precautions to prevent them, people can enjoy a festive, fire-free holiday season,” said Carli.

The NFPA Winter Holidays page offers a wide variety of tips and resources to reduce the risk of fires, while the latest NFPA statistics underscore the increased risk of fire during the holiday season and beyond:

Christmas Trees

- An estimated average of 160 home fires involving Christmas trees caused two civilian deaths, 11 civilian injuries, and \$12 million in direct property damage per year between 2016 and 2020.

- Some type of electrical distribution or lighting equipment, including decorative lights, was involved in more than two of five (44 percent) of home Christmas tree fires. Nearly one in five Christmas tree fires (19 percent) were started by decorative lights.

- The majority (74 percent) of Christmas tree fires occur in December and January.

Decorations

- An estimated average of 790 home fires that began when decorations (other than Christmas trees)

caught fire caused an average of one civilian death, 26 civilian injuries and \$13 million in direct property damage per year between 2015 and 2019.

- One in five home decoration fires occurred in December.

- Year-round, 35 percent of home decoration fires began with candles; in December, the number jumped to 45 percent.

- In more than two of every five fires (44 percent) involving decorations, the decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle, cooking or heating

equipment.

Candles

- An estimated average of 7,400 home fires (2 percent) started by candles caused an average of 90 civilian deaths (three percent), 670 civilian injuries (6 percent), and \$291 million (4 percent) in direct property damage per year between 2015 and 2019.

- Candle fires peak in December and January with 11 percent of candle fires in each of these months.

- In three of every five candle fires, the candle was too close to something that could catch fire.

- Christmas is the peak day for candle fires with roughly 2.5 times the daily average; Christmas Eve ranked second.

- Falling asleep was a factor in 10 percent of the home candle fires and 12 percent of the associated deaths.

Cooking

- Cooking is the leading cause of reported home fires (49 percent) and home fire injuries and the sec-

ond-leading cause of home

- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires.

- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.

Fires caused by heating equipment, the second-leading cause of U.S. home fires year-round, peak during the winter months,

when temperatures drop and more people use heating equipment to keep their homes warm. Put a Freeze on Winter Fires, an annual NFPA campaign with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), works to educate the public about ways to stay safe during the colder months, offering tip sheets and other resources to help reduce the risk of heating fires and other winter hazards.

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Holiday comfort food

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

What special comfort-ing foods do you plan to include in this year’s hol-iday celebrations? Food and feasting are part of the Christmas, Hanuk-kah, Winter Solstice, and Kwanzaa year-end cele-brations. When you reflect on past seasons, it may be friends and family gath-ering around food tradi-tions that you remember most clearly.

Penny always craves the French pork pie or tourtière her Aunt Sophie included in holiday meals. Ed often talks about the lasagna his grandmother made in addition to the turkey, ham, and numer-ous side dishes on their holiday table.

Many Italian families begin their December cel-ebration with a traditional Feast of the Seven Fishes on Christmas eve. Your holiday table may only be complete with mulled cider, roasted chestnuts,

plum pudding, or even the much-maligned fruitcake.

Holiday Baking

Even those who sel-dom bake often have one or two holiday specialties that they create this time of year. There are cultur-al traditions like Swed-ish gingerbread, Swiss Zimtsterne, German leb-kuchen, French bûche de Noël, British mincemeat and plum pudding, and all-American toll house cookies.

Even those who don’t bake can buy a wide as-sortment of holiday baked goods. We always enjoy a selection of panettones. Penny is one of those hold-outs who still loves a good fruitcake! Yes, there are excellent fruitcakes available by mail order. This year’s selection came from the Vermont Country Store.

Making New Traditions

As we grow and our taste evolves, we may de-

cide that some tradition-al foodways and holiday happenings don’t fit our current tastes or lifestyles. It is perfectly okay to make your own. We have substituted a pile of lob-sters or Dungeness crabs for the feast of the seven fishes.

This year we’ll com-bine Penny’s love of lob-ster with Ed’s passion for pasta and give the cook a night off. We’ll order the Lobster Spaghetti as take-out from Little Whale on Newbury Street to enjoy on Christmas Eve.

After all, celebrations are a perfect time to be a bit extravagant. It’s also time to buy treats we’d typically avoid. Eggnog and whipped cream show up in the refrigerator with a plan to get back on track in the new year.

New Year’s Eve

The new year is one holiday everyone can en-joy. We prefer a quiet New Year’s Eve celebration



This year, we plan to order the Lobster Spaghetti from Little Whale on Newbury Street to enjoy on Christmas Eve.

with particular food fa-vorites and a great bottle of sparkling wine to being out and about with a big crowd.

Most years, that is an evening of appetizers, great cheese, and char-cuterie. It’s the perfect food to sit and enjoy over a long evening as we savor a great wine. Shopping for our celebration is half the fun. We visit our favorite area food and wine shops and wish them success in the new year.

While you enjoy your once-a-year holiday tra-ditions, consider spread-ing the pleasure over the year by treating yourself to some of your favor-ite aspects of this season throughout the months ahead.

For example, on New Year’s Eve 2007, we made a Sparkling Reso-lution that we have faith-fully kept. We resolved to drink more sparkling wine and toast the first of every month with a glass

of bubbles. We might give thanks for something nice that happened in the past month or raise a glass to an event or goal for the upcoming weeks. If you don’t drink wine, you can enjoy a glass of any spe-cial beverage. The point is to treat yourself to small celebrations of food and drink that lift your spirits.

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

Officials remind residents about the importance of flu and COVID-19 vaccinations

With flu season under-way, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is remind-ing residents of all ages to get vaccinated. Flu ac-tivity across the country is higher than usual so far this year. Residents can get both a flu shot and a COVID-19 booster in the same visit.

“This flu season, res-idents can protect them-selves and their families by getting a flu vaccine even if they haven’t got-ten a vaccine in years

past,” said Public Health Commissioner Margret Cooke. “It’s easy to get your flu shot along with your COVID-19 booster if you’re eligible for one, and both vaccines are widely available.”

The flu can lead to se-rious illness, hospitaliza-tion, or death. The Cen-ters for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that there have already been 13 million cases, 120,000 hospital-izations, and 7,300 deaths due to flu this season. The

most common symptoms of flu are fever, cough, and sore throat. Symptoms can also include body aches, headaches, chills, runny nose, and fatigue.

Flu vaccination is espe-cially important for peo-ple who are at higher risk of severe disease which could result in hospital-ization or death. People at higher risk include those who are over age 65 or under 2 years, and anyone with a chronic respiratory condition, heart disease, a weakened immune sys-

tem, or who is pregnant. Antiviral medications, such as Tamiflu, are avail-able with a prescription to help reduce disease sever-ity.

“Everyone over the age of 6 months is eligi-ble for both the flu and COVID vaccines and can receive both vaccines at the same time. Spending time around more people increases the chances you will be exposed to one or more viruses,” said Dr. Larry Madoff, Medical Director of DPH’s Bu-

reau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences. “The current flu vaccine is a good match to the cir-culating strains and gives you the antibodies you need to help fight off in-fection.”

COVID and flu vaccines are both widely available for everyone 6 months and older. Other actions that people can take to help prevent the spread of re-spiratory illnesses like the flu and COVID-19 include staying home when sick, keeping children home

from daycare or school if sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and practicing good handwashing hy-giene.

More information on how to find a flu and/or COVID-19 vaccine site near you can be found here. Information about influenza and COVID-19 is available by visiting mass.gov/influenza or mass.gov/covid19, calling your health care provider, local board of health, or DPH at (617) 983-6800.

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