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**A TOUR**



# CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

VOLUME 131, No. 45

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023

35 CENTS



Chelsea Educators of Color gathered together at the Chelsea Station on Sept. 27 for the CPS' Educators of Color Beginning of the Year Gathering hosted by the Office of Equity and Wellness.

## CPS among state leaders in staff diversity growth rate

Special to the Record

Guided by a strategic vision for the school district as well as support from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Chelsea Public Schools (CPS) has worked to employ one of the most diverse school staffs in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

As of 2023, CPS reported that 23.9 percent of its staff identify as people of

color, an increase of 13.8 percentage points from its staffing data in 2019, when 10.1 percent of CPS staff members identified as people of color. Two key initiatives have been identified to account for this increase in educators of color: outlining the importance of this work in CPS' Strategic Plan for Improving Teaching and Learning for Every Student, Every Day as well as CPS' participation in

DESE's Teacher Diversification Grant.

The strategic plan was developed during the initial stages of the entry planning conducted by current CPS Superintendent Dr. Almi G. Abeyta. Many community conversations occurred during this time, resulting in input from a variety of voices that helped forge the five-year plan that serves as a road map for CPS to follow. This road

map includes five priority areas that emerged from the community engagement, one of which is Recruiting, Supporting and Retaining Diverse and High-Quality Teachers and Leaders. The vision to prioritize this topic has led a focused effort to foster a sense of belonging and community at CPS both at the school level and district-wide. Building affini-

See CPS Page 3

## Traffic Commission looks at Eastern Avenue speed limits

By Adam Swift

The Traffic and Parking Commission is seeking more information about possible changes to the speed limit on Eastern Avenue.

Public Works Commissioner Cate Fox-Lent made a request in August requesting the commission to establish consistent and appropriate speed limit or clear speed zones for Eastern Avenue and Marginal Street.

James Caron of the public works department noted that there is a posted speed limit of 35 mph at one end of Eastern Avenue while it is 40 mph at

the other end, while the citywide speed limit is 25 mph.

"There are just signs depicting different conflicting speeds," said Caron.

Police Sgt. John Nofle said he pulled up the accident reports for Eastern Avenue. He said that while there were a number of accidents along the road, he did not believe the majority of them were caused by

speeding.

"What happens is, as (the vehicles) are traveling toward East Boston, that lane stops, so the right lane is still going and people are turning, and they just can't see and they are getting hit," said Nofle.

Caron noted that Fox-Lent did not specify a speed limit to keep the street consistent, and that the commission should get

that information before making any changes.

"It used to be a state road and now it is not, so we can set the speed limit," said Nofle. "I honestly don't know if 25 mph is going to make anything better."

Jennifer Hassel, executive director of the Chelsea Chamber of Com-

See TRAFFIC COMM. Page 2

## CULTURAL MEMORY AS A PATH TO WELLNESS EVENT HELD AT CHS AUDITORIUM



CARY SHUMAN PHOTO

Pictured during the Cultural Memory as a Path to Wellness event held at Chelsea High School are, Isaura Oliveira and Power of Skirts, (Front row) are Cherish Casey, Hilani Morales, and Olivia Hatten; (Back row) are Ebere Oparaeke, Diogo Avlis, Capoeira Mestre Deraldo Ferreira Filho, and choreographer Mestra Isaura Oliveira. See more photos on Page 6.

## Fidel Maltez selected as new City Manager

By Adam Swift

Former Chelsea public works director and current Reading Town Manager Fidel Maltez is the City Council's unanimous choice as the next City Manager.

The council took the vote Monday night, ending a search process to replace former City Manager Tom Ambrosino that began after his resignation in January.

The vote came after a full day of interviews of the four finalists for the position on Saturday, and some debate on Monday on whether to table the vote to the council's next meeting on Oct. 16.

Ultimately, the council voted to move ahead with



Fidel Maltez

the selection process on Monday night, with many of the councilors offering glowing praise for Maltez.

In the first vote, Council

See CITY MANAGER Page 3

## Keefe seeks zoning changes

By Adam Swift

Interim City Manager Ned Keefe is asking the City Council to consider changes to the Chelsea zoning ordinance that would allow more types of recreational uses.

The request will go before the Planning Board and to a public hearing before the council takes a final vote on the request.

"The change seeks to revise the definition of Indoor commercial recreation to include more types of recreational uses," stated Keefe. "The council approved a minor change to this definition in 2017 to include an archery tag and mystery game recreation facility. The city has received a request from a property owner in the Shopping Center District to accommodate a tenant that operates an adventure park facility."

Keefe said the city administration believes the use is attractive, but the current definition of restrictive to allow it. The change would also make the use permissible, and more broadly expand the definition to encompass related uses.

The proposed change also looks to introduce the definition of Exhibit Hall to capture exhibit uses such as the recent Apol-

lo Launch exhibition that was held in Chelsea and other related exhibits. In addition, the change seeks to modify the definition of Health and Fitness Club to include some uses that were named in indoor commercial recreation.

The proposed indoor recreation language includes a long list of potential uses, and allows the zoning enforcement to determine future uses similar to those listed. The indoor commercial recreation zoning does not allow for dance floors, adult entertainment, or shooting ranges.

In addition to more traditional uses such as arcades, bowling alleys, and laser tag, the proposed language includes e-sports, trampoline, adventure parks, trapeze, rope courses, ninja courses, golf, mystery puzzle physical adventure games, ice skating and rolling skating, dodgeball, martial arts studios, and virtual reality.

Exhibition hall is defined as an establishment at which pictures, art, multi-media, virtual reality, sculptures, or other objects of interest are displayed for the purpose of amusement, entertainment, or education. An exhibition hall does not include adult entertainment.

**TRASH NOTICE**

Trash will be delayed  
by one day due to  
Monday, Oct. 9,  
Columbus Day Holiday

**INDEPENDENT**  
**Newspaper Group**

[www.chelsearecord.com](http://www.chelsearecord.com)



For the latest news in Chelsea that you need to know, check  
[chelsearecord.com](http://chelsearecord.com)

**The Independent Newspaper Group**  
offices will be closed on **Columbus Day,**  
**Monday,**  
**October 9, 2023**





FROM THE PHOTO ARCHIVES  
OF ARNOLD JARMAK



During the summer we published photos by Chelsea Record photographer Arnold Jarmak of scenes from the funeral services for Chelsea Police Sergeant Arthur Cashin, who was tragically shot while making a routine traffic stop on a steamy summer night in Bellingham Square on July 20, 1980. A contingent of Chelsea firefighters were among the marchers in the funeral procession as it proceeded along Bennington St. in East Boston from the church. In the first column (from the left) are: Deputy Chief Coyne, Lieut. Eaves, Lieut. Ostler, firefighter (FF) Joe Delaney, and FF Ed Turziak. In the second column are: Chief Herbert Fothergill, Lieut. Keaveny, FF Bob Fitzgerald, and FF John Kanarkiewicz. In the third column are: Capt. Copello, FF Billy McCallum, FF Robby Ostler, and FF Al Villani. In the fourth column are FF Gus Winam, Lieut. Pat Dunn, and FF Tom Murphy. (Chelsea native and Constable Michael Fixman is on the far right in the suit.)

NEWS IN BRIEF

TRUCK OR TREAT  
AT THE TRACK

The weather wasn’t co-operating for our third annual Touch-a-Truck this September so we decided to add a Halloween spin on things! Join us for Truck or Treat on Sunday, October 29, from 10am - 2pm at Suffolk Downs in East Boston. Wear your costumes and come trick-or-treat at all your favorite trucks!

Grab a hart hat and head into the kids construction zone, or hang out in the Paddock with face painting, games, giveaways, activities, food trucks and more!

This event is free to the public and all are welcome to attend. Registration is recommended so we can alert you of any event updates or weather cancellations.

TSA STOPPED  
OVER 1,800  
FIREARMS IN 2023

During the first three

quarters of 2023, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) intercepted 5,072 firearms at airport security checkpoints, and at the current rate, the agency will surpass last year’s record 6,542 firearms prevented from getting onboard aircraft.

In the third quarter, which ended Sept. 30, Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) stopped 1,820 firearms at checkpoints. The total represents an average 19.8 firearms per day at TSA checkpoints of which more than 94% were loaded.

“Passengers may travel with a firearm, but it must be in their checked baggage,” said TSA Administrator David Pekoske. “Firearms are only permitted in checked baggage, unloaded in a locked hard-sided case and must be declared to the airline when checking the bag at the ticket counter. Firearms

are prohibited at security checkpoints, in the secure area of an airport or in the passenger cabin of an aircraft even if a passenger has a concealed carry permit or is in a constitutional carry jurisdiction.”

If a passenger brings a firearm to the TSA checkpoint, the TSO will contact local law enforcement to safely unload and take possession of the firearm. The law enforcement officer may also arrest or cite the passenger, depending on local law. TSA may impose a civil penalty up to almost \$15,000, and passengers who present with a firearm at a security checkpoint will lose TSA PreCheck® eligibility for five years.

TSA recommends that passengers pack a carry-on bag that is empty to ensure no firearms are unintentionally left in their travel bag.

CPS / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ty groups for educators of color, creating safe spaces for peer-to-peer discussion and developing mentorship programs all have contributed to recruitment and retention success.

“In 2019, during my entry interviews, a recurring theme emerged: the need to actively recruit and retain a diverse workforce. Consequently, this became a focal point for us. We’ve reallocated our budget resources to reinforce this commitment and exerted considerable effort towards diversifying our staff,” commented CPS Superintendent Dr. Almi G. Abeyta. “Achieving this has involved the collective effort of our entire district. I am very proud to be leading the State in this important work.”

“Diversity and representation in our educator workforce is an important component of student success. I am so proud of the growth of our educator diversity at Chelsea Public Schools. This has been a priority area during my time as a member of Chelsea School Committee including the last four years as Chairwoman. It is inspiring to see that Chelsea now leads the State in educator diversity!” commented Chelsea School Committee Chairwoman Kelly Garcia.

Another major contributor to this work has been CPS’ focus and investment in Pathway Programs. Supported by the Diversification Grant, Chelsea offers five different pathway programs accessible

to graduating students, family members and current staff members: High School to Paraprofessional, Parent to Professional, Paraprofessional to Teacher, Emerging Teacher to Teacher and Teacher to Administrator. These programs offer benefits such as tuition reimbursement, job placement support, professional development opportunities and more. Employees access the resources needed to further their career aspirations all while working at CPS.

For more information about this work and media inquiries, please contact CPS Communications Director Michael Sullivan at [sullivanm@chelsea-schools.com](mailto:sullivanm@chelsea-schools.com).

Chelsea woman sentenced to time  
served on airline ticket fraud charges

Staff Report

A Chelsea woman was sentenced last week in federal court in Boston for using her position as an airline gate agent to convert low-cost flights to more expensive flights and destinations for friends, family and acquaintances.

Tiffany Jenkins, 35, was sentenced by U.S. Senior District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf to time served (one day) and 18 months of supervised release with the first three months to be served on curfew. Jenkins pleaded guilty to three counts of wire fraud in

October 2019.

As a gate agent, Jenkins had access to the airline’s computer reservation database and had the ability to use a special code, referred to as an involuntary exchange or “INVOL,” to change flights for customers at no additional cost, according to the U.S. Attorney’s office in Boston. This code enables agents to change flights for customers who miss their flights or experience a death in the family.

During a 15-month period, from approximately July 1, 2016, through Sept. 27, 2017, Jenkins

executed approximately 505 involuntary ticket exchanges for more than 100 different passengers. Many of those exchanges occurred after the passenger was first booked on domestic flights at one of the airline company’s lowest available fares—often, roundtrip flights between Las Vegas, Nev., and Long Beach, Calif.

A short time later, Jenkins exchanged those tickets for a completely different city pair, generally involving much more expensive international locations, for friends, family and acquaintances.

Annual J. Barry Dwyer Turkey Trot is Nov. 18

By Record Staff

The ninth annual J. Barry Dwyer Turkey Trot is set for Saturday, November 18, at 10 AM at Chelsea Stadium.

The trot promises to be a fun event for residents of all ages and abilities, featuring a 5K road race, a 3K walk, and a 400 meter fun run for youngsters 10 and under. The running course is a USATF-certified 5K with chip timing provided by Yankee Timing. The course is mostly flat with a mild hill on the way out and back. The start and finish is on the

track at the Chelsea Memorial Stadium at Chelsea High School.

The entry fee is \$25 until November 3 (\$30 after Nov. 3). Entrants who register before November 3 will receive a race T-shirt. There also will be prizes, food, games, and music with a post-race party at Chelsea Station.

Proceeds will benefit the J. Barry Dwyer Scholarship Fund and the Chelsea High cross country and track teams.

J. Barry Dwyer was a hugely successful and popular cross country coach at Chelsea High,

whose teams put together a string of Greater Boston League championships and compiled a winning streak of 35 meets over five seasons in the 1970s.

Among the athletes he coached at Chelsea High were the legendary Bobby Goss (who set the national freshman high school record in the one-mile with a time of 4:23), Eddie Richard and his brothers Jim, Ken and Jack, Greg Benson, Richie Bradley, Tony and Paul Roasti, and many others during that era.

For more information and to sign up on-line, go to [chelseahightrack.com](http://chelseahightrack.com).

Traffic Comm. / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

merce, said some business owners along Eastern Avenue have concerns about traffic along the street. She said some of the issues revolve around traffic coming into Chelsea from East Boston which makes it hard to see for vehicles pulling into traffic.

Hassel and several downtown business owners also approached the

traffic and parking commission about increasing the amount of 15 minute parking spaces on Broadway to help with the flow of traffic and provide space for delivery drivers and customers.

Representatives from Delicia Salvadorena restaurant at 235 Broadway said they would be willing to give up the

parking space they use for outdoor dining in the summer in exchange for a 15 minute parking space in front of the restaurant.

Hassel said she would assist the restaurant in filling out an application for the 15 minute parking spot, as well as any other forms that would need to be filled out to expedite the process.

City Manager / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

President Leo Robinson voted for City Solicitor Cheryl Watson Fisher, praising her long service to the city and many accomplishments. But after a 10-1 vote for Maltez, Robinson made the motion to make Maltez’s selection unanimous.

The other two finalists for the position were state consumer affairs undersecretary James Duggan and Shirley Town Administrator Michael McGovern.

“I’m incredibly thankful and incredibly humbled,” said Maltez. “I did my best to be honest in the process and to share my professional experience, but most importantly, who I am as an individual, my personal story. I really tried to share that I am an immigrant and that I fought hard to get to where I am, and I feel that that is the story of Chelsea.

“It is a community of immigrants, but also a community of strong people who fight and struggle and there is nothing that phases us that we cannot take on.”

Maltez said his time running the public works department in Chelsea for five years, as long with his last two years as town manager in Reading, has provided him with invaluable experience.

“Public works is very much involved in the day-to-day operation of a city,” said Maltez. “That experience gave me a lot of knowledge citywide

- all the challenges folks are facing on a day-to-day basis - and public works also has the ability to collaborate with public safety, planning, and other departments.”

Maltez said he was thankful for his opportunity in Reading and to get more experience in the running of a government.

“I certainly got a lot of hands-on municipal experience in finance and in the running of a government on a day-to-day basis, things that you would never see unless you were in the seat,” said Maltez. “These past two years have been incredibly important to me, and I’ve grown a lot both personally and professionally.”

The council still needs to negotiate a final contract with Maltez, so there is no set start date for him at this point.

However, Maltez said he does plan on getting resituated to Chelsea in the ramp up to taking over as city manager, meeting with city leaders and residents.

Maltez and his wife have lived in Chelsea for nearly a decade, and they bought a home in Admiral’s Hill in 2017.

“My goal is, between today and the time that I officially start in the job, to really spend a lot of time reintroducing myself to the city,” said Maltez. “I think a lot of people know me because of my time in Chelsea and because I live in Chelsea, but this is go-

ing to be a new role, a new level of engagement, so I plan to spend a lot of time in the community meeting with organizations and meeting with different groups.”

Maltez said he also plans to spend time with city employees to help ease the transition.

District 4 Councilor Tanairi Garcia said she worked with Maltez helping residents during the Covid pandemic and was impressed by his commitment to do whatever it took to help residents. As an immigrant, Maltez will also serve as someone many youth in the city can look up to, Garcia said.

District 2 Councilor Melinda Vega said her vote came down to Maltez and Watson Fisher, and that she was ultimately swayed by the closing statement Maltez made during Saturday’s interview.

“His story resonates with the majority of the community, and he is representative of the community,” said Vega.

District 1 Councilor Todd Taylor cast his vote for Maltez, and said his vote was based solely on who he thought was going to do the best job for the city of Chelsea. He said Maltez stated that the long-term financial stability of the city was his number one priority, an issue that Taylor said has always been of utmost importance to him.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Centerboard Inc	Shado Chelsea LLC	19 John St	\$1,400,000
Hao, Yue	Wallace 3rd Ralph E Est	50 Boatswains Way #513	\$560,000
Hernandez, Manuel A	51 Crescent LLC	51 Crescent Ave #PH10	\$670,000
Carrera, Julio	Galatis Ellen D Est	469 Washington Ave	\$550,000

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NEW ENGLAND PATRIOT VISITS CHELSEA BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Photos by Marianne Salza

New England Patriots player, Matt Sokol, brought excitement to the Jordan Boys & Girls Club during his September 26 visit in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Sokol greeted eager youth with high-fives as he toured the facility, pausing to play basketball and pool, and sit with children for dinner in the cafeteria.



Patriots tight end Matt Sokol playing Dance Dance Revolution with 8-year-old Adriell Valez.



Patriots tight end Matt Sokol sitting with 1st and 2nd graders in the cafeteria during taco Tuesday.



Patriots tight end Matt Sokol high fiving 5th and 6th graders as he passes through the hallway.



Patriots tight end Matt Sokol greeting Valeria Guifarro, 8, and Elianny Ortiz, 8, as they played virtual Candy Land.



Patriots tight end Matt Sokol playing basketball with Ronny Otañez, 8, and Adrian Medina, 8.



Patriots tight end Matt Sokol playing pool with Ayden Perez, 8, Ronny Otañez, 8, and Adrian Medina, 8.



Patriots tight end Matt Sokol with 3rd graders in the game room.

Apollinaire Play Lab Classes start October 7

Special to the Record

Apollinaire Play Lab youth classes start this Saturday! It's not too late to register and join in the fun. This fall, the Play Lab is running favorites— like Ballet, Art, and Acting— plus some exciting additions.

Interested in the behind-the-scenes elements of a

production? Introduction to Technical Theatre, a brand-new class for youth ages 10-15, takes students through the design process in multiple areas, including costumes and set. The work from this class will be featured on stage in the Play Lab's youth production of "Rock Bottom" this December.

"Rock Bottom" by Dan

Roberts, will be performed by students ages 6-11 taking Play Production class this fall. Apollinaire Play Lab's Lead Instructor, Audrey Johnson, directs. Audrey holds a B.F.A in Musical Theater from the University of the Arts and is earning her M.A. in Theatre Education from Emerson College. Audrey has also worked with

Apollinaire Theatre Company as a choreographer and actress. There's still room for kids to join this class and take the stage in December!

Hip Hop Breakdance returns with instructor Alan Kuang. Alan is a member of the Floor Lords Crew and president of BU's Bullet Proof Funk. With nearly ten years of experience

under his belt, Alan has taught, choreographed, and competed professionally. Alan has also played lead roles in Apollinaire's summer outdoor bilingual productions for the past three years! His students will learn the fundamentals of toprock, footwork, freezes and basic power foundation. Students will learn to incorporate their

own personality, style, and flavor into the dance.

Stop by the Risenman Family Theatre on Wednesday, October 4, from 4:00-6:00pm to register. Or register online at [www.aplaylab.com](http://www.aplaylab.com).

For more information about the Apollinaire Play Lab visit: [www.aplaylab.com](http://www.aplaylab.com)



# Chelsea

## RECORD

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

### AID TO UKRAINE MUST BE APPROVED FORTHWITH

The entire country (with the exception of those whose goal is to cause anarchy and chaos) breathed a sigh of relief thanks to the last-minute passage by the House and Senate of a bill to fund the government for 45 days this past weekend. However, there was a glaring omission in the bill's 71 pages: The lack of funding earmarked for additional military aid for Ukraine to assist in its fight against the barbaric invasion of that country by the sociopathic dictator of Russia, Vladimir Putin.

Although substantial majorities of both parties in both the House and the Senate favor our continued and future financial support for the Ukrainians in their struggle for freedom, the funding proposed by the Pentagon for more weaponry and other aid did not make it into the final bill that was signed by President Biden. The small minority of legislators who almost crashed the government this weekend also are opposed to providing the Ukrainians with further aid for reasons known only to themselves and it was to this small group that legislative leaders kow-towed in the final bill by excluding financial assistance to Ukraine.

The news footage each and every night reveals the ongoing atrocities being committed by Putin against the Ukrainian people. Right now, they and they alone are standing up to the sociopathic Putin, demonstrating to the world that their freedom is worth fighting and dying for.

In addition, the united front of America and its Western allies against Putin's invasion is signaling to the Chinese that they should not expect that the U.S. and its Pacific allies will stand by if they decide to invade Taiwan or continue to control the South China Sea with outlandish claims about their "territorial waters."

Anyone who asserts that it is time for a "peaceful resolution" to the war in Ukraine is playing into Putin's hands. Putin wants to swallow Ukraine whole. He already had annexed a large chunk of eastern Ukraine and the Crimea when he undertook his invasion. There is no reason to think that Putin would come to the peace table now and even if he did, does anyone seriously believe that he would honor any peace deal?

We live in a world where people expect everything to be done fast and patience is not a virtue. But the simple reality is that Putin is playing a waiting game, all the while destroying and killing as much as possible, hoping that support for Ukraine by the free world will wane and eventually his tanks will roll into Kyiv. The only means by which Putin can succeed is if Ukraine's allies throw in the towel -- a move that not only would be devastating for the Ukrainians, but that would prove to have significant adverse consequences for our own foreign policy.

We urge our members of Congress to work to support a new package of aid to Ukraine ASAP. America needs to show potential dictators that the free world will stand united against their tyrannical impulses.

### TIM WAKEFIELD

We just wish to say a few words to acknowledge the passing this week of Tim Wakefield, the former Red Sox pitcher, who passed away suddenly this week from brain cancer. Beyond his remarkable success as a Major League pitcher for 20 years, 17 of which were with the Red Sox (during which time he became the all-time winningest pitcher in Red Sox history with 186 victories), Tim Wakefield was acknowledged by everyone who knew him to be the ultimate team player.

For many athletes, that is a mere cliché, but Tim Wakefield truly exemplified the meaning of that term both on and off the field. He embraced his work with the Jimmy Fund and the Dana Farber Institute in a quiet way, touching the lives of countless children, their families, and their caregivers, with his empathy and support.

Yes, Tim Wakefield will be celebrated as a famous athlete, but, in the words of the poet Wordsworth, his lasting legacy will be this:

"That best portion of a good man's life;  
"His little, nameless, unremembered  
"Acts of kindness and of love."

## SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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# Forum

### GUEST OP-ED

## Hell's fire – treat others the way you want to be treated

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Do you worry about going to hell? Will you burn there in hell's fire? Will you be in the hands of the Devil?

Hell may be a place where people are locked into a room with endless Presidential candidates hollering and speaking over each other to the point that nothing makes much sense and everybody ends up sounding crazier and crazier.

I accept what Jesus taught about heaven and hell. He actually talked more about hell than he did heaven. Hell is described as a very sad place of pain and suffering. I certainly do not want to leave my body and go somewhere worse. I have chosen to go to the better of the two places and I am trusting in Jesus to get me

there.

As you know there is plenty of hell on earth. Why would we want to leave the hell of earth and go to more hell?

A dear friend told me recently about his sweet wife being in Intensive Care in Alabama. She has battled multiple sclerosis for 20 years. All the medication she takes has impacted her heart. She recently had a heart attack and is now intubated. "MS sucks," my friend said.

Most of us have watched loved ones die from lung cancer, pulmonary fibrosis, dementia, diabetes, and various neurological diseases. It's hell for the person and hell for the loved ones. Most likely if we live long enough, we will all go through some form of severe suffering. You might die suddenly and escape the long

valley of suffering or you may not. Being intubated, struggling to breathe, walk, talk, and eat is not a way any of us want to spend our days.

So where is hell? There's plenty of it on planet earth. Almost 2 billion people live in poverty. Many of these people have to walk somewhere every day for just a bucket of water. Every day, millions are desperate for medical care but have access to none. Millions of Americans are homeless. Six million more immigrants have entered our country over the last three years. So, there is more homelessness, poverty, misery, and hell in the streets of America than ever before.

Life and planet earth are great if you are relatively healthy, have a place to sleep, food to eat, and a little money to

spend. However, health can change fast and often does. The point is there are lots of suffering people and suffering caregivers. Do everything you can to be kind to people. Give them a smile. A good word. A good deed. Be helpful when you can. You will appreciate it when it's your turn to suffer.

Many people are suffering in hell every day. Treat others the way you want to be treated.

*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.*

## DiDomenico and colleagues approve bill to provide free ID cards to people experiencing homelessness

Sen. Sal DiDomenico announced that the Massachusetts Senate unanimously passed An Act to provide identification to youth and adults experiencing homelessness, to establish a process allowing an adult or youth experiencing homelessness to apply for a free Massachusetts identification card. Identification cards enable access to basic services in the Commonwealth that are often unreachable for those without identification.

"I am proud to support

this bill because it provides crucial support to people experiencing incredibly challenging circumstances and it will work to address our housing crisis," said Sen. Sal DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. "All Massachusetts residents deserve access to food, healthcare, and housing, and providing proper identification will take a step toward expanding that right to every person. I want to thank Senate President Spilka, Senator Robyn Kennedy,

and all my colleagues for fighting for people experiencing homelessness, and I hope to see this bill signed into law soon."

People experiencing homelessness currently face prohibitive fees and documentation requirements that can be barriers to acquiring identification. This legislation removes those barriers by eliminating fees and only requiring that applicants present documentation showing that they are currently receiving services provided by the Commonwealth, a homeless service provider, or another service provider.

Having a state identi-

fication is a prerequisite for accessing many basic services, including applying for a job, enrolling in school, interacting with law enforcement, accessing government buildings, and opening bank accounts, among others. The struggles of homelessness are compounded by an inability to access these basic services, and often contribute to a cycle of poverty.

This is the fourth consecutive session during which the Senate has adopted similar legislation.

The bill now heads to the Massachusetts House of Representatives for consideration.

## City administration addresses streetlight repairs

By Adam Swift

District 6 City Councillor Giovanni Recupero has seen improvements in the city's response to broken streetlights in Chelsea, and wants the administration to keep up the work.

Last month, Recupero filed a council order asking the city to look into hiring a new company to perform all streetlight repairs in Chelsea.

At the time, Recupero said he wasn't sure the city would actually move forward with hiring a new company, but said he hoped his order would light a fire to get a quicker response to keeping the city lit up.

At Monday night's meeting, the council received a letter from public works commissioner Cate Fox-Lent responding to Recupero's order.

"The City of Chelsea has more than 2,000 streetlights that are of several different styles and vintages," Fox-Lent stated. "Although we have recently replaced many of the fixtures with LEDs, there are many other causes of failure including issues with the control mechanism, the above ground wiring and the below ground wiring. Our contractor is in Chelsea nearly every week to respond to requests, some of

which are straightforward and some of which take more than one trip to diagnose and repair."

Fox-Lent stated that she understands that members of the council and public are concerned about streetlight outages and the contractor's response time in repairing them.

"However, the DPW is also involved as we need to follow up on the reports from the public to gather more information before contacting the contractor," stated Fox-Lent. "In my role as the Commissioner of Public Works, I see opportunities to improve our internal processes for how we document outages and communicate them to the contractor. I believe that focusing on internal improvements can alleviate much of the concern and I can assure you I will oversee this effort directly."

Fox-Lent said she recommended pursuing the process improvement first before looking into hiring a different contractor.

"Today, I saw them fixing some lights on Broadway, so that means we must have lit some kind of fire under management," said Recupero.

Recupero said he hopes there is a continued focus on fixing the streetlights and that there are no further issues.

## Your opinions, please

The Chelsea Record welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151.

Letters may also be e-mailed to [editor@chelsearecord.com](mailto:editor@chelsearecord.com).

com. Letters must be signed.

We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

## CHELSEA RECORD

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# 15th Annual ALS & MS Walk for Living to be held on October 15

Steve Saling and Patrick O’Brien were given 2-5 years to live after each was diagnosed with ALS. Defying all odds, they have been living at the Leonard Florence Center for Living for the past 13 years since the Center opened its doors. Both are living full, productive lives; Steve has traveled throughout the country speaking about ALS and Patrick produced Transfatty Lives, a documentary about ALS which won the Tribeca Film Festival Audience Award. The Leonard Florence Center for Living takes care of more individuals living with ALS than any place else in the world.

In support of these inspiring residents at the Center, Former Governor Charlie Baker and his wife Lauren Baker will act as walk ambassadors at the 15th Annual ALS & MS Walk for Living on Sunday, October 15. The short two-mile walk enables the ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) and MS (multiple sclerosis) residents as



A team shown from a recent ALS & MS Walk for Living event.

well as other attendees to participate in wheelchairs, ventilators or by foot.

“We are thrilled to have Governor Baker and Mrs. Baker on board as our ambassadors for this year’s Walk for Living,” said Barry Berman, CEO of Chelsea Jewish Lifecare, the nonprofit that operates the award-winning Center. “Mrs. Baker visited the

Center and met the residents. It was obvious how moved she was by the experience. We are grateful for the Baker’s support and participation in our major fundraising initiative of the year.”

“I am in awe of the spirit, determination, and passion of these residents,” said Lauren Baker. “Charlie and I are proud to act

as the ambassadors for the ALS & MS Walk for Living. The residents are truly an inspiration to us all.”

As the country’s first urban model Green House® skilled nursing facility, the Leonard Florence Center provides a level of independence not typically found in other skilled nursing facilities. Residents, many who are com-

pletely immobilized, control lights, turn on the TV, call for the elevator, and open doors with help of a computer and sensor that tracks head and eye movements. The Stein Family Center for Well-Being, the only Green House® ventilator program in the country, opened within the Center in 2020.

The 2023 Walk for Living will take place at 10am on Sunday, October 15 at 165 Captains Row on Admiral’s Hill in Chelsea. Every single dollar raised goes directly back to patient care and programs for ALS and MS residents. To register, go to the Walk for Living website and click on register. To join Governor Baker and Lauren Baker’s team, please go Team Baker and make a donation to their team.

Following the dog friendly walk, there will be a BBQ hosted by Chili’s, face painting, live dance performances, a petting zoo and more. The \$20 donation fee includes a Walk for Living tee shirt as well as all food and ac-

tivities.

Platinum level sponsors include M&T Banks and Wilmington Trust; Gold Level A.H.O.H.; Independent Newspaper Group is the media sponsor. For more information or to make a much-appreciated donation, please visit [www.walkforliving.org](http://www.walkforliving.org) or contact Walk Director Maura Graham at [mgraham@chelseajewish.org](mailto:mgraham@chelseajewish.org) or 617-409-8973. All donations are tax deductible.

Chelsea Jewish Life care is redefining senior care and re-envisioning what life should be like for those living with disabling conditions. The elder-care community includes a wide array of skilled and short-term rehab residences, ALS, MS and ventilator dependent specialized care residences, traditional and specialized assisted living options, memory care, independent living, adult day health, and homecare and hospice agencies that deliver customized and compassionate care.

## Healey-Driscoll administration awards \$5.2 million to support recycling and waste reduction

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has announced nearly \$5.2 million in grant funding to 283 municipalities and regional solid waste districts across Massachusetts. The grants, made available by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP), will help communities bolster their recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs. The full list of awards is available here.

“Some of the most important environmental protection work happens every day in communities across our state,” said Governor Maura Healey. “These grants help further our collective efforts to meet our aggressive goal of 90 percent waste reduction by 2050, while also boosting local economies by investing in the waste reduction industry.”

“Residents partner with their communities to help protect the environment by recycling and reusing as much as possible,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “This important funding will help municipalities implement innovative programs and policies that are proven to maximize reuse, recycling, and waste reduction.”

The Sustainable Materials Recovery Program provides funding for recycling, composting, reuse,

and source reduction activities that will reduce the amount of waste disposed of in landfills and incinerators. Waste prevention and recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions by capturing the embodied energy in everyday product and packaging waste and converting it into new products. More than \$50 million has been awarded through the Program since 2010.

“Recycling programs play a vital role in limiting our dependence on landfills and incinerators, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting economic activity across our state,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. “These grants help communities cycle resources back into our economy and support local businesses throughout the collection, processing, and manufacturing chain.”

Funds have been awarded in several categories, including start-up incentives for Pay-As-You-Throw programs, containers for the collection of mattresses, wheeled carts for curbside collection of food waste, equipment for the collection of mercury-bearing items, regional small-scale initiatives, and the Recycling Dividends Program.

This year, 278 communities qualified for the Recycling Dividends Program and will receive funding totaling \$3.65

million. This program recognizes municipalities that have implemented policies and programs proven to maximize materials reuse and recycling, as well as waste reduction. Communities receiving funding must reinvest in their own municipal recycling efforts. Under the program, 15 municipalities have been awarded Recycling Dividends Program payments of more than \$50,000: Arlington, Attleboro, Boston, Brockton, Cambridge, Chicopee, Framingham, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, Newton, Quincy, Springfield, and Worcester.

“Recycling Dividends Program awards give communities the opportunity to make critical investments in their recycling programs – ultimately capturing more materials that can be recycled or reused, and helping them to reduce their waste disposal costs,” said MassDEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple. “This is another example of MassDEP’s commitment to building strategic partnerships with our local communities to build a more sustainable future.”

Pay-As-You-Throw, a program where residents purchase pre-printed bags, stickers, or tags for trash disposal to pay directly for the amount of waste generated, is a proven waste reduction strategy that continues to be a priority

for MassDEP. Funds were awarded to five municipalities and totaled more than \$1 million. This includes awards between \$150,000 and \$300,000 each for Arlington, Marshfield, North Attleborough, and Westborough.

Funding for Universal Waste Sheds were awarded to eight communities for their drop-off facilities for the collection of mercury-bearing items; \$5,000 was awarded to each municipality. MassDEP also awarded \$110,000 to 11 municipalities for mattress collection containers to facilitate residential mattress recycling at their drop-off facilities; \$10,000 was awarded to each municipality.

Wheeled-cart grants for the curbside collection of food waste were awarded to the City of Medford in the amount of \$105,000 for a new town-wide collection program. The towns of Nahant and Norwood also received funding for a curbside food waste collection pilot program, at \$2,100 and \$10,500, respectively.

Finally, a grant for \$250,000 was awarded to the South Shore Recycling Cooperative – representing 12 South Shore towns – for the establishment of a permanent household hazardous waste facility based in Hanover.

“We have big climate goals in Massachusetts and achieving those goals

will take a continued partnership between state government and our municipal partners throughout the Commonwealth, which is exactly what we see with these grants,” said State Senator Becca Rausch (D-Needham). “As the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and through collaboration with my Small Business Advisory Council, I’ve heard that towns and businesses need these financial supports to implement green infrastructure upgrades, including today’s \$5.2 million in SMRP grant funds, the ‘Green the Garbage’ composting pilot program I secured in this year’s budget, and more. Congratulations to the 283 municipalities and regional solid waste districts receiving grant awards, including most towns throughout my district, and thank you for furthering the Commonwealth’s collective effort to reduce waste through recycling, composting, and other mechanisms.”

“The Sustainable Materials Recovery Program grants increase and support local recycling efforts, composting, reuse, source reduction, program development, and enforcement activities that increase diversion from our landfills and reduce disposal,” said State Representative Daniel Cahill (D-Lynn), House Chair

of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. “This funding helps us in our efforts to mitigate and reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills and incinerators. Waste prevention initiatives also reduce greenhouse gas emissions by capturing the embodied energy in products and packaging waste and converts it into new sustainable products. These initiatives are vitally important to our communities and future.”

More information about the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program can be seen here.

MassDEP’s mission is to protect and enhance the Commonwealth’s natural resources – air, water and land – to provide for the health, safety and welfare of all people, and to ensure a clean and safe environment for future generations. In carrying out this mission, MassDEP commits to address and advance environmental justice and equity for all people of the Commonwealth; to provide meaningful, inclusive opportunities for people to participate in agency decisions that affect their lives; and to ensure a diverse workforce that reflects the communities we serve.

## BMOP begins its 26th season at at New England Conservatory

The Boston Modern Orchestra Project (BMOP), the nation’s premier orchestra dedicated exclusively to commissioning, performing, and recording new orchestral music, begins its 26th season at New England Conservatory’s Jordan Hall, October 7 at 8:00 p.m. The ambitious program celebrates three world premieres and one East Coast premiere all commissioned by BMOP and written during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Orchestras and musicians all around the world stopped performing during the pandemic,” says Gil Rose, Conductor and Artistic Director of BMOP. “Conversely, composers did not stop writing during the pandemic! We are fortunate to have a plethora of

new works composed for us over the past few years just waiting for listeners to enjoy. Not surprisingly, all the pieces on this program are musical explorations of introspection, empathy, mortality (and immortality), and time— notions that resonate with most of us.”

The evening begins with Eternal Return (2022), by Worcester-based John Aylward (b.1980), “a composer of wide intellectual curiosity (The Boston Globe).” He describes his new work as “a contemplation on Nietzsche’s idea of the afterlife which he first brought up in the Gay Science and then was later expanded upon by Gilles Deleuze. I heard about the idea first from reading Deleuze but later found the Nietzsche thread, which compelled

me even more to explore the idea.”

Eric Moe (b.1954), composer of what The New York Times has called “music of winning exuberance,” has a winning spirit that is represented in this new clever, skillfully constructed piece. Featuring himself on piano, The Sweetness of Despair, the Necessity of Hope (2021) is Moe’s personal reflection our current ecological predicament. “I am intrigued by the thinking of writer-activist Rebecca Solnit,” says Moe, “who points out that many people seem to prefer a predictable apocalypse – the consequence of passive inaction - to the less catastrophic but also less predictable future that would result from drastic

action spurred by hopefulness about the future.” The two movements of the concerto split the title; the first movement, The Sweetness of Despair, begins and ends with sweetly despairing music while the second movement, The Necessity of Hope, evokes weather-related phenomena with references to storm music of the past. BMOP’s long-standing relationship with Moe includes a 2011 BMOP/sound recording of three of his vivid orchestrations. WQXR Radio hailed Eric Moe: Kick and Ride (#1021): “At times primal and ritualistic and others sophisticated and smoky, this unbridled trio will fuel whatever flames you’re currently fanning.”

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CULTURAL MEMORY AS A PATH TO WELLNESS EVENT HELD AT CHS AUDITORIUM

Cary Shuman Photos

Cultural Memory As A Path To Wellness was held Sept. 23 at the Chelsea High School Auditorium. Marisol Santiago was the Chelsea creative cura-

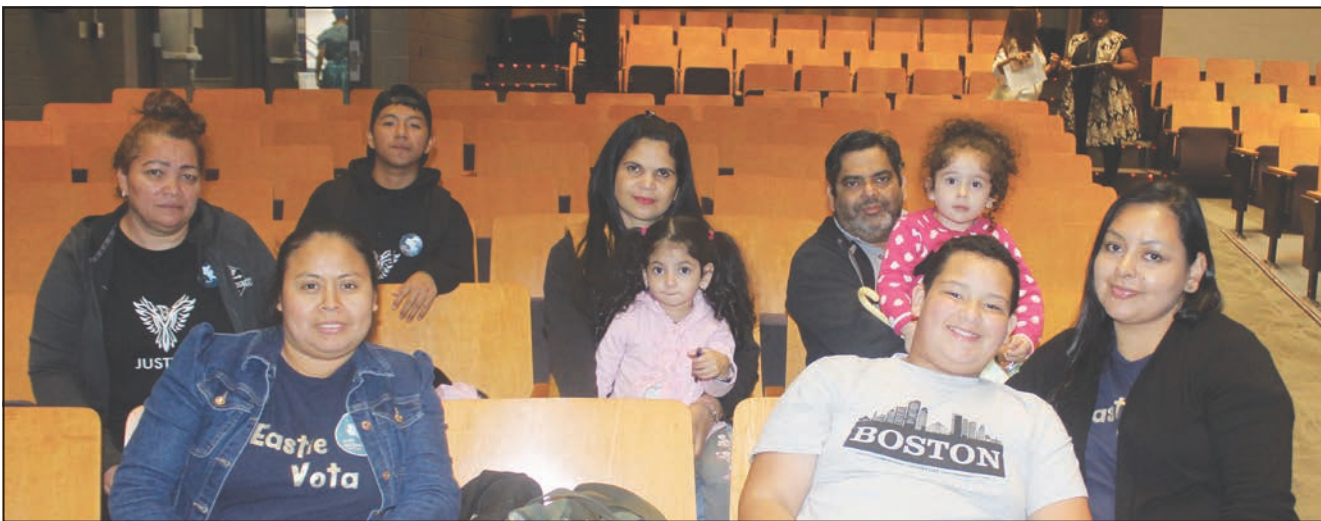
tor for the multi-cultural event that featured musical and dance performances. Theresa Okokon was the event host and leader of the speaking program.



Chelsea Creative Curator for the event, Marisol Santiago, pictured with North American Indian Center of Boston President Jean-Luc Pierite of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana.



Former BHCC Associate Dean Sharon Caulfield of the Chelsea Black Community (CBC), Chelsea Creative Curator for the Event Marisol Santiago, and Event Host and MC Theresa Okokon.



Families enjoyed the Cultural Memory As A Path To Wellness event at the Chelsea High School Auditorium.



Sandy and Amigos (Friends), Michael Birenbaum, Vanessa Lindberg, and Ramon "Sandy" Garcia Perez.



Vanny Huot, Marisol Santiago, and Rita Lara, pictured at Cultural Memory As A Path To Wellness event.

A message from Marisol Santiago about Cultural Memory As A Path to Wellness event

It was great to be together for this special day. Our gratitude to the Chelsea Public Schools for their support. To the Chelsea Cultural Council as a grantee of a Chelsea Cultural Heritage Grant, we thank you for making events like these possible. Thank you to our Sponsoring Organizations, NUBE: Neighbors United for a Better East Boston, GreenRoots, The Chelsea Black Community and the Ayni Institute.

Special thanks to local restaurants who provided food and refreshments: Curly's Restaurant, Bella Isla, Tu Casa, Kushala Sips, and Chelsea Station. Thank You! To our MC event host Theresa Okokon. Thank You! To our featured performers Brendaliz Cepeda and Bomba de Aqui, Sandy Pérez & Amigos, Maestra Isaura Oliveira & Power of Skirts. To the Musicians, to each dancer who brought this experience to our community, Thank You! To featured Storyteller and performer with Bomba De Aqui, Bairaniki Mayowakanex Cito Colon. To Jean-Luc Pierite, NAI-COB President, Thank you for sharing the importance of acknowledging the land we are on and the importance of acknowledging our ancestors. Special thanks to Chelsea Public Schools Mr. Pete Pappavasellio, CHS Student Jana who managed and supported auditorium sound and lighting. Great job! Thank you to Douglas Pena, and custodial and security staff that assisted us during our event. We appreciate you all. Special Thanks to Ricky Velez of Chelsea Public Access, which will be airing our program on local cable channel. As we welcome another

season, we are very grateful we could start fall with a reminder to keep making time for memorable gatherings that uplift culture and wellness. As our featured Storyteller and Chelsea High School Alumn said; "I have many times danced in Chelsea. But today is the first time I am dancing for Chelsea -- and I feel so grateful to have been invited to come home again. I have finally become the person that I was looking for as a kid growing up here. I say carry the rhythm of the Drum wherever you go in life. After all, it's the closest thing to remind us that we are all connected. For the land we come from is the same land we return to."Baira'niki Mayowakan'ex. In a fast-paced society and an often demanding world, we need to be intentional on slowing down. Cultural Memory is one path that reminds us of our interconnectivity to our global communities and to each other. From Afro Indigenous wisdom we know that it is important to be rooted in a sense of belonging. It is our inherent right. Resilience is also joy. We wish you a season filled with moments of rest and moments of joyous warmth. Thank You all for sharing this day with us. What a way to celebrate Hispanic Heritage that uplifts Diasporic communities and brings us back to connecting with our roots, Mother Earth, Our Ancestors and our shared communities.

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School Committee member Roberto Jimenez Rivera, his wife, Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Neville, and their son, Robi, are pictured at the Cultural Memory As A Path to Wellness event at Chelsea High School.

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Sunday October 15 10 am

We are honored to welcome Former Governor Charlie Baker and Mrs. Lauren Baker as our Ambassadors for the 15th annual Walk for Living.

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# Sports

## CHS BOYS SOCCER HOSTED THE RAMS OF LYNN CLASSICAL AT CHELSEA STADIUM



Captain Christia Palacios Sanchez stops a Rams scoring attempt.



Captain Steven Gamez Gonzales fights for control in the Rams end.

Last Tuesday evening the Chelsea High School hosted the Lynn Classical Rams at home. The game went to a quick 1 -0 in the

first half, but outstanding goal tending from CHS's goalie Daylin Yanes Casco kept the score the same as the half ended.

The Red Devils of CHS ended the game with a 2-2 tie, putting them at 3-3-1.



Goal Keep Daylin Yanes Casco with one of many outstanding stops he made in the 2-2 tie against the Lynn Classical Rams.



Captain Kevin Garcia Fortin fights for a loose ball.

## CHS SPORTS ROUNDUP

### CHS FOOTBALL TEAM TREKS TO DRACUT TOMORROW

The Chelsea High football team will seek its second victory of the season when coach David Roque and his squad make the long trek to Dracut, which is located on the north shore of the Merrimack River across from Lowell. This rates as the first meeting between the Red Devils and the Mid-dies (who get their mascot name from the north version of Midshipmen, because Dracut factories used to manufacture the uniforms for the U.S. Navy).

Dracut almost cancelled its season because of a lack of sufficient numbers to field a football team, but has been able to pair with a nearby charter school, Innovations Academy, to field a team.

Dracut enters the contest with a 1-2 mark, while Chelsea comes in at 1-3. The Red Devils dropped a 20-8 decision to East Boston last week.

### CHS GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY IMPROVES RECORD TO 4-0

The Chelsea High girls cross country team improved its record to 4-0 with a 21-36 victory over Greater Boston League rival Lynn Classical last Wednesday on the course at Admiral's Hill.

Rosalinda Rojas once again led the Lady Red Devils across the line, taking first place in the meet. Teammate Hazel Hateberg was next in third place, followed by Jada Amezcua in fourth, Lysis Henderson in fifth, and Maraylla Louis-Jean in eighth.

"The girls team ran an amazing race, working together and running very strategically," said CHS head coach Reagan von Wildenradt. "I was so impressed with their teamwork."

On the boys' side, the Red Devils also outran their Ram opponents by a score of 23-38 to improve to 2-2 on the season.

Chelsea standout Jose Amaya took first place in

the race. Although Classical grabbed the next two spots, the Red Devils took the next four places to clinch the victory, Kyle Leong (4th), Jason Rodrigues (5th), Sherwin Kim (6th), and Ivan Irias-Padilla (7th).

"It was a great race from the boys," said von Wildenradt. "There were lots of personal records (PRs), notably Jose Amaya and Kyle Leong going under 20:00 for the first time in their careers. I was very happy with this race."

Von Wildenradt and her crew were scheduled to host GBL foe Lynn English yesterday (Wednesday) at Admiral's Hill and will trek to GBL opponent Medford next Wednesday.

### VOLLEYBALL TEAM WINS THREE MATCHES

The Chelsea High volleyball team enjoyed a successful week, winning three of its four matches against its Greater Boston League (GBL) opponents.

First-year head coach Gloria Rodriguez's crew edged Revere, Medford,

and English in hard-fought battles, all by scores of 3-2.

The triumph over Revere, the defending GBL champion, was marked by an incredible comeback by the Lady Red Devils in the deciding fifth set. Revere had seven match points when the Lady Patriots moved out to a 14-7 advantage, but Chelsea never lost its poise.

Ashley Martinez played a big role in digging Chelsea out of the big hole and bringing the score all even at 14-14. Alanna Taylor then finished off the dramatic comeback with two service points to give Chelsea the victory.

In the contest with Medford, Tatiana Sanabria Herrera turned in a huge effort, leading the Lady Red Devils on the stat sheet with 13 aces and 14 kills.

The lone setback for Chelsea came at the hands of undefeated Lynn Classical, which is in first place in the GBL, by a score of 3-0.

Rodriguez and her crew, who now stand in second

place in the GBL with a sterling 8-1 record, were scheduled to take on Everett yesterday (Wednesday) and Malden tomorrow (Friday). They will make the short trip down Broadway to Revere on Monday and then return to the CHS gym to host Medford next Wednesday.

### CHS GIRLS SOCCER WORKING HARD

Although the Chelsea High girls soccer team came up short in its two contests this past week, coach Randy Grajal's squad put up strong fights in both encounters.

In a 9-1 loss to Malden last Tuesday, "Senior Alessandra Campos played a great game," said Grajal. "She scored a great goal in this game, assisted by Yahira Jovel Rivas. After a play developed through the right side of the field, Yahira crossed the ball toward the middle, from where Ali took a shot from just outside the box.

Two days later on Thursday, Chelsea hosted Medford and dropped a

5-1 decision. Yahira Jovel Rivas scored the goal after stealing the ball from a defender, taking it up the field herself, and finishing with a great shot to the upper right hand corner of the Lady Mustang net.

Grajal and his crew entertain Somerville today (Thursday) and Everett next Tuesday. They will trek to Lynn English next Thursday.

### BOYS SOCCER LOOKS TO GET BACK ON TRACK

After a tough week in which the Chelsea High boys soccer team dropped two contests to Medford (3-0) and Excel Academy (5-3) and tied another with Lynn Classical, CHS head coach Mick Milutinovic and his crew will seek to get back on the winning track when they travel to Somerville today (Thursday) and to Everett next Tuesday. They will return home to host Lynn English next Thursday in a special evening contest starting at 5:30 under the lights at Chelsea Stadium.

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# NSCS to honor three for impact on creating stigma-free workplaces

North Suffolk Community Services (NSCS), a nonprofit provider of services for individuals of all ages needing mental health and/or addiction treatment, recovery support and those with developmental disabilities, announced that it will honor three individuals at its 64th Anniversary Connection Celebration Oct. 19 for their significant contributions to creating an inclusive and stigma-free workforce in Massachusetts.

Former Massachusetts Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Rosalin Acosta will receive a Public Service Award; author, educator and advocate Dr. Donna Hicks of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University will receive a Humanitarian Award; and Michael Weekes, the outgoing president and CEO of the Providers' Council, will be presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

"We have seen the devastating effects of mental health and substance use disorders on families and



Rosalin Acosta.

in our communities especially communities of color, immigrant communities, and residents of low resourced neighborhoods, but the effects on the business community are equally profound," said NSCS President and CEO Damien Cabezas. "A 2021 report suggests that lost productivity due to opioid use alone cost the U.S. some \$92 billion. If we are going to end stigma around behavioral health issues, we need cross-sector collaboration and discussion between business leaders, the public, and the non-profit sector."

Acosta is currently the Managing Director, Government and Public Sector practice, at Ernst & Young (EY), where she works



Dr. Donna Hicks.

with labor and workforce development leaders to solve some of the most difficult obstacles facing state government officials.

She will receive a Public Service Award for her work from 2017 to 2023 as Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under Gov. Charlie Baker. Acosta was responsible for leading the operations of seven complex agencies and for shepherding the Department of Unemployment Assistance through the most significant challenge in its history during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Hicks will receive the Humanitarian Award for her most recent book "Leading with Dignity:



Michael Weekes.

How to Create a Culture that Brings Out the Best in People," as well as her peace work. She has worked on conflict resolution in the Middle East, Sri Lanka, Northern Ireland and Columbia, and has taught courses in the subject at Harvard, Clark, and Columbia universities. She conducts trainings and educational seminars in the U.S. and abroad on the role dignity plays in healing and reconciling relationships in conflict as well as dignity leadership training. She consults to corporations, schools, churches and non-governmental organizations.

Weekes is being honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication to serving

nonprofits statewide and nationally and his lifelong dedication to public service. He has led the Providers' Council, the largest community-based human service membership organization in Massachusetts, for more than 25 years. Under his guidance, the Council has supported the growth and well-being of hundreds of nonprofit health and human services providers.

Weekes also served as Deputy Commissioner for the former Massachusetts Department of Social Services and as Assistant Executive Director of the Center for Human Development in Springfield. He has served on many boards, including those of the United Way of Pioneer Valley, Amherst A Better Chance, NonprofitVOTE, National Council of Nonprofits, and Springfield Technical Community College Foundation. He was a founding board member of Massachusetts Nonprofit Network and served as its vice chair of the board from 2007-2014.

The 64th Anniversary

Connection Celebration will take place on Thursday, Oct. 19 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor Hotel, 101 Harborside Drive, East Boston.

Founded in 1959, North Suffolk Community Services, formerly North Suffolk Mental Health Association, touches the lives of nearly 15,000 people annually in more than 75 programs throughout Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, Charlestown and Boston. NSCS supports adults, children and families across the lifespan who are coping with behavioral health, substance use disorders and/or have developmental disabilities. The organization employs over 1,000 talented individuals who provide services in nine languages, including ASL, through four outpatient clinics; 39 residential programs; two Recovery Support Centers and a Recovery Learning Center. It operates a robust Training Center as well as a 24/7/365 Recovery Support hotline. Visit northsuffolk.org.

# Significant improvements to child care financial assistance program announced

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has announced significant improvements to Child Care Financial Assistance programs in Massachusetts. Updated regulations and policies will simplify the application process for parents, reduce paperwork for families and early education programs, and better support homeless families, families with disabilities and families facing domestic violence who take advantage of this program. With these changes, the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) is making it easier for young, working, low-income families to access the subsidies available for child care and "out of school time" education programs.

"One of the top priorities of our administration is making child care more affordable and accessible. These regulation and policy changes will help break down barriers for our low-income families

and early education programs, making government services more user friendly and equitable," said Governor Maura Healey. "We're proud to take this important step forward that we know will lead to increased labor market participation and economic mobility for families, and support children's school and life success."

"In Massachusetts, we are investing in child care so that regardless of zip code or economic background, our youngest learners can access the high-quality education they need to succeed in school and life. Access to affordable child care is also an engine of the state's economy, enabling families to participate in our workforce," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "I am excited to see the impact these significant changes will bring to our state, making Massachusetts a more affordable place to live, learn and work."

EEC has been work-

ing over the past year and a half with key stakeholders to make these significant child care financial assistance regulation changes. From the outset, EEC took on these regulation changes with the goals of centering the family voice and restructuring the agency's operations, policies, and procedures to modernize and improve the experience for parents and providers.

Some of the key regulation and policy changes include:

- Improving and simplifying communication with families, such as launching email and texting campaigns to reach them directly and support them throughout the process of accessing child care financial assistance;
- Reducing and eliminating unnecessary and duplicative paperwork and reporting requirements that create an undue burden for parents;
- Updating the provider employment definitions and requirements to re-

flect the changing nature of work, including more flexibility for hourly wage earners and those working from home;

- Waiving fees for homeless families and easing reporting requirements for individuals with disabilities or those participating in treatment for substance abuse;
  - Better aligning with partner agencies like the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) and Department of Children and Families (DCF) to streamline processes and reduce administrative burdens for families;
  - Incorporating more inclusive language that supports the dignity of receiving child care financial assistance, and is inclusive of LGBTQ+ families and families with disabilities; and
  - Shifting policies to be more accessible, meaning they are written in plain language and will eventually be available in up to 14 languages.
- "Our administration

believes that expanding access to more affordable, high-quality early education and care is the first step to ensuring every Bay State child has access to the education they deserve, regardless of their circumstances or background," said Secretary of Education Patrick Tutwiler. "Here in Massachusetts, we don't just want to get 'back' to how things were before the pandemic--the new and updated regulation and policy changes will bring the state's child care financial assistance program forward. With a focused intentionality on centering parents and simplifying the processes for providers, we are creating the child care financial assistance system that students and families deserve."

"I am grateful for the significant changes we are making to our child care financial assistance programs in Massachusetts. Through regulations and policy, we are shifting the programs to be easier and more ac-

cessible to enable families to work and support their children's school success. Using technology enhancements and eliminating barriers, we are creating a more modern, flexible and dignified system," said Early Education and Care Commissioner Amy Kershaw. "I want to thank the Early Education and Care Board, our early education and care programs and partners, and sister agencies who have worked collaboratively and intentionally with us to make changes that center families' experiences and will bring greater equity and inclusion for the children and families participating in our child care financial assistance programs."

EEC's willingness to bring together state policy leaders and early education and out of school time providers through ongoing working sessions has demonstrated the

See CHILD CARE Page 9

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## HAPPY COLUMBUS DAY!



**BRUINS Beat** by Bob Morello

**Bruins centennial season begins**

Rev up the Zamboni Bs blue line corps, but engines. Tonight management may (Thursday 7pm) think it best on Madison to give him Square Gar- some time in den ice, the Providence Bruins will face the New to mature. In York Rangers either case, in their final the trio has preseason game. surely per- With a record of formed at a level 1-3-1 to this point, the lo- that will earn them cals have had strong per- consideration from Bruins formances thus far from coach Jim Montgomery when the roster is being finalized. With the completion of the preseason, the Bruins set roster will open their 2023-24 Centennial regular season schedule on Wednesday (October 11 at 7:30pm) on TD Garden ice when they host the Chicago Blackhawks and the NHL's #1 pick, Connor Bedard. Game two of the brief home stand will take place on Saturday (October 14 at 7pm), before the Bs head out on a four game road trip with stops in San Jose (Sharks 10/19), Los Angeles (Kings 10/21), Anaheim (Ducks 10/22), and the final stop in Chicago to take on the Blackhawks (Tuesday, 10/24).



**Child Care /** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

agency's commitment to ensuring an inclusive, equitable and family-friendly subsidy system. For Kids Only Afterschool is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with EEC staff and state-wide colleagues on the future direction of subsidy policies and procedures. We are excited for the upcoming changes and to provide greater access to high quality early education and out of school time programming for children and families across the state," said Briana Flannery, Deputy Director of For Kids Only Afterschool. "Horizons has been excited to participate in the collaborative process with the EEC and other child care providers to simplify, modernize and expand access to child care financial assistance. These changes will particularly have a positive impact on child care access and affordability for families experiencing homelessness. The culture shift currently taking place at EEC, creating more family centric solutions which accommodate the reality and complexity of working family's lives, is a welcome change," said Kate Barrand, President & CEO of Horizons for Homeless Children. The state's Child Care Financial Assistance programs are funded federally through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) and by the state level through multiple EEC line items. This year, the Healey-Driscoll administration and the legislature delivered \$778 million towards child care financial assistance, an increase of \$60 million over FY23. Currently, 58,000 children and their families access child care with the support of state finan-

cial assistance. Nearly 4,500 early education and child care centers partner with the Commonwealth to provide care to low-income or subsidized students, which is 56% of the licensed early education and care programs in the state. "The Board of Early Education and Care was proud to vote to adopt these updated child care financial assistance program regulations. These significantly improved regulations will serve as the foundation for the programs and set the tone for what we know these programs can and will be – equitably supporting families to afford and access high-quality early education and care across the Commonwealth. I am grateful for the Board, the Healey-Driscoll Administration, and our partners efforts and the direction that Massachusetts is moving in," said Paul Bel-sito, Chair of the Board of Early Education and Care. "For some families who rely on child care while they work, finding appropriate, high-quality care can be difficult. I am grateful to EEC for their efforts to support families and eliminating administrative barriers to a service that can make such a difference for children and their parents. By streamlining this process through the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Transitional Assistance, we are reducing the burden placed on people to provide information to apply for services for which they are already qualified, expediting their access to the child care they need," said Secretary of Health and Human Services Kate Walsh.

**Theresa M. O'Driscoll**  
September 13, 1927 - September 27, 2023

Relatives and friends attended visiting hours on Monday, Oct. 2nd at the Welsh Funeral Home for Theresa M. O'Driscoll, 96, who passed away on Wednesday, September 27. Her funeral was conducted from the funeral home on Tuesday, October 3rd immediately followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 670 Washington Ave., Revere. Services concluded with interment at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

Born and raised in Chelsea, a beloved daughter of the late Emil and Josephine (Gaudett) Arsenault, Theresa was a lifelong resident of Chelsea, attended Our Lady of the Assumption Parochial School and graduated from Chelsea High School in 1945.

She married John T. O'Driscoll, Sr. and together raised two sons. Theresa was passionately devoted to home and family.

She also worked for New England Telephone and Telegraph as a telephone operator at the Chelsea Switchboard Office. She was a talented seamstress and was a much sought after Home Seamstress, fashioning custom furniture slip covers.

A deeply devoted Catholic, she was a lifelong parishioner of the former Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, where she volunteered her time and talents making homemade lollipops for the Annual Church Bazaar and tap dancing in the many Min-strel Shows at the Church. She also enjoyed square dancing at the Chelsea French Club with her husband, and in her later years, while receiving supportive care in local nursing homes, she taught dancing to staff members.

**George Joseph Brown**  
February 15, 1934 - October 3, 2023

George Joseph "Papa" Brown, 89, of Lowell, formerly of Chelsea, a USMC Veteran 1952-1964, passed peacefully at home.

A retired Fire Alarm Operator for the City of Chelsea, he was on duty the morning of the Great Fire of 1973 and took great pride in reliving that memory with family and friends.

The beloved and devoted husband for 38 years of the late Marlene (Wright) Brown and the son of the late James E. and Margaret (Rudd) Brown, Sr., he is survived by his loving daughters, Julie A. Ferreira and her husband, Mark of Tewksbury and Kelly



Theresa was predeceased by her husband, John T. O'Driscoll, Sr. and siblings: Bernice DeRoche, Eva M. Polito, Dorothy LeGere, Marie Garrett, Noel, Tilmon, Lawrence, and Edward Arsenault.

She is survived by her loving and caring sons and their spouses; John T. O'Driscoll, Jr. and his wife, Patricia of Center Ossipee, NH, and Richard P. O'Driscoll and his wife, Peg of Chelsea. She was the cherished grandmother of Sean O'Driscoll and his wife, Michèle of Belgium and Kevin O'Driscoll and his wife, Amber of No. Reading; the adoring great-grandmother of Abigail, Alicia, Aberdeen and Aaron O'Driscoll, and Mikaela, Dylan, and Delaney O'Driscoll; dear sister of Doris Doucette of Reading, Lorraine Barnacle of Missouri and Marguerite Perrazzo of North Carolina. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grand-nephews, extended family members and friends.

Should friends desire, contributions in her name may be made to Alzheimer's Association, Massachusetts Chapter, 309 Waverly Oaks Rd., Waltham, MA 02452 [www.Alz.org/donate](http://www.Alz.org/donate)

For online guest book or to send expressions of sympathy, please visit: [www.WelshFH.com](http://www.WelshFH.com).



B. Gosse and her husband, John of Lowell; his grandchildren, Taylor Olivia Bellavia and Eric Brady Bellavia and by his feline buddy, Lucky. He will join his wife at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett after missing her for 19 years. Private services will be held.

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**OBITUARIES**

**John F. Fothergill**

Retired Merchant Marine and long time  
Chelsea Soldiers Home Employee

John F. Fothergill, 78, of Chelsea passed away on September 25th after a brief illness.

John served in the United States Navy. After discharge from the Navy, he joined the Merchant Marines. He also worked at the Soldiers Home in Chelsea for many years.

John was predeceased by his parents, the late Chelsea Police Captain Edward and Margaret Fothergill. He was also predeceased by his siblings: Michael Cryan, Lauren Quinlan, Meri Crowley, Richard Fothergill and Paul Fothergill. He is survived by his sister, Debo-

rah McIvor. John will be dearly missed by his many nieces and nephews: Michael, Elizabeth (Wilber) and Stephen Cryan, Edward Quinlan, Kara (Pizzelli), Amy and Julie Fothergill, Richard, Elizabeth (Rzasa) and Ashley (Budnick Bliss).

Services for John are private. Inurnment will take place at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Carafa Family Funeral Home in Chelsea. We encourage family and friends to visit [carafafuneralhome.com](http://carafafuneralhome.com) to offer condolences by means of the online guest book or to send a personalized sympathy card.

**Norma Siegel**

Lifelong Chelsea resident

Norma (Shapiro) Siegel, of Leonard Florence Center For Living in Chelsea, and formerly of The Jack Satter House in Revere passed away on July 31, 2023.

She was the beloved wife of the late Nathan S. Siegel and devoted mother of Bruce Siegel and wife Candace Orlando-Siegel, Barry Siegel, and Marla Siegel and her husband Kenneth Lyon. She was the loving daughter of Morris and Fannie Shap-

iro, dear sister of the late Phillip Shapiro, Ethel Hirschberg, Mary Black, Jennie Razin and Ruth Shapiro, loving grandmother of Jonathan Siegel, and great grandmother to Ayden Siegel. Funeral services were held at the Torf Funeral Chapel on August 3. Interment was in Danvers. Donations in Norma's memory may be made to Congregation 420, c/o Jack Satter House, 420 Revere Beach Blvd., Revere, MA 02151.

**Ellen Butt**

Lifelong Chelsea resident

Relatives and friends are most kindly invited to attend a memorial gathering and service of remembrance on Friday, October 6 from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea for Ellen M. Butt, who passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, October 3rd. She was 68 years of age.

She was the beloved daughter of the late Wm. Roy Butt and Veronica "Vera" M. (Cronin) Butt.

A lifelong resident of Chelsea, Ellen graduated from Chelsea High School in 1972 and later received her B.A. degree from University of Mass. Ellen worked for many years for the Comm. Of Massachusetts, Department of Public Health, and was recently working as a receptionist with Chelsea Jewish Life Care in Peabody. She was a charter member of the Laura Lee Women's Club and the joined with the annual Winnisimmet Childrens Fund.

In her lifetime, Ellen enjoyed spending holidays with family and was an ardent collector of novelty miniature shoes.

In addition to her parents, Ellen was predeceased by a sister, Jane Frieden.

She was the dear sister



of Marie A. Washington and her husband, Allan of Winthrop, Karen E. Butt and her wife, Cynthia Brown of Newbury and Roy W. Butt and his wife, Anna of Wakefield. She was the cherished aunt of Elizabeth Frieden Garcia and her husband, Chris, Timothy Frieden and his wife, Tristen, Bryan Butt and Thomas Butt.

She is also survived by lifelong friends: Janet Wolleston, Diane McLaughlin, Brian Downing and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends

For directions or to send expressions of sympathy, please visit [www.Welsh-FH.com](http://www.Welsh-FH.com).



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CITY PAWS

Canine hobbies

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Call them hobbies, special interests, recreation, or avocation; having an enjoyable activity is good for both people and dogs. If you find something you both enjoy and can do together, that's even better.

The Best Friends Resource Center lists excellent activities that could suit you and your dog. Those include agility, therapy dog work, obedience training, dancing with dogs, flyball, frisbee, nose work, hiking, dog parks, tracking, and trick training.

Observing your dog's moments of bliss will help you decide what activities to try. What sets your dog's tail wagging? Does your hand on a leash bring a happy pup to your side? For some dogs, going outside and having a nice long walk with you is the best moment of their day.

We've seen dogs excitedly quiver when someone says "car." However, other dogs shake with fear at any sign of a car ride.

Is Your Dog Having Fun?

Observe signs of stress or joy as you test various activities to find ways to enjoy time with your canine companion. None of us would intentionally become a stage parent, pushing our dog to do something because we enjoy it or gain some kind of fulfillment of our own needs through the pup.

For our food-obsessed Poppy, bliss is tiny tidbits given as rewards for training. Our little pup runs to the sound of the treat jar opening or a call to come to one of us if she begins to bark. She also loves sitting on benches outside. If you ever see us swaying from side to side as we walk down Common-

wealth Avenue Mall, it's because Poppy's asking to sit on a bench for a while.

Herders, Diggers, and Retrievers

If bred for a specific job, your dog's bliss may be in its DNA. Herding dogs will find targets for their herding hobby. We recall a Shetland Sheepdog who would try to herd any bicycle he saw. He was frantic to get those things circled up and under control.

Terriers are diggers and hunters. Our Westies have not had the opportunity to take up digging as a hobby because they've never had time alone outside. When we conduct pre-adoption home visits for Westies or Cairns, we warn prospective guardians with fenced yards that a terrier left alone out there will find a way under a fence.

Digging is in their DNA and is a hobby they would love to explore. Ground-



PHOTO BY WOLFGANG HASSELMANN

Frisbee is a game you can play with your dog in your yard, off-leash recreation area, or at a Frisbee competition.

work is the dog sport that takes advantage of the terrier's urge to dig and hunt. It's a competition where the dogs search for bait in underground tunnels.

From a harborside deck in Provincetown, we've watched people use a ball launcher to fling a target as far as possible for their relentless retrievers. The dogs have a merry chase,

galloping through the shallows and swimming for yards to fetch their prize, only to beg to do it again and again and again.

**Follow Their Bliss**

As you think about fall adventures and holiday gifts for your dog, figure out what will make your dog happy. Then, use that happiness to bond with

and train your pal. The side benefit of activities beyond daily walks and playing with toys is that time spent training, performing, and competing can burn off some doggie energy that is harder to use up in winter weather. There's a lot of truth to the old saying that a tired dog is a good dog.

Find unclaimed property at findmassmoney.gov

Massachusetts State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg has announced the latest grouping of names added to the state's list of unclaimed property owners.

Over 50,000 new properties worth millions of dollars belong to individuals and businesses

throughout the Commonwealth including West Newbury native, John Cena.

"We currently have over \$3.4 billion in unclaimed property at Treasury, and it could be yours," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. "Unclaimed property's time is up; your

time is now. So call our office today to begin the claims process."

Unclaimed property includes forgotten savings and checking accounts, un-cashed checks, insurance policy proceeds, stocks, dividends, and the contents of unattended safe deposit boxes. These

accounts are turned over to the state after three years of inactivity. This newly released list includes only individuals and businesses with unclaimed property over \$100.

Treasurer Goldberg urges all citizens to check the comprehensive list for all amounts at <https://www.findmassmoney.gov/> or call our live call center at 888-344-MASS (6277).

One in ten Massachusetts residents are owed money. Last year, Treasury processed over 153,000 claims and returned over \$163 million in property to its rightful owners.

Valdez / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

and greater school community proud," added Valdez.

Valdez emerged out of a strong pool of applicants with outstanding qualifications. According to William Raycraft, "Coach Valdez is considered to be one of the most respected minds in baseball and will be a great asset to our program on and off the field. His major league experience along with the ability to teach at all levels of baseball experience will significantly benefit our student-athletes and build an outstanding MC program." Raycraft added, "Valdez is an incredibly passionate person who not only loves the game but knows how to inspire, listen, teach and win – all of these qualities will translate well to our students."

Since 1932, Malden Catholic has shaped emerging leaders in our

community, claiming a Nobel Laureate, a Senator, two ambassadors and countless community and business heads among its alumni. Annually, graduates attend some of the nation's most renowned universities including Harvard, Princeton, Dartmouth, University of Chicago, Georgetown, Cornell, Brown, Tufts University, Carnegie Mellon, Duke, Notre Dame, Northeastern University, Boston College and College of the Holy Cross, just to name a few. Foundational to student success is Malden Catholic's codivisional model which offers the best of both worlds, single-gender academics during the day and integrated social and extracurricular opportunities after school. Malden Catholic is known in the community for its rigorous academics, SFX Scholars

Program and award-winning STEM program. Malden Catholic curricula is designed to improve individual growth mindset, leadership principles and success outcomes along with integrating the Xaverian values of trust, humility, compassion, simplicity and zeal. <https://www.maldencatholic.org>.

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**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER**



FRIENDS OF MARY O'MALLEY PARK HOST KITE FESTIVAL



Di Liang, Chen Ji, and their son, Edison Ji, pictured at the Friends of Mary O'Malley Park Kite Festival.

Cary Shuman Photos  
The Friends of Mary O'Malley

Park hosted a Kite Festival Sunday at the popular park located at Admiral's Hill.

Families enjoyed some kite-flying fun and refreshments provided by the Friends.



The Friends of Mary O'Malley Park, from left, Vice President Roger Bolduc, Secretary Joan Donahue, President Marlene Jennings, Michael Nappo, and Peter Tron.



Fidel Maltez and Maria Belen Power, with their daughters, Maya and Ana Victoria, enjoying the Kite Festival Sunday at Mary O'Malley Park.



Tatiana Gomes and her daughter, Tiana Antunes, pictured at The Friends of Mary O'Malley Park Kite Festival.



Pedro Mendoza, with his children, Natalie Mendoza and Adrian Mendoza, pictured at the Kite Festival Sunday at Mary O'Malley Park, Admiral's Hill.

EBNHC and Boston Public Health Commission join together to host 'Health of Boston: East Boston' with the Boston CHNA – CHIP Collaborative

The Boston Public Health Commission, in partnership with East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) and the Boston Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) – Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Collaborative recently held ‘The Health of Boston: East Boston’ event to report data from BPHC’s Health of Boston report, share findings from the 2022 community health needs assessment, and connect residents with community health resources.

At the event, Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission, shared East-Boston-specific data from the Health of Boston report on life expectancy, as well as rates of asthma, diabetes, and heart disease. In her presentation, Dr. Ojikutu explained that social determinants of health, such as violence, the built environment, and family income, play a major role in the health trends we see.

“As we continue to visit Boston neighborhoods and share this rich data, we’re thrilled to work with partners like East Boston Neighborhood Health Center who are so invested in the health of community,” said Dr. Ojikutu. “The data shows us a lot of good news coming out of East Boston which we know is a testament to high-quality healthcare,



Greg Wilmot, CEO and President, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center.

as well as the work of so many local organizations who lift up and care for the East Boston community. This Health of Boston: East Boston discussion illuminated these successes, while also acknowledging the work that lies ahead for our city.”

During the event, Greg Wilmot, President and CEO of East Boston Neighborhood Health Center shared an overview of the health center’s programs and services. EBNHC’s Hollis Graham, Assistant Vice President, Strategy, Innovation, and Transformation and Mary Ellen McIntyre, Senior Vice President of Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers provided an update from the Boston CHNA – CHIP Collaborative.

“The East Boston Neighborhood Health Center is proud to partner with the Boston Public Health Commission to share this important



Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission.

data on the health of our city as a whole and on this side of the tunnel. We know that the health of our community is not just about high-quality, compassionate healthcare, but about the many factors that shape the health of our communities, such as food, housing, and economic stability,” said Greg Wilmot, CEO and President of East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. “We are honored that Dr. Ojikutu and her team selected EBNHC to co-host a discussion on these critically important topics with leaders and neighbors equally committed to improving the health of East Boston.”

The event, held on September 14th at the Paris Street Community Center, was attended by dozens of East Boston families and residents, as well as representatives from Rep. Madaro, Councilor Colletta and Sen. Edwards offices. Numerous com-

munity organizations, including the BPHC’s Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control, the Mayor’s Health Line, Maverick Landing Community Services, the Eastie Coalition, Mutal Aid Eastie, as well as East Boston Neighborhood Health Center’s Recovery Services and Community Engagement teams all attended to share resources.

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

Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, serving over 100,000 patients and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (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, Revere, Winthrop, Everett and Boston’s South End.

EBNHC is dedicated to promoting and sustaining healthy communities, families, and individuals by providing accessible, person-centered, compassionate, and high-quality health care services, including primary care, 24/7 emergency care, behavioral health care, specialty care, and various other health and wellness programs, to all who live and work in our service area. For more information, please visit [www.ebnhc.org](http://www.ebnhc.org)

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