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VOLUME 132, No. 13
THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024
35 CENTS

CHELSEA RECREATION HOSTS EGG HUNT 2024



The Chelsea Recreation and Cultural Affairs Division presented an Egg Hunt on March 23 at the Mary C. Burke Complex where children played games and gathered eggs. See Page 6 for more photos.



Sophia Paz, 6, balancing an egg in a relay game.



New friends, Leah, 5, and Galilea, 5.

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

Council to address migrant emergency shelter at old Soldiers' Home

By Adam Swift

The City Council is holding a special meeting Thursday night, March 28, to discuss the state's plans to use the former Chelsea Soldiers' Home building as a safety-net site for migrants.

On Sunday, Governor Maura Healey announced the use of the former soldiers' home as part of the plan to address the migrant crisis in the state.

"Massachusetts has proven that we can take care of veterans and families experiencing homelessness in our state," said Secretary of Veterans Services Dr. Jon Santiago. "While (the Executive Office of Veterans Services) formerly operated the building slated for demolition, this project operates

independently and will not impact the daily routines or services at the Massachusetts Veterans Home at Chelsea."

At full capacity, the safety-net site will be able to accommodate approximately 100 families, according to the governor's office. The site will be for families with children or pregnant women who have been deemed eligible for the Emergency Assistance (EA) program and have been placed on the waitlist. Services will be available on site, including assistance with applying for work authorizations, connecting with employers, and finding stable housing.

Currently, it is expected that the shelter at the former Soldiers' Home will be completed by late 2024. See SOLDIER'S HOME Page 2

Wesley Street church project gets positive planning board recommendation for parking

By Adam Swift

Plans for the Ministerio Internacional Cristo Vive Church at 10 Wesley Street got another boost at Tuesday night's Planning Board meeting.

The board recommended that the Zoning Board approve a special permit for some minor parking relief at the church at its next meeting in April.

The project is also scheduled to come back before the Planning Board for final site plan approval in April.

The parking relief is at an adjacent property the church purchased at 19 Clyde St. The church needs some relief at that site for setbacks for several of the 27 outside tandem parking spaces proposed for the property.

In addition, the church will have 21 overflow tandem parking spaces at an inside garage on the Wesley Street property. According to Thomas Curran, the attorney representing the church, there will be valets on site during Saturday and Sunday church services to assist with parking both inside and outside the church.

"Three years ago, the church was approved for a major site plan," said Curran. "There was an issue with parking, so between then and now, the church purchased 19 Clyde St. abutting the property and restructured the parking."

Between the two properties, Curran said there are now enough spaces to satisfy parking requirements. However, he said the parking relief is needed because of the size of some of the spaces as well as the width of some of the traffic flow pathways.

The existing residential building at 19 Clyde St. will remain on the property. See CHURCH PROJECT Page 3

DIDOMENICO MEETS WITH CHELSEA STUDENTS ADVOCATING FOR EARLY COLLEGE FUNDING

Last week, Senator Sal DiDomenico met with Chelsea High School students as they advocated for state funding for early college programs they are using and benefiting from. Senator DiDomenico is a longtime supporter of Early College and is proud to have worked with his

colleagues in the Legislature to invest millions of dollars into these essential programs. Only around 1 in 5 students from low-income homes and students of color in Massachusetts attain a college degree of any kind within six years of their high school graduation. Research has shown

that Early College programs increase the odds of college enrollment for participating students by more than double.

"I am inspired by the passion and determination of these young advocates, and I am a proud supporter of Early College programs in my district and throughout the Commonwealth," said Senator Sal DiDomenico. "These programs can help ensure all students get the same opportunity to acquire a college degree and I look forward to continue advocating for the investments these programs need in this year's budget."

out the Commonwealth," said Senator Sal DiDomenico. "These programs can help ensure all students get the same opportunity to acquire a college degree and I look forward to continue advocating for the investments these programs need in this year's budget."



Senator DiDomenico meeting with Early College advocates from Chelsea in his State House office.

Easter Hunnies

See Page 12



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La Colaborativa secures \$2 million gift from the Yield Giving Open Call

La Colaborativa, the largest Latina-led community based organization in Chelsea and the greater region, is pleased to announce it has secured an unparalleled \$2 million grant through the Yield Giving Open Call, in conjunction with Lever for Change and Fidelity Charitable Foundation.

“La Colaborativa is profoundly honored to receive this award from MacKenzie Scott’s Yield Giving Open Call,” announced Gladys Vega, President of La Colaborativa. “This generous grant not only validates our unwavering commitment to serving Latinx community members in the Greater Boston area but also pro-

pels us into the future with renewed energy and resources.”

Founded by MacKenzie Scott, the Yield Open Giving Call announced La Colaborativa as one of the largest awardees in a national competition, focused on organizations working with people and in places experiencing the greatest need in the United States. In total, La Colaborativa received \$2 million, which will be invested in the development of a contemporary employment training center to spur economic mobility.

“Across the region, the confluence of displacement, health inequities, and inflation are acutely impacting immigrant

households,” stated Alex Train, Chief Operating Officer of La Colaborativa. “As we celebrate this monumental acknowledgment, we pledge to deepen our impactful investments to catalyze a future of prosperity for all residents.”

La Colaborativa aims to leverage this unrestricted funding to enhance economic development by developing a new groundbreaking employment and training center dedicated to serving our communities. With these resources acting as seed funding, La Colaborativa is seeking donors to make matching unrestricted contributions, in order to accelerate our impact and bring this ef-

fort to fruition.

Every contribution will be directly channeled into community-empowering, educating, and elevating programs, transforming each donation into a long-term investment in a future of shared prosperity.

In March 2023, Yield Giving launched an Open Call for community-led, community-focused organizations. The Open Call received 6,353 applications and initially planned for 250 awards of \$1 million each. In the Fall of 2023, organizations top-rated by their peers advanced to a second round of review by an external Evaluation Panel recruited for experience relevant to this cause, and

underwent a final round of due diligence. In light of the incredible work of these organizations, as judged by their peers and external panelists, the donor team decided to expand the awardee pool and the award amount.

“We are excited that our partnership with Yield Giving has resonated with so many organizations,” said Cecilia Conrad, CEO of Lever for Change. “In a world teeming with potential and talent, the Open Call has given us an opportunity to identify, uplift, and empower transformative organizations that often remain Unseen.”

Established in 1988, La Colaborativa is a Latina-led organization that

has been a consistent, reliable, and fearless ally to the Latinx community in Greater Boston, focused on gateway cities and towns like Chelsea, East Boston, Everett, Lynn, Revere, and Malden. The organization collaborates with communities to develop and implement various programs, initiatives, and community mobilization campaigns that support, protect, honor, and empower our community. Donations can be made at www.la-colaborativa.org.

More information on the Yield Giving Open Call and other initiatives can be found at www.leverforchange.org.

Licensing Commission holds hearing on function hall camera issues

By Adam Swift

The Licensing Commission handed out a two-day suspension for Emiliana Fiesta on Fourth Street at its meeting last week, but that suspension will be held in abeyance for six months, and will not have to be served if there are no further violations at the function hall.

Licensing Commission Chair Marnie MacAlpine said there have been no previous issues at the es-

tablishment, and that it also acted to update its video surveillance system.

Last week’s hearing stemmed from a November incident at Emiliana’s when police were called in to help break up a fight involving about 40 people.

The department requested the hearing before the Licensing Commission because it did not meet the license requirements for having 30 days of video on hand.

The restaurant own-

ers noted that while it did have a video surveillance system, it did not save the video for 30 days. They stated that they had updated the equipment, and were also in the process of installing an additional camera at the rear of the property, as recommended by the police department.

While MacAlpine said she was concerned about the camera issue, she said she was also concerned about the establishment having an incident where

the police needed to be called.

“It sounds like with that type of incident, we may have had some folks who were overserved,” she said.

Emiliana manager Denisse Chino said that the people involved in the incident were likely rival gang members attending a function at the facility. She said the incident did not start until the bar had closed and Emiliana’s was turning on the lights and

beginning to shut down for the night.

Chino said there were three security people on duty who tried to break up the fight, but that it was hard to do because of the number of people involved. She also noted that security checks people for weapons before entering the hall.

“We have security for every event, and I think learning from this, we need to hire more security at the bars and at the exit

doors,” Chino said.

Police Chief Keith Houghton said he would have felt more comfortable if the employees had been able to contact police sooner before tensions got out of hand.

In other business, the commission approved a change of owner and manager for One Stop Liquors at 141 Central Ave., as well as a transfer of a malt and wine license for JV Market at 560 Washington Ave.

DIDOMENICO CELEBRATES WOMEN’S HEALTH RESEARCH INVESTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT WITH FIRST LADY DR. JILL BIDEN

Senator Sal DiDomenico joined First Lady Dr. Jill Biden for a Biden-Harris administration announcement of a \$100 million investment in women’s health research. This “Sprint for Women’s Health” program is the first deliverable from the White House’s new initiative on women’s health research. This program will be led by the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), located in Cambridge.

“I want to thank the Biden-Harris administration and our state’s federal delegation for bringing this fantastic program to our state that will accelerate research on heart and brain conditions, as well as chronic diseases, which disproportionately impact women,” said Sal DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. “Women’s health is far too often brushed aside, not taken seriously, and in many cases, not prioritized by the medical field. This initiative is essential to improving how we care for women in this country,



Senator DiDomenico with First Lady Dr. Jill Biden.

and I couldn’t be prouder that researchers in my district and throughout our state will be leading the way.”

This event also featured U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, and Maria Shriver. With this funding, ARPA-H will

bring together researchers, clinicians, tech experts, and others to spur innovative ideas and private sector collaboration in order to improve women’s health. Organizations and individuals interested in learning more about this initiative can visit the website: arpa-h.gov/engage-and-transition/sprint.

Soldiers’ Home // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mer Soldiers’ Home will be in operation for six to 12 months, according to Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez.

Maltez said the city was first made aware of the situation over the weekend, and has had a number of meetings with state officials to discuss the situation.

According to an FAQ issued by the state, the shelter operation will not impact the operations or residents at the newly opened Massachusetts Veterans Home at Chelsea, or the ongoing redevelopment plans for the domiciliary campus. The old Quigley building is still slated for demolition when the shelter is no longer needed.

After word came down from the state about the plans, Maltez said he knocked on doors in the neighborhood with Council President Norieliz DeJesus, State Representative Judith Garcia, and councilors Kelly Garcia and Melinda Vega.

“Personally, when I received the call, I completely appreciate how

difficult the situation is for the entire state,” said Maltez. “We are in a crisis, and I know that Chelsea is best when we stand together and when we help those in need. While this is going to be very challenging, I am very hopeful that Chelsea is going to come through and do what we do best, which is in a time of need, we come together.”

Going through the neighborhoods, Maltez said there were concerns about the proposal, including that many learned about it on the news. He said the door knocking was part of an effort to show that city officials were out there ready to address questions and concerns.

“It was important for them to hear from us,” said Maltez. “I will tell you that the vast majority of the residents, while they were concerned about the impact on the neighborhood, were really supportive. What really shone through was the Chelsea spirit of we do not turn our back on anyone ... and we are best when we stand to-

gether.”

Since the announcement on Sunday, Maltez said there have been multiple meetings with the state and the team responsible for the use of the old Soldiers’ Home.

“We have been on the site, we have been on the property, we have engaged our police chief, our fire chief, our emergency management director, the superintendent and others have been in talks with the governor’s office on this transition,” said Maltez. “This is fully funded by the state ... but we know that doing something like this will create some impact on the neighborhood, it will create some impact on our police forces and our fire forces. We are in active conversations to minimize those and to plan ahead and make sure that we are doing everything we can to prioritize our own residents.”

The special City Council meeting is a public meeting and is scheduled to take place on Thursday, March 28 at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall.



COURTESY PHOTO FROM CITY COUNCILOR KELLY GARCIA

Councilor Kelly Garcia, State Representative Judith Garcia, Councilor Melinda Vega, and Council President Norieliz De Jesus talking to residents near the Old Soldiers’ Home site this week.

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GreenRoots – celebrating Yaritza Morales Gonzalez during Women’s History Month

By Marianne Salza

Lifelong Chelsea resident, Yaritza Morales Gonzalez, has been an advocate for environmental and social justice since she was 14-years-old, working as a youth organizer for Chelsea Green Space, a sub-committee of Chelsea Human Services, which is now La Colaborativa. Although her roles have changed throughout the years, she has maintained relationships with members of the community, and is passionate about improving the quality of life in her home city.

“The work that I do aligns with my values,” said Gonzalez, Director of Operations, GreenRoots. “I am not someone who comes from privilege. I was born and raised in the church. One of the things I was taught was we have to do right and correct wrongs; and at the same time, defend the oppressed. That’s exactly what we do on a daily basis. You can’t help but want to be hands-on to make change.”

Gonzalez recalls two public health initiatives regarding air quality that made an impression on her as a teenager, since her family has a history of respiratory diseases. Gonzalez remembers working with the Chelsea Public Schools Department to establish signage that would enforce no idling in school zones. It was her first experience with press releases, conferences, and public presentations.

Another project that Gonzalez noted was when hundreds of students were engaged in protesting and delivering posters and letters to the owners of a wind energy farm that planned to develop a dirty diesel power plant across from one of Chelsea’s largest elementary schools, where



PHOTO BY MARIANNE SALZA
GreenRoots Director of Operations, Yaritza Morales Gonzalez, with her daughter, Emma.

her siblings attended.

“When I finally understood the work that we were doing, and the impact in the community that I lived in, that’s when my passion and interest for environmental and social justice came about,” realized Gonzalez, 35.

Although Gonzalez sees vibrance and potential in the community, she feels that residents are still vulnerable, and revealed that the work can be emotionally strenuous.

“What keeps me here is the people we serve,” shared Gonzalez, who is bilingual in English and Spanish. “I can see myself in many of the people I cross paths with. The Spanish community correlates environmental justice with the justice system. In many countries, ‘justice’ is referred to the court. It doesn’t have a positive connotation. To explain environmental justice, we have to break it down. It reminds me of when I was a youth and I couldn’t understand it or explain it until I was out there doing the work.”

Today, Gonzalez oversees GreenRoots’ payroll, human resources, and finances, coordinating directly with Executive Director Roseann Bongiovanni in preparing and monitoring budgets and accounting procedures.

GreenRoots is presently focusing on the impact of microgrids during power outages. The interconnected electrical grid distributes vital resources that would ensure power in major buildings such as City Hall, the Emergency Communications Center, and Police and Fire Departments.

As a mother of three daughters, Gonzalez is also grateful that GreenRoots is mindful of the importance of family. Her 18-month-old toddler, Emma, shares her office space each day, and is Gonzalez’s favorite colleague. The majority of GreenRoots employees are female, and their children often participate in activities and events.

“As women we’ve fought hard to be able to be in the working field,

and make astronomical changes,” said Gonzalez. “Internally, our policies are ethical so everyone can feel like they have flexibility to not have to pick between work and family. This is our way of life. It’s about what our family means. What we do in Chelsea is family. This is making an impact.”

Gonzalez hopes that GreenRoots can be an in-

spiration for young women to never limit themselves.

“I hope they see that females do have a voice, and that they can feel empowered in fields like environmental and social justice, and that they can make long-lasting change,” stressed Gonzalez, whose female influences include her mother, Roseann Bongiovanni, Executive Di-

rector of GreenRoots, and Gladys Vega, Executive Director of La Colaborativa. “I have worked under powerful women. They have shown me what it is to be strong and resilient.”

Family is Gonzalez’s priority; and when she is not working, she and her family enjoy adventuring locally and abroad. She also loves to sing loudly and dance unabashedly.

Food business grants available for local entrepreneurs

Staff Report

Chelsea is launching Chelsea Neighborhood Market as part of a multidimensional strategy to increase economic opportunities for food businesses, strengthen partnerships with Chelsea-based food distributors, and improve food security. The program is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Community Funding Allocation.

Chelsea Neighborhood Market will offer a central location for local vendors to sell foods and ingredients, including but not limited to fresh and dried produce, meat, fish, dairy, oils, and spices. The Market will be open to the public, near residential neighborhoods, and within walking distance of public transportation. The Market site will comply with all applicable local, state, and federal health and safety requirements and generally acceptable quality standards.

Those who wish to take part as a vendor in the Chelsea Neighborhood

Market are encouraged to apply for the Food Business Grant Program. This grant opportunity is open to Chelsea-based food businesses and first-time entrepreneurs interested in becoming vendors at the Chelsea Neighborhood Market in 2024. Eligible applicants may qualify for funding if they are Chelsea residents, currently operate or plan to operate a Chelsea-based food business, and commit to becoming a vendor at Chelsea Neighborhood Market for three months.

Anyone interested can apply online at bit.ly/ChelseaFoodBusiness or in-person at Chelsea City Hall, Room 101. For additional information about the grant, please call 311 (617-466-4209) or email Anna Bury (abury@chelseama.gov).

The grant process and the potential vendors will also help determine when and where the market will open this season, according to City Manager Fidel Maltez.

Maltez said the innovative food market program

will help address issues associated with urban food deserts, where people do not have access to healthy, affordable foods.

“What we are trying to do is give entrepreneurs, our residents, an opportunity to start something up with financial support from the city,” said Maltez. “This is funded through ARPA funds, and the idea is to give folks a start and ideally start something like a fruit market, a vegetable market. We are hoping that is something that we can host on our property, either in Chelsea Square or at city hall, and that it is something that rolls organically.”

The food market and grant programs hit a lot of the priorities for the city, Maltez said.

“It’s giving people access to healthy, affordable, fresh food, and it’s also creating an opportunity where residents have the ability to move from poverty and into the American Dream,” said Maltez. “We are hoping that with programs like this we are able to facilitate that process.”

Church Project // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ty and be used by visiting pastors and other church uses, Curran added.

Chelsea Permitting and Land Use Planning Director John DePriest said the city’s planning department is recommending that the main entrance for the church and the majority of the parking be the Wesley Street entrance, with the Revere Beach Parkway curb cut being closed off.

While no residents spoke during the Planning

Board meeting, there were a number of supporters in the audience. Many of them spoke earlier in the month at the ZBA hearing, voicing their support for Pastor Jose Sanchez and his plans for the church.

Sanchez has said his vision for the church is based on the time he has spent in the United States, as well as the help he received from people during a two-year battle with cancer and his desire to help

others. He said there will be a large focus on helping young people and immigrants in the community.

Planning Board Chair Tuck Willis thanked those who attended the board’s meeting for coming out to show their support.

The project will be before the ZBA on April 9, and back before the Planning Board for site plan approval on April 23, Willis said.

Vintage Vibes

“I can do it!” Trust me, she’s an MVP of juggling tasks.

Next up is our one and only Deb Connors, secretary to the stars! And that’s exactly how she makes our seniors feel. Not only is she our trusty extra set of hands and eyes, making us wonder how we ever managed without her... her wit, charm, and energy is enough to power a small city, she’s like the Pied Piper of the senior center, leading our seniors back for more fun and laughs. Who needs a marketing team when you’ve got Deb Connors, the reigning queen of promotion, and she doesn’t even realize it!

Behold the legendary Advocate to the Seniors, Geraldine Portillo! She’s the whisperer of services, the wizard of Medicare/Medicaid/Masshealth, and the guru of state and federal benefit programs; you name it, she’s mastered it. Amidst the chaos of people clamoring for her attention, Geraldine somehow pulls off the impossible: keeping us all in harmony with the finesse of a dip-lomat and the patience of a saint.

Meet Michael DeJesus, our Program Coordinator, affectionately known as the baby of the bunch. Despite his tender age, he wields the wisdom of an elder statesman. With a heart as big as his ambitions and a sense of humor to match, he’s our

golden son when it comes to getting things done. Mikey’s charm is contagious wherever he goes. And when it comes to dreaming up fun and exciting ideas, he’s the first to dive headfirst into the pool of the unthinkable. Thanks to him, our center is a daily festival of fun programs and quirky adventures!

Last but definitely not least, let me introduce you to our superhero of cleanliness, Juan Ramos! Not only does he take pride in rolling out the red carpet for our seniors, but he’s also the guardian angel of safety around here. No mess is safe from Juan’s eagle eye and mop-wielding skills. With a work ethic so strong, he’s on a mission to make our center sparkle like a diamond in a dishwasher. He’s not just Juan Ramos, he’s our very own “Mr. Clean” in the flesh!

And finally... there’s Me. Proudly celebrating our unique traits and showcasing how we blend together effortlessly, often coining the phrase “what happens at the senior center, stays at the senior center” always in good humor, of course! If you haven’t already, stop in to meet the “senior center six”. We are located at 10 Riley Way (across from city hall, behind the fire station).

Feel free to contact us at Tnowicki@chelseama.gov or 617-466-4377.



By Tracy Nowicki
Director of Elder Services

The Organizational Mastery of Our Team....

I’m curious if all of you fully understand the driving force behind Chelsea Elder Services. Allow me to shed light on it, as it’s time to reveal the secret. Picture this: a diverse ensemble of six individuals, each with their own distinct quirks, duties, and flair. Let me introduce you to this dynamic cast: the admirable, the entertaining, and the wonderfully eccentric!

First up in the spotlight is none other than Nilisa Cosme. She is the friendly face at our front desk, the one who greets you with a smile brighter than the sun. Nilisa knows our members so well; she’ll have their rides scheduled, their program slots booked, and their next move predicted before they even open their mouths. She’s like a ninja of niceness, quietly efficient and always armed with the catchphrase,

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RECORD

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CAN AI SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT?

The coming revolution in Artificial Intelligence (AI) holds great promise for the future benefit of mankind. (Yeah, we know, there are pitfalls, but for purposes of this editorial, we're writing about a potential positive.)

As we were listening the other day to an interview with the amazing Jensen Huang, the President and CEO of Nvidia, the chip company that is pioneering the AI revolution, in which he was saying that AI could shorten the cumbersome Phase I-IV trial periods for new drugs by years (not to mention that AI can be used to develop new drugs), it occurred to us that in the same way, AI could be used to shorten environmental review periods for the construction of new wind and solar power facilities and their transmission lines.

Right now, the biggest obstacles to clean energy becoming more prevalent across the U.S. are the environmentalists themselves. Clean energy advocates and companies are finding it's one thing to build-out a wind and solar farm, but quite another to obtain the permits for transmission lines to carry the new energy to population centers because of cumbersome and time-consuming regulations and the opposition of environmental groups by lawsuits.

For example, our region could have had cheap and clean hydropower from Canada almost 10 years ago, but environmental groups in Maine filed lawsuit after lawsuit to stop the transmission lines from going through their state. Each and every suit has been dismissed, but here we are, almost a decade later, and we still do not have hydropower from Canada -- and there is some question as to whether it ever will be accomplished.

Similarly, it took 17 years (that's not a misprint) for regulatory approval for the construction of the largest wind project in the country in the New Mexico desert so that this clean energy can get to population centers in Arizona.

So it got us to thinking: Perhaps AI, which can accomplish billions of calculations in seconds, can help speed up the regulatory process so we can get these projects on-line ASAP.

Because here's the problem: Environmentalists are now their own -- and the environment's -- worst enemy. With the energy industry on-board with developing energy from renewable sources -- even the big oil companies are looking at green and blue hydrogen production -- the problem is that nothing can be built quickly because of the lengthy environmental review processes and laws (that allow lawsuits by the dozens) which can delay clean-energy projects for years and years.

But with each day's news informing us of impending environmental catastrophe, it is obvious that we do not have time to waste. It also is becoming increasingly clear that we human beings are incapable of saving either ourselves or the natural world.

But perhaps the AI machines can do it for us -- and if so, they will give literal meaning to the metaphorical term, "Deus ex machina."

ANOTHER HAPLESS SEASON FOR THE SOX

With the Red Sox set to open their 2024 season this week, it seems all but assured that the Sox are destined for a third-straight last-place finish in the American League East.

For those of us who cherish our copy of the "Impossible Dream" record album, which chronicled the 1967 Red Sox, who improbably won the American League pennant ("The Red Sox win! It's pandemonium on the field!"), this has been the sorriest stretch by a Sox squad since the early and mid-1960s, when the Red Sox similarly were cellar-dwellers year-in and year-out.

It's obvious that the Red Sox ownership, which brought us four World Series titles from 2004-2018, basically has checked out and is taking the Fenway Faithful for granted. Sad to say, it looks like 2024 will be another long, hot -- and losing -- summer for Boston baseball fans.

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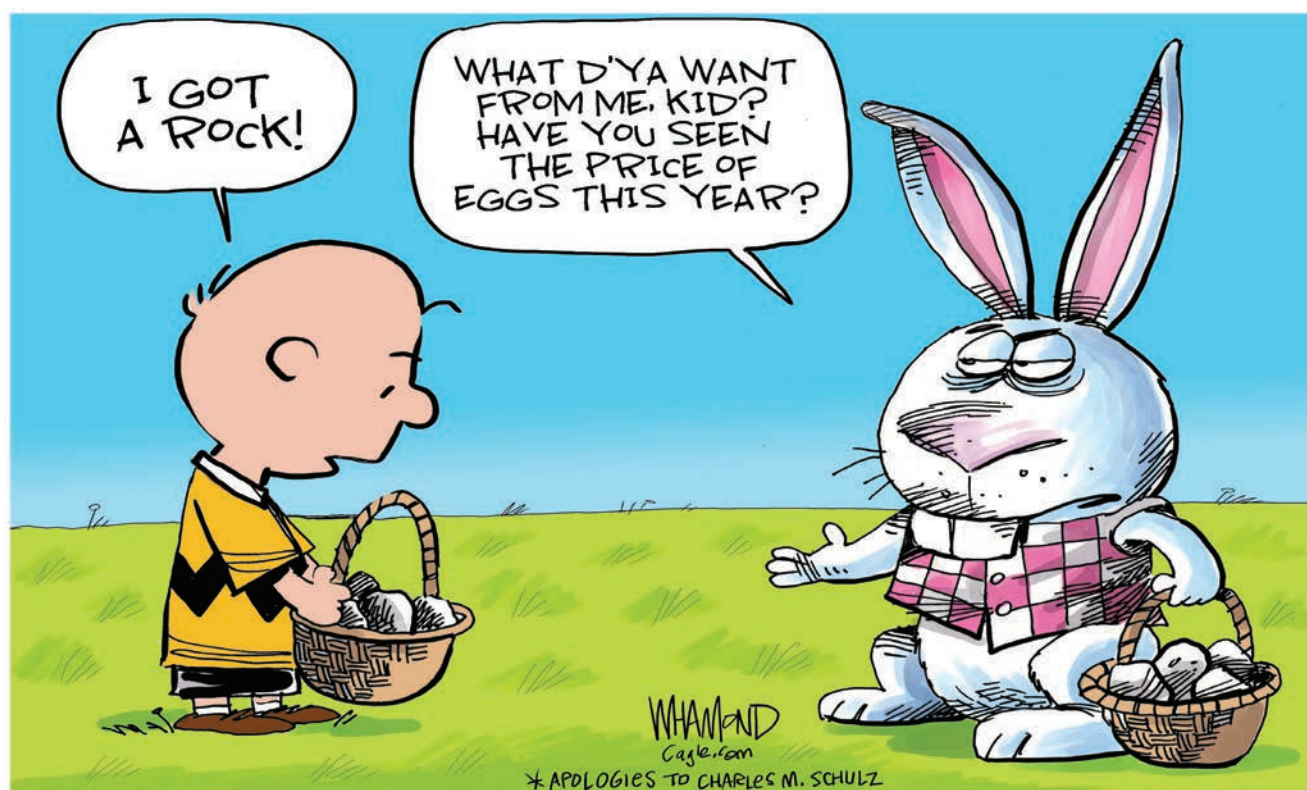
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Forum



Armando Arce Lobato named Youth of the Year

Special to the Record

Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB) has named Armando Arce Lobato the organization's 2024 Youth of the Year. The annual honor recognizes a Club member who exemplifies distinct leadership abilities, academic achievement, and dedication to their community. Embodying the values of leadership and service, Lobato has emerged as a peer leader at BGCB's Gerald and Darlene Jordan Club in Chelsea with his roles as:

- President of the Torch Club, a BGCB group which instills tolerance, civic responsibility, leadership, and community involvement for members ages 11 to 13 by hosting fundraisers and planning community and Club service projects

- President of Keystone Club, which provides leadership opportunities for young people ages 14 to 18

- BGCB Teen Associate and peer mentor

Lobato's dedication to community service, fundraising initiatives, and personal growth has been exemplary to the Chelsea community. Amidst challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Lobato's leadership was pivotal. When the Jordan



Armando Arce Lobato

Club's Keystone Club temporarily ceased operations, Lobato took the initiative to lead its revival, showcasing his resilience and commitment to supporting his peers and community during the difficult time.

Lobato immigrated to the United States with his family from Mexico when he was nine years old and soon thereafter walked through the welcoming doors of the Jordan Club. There, he discovered a nurturing environment that helped him find his passion for engineering, particularly automotive engineering. Through the Club's comprehensive programs and dedicated mentors, Lobato was empowered to excel academically, garnering prestigious awards such as the Craftsmanship Award and a medal in the Massachu-

setts Power Equipment Competition at Northeast Metro Technical High School.

"Armando is a tremendous youth member of Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston and an outstanding citizen in his community," said Robert Lewis Jr., Nicholas President & CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston. "He is a wonderful example of the leadership and attributes we aim to develop within every single Club member. His journey exemplifies the power of discovering a passion and leveraging it to shape one's future."

With the guidance of the Jordan Club and his vocational education, Lobato plans to transform his automotive engineering skills into a thriving career in motorsport, with a dream of working in Formula 1. After high school, he intends to pursue a bachelor's degree in engineering at a four-year university.

For more information about Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston and its impactful youth development programs focused on workforce readiness, academic success, and health and wellness, please visit www.bgcb.org.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston is the leading and most impactful youth or-

ganization in Greater Boston, catalyzing far-reaching opportunity for more equitable futures for 6-18 years olds in 22 communities across eight Clubs and YouthConnect throughout Boston and Chelsea. Since 1893, BGCB has focused on making the region thrive and has played an essential role for young people eager to explore their passions, find their purpose, and prepare for a life of success and impact. In partnership with the public sector, private enterprise, related non-profits, donors and volunteers, BGCB is aligned behind investing in the region's urban talent pipeline and making a generational impact that expands beyond the walls of its buildings and deep into communities it serves. Helping urban youth to navigate a fast-paced global climate steeped in change, the organization is recognized for fueling the future of the city and the Commonwealth through its innovative "readiness" programs centered on three outcome areas: Academic Success, Health and Wellness, and Workforce Readiness. It is an affiliate of the Atlanta-based Boys & Girls Clubs of America, which supports over 5,000 Clubs nationwide serving over 3.6 million young people.

Planning Board recommends change to tattoo parlor zoning

By Adam Swift

The planning board recommended approval of a change in the zoning ordinance that would allow tattoo parlors and piercing establishments to operate by right in several zoning districts in the city.

Currently, the body art and piercing businesses require a special permit regardless of where they are located. The ordinance change needs final approval from the city council.

The proposed change arose from a special permit request that came before the planning board in November from someone who wanted to open a tattoo parlor in Cary Square.

Board member Eric Czernizer recommended the board review a proposed amendment that would allow body art and

piercing establishments by right in a number of zoning districts in the city, including the downtown business district, the neighborhood business districts, the highway business district, and the shopping center district.

"The new definition (for body art and piercing) follows very closely the board of health definitions for uses," said John DePriest, the land use and permitting director.

Board member Mimi Rancatore cast the lone vote against recommending approval of the ordinance change.

"As much as I love the body arts, they are not the same as a hairdresser ... and I'm still not comfortable treating it like it's a barber shop," she said.

Czernizer noted that he believed that many of the concerns over health

and safety at the establishments already fall under the purview of the health department and the board of health. He said

he didn't believe the businesses needed to come before the planning board for a special permit.

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ANNUAL CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT ART SHOW SHOWCASES STUDENT ARTWORK

Across two public viewings on Saturday, March 16, and Tuesday, March 20, the Chelsea Public Schools Visual Art Department hosted its annual District Art

Show at the Williams School. Taking up the entirety of the Williams School Band Room, the show featured pieces of student artwork representing all

schools in Chelsea. "Mini Monet's" at the Early Learning Center, animations and digital art from Chelsea High School, and everything in between was on display for

families and community members to see. All different kinds of techniques and skills were showcased including sculpture, painting, hand-drawing, and much more.



Some of the art on display representing all schools in Chelsea during the District Art Show at the Williams School hosted by the Chelsea Public Schools Visual Art Department.



Chelsea students here also on hand creating more art using all different kinds of techniques and skills including sculpture, painting, hand-drawing, and much more.

Innovative partnerships increase students' access to mental health support at CPS

As part of Chelsea Public Schools' (CPS) continued focus on supporting student mental health and well-being, CPS has become the first school district in Massachusetts to partner with both Alongside, an application that combines the power of artificial intelligence (AI) with clinician-developed chat scripts and modules to provide students with Tier 1 supports during school time, and Cartwheel Care, a virtual therapy, psychiatry, and wraparound support platform focused on Tier 2 and Tier 3 needs.

Alongside gives students access to tools to further their social-emotional learning (SEL) such as journaling, activities to support improved wellness (such as breathing exercises), and an AI-powered chatbot that empowers users to go through basic exercises that promote resilience, positive social and emotional development, self-monitoring, and goal setting. Alongside is accessible to all middle

school and high school students during the school day as an application on their Chromebooks. The chat feature supports multilingual students by translating into 36 different languages.

At CPS, the implementation of Alongside began in December at all of its secondary schools. After one month at the Morris H. Seigal Clark Avenue Middle School, 75 percent of students have used Alongside to date and 82 percent have identified that they have found it helpful. Across the district, Alongside has logged nearly 3,000 total "activities" that the students have completed. These include chat sessions, goal setting, writing journal entries and more.

Introducing Alongside comes after CPS was also on the forefront of another important partnership. Two years ago, CPS was the first district in the state to partner with Cartwheel Care, a mental health provider that provides tele-

health services to secondary students at CPS. Since launching the program in fall 2022, more than 200 Chelsea students have been referred to receive mental health services with Cartwheel. Cartwheel also provides Chelsea families with tools and strategies to support their children's mental health, including parent coaching sessions and live webinars on mental health topics.

Superintendent Dr. Almi G. Abeyta has continuously invested in mental health supports, "By integrating mental health supports into our schools, we acknowledge that fostering a

nurturing environment for emotional well-being is as essential to education as high-quality instruction. In recognizing the interconnectedness of mental and academic growth, we are paving the way for a future where every student has the tools to succeed not only in the classroom but in life."

Equity, Diversity, & Excellence Officer Dr. Aaron T. Jennings added, "Establishing partnerships with providers like Alongside and Cartwheel Care is a direct result of listening to our students and school communities share the need for more access to mental health support. They meet

the needs of our students, providing access to their services at different times throughout the day and via multiple modalities such as their phones or computers. We are happy to have joined forces with these innovative providers to ensure our students benefit from resources that will help their social-emotional development and well-being."

In addition to investments in partnerships that leverage modern innovation and technology, CPS has continued to increase the amount of student support staff employed at its schools. Over the last four

years, CPS has increased the amount of social workers and school counselors across the District. Entering this school year, Chelsea also added mediation specialists to support this work.

Chelsea Public Schools takes pride in providing students with access to platforms such as Alongside and any other services that foster positive development of student mental health and well-being. By knowing students by name, strength, and story, CPS is able to best evaluate and secure new opportunities that will help Chelsea students.

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CHELSEA RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS HOST EGG HUNT 2024

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

The Chelsea Recreation and Cultural Affairs Division presented an Egg Hunt on March 23 at the Mary C. Burke Complex. The Kiwanis Club of Chelsea, and member, Rene Caso, of Dunkin', on Everett Avenue, pro-

vided refreshments for the 150 children and their families. Chelsea High School National Honor Society volunteers distributed bags of candy, and played games, such as ring toss and egg relays, with little ones.



Felipe, 2, and his mother, Jenny.



Megan, 4, Henesis, 5, Emma, 6, and Jade, 3.



Ariana and Maria with Melody, 1, Luna, 5, and Camila, 5.



David Enrique, 4, and his aunt, Rebecca Lemus, cheering for jelly beans.



Nuala, 5, hugging her mom, Geraldine Troville.



Sisters, Nala, 7, and Icelynn Santos, 4.



Families enjoying donuts, coffee, and juice provided by the Kiwanis Club of Chelsea, and member, Rene Caso, of the Everett Avenue Dunkin'.



Michael, Jamie, Lily, 7, and Miles Harrison, 3, with the Easter Bunny.



Zayani, 6, and Orlando Velazco.



Ethan Moise, 3, Angie Moise, and Nyla Ezie, 5, and Marlene Noeo.



Diane Matamoros and Isabella Hernandez, 2-years-old.



Akhio, 5, posing with the Easter bunny.



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Kiwanis Club of Chelsea: Elianni Monge, of Metro Credit Union, Viakie Gonzalez, President Elaine Monge, and David Haesy, of Bay Cove.

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Zonta Club of Chelsea and North Shore holds its monthly meeting

The Zonta Club of Chelsea & North Shore recently held its monthly meeting at The Marina Restaurant at the Wharf in Revere. Four members of the Zonta Club of Medford were guests at the meeting.

sea city councilor who was honored by the Zonta Club on March 8, International Women's Day, for her commitment to helping women and their families, was the guest speaker. Santagate shared her experiences living and teaching in Zambia for 15 years. Santagate returned to Chelsea in 2008 and

continued as an educator in the Chelsea School Department until she retired in 2024. Earlier the Zonta Club made a donation to Zonta International in honor of Santagate's outstanding record of public service that includes overseeing a micro-food pantry on Shurtleff Street.

Santagate was elected to the Chelsea City Council in November, 2023. Santagate traveled with the local delegation to Denver in 2014 when Chelsea was an honored as an All-America City during City Manager Jay Ash's Administration.



Zonta Club of Chelsea & North Shore President Janice Tatarka welcomes guest speaker, City Councilor Lisa Santagate, and Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell to the Club's monthly meeting at the Marina at the Wharf in Revere.



Pictured at the Zonta Club of Chelsea and North Shore meeting at the Wharf are (seated), Lisa Santagate, Janice Tatarka, and Mary Jane O'Neill. In the first row are Sheila Arsenault, Joan Lanzillo-Hahesy, Christine DePrizio, Adele Lubarsky, Georgia Green, Diane Cambria, and Janice Sikorski. In the back row are Nancy Lawrence, Lucy Redford, Regina Caines, Donna Clifford (partially hidden), Patricia O'Flaherty, Theresa DiPietro, Jennifer Hassell, and Lee Farmington.

TEMPLE EMMANUEL HOSTS PURIM PARTY

Temple Emmanuel hosted a Purim Party March 16 at the Elaine and Larry Smith Social Hall. Temple President Sara Lee Callahan welcomed the members and guests to the celebration of the Jewish holiday. Rabbi Oksana Chapman, spiritual leader of

the congregation, led the group in prayer and the singing of Purim songs. Ron Waxman and Jordana Mather, attired in costumes performed a two-person play that delighted the audience. Long-time member Cindy Millman served as chair of the event.



The Zabot sisters, Devra and Naomi, enjoy the Purim Party at Temple Emmanuel.



Ron Waxman (left) and Jordana Mather perform a play in honor of the Jewish holiday, Purim.



Seated are Barry Greenspan and Bill Forrest. Standing are Jay Rosenzwaig and Dottie Kushmerek.



Carole Turransky, Rabbi Oksana Chapman, and Cindy Millman lead the group in the singing of Purim songs.



Jordana Mather and Ron Waxman, pictured before taking the stage for their two-person play at the Temple Emmanuel Purim Party.



The leaders of the Temple Emmanuel congregation, Rabbi Oksana Chapman and President Sara Lee Callahan.



Pictured at the Temple Emmanuel Purim Party are event chair Cindy Millman, Jordan Mather, her mother, Carol, and Naomi Zabot.



Enjoying the Temple Emmanuel Purim Party are (seated, from left) Stephen Vider, Murray Novak, and Dotty Novak. Standing are Ellen Goldstick, Herb Selesnick, Ron Waxman, Misty Covitz, and Cindy Millman.

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MassDOT's second National Work Zone Awareness Week announced

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing the launch of its second National Work Zone Awareness Week billboard design contest, exclusively for Massachusetts college students. The contest aims to raise awareness of work zone safety and encourage drivers to exercise caution when passing through active construction and maintenance projects.

"We're calling for all great ideas for our second annual National Work Zone Awareness Week billboard contest," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "Creative designs and advertisement are a powerful way to reach residents and remind them how to keep our construction crews safe."

National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is an annual event that brings attention to work zone safety and education around preventing crashes and fatalities in these areas. The theme

for NWZAW 2024 is "Work Zones are temporary. Actions behind the wheel can last forever." The main takeaway is while work zones may be temporary, the choices made by drivers in these areas can have far-reaching effects. Whether it's excessive speed, distracted driving, or ignoring traffic laws, poor behaviors exhibited behind the wheel can lead to severe injuries, fatalities, and long-lasting trauma for individuals and families.

MassDOT is taking an active role in promoting work zone safety to protect the men and women working out on the roadway and would like

to invite all Massachusetts college students to create a billboard design that promotes the theme and encourages drivers to be cautious when driving through work zones. Massachusetts college students interested in participating should create a billboard design that includes the theme and promotes work zone safety. Review the MassDOT Digital Billboard Design Specifications before preparing your submission.

The contest is open to all students who are currently enrolled in Massachusetts colleges. The winning designs will be selected based on creativity, impact, and relevance to the NWZAW theme. The contest ends on April 19, and the winning designs will be announced on May 1 during the 2024 MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference. The top 3 designs will be displayed on a series of digital billboards along the highways in Massachusetts throughout the 2024 construction season. The winning designs will be awarded a scholarship generously provided by the Massachusetts Aggregate and Asphalt Pavement Association (MAA-PA). As staunch advocates for roadway safety, MAA-PA recognizes the crucial importance of promoting work zone safety and is dedicated to increasing awareness about driving responsibly near work zones.

1st place: \$500 and 3-month billboard display (June, August, November)
2nd place: \$300 and 2-month billboard display (July, October)
3rd place: \$200 and 1-month billboard display (September).

Hayden announces Community Reinvestment Grant program

District Attorney Kevin Hayden today announced that community non-profit organizations in Suffolk County can apply for grants of up to \$10,000 through his office's Community Reinvestment Grant (CRG) program.

Last year, Hayden's Community Reinvestment Program delivered the largest amount of funding to community partners in Suffolk County CRG history, with grants ranging from \$4,000 to \$7,500.

"I am extremely proud of the amount of funding we distributed last year. In total, we were able to award \$260,000 to 45 Suffolk County non-profit organizations. I look forward to presenting the next round of funding to help these mission-driven organizations. Together, we can provide our youth with more opportunities, services and intervention necessary for them to succeed," Hayden said.

The CRG program will provide funding of up to \$10,000 to 501(c)3 non-profits that provide programming designed to prevent youth violence,


substance use disorder, or substance use treatment in Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop. State law allows prosecutors to distribute up to 10 percent of assets seized in narcotics prosecutions to community-based organizations for crime prevention and substance use treatment.

The deadline for submissions is April 25, and Hayden expects to announce grant recipients on May 20.

More information on the CRG program can be found at suffolkdistrictattorney.com and submission forms are available at 2024 Community Reinvestment Grant.

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Mother
I thought of you today
But that is nothing new
I thought about you yesterday
and days before that too.
I think of you in silence,
I often speak your name.
All I have are memories and
Your picture in a frame.
Your memory is a keepsake
from which I'll never part.
God has you in his arms.
I have you in my heart.
*Forever in my heart,
Love always,
your daughter Michele*

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OBITUARIES

Joseph A. Theberge, Sr.

September 9, 1947 - March 16, 2024



Joseph A. Theberge, Sr., 76, passed away peacefully in his home in Nashua, NH, on March 16, 2024, surrounded by his cherished family and close loved ones.

Born on September 9, 1947 in Rumford, Maine, Joseph was the son of the late Bernard J. Theberge, Sr. and Anne R. Daigle Theberge.

He spent his formative years in Chelsea where he cultivated a deep sense of duty and honor. Joseph proudly served his country as a member of the US Army 101st Airborne Infantry during the Vietnam War, demonstrating courage and resilience throughout his service. After returning home, Joseph dedicated himself to a career as a master skilled carpenter, leaving a lasting legacy of craftsmanship.

Joseph found immense joy in the simple pleasures of life, particularly in spending time with his beloved family, playing horseshoes and tending to tasks around the house. His warm presence and generous spirit touched the lives of all who knew him.

Joseph is survived by his loving sister, Pamela Theberge Marden (and husband, Michael) of Saugus, Kimberly Theberge of Chelsea, Lyndell Theberge (sister-in-law) of Manchester, NH, and Paulette Aikens (sister-in-law) of Nashua, NH. He is also survived by his brother, Dennis Theberge (and wife Donna) of Browns Mills, New Jersey.

Joseph leaves behind a legacy of love and devotion through his children: Joseph Theberge, Jr. of Dracut, Terri Theberge of Revere, Tammy Theberge of Nashua, NH and



Justin Theberge (and wife Blair) of New Boston, NH. His memory will be cherished by his grandchildren: Christopher Theberge, Kyle Theberge, Katelyn Theberge, Marisa D'Amelio, Tianna Theberge, Justin Theberge Jr., Tyler Theberge, Savannah Caron, and Collin Caron, as well as his great-grandchild, Alai Skye Alonso. Joseph's legacy of love extends to numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews, who will forever hold him in their hearts.

He is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Eileen "Chicky" Burkett Theberge and siblings Bernard Theberge, Jr., Timothy Theberge and sister-in-law, Bertha Gibbons and is also predeceased by brothers-in-law: Joe Burkett, Eddie Burkett, Frank Burkett, Wayne Burkett, Ronald Gibbons, and Ronnie Aikens.

A celebration of Joseph's life will be held on Saturday, April 13 at 1 p.m. at 28 1/2 Lovell Street, Nashua, New Hampshire.

In honoring Joseph's life, let us remember his unwavering strength, kindness, and love for his family. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Keith Allen Mahon, Sr.

March 18, 1957 - March 18, 2024



Relatives and friends are most kindly invited to attend visiting hours for Keith A. Mahon, Sr. on Saturday, March 30th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea. The visitation will be immediately followed by a Home Going Service and Military Honors in the Funeral Home at 2 p.m.

Keith Mahon Sr. and his identical twin, Kevin, were born to Brenda (Mahon) Massey and George Holmes Jr. on March 18th, 1957, at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Keith was born one minute after his brother.

He was raised in Chelsea, where he attended school and lived his whole life. He was very active in the community and had many friends.

He joined the National Guard and gave sixteen years plus of service. His work spanned various industries, such as construction, truck driving, state MDC/DCR employee, security guard at the ice rink, lifeguard at the city pool, and crossing guard at a local school. He also tended bar at the Meritts Club, the French Club, and other venues.

Keith enjoyed working and spending time with his friends and family. He loved to make people laugh and smile, telling his middle-school stories about his antics and pranks. He was an outgoing person who loved to be there for others.

During the Chelsea Fire in 1973, when the twins were seventeen years old, Keith and Kevin spent many hours assisting the Chelsea firefighters. They directed out of town firefighters to the locations



where they were needed and the Chelsea firefighters commended them for their assistance and bravery.

Keith will be laid to rest joining his mother, Brenda Massey; his brother, George Mahon; his great-grandmother, Catherine Crawford; his grandmother, Eleanor Mahon; his aunt, Blanche Singleton and his niece, Chandra (Mahon) Kane.

Keith leaves behind his identical twin brother, Kevin Mahon Sr., his sister, Valerie Massey and his four children: his son, Keith Mahon Jr. and his daughters, Jessica (Mahon) Stephens, Kasandra Mahon and Trina Ford. He also leaves behind two grandchildren, Deyette Stephens and Tatyana Ali-Stephens. Keith also leaves his uncles, Wayne and Ernest (Buddy) Mahon, his aunts, Marsha Hopkins and Denise Mahon Bass and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.


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

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



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My Dearest parents, where do I start?
Whoever came up with the saying time heals all wounds NEVER lost someone to homicide. I have good days and bad days, but by the Grace of God he gets me through them all. I can't for the life of me believe it has been 22 years since I have heard your voices. What I wouldn't give to hear you one more time.
I want to thank you both for a job well done, you raised 8 children, of which God has taken 3 home. You also raised numerous foster children that are still in our lives today and still call you Mom and Dad, wonderful grandchildren and even great-grandchildren. Ma you'd be so proud of Jordy she's beautiful and she's a great Mom, Shawn and Aisha are also beautiful and so well mannered too. Skip, Jeany and his family are well, we're all so very proud of him.
And we're even more proud of you both, May you all rest in Eternal Peace, We love and miss you with all our hearts,
Until we meet again Ma & Dad,
Love Always,
Your very Proud & Loving Daughter Sharleene xoxoxoxo

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BRUINS Beat by Bob Morello

Bruins respond to Coach Montgomery



Bruins coach Jim Montgomery blasted his players during Monday's practice session, indicating the he was not happy with the way they started practice. Monty's comments were followed by an exhausting 'bag skate' (sprints end to end). When speaking with the media following practice, he was pretty open when he clearly stated that he didn't think his team was ready for the Stanley Cup Playoffs. Much of this was sparked by the team's poor play in the previous two losses versus the New York Rangers and the Philadelphia Flyers in games last week. Monty's message obviously hit home, considering the playoff-like, come from behind win his team forged in Tuesday night's 4-3 effort over the Florida Panthers. The physical play resulted in two fighting and five penalties for roughing for the night. The game was certainly entertaining for the fans in attendance, and showed certain evidence of the dislike both these teams shared, following Boston's first round playoff elimination, at the hands of these Panthers to end last season.

Rewarding to see the locals score in each period for the win, most notable the tying and winning goals in the third period. Captain Brad Marchand assisted on Trent Frederic's goal that tied the game at 3-3, and engaged in a fight with big (6'5") Niko Mikola that showed Brad's determination to jump start his team. Marchand, continues to make some big plays when needed at clutch times in the game. A second period fight, the first career fighting major of Hampus Linholm's career, with Sam Bennett, was at the top of the night's fight card. Jeremy Swayman's performance (19 saves/23rd win), especially in the third period was effective, as he came up with several game-saving stops, despite being beaten 27 seconds into the game on Evan Rodrigues' quick goal. Swayman showed his bounce back mentality to give the locals a chance to win the game. Charlie McAvoy picked up a pair of points

on the night, with a goal and an assist, to go along with his usual solid defensive effort. David Pastrnak stirred the pot with his 45th goal to go along with his 100th point (for the second time in back-to-back seasons) and his assist on Pavel Zacha's game-winning goal. Not a bad night at all for Pasta.

Boston's time for celebration was short-lived, as they were due to face the streaking Tampa Bay Lightning (7-1-2 last 10) at press time yesterday (Wednesday 7:30pm). Boston currently at 42-16-15 (99 points), will be facing some tough teams in the nine remaining regular season games, as they continue their six-game road trip. Saturday 7:00pm with the Washington Capitals (7-3-0 and a three-game win streak) providing the opposition, followed by a Tuesday 8:00pm matchup with the red hot Nashville Predators (8-0-2 with a six-game win streak), and end their road trip by taking on the Carolina Hurricanes (7-2-1) on Thursday 7:00pm. Tough games ahead on the schedule, but a good test in the preparedness of the Bruins for the rapidly approaching playoffs.

CHS Roundup

CHS SPRING ATHLETES SET TO OPEN SEASON

The spring season for the 2024 Chelsea High athletic teams will swing into high gear in the coming week.

The CHS baseball team, under the direction of head coach Mike Lush, will toss out the opening pitch of 2024 this Monday when the Red Devils host non-league rival Brighton at Carter Park.

Chelsea will play a 19-game schedule with 14 contests with their seven Greater Boston League rivals (two games each vs. Somerville, Medford, Malden, Everett, Revere, Lynn Classical, and Lynn

English) and five encounters with non-league foes Brighton, Tech Boston (2), Excel Academy, and Neighborhood House Charter Academy.

After Monday's opener, Lush and his crew will make the short trip across the Parkway to meet Everett at Glendale Park on Wednesday afternoon.

Coach Gabriel Morales's boys volleyball team also will open its season on Monday with a match against non-league rival Boston Latin. The Red Devils will engage in an 18-game schedule, 14 vs. their seven GBL opponents and four with non-league schools Boston Latin, Madison Park, Whittier Tech, and Randolph. They will play at

Everett on Wednesday.

The CHS girls softball team, under new head coach Titus Manderson, will open its season next Wednesday (April 3), hosting GBL foe Everett. The Lady Red Devils will play 14 games vs. their seven GBL rivals and will meet non-league opponents Excel and Muniz Academy (2).

The boys and girls outdoor track and field teams will get their season going under new head coach Matthew McCormick on Tuesday at Lynn English.

And a new sport at Chelsea High, girls flag football, will debut this spring under the direction of coach Briana Scata.

NEWS BRIEFS

PROJECT BREAD SEEKING WALKERS FOR 2024

The Walk for Hunger, Project Bread's annual fundraising event and the Commonwealth's largest and oldest day of community action against hunger, is seeking walkers for the celebration. The one-day event is set for Sunday, May 5 on the Boston Common, and will feature family-friendly activities along the 3-mile loop. In its 56th year, Project Bread invites you to help raise more than \$1.3 million to support the leading statewide food security organization's approach to permanently solve hunger, which includes working year-round across policy initiatives, programs, and hunger prevention measures to ensure food access for all children and families in Massachusetts.

To register for the event and create a personal or team fundraising page for the Walk for Hunger or to make a donation, visit projectbread.org/walk or email walk@projectbread.org.

SUFFOLK DOWNS TO HOST ANNUAL DAFFODIL DASH

Looking for a family friendly way to kick-off the Boston Marathon weekend? On Saturday, April 13, The HYM Investment Group LLC (HYM), will host the third annual Marathon Daffodil Dash from 10am-1pm at The Track at Suffolk Downs, in partnership with the Revere Parks and Recreation Department

and the Marathon Daffodil Project.

The Marathon Daffodil Project began after the Boston Marathon bombings in 2013 with the yellow daffodil used as a symbol of strength and hope. In commemoration of the 11th anniversary of the Boston Marathon Bombings, The Track at Suffolk Downs will be filled with the "Marathon Daffodils" that line the streets of Boston leading up to the Boston Marathon finish line.

The event will feature three 50-yard dash races for grades K-2, grades 3-5, and grades 6-8.

Following the races, all participants and families are encouraged to hang out in The Paddock and enjoy snacks from local vendors, face painting, flower crowns, and music with DJ Steve Fortes.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Marathon Daffodil Project and Revere Parks and Recreation again for our third year hosting the Daffodil Dash," said Thomas N. O'Brien, Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer of The HYM Investment Group LLC. "At Suffolk Downs, our family-friendly neighborhood is designed for Greater Boston residents to come together and create lasting memories as part of this vibrant community."

The event is free and open to the public, but registration for the Daffodil Dash is required to participate in the race events. The races will kick off at 10:30am. The Track at Suffolk Downs is located at 525 McClellan Highway Boston, MA 02128. Parking is free and avail-

able on-site. The Track is also accessible from the MBTA's Suffolk Downs Blue Line station.

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2024 Easter Hunnies



Cousins, Jace & Miles



Happy Easter from William & Lucas



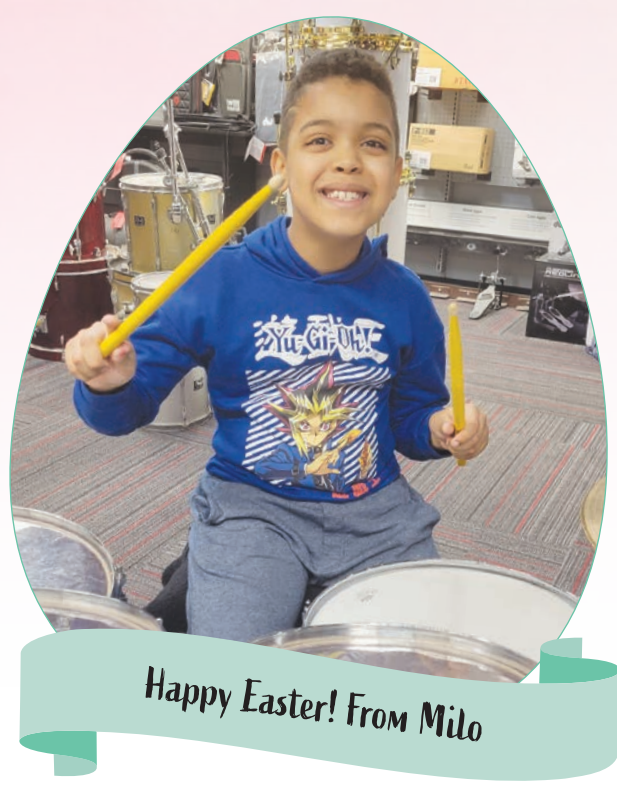
Zero & the Easter Bunny



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