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CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024

35 CENTS

CITY OF CHELSEA HOLDS VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Chelsea Police Department Honor Guard: Lieutenant Hector Gonzalez, Detective Richard Laft, Officer Daniel Arteaga, and Officer Kevin Palencia.

The City of Chelsea's Department of Veterans Services held a Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11 at the Morris H. Seigal Clark Avenue Middle School. The celebration honored those who are actively serving our country for the protection of democracy around the world, and the United States veterans of all wars who are present in our hearts.

Becky Swope, (photo right) DAVA auxiliary, with Patty Miller, honoring her parent who served in the Navy. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.



Councilor requests study to start for new waterfront fire station

By Adam Swift

As Chelsea continues to grow, one city councilor wants to take a closer look at building a new fire station somewhere along the waterfront.

At last week's meeting, District 6 Councilor Giovanni Recupero introduced a motion asking the city manager to explore the feasibility of the construction of a new fire station along the waterfront.

"The waterfront side of Chelsea does not have a fire station, it used to have one before, but they did

away with it," said Recupero.

The councilor said that side of the city, especially with residential development along Central Avenue, is growing.

"Before, the fire department used to say it is very hard to get to because it is all one-ways," said Recupero. "I spoke to the fire chief, and he is in favor of having a small station there with at least one fire truck."

Recupero noted that the city has stations covering

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CLF, CRWA lawsuit leads to federal permit to reduce pollution in area rivers

By Adam Swift

As a result of a lawsuit filed by Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) and the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a draft permit to limit toxic stormwater pollution in three important rivers of Greater Boston.

The groups filed the lawsuit in 2022 after they stated that the EPA failed for years to issue permits to protect the Charles, Mystic, and Neponset rivers.

"After five years of petitions and a lawsuit against EPA, we're pleased that these federal protections have come to fruition," said Heather Govern, CLF's Vice President of

Clean Air and Water. "But EPA's permit allows for an 11-year delay before these rivers will see any significant positive impact. As pollution and intense storms increase in the Boston area, the Charles, Mystic, and Neponset rivers can't wait that long."

Rain and snowmelt bring oil, grease, chemicals, and trash from large, paved surfaces into the three rivers. These and other pollutants from parking lots of big box stores, malls, and private universities lead to dirty and unsafe water, outbreaks of toxic algae blooms, and warnings and closures that prevent people from using the rivers, the CLF stated in a press release.

See LAWSUIT Page 10

La Colaborativa names its La Placita in honor of former Gov. Charlie Baker

Special to the Record

Former Mass. Gov. Charlie Baker and his wife, Lauren Baker, visited the La Colaborativa Survival Center Saturday for a very special honor.

La Colaborativa's "La Placita," a beautiful outdoor space, was named the Governor Baker La Placita.

Baker, who was consistently voted the nation's most popular governor during his tenure and is now president of the NCAA, was visibly touched by the incredible



Former Gov. Charlie Baker reacts with heartfelt emotion as the sign is unveiled for the Governor Baker La Placita outdoor space at the La Colaborativa Survival Center in Chelsea. Showing her joy is former First Lady Lauren Baker (left).

naming gesture by Executive Director Gladys Vega and her organization. Vega said Baker was

very supportive of La Colaborativa in its mission of helping people every day, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic when the organization's work in the community was extraordinary.

"When Gov. Baker came and visited La Colaborativa during the pandemic, we basically told him that this is where all the crises are happening and we are at the forefront of the pandemic," recalled Vega. "We told the governor that we are distributing

See BAKER Page 2

Final voting round opens for naming of Chelsea's new Clinton Street park

Special to the Record

The City of Chelsea, in partnership with GreenRoots, is excited to announce the final round of voting to determine the name of the new public park located at 88 Clinton Street is now open. Chelsea residents are encouraged to participate by selecting their top 3 names from a list of 18 final contenders via an online survey at bit.ly/VoteParkName.

Earlier this fall, Chelsea community members submitted more than 100 potential park names through an initial survey organized by the City and GreenRoots. In response to the overwhelming number of ideas, the park naming committee narrowed the

final list to 18 names of individuals who are no longer with us but whose legacies have had a lasting impact on the community.

Residents are invited to review the list of names and vote for their top three choices. To see a description of each suggested name and to cast your vote, please visit bit.ly/VoteParkName.

See PARK Page 11

Garcia selected to co-facilitate NALEO

Special to the Record

Following the historic U.S. elections this month, State Representative Judith Garcia, a rising political star, has been selected to serve as a facilitator for the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) 15th Biennial National Institute for Newly Elected Officials. The event, scheduled for November 19-21, 2024,

in Dallas, Texas, is the nation's leading professional development program for newly elected policymakers at the state and municipal levels.

NALEO is a non-partisan membership association with more than 7,000 members, representing Latino elected and appointed officials from across the country. The program seeks to equip a new generation of Latino leaders from across

the political spectrum with the knowledge and tools needed to lead effectively in their communities.

Representative Garcia will co-facilitate the institute alongside Nebraska's Douglas County Commissioner Roger Garcia. "This is a tremendous honor," said Garcia. "I'm excited to work alongside colleagues from across the country and help foster the next wave of leadership in our nation."



MATT FRANK PHOTOGRAPHY State Rep. Judith Garcia.

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PEOPLE OF CHELSEA

The following story is one in a series from the ongoing People of Chelsea project, which photographs and interviews our fellow citizens. These stories celebrate where we are now as a community as we enter the 400th year of the history of our city's founding. The entire project will be archived digitally at the Chelsea Public Library, and has initially been made possible by a grant from the Chelsea Heritage Grant. Thank you to the People of Chelsea! And finally, the book, which features 65 stories is available by ordering directly on line at this link: <https://www.magcloud.com/browse/issue/2900065>



500,000 behind me. Our vision is for the achievements of a community that has now risen up and is completely prepared for this new time. Come what may, we will rise, because if we survived a global pandemic when we were in the deepest despair, without any hope, how could we not continue to rise? I think that

what makes La Colaborativa unique is that God has given us these employees who know that our principles are always dignity, love, and respect for our community. No matter how poor it is or how much crisis it is in, we always treat people with great affection, with respect, and dignity so they can trust us to help them.

Gladys Vega,
President and CEO,
La Colaborativa.
Photographed in the
midst of pandemic
shutdown in 2020 and
interviewed in 2024.

I have not done this work alone. There are

Winthrop looking toward expanded regional dispatch center

By Adam Swift

The Metro North Regional Emergency Communications Center, comprising the dispatch services for Revere and Winthrop, is in talks to add a third community.

At last week's Winthrop Town Council meeting, Town Manager Tony Marino said the regional emergency communications (REC) center has had discussions with Chelsea about joining the dispatch region.

"Part of the agreement with Revere, and what we signed off on probably 15 or 20 years ago now was to eventually add a third community," said Marino. "When you add a third community, we become a Tier 1 dispatch center, which allows us to get additional grant money. We get moved up the list for more money for commu-

nication equipment, capital upgrades, and things like that."

Marino said Revere and Winthrop have been in discussions with Chelsea and that there could soon be a deal coming before the council for approval with that community.

The additional funds from state grants could help fund a new dispatch center in Revere, Marino said.

"Right now, (the dispatch center) is housed in the police station, which they have sort of outgrown, so Revere is looking to do over the McKinley School," said Marino. "Part of it will be (leased) for a children's daycare and the other half will be leased to the REC and we will be able to model it to our specifications and have a top-notch, state-of-the-art dispatch center."

That work would be

paid for through a state 911 grant, Marino said.

"We all pay a surcharge on our cellphone bills, and that is what will end up funding this from the state," said Marino.

Over the past several years, Marino said there have been negotiations with both Saugus and Chelsea to bring those communities in as the third partner for the regional dispatch center. He said Chelsea now appears close to joining the region.

"That would make us one of the largest regional dispatch centers around with call volume, having Revere, Chelsea, and Winthrop," said Marino. "We will certainly be back with the REC for what that means for Winthrop and what the council would need to do as the next steps."

The REC receives over 30,000 911 and other emergency calls and manages the coordinated dispatch of police, and fire services for Revere and Winthrop, according to its website. It also transfers to other agencies for emergency medical services (EMS) and other resources. The staff also handles over 100,000 non-emergency calls annually regarding quality-of-life issues related to noise, traffic, lost property, and after-hours information for the communities it serves.

Officials look to extend Bluebike program

By Adam Swift

Chelsea bicyclists may soon be able to extend their journeys through the city's Bluebikes program.

Currently, the city has an agreement for the Bluebike bicycle-share program operated by Lyft with the communities of Boston, Revere, and Everett.

Last week, the city council approved a motion that will allow the city to enter into a contract of up to nine years for a bike-share service in the city.

According to City Manager Fidel Maltez, the contract would allow a number of new communities to enter into the regional program. The contract would be overseen through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), and would largely be paid for through grant money, Maltez said.

Maltez said MAPC is looking for a five-year contract with Bluebikes that would bring in additional communities such as Cambridge, Somerville, Medford, Brookline, Newton, Watertown, and Salem. The request

for a nine-year contract includes the possibility of two-year extensions of that contract if it is successful, Maltez said.

The city manager noted that the city council always has the option to decide on appropriations for the program if the grant money does not pan out.

"We did a pilot with LimeBike a long time ago, and that was the start of this endeavor," said Maltez.

However, because of the amount of labor involved and because the bikes were limited to Chelsea, Maltez said the pilot program was not successful.

"What we did four years ago is that we went in collaboration with four different communities... and we went to Bluebikes," said Maltez. "In Boston, you see them everywhere, and the idea is that they are easily transferred between different communities. This collaboration is done through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and it has been a really successful project."

The program has been so successful, Maltez said,

MAPC is looking to expand it and bring in the additional communities.

"This procurement is going to be done through the MAPC, so it's not going to be done here locally," said Maltez.

With the number of communities involved, Maltez said there is a greater economy of scale when it comes to the contract and the cost to the communities. He said there will also be an increased ease of movement between more cities and towns.

"Everyone is on the same system, so we're able to move between the boundaries," Maltez said. "The model of Bluebike is a little easier than LimeBike because there are docking stations where you can pick up and drop off at certain places, and as part of this, we would be expanding our docking stations so there are more in Chelsea."

Councilor-at-Large Roberto Jimenez-Rivera said he supports the Bluebike program as it gives residents more transportation options and helps take cars off the city streets.

Baker // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

food, relocating families, and buying air mattresses so people could be in different places when they got ill."

Interestingly, Gov. Baker had watched on television new shows La Colaborativa's valiant efforts to assist people during the unprecedented health crisis that struck Chelsea very hard.

"The Governor reached out to me through Sen. Sal DiDomenico," said Vega.

Vega said after meeting with Gov. Baker and seeing the pandemic's impact on residents, he increased funding to the City of Chelsea. Baker

was so impressed with the work of the Vega-led organization that he helped in the planning for the La Colaborativa Survival Center, its sparkling new headquarters. The Center has expanded its mission to include a health clinic that will be finalized in January.

Norieliz DeJesus, director of emergency assistance at La Colaborativa and president of the Chelsea City Council, also lauded Baker, stating that the "La Placita" honor for him was well deserved.

"The Baker Administration was especially helpful to La Colaborati-

va and so involved in all of our response during the pandemic," said De Jesus. "Gov. Baker was there with us every step of the way. He fell in love with our community and our organization and the work that we do."

Indeed, the ceremony was an awesome tribute to the great leadership of Gov. Baker, but also an opportunity to recognize La Colaborativa for its continuing efforts in ensuring food and housing security for the residents of Chelsea, in addition to all the other areas in which the organization provides valuable assistance.



Pictured at La Colaborativa for the naming ceremony Saturday, (clockwise from left), Board President Rosalba Medina, Sen. Sal DiDomenico, City Council President Norieliz DeJesus, former First Lady of Massachusetts Lauren Baker, Executive Director Gladys Vega, former Gov. Charlie Baker, Executive Vice President Dinanyilli Del Carmen Paulino, Juan Carlos Morales of Mass Development, former State Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Rosalin Acosta, and Councilor-at-Large Kelly Garcia.



La Colaborativa leaders and city officials welcome former Gov. Charlie Baker and his wife, Lauren Baker, to Chelsea for the naming of the Governor Baker "La Placita" outdoor space at the La Colaborativa Survival Center.

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FROM THE OFFICE OF CITY MANAGER FIDEL MALTEZ

City Manager's latest monthly message focus on lead exposure and fire safety

City Manager Fidel Maltez has placed an emphasis on communicating with residents since he took office in January. Earlier this week, Maltez recorded the latest in his series of public outreach videos to air on Chelsea Community TV. The text of his November video, which focuses on lead exposure issue, is below:

Hello Residents of Chelsea. Welcome to our community. My name is Fidel Maltez, and it is my honor to serve as your City Manager. Today, I want to talk about something that directly affects the health, safety, and future of all of us: lead exposure.

This is a serious issue, one that is both silent and invisible, but devastating, especially for our children. Lead poisoning doesn't just affect a child's body, it can impair their mind, hinder their ability to learn, and ultimately limit their future. That's why we, as a city, are taking strong action to eliminate lead exposure once and for all.

In 2018, our Department of Public Works launched a Lead Service Replacement Program to replace every public and private lead service line in the city of Chelsea at no cost to residents.

Since its launch, we've



City Manager Fidel Maltez

replaced approximately 200 lead lines,

We have also confirmed well over 3,000 copper service lines, which deliver safe drinking water to our residents.

This month, our lead task force has reached out to over 1,000 homes in an effort to identify the roughly 1,400 unknown lines pending confirmation. As a result of these boots-on-the-ground efforts, over 100 homes have signed up for service line inspections.

To continue this important work, we have launched a Lead Task Force composed of key leaders from our Department of Public Works, Housing and Community Development, Public Health Department and the City Manager's Office. This Task Force is driving immediate action to raise awareness about the dangers of lead and is leading a comprehensive effort to eliminate lead service lines in Chelsea.

These efforts are backed

by funding from the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority. We have also applied for a \$15 million grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency to make sure we finish the job.

Our work goes far beyond drinking water service lines.

Early detection for lead exposure in Children is key to preventing long-term harm. That's why our Task Force is pushing to ensure every child under five gets a blood test to screen for lead every year.

To help us reach this goal, we launched the Chelsea Lead Exposure Mitigation Collaborative aimed at identifying children who missed their lead screening and ensuring they get tested. This collaborative includes our Public Health Department, the Cambridge Health Alliance, the Massachusetts General Brigham Chelsea Health Center, and Neighbor Health.

Our Lead Task Force is also partnering with Chelsea Public Schools to send direct texts to caregivers, urging them to get their children tested annually for lead exposure.

The City has also hosted various community meetings for parents, caregivers, and daycare providers to raise awareness about the dangers of lead and encourage lead testing. As a result of these efforts, we have seen tre-

mendous progress. In the first quarter of 2024, 87% of Chelsea children were tested for lead, surpassing our 2023 screening rate by an incredible 19%.

This September, Chelsea was selected to participate in the EPA's Get the Lead Out Initiative, which will help us accelerate the identification and replacement of lead pipes. We are committed to getting this done quickly because you and your family deserve safe, clean water. If you are unsure if your water lines are safe, we will test them for free. If they are lead, the City will replace them for free.

In October, we launched an online Water Service Line Inventory Dashboard, where you can check what your home's water service line is made of. If you don't know, just give us a call, and we will come to your home to check for free. These efforts cannot and will not succeed without your help. We need you to take action. If your child has not been tested for lead, we encourage you to please get it done. If you do not know what your pipes are made of, call us. This is Our Community, and together, we can solve this. Clearly, we have made huge improvements, but we are going even further to make these

programs successful. We will leave no stone unturned. The health of Our Children is our priority.

Let me know now jump into another safety concern impacting our entire region: Fire Safety. As you are likely aware, the state of Massachusetts is currently experiencing high-risk fire weather.

I'm asking all our residents to protect themselves and their neighbors by refraining from outdoor activities that involve open flames, sparks and embers, or other heat sources. We are not just at risk for fire outdoors. It's important to practice indoor fire safety as well. The number one cause of residential fires is cooking. Some tips for practicing safe cooking include keeping your cooking areas clean, staying in the kitchen while cooking, and keeping metal out of the microwave. Another cause of indoor fires during the cooler months

is the misuse of space heaters. If you are planning to heat your home this winter, please, please, follow the state's best practices for preventing space heater fires, which include always turning off space heaters when going to bed or leaving home; keeping anything that can burn three feet away; and using only heavy-duty extension cords to electrify your heater. Please visit chelseama.gov for a complete guide to fire safety.

Finally, I want to talk about the results of the election. We know that the outcome of this election will have a direct impact on so many of us, particularly around immigration policy, housing, and healthcare. Many of our families depend on stable, supportive policies, policies that allow us to live with dignity, regardless of our immigration status. Whether you're here temporarily, or you've been here for generations, your well-being matters. Federal policies, especially those concerning housing, healthcare, and immigration, shape our ability to provide for you and support our community as a whole. As someone who immigrated to this country when I was 7 years old, I know firsthand the

challenges and hopes that come with starting a new life in a new place. And that's why, for me, ensuring that all our residents feel safe and secure is not just a job; it is my mission. This for me is personal.

As we move forward, we must be ready for potential changes in funding and programs, but I want to be absolutely clear: the City of Chelsea is committed to making sure that every one of

you feels safe, valued, and protected, regardless of what happens at the national level. For me, this is not just about policy; this is about our people, and Our Community. This is about ensuring that each person, no matter where they come from, no matter their immigration status, feels like they belong here.

In 2007, Chelsea made a bold decision to declare itself a Sanctuary City, and since then, we have worked tirelessly to protect and support our im-

migrant communities. Our work continues today as we monitor changes at the federal level and provide accurate, actionable information to our residents about their rights and resources.

Ahead of the election, we ramped up our efforts to connect people with legal services, particularly for those who might be impacted by changes to immigration policies. Just recently, the Chelsea Public Library hosted an immigration webinar with experts from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and later this month, the Library is bringing in an immigration attorney to answer your questions. These are just a few of the resources we'll continue to offer to ensure you feel informed and supported. In addition, we're actively exploring new programs to provide broader access to language classes, job training, and health services that are tailored to the unique needs of our immigrant

community. These services are not just for some of us—they're for all of us. Chelsea will continue to listen, especially in the aftermath of the election. We know that each person's experience is different, and we remain committed to making sure that your concerns are heard. But regardless of any national rhetoric or the shifting of political winds, Chelsea will keep its focus on what truly matters to us here—housing, healthcare, economic opportunity, and climate resilience. These are the issues that affect all of us, and they are the issues we will

continue to fight for, together. To me, this is personal. But it's also who we are as a community—a community of immigrants and the children of immigrants, who know the value of hard work, resilience, and caring for one another. And that's how we'll move forward. We'll move forward, together.

We are making Chelsea safer, one step at a time. Together, we are securing a healthier future for all of us. See you next time on Our Community. Thank you and May god bless the City of Chelsea.

CITY PAWS

Sick as a dog

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

“The term ‘sick as a dog’ originates from the 1700s, when dogs typically lived outside in poor conditions, causing them to be far mangier, dirtier, and sicker than today's well-groomed show-pieces,” according to www.grammar-monster.com.

When your dog is sick, you must determine just how ill they are and whether a trip to the vet is needed. Gastrointestinal (GI) upsets are common in dogs and can be stressful for guardians. We recently faced this issue with our Westie Poppy. Fortunately, she is trained to use puppy pads, which makes handling the situation more manageable.

Puppy Pads Are Useful

We recommend that every family with dogs keep a supply of puppy pads on hand. While your dog may never use them regularly, they are perfect for caring for sick or injured animals. Both human and animal hospitals use these for surgical procedures, to catch blood, and to protect surfaces. We once shared a few pads with a neighbor who had severe nosebleeds.

In the case of vomiting or motion sickness, the pads can catch what the animal is releasing. Most of our dogs have alerted us to possible vomit with a session of gagging. We

usually have time to slip a pad under their mouth if we're keeping watch. We also use washable pads in her crate and on our bed whenever Poppy has an upset tummy.

Our recent episode involved diarrhea. We discovered that Poppy would run to her pads when she felt the urge to go, even at night. We added extra pads to our floors and didn't have the stress of constant clean-up duties.

Causes of GI Illnesses

Vomiting and diarrhea are common in companion animals; many of us have experience treating them at home. We all know that some dogs will root out and gobble down anything interesting they find along the way. Some of their choices can cause a GI upset.

You might identify stress, anxiety, medications, antibiotics, or a new food as a possible cause. Grazing on grass is a common dog habit that can result in vomiting.

Off to the Vet?

Pads also help you spot warning signs requiring a veterinarian trip. If you see blood in vomit, stools, or urine, blackish stools or vomit, or the symptoms last more than a couple of days or are reoccurring, consult your veterinarian. You are off to the vet if there are multiple symptoms like fever, unusual

drooling, signs of dehydration, lack of appetite, or weakness.

Fortunately, Poppy ate, drank, played, and acted normally except for the diarrhea. Her puppy pads also clearly showed us the state of her stools, so we could see quickly that she was recovering.

Stop the Spread

Evidence on sidewalks showed that loose stools were going around our neighborhood. If you have a dog who will only poop outside, you can bring along a puppy pad and slip it in place under the dog for easy cleanup and to keep from spreading anything contagious.

We didn't add to the neighborhood's problem by keeping Poppy inside while she was sick and keeping her away from other dogs for a few days, even after her system was back to normal.

Don't forget that you can call your veterinarian and ask for guidance in your decision-making. They can suggest what, how, and when to feed an animal with a problem. You could make a cancellable appointment a few days out in case the illness continues. That could save an emergency room visit.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.



We lined Poppy's favorite window seat with puppy pads while she was sick.

Board of Health to discuss proposed changes to tobacco sales regulations

Special to the Record

The Chelsea Board of Health will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, Nov. 19 to discuss proposed changes to Chelsea's Tobacco Sales Regulations and consider a new health policy that would prohibit the sales of tobacco and e-cigarettes to anyone born on or after January 1, 2004. The meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m. at the Clark Avenue Middle School, located at 8 Clark Ave.

The proposed changes to the Chelsea Tobacco Sales Regulation and adoption of new policy

that will include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. “Prohibition of Sales - No person, firm, corporation, establishment, or agency shall sell tobacco or e-cigarette products to anyone born on or after 1/1/2004”

All Chelsea residents and retailers are encouraged to attend the meeting. For those who wish to attend and require language support and/or would like a copy of proposed changes can make a request to the City's Director of Public Health, Flor Amaya, available at

famaya@chelseama.gov and 617-466-4209.

Meeting attendees can park in the parking lot adjacent to 15 Crescent Avenue or find on-street parking.

Those who are unable to attend the meeting can provide feedback, including their support for the changes to Chelsea's Tobacco Sales Regulation, to Ms. Amaya.

For more information about the Chelsea Board of Public Health, visit chelseama.gov/government/boards__commission/health_board/index.php.

Chelsea

R E C O R D

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

Forum

WITH THE HOLIDAY SEASON HERE, REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."
-- Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities.

With the holiday season now upon us, most of us will be rushing about -- either to the stores and malls or online --- to do our holiday shopping in hopes of finding that "perfect" gift for our family members and loved ones.

Although economic uncertainty, spurred by the after-effects of record-high inflation, continues to afflict almost every American household, most of us are doing okay, if not extremely well, thanks to unemployment rates that are near historic record-lows.

However, the strong economy (from an employment standpoint) that is being enjoyed by the vast majority of Americans has not been shared by all. For a sizable number of our fellow citizens, the lingering effects of the pandemic, as well as the fraying of the fabric of our social safety net in recent years, have come together to represent an existential disaster.

Millions of Americans of all ages, in a percentage greater than at any time since the Great Depression, are struggling financially, even if they have a job.

To put it in stark terms, more Americans, including families in our own communities, are going hungry than at any time in our recent history. It is estimated that 13.5 percent (18 million) of U.S. households were food insecure at some time during 2023, exceeding the 12.8 percent number in 2022. An estimated 44.2 million Americans live in food-insecure households, of whom 20 percent are children.

In addition, thanks to the lack of affordable new housing and sky-high rents, far too many of our fellow citizens, including children, live either in shelters or in similar temporary housing arrangements -- or on the streets -- because our economy literally has left them out in the cold.

Millions of Americans of all ages, including those in our own communities, are struggling financially, often through no fault of their own, thanks to a combination of low-wage jobs and a strong real estate market that ironically has made apartments (let alone buying a home) unaffordable. The problem has been most acute in cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and the Boston Metro area, for many years, but now has spread to almost every part of the country. Thousands of homeless Americans, including many who have full-time jobs, are living in their cars or on the streets.

The homeless always have been among us, but the scope and depth of the problem is far beyond anything that has been experienced in our lifetime. The vast discrepancy between the enormous wealth enjoyed by some Americans and the abject poverty being endured by others is similar to what is seen in the major urban centers in South America and India -- but it now is happening right here in the U.S.A.

For these millions of Americans, the holiday season brings no joy.

Psychologists tell us that the Biblical directive, that we should give to those who are less fortunate, is the best gift that we can give to ourselves. Helping others activates regions of the brain associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust, creating the so-called "warm glow" effect.

Never in the lifetime of anybody reading this editorial has the need for contributions to local food banks been more urgent. There will be ample opportunities in the coming days to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate, whether it be donations to local food banks and toy programs, or even just dropping a few dollars in the buckets of the Salvation Army Santas.

There simply is no excuse for those of us who are among the more fortunate for failing to make some effort over the next four weeks to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate.

GUEST OP-ED

Why should CPS middle schools have cell phone policies?

By Katherine Cabral

This month, the Chelsea School Committee will be discussing a Cell Phone Policy that limits the use of cell phones within our middle schools and I am writing in support of this policy as the Vice-Chair and At-Large member of the School Committee. Many school districts across Massachusetts have implemented cell phone policies to reduce distractions within the classroom, encourage student engagement and improve participation.

Schools across Massachusetts have used a range of technologies and policies to limit the use of cell phones during class times. Some have resorted to utilizing lockers and pouches to safely keep cell phones during school hours while others are further engaging parents and caretakers to influence student behavior. For the past year in Chelsea, we've successfully piloted a Cell Phone Policy at the Browne Middle School. Following its im-

plementation staff have cited increased student participation due to the consistent expectation of no cell phone use during school hours and students shared they feel more focused without the pressure to immediately respond to phone notifications. Without the distraction of cell phones, students are able to be more present, build strong connections with their peers, and engage in a more rigorous educational experience. Family and caregiver communication was critical in the roll out of this policy. Staff effectively did so by tabling at summer orientation and mailing written communication home alongside delivery of messages through ParentSquare; all communication addressed the new phone policy and student expectations at the Browne Middle School. Our district is looking forward to working collaboratively with the Chelsea community to ensure the successful expansion of this policy

to the rest of our middle schools.

Those opposed to this policy argue that cell phones are crucial for school safety, especially in an era where school shootings are a tragic reality. They emphasize that cell phones can be the primary means for parents and caretakers to connect with their children immediately during emergencies. This concern is understandable, and I want to reassure parents and caregivers that the safety of your students is of utmost importance to us. Our priority is to ensure that students are protected and can communicate with their families when necessary.

However, it is also essential to recognize the role of technology in education. The presence of technology in classrooms and workplaces is growing rapidly. As educators, we have a duty to build students' technological competencies while minimizing distractions within the classroom. This means finding a

balance between allowing necessary communication and reducing the potential for cell phones to disrupt learning. By implementing structured policies, we aim to create an environment where students can focus on their studies while still having access to their phones when absolutely needed. This approach not only enhances learning but also prepares students for future professional environments where managing technology responsibly is crucial. We are committed to maintaining a safe and effective learning atmosphere for all students.

Your voice is critical in the formation of this policy. I am calling on our community to share their perspective on the Cell Phone Policy at the next School Committee meeting or email your perspective to cpsschoolcommittee@chelseaschools.com.

Katherine (Kati) Cabral is a life-long Chelsea Resident, CPS graduate, and School Committee Vice-Chair

GUEST OP-ED

Logan Airport and Hanscom Field: A Tale of Two Environmental Reports

By Corinne Doud & Valinda Chan

During October, the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs for the state of Massachusetts, Rebecca Tepper, approved two very important Massport assessment reports for New England's top two busiest airports: Boston Logan International Airport and Hanscom Field general aviation airport (not Hanscom Air Force Base). Environmental Status and Planning Reports (ESPRs) are prepared by Massport every five years and provide annual updates and long-range analysis of projected operations, passengers, and cumulative impacts of overall airport activity. Logan International Airport and Hanscom Field were both due for ESPR reports in 2022, but the multi-year process means that reports don't receive approval or denial until years after their submission, rendering them more retroactive than planning reports. Both Logan and Hanscom are currently facing community pushback for expansion efforts.

In autumn of 2023, Logan Airport quietly opened the expansion of its international terminal, a move criticized by Logan-Area residents as a misuse of resources during a major air pollution crisis in the area. At a rally on the airport's 100th anniversary, Chris Marchi, the long-time Vice President of the nonprofit Airport Impact Relief, Inc (AIR Inc) addressed the

crowd saying, "We should not congratulate this airport while it poisons environmental justice communities. We should be avowing to change. Massachusetts needs to stop excusing environmental destruction for pet projects. When will this state's leaders finally disown claims that we need to accept environmental sacrifices for the survival of our economy?"

Air pollution, including pollution caused by aircraft emissions, is scientifically linked to major health problems in communities where exposure is high. A Logan Airport Health study found that children in East Boston are four times more likely to exhibit signs of asthma compared with children in other areas. In addition, the study found that adults who have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are more likely to have lived in areas of high exposure to pollutants for long periods of time, such as near Logan Airport. The East Boston neighborhood next to Logan is a "hotspot" for many different types of cancer, suggesting environmental causes for these illnesses.

On top of exposure to harmful pollutants, East Boston has the lowest tree canopy coverage in the city, largely because of the infrastructure built for Logan Airport. This contributes to the urban heat island effect, or hotter temperatures. East Boston near Logan experiences the urban heat

island effect worse than most other neighborhoods in the region on average. Because of the increase in temperature and worsening of heatwaves caused by urban heat islands, they often lead to an increase in heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and even heart attacks in affected communities according to MIT. As a result of all of this, community members in East Boston are far more likely to fall ill as a result of living near Logan Airport.

Meanwhile, Hanscom Field is facing a proposed expansion of private jet infrastructure to benefit the ultra-wealthy. The proposed Hanscom Field expansion would allegedly clear-cut about 20 acres of mature woods. According to an independent analysis by Industrial Economics Inc, it would add approximately 6,000 additional private jet flights annually, and about 150,000 tons of carbon emissions each year -- essentially to benefit a privileged few. If the expansion proceeds, private jet emissions from Hanscom alone would cancel nearly 70% of all solar PV ever installed in Massachusetts. Advocates from Boston to the Berk-

shires and beyond decry this expansion for fueling the climate crisis.

Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere, a coalition of over 95 organizations, is widely known for their work to halt the proposed expansion of Hanscom Field. Last fall they submitted a petition to Governor Healey urging her to halt the massive fossil fuel development, delivering over 10,000 signatures (now 14,000).

Recently, the coalition helped generate over 1,500 public comments to MEPA (Office of MA Environmental Policy Act) on the Hanscom developers' Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) from individuals and organizations, as well as government officials. These comments were overwhelmingly in opposition to the proposed expansion, many of them arguing that the proposed development was antithetical to state and federal climate goals for 2050. In June, EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper rejected the Hanscom developers' DEIR and instructed them to file a supplementary

See OP-ED Page 6

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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Your opinions, please

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City, state officials and private partners celebrate opening of DUO Apartments

Special to the Record

Last Thursday, officials from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the City of Chelsea and the Chelsea Housing Authority, in partnership with Joseph J. Corcoran Company and John M. Corcoran & Company, celebrated the grand opening of DUO Apartments on Central Ave., a \$155 million transformational development creating a premier, 330 unit mixed-income apartment community in Chelsea.

DUO is the first completed project in the Commonwealth's Public Housing Innovations Demonstration Program (PHIDP), replacing 96 units of aging public housing with 96 brand new, energy efficient and ADA accessible affordable units inside the new, class A community.

"DUO stands as a shining example of what we can do when public and private partners come together to build stronger communities," said Ed Augustus, secretary of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. "The Public Housing Innovations Program gives our housing authorities the flexibility to improve public housing while creating quality, mixed-income communities residents can take pride in. The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is proud to partner with financial support for this project."

Paul Nowicki, the executive director of the Chelsea Housing Authority said the celebration was the culmination of over eight years of collaboration and hard work of many partners to realize a vision for future generations in Chelsea.

"I am extremely proud of our collective team and their dedication to putting our residents first, and I'm thrilled for the future residents of DUO who will now live in this state-of-the-art community," said Nowicki.

DUO is the site of the former Innes Apartments public housing development, which was constructed in the 1950s and had suffered from decades of delayed modernization. The Chelsea Housing Authority recognized the needs of residents and

families who deserved a safer, ADA accessible, modern standard of living and partnered with private developers Joseph J. Corcoran Company and John M. Corcoran & Company to reimagine the community through the development of DUO. The project team maintained consistent communication with the Residents Association throughout the course of the project, with a commitment to transparency and a resident-centered approach, according to the city and private partners.

"Collectively, we are driven by our desire to build safe and healthy homes that every person and family deserves," said Joseph J. Corcoran, founder and CEO of Joseph J. Corcoran Company.

"Every single member of our team was 100% committed to making sure that the Innes residents saw this day – when they had safe, accessible, modern spaces to call home; where they could provide a good life for their children; and pursue opportunities for their families. To achieve this vision, we had to be creative, we had to be persistent, and we had to make the numbers work.

"Thanks to the diligence of our teams, the transparency with our partners at Chelsea Housing Authority, and the support of our financing partners, the Commonwealth and the City of Chelsea – we have created a model here where everyone sees a return on their investment."

The approximately 350,000 square foot project included the demolition of the eight functionally obsolete buildings on the site, and construction of a standalone parking garage and two multi-family buildings. The community features an impressive array of amenities including: three roof decks with views, two sky lounges, health hub workout spaces, a large community game room with golf simulator, indoor pup tub, outdoor dog run, playground, shared workspace and outdoor courtyard, as well as 257 garage parking spaces. Apartment homes feature bright open interiors with plank flooring throughout the living spaces and bedrooms. DUO is located one block from the Eastern Ave MBTA Silver Line T stop in Chelsea and will also offer 5,000 square feet of street-level retail space. Discussions with local businesses interested in occupying the space are already underway.

"After years of meetings and problem-solving together with this team, I am so proud to have given my children the opportunity to see first-hand how communities, government and private partners can come together to get big things done," said Melissa Booth, President of the Innes Residents Association.



Representatives from the State of Massachusetts, City of Chelsea, Chelsea Housing Authority, Joseph J. Corcoran Company and John M. Corcoran & Co. prepare to officially cut the ribbon of the DUO Apartments in Chelsea.

ation. "We are so excited to move into this beautiful new community and our new home. And we are so proud to share the result of this hard work with all of you today. It's a dream come true."

The eight-year, \$155 million dollar project is the product of many dedicated funding partners who worked tirelessly through many challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, significant local housing rental shifts, inflation and rising construction costs. Sources of capital came from public agencies, including the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), MassWorks and the City of Chelsea as well as private capital secured from Marcus Partners, Cambridge Savings Bank, Eastern Bank and Harbor One Bank, along with the project's developers, Joseph J. Corcoran Company, and John M. Corcoran & Company.

"It's been amazing to be a part of this collaborative work toward a shared goal - providing new homes for residents and pathways to housing for more people in the community," shared Peter Mahoney, Executive Vice President, John M. Corcoran & Co. "This unprecedented effort and state-of-the-art development serves as a future model for communities across the Commonwealth."

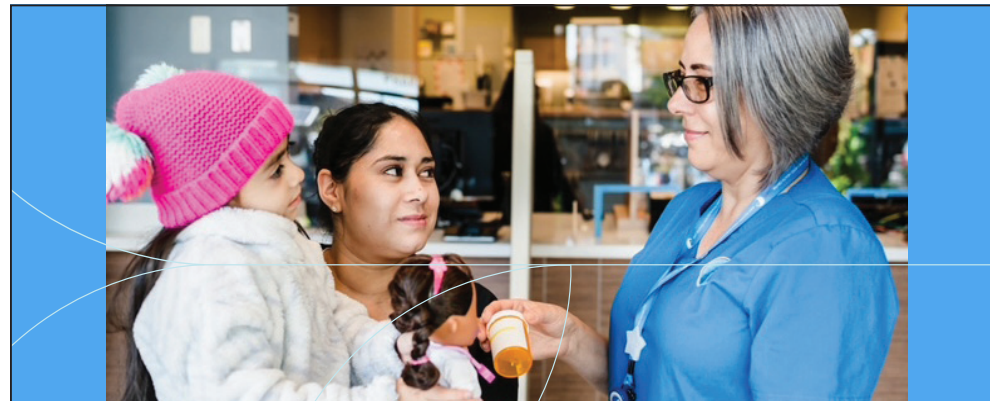
Construction of DUO was led by Plumb House, Inc. Residents will begin moving into the apartments this month, with construction of DUO's second residential building on track to be delivered in 2025. For more information on DUO, please visit: <https://www.duoapts.com/>.



From Left to Right: Secretary Edward Augustus, Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities; Peter Mahoney, Executive Vice President, Development, John M. Corcoran & Company; Judith Garcia, State Representative; Norieliz DeJesus, Chelsea City Council President; Jay Ash, President & CEO, Massachusetts Competitive Partnership (and Former Chelsea City Manager and Commonwealth's Secretary of Housing and Economic Development); Fidel Maltez, Chelsea City Manager; Paul Nowicki, Executive Director, Chelsea Housing Authority; Joseph J. Corcoran, CEO, Joseph J Corcoran Company; Melissa Booth, President, Innes Resident Association; Albert R. Ewing, former Executive Director Chelsea Housing Authority; and Sal DiDomenico, State Senator.



DUO Apartments, a \$155 million transformational development creating a premier, 330 unit mixed-income apartment community in Chelsea.



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CITY OF CHELSEA HOLDS VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

The City of Chelsea's Department of Veterans Services held a Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11 at the Morris H. Seigal Clark Avenue Middle School. The celebration honored those who are actively serving our country for the protection of democracy around the world, and the United States veterans of all wars who are present in our hearts.

"There is not a group of people anywhere in the world who has done so much for so many than the United States veterans. You liberate the world," said Senator Sal DiDomenico, who acknowledged the families of those who serve, for they are also living the military life. "You have shown that we are going to protect freedom and democracy here in the homeland, and around the world. When residents of a community see the US flag on the shoulder of our military personnel, they know everything is going to be okay. That is what our veterans have done for generations. Our veterans come from all races, religions, and ethnicities. They come from northern states, southern states, eastern states, and western states; but they all fight for the United States."

Son of an Army cook, DiDomenico emphasized that our responsibilities to our veterans do not end. He mentioned the HERO Act, recently passes legislation that expands the benefits and resources for the approximately 300,000 servicemembers who live in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The HERO Act increases financial support and property tax exemptions, and enhances access to physical and mental healthcare.

In addition to acknowledging the challenges all veterans face upon their return home, City Manager Fidel Maltez reflected on the meaning of Veterans Day: to honor the servicemen and women for their courage and sacrifices.

"Veterans Day is a day of active unity. It is a day for us to come together as a community to reflect on our shared ideals that make this community strong," said Maltez. "Today is about service, duty, and commitment to the greater good."

Maltez recognized that Chelsea veterans fight side by side, regardless of opinions, religions, political affiliations, and immigration status. They are dedicated to defending

the nation's principles as members of a larger family.

"Now, perhaps more than ever, we need this day to remind us of our common purpose," acknowledged Maltez. "In an era of division, it is easy to get lost in what separates us. Veterans Day is an opportunity to put those differences aside and stand in a united Chelsea."

Maltez urged the community to come together in unity to honor veterans by embracing and celebrating one another.

"Our veterans, past and present, have shown us the power of standing together for a common cause. Now it is our time to build on that legacy and do the same thing," implored Maltez. "Our differences make us stronger. We are one community, one Chelsea."

Keynote speaker, Doctor Imari K. Paris Jeffries, also prioritized choosing unity over division. The social justice advocate is the President/CEO of Embrace Boston, the organization behind "The Embrace" sculpture on Boston Common: a symbol of unity, resilience, and the power of community. The memorial honors the intimacy, joy, and love between Dr. and Mrs. Martin Luther King.

Doctor Jeffries reflected on the importance of the natural ecosystem, comparing democracy to the complexities of nature -- most alive when it is diverse, resilient, inclusive, and adaptive.

"Just as trees make room for light for smaller trees to thrive, we too, must embrace our role, like veterans, as protectors," said Jeffries, who served in the US Army from 1991-1996. "In democracy, protecting and supporting each other fosters a society where everyone has space to flourish, and no one overshadows each other. Our role as veterans and citizens is to take care of each other."

Jeffries stressed that all life is inter-related, and that Veterans Day is a reminder that democracy is a shared responsibility. We, as a country, honor veterans by serving each other, both domestically and abroad.

"Democracy isn't an ideal. It's a daily practice of showing up for each other," said Jeffries. "We cultivate communities that thrive on solidarity and shared purpose when we acknowledge and tend to the quiet connections that we all have. In serving each other, we are creating a world where everyone is valued."



Senator Sal DiDomenico describing the mission of fighting for freedom and democracy.



Vietnam veteran, Councilor Leo Robinson, acknowledging that the Morris H. Seigal Clark Avenue Middle School was named in remembrance of his junior high school math teacher and friend.



Army veteran, Francisco Toro, Director of Veterans Services, City of Chelsea, expressing his goal working together to support all men and women who serve our country.



Joslany Peters, Chelsea High School student, reading the governor's proclamation.



Jayna Singer, Chelsea High School student, explaining the symbolism of The Missing Man Table.



State Representative Judith Garcia reflecting on the lessons she learned during her recent visit to Chelsea's Veterans Home.



Dr. Imari K. Paris Jeffries, President/CEO of Embrace Boston.



City Manager Fidel Maltez reflecting on the meaning of Veterans Day.



Yuki Sanches Gonzalez, Chelsea High School student, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.



Keila Velez, Pastor, La Luz de Cristo, praying for the strength, courage, protection, and faith of those actively serving.



Emcee, Tracy Nowicki, Director of the City of Chelsea's Health and Human Services.



Dr. Almudena Abeyta, Superintendent, Chelsea Public Schools, reflecting on growing up as a daughter of a veteran.



Members of the community honoring the National Anthem during the November 11 Veterans Day Ceremony at the Morris H. Seigal Clark Avenue Middle School.

Op-Ed // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

report that more fully and accurately reported the expected environmental and climate costs of their project.

Secretary Tepper approved the Hanscom and Logan ESPRs, respectively on October 11 and October 18, stating that each report adequately complied with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act. However, she included strong caveats with each approval.

Pointing to rising passenger levels and pollution at Logan Airport, the Secretary issued a strong directive to Massport to improve its environmental performance there. The Secretary also ordered Massport to plan additional pollution reduction strategies to address the

growth of environmental impacts if passenger or flights outpace forecasts. This idea answers community requests for Massport to stop using inaccurate planning forecasts. She also asked Massport to address the health, air quality, and community impacts of Logan's operations, and required that the Port Authority create a working group with the community to identify ways to reduce Logan's public health impacts, develop air quality monitoring and pollution reduction programs, form partnerships to distribute air filters, create an idling reduction plan, and simplify and improve the pollution reporting process.

Logan Community Clean Air Coalition members are cautiously opti-

mistic about this certificate. Chris Marchi said, "We are eager to work with the Secretary's staff to help Massport implement the full slate of the Secretary's requirements."

Approved just a week before the Logan report, the Hanscom Field report came with a requirement: a supplemental ESPR, to be filed before the 2027 ESPR report is due. According to the Secretary's certificate, this supplemental ESPR must include, "updated forecasts of aviation activity and associated air quality and noise impacts which take into account the proposed design of North Airfield Development project (EEA# 16654), which is currently under MEPA review. The Supplemental ESPR should also pro-

vide additional data on the energy use of terminals, hangars, and other buildings at Hanscom Field. As noted below, future ESPRs should also expand on environmental justice and public health outreach and analysis, and consider Massport's obligation under MEPA to avoid or minimize, and, where appropriate, to mitigate, environmental impacts, and, under recently promulgated rules and regulations, to consider environmental justice principles through MEPA reviews."

What does this mean? It means that both the proposed Hanscom developers and Massport itself are now required by the EEA Secretary to provide substantial additional information, in the instance

of the Hanscom developers, they will need to produce a Supplemental DEIR report for their proposed expansion. Separately Massport must submit both a Supplemental ESPR report for Hanscom and do extensive supplemental work for the Logan ESPR. These directives are considered interim wins by climate and public health activists who are working to rein in and mitigate the harms of Massport's Logan and Hanscom expansions.

Public efforts to hold Massport accountable to the myriad environmental and health costs, and climate impacts, of its operations is a classic David and Goliath tale, where the public stands against forces that threaten their future. As climate and clean-air

activists across the state await the passage of a comprehensive Climate Bill at the State House, MEPA's response to Massport's ESPR reports provides another slingshot to carry into the ring.

Valinda Chan is Team Co-Coordinator and Corinne Doud is Leader of the Bedford Chapter Campaign to Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere. Corinne Doud of Mothers Out Front Bedford and Valinda Chan of Mothers Out Front East Boston. Mothers Out Front is a national organization of mothers and others working toward a livable climate and an equitable future for all children.

CITY OF CHELSEA HOLDS VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Philip Quaglione, John Jagiello, Army veteran, and Stephen Hartlen, Navy veteran.



Elaine and Leslie Lerman, Air Force veteran.



Jane and Mike Gianatasio, naval hospital veteran.



Chelsea Police Department Honor Guard presenting the colors.



Chelsea High School choir, Cantare, performing the National Anthem.



Air Force veterans, Leslie Lerman and Eliseo Guajardo, shaking hands.



Chelsea Police Department Honor Guard presenting the colors.



Dr. Almudena Abeyta, Superintendent of Chelsea Public Schools, with her father, Air Force veteran, Eliseo Guajardo, City Manager Fidel Maltez, and Mayra Balberas, School Committee



Councilor Calvin Brown, Councilor Melinda Vega, with Soleil Francois, Representative Judith Garcia, City Manager Fidel Maltez, Councilor Kelly Garcia, and Councilor Lisa Santagate.

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State Representative
Judith Garcia Waters

Sports

CHS Roundup

CHS FOOTBALL MEETS O'BRYANT TOMORROW

The Chelsea High football team will be looking for its second win of the season when the Red

Devils take on O'Bryant High School tomorrow (Friday) afternoon at 4:00 at the Madison Park High School football field.

Chelsea enters the contest with a 1-7 mark, while O'Bryant comes in at 2-5.

The teams are playing in the Division 7 North non-playoff contests. Chelsea dropped its game last week against Ipswich, 38-28, while O'Bryant lost to East Boston.

BRUINS Beat by Bob Morello

Bruins with a spirited comeback win

The Bruins with a 3-2 comeback win over the St. Louis Blues on Tuesday, was a temporary stopper to the rumors that are suddenly bubbling up on the Bruins' personnel front. The major rumor would have management considering a replacement for head coach Jim Montgomery – a move that I believe would be detrimental, as Monty is working right now with a mishmash of new players just added to this year's lineup. The coach likely needs a bit more time to work these players into positions that would allow them to succeed... so that thought should be put on hold. Regarding the locals ability to earn their first comeback win on Tuesday was certainly a step in the right direction. David Pastrnak's goal (7) late in the third period, from a Charlie McAvoy feed, with 1:47 left in regulation proved to be the game-winner, and it was a gift from the hockey gods as the puck managed to squeeze past a surprised Jordan Binnington in the Blues' net. The comeback began in the third period with Boston down 2-0 on a pair of second period power play goals. The first goal by Morgan Geekie, his first of the season, after being inserted back into the lineup following scratches in the last three games. McAvoy was able to power a blast from near the blue line past Binnington, and the game was quickly tied, setting up Pastrnak's winning one-timer and



two points to take the locals over the .500 mark at 8-7-2. The hard-earned win didn't come without a price, as the Bruins lost defenseman Hampus Lindholm, when he blocked a St. Louis shot late in the first period, hobbled off the ice and headed down the runway with an upper-body injury, done for the game. Coach Montgomery had no update following the game, and the Bs will likely call up a defenseman for Thursday to fill Lindholm's spot. Bruins assistant coach Jay Leach was able to utilize the five defensemen he had available nicely, by sharing the load over the remainder of the game. Bruins goaltender Jeremy Swayman was admirable in net, facing 22 shots and stopping several top scoring chances by St. Louis, while giving his team a chance to win, and evening his record to 5-5-0-2. A noticeable stat had the Bruins showing some welcome discipline, earning just three penalties in the game, despite two of the penalties resulting in St. Louis goals. Biggest marker has been, the play of the team's leaders – Pastrnak, McAvoy, and Brad Marchand showing some spark in the last few games and stepping up to do their job. Next up on

the schedule: Thursday (tonight) at 8:00pm hosted by the Dallas Stars, before heading to TD Garden ice and a three-game home-stand which will feature stops by St. Louis (Saturday at 1:00pm), Columbus Blue Jackets (Monday at 7:00pm), and the newest NHL team on Thursday, the Utah Hockey Club at 7:00pm.

Puck & Paddles VIP Tickets- Meet Bruins & Get Autographs

The Bruins are excited to share that there are still some tickets available for this year's David Pastrnak & 98.5 The Sports Hub Pucks and Paddles event on Wednesday, November 20th, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm at the House of Blues Boston, benefitting the Boston Bruins Foundation and Special Olympics of Massachusetts. Ticket information: These VIP sessions allow you to meet the players and get autographs. The Gold session is sold out, but we have limited tickets still available for the Silver VIP session featuring Brad Marchand, Charlie Coyle, Trent Frederic, Jeremy Swayman and Hampus Lindholm. Event and Auction: The highest bidders will have the opportunity to play doubles Ping Pong with Bruins players.

Reminder: The Sports Museum's The Tradition: Will be honoring former Bruin Brad Park – Wednesday, November 20th at TD Garden, with Park's Hockey Legacy Award presented to him by Bruins legend Gerry Cheevers.

CHELSEA CONNECTION IN NECYFL PLAYOFFS



The Saugus and Peabody teams faced off in the Northeast Commonwealth Youth Football League semifinals Sunday at Harry Della Russo Stadium in Revere and there was a distinguished Chelsea connection. Pictured before the game are Saugus coach and former Red Devil standout Gary May, Peabody coach and Chelsea Police Capt. Brian Dunn, and Saugus coach and former Red Devil football superstar Jadiem Brooks.



Tito Meza with banners for Berta Cáceres and Juan López for whom he dedicated a poem and a song to keep their legacies of activism alive.

Local man pays tribute to fallen martyrs in Honduras through song and poetry

Special to the Record

Honduran born local community activist, musician and poet Angel Meza known to all as Tito recently showed his latest talent as a song writer. At a tribute to Juan López on October 20, 2024 at the Green Roots Kitchen, Tito launched the song, Canción A Juan López with guitarist Antwan Castro del Rio in front of a packed audience.

Juan López age 46 was a human rights activist, an environmentalist who campaigned against open pit iron ore mining and a leader in the Catholic Church. López was fatally shot my machine gun fire on 9/14/24 as he left church with his wife, two children and friends in his hometown of To-

coa, Colon, Honduras. It is suspected locally and internationally that he was assassinated because of his activism, the killing was denounced by many including the United Nations and Pope Francis with a call for justice.

Song for Juan Lopéz (Translation of selected verses from Canción A Juan Lopéz)

They called Juan Lopez There on the Banks of Aguan

He was humble and well behaved

And simply Juan On the banks of the Aguan River.

There Juan Lopéz stayed.

Fighting against the mines

And the bosses of

Aguan.

Juan Lopéz was killed Without any compassion

Today the people demand

Justice and imprisonment.

Now let's sing with pride

With love and determination

Juan Lopéz lives in the hearts

Of the entire population

Song for Juan Lopéz (Translation of selected verses from Canción A Juan Lopéz)

They called Juan Lopez There on the Banks of Aguan

He was humble and well behaved

And simply Juan On the banks of the Aguan River.

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Now let's sing with pride

With love and determination

Juan Lopéz lives in the hearts

Of the entire population

For a recording of Cancion A Juan López go to YouTube

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=aKLSHd-9qbBs>.

Meza also wrote a poem to memorialize Honduran indigenous rights leader and environmentalist, Berta Cáceres, who was assassinated in 2016. Contact Tito Meza for the lyrics of Cancion A Juan Lopéz in Spanish and English – A Song for Juan Lopez or his bilingual poem in honor of Berta Cáceres tmeza2014@gmail.com.

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OBITUARIES

Paulina C. Reyes

She is fondly remembered as a very understanding, forgiving, and charitable person

Relatives and friends are most kindly invited to attend visiting hours for Paulina C. Reyes today, Thursday, November 14, from 4 to 8 p.m. in the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea. Her funeral will begin from the funeral home on Friday, November 15, at 9 a.m. immediately followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Rose of Lima Church, 600 Broadway, Chelsea at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with interment at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

At 82 years of age, Paulina C. Reyes passed away peacefully in her home on Saturday, November 9th. Born and raised in Guayama, Puerto Rico, she was a beloved daughter of the late Flor Caraballo and Maria Rodriguez. She had been a resident of Chelsea since 1960. Paulina was married to Hermelindo Reyes for 55 years and together they raised two sons. She was passionately devoted to home and family.

Paulina held various jobs outside of her home while furthering her education at Bunker Hill Community College. She worked with the Chelsea Public School System as a paraprofessional and teacher's aide for over 30 years before retiring



in 2017. A devoted Catholic, she was a longtime communicant and active parishioner at St. Rose of Lima Church. She is fondly remembered as a very understanding, forgiving, and charitable person. She enjoyed gardening around her home and was often visited by former students seeking advice and guidance from her.

Paulina was predeceased by her husband Hermelindo Reyes in 2017. She is survived by her loving sons, Enrique "Rick" Reyes of Georgetown and Alberto Reyes and his wife, Alicia of No. Reading. She was the cherished grandmother of Taylor Robeneck, Gena, and Krista Reyes, and the dear sister of Otilia Caraballo and Amelia Caraballo, both of Puerto Rico.

To send expressions of sympathy, visit www.welshfh.com.



Ina Rubin

Longtime member of the Massachusetts Teachers Association and American Association of Teachers of French

Ina N. Rubin of Chelsea passed away on November 10, 2024.

The devoted daughter of the late Leon M. and Beatrice (Namyet) Rubin, she was the dear sister of Donald and the late Eleanor of Peabody, Joseph of Santa Barbara, CA, Barry and Donna of Wareham, Roberta and Robert Niewiadomski of Naples, FL, Jan of Chelsea and Mark Malkovich of Newport, RI; aunt of Steven and Terri, Gary, Michele, Shelley and the late Adam, and Michael and Kimball. Great-aunt of Matthew, Natalie, Alexia, Zackary, Janella and Caleb and Godmother of Mehdi. She also leaves many cousins, friends and former students who became friends.

Ina was born in Baltimore, and after her family returned to Chelsea in 1955, she attended Shurtleff School, Chelsea Hebrew School and graduated from Chelsea High School, Class of 1969. She earned degrees from UMass Boston and Cambridge College. She began her teaching career at Weeks Junior High School in Newton where she ultimately served as assistant principal while still teaching French. There she was involved in planning student trips to Quebec.

After Weeks closed, she taught at Newton South High School until her retirement in 2008. She participated in the student exchange program, accompanying students to Grasse, France, and hosting the Grasse students.

She was a longtime member of the Massachusetts Teachers Association



and American Association of Teachers of French. In 1978, on a fellowship from the French government, she spent a month in Avignon, the first of many trips to France. From 1991 to 1992, on a Fulbright Teacher Exchange, she spent a year teaching English in Lyon. Besides all things French, Ina loved dancing, concerts and Boston sports teams. She enjoyed many summers in Newport, RI.

The family thanks the caregivers and activities specialists at Cohen Florence Levine Estates and Leonard Florence Center for Living. We are grateful to Ina's Newton South colleagues who rallied around her when she needed a support network.

Services will be held at Torf Funeral Chapel, 151 Washington Ave., Cary Sq., Chelsea, on Friday, November 15 at 11 a.m. Interment in Workmen's Circle Cemetery, Peabody. Memorial observance will be private. Donations in Ina's memory may be made to the Leonard Florence Center for Living Activities Programs, 165 Captain's Row, Chelsea, MA 02150 or to a charity of your choice.

Violeta Gonzalez

Her legacy is her family and her tremendous faith

Family and friends attended Visiting Hours on Wednesday, November 13, in Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere for Violeta (Amaro) Gonzalez, who passed on Sunday, November 10th in the loving and tender presence of her Lord and family at Avainia Care in Salem, following a long illness. She was 81 years old. A Funeral will be conducted from the funeral home today, Thursday, November 14, at 9 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Rose of Lima Church, 600 Broadway, Chelsea at 10 a.m. Interment will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery, Beverly.

Violeta was born on August 15, 1943, in her native Guayama, Puerto Rico to her late parents, Ambrosio Amaro and Teofila (Cruz) Amaro. She was one of 12 children and was raised and educated there. In 1969, she and her husband Juan Gonzalez, Sr., came to live in Chelsea where she happily raised her seven children. She was a wonderful, dedicated wife and mother to her family.

She was a devoted parishioner to St. Rose of Lima Parish and volunteered her time there. She became one of the cooks for both the rectory and the convent. She was also a choir member for many years.

Violeta's legacy is her family and her tremendous faith. She will be forever missed and loved.

She was the beloved



wife of 35 years to the late Juan Gonzalez, Sr. Loving mother of Juan Gonzalez, Jr. and his wife, Elsa of Chelsea, Maria J. Harrold and her husband, Joseph of Beverly, Feliz Gonzalez and his wife, Elizabeth of Chelsea, Juan Alberto Gonzalez and his wife, Lori of Andover, Jeannie Pagan and her husband, Sandro of Pennsylvania and the late Angel Luis Gonzalez and Carmen Gonzalez; the proud and treasured grandmother of 30 grandchildren and 35+ great-grandchildren; dear sister of William Amaro, Antonio Amaro, Virginia Lao, Maria Mercedes Rivera, Maria Mery Iraola, Maria Lina Rivera, and the late Esperanza Fama-nia, Ulyses Amaro, Ramon Amaro and Juan Amaro. She is also lovingly survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnieces.

To send online condolences, please visit www.vertucciosmithvazza.com.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to the care and direction of the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, Revere.

Consuelo H. Solano

February 5, 1979 - November 4, 2024

Relatives and friends attended visiting hours for Consuelo H. Solano in the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea on Saturday, November 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. and Consuelo will be placed to rest in San Jose el Idolo, Suchitepéquez, Guatemala.

Consuelo Haydee Solano Santizo, a devoted wife, mother, and talented floral designer, passed away at the age of 45 on Monday, November 4th, at Massachusetts General Hospital after courageously battling breast cancer for two years. Born and raised in Guatemala, Consuelo was one of five children of the late Zoila Esperanza Santizo and Ramiro Solano. She moved to Chelsea where she has resided for the last 22 years.

Consuelo was married to Manfredo Ranfer Alvarez Tobar, and together they raised their two children, Christopher and Ashley Alvarez. She was a passionate homemaker and also worked as a flo-



ral designer for Boston Flower Co. Consuelo enjoyed traveling and shopping, cherishing the time spent with her family and friends.

She is lovingly survived by her husband Manfredo R. Alvarez, her children Christopher and Ashley Alvarez, her siblings William and Vilma Solano of Chelsea, and Jamie and Lidia Solano in Guatemala, along with extended family members and friends. Consuelo will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

To send expressions of sympathy, visit www.welshfh.com.



Edward F. "Fast Eddie" Petersen

March 15, 1948 - November 4, 2024

Edward Petersen, known as "Fast Eddie," passed away peacefully on November 4, 2024, after a long illness, surrounded by his family.

Born in Chelsea on March 15, 1948 to Nora and Frederick Petersen, Eddie grew up in a tight-knit community, where he shared a strong bond with his two siblings, many cousins, and lifelong friends. A proud Chelsea native and a Red Devil at heart, Eddie graduated from Chelsea High in 1968, where he excelled in both football and track. His achievements in track and field earned him a place in the Chelsea High School Hall of Fame.

Eddie worked as a local truck driver for 25 years, navigating the roads of the Boston area in his 18-wheeler, where he took great pride in his area knowledge and the friends he made along the way.

Eddie settled in Quincy with his then wife Susan, where they raised their three children. He enjoyed coaching softball and supporting his kids' activities.

After his children grew up, Eddie settled in Roslindale and found great fulfillment working at the Holy Name School in West Roxbury, where he became a beloved figure. His dedication to helping both the children and teachers left a lasting impact, and even after his retirement, Eddie remained close with many friends he had made at the school.

Eddie had an unbreakable bond with his siblings. He looked up to his older brother, Freddie, with immense pride, especially for Freddie's service in the Marine Corps. He shared a special, unshakable connection with his sister, Jean, who was not only his sibling but also his closest friend.

Eddie's relationship with his partner, Raisa, brought him much joy. Together, they enjoyed long walks around Boston, with their favorite place being Revere Beach, where they spent hours enjoying the peaceful surroundings.



Above all, Eddie's greatest joy was spending time with his six grandchildren: Neil, James, Sophia, Colin, Riley, and Lydia. He cherished every moment spent with them, and they were the light of his life.

Known for his storytelling and remarkable memory, Eddie never forgot a detail about anyone he met. He was open about his struggles, which earned him respect from those around him, as he faced life's challenges with honesty and resilience. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Eddie was predeceased by his mother, Nora; his father, Frederick; his brother-in-law, Steve; and his niece, Sarah. He is survived by his children: Nicole Blongiewicz and her husband, Chris of Windham, NH; Kristie McCarthy of Pembroke, and Thomas Petersen and his wife, Cassie of Norwell. He is also survived by his brother, Frederick Petersen, and partner Denise Nugent of Peabody, his sister, Jean MacDonald of Chelsea, his nieces, Jill Von Handorf and her husband, Joe of Richmond, NH, and Meegan Petersen and her husband, Craig Massey of Salem, MA; his partner, Raisa of Brighton and his beloved cat, Nala, who fits in perfectly at her new home in Windham, NH. He is also survived by many cousins, extended family, and friends.

A private family service will be held, and a celebration of Eddie's life will be announced at a later date.

To send expressions of sympathy, visit www.welshfh.com.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

CECILIA MELENDEZ PEREZ OF CHELSEA MAKES AN IMPACT IN WILLIMANTIC

Several student leaders and interns at Eastern Connecticut State University's Center for Community Engagement (CCE) are spearheading various outreach programs in Willimantic this semester. The common denominator for each volunteer is personal development through their commitment to community outreach.

Among these students is Cecilia Melendez Perez of Chelsea, a junior majoring in Business Administration.

Melendez Perez has been a frequent volunteer for the past two years and is finding a new world of opportunities as a leader. "I'm currently a leader for the Barrows STEM Academy after-school program and Windham No Freeze," said Melendez-Perez. "Working and volunteering at the CCE has brought me so many connections and a lot of fun experiences. I love interacting and connecting with people from this area since I am an out of state

student."

Eastern Connecticut State University is the state of Connecticut's public liberal arts university, serving upwards of 4,000 students annually on its Willimantic campus. A residential campus offering 41 majors and 68 minors, Eastern offers students a strong liberal arts foundation grounded in a variety of applied learning opportunities. Ranked among the top 25 public institutions in the North by U.S. News & World Report in its 2024-25 Best Colleges ratings, Eastern has also been awarded 'Green Campus' status by the Princeton Review 14 years in a row.

CHELSEA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH HOSTS FREE COMMUNITY FLU CLINIC ON NOV. 23

The City of Chelsea Department of Public Health is offering a free community flu clinic on Saturday, Nov. 23, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Saint Luke's-San Lucas Episcopal Church, 201 Washington Avenue.

This clinic is open to all individuals 18 years and older, with or without insurance.

No pre-registration is required. However, if you have insurance, please bring your insurance card.

This clinic offers an easy opportunity for residents to protect themselves against the flu this season, and everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this free service.

For more information or to ask any questions, please contact Chelsea 311 at (617) 466-4209.

CHELSEA POLICE HOLDING HOLIDAY DONATION DRIVE

Help spread joy this holiday season. The Chelsea Police Department is now accepting new & unwrapped toys (under age 18) and lightly used/new coats for its Santa & Seniors Gifting Event. Donate now at the Chelsea Police Department wishing Well located at Chelsea Police Headquarters at 19 Park St.

For more information, call (617) 466-4866 or email Sgt. Star Chung at chung@chelseama.gov.

Study // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

other portions of the city and that it should explore building an additional small station near the waterfront.

"I hope the city manager and the fire chief will talk about it and come back to us and let us know if it is feasible or not," Recupero said.

Councilor-at-Large Roberto Jimenez-Rivera said he would like to see a professional assessment of the need of a new station, as well as any associated staffing costs in addition to the cost of a new building before a full-blown feasibility study gets underway.

District 5 Councilor Lisa Santagate said she

had some of the same questions about the costs as Jimenez-Rivera.

However, she also pointed to the lack of EMT staffing across the state and a recent tragedy in Winthrop where ambulances were not able to respond to an emergency in a timely fashion as some reasons why the city should look at building a new station.

"I feel the request (Recupero) made is important and fair as our city has grown," Santagate said. "I don't think we would ever be able to handle anything like what happened in Winthrop because we said no to increasing the amount of emergency ve-

hicles so that we could service the city quickly."

Park // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

If you encounter any issues with the online voting process or need assistance, please contact Jazmin at jazminc@greenrootsej.org.

All Chelsea residents are encouraged to participate and have a voice in this important decision that will help shape the identity of this new community space.

The new park is set to

be completed and open to the public in mid-to-late November, offering a valuable green space for the community to enjoy.

The new park will include a splash pad and a grassy area overlooking the river and is part of the city's efforts to increase public space near its waterfront, according to City Manager Fidel Maltez.

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CHELSEA RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS HOST MOON & STAR GAZING



Families gathering for the November 7 Moon & Star Gazing night at Voke Park

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

Chelsea Recreation & Cultural Affairs, with support from the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston (ATMoB), held a Moon & Star Gazing event on November 7 at Voke Park, Prattville. Participants of the free, educational event were invited to explore the night sky through high-powered telescopes.

“We like sharing the sky,” said amateur astronomer and electrical engineer, Christopher Elledge, ATMoB member. “We tend to start with the moon because everybody recognizes it. We can make it look bigger and brighter. People are able to see things on the surface that they normally couldn’t. There are craters and mountains. It’s like a smaller earth with no water or air.”

The optical instruments were focused on prominent elements in the sky for marveling viewers like seven-year-old Joshua Recinos, who loves learning about the planets, Earth, and continents.

“I was excited to come here because I’ve never seen the planets in real life before. I’ve seen them in books and videos,” shared Recinos, second grade. “I saw an exploded star, Saturn, and its moon, Titan. I also saw the moon. You could see its craters.”

Recinos was one of the eager children who received astronomy-themed gift bags filled with goodies such as a space activity book, a pencil topped with an astronaut eraser, a Saturn ball, a planet slap bracelet, and glow sticks, that many wore like a crown.

Families observed the moon, stars,



Jacobo Rios and Jacobo Alvarez, 6



Marco Euceda, 9, with his mother, Ana Lobo

Saturn, and the Ring Nebula, a dwarf star surrounded by glowing gases. Additionally, they took part in a gravity well demonstration with Ecuadorian-born guest, Ernesto Camacho, a graduate student currently researching black holes at the Harvard and Smithsonian’s Center for Astrophysics.

This was the third Moon & Star Gazing gathering; and Chelsea Recreation plans to organize another in April 2025 at Highland Park, 324 Marginal Street.



Juan, Maya, 9, and Atlas Barahona looking at the moon



Joshuah, 7, and Ian, 8, learning about gravity with astrophysicist, Ernesto Camacho



Chelsea High School National Honor Society members: Sarah Phan, Angely Majia Martinez, Jocelyn Tavico, and Jessica Chavarria



Joshua Recinos, 7, looking at the moon with his mom, Martha Chavez, and sister, Isabella Recinos, 16-months-old

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