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CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

VOLUME 132, No. 42

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024

35 CENTS

SANTA CLAUS AND MRS. CLAUS BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY TO WINTERFEST



Above, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus greet Mila Guzman and Liam Guzman at the start of the parade outside Central Fire Station. See page 6 for more photos.

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus boarded a Chelsea Fire Department truck for a parade through Chelsea streets before making their final stop at Chelsea Winterfest at Washington Park.

Right, City Manager Fidel Maltez (left) and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell (right) greeting The Grinch.



CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

Commitment

School Committee takes up resolution reaffirming its status as a sanctuary district

By Adam Swift

At last week's school committee meeting, member Dr. Sarah Neville introduced a resolution asking the committee to support and reaffirm its status as a Sanctuary District and the city's status as a Sanctuary City in the

wake of the presidential election.

Although the school committee was generally supportive of the resolution, it did elect to hold a future meeting to garner a legal opinion on it and to meet with community

See COMMITMENT Page 2

APPRECIATION

Friends, family, PPC members celebrate the life of John Arsenault

By Cary Shuman

Dan French said that John F. Arsenault was "my best friend, a guy who you could depend on for everything and always made you smile."

Older brother Jimmy Arsenault said, "John was absolutely the best person I knew."

Bobby Kwiatkowski, who knew John Arsenault since the age of 15, recalled the "wonderful days when we would move the furniture in his mother's apartment and play sock-hockey after school until Mrs. Arsenault returned from work."

It was a day of celebration and reflection Sunday at the Polish Political Club in Chelsea where friends, family, and fellow PPC members gathered for a



John F. Arsenault (left) is pictured with his sister, Denise Arsenault Carthas, in a family photo.

luncheon to honor the life of John F. Arsenault, who passed away on Nov. 10 at the age of 68.

It was Dr. William Eaves, a prominent dentist and former classmate of Mr. Arsenault's incredibly personable and loving sister, Denise Arsenault,

See JOHN Page 5

Traffic City by Max Pro - All Planets art exhibit open at City Hall Gallery



COURTESY PHOTO

Chelsea native Max Corona, also known as Max Pro, currently has his Traffic City art exhibit on display at the City Hall Gallery

Special to the Record

Traffic City, featuring Max Corona's large-scale canvas paintings, invites viewers to consider the mind as a bottle of soda—shaken by life's pressures and in need of healthy self-expression to release that pressure without causing an explosion. The exhibit emphasizes the importance of open communication about mental health, which is often overlooked due to stigma. The exhibit is now open

at the City Hall Gallery at City Hall and the opening reception will take place

See ART Page 2

La Colaborativa deploys \$2 million Climate Future Initiative to empower young adults

Special to the Record

La Colaborativa recently announced the launch of its Climate Future Initiative, the largest climate-tech workforce

training, career readiness, and economic development program in the Metro North Region.

"We're grateful to the Healey-Driscoll Administration, MassCEC, and

Senators Warren and Markey for catalyzing meaningful strides towards ensuring the clean energy transition uplifts, rather than exploits, Latinx and immigrant communities."

said Gladys Vega, President/CEO of La Colaborativa.

In total, the multilingual program represents a \$2 million investment overseen by La Colaborativa, with financing provided by the U.S. Department of Labor through Senators Warren and Markey, coupled with major grants through the Mass. Clean Energy Center (MassCEC), the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED), and MassHire Metro North Workforce Board. It sets the stage for the development of La Colaborativa's Center for Economic Development at 50 Heard St.

"Through a cross-sector partnership convened by La Colaborativa, this approach recognizes that we can only overcome the displacement crisis, poverty, and community violence by deliberately



COURTESY PHOTO

La Colaborativa recently announced a \$2 million climate future initiative that will focus on climate-tech workforce training, career readiness, and economic development in the region.

See EMPOWER Page 3

INDEPENDENT
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Chelsea Police Department sends officers to National Women in Law Enforcement Training

Special to the Record

The Chelsea Police Department recently sent three female officers; Officer Jennifer Herrera, Officer Jenny Builes, and Detective Taisha Santiago to participate in an intensive leadership enrichment training program in Atlanta in November.

This initiative reflects the department's ongoing commitment to developing future female leaders within the Chelsea Police Department, according to Police Chief Keith Houghton. The three officers were the second group of CPD female officers to attend this training. Three officers participated in the previous session in New Orleans in April 2024.

The training program, a nationally recognized leadership development course, provides partici-

pants with advanced skills in decision-making, communication, crisis management, and community engagement. By investing in the professional growth of its officers, the Chelsea Police Department is paving the way for a more inclusive and dynamic leadership team, Houghton added.

"Our department thrives when we nurture and empower the diverse talent within our ranks," said Houghton. "These three officers exemplify dedication and potential, and I am confident that this training will further enhance their ability to lead, inspire, and serve the Chelsea community."

Houghton said the officers selected for the program were chosen based on their commitment to the values of the Chelsea Police Department. This opportunity aligns

with CPD's broader mission to foster an equitable workplace and provide high-quality service to the community.

"By investing in these officers, we are not only strengthening the Chelsea Police Department but also sending a clear message: the future of law enforcement is inclusive, and we are proud to be leaders in that effort," Houghton stated.

He said the Chelsea Police Department looks forward to the insights and skills these officers will bring back to further enrich the department and continue its tradition of excellence in public service. The department will send four more officers to the 2025 National Woman in Law Enforcement training in Kentucky and continue prioritizing training for its female officers.



COURTESY PHOTO

Chelsea Police Officer Jennifer Herrera, Officer Jenny Builes, and Detective Taisha Santiago recently participated in an intensive leadership enrichment training program in Atlanta

Chelsea in talks to join Revere and Winthrop in regional dispatch operations

By Adam Swift

Chelsea could be joining the Metro North Regional Emergency Communication Center (RECC) alongside neighbors Winthrop and Revere within the next several years, according to a joint letter from the leaders of the three communities.

"This initiative, which has been in the works for nearly a decade, aims to combine our 911 dispatch operations into a shared, state-of-the-art facility at the McKinley School in Revere," stated the letter from Winthrop Town Manager Tony Marino, Revere Mayor Patrick Keefe, and Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez. "This move follows a growing trend across Massachusetts and represents a strategic effort to enhance public safety for our communities."

According to the letter, it is still early in the process for Chelsea to join Winthrop and Revere in the RECC, but it did highlight several potential benefits to Chelsea if it joins the partnership.

"By consolidating our dispatch teams, we will improve our ability to respond to emergency calls, particularly during high-demand periods. Instead of relying on smaller, individual teams, the RECC will house a centralized group of up to 16 dispatchers, more efficiently providing our public safety personnel with the critical support they need," the letter states. "We will be able to share resources, reduce response times, and standardize protocols for a more consistent level of service. The RECC will offer a more robust mutual aid system than what cur-

rently exists."

According to the community leaders, this means that when one community experiences a surge in calls, others can more easily assist, ensuring that no town or city is overwhelmed, and nobody is left behind. This collaboration would also reduce risk and improve safety for everyone, the letter states.

For our dedicated 911 dispatch staff, we want to emphasize that all current employees will remain in their roles and will receive comprehensive training to ensure smooth operation at our new facility," the letter states. "While we look forward to meeting with our employees' unions to hear their concerns and proposals about the impacts of regionalization, our goal and expectation is that negotiations will result in employees carrying over their seniority, pay rates, and benefits. Additionally, the RECC will feature modern amenities, including a lunchroom, training center, and fitness center, ensuring our staff continues to work in a positive and supportive environment."

Maltez, Marino, and Keefe stated that they also wanted to reassure residents that the individual communities' public safety personnel—police, fire, and emergency medical teams—will remain in their respective communities and that the change solely involves the relocation of dispatch operations to the new RECC, which is 1.6 miles away from Chelsea City Hall.

"Regionalization reflects our commitment to prioritizing public safety and ensuring that our communities are equipped to

respond to emergencies as efficiently and effectively as possible," the letter states. "We are confident that this initiative will strengthen our region's ability to protect and serve you, and we look forward to keeping you informed as we move forward with this important project."

Maltez said the three communities want to keep residents informed about the potential plans, and that it would likely be 2027 before the new operations center in Revere is ready to go and Chelsea is fully a member of the regional center.

The city's current E-911 center abutting the city hall parking lot was recently renovated.

Maltez noted that the renovations to the building were needed and were paid for through ARPA Covid relief funds. If Chelsea officially joins the regional communications center, Maltez noted that the building will likely be used to help with existing public safety space concerns in the police and fire departments.

Currently, The Metro North Regional Emergency Communications Center receives over 30,000 911 and other emergency calls and alarms annually 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.

Art // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 5:30 p.m. at the gallery.

The artist encourages a shift toward embracing mental health discussions and supporting one another with available tools, treatments, and resources to manage mental well-being. There is no shame in seeking help—mental health care is essential for everyone.

Max Corona, also known as Max Pro, was born and raised in Chelsea, where his family has deep roots, with his grandparents having migrated from Cuba. Max's artistic journey began at the age of four when he first watched his mother draw a flower.

From there, his art continued to grow, and his creative journey expanded. An avid member of Chelsea's community, Max has contributed several public art pieces around the city. After spending 15 years in the healthcare industry, he discovered peace, solitude, and therapy through his art.

Max's artwork incorporates a wide range of materials, including recycled items, and is inspired by colors that evoke memories of nature, aiming to spark meaningful conversations. His love for comic books and time travel has greatly influenced his creativity.

The artist's work reflects both his personal journey and his commitment to fostering dialogue around mental health, self-expression, and the transformative power of creativity. Max encourages a shift toward embracing mental health discussions and supporting each other with available tools, treatments, and resources to manage mental well-being. There is no shame in seeking help—mental health care is essential for everyone.

To learn more about Max, his work, and the All Planets movement, visit his website: <https://all-planets.square.site/>

Commitment // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stakeholders before voting on the resolution.

The resolution also calls for the district to show its commitment to welcome, affirm, support, and educate students with diverse gender identities, expressions and sexual orientations, including transgender and nonbinary students. In addition, Neville's resolution asks the Chelsea Public Schools to call upon the state, the city, and all allied organizations and funders to assist in providing financial support to the district in the event that the US federal government fails to provide Chelsea with the funds necessary to educate all students in line with the commitments highlighted in the resolution.

"As we all know, the presidential election this year is difficult for Chelsea because the president who was elected promised to deport as many undocumented immigrants as he could, and that is going to have a big impact on Chelsea if he manages to do that," said Neville. "I thought it was publicly important to state and reaffirm our commitment to our families because we all know that making undocumented families feel safe and welcomed is really important to the health and wellness to our city as a whole because then people feel unsafe, they will hide from services and supports that are meant to help them."

Neville noted that there is also a heightened rhetoric around transgender people and students, and that it is important for the district to let them know that it is committed to welcoming and affirming their identities.

"Most importantly, we know that there is a chance that the incoming president is going to try and dismantle the Department

of Education, and we get 15 percent of our budget from the federal Department of Education," said Neville. "We also know there is a chance he is going to try to attach strings to these grants."

Neville said the school committee and the district needs to look ahead and prepare for that possibility and lobby the state, the city, and other organizations to plan and help in case Chelsea and other gateway communities see their federal funding for education slashed.

School Committee Chair Ana Hernandez said the committee should further discuss and evaluate the proposed resolution in a separate committee after getting guidance from legal counsel and input from other political partners.

"It is a wonderful motion," said Hernandez. "We are trying to make it as strong as we possibly can and educate all of us as a committee so we can all be on the same page."

The date of that committee meeting on the resolution had not been set as of early this week, according to Neville.

Browne Middle School teacher and Chelsea Teachers' Union President spoke in favor of the resolution at last week's meeting.

"Back in 2016, when there were similar election outcomes, students directly expressed extreme anxiety to me and concerns about themselves or their families having to leave the country forcibly," said Anderson. "I think taking a minute to really reaffirm to our commitment that we truly welcome and educate all students is important to do explicitly. I especially appreciate the inclusion of students who are gender nonconforming or gender diverse; it is a community that is growing and there

are many more students who identify that way now than they did when I first started teaching."

Wendy Mancina, the program director for Youth Elemento under North Suffolk Community Services, submitted a letter to the committee in favor of the resolution.

"I had the opportunity to open a drop-in center in Chelsea that supports immigrant youth, LGBTQ youth and any youth looking for a support system," Mancina stated. "What I see now at my line of work is youth that come into this country without their family, without work permits, without their community. I see families that want to move forward but cannot due to the multiple barriers they face. I see LGBTQ youth that have no other support system other than our program."

"Many of the youth we serve are in therapy due to their challenges in life," Mancina continued. "Sometimes I think, what if we did not have this center? Where would they be? Who would they go to for support? How would they access therapy without health insurance? I think it is imperative to continue funding and to continue supporting immigrant and LGBTQ youth."

Chelsea resolved in 2007 to go on record as a Sanctuary City, to not initiate or welcome raids that are not related to public safety and other heinous crimes, and reject the use of the word "illegal" and "alien" to describe any human being.

"Our mission statement (as a district) is that we welcome and educate all, and we mean that," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta. "We also protect the privacy of our students, and that is not going to change."

Real Estate Transfers

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Gz Rt	Sciacca, Domenic	172 Spencer Ave	\$550,000
Aerfort LLC	Hsu, Kuo-Chen	53 Hawthorne St	\$985,000
Amadeo, Samantha L	Sambou, Philomen	91 Blossom St #91	\$480,000
Toska, Edmond	Brennan, Emily R	932 Broadway #303	\$350,000



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Chelsea man held without bail in shooting death of estranged wife

Staff Report

A Chelsea man is being held without bail for first-degree murder in connection with the shooting death of his estranged wife on Marginal Street last Friday.

Luckenson King Pablo, 31, was arrested hours after the shooting at an Everett apartment building by Chelsea Police with assistance from the Massachusetts State Police and Everett Police.

King Pablo was arraigned in Chelsea District Court on Monday for the murder of his estranged wife, Melissa Janvier Pablo, 32.

“This was a fast-moving investigation involving State and Chelsea police with an important assist by Everett police,” said Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden. “I thank all for their solid work to ensure that Mr. Pablo will answer for this brutal crime.”

Chelsea Police Chief

Keith Houghton stated “evidence suggests this was a targeted attack and no one from the public is in danger. I want to thank all Chelsea Officers who responded to the call and rendered aid, also thanks to the State Police Detectives who are assigned to the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office, and the Everett Police Department, who worked together to swiftly place the suspect in custody.”

Shortly before 8:45 a.m. on Friday morning, Houghton stated that a Chelsea police officer on patrol in the area of Central Avenue at Marginal Street by the TownePlace Suites reported hearing shots fired and located a female victim on the ground.

The woman, later identified as Janvier Pablo, was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital, where she was later pronounced dead.

According to the dis-

trict attorney’s office, the shooter ran from the scene and fled in a car.

“Losing someone so young to such a shocking act of violence is heart-breaking for family and friends and for our entire community,” said Hayden. “I thank everyone who is working on this tragic case and I offer my deepest condolences to all those who knew and loved Melissa Pablo.”

During the arraignment, prosecutor Kyle Siconolfi said it was alleged that the defendant approached the victim and she attempted to get away from him, that he physically assaulted her, that she ran from him, that he pursued her, and that when the victim fell at the median of Marginal Street and was on the ground with her body half raised in the direction of the defendant, that he pointed what appeared to be a firearm at her in her upper body and she fell fully to the street.

Chelsea man sentenced for selling fake Social Security cards and Green Cards

Staff Report

A Chelsea man was sentenced last week for selling fraudulent Social Security cards and Legal Permanent Resident cards, often referred to as “Green Cards.”

Wilberto Sandoval Mazariego, 41, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Allison D. Burroughs to one month in prison, followed by six months of home confinement. In July 2024, Sandoval Mazariego pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful transfer of a document or authentication feature. In October 2023, Sandoval Mazariego was arrested and charged by criminal complaint and later indicted by a federal grand jury.

During an investigation into Tomas Xirum for selling fraudulent Green Cards and fraudulent Social Security cards,

Sandoval Mazariego was identified as the creator of the fraudulent documents Xirum was selling. Following Xirum’s arrest in August 2022, a text message string was discovered between Xirum and Sandoval Mazariego that contained approximately 568 attachments. Xirum would regularly text Sandoval Mazariego pictures of unknown persons along with a name, date of birth and country of birth – to which Sandoval Mazariego would later respond with pictures of Social Security cards and/or Green Cards with a person’s photo and information that Xirum provided, according to the U.S. Attorney’s office.

On Aug. 17, 2023, Sandoval Mazariego sold a fraudulent Green Card and a fraudulent Social Security card to an undercover agent. On Oct. 3, 2023, Sandoval Mazariego was arrested after leaving his Chelsea residence. During

a search of his residence, all items necessary to produce counterfeit forms of identification were found, including two laminators, card stock paper, photo paper, glue, trimmers and printers. Also recovered were nine Legal Permanent Resident cards, six Social Security cards and five driver’s licenses. Five of the recovered Social Security cards contained the names provided by the undercover agent to Sandoval Mazariego as part of the investigation. A total of \$17,095 in cash was also recovered from the residence, according to the U.S. Attorney’s office.

On Aug. 21, 2023, Xirum pleaded guilty to three counts of unlawful transfer of document or authentication feature and three counts of unlawful production of document or authentication feature. In January 2024, Xirum was sentenced to 18 months in prison.

Empower // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

empowering our youth and young adults.” said Dinanyili Paulino, EVP of La Colaborativa.

Centered on galvanizing an equitable, dynamic 21st century economy, the program aims to diversify the next generation of climate-tech leaders.

“With a forecasted shortage of over 38,000 climate-tech jobs across the Commonwealth, La Colaborativa is committed to fostering the advancement of our young people through high-paying jobs in the HVAC, electrical, energy efficiency, and green construction realms,” said Alex Train, COO of La Colaborativa.

In turn, developing an adept, agile climate-tech workforce will accelerate the decarbonization of the Metro North Region, foster climate preparedness, and achieve an unmatched quality of life by lowering household costs, mitigating air pollution, and generating tangible economic benefits for low-income residents.

With La Colaborativa spearheading the effort, the multilingual program will be implemented in partnership with Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology, the

Green Jobs Academy, TNEC-UMass Lowell, and the North Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters. This multifaceted approach will directly train and equip over 143 young adults, ages 18 to 24, and mid-career adults for careers in a variety of fields. Moreover, through its Youth Development Department, La Colaborativa will carry out a career exploration and job readiness program, enabling 15 youth, ages 16 to 18, to gain exposure to the host of post-secondary and career opportunities in the sustainability, clean energy, and climate resilience sectors. Simultaneously, over 1,000 residents will be positioned to thrive in the climate-tech space through contextualized ESOL classes, career readiness, and job search assistance.

As workforce training progresses, La Colaborativa will institute intensive career counseling, job readiness, financial education, and leadership development programming. Distinguished by an emphasis on integrative wraparound services for all participants in the workforce training and youth career exploration

pathways, the program will encompass intensive case management, living wage stipends to reduce economic barriers, transportation, food and clothing assistance, and access to childcare. La Colaborativa will expand private sector partnerships to directly place participants in well-paying jobs, with ongoing case management provided to promote retention and mobility.

A throughline across the program, diminishing obstacles commonly faced by BIPOC residents is essential to furthering the Commonwealth’s competitiveness, enriching the local economy, and eradicating poverty.

Interested residents of Chelsea, Everett, Revere, East Boston, and Lynn can apply directly by visiting La Colaborativa’s website at <https://www.la-colaborativa.org>, calling (617) 889-6080, or stopping by 63 6th St. in Chelsea between 10:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.

La Colaborativa, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the empowerment of Latinx and immigrant communi-

PEOPLE OF CHELSEA

The following story is one in a series from the ongoing People of Chelsea project by Darlene DeVita in collaboration with Sarah Putnam, 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 Cultural Grant.

The People of Chelsea book, which features 65 stories, is available by ordering directly on line at this link: <https://www.magcloud.com/browse/issue/2900065>

Lisa Rizzo, owner, Dillon’s Oldest steam bath in the country, 2022 - Ladies, warm up on Monday’s ladies night!

[When my husband] passed in 1999, I took over the business. I was 30 years old. Taking over



a men’s business as very difficult. I had a lot of obstacles that I faced. I had no one to guide me because my husband wasn’t there. I think he’d be very proud of what I’ve accomplished, and I kept his passion alive. And now, after 25 years, our son loves it as much as I do. All walks of life come through these doors; politicians, union workers, doctors, lawyers. I have a big Moroc-

can clientele and Latinos from Chelsea. A lot of women come here [on Mondays, ladies’ night]. I remember one customer saying, “You know what, we all have different jobs and come from different places, but once we come into Dillon’s we’re all the same, we’re all here for the same reason, to relax and enjoy ourselves.”

NEWS IN BRIEF

COMMUNITY INVITED TO INTERACTIVE OPEN HOUSE HOSTED BY COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The City of Chelsea Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is excited to invite the Chelsea community to an interactive Open House where residents can participate in guiding the use of the City’s Community Preservation Act funds (CPA) on Tuesday, Dec. 17 from 5-7 p.m. at the Chelsea Senior Center located at 10 Riley Way. Community members can drop in anytime.

A key feature of the Open House will be its interactive experience; attendees will walk around and provide feedback on the funding areas that the CPC oversees, including open space, affordable housing, and historic preservation, ensuring that community voices are heard in shaping the future of Chelsea.

“This open house represents a vital opportunity for residents to engage with local government and participate in guiding our CPA Plan, including the use of our CPA funds,

that directly impacts their community,” said Bianca Mercado, Housing and Community Preservation Manager for the City of Chelsea Department of Housing and Community Development. “We invite all Chelsea residents to attend and make their voices heard.”

Catered food will be provided to all attendees, until supplies last.

For more information, please contact Bianca Mercado at bmercado@chelseama.gov or (617) 466-4185.

CITY OF CHELSEA SURVEYING COMMUNITY ABOUT POTENTIAL SKATEPARK AT MYSTIC OVERLOOK

Before plans move forward for a proposed skatepark at Mystic Overlook Park, the City of Chelsea Department of Housing and Community Development is surveying the community to gain community input about whether Chelsea wants another skatepark.

To take the survey, visit chelseama.gov. Please submit a response by Dec. 31 at midnight.

Since 2017, the Mystic

Overlook Park located under the Tobin Bridge has been a passive area for walking and viewing the Mystic River and Boston skyline, but now requires significant upgrades. The park currently lacks the necessary infrastructure to manage the site’s ongoing drainage and erosion issues, along with amenities to serve as a citywide resource.

The City of Chelsea is interested in renovating the park with a concrete custom-built skatepark as a way to provide long-term benefits for the environment and community while also creating recreational opportunities. This investment is designed to enhance the park’s role within open space in Chelsea, ensuring greater public access, expanded social and athletic opportunities for young people, and a more sustainable environment.

For questions, comments, or to request a physical copy of the survey, please email or call Sara Han of the City of Chelsea Department of Housing & Community Development at shan@chelseama.gov or (617) 466-4183.

A redesign of Mystic Overlook will not affect the existing dog park.

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Chelsea

RECORD

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: THE SCOURGE WITHOUT END

When we heard the news last Friday morning that a 32 year-old woman had been shot and killed in broad daylight on a busy Chelsea street, the first thought that immediately crossed our mind was: The husband or boyfriend did it. Just a few hours later, police announced that they had arrested a suspect, the victim's 31 year-old estranged husband who, according to news reports, had called police to turn himself in.

We've been in the news business for longer than we care to remember and the world has changed in ways that were unimaginable when we began our career in journalism more than 50 years ago. But despite the changes in technology and societal attitudes regarding countless issues, the one constant that has remained is the pathology of domestic violence.

It still is the case today, just as it always has been, that a woman is more likely to suffer violence by a partner than from any other source. The statistics tell the tragic story: Nearly half of all women murdered in the United States are killed by a current or former intimate partner; 1 in 4 women will experience physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime; 1 in 3 women will experience some form of sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime; and 1 in 6 women will experience stalking from an intimate partner in their lifetime.

It also has remained true that the most dangerous time for a woman in a relationship is the period when she first decides to leave her partner. The victim in the shooting this past week had been married to the suspect for 10 years, but they had become estranged only within the past two weeks.

In addition, an article in this week's New York Times has highlighted another dangerous time period for women: According to the Times, the second-leading cause of death (other than from the pregnancy itself) for women who are pregnant or recently postpartum is domestic violence.

What also was not surprising about Friday's tragic event is that a gun was used by the perpetrator. The mere presence of a firearm in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500% and more than half of intimate partner homicides are by firearm.

Fortunately, the U.S. Supreme Court recently let stand laws that exist in every state that require a person with a domestic violence restraining order to turn in his guns. However, there had not been a restraining order between the parties involved in Friday's tragedy.

Domestic violence cuts across all racial and economic lines. Just the week before Friday's incident (in which the victim and the suspect, both of whom are Haitian immigrants and are Black), it was announced that the Cohasset man who allegedly murdered and dismembered his wife -- both of whom are white -- at Christmas time two years ago will stand trial next year. We also would note that today's Massachusetts domestic violence laws stem from the 1970s after an incident in that wealthy suburb of Cohasset in which the husband shot and killed his wife and then shot and wounded his children before turning the gun on himself.

We generally conclude our editorials by offering our view on what lawmakers or individuals can do in order to bring about societal change. However, when it comes to domestic violence, we have no ready solution to this long-standing problem. We can only recommend to women and anyone who is in an abusive relationship to end it immediately and seek help from law enforcement, the courts, and the many services available to victims of domestic violence in our communities. (In Chelsea, HarborCOV offers services for victims of domestic violence. Its 24 hour hotline number is 617-884-9909.)

ANOTHER DICTATOR BITES THE DUST

The demise of the dictatorship in Syria this weekend that brought to an end 50 years of brutal rule by the Assad family -- Bashir al-Assad had succeeded his father, Hafez al-Assad -- was startling to most observers. The Assad regime had successfully fought off a rebel army more than a decade ago, and though Syria had been divided into areas of control by various rebel groups and the government, the Assad regime, bolstered by the Russians and the Iranians, seemed secure.

However, the denigration of Iran's military capabilities by Israel this past year and Russia's weakened position because of its war in Ukraine left the Assad regime vulnerable to the rebel factions who never had gone away over the past decade.

What caught everyone by surprise, including Bashir al-Assad himself, was the rapidity of the rebels' advance from their stronghold in a tiny portion of northwestern Syria in the city of Idlib to the capital of Damascus, hundreds of miles away.

The images of Syrians rejoicing in the streets amidst the toppled statues of Hafez al-Assad were reminiscent of what happened in the immediate aftermath of the fall of so many other Middle East dictators, including Saddam Hussein in Iraq and Muammar al-Gaddafi in Libya.

The quick end to the al-Assad regime brought to mind a phrase by a character in the novel, *The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway, about how bankruptcy befalls someone: "Gradually and then suddenly."

We join with the Syrian people in their joy and pray that their future, whatever path it may take, will be peaceful.

Forum

Domestic Violence vigil planned for City Hall

Special to the Record

HarborCOV, the local domestic violence program serving Chelsea, East Boston, Winthrop, and Charlestown is partnering with the City of Chelsea and the Chelsea Women's Commission to remember Melissa Janvier Pablo with a vigil at Chelsea City Hall on Thursday.

Pablo died on Dec. 6 after allegedly being shot by her estranged husband outside a Chelsea hotel.

Luckenson King Pablo, 31, was arrested hours after the shooting at an Everett apartment building by Chelsea Police and was later arraigned on murder charges in Chelsea District Court and ordered held without bail.

"This terrible loss underscores the urgent need for us to unite in the fight against domestic violence and to stand in solidarity with survivors," said Chelsea City Council President Norieliz DeJesus. "As City Council President, I extend my

deepest condolences to the families and loved ones affected. The Chelsea City Council remains steadfast in its commitment to providing essential resources, unwavering support, and hope for those in need. We will continue to work together with compassion and determination to create a community where safety, dignity, and respect are the foundation for all."

In partnership with the City of Chelsea and Chelsea Women's Commission and community groups, HarborCOV will host a community vigil on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 6 PM on the Chelsea City Hall to honor the life of Melissa Janvier Pablo and raise awareness about the lethality of domestic violence.

"This tragic incident underscores the ongoing dangers that many victims of domestic violence face, especially when attempting to escape an abusive relationship. It's important to recognize that leaving an abusive partner can

be a perilous moment for survivors," said Rachel Angerhofer, Director of Domestic Violence Prevention Programs, RESPOND INC. The period of separation often escalates the risk of violence. It is crucial that communities, support networks, and law enforcement work together to offer resources and safety plans to those in vulnerable situations."

A Community Call to Action Circle will be held in the coming weeks. The date, time, and location are to be determined. For those wanting to take action sooner, the Chelsea Women's Commission encourages collaboration both with HarborCOV and the community.

"Domestic violence is everyone's business. It does not discriminate based on race, socioeconomic status, language, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression," said Kourou Pich, HarborCOV's CEO. We must realize that this type of violence affects all of

us, and we need to take a stand to support and educate our friends, neighbors, and families.

Those wishing to receive confidential help regarding domestic violence issues can call HarborCOV's hotline at (617) 884-9909, and for more information about HarborCOV, call its business office at (617) 884-9799.

"We stand in solidarity with HarborCOV and other partners working tirelessly to provide resources and protection for girls and women," said Lourdes Alvarez, Chair of the Women's Commission. "I also call on everyone to take responsibility and play a role in ending violence against women. Challenging a machismo culture is everyone's role and responsibility. And you need to take action now! The Chelsea Women's Commission is always here for those who want to join us in the advocacy for a better future."

State grant could help fund warming center

By Adam Swift

Chelsea could be joining other local communities in opening a warming center for homeless people this winter.

Malden and Revere have operated overnight warming shelters for several years.

The city has applied for a grant from the state's Executive Office of Housing and Liveable Communities that would help cover the start-up costs for the center. The center is being proposed at the Selah Day Resource Center on Broadway.

The Selah Day Resource Center is a non-profit organization serving the Chelsea community, helping families in need with food insecur-

ities and individuals experiencing homelessness and drug addictions problems.

The grant application calls for the center to operate nightly from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., from January 1 through April 30, 2025.

"The center will provide shelter, meals, and critical connections to services that will support individuals in transitioning to permanent housing and accessing mental health programs," according to the grant application. "The warming center will be designed to serve Chelsea's underserved, vulnerable populations, with particular attention to undocumented migrants and other marginalized groups. In addition to providing life-saving shelter,

the center will connect individuals to essential case management services and resources aimed at fostering long-term housing stability and overall well-being."

Housing Families, in collaboration with local health and human services agencies, such as Capic and North Shore Community Services Navigators, will ensure that guests are linked to case

management services. Housing Families will oversee intake and work to connect individuals to long-term housing, legal support, healthcare, and other vital services.

Housing Families has also operated the overnight warming shelter in Revere at its senior center for the past two years.

"Revere has done a warming center for several years and it has been incredibly helpful," said City Manager Fidel Maltez. "This year is the first year we have been looking into this setup, and what has really made this available is that there is a new grant available."

Maltez said the city already partners with the Selah resource center, so it would make sense to continue the partnership with the warming center.

"It is really a very good model that we have seen, which is that we are going to partner with faith organizations ... and hopefully, if we get this grant, we will be able to move forward with this," said Maltez.

Your opinions, please

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

Letters may also be e-mailed to
stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com.

Letters must be signed.

We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

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John // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

who invited the Chelsea Record to be part of such a beautiful occasion celebrating Mr. Arsenault's life.

Sharing 46 years of friendship

Hearing Dan French talk about the joy ful times he shared with John Arsenault was heartwarming and at times emotional.

"I met John after I got out of the Navy when I was 20," recalled Dan. "We played softball together for the Beacon Hill Café team. He was my best friend all my life."

Dan said he and John co-owned boats, went on fishing trips together, and socialized at the P.P.C. as far back as the mid-1980s.

"Just a great guy. He was also a member of the Chelsea Yacht Club," said Dan. "Everyone gravitated toward him because he was so kind and generous. He had a big heart."

Dan related the tale of how John Arsenault rescued a dog, and the animal became his companion.

"John rescued a three-legged dog called Titan, and John took care of him until John became ill," said Dan. "His daughter, Juli, has the dog now."

'Middle child' who watched out for all

Jimmy Arsenault (who was five years older than John), said John was the middle child among the siblings, that included oldest sister Diane Arsenault ("We have the same birthday, Aug. 12," said Jimmy) younger sister, Denise Arsenault, and younger brother, Joseph Arsenault.

John Arsenault attended Shurtleff School and Chelsea High School. Jimmy said when their father [Joseph Arsenault] passed away at the age of 42, his brother, John, moved to Michigan to live with his aunt and uncle because "my mother (the late Marguerite Arsenault) didn't like what was happening at the time in the city."

"It proved to be a smart decision," said Jimmy. "I would visit him out there, and he spent two or three years living there and everything was very good."

Jimmy Arsenault said his family was close-knit and it enjoyed being together and celebrating on

the holidays and at family gatherings.

"When you're little kids living at home, the older brother picks on the younger brother, but it was always good natured," recalled Jimmy. "He loved his siblings. I think Denise had a similar personality. Everyone loved her, too. She became the class president at Saint Rose High School. You cannot dislike Denise. She's just a funny, personable lady and is an amazing sister. John was the middle child, so he just felt he had to take care of everybody, and he did that for the most part."

The brothers stayed in close contact throughout their lives.

"We did a lot of fishing together and a lot of canoeing. We were great friends. He had a great sense of humor," said Jimmy.

Cousins recall 'a special bond'

Jodi Whitaker said that her cousin, John Arsenault, came to Michigan to live with the family and graduated high school.

"John and I had such a special bond," remembered Jodi fondly. "He would walk to my school and pick me up, and I would ride on his shoulders back to the house, and he would sing all those little ditties that you sing when you're a kid."

Whitaker, who traveled from Michigan to be a part of the memorial observances, added, "John gave me some of my finest memories. He taught me my love of my music and influenced me with Zepelin and The Who coming up from his bedroom in the basement and filling the house. I have so many good memories."

Sock-hockey at the Arsenault residence

Bobby Kwiatkowski said some of the "most fun" days of his life were "playing sock-hockey" after school with John Arsenault.

"My dad used to be the foreman down the projects on Central Avenue," said Bobby K. "John lived at 210. I met him there. We used to go upstairs on the third floor, move all the furniture and play sock-hockey. We would get on our hands and knees

and play sock hockey until his mother came home. Then we'd move all the furniture back."

"I've known John since I was 15 years old, and I'm 69 now," said Bobby. "We played softball for the Beacon Café team. John was a good ballplayer. John and I did everything and went everywhere together. He had a daughter, Juli, and had three grandchildren. John lived a great life., He was a solid guy with a heart of gold. I loved him dearly."

That was the sentiment echoed by all at the luncheon. John Arsenault was a great guy who lived a great life. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.



Jimmy Arsenault (center), older brother of the late John F. Arsenault, joins his brother's friends, Dan French and Bobby Kwiatkowski, cousin, Jodi Whitaker, and her daughter, Faith Wierzbicki, at the Celebration of Life Luncheon for John F. Arsenault held Sunday at the Polish Political Club.

OBITUARIES

Natalie "Nellie" Lombardo

Truly the matriarch of her family who loved her unconditionally

Family and friends are kindly invited to attend Visiting Hours on Friday, December 13th from 4 to 8 p.m. in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere for Natalie "Nellie" (Palladino) Lombardo, who died on Monday, December 9th at the Lighthouse Nursing Care

Center in Revere following a brief illness. She was 93 years old, soon to be 94. A Funeral will be held from the funeral home on Saturday, December 14th at 10 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 250 Revere St., Revere at 11 a.m. Interment will immediately follow in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Nellie was born in Chelsea on December 16, 1930 to her late parents, Rocco and Frances (Lopes) Palladino. She was the last born of 15 children and now has closed the sibling chain.

She was raised and educated in Chelsea and attended Chelsea Schools. Nellie married Albert Lombardo on December 21, 1952. The couple moved to Revere where they began to raise and expand their family. Nellie was a devoted wife and mother, as well as a daughter and sister to her parents and 14 siblings.

Nellie later returned to the work force and was an Accounts Receivable Clerk for Northeastern Wall Coverings in South Boston. Her career spanned over 25 years.

Nellie's heart was with her family. No matter what she did, her children and grandchildren were involved and always surrounded her with warmth and love.

Sunday dinners were an absolute must, and she was all about traditions of many kinds. Nellie loved to cook for her family for any reason. She cherished her life with her husband, and together they enjoyed life. She was a beautiful woman inside and out and she enjoyed getting her hair done every week, and always enjoyed listening to Italian music.

Her greatest joy was taking care of her grand-



children; she cherished all of them immensely.

Nellie was fiercely independent and a selfless person. She never wanted to burden her children in any way, instead she always wanted to be the one who helped everyone. She was truly the matriarch of her family, and they loved her unconditionally.

She was the beloved wife of 51 years to the late Albert L. Lombardo; loving mother of Joseph Lombardo and his wife, Elaine of Peabody, Donna Lombardo and her late husband, John Tobin of Revere, Jo-Ann Rossi and her husband, Ronald of N. Reading and Diane Forster and her husband, James Jr. of Winthrop; cherished grandmother of Joseph Lombardo and his wife, Kaylee, Lauren Lombardo, Amanda

Kalavantis and her husband, Christos, Ronald Rossi, James Forster III, Julie Forster and the late Stephanie Saulnier; treasured great grandmother of Patrick, Cameron, Sean, Andrew, Nico and Giovanna; dear sister of the late Grace Rooney, Sue Taylor, Mary Ciaramella, Annie Damiano, Minnie Belli, Tina Pulsicchio, Jenny Kennedy, Rose Hoffman, Dominic, Michael, Rocco, Joseph, Louis, and Anthony Palladino. She is also lovingly survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Flowers are accepted or you can make a donation in Nellie's memory to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave, FL. 17, Chicago, IL 60601.

For online condolences, please visit: www.vertuciosmithvazza.com.

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

Richard Briana

Retired Executive Director of the Chelsea School System

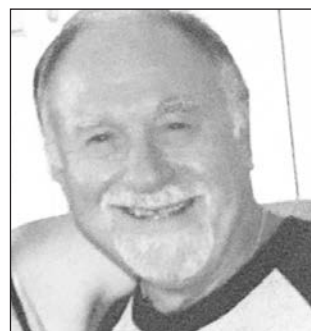
Richard W. Briana of Winthrop passed away in Winthrop on December 8, 2024.

He was born in Boston on November 9, 1930 to the late Mary (DeLuca) and Thomas Briana. Richard was a devoted son and a cherished resident of Winthrop since 1952.

After enlisting in the US Army and serving at the end of the Korean conflict, Richard pursued higher education at Boston University, where he obtained his master's degree. His dedication to education led him to a fulfilling career in the Chelsea school system, where he served as the Executive Director.

Richard will be remembered for his unwavering commitment to his community and his passion for education. He touched the lives of many as a mentor, colleague, and friend. His legacy of service and compassion will forever be cherished by those who knew him.

He was the devoted husband of the late Norma M. (DeStefano) and the loving father of Joanne Jackmauh and her husband, Paul of Winthrop, Richard W. Briana, Jr. and his



partner, Renee Richards of Revere, Mark Briana and his companion, Wendy of Burlington and the late Stephanie Briana; dear brother of the late Thomas Briana, John Briana, Frank Briana, Theresa Trappasso and Catherine Merchant; cherished grandfather of Paul Anthony, Brittany, Rachel, Tayla and Richard III and great grandfather of Alice.

Family and friends are cordially invited to attend the Funeral Mass in St. John the Evangelist Church, 320 Winthrop St., Winthrop today, Thursday, December 12 at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with the interment in the Cross Street section of Winthrop Cemetery.

For directions or to sign the online guestbook, go to www.caggianofuneralhome.com.

Arrangements under the direction of the Caggiano-O'Maley-Frazier Funeral Home, Winthrop.

OBITUARIES

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SANTA CLAUS AND MRS. CLAUS BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY TO WINTERFEST

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS



Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus boarded a Chelsea Fire Department truck for a parade through Chelsea streets before making their final stop at Chelsea Winterfest at Washington Park. Shown (From left) are Liam Guzman, City Manager Fidel Maltez, Downtown USPS Mail Carrier Jason Pompeo, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, Mila Guzman, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell, Parks and Recreation Director Bea Cravatta, Executive Assistant to the Mayor Grace Agosto, Chamber of Commerce Board Member Hailey Guzman, and Chelsea Police Officer Nicole McLaughlin.



Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell and Paul Doherty of the Chelsea Fire Department.



Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus bring the joys of the holiday season to Daniel Landaverde.



Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus greet David Urban Sr., Heidi Urban, David Urban Jr., and Fiona Urban at the start of the Fire Truck Parade.

*'Tis the Season for
Chelsea
Christmas Kids*

Share your photo to be included in this year's **SPECIAL PAGES**

BY FRI. DEC. 13

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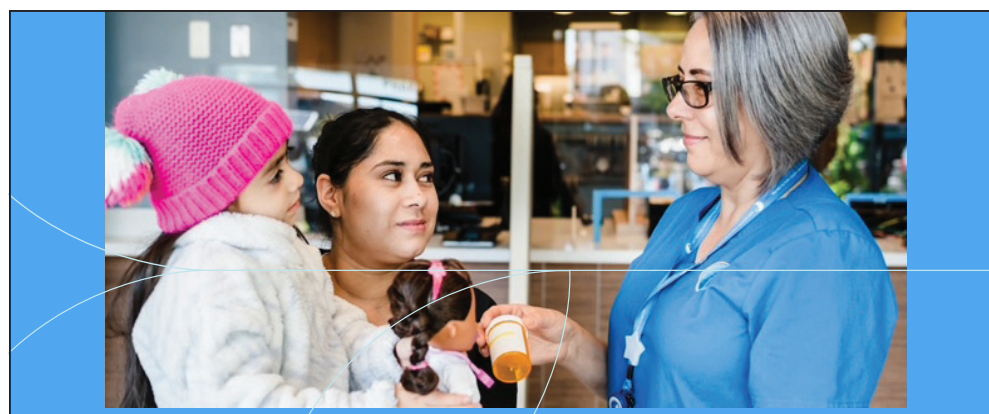
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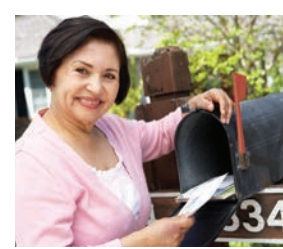
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JFK LIBRARY FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RACHEL FLOR SPEAKS AT JBGBC BREAKFAST

Rachel Flor, executive director of the John F. Kennedy Library in Dorchester, was the guest speaker at the Jordan Boys and Girls Breakfast Dec. 9 at the clubhouse.

A graduate of George Washington University, Flor spoke about the innovative programs offered at the Library and the interesting artifacts and personal memorabilia that are on display there.

During her talk, Flor highlighted President Kennedy's many accomplishments while in office.

Born in Brookline (Mass.) in 1917, Mr. Kennedy served as a U.S. Congressman and U.S. Senator before being elected the 35th President of the United States in 1960.

Flor said the JFK Library is rated as one of the best of the 15 Presidential Libraries in the nation, second only to the Ronald Reagan Library in California.

Interestingly, Chelsea Record Editor-in-Chief Cary Shuman noted a strong local connection to President John Fitzgerald Kennedy during the breakfast. Chelsea's John Ruiz, the first Latino heavyweight boxing champion of the world, was named after President John Kennedy. John Ruiz's father was an admirer of the Kennedy family and he and Mrs. Ruiz named their four children, John, Robert, Edward, and Jackie, respectively, after President John Kennedy, former U.S. Attorney General and U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy, former U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy, and former First Lady Jacqueline (Jackie) Bouvier Kennedy.



Inspectional Services Director Mike McAteer and Councilor-at-Large Leo Robinson, pictured at the breakfast.



Enjoying the JGBC Breakfast Series are Councilor-at-Large Leo Robinson, Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell, Susan Gallant, CPA, and East Cambridge Savings Bank Branch Manager Sandy Youssef.



Peter Zaksheski, director of the Welsh Funeral Home, and Leo Robinson, councilor-at-large and dean of city government, are pictured at the breakfast.



Pictured at the JGBC Breakfast Monday at the clubhouse are, from left, New England Patriots Foundation President Josh Kraft, guest speaker Rachel Flor, JGBC Executive Director Gina Centrella, City Manager Fidel Maltez, and Breakfast Series Chairperson Mark Robinson.



Bus Route Changes

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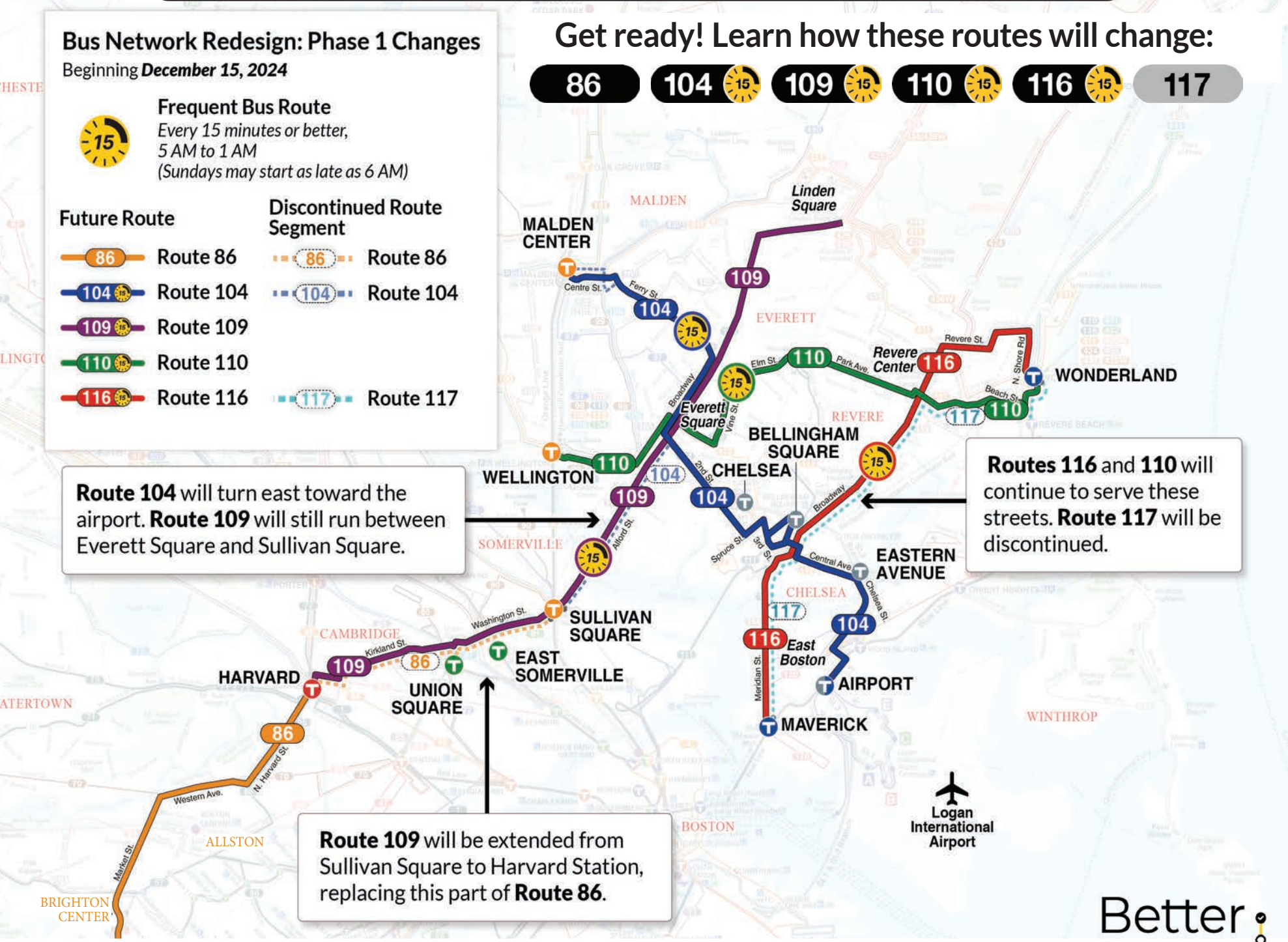
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Route 104 will turn east toward the airport. **Route 109** will still run between Everett Square and Sullivan Square.

Route 109 will be extended from Sullivan Square to Harvard Station, replacing this part of **Route 86**.

Routes 116 and 110 will continue to serve these streets. **Route 117** will be discontinued.



Learn More at [MBTA.com/BNRPhase1](https://www.mbta.com/BNRPhase1)
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SENATOR DIDOMENICO'S EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS

Senator Sal DiDomenico recently celebrated his 20th Anniversary of Public Service with over 500 supporters attending his event at Anthony's. Guests included Governor Maura Healey, Senate President Karen Spilka, dozens of colleagues, a large contingent of local non-profits and organizations, and residents from throughout his district. Speakers also included Gladys Vega from La Colaborativa, Bishop Robert Brown of Zion Church Ministries and

the Senator's son, Sal, Jr. Guests enjoyed live entertainment by one of Greater Boston's most popular groups, "Vinyl Groove". Senator DiDomenico thanked everyone for their overwhelming support, trust, confidence and partnership throughout the past 20 years. He also highlighted some of his impressive legislative accomplishments that have benefited his constituents and residents throughout the Commonwealth.



CBC President Joan Cromwell and Senate President Karen Spilka.



City Councilor Calvin T. Brown congratulates Sen. Sal DiDomenico on his 20 years of public service as an Everett city councilor and state senator for the district that includes Chelsea.



State Rep. Judith Garcia, La Colaborativa Executive Director Gladys Vega, Sen. Sal DiDomenico, City Councilor Melinda Vega, and Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell.



Councilor-at-Large Leo Robinson and his brother, Ronald Robinson, co-directors of the Latimer Society, greet Gov. Maura Healey as she arrives for the event at Anthony's, Malden.



Gov. Maura Healey joins Sen. Sal DiDomenico and his wife, Tricia DiDomenico, for a photo at the reception honoring the senator's 20 years of public service.



Sen. Sal DiDomenico welcomes City Manager Fidel Maltez (left) and Police Chief Keith Houghton to the campaign reception honoring DiDomenico's 20 years of public service in municipal and state government.



Sen. Sal DiDomenico and his wife Tricia DiDomenico (far right), with Senate President Karen Spilka and GreenRoots Executive Director Roseann Bongiovanni.



Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell, Sen. Sal DiDomenico, and Chelsea Police Chief Keith Houghton.



Sen. Sal DiDomenico, with CAPIC Executive Director Richelle Cromwell and her husband, Larry Elgart.



Catherine Dwyer (left) and her son, Assistant Clerk Magistrate Jimmy Dwyer (right) are greeted by Sen. Sal DiDomenico and Senate President Karen Spilka at the campaign reception.



Roca founder and CEO Molly Baldwin and Sen. Sal DiDomenico.



Councilor-at-Large Roberto Jimenez-Medina and daughter, Gloria, Councilor-at-Large Leo Robinson, Metro Credit Union Vice President Saritin Rizzuto, City Councilor Lorenzo Recupero, City Councilor Calvin T. Brown, City Councilor Manuel Teshe, State Assistant Secretary for Communities and Programs Juan Vega, and his daughter, Adrianna Vega.



Cataldo Ambulance Service President and CEO Dennis Cataldo and Sen. Sal DiDomenico.



Sen. Sal DiDomenico welcomes Metro Credit Union President and CEO Robert Cashman to the campaign reception at Anthony's, Malden.



Chelsea Public Schools Director of Social Work, SEL and Specialized Student Supports Brenda Pena and Sen. Sal DiDomenico.



Turning out to honor Sen. Sal DiDomenico (fourth from left) for his 20 years of public service are, from left, Chelsea Police Chief Keith Houghton, City Councilor Calvin T. Brown, Chief of Health and Human Services Tracy Nowicki, Councilor-at-Large Roberto Jimenez Rivera and his wife, School Committeewoman Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Neville (with their children, Robi and Gloria), CPS Director of Social Work Brenda Pena, and City Manager Fidel Maltez.

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CHELSEA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOSTS CITY'S ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The Chelsea Chamber of Commerce, under the leadership of Executive Director Jennifer Hassell, hosted the city's annual tree lighting ceremony Dec. 4 in Chelsea Square. The guests enjoyed viewing holiday decoration and being part of the festive occasion that featured a musical performance by Chelsea students and free refreshments.



Chelsea Public Library Librarian Amanda Arsenault, with her husband, accomplished artist Max Corona, and their children, Toni May Corona and Nova Corona.



Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell and Office Manager Karim Perez.



Ledia Koco and City Councilor Lorenzo Recupero, pictured at the tree lighting ceremony.



City Councilor Lisa Santagate, Emergency Manager Director Steve Staffier, Police Lt. Joe Fern, City Councilor Manuel Teshe, and CHA Director of Operations Matt Frank.



City Councilor Lisa Santagate (right) with Chelsea resident Claudia Dias (left) and family, Zhaire Rouse and Jahkai Boyd.



Councilor-at-Large Rober-to Jimenez Rivera, School Committeewoman Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Neville, their son, Robi, and daughter, Gloria, enjoy the tree lighting ceremony.



Pictured at the tree lighting ceremony are Police Sgt. Star Chung, City Councilor Lorenzo Recupero, Emergency Management Director Steve Staffier, City Councilor Lisa Santagate, Fire Chief John Quatieri, City Councilor Todd Taylor, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell, and Councilor-at-Large Roberto Jimenez Rivera.



Sladja and Verdan Vukovic, with children, Lola and Vanja, enjoying the holiday tree lighting ceremony.



Nathaly Rodriguez, Seily Escobar, Alexa Castro, Katie Coronado, Aracely Marquez, and Princess Dubon.



Supt. of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta, pictured with Berkowitz School Music Director Richard Romanol (left) and CPS Coordinator of Perorming and Visual Arts Pete Pappavaselio (right) at the holiday tree lighting ceremony.



A Chelsea family enjoys the holiday tree lighting ceremony.



Alejandro Lopez, Valentina Lopez, and Erika Rodriguez.



Nathalie Xec makes some friends at the event in Chelsea Square.



Amy Romero, Erin Merry, and Ashley Flores greet the Christmas Tree (David Rodas) and Elf (Heilyn Sanchez) at the tree lighting ceremony.



The Gutierrez and Pinto families enjoy the holiday tree lighting ceremony in Chelsea Square.



DPW Field Operations Manager James Caron, Emergency Management Director Steve Staffier, and Director of Athletic Infrastructure and Sports Tourism Charles Giuffrida, pictured at the holiday tree lighting ceremony.

Old North Church undergoing paint conservation and restoration project

Special to the Record

An interior revolution is underway at Boston's Old North Church and Historic Site. On Sept 30, a 6-month paint conservation and restoration project began to uncover 18th-century painted angels hidden beneath layers of white overpaint on the balcony arches in the church's sanctuary. I invite you to join renowned paintings and murals conservator Gianfranco Pocobene for the multi-step process that has begun at Old North Church in Boston's North End and will continue through late March.

The angels at the center of this work were painted by John Gibbs, an accomplished decorative painter and congregation member, who completed Old North Church's first major interior decoration, including the painting of 16 angels, between 1727 and the 1730s. The angels are depicted as cherubs, with round childlike faces and wings.

While Old North Church once boasted a colorful interior filled with intricate and ornate designs, all of this artwork – including Gibbs's angels – was painted over with white paint in 1912. However, a paint study conducted in 2017 revealed that the lost cherubs still exist. Expert craftspeople painstakingly removed layers of white paint to partially uncover

one of the angels painted in 1727. Old North's team nicknamed this angel "Howard" in honor of a beloved advocate and supporter of the church.

The 2024-2025 paint restoration project is restoring more of Gibbs's work: the rest of the angels and decorative festoons between them. In order to uncover the angels, lead conservator Gianfranco Pocobene and his team apply a solvent gel similar to a paint stripper that softens the layers of white paint, manually remove the overpaint with a plastic scraper, and then do additional cleaning with a cotton swab covered in solvents. An exciting discovery has been that Gibbs's angels do not have identical faces; each one was designed to be unique. Watch this video interview with Gianfranco to learn more.

"The timing of this project is particularly exciting. As we approach the 250th anniversary of Old North's signal lanterns and Paul Revere's midnight ride in April 2025, visitors to the church will get a glimpse of the sanctuary as Revere knew it," said Nikki Stewart, Executive Director of Old North Illuminated.

This project will be done in two phases:

- Phase 1 (through Dec.): Gianfranco and his team will work on scaffolding in the rear of the church while they conduct the work and test solvent

mixtures on small areas of paint. The winning solution will be used on the surface to swell and dissolve an estimated three to four layers of paint, which will be delicately stripped away to reveal 8 of the hidden angels. The project will then pause as scaffolding will come down for holiday services in the church.

- Phase 2 (mid-Jan. through late March): Scaffolding will go back up in the front of the church to continue the stripping process. Eight more angels will be revealed. In early 2025, visitors will see half of the work complete and the other half in progress, making it an ideal time for media coverage. The grand reveal, when all 16 angels will be uncovered, will be in April.

"The step-by-step uncovering of the angels at Old North Church is revealing fascinating aspects of John Gibbs's painting technique," said Gianfranco. "Even more intriguing and exciting is the opportunity to conserve and restore some of the earliest paint decorations in America and make them accessible to the public and scholars alike."

Born in Italy and raised in Canada, Gianfranco received his Master of Arts in Conservation from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario in 1984. He first came to Boston in the 1980s to earn a Certificate of Advanced Training



A worker painstakingly removes layers of white paint to partially uncover one of the angels painted in 1727.

from the Center for Conservation and Technical Studies at Harvard Art Museums. He then spent the next 15 years working for the Straus Center for Conservation, Harvard Art Museums where he oversaw the restoration of mural cycles at the Boston Public Library by Puvis de Chavannes, Edwin Austin Abbey, and John Singer Sargent. In 2004, he was appointed Chief Conservator at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum where he carried out treatments and technical studies on the paintings collection. Early this year he left the Gardner Museum to focus exclusively on his private practice, Gianfranco Pocobene Studio which



The angels are depicted as cherubs, with round childlike faces and wings.

was established in 1991. Some of the Studio's significant mural projects include the restoration of the John LaFarge murals at Trinity Church, Boston, the Women's Gallery mu-

ral at Vilna Shul, Beacon Hill, Puvis de Chavannes' Philosophy mural at the Boston Public Library, and Benjamin Constant's mural at the Ames-Webster Mansion, Boston.

BRUINS Beat by Bob Morello

BRUINS: NEED FOR CONCERN?

Interim coach Joe Sacco summed up his post-game conference with, "They (Winnipeg) played well tonight and certainly deserved the two points, we didn't. They were the better team, I thought, pretty much from start to finish. Overall, not the start of the road trip that we wanted." Not what you want to hear at the start of a five-game West Coast trip. Especially when the remainder of the trip includes upcoming stops in Seattle, Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton. Sad to see the truth of "all good things must come to an end," with the Bruins riding a four-game win streak, the Winnipeg Jets on Tuesday night, pummeled the locals to the tune of 8-1. Mirror that with the fact that UMass Lowell product, Connor Hellebuyck was minding the net for Winnipeg, and only allowed one goal, a one-timer from David Pastrnak. The team's inability to stretch their wins to a five-game win streak,

dropped coach Sacco to a still impressive 7-3-0 record since replacing Jim Montgomery behind the bench. Boston holds onto third place in the Atlantic Division with a record of 15-12-3.

The Jets are a high-scoring team no doubt, proved by the fact that they have now scored 111 goals to the Bruins' 76, in the first 30 games of the season. Bruins captain Brad Marchand held nothing back when asked his assessment of his team's goaltending, stating, "Not really, everyone had a bad night, he's (Jeremy Swayman) part of it. He's not singled out. I don't think anyone can look at themselves in the mirror and say that they had a good game, he's part of the group, and he's part of the bad loss." Tonight's (Thursday) game will likely see Joonas Korpisalo in



the net, and it might not be a bad idea to give Korpisalo a bit more of the games for a short while, maybe this would push Swayman a bit more competitively, much like Linus Ullmark did in goal last year. Swayman's current stats read: 9-10-0-2, goals-against average 3.27, and save percentage .885. Korpisalo shows: 6-2-0-1, goals-against-average 2.40, and a save percentage of .909. They could also use more successful goal attempts from Pastrnak, if they are to put up the number of wins they need to make it to the playoffs, although he has been able to provide enough points (28) to lead his team.

Other painful stats were, the Jets being able to score three power play goals against the Bruins, the third time an opponent has done that to Boston,

the latter problem due to the much too common, allowance of too many penalties. Followed by the eight goals scored on Swayman, (27 saves on 35 shots) being the most he has ever surrendered in an NHL game, and the seven-goal difference was the biggest margin the locals have given up in a loss. Often those are the results of a team that is not playing a full 60-minute game.

Focusing on the future, the Bruins will continue their West Coast trip tonight (Thursday at 10pm) in Seattle to take on the Kraken. Next stop, Vancouver (Saturday at 10pm) with the Vancouver Canucks. The Calgary Flames will provide the opposition on Tuesday at 9pm, with the streaking Edmonton Oilers, riding a three-game win streak, powering the competition in Boston's final game of their current road trip on Thursday at 9pm.

CHS Roundup

CHS BOYS, GIRLS HOOP OPEN TODAY

The Chelsea High boys and girls basketball teams will open their 2025 seasons this evening (Thursday) with contests against Greater Boston League (GBL) rival Malden.

Coach Cesar Castro's Red Devils will host the Golden Tornadoes at the CHS gym for a 6:00 opening tip, while coach Ben Jette's Lady Red Devils will trek to Malden.

The CHS boys will play a 19-game schedule in 2025. They will take on GBL foes Revere, Lynn Classical, Medford, and Somerville twice each and meet GBL rivals Everett, Malden, and Lynn English once each. Non-league opponents include Cambridge Rindge and Latin, Brighton, Brooke

Academy, Tech Boston, Boston English, East Boston, and two opponents in a tourney over the President's Day vacation break.

After tonight's contest, Castro and his crew will travel to Somerville on Tuesday and to Lynn Classical next Thursday.

On the girls' side, the Lady Red Devils will meet GBL foes Malden, Lynn English, Everett, and Somerville twice each and Lynn Classical, Revere, and Medford once. Non-league contests include Rockport (2), Excel Academy (2), Pioneer Charter, Mystic Valley, and Salem to complete their 18-game schedule.

The Lady Red Devils will host Somerville on Tuesday (6:30) and Medford (5:30) next Thursday in the CHS gym.

visit www.chelsearecord.com

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Co-Responding Clinician Consultant The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Request for Proposals for "Co-Responding Clinician Consultant". Request for Proposals will be available on or after December 12, 2024 by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php. Proposals must be sealed and clearly marked "Co-Responding Clinician Consultant" and submit-

ted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 11:00AM on Thursday, January 02, 2025. The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any proposal, to reject any or all proposals and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City. In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond. The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer. This Request for Proposals is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B. Dragica Ivanis Chief Procurement Officer 12/12/24

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Consulting Services The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Request for Proposals for "Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Consulting Services". Request for Proposals will be available on or after December 12, 2024 by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php. Proposals must be sealed and clearly marked

"Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Consulting Services" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 11:00AM on Thursday, January 09, 2025. The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any proposal, to reject any or all proposals and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City. In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond. The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer. This Request for Proposals is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B. Dragica Ivanis Chief Procurement Officer 12/12/24

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

MEPA Office 100 Cambridge St., Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114 Telephone 617-626-1020 PUBLIC NOTICE TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ) COMMUNITIES PROJECT: Mill Creek Habitat & Waterfront Access Improvement Project LOCATION: Along Mill Creek in Chelsea and Revere, MA between 1005 Broadway and Mill Court PROPONENT: City of Chelsea Per Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Environmental Notification Form/Environmental

Impact Report and submittal requirements for the above-mentioned project, all environmental justice communities must be notified within one mile of the project area adjacent to the project site. The proposed Mill Creek Habitat & Waterfront Access Improvement Project aims to enhance ecological conditions while improving public access along Mill Creek, a tidal river in Chelsea and Revere, MA. Key components of the proposed project include invasive species treatment followed by native coastal bank plantings to support habitat enhancement. The project also includes cleanup of trash and debris along the banks of the creek, and stabilization of the southern shoreline through grading, cobble nourishment, live stakes, and vegetated walls. Par-

tial removal of Slade's Mill Dam, an earthen berm, is also proposed to increase channel width to facilitate safe kayak passage in this area. Additionally, a boardwalk is proposed to be constructed along the southern bank of Mill Creek from 1005 Broadway to 88 Clinton Street. The MEPA submittal is anticipated to be filed in January or February 2025. For questions regarding this project, please reach out to Kristen Homeyer, Resilience Manager at khomeyer@chelseama.gov or (617) 466-4196 or Rhianna Sommers with Weston & Sampson at 978-548-6251 or by email: sommers.rhianna@wseinc.com between the hours of Mon-Fri 8AM - 4 PM. By City of Chelsea 12/11/24, 12/12/24 R,C

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Chelsea Housing Authority Request for Proposals Green Physical Needs Assessment / Energy Audit (HUD GPNA tool) Chelsea Housing Authority (CHA) will accept competitively sealed proposals for a qualified consulting firm or individual to conduct a Physical Needs Assessment utilizing HUD GPNA tool and an Energy Audit for its federal public housing units. The work performed is to be compliant with HUD's Green Physical Needs assessment. The deadline to submit proposals and credentials is 11:00 am on Tuesday, December 31st, 2024. All applicants must be familiar with HUD's regulations. All proposals must be sent to: James Krasco, Director

of Maintenance and Modernization Green Physical Needs Proposal Chelsea Housing Authority 51 Exeter St Chelsea, MA 02150 The CHA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to award portions of this contract in whole or in part and to waive any informality in the submission of proposals. CHA does not discriminate against any person or organization on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national or ethnic origin, disability, age, marital status, genetic information, or any other protected characteristic or factor prohibited by state law. This is a HUD financed project and is a Section 3 covered activity. 12/12/24

The Platters return to the Regent Theatre with acclaimed 'Very Merry Christmas Show!'

Special to the Record

The Rock n' Roll, Vocal, and Grammy® Halls of Fame culture icons, The Platters® (theplatters.com), defacto members of the Marvel® Cinematic Universe® (MCU) music family, bring their critically acclaimed Very Merry Christmas Show back to The Regent Theatre, 7 Medford Street in Arlington for one show only on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.



Shown (left to right) Jovian Ford, Omar Ross, Brittney Nicole Bellamy, and Lance Bernard Bryant.

The Platters, founded and named by Herb Reed in the mid-50s, continues today with Lance Bernard Bryant, Omar Ross, Jovian K. Ford, and Brittney Nicole Bellamy. Collectively, they lend their harmonically smooth voices to taking audiences on a festive holiday-themed soiree via a magical, interactive, sonic-driven sleigh ride fueled by music from across the decades. The Platters weave many of their major evergreen hits, including "The Great Pretender," "My Prayer," and "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes," together with family fun holiday classics geared toward a night of joyful memories and family fun accompanied by their band Sonic Evolution. At the invitation of former East Boston and Revere native Frederick J. Balboni, Jr. (bcg-hre.com), the successor to Herb Reed, asked Everett

Public Schools national award-winning

Music Director Gene O'Brien to join the group on stage during their only Boston area date. Accepting the invitation, Everett High School choral director Corey Crofoot was tasked by O'Brien to create an all-inclusive school and community choir to showcase the diverse talents of the students of the performing arts community. Members of the choir from the First Parish in Lexington will also be join the choral ensemble. The Platters became citizens of the MCU in 2021, with one of their timeless hits, Twilight Time, placed on the breakthrough Marvel® — Disney+® streaming television series WandaVision. This past July, Only You (and You Alone), the song that first launched the vocal group onto the national music

charts, recently took the top spot on the critically acclaimed soundtrack of Marvel's international blockbuster Deadpool & Wolverine. According to Balboni, Jr., Reed's hand-picked, direct successor and international keeper of his legacy, "We look forward to involving talented students and community members to come together and share the stage with us to showcase their talents. It helps us entertain the greater community so they can take time out of their busy lives to enjoy the season's spirit." He continued, "Our family show will have plenty of surprises, including a special guest appearance by Santa himself.

Winthrop-based classic rock and soul group Smokin' Joe and The Henchmen will open the holiday show.

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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

CITY PAWS

Suddenly, your dog is a senior!

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

and reacts to the same things. You and your veterinary team can use this checklist to communicate how your dog is aging.

Maybe It's Not Old Age

Some things we consider old age can also be signs of pain. Changes in appetite, routine, getting up slowly, heavy panting, grumbling, and being a bit grumpy can happen as pets age, but these are all signs of pain as well. If a dog changes her sleeping position, has more accidents in the house, doesn't want to play, or avoids jumping up on a chair or sofa, you should note the behavior and report it to your vet.

Most veterinary practices suggest twice-yearly checkups for seniors. Discuss weight, exercise, feeding, supplements, and

medications at these sessions. Weight control is even more critical in seniors. It takes teamwork to help a dog lose weight. Make sure you have every member of your household on the team. Discuss your specific guidelines for feeding, restricting extra calories, and exercising to anyone who will be pet sitting, providing daycare, or boarding your senior dog.

Improvements in veterinary science, nutrition, and pet guardian education are helping our dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives. After treatment for something other than old age, that old dog may bring you a leash or a favorite toy.

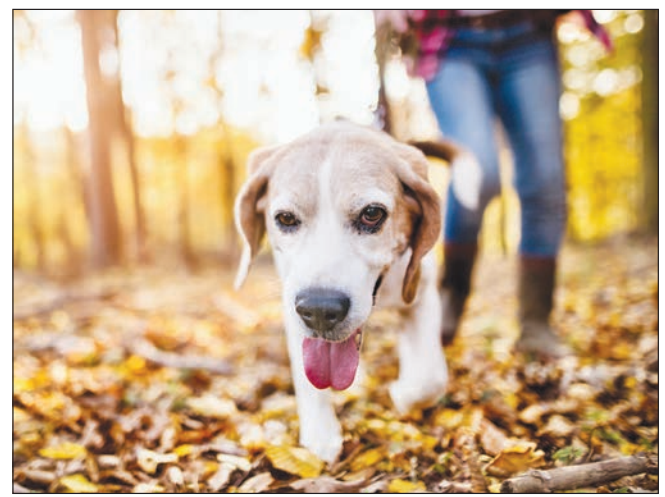
Keep up the Exercise

We all understand that daily exercise is essential for dogs' physical conditioning and weight control. However, more and more research tells us that exercising the brain is important to prevent dementia and improve dogs' quality of life. In dogs, dementia is called canine cognitive dysfunction (CCD). Many lifestyle habits that help human brain health also apply to dogs.

Think about how tired highly-activated brain cells make you when you take a class, learn a new skill, read up on a new topic, or spend time in a new setting or with new people. It can be exhausting. Remember this when deciding on the proper brain workout for your

dog. New sights and sounds may stimulate an older dog's brain. You can try walking in new places, training new behaviors, and playing games appropriate to a dog's age and physical abilities. Old dogs might enjoy a food puzzle toy that rewards their efforts to get at the food with a steady flow of treats. (Ensure those treats are healthy and part of your dog's daily food intake.)

Knowing your dog is vital. A devoted sniffer



New sights and sounds can stimulate an older dog's brain. Try walking in new places with new paths, smells, sights, and sounds.

may love a good game of find-the-snack. More time with other dogs and people may stimulate a social butterfly. A shy or anxious dog may prefer to sit back and watch or play a quiet

game of "push that ball to me."

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

CLIMATE BIL SIGNING



GreenRoots' Executive Director joined members from the Massachusetts Environmental Justice (EJ) Table at the Governor's signing of the Climate Bill which just passed the legislature late November. GreenRoots co-convenes the MA Environmental Justice table with other environmental justice partners and allies. Through the Climate Bill, with the support of legislative leaders including Senators DiDomenico and Edwards and Representatives Madaro and Garcia, GreenRoots and partners were able to win major improvements for the siting processes of electrical and energy infrastructure; cumulative impact analyses; and prioritization of family sustaining jobs in the green economy.

THE BROWN JUG

The Brown Jug will once again be doing a Christmas Toy Drive for Children in our community. We will be donating the toys to the Salvation Army of Chelsea. Please consider participating in this fun and rewarding event. Please bring an unopened/unwrapped toy for a boy or girl between Nov. 22nd and Dec. 15th and receive a single topping pizza for \$5⁰⁰. Thank You so much for your help.

Seasons Greetings
Mike, Cheryl, & Michael Matrinko

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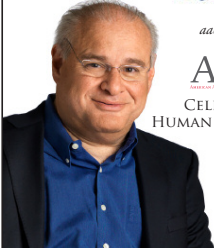

A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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Pre-registration is required. **DEADLINE: Wednesday, December 11**

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