



**Happy Holidays!**  
**We wish you a Healthy & Prosperous New Year!**

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# CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

VOLUME 132, No. 44

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2024

35 CENTS



Fidel Maltez was sworn in as the city's first Latino City Manager.



SETTLED 1624 ★ A TOWN 1739 ★ A CITY 1857



New Chelsea Fire Chief John Quatieri.

## School committee officially approves new contracts

By Adam Swift

The school committee unanimously approved a new three-year contract for the district's educators, clerical, and paraprofessional staff last week.

The vote came after the Chelsea Teachers' Union (CTU) and the school committee came to a tentative agreement on the contract on Dec. 11. The agreement was then ratified by the members of the CTU.

The agreement includes competitive wage increases for all educators, including the largest wage increase for paraprofessionals that the district has ever seen. Paraprofessionals currently receiving \$17.96 an hour will see a 62 percent pay increase

over the course of the three-year contract, up to \$29.05 per hour. Clerks will see a 31 percent increase over the life of the contract – going from \$27.99 to \$36.61 per hour.

It also includes the first district-paid parental leave benefit (three weeks the first year of the contract and then six weeks in subsequent years), as well as up to 12 weeks paid leave for members to care for ill family members and up to 35 days from the sick bank.

"We began in February of this year ... we went through a series of meetings throughout the year and finally, on Dec. 11, we had a tentative agree-

See CONTRACT Page 5



A delegation from the Jordan Boys and Girls Club enjoyed the Chelsea 400th Anniversary Gala June 27 at SpringHill Suites in Revere. From left, are Omar Limas, John Montes, Leah Reich, Executive Director Gina Centrella, Patty Garcia, Isidra Quinones, Lisa Gillis, and Anthony Rubiera.

## City Manager reflects on 2024

Special to the Independent

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 December video, which focuses on events in the city over the past year, 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.

As we approach the end of 2024, the year marking Chelsea's 400th anniversary, I want to take a moment to reflect on what we have accomplished this year, as well as the exciting opportunities we have as we move forward into 2025.

Chelsea has always been a city of resilience

and strength, built by the perseverance of our people. Chelsea has been tested time and time again, from the Battle of Chelsea Creek in the American Revolutionary War, to the devastation of the Great Chelsea Fires of 1908 and 1973, to receivership in the 1990's. The Global COVID-19 pandemic shook us to our core. Yet despite these challenges, Chelsea continues to thrive, stronger, more resilient, and more vibrant than ever before.

This year in particular, we have made tremendous strides in improving the quality of life for our residents, enhancing our community's infrastructure, and investing in projects that will benefit us for years to come. Some of the highlights from 2024 include:

The launch of our groundbreaking solar-powered microgrid

See FIDEL Page 3

## Chelsea Year in Review

By Adam Swift

Chelsea's long and rich history was on display throughout 2024 as the city marked its 400th anniversary with a host of Chelsea 400 celebrations.

The events ranged from the Chelsea 400th Gala and Chelsea Day to the Latin Heritage Festival and the 400th Parade. The spirit of Chelsea 400 is expected to extend into next year, as the city has

planned special events around the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Chelsea Creek and other historical events in the city.

The beginning of 2024 saw Fidel Maltez sworn in as Chelsea's new city

manager. Maltez served as the city's public works director before moving on to become town manager in Reading. In 2023, the city council selected Maltez to

See YEAR Page 2

## Healey, Driscoll, GM Eng celebrate removal of slow zones on 'T' for the first time in 20 Years

Special to the Independent

Gov. Maura Healey, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll and MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng joined MBTA workers and riders at North Station in celebrating the completion

of the T's Track Improvement Program and the removal of slow zones for the first time in 20 years. Since 2023, the MBTA removed more than 220 speed restrictions and replaced 250,000 feet of rail across the system, saving

riders 2.4 million minutes every weekday and generating nearly \$1 million in economic benefit every day.

"This is an awesome milestone. We knew when we first took office that it was essential that we

improve safety and reliability on the T. So, we got General Manager Eng and his team into place, and they developed and executed on their strategy with our strong support.

See SLOW ZONES Page 4

## FKO partners with Chelsea Station Restaurant & Bar for a memorable holiday meal for children

Special to the Record

For Kids Only Afterschool (FKO) celebrated

the holiday season with a heartwarming partnership with Chelsea Station Restaurant & Bar, bringing a special meal to middle schoolers and staff at FKO's Wright Middle School program. This festive

event highlighted the importance of gratitude, community, and connection.

Mike Sheridan, Co-Owner of Chelsea Station, created a delightful menu featuring turkey and swiss sliders with cranberry mayo, sweet potato fries, mixed green salad, and pumpkin whoopie pies. The celebration began with a toast to thankfulness, offering children a moment to reflect and express their gratitude for family, friends, shelter, and their growing FKO program.

Adding a personal touch, each student received a handwritten note highlighting their unique contributions to the pro-

See FKO Page 8



For Kids Only Afterschool children and staff celebrated the holidays with the help from Chelsea Station Restaurant & Bar, who providing a special meal for all.

WE WILL BE CLOSED NEW YEARS DAY  
**HOLIDAY DEADLINES**  
 PUBDATE: 1/2/24 ..... DEAD: FRI 12/27/24

**TRASH NOTICE**  
 Trash will be delayed by one day due to New Years Day holiday on Wednesday, January 1, 2025

**INDEPENDENT Newspaper Group**  
 www.chelsearecord.com

# Chelsea residents can avoid long lines, save money by renewing residential parking stickers early and online

Special to the Record

The City of Chelsea has announced the renewal period for its Residential Parking Program will begin January 1, 2025.

The City encourages residents to renew their stickers early and online to avoid waiting in long lines at the Parking Department, and to avoid being ticketed or charged for their sticker.

Stickers will be free in January and February, however, beginning March 1, they will cost \$10, no exceptions per City Ordinance, "Section 13-4.2. Residential parking stickers." Stickers will remain free year-round for those 65 years and older, residents with disabilities, and veterans.

Beginning January 1, residents can submit their renewal applications online through the City's Parking Pass Portal at [chelseama.cmrpay.com](http://chelseama.cmrpay.com). To proceed with an online application, residents must create a new Parking Pass Portal account due to a portal upgrade to improve the user experience for Chelsea residents.

Three Ways to Renew:  
1 Online (Recommended) – Save time and avoid the lines by renewing stickers at [chelseama.cmrpay.com](http://chelseama.cmrpay.com).

2 By Mail – Mail an application to the Parking Department, Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, Room 209, Chelsea, MA.

Due to the unpredictability of the United States Post Office (USPS), the City cannot guarantee residents who wait until February to renew their stickers will receive their 2025 sticker before February 28, 2025. Residents can make sure their name is on their mailbox to better ensure mail delivery by the USPS.

3 In Person – Visit the Parking Department at Chelsea City Hall, but be prepared for long wait times.

To accommodate a high-volume of customers during the renewal period, the Parking Department will observe the following extended hours of operation:

- February 24, 26 and 27: from 4 - 6 p.m., in the City Clerk's office.

- March 3, 5 and 6: from 4 - 6 p.m., in the City Clerk's office.

City Hall's regular hours of operations are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Tuesday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; and Friday 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Eligibility Requirements:

To qualify for a Chelsea Residential Parking Sticker,

applicants must be a resident of Chelsea and the registered owner of the vehicle. They will need to provide:

- A valid registration;
- A valid driver's license (with your correct Chelsea address); or

- A utility bill (no older than 60 days) if your driver's license is not current. Credit card and bank statements – or any other bill – will not be accepted.

Municipal Residential Parking Stickers Price Comparison

- Everett: Parking stickers are free during the months of January and February, and \$10 beginning March 1.

- Revere: Resident stickers are \$10; For 65+ they are free

- Somerville: Resident stickers are \$40

- Medford: Resident stickers are \$10; For 65+ they are free

- Malden: Resident stickers are \$10; For 65+ they are free

- Lynn: Resident stickers are \$20; For 65+, those with disabilities, and veterans they are 25% off.

For questions about the 2025 Renewal Process for Chelsea's Residential Parking Stickers, please contact Chelsea 311 at 617-466-4209.

## Residents named to Pa'Lante Steering Committee

Special to the Record

City Manager Fidel Maltez has named the 10 community members who will serve on the Chelsea Pa'Lante Steering Committee.

This group will advise the City as it develops the Comprehensive Plan, Chelsea Pa'Lante, Chelsea Onward. The plan will shape Chelsea's future by setting a strategic vision and direction for the community's growth and development, according to Maltez.

Chelsea Pa'Lante Steering Committee members include: Jose Abreu, Maranatha Boyer, Mayra Balderas, Kyle Browne, Julie DeMauro, Vivian Ianotti, David Matute, Saira Carreto Romero, Jake Small, and Roy Valentin.

Additionally, serving on the committee to ensure transparency, communication, and participation from the City Council and Planning Board, are Chelsea City Council President Norieliz DeJesus, Vice President Todd Taylor, and Planning Board Liaison Sarah Ritch.

Per Massachusetts Gen-

eral Law, a planning board in a city or town is responsible for creating and periodically updating a master plan, which serves as a long-term guide for the municipality's physical development. The plan includes key elements such as a statement of goals and policies; land use plans; housing needs and objectives; economic development strategies; natural and cultural resource protection; open space and recreation management; services and facilities analysis; circulation and transportation systems; and an implementation program for achieving the plan's objectives.

The plan is developed through public input, ensuring consistency in policies and forecasts, and must be approved by a majority vote of the planning board. It is a public record, and any amendments are shared with the relevant state department. Additionally, cities or towns with an established plan applying for state grants must maintain an economic development supplement outlining goals for industrial or commercial

growth, affordable housing, and the preservation of parks and open spaces.

The Chelsea Pa'Lante Steering Committee will play an instrumental role in guiding the city through its comprehensive planning process, ensuring that the voices of residents, businesses, and all other stakeholders are heard, according to Maltez.

"We're thrilled to move ahead in our comprehensive planning process with the selection of these 11 individuals," said Maltez. "Each member will play a vital role in ensuring our Comprehensive Plan reflects the unique spirit of our city and sets a course for a vibrant, resilient, and thriving future. I look forward to working closely with this group to advance Chelsea's progress."

The Steering Committee will work with city staff, the broader community, and Utile, the city's comprehensive plan consultant, to guide the city's planning process. Committee members will engage with the public, review research and data, and provide input on draft materials.

## Year // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

replace former City Manager Thomas Ambrosino.

January also saw the swearing in of Norieliz De Jesus as the new council president and Todd Taylor as vice president.

During his early months in office, Maltez oversaw an overhaul in the city administrative offices, putting a focus on constituent outreach and communications. The council approved his plan to hire two deputy city managers, one in charge of operations and the other of finance. Devon Fields was hired to oversee the operations position, and Michael Mason to oversee finance. Bernabe Rodriguez was hired as the constituent services director.

One of Maltez's goals for his first year in office was to get the ball rolling on a new master plan for Chelsea, its first in nearly 50 years.

Maltez said the Chelsea Pa'Lante comprehensive plan will This community-driven initiative reflects our commitment to inclusion, progress, and equity, and will guide Chelsea's development over the next 10 years, focusing on creating a future that benefits all residents and continues to build a thriving, sustainable city.

The city also swore in the first members of its new Chelsea Women's Commission this spring. The commission's goals are to respond to women's and girls' needs and assess the status of women in the city.

It will also offer recommendations to the City Manager and City Council and suggest policies that address the critical needs of Chelsea's residents.

It was another busy year for construction and development in Chelsea.

The city began construction on the Downtown Broadway Project in June. The \$30 million investment aims to revamp the Broadway corridor with new utilities, roadways, sidewalks, and pedestrian safety improvements. The work did raise concerns about its impact on downtown businesses. The city worked with the local chamber and businesses to halt work during part of the holiday season.

On the residential side, 2024 saw the opening of several new residential developments, including the DUO development on Central Avenue in conjunction with the Chelsea Housing Authority.

There was also a continued emphasis on park and open space projects



PHOTOS BY PAUL KOOLLOJIAN

View of the 9-alarm fire on Forbes Street in Chelsea on November 18.

in 2024. The year saw the opening of the Forsyth Pocket Park on Lafayette Avenue, a renovated Highland Park, and a fully renovated and reopened Bosson Park, as well as the renovation of the Mace Basketball Court.

This year, the city broke ground on a solar-powered microgrid project that will help Chelsea become more energy independent and climate resilient. The project officially kicked off earlier this month with the installation of hundreds of solar panels on the City Yard building, according to the city manager.

There were several large fires in Chelsea in 2024.

Over 50 people were displaced as the result of a six-alarm fire on Washington Avenue in August. Juan Carlos Morales, an Army veteran and the city's assistant veterans' agent, was recognized in December by the city council for his role in helping residents during the fire.

In September, firefighters rescued three residents who were trapped during a three-alarm fire on Congress Avenue. In November, crews from throughout the region helped Chelsea firefighters battle a massive nine-alarm fire at the former Forbes industrial site.

"Our firefighters did an amazing job responding to these fires, putting their lives at risk, to ensure there is no loss of life," said Maltez. "Their actions this year have been heroic and we thank them each and every day."

In the spring, the city also saw the swearing in of new Fire Chief John Quatieri.

Quatieri served in the Chelsea Fire Department for 32 years, most recently as deputy chief under recently retired Leonard Albanese, before taking the top spot in the department.

The fire department also instituted a fire safe-

ty education program this year to educate residents about fire prevention and safety practices.

In the schools, 390 students graduated this year from Chelsea High School, Chelsea Opportunity Academy and the Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy.

Also in the schools this year, the school committee and the Chelsea Teachers' Union came to agreements on new contracts for Chelsea Public Schools educators, clerical and paraprofessional staff.

The three-year collective bargaining agreements for their members take important steps to address essential classroom issues while ensuring these dedicated educators are on track to receive a living wage and equitable workplace benefits, according to the CTU leadership.

The agreement includes competitive wage increases for all educators, including the largest wage increase for paraprofessionals that the district has ever seen.

"By prioritizing wages that are competitive with surrounding districts and emphasizing the importance of paid parental and family medical leave benefits puts CPS in a position to better attract great educators and make it easier for them to have long careers in the district," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi G. Abeyta.

This year also saw Abeyta and the school committee introduce the Name, Strength, and Story awards for educators and other staff members who have gone above and beyond in reaching out to students and families in the district.

The 2024 state election in November did not offer many contested races on the local side. Democratic State Representative Judith Garcia and Democratic State Senator Sal DiDomenico both ran unopposed for reelection.

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Dzanya, Francis	Donahue, Joan	160 Commandants Way #106	\$562,500
Lara, Cesar	42 Burdette Avenue LLC	168 Spencer Ave	\$760,000
Gritsenko, Artem	Brown, Zeena	281 Washington Ave	\$910,000
Constitution Prop LLC	Fils, Mackeddy	29 Division St #2	\$215,000
Solorzano, Xon A	Piotti, Richard L	4 Englewood Ave	\$690,000
50 Maverick Street Rt	Cvd Realty LLC	50 Maverick St	\$560,000
Romanoff, Richard	Lewin Marilyn F Est	820 Broadway	\$695,000

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COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Chelsea Teachers Union form a heart showing support for the Union's contract proposals.

# CHELSEA POLICE DEPARTMENT HOSTS CELEBRATION FOR ITS HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

The Chelsea Police Department, in partnership with the Chelsea Senior Center, held a grand celebration Monday, Dec. 23, during which toys were presented to more than 100 children in Chelsea.

This initiative, named "Santa and Seniors," aims to provide toys to children in Chelsea whose families may not have the means to create a joyful holiday season.

Santa Claus paid a special visit to the celebration. The festive event proved to be a magical experience for children and families.

The free toys and gifts were in a word, awesome, especially those amazing new baseball gloves and other sports-oriented items.

There were also some



Greeting guests at the reception desk are Senior Center Project Outreach Coordinator Roberto Tobalino and City Councilor Lisa Santagate.



Jossette Denis, with her daughters, Emilia St. Louis and Keilani St. Louis, enjoying the festive event.



Capt. David Rizzuto, Lt. Joe Fern Jr., and Officer Nicole McLaughlin display some of the many toys that were presented to children at the celebration.

great food items, cakes and cookies, for all to enjoy.

The amazing Sgt. Star Chung, head of the CPD Community Services Division, was on hand, making sure that everyone was having a good time.



The Chelsea Police Department did a great job overseeing the toy drive and hosting the grand celebration Monday at the Chelsea Senior Center. From left, representing the CPD Community Services Division are Officer Joe Stutto Jr., Officer Carlos Delcompare, Lt. Joe Fern Jr., Officer Jonathan Maldonado, Chief Keith Houghton, Sgt. Star Chung, Officer Nicole McLaughlin, Officer Garrison Daniel, Capt. Dave Rizzuto, and Officer Jaime Robles.



The Chelsea Housing Authority assisted at the toy drive event held Dec. 23 at the Chelsea Senior Center. From left, are CHA Occupancy Coordinator Krystina Sunsini, Director of Operations Matt Frank, Supportive Specialist Gilda Cerna, Property Manager Alexandra Jimenez, and Occupancy Specialist Yahilin Rivera Miranda.



Pictured at the holiday toy drive celebration are, from left, Police Capt. David Rizzuto, Senior Advocate Michael DeJesus, Director of Elder Services Geraldine Portillo, Police Chief Keith Houghton, Senior Center Office Manager Deborah Connors, and Police Sgt. Star Chung.



Capt. David Rizzuto, Chief Keith Houghton, and Sgt. Star Chung greet Armani Maldonado and Akyllis Maldonado at the CPD holiday gifting event.

## Fidel // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

project that will help Chelsea become more energy independent and climate resilient. This innovative project officially kicked off earlier this month with the installation of hundreds of solar panels on our City Yard building. This installation sets the stage for the development of a localized energy network that will provide the City reliable, clean energy, especially during peak demand periods and power outages, and is a major step forward in protecting our city's essential services and most vulnerable residents. We have also issued permits for a 250 Megawatt battery storage project that will add electrical capacity to our region.

A new addition to the City of Chelsea this year is our Lead Task Force, composed of leaders from various city departments dedicated to eliminating every lead service line in Chelsea. This task force, with support from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and community partners, has enabled us to accelerate our efforts to get the lead out of Chelsea, and as of this year, we have identified and replaced 200

lead lines and identified more than 3,000 safe copper service lines. In 2025, we will continue this important work to ensure every resident has access to safe drinking water.

The Chelsea Fire Department rolled out a Fire Safety Education Program, aimed at educating residents about fire prevention and safety practices. This initiative helps our community understand critical safety measures, such as heating and cooking safety, and provides personalized fire safety tips through in-person visits or station tours. This year has seen an unprecedented amount of fires in the community. The City and our partners, La Colaborativa, TND, Salvation Army and others, have been there to support our residents in times of need. Our Firefighters did an amazing job responding to these fires, putting their lives at risk, to ensure there is no loss of life. Their actions this year have been heroic and we thank them each and every day. We have also focused on public safety this year, launching our youth engagement efforts, and leaning in on Community Policing. I can honestly

say that the Chelsea Police Department is the best in the Commonwealth. Our officers are focused on supporting residents in need. This year we continued our Chelsea Hub model, our Downtown Taskforce initiative, and expanded our partnerships with mental health partners like North Suffolk. Chelsea Police is dedicated to protecting our residents, and we will continue making public safety a priority.

We also began construction on the Downtown Broadway Project in June, marking the largest beautification and utility reconstruction effort in over three decades. This \$30 million investment will revamp the Broadway corridor with new utilities, roadways, sidewalks, and pedestrian safety improvements, making our downtown more vibrant and accessible for all.

We have made significant strides in improving our parks and open spaces. In 2024, we opened Forsyth Pocket Park, a new small park at the corner of Lafayette Ave and Sturgis Street, offering shaded seating and new plantings to help reduce heat in the neighborhood. We cele-

brated our newly renovated Highland Park, and hosted the New England Revolution team as they trained with our students from Chelsea High School and members of ROCA. Additionally, we have fully renovated and reopened Bosson Park, which now boasts new play equipment and a renovated half basketball court and a splash pad. And just this past month, we celebrated the grand reopening of the fully renovated Mace Basketball Court, adding to Chelsea's growing list of vibrant spaces for community connection and youth engagement.

We also completed ribbon cutting on new housing developments like the DUO on Central Avenue, 25 6th Street, and many others. Our Administration is focused on addressing the housing crisis, and we know that building units is critical in these efforts.

This year Chelsea has opened over 300 new housing units, with at least half of them being affordable housing units. We will continue supporting smart-growth development projects and will focus on expanding affordable housing for our

residents.

We have also embarked on Chelsea Pa'Lante, our first comprehensive master plan since 1970. This community-driven initiative reflects our commitment to inclusion, progress, and equity, and will guide Chelsea's development over the next 10 years. This plan focuses on creating a future that benefits all residents and continues to build a thriving, sustainable city.

This year, we came together to celebrate Chelsea's rich history, successes, and vibrant future. From the Chelsea 400th Gala and Chelsea Day to the Latin Heritage Festival and the 400th Parade, these events helped us honor the past while looking ahead to the next chapter of our city's story. Thank you to everyone who attended these events, and a special shout-out to the Chelsea 400th Committee, the City staff, volunteers, and community partners who helped celebrate Chelsea's 400th anniversary with pride and enthusiasm.

These accomplishments reflect our city's spirit of innovation, resilience, and community.

While we have made great strides in 2024, we

know that our work is just beginning. Our Administration knows that many of our residents are struggling with housing costs, having access to good paying jobs, and ensuring your children receive the education they deserve to achieve the American Dream. We also know that 2025 has significant uncertainty, especially with a new presidential administration. We know there are still challenges to face and opportunities to seize. The progress we have made this year is just the beginning of what is to come.

We will continue to build on the foundation we have laid, ensuring a brighter, stronger future for Chelsea. Together, we will keep moving forward, Chelsea Pa'Lante, embracing the possibilities and facing the challenges ahead with the same determination that has defined our city for 400 years.

Thank you for your continued support and for being part of this incredible journey. Let us look ahead to an even brighter future in 2025.

See you next time on Our Community. Thank you and May god bless the City of Chelsea.

# Chelsea

RECORD

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

# Forum

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

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

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

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

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

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

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

## HAPPY HANUKKAH

The eight-day observance of Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, which started Wednesday evening, December 25, and will culminate on Thursday, January 2.

Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days by lighting the candles of the Menorah, one on each day of the eight-day celebration. (The Menorah itself consists of nine candles, one of which typically stands above the rest and is used to light the other eight.)

Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees in 166 BCE when the Maccabees liberated the Jewish people from the Greek-based rulers who essentially had outlawed the Jewish religion.

When the triumphant Maccabees captured the city of Jerusalem, they quickly entered the Holy Temple, tossing out the images of the Greek gods that had been installed there by the occupying rulers. When the Maccabees went to light the Menorah candles in the Temple, they thought they only had one day's worth of oil. However, the candles remained lit for eight days -- hence the miracle of the Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah usually is a joyous occasion for Jews world-wide, marked by gatherings of friends and families and the playing of traditional games such as the dreidel and eating traditional -- and delicious! -- foods such as latkes. Needless to say, in the aftermath of the events of October 7, 2024, as well as the subsequent increase in anti-semitic incidents, Hanukkah this year will have special meaning for Jews the world over.

We wish to take this opportunity to wish our friends and readers of the Jewish community a happy, healthy, and joyful Hanukkah season and we join them in solidarity against anti-semitism in all its forms.

## ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS SAFELY

The upcoming holiday week means that most of us will be partaking in traditional gatherings with our families, friends, and co-workers to share the joy of the holiday season.

Unfortunately, this also means that many among us will be overindulging in holiday "spirits."

It is the responsibility of each of us to ensure that where alcohol is present, it is used responsibly, not only by ourselves, but by those around us at our holiday gatherings. None of us wants to wake up the next morning with the regret, "If only I had taken their car keys."

We wish all of our readers a happy, and safe, holiday season.

## SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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## Slow Zones // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

And as a result, riders are getting more time back in their days and our entire economy is seeing the benefits," said Governor Maura Healey. "I want to extend my deep gratitude to the T workers who made all of this work possible, as well as to the T riders who endured years of unreliable service and shutdowns. We thank you for your patience during this time and for your continued commitment to public transportation in Massachusetts. We know there is still work to be done. We're going to continue to invest in the T, and Phil and the team are going to continue working every day to deliver the world-class service that Massachusetts deserves."

"Each of these 2.4 million minutes saved is time back to the people of Massachusetts to spend more time with their families, pick the kids up from school, make a doctor's appointment that they've been putting off for too long, or make a stop in a local small business," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We're so proud of the work that Phil and his team have accomplished with the support of T riders, and we're committed to ensuring they continue to have the resources they need to deliver even more of this progress."

"The completion of the Track Improvement Program is an outstanding accomplishment toward furthering the Healey-Driscoll Administration's commitment to provid-

ing safe, reliable, equitable, and accessible public transportation for all riders," said Transportation Secretary Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. "General Manager Eng, our project delivery teams, and the crews on the front lines all deserve tremendous credit for their part in this momentous work. We have appreciated the strategic management by MBTA officials for these projects and have been grateful to riders for their patience while this critical work was underway."

"This has been a true team effort, and I want to thank everyone—from planning and construction to those maintaining our system and communicating with the public. All MBTA employees played a vital role in moving us one step closer to a state of good repair," said MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng. "Thank you to our workforce for their diligence, and to our riders for their patience throughout the process. I also want to acknowledge Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll for their leadership and support of our workforce. Our goal is to continue the positive momentum by focusing on accessibility and signal upgrades in 2025, as well as staying on top of preventative maintenance to ensure the T delivers safe, reliable and frequent service to best serve the public today as we build for future generations."

The Track Improvement Program has been a bold and ambitious ini-

tiative to eliminate speed restrictions across the subway system and bring the MBTA's tracks closer towards a State of Good Repair. With the completion of the Green Line work on December 20, the MBTA subway system has undergone key track upgrades, including the replacement of over 15,400 feet of full depth track reconstruction, the replacement of approximately 38,000 ties, the installation of nearly 251,500 feet of new rail, and the performance of nearly 325,000 feet of tamping.

This major achievement was made possible by 23 full-access closures across various lines throughout the year, ranging from weekend closures to several days or even weeks of work. These closures allowed for safe and efficient construction, ultimately enhancing the safety of riders and workers alike while improving reliability and reducing delays. Uninterrupted work was a key factor in the expeditious completion of the project.

As a result of these improvements, roundtrip travel time has been significantly reduced for riders: over 20 minutes on the Orange Line, nearly an hour on the Red Line, 4 minutes on the Blue Line, and almost 9 minutes on the Green Line.

The MBTA's efforts show that, on average, heavy rail riders on the Red, Orange, and Blue Lines now collectively save 2.4 million minutes per weekday due to the

removal of speed restrictions. This translates to \$950,000 in daily economic benefits, representing an estimated \$300 million in annual savings for the region. This milestone highlights the positive impact of enhanced rail operations for commuters following the first multi-day Ashmont service outage in October 2023.

The completion of the Track Improvement Program marks the culmination of a year of progress for the Healey-Driscoll Administration's goal of improving reliability and safety across the system. Governor Healey delivered the highest level of state funding to the T for the first time in 20 years, including leveraging \$600 million from Fair Share funding to support rail and station upgrades. The T also launched a first-of-its-kind reduced fares program, as well as a new contactless payment system.

In the future, speed restrictions may be needed from time to time if warranted by a changing track condition -- this is normal and common across all passenger rail service providers. As a result of the successful Track Improvement Program that has taken place over the last year, the MBTA is now well-positioned to quickly respond to any track issues that may arise. If and when new restriction are required, they will be addressed promptly to continue to provide riders with the safe and reliable service they deserve.

## Cultural council announces LCC grant recipients

The Chelsea Cultural Council recently announced the recipients of the FY25 Local Cultural Council (LCC) Grants.

A total of \$38,570 in funding will be distributed to 17 local organizations and individuals to support cultural, educational, and artistic initiatives in the Chelsea community.

The grants will fund a variety of projects ranging from community events to educational programs that celebrate the city's diverse cultural heritage. Below is a list of the grant recipients, their projects, and the amounts awarded:

1. Apollinaire Theatre Company  
Project Title: Apollinaire in the Park 2025  
Amount Awarded: \$2,750.00
2. Chelsea Black Community, Inc.  
Project Title: Chelsea Black History Heritage Walking Tour  
Amount Awarded: \$2,500.00
3. Chelsea Black Community, Inc.  
Project Title: Black History Month Events  
Amount Awarded: \$1,010.00
4. Chelsea Collaborative, Inc.  
Project Title: Empowering BIPOC Youth Through Artistic Expression and Cultural Heritage  
Amount Awarded: \$2,000.00
5. Chelsea Public Li-

brary  
Project Title: Level Up at Your Library  
Amount Awarded: \$3,000.00

6. Chelsea Public Schools  
Project Title: First Light Foundation Classroom Programs  
Amount Awarded: \$2,750.00

7. Congregation Agudath Sholom of Chelsea  
Project Title: Shared Legacies: American Lessons of Black/Jewish Cooperation  
Amount Awarded: \$2,500.00

8. Ellen Rovner  
Project Title: Chelsea, the Jewish Years  
Amount Awarded: \$2,750.00

9. Friends of Mary O'Malley Park LLC  
Project Title: Kite Festival  
Amount Awarded: \$1,010.00

10. Grupo Torogoz  
Project Title: Grupo Torogoz - 2025 Folkloric Dance Performance  
Amount Awarded: \$2,750.00

11. Jewish Arts Collaborative, Inc.  
Project Title: Be the Change Justice Inspired Public Art  
Amount Awarded: \$2,000.00

12. Jukebox Event LLC  
Project Title: Chelsea HiFi Listening Bar  
Amount Awarded: \$2,200.00

13. Kyle Browne  
Project Title: Wisdom of the Elders  
Amount Awarded: \$2,000.00

14. MetaMovements LLC  
Project Title: Chelsea Salsa In The Park  
Amount Awarded: \$3,000.00

15. People's African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Project Title: Celebrating the Legacy of MLK, Jr.  
Amount Awarded: \$2,000.00

16. Veronica Robles Cultural Center Corp.  
Project Title: Dia de Muertos Community Altar  
Amount Awarded: \$2,750.00

Amount Awarded: \$2,750.00

17. Windy Pham  
Project Title: Celebrating Asian Culture through Educational Workshops for Children  
Amount Awarded: \$1,600.00

A total of \$38,570 will support these exciting and diverse projects, helping to foster creativity, cultural awareness, and community engagement. These initiatives will showcase Chelsea's rich cultural landscape and provide valuable opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

## CHELSEA RECORD

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## NEW CHELSEA POLICE OFFICER SWORN IN

New Chelsea Police Officer James Atkins was sworn in by assistant City Clerk Gabriela Solis on Monday. The swearing in was witnessed by City Manager Fidel Maltez and Professional Standards Division Command Staff, and Police Chief Keith Houghton. Also in attendance were Officer Atkins

Jr.'s father, James Atkins Sr., and brother, Officer Marcus Atkins, who is currently on the job. Atkins will undertake additional on-the-job training, riding with a veteran officer in the Chelsea Police Field Training Program, before hitting the streets on his own.



PHOTOS COURTESY CITY OF CHELSEA

New Chelsea Police Officer James Atkins Jr. was sworn in by Assistant City Clerk Gabriela Solis.



Atkins Jr. with City Manager Fidel Maltez.



Officer Atkins Jr. with Police Chief Keith Houghton.



Officer James Atkins Jr. with his father, James Atkins Sr., and his brother, Officer Marcus Atkins.

# La Colaborativa celebrates graduation of 168 students from Adult Education Programs

Education is a major driver of economic stability, welfare, and overall satisfaction. On Tuesday, Dec. 10, La Colaborativa hosted a major graduation ceremony at its Survival Center, celebrating the achievements of 168 students who completed various adult education programs during the last quarter. Graduates successfully completed rigorous programs including ESOL, Contextualized ESOL for various industry sectors, Citizenship, and an array of computer classes.

Moreover, the event illuminated the headway made by residents graduating from La Colaborativa's advanced Software Development Training Program, Web Design Training Program, and the Cybersecurity Apprenticeship Program. Catered by local entrepreneurs, housed within La Colaborativa's Culinary Incubator Program, the celebratory evening sought to spotlight the personal and professional milestones of graduates, the majority of which are women.

"When I enrolled in

computer classes, I felt like I was taking another step toward a better future," said Laura Erazo, a student from the intermediate computer class. "These classes not only gave me technical skills, but also made me feel empowered."

Originally from Honduras, Erazo arrived in the U.S. with her daughters and found hope and opportunity through La Colaborativa.

"Shortly after starting, something incredible happened: I got a job. And not just any job—a position at a school with a schedule that allows me to spend quality time with my daughters, something that once seemed unattainable," Erazo said. "La Colaborativa taught me how to complete job applications, use tools like Indeed, and most importantly, gave me the confidence I needed to move forward."

The ceremony was attended by proud family members of the graduates, local dignitaries, and community leaders, including Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez, MassHire



La Colaborativa Adult Education Program graduate Albert Saint Georges.



COURTESY PHOTOS

La Colaborativa Adult Education Program graduate Laura Erazo.

Metro North Chief Operating Officer Penny Hasseli, Hector Rivera of the North Atlantic States Carpenters Training Fund, and Jose and Andrea Perez from Roads Consulting Group. Teachers and leaders from La Colaborativa also participated, making the event a true community celebration.

"This graduation represents not just the culmination of our members' hard work, but also a step toward a brighter future for them and their families," said Gladys Vega, President and CEO of La Colaborativa. "We're in-

credibly proud to witness the profound impact these programs have on individuals and the community."

La Colaborativa operates the largest adult education program in the region, offering pathways for residents to secure living-wage jobs, pursue career advancements, and improve their families' economic well-being. In the face of ongoing economic challenges, the organization remains committed to empowering Chelsea residents with the tools they need for financial stability and growth.

## GreenRoots Announces Implementation of Energy Microgrid

After eight years of community engagement, development and advocacy, GreenRoots and its partners are thrilled to announce Chelsea's Virtual Community Microgrid is getting underway with solar panel installation beginning at the DPW City Yard this week. This project aims to improve the sustainability and resilience of Chelsea by installing renewable energy resources like solar power, battery storage systems, and advanced energy management systems around the city. The solar panels will allow the city to reduce its reliance on traditional fossil fuel-based energy while the battery storage will

provide back-up power during grid outages and sell energy to the grid during normal operation. The savings and revenue generated by these assets will pay back the cost of their installation.

GreenRoots and partners through the Resilient Urban Neighborhoods - Green Justice Coalition (RUN-GJC), a coalition of local non-profits and energy experts seeking to make the benefits of a green economy more accessible to disadvantaged communities, first launched this project in 2016. By January 2017, Chelsea residents and GreenRoots members seeing families in Puerto Rico dealing with major

power outages caused by Hurricane Maria, prioritized this project.

Additional partners working to advance this microgrid include Clean Energy Solutions Inc., an energy consulting firm specializing in energy efficiency and renewable energy development, Climable, a non-profit working to bridge the gap between scientific research and policymaking, the City of Chelsea and Peregrine Energy Group, an energy consulting firm focused on energy economics. This coalition worked together for several years to develop a comprehensive feasibility study for the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center

which in turn led to \$1.03 million in grant funding being awarded to the City to kickstart the first phase of the project.

The Chelsea Microgrid Project promotes community ownership and oversight of energy assets and is a step towards a cleaner, more resilient, democratic, and just energy system. GreenRoots, one of only two organizations in the state squarely focused on environmental justice, is also partnering with the Chinatown Community Land Trust to bring to fruition a microgrid for that environmental justice neighborhood as well.

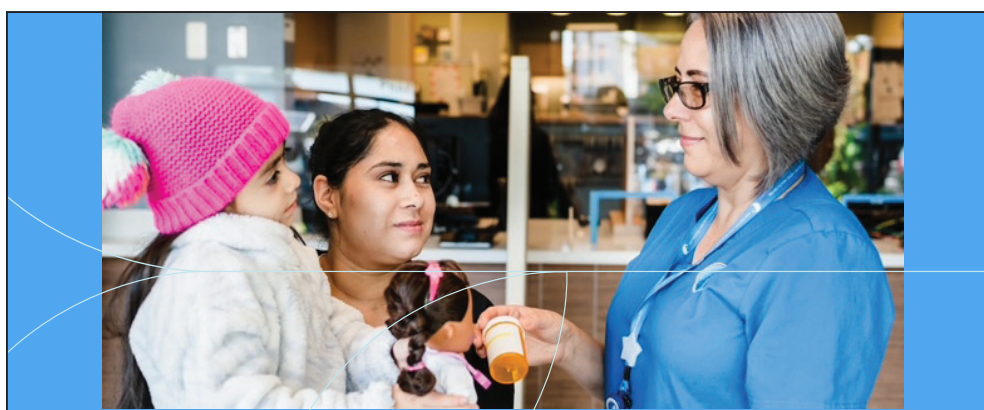
## Contract // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ment," said Christine Lee, the district's human resources director. "It was a lot of collaboration, a lot of work. Thank you to the (school committee Chair) Ana Hernandez and (Superintendent of Schools)

Dr. (Almi) Abeyta for leading this very important contract; it was quite a long road but we are very happy to be here today."

Lee said the guiding principles during negotiations were to work in the

best interest of the students, deepen the culture of care for students and adults who work in the system, reduce turnover, and continue to increase salaries in a fiscally responsible way.



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### METRO CREDIT UNION NEWS

#### SECOND ROUND OF 2024 CHARITABLE FOUNDATION GRANT RECIPIENTS

Metro Credit Union, the largest state-chartered credit union in Massachusetts, today announced that it has awarded \$50,500 in grant funding to six local nonprofit organizations through the Metro Credit Union Foundation. Metro launched the Foundation in April 2023, and these grants represent the most recent round of awards to support nonprofit organizations, initiatives, and programs that contribute to the economic wellbeing of local communities and their residents. The Metro Credit Union Foundation has awarded \$208,000 in grants to date.

“The Metro Credit Union Foundation was launched to further our efforts in giving back to the communities we serve in meaningful ways,” said Robert Cashman, President and CEO, Metro Credit Union. “We’re pleased to award grants through the Foundation to these organizations in support of the impactful services and programs they offer to empower local residents to advance their financial capabilities and wellbeing.”

The following organizations have been awarded grants during the current cycle:

Chelsea Restoration Corporation, Chelsea, MA – \$7,500: 2025 First Time Homebuyers Workshop

Series  
Junior Achievement of Greater Boston, Boston, MA – \$10,000: Financial and Business Literacy Program in Chelsea schools

Lawrence Community-Works, Lawrence, MA – \$7,500: Financial Empowerment Program

Rogerson Communities, Boston, MA – \$7,500: Beaufort Road Project – Senior Affordable Housing

The Wily Network, Newton, MA – \$8,000: Wily Scholars Finances and Financial Future Program

Women’s Money Matters, Boston, MA – \$10,000: Expansion of Financial Futures Financial Wellness Program

The Metro Credit Union Foundation awards grants to organizations with a focus on:

Community Development — creating vibrant and equitable neighborhoods.

Securing Safe & Affordable Housing — providing opportunities for affordable housing and home ownership with down-payment assistance and homebuyer education programs.

Financial Wellness & Advancement — promoting financial competency by providing knowledge and skills.

For more information about the Foundation, application guidelines, and upcoming application deadlines visit [Foundation.MetroCU.org](http://Foundation.MetroCU.org).

Each year, Metro gives



Shown (front row) are Charlene Bauer, SVP Outreach and Advocacy, Chief Development Officer, Metro Credit Union; Aleyda Garcia, Assistant Director of Asset Building, Lawrence CommunityWorks; Robert Cashman, President and CEO, Metro Credit Union; Dr. Almi Guajardo Abeyta, Superintendent, Chelsea Public Schools; Joanna Furgiuuele, Senior Development Officer, Foundation Partnerships, Junior Achievement (JA) of Greater Boston; Leisla Ortiz, Assistant Executive Director, Chelsea Restoration Corporation; and Marilyn Garcia, Executive Director, Chelsea Restoration Corporation. Back row: Lucky Chima, Corporate Relations, Rogerson Communities; Arleen Zorrilla, Director of Asset Building, Lawrence CommunityWorks; Solomon Rosenberg, Senior Director of Advancement, The Wily Network; Sophie Cohen, Communications and Grant Manager, The Wily Network; Kelly Knox, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, Rogerson Communities; and Jalyne Ramos, Development Coordinator, Women’s Money Matters; Radhames Nova, President and CEO, Junior Achievement (JA) of Greater Boston.

back to local communities through a number of philanthropic initiatives, partnerships, scholarships, and volunteer programs. Metro has been recognized for its charitable contributions with the Boston Business Journal Corporate Citizenship Award for the past five years.

Metro Credit Union is the largest state-chartered credit union in

Massachusetts, with \$3.4 billion in assets. Metro provides a full range of financial products to close to 200,000 members in Barnstable, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester counties in Massachusetts, and Cheshire, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Strafford counties in

New Hampshire. Metro is the credit union of choice for employees at over 1,200 companies through its Metro@work program.

Founded in 1926, Metro currently operates branch offices in Boston, Burlington, Chelsea, Dorchester, Framingham, Lawrence, Lynn, Medford, Melrose, Newton, Peabody, Reading, Salem, Tewksbury, and West Roxbury. Metro

is also a Juntos Avanzamos (“Together We Advance”) designated credit union, an honor given to financial institutions for their commitment to serving and empowering Hispanic and immigrant consumers. Metro was recently named among the most charitable companies in Massachusetts by the Boston Business Journal. Learn more at [MetroCU.org](http://MetroCU.org).



Metro Credit Union President and CEO Robert Cashman presents a grant for \$10,000 to Supt. of Chelsea Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta (center) Joanna Furgiuuele (second from left), Senior Development Officer at Junior Achievement of Greater Boston, and Radhames Noma (second from right), President and CEO of Junior Achievement of Greater Boston, for a business and financial literacy program in the Chelsea schools. Also participating in the check presentation ceremony is Metro Senior Vice President and Chief Development Officer Charlene Bauer.



Metro Credit Union President and CEO Robert Cashman presents a grant for \$7,500 to Marilyn Garcia, Executive Director of the Chelsea Restoration Corporation, and Leisla Ortiz (second from left), Assistant Executive Director of the Chelsea Restoration Corporation, for the non-profit organization’s First Time Homebuyers Workshop Series. Also pictured is Metro Senior Vice President and Chief Development Officer Charlene Bauer (far left).

**Sending you light and hope this Hanukkah & throughout the year.**




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*Wishing you a happy Hanukkah*

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# TEMPLE EMMANUEL HOSTS HAPPY HANUKKAH CELEBRATION PARTY

Temple Emmanuel hosted a Happy Hanukkah Celebration Party Sunday, Dec. 22 at the Elaine and Larry Smith Social Hall.

President Sara Lee Callahan and Rabbi Oksana Chapman welcomed the guests to the celebration.

The guests enjoyed latkes, bagels, and mini-sandwiches, followed by an outstanding sundae ice cream bar featuring Carole Turransky's fantastic hot fudge sauce.

Stephen Vider provided the entertainment, leading the group in song ("Eight Days of Hanukkah")

before speaking about his interesting collection of menorahs. Vider followed his performance by generously presenting wrapped gifts to Temple members and guests.

President Callahan con-

cluded the enjoyable afternoon by making a special gift of appreciation to Event Chairperson Janice Doherty.



Temple Emmanuel President Sara Lee Callahan thanks Event Chairperson Janice Doherty for her outstanding organizational skills in leading the Hanukkah Celebration.



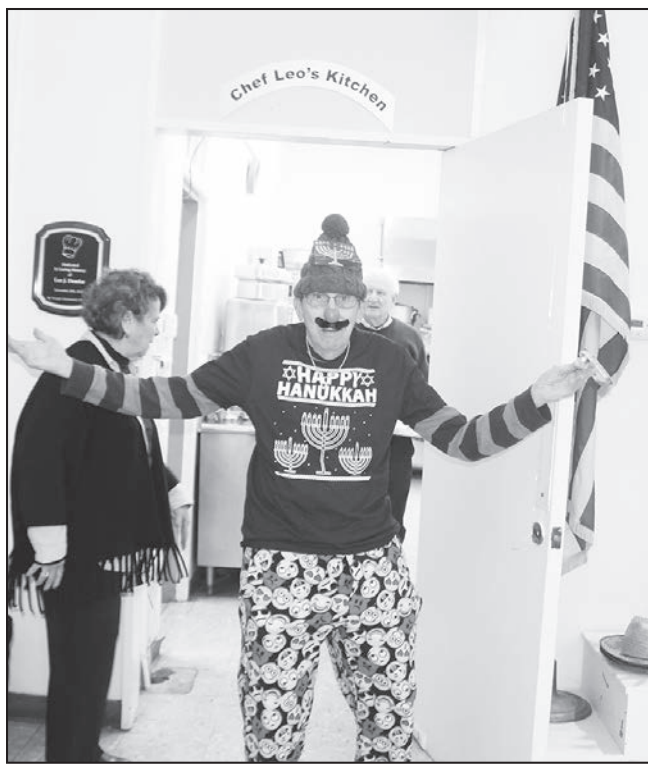
Event Chairperson Janice Doherty (center) joins distinguished guests, Temple President Sara Lee Callahan, Rabbi Oksana Chapman, Torf Funeral Home Director Amy Torf Feinberg, and her daughter, Brianna Feinberg, for a photo at the Hanukkah Celebration.



The Event Chairperson Table, (seated, from left), Karena Moran, Rena George, Skip Doherty, and Chairperson Janice Doherty. Standing, from left, are Ken Wacks, Stella Doherty, Brian Doherty, Wesley Doherty, and Alicia Doherty.



The Padulsky Table, led by well-known Chelsea resident Sandra Padulsky (seated, left) with family including Lynda Diamond and her daughter, Sarah Diamond; (standing, from left), Kristen Padulsky, with her children, Elizabeth Chang and William Chang, and professional disco dance instructor Karen Padulsky Poverman, a former Chelsea High School cheerleader.



Featured entertainer Stephen Vider, also known as the "Magnificent Menorah Man," arrives for his performance and presentation about his vintage menorah collection. (Menorahs are visible on Mr. Vider's hat and jersey).



Seated, from left, Edythe Shuman, Dotty Novak, Murray Novak, and Ellen Goldstick. Standing are Cindy Millman and Herb Selesnick.

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Enjoying the Hanukkah Celebration are (seated) Carole Turransky and Ralph Turransky; (standing) Sue Huberman, Robyn Huberman, spiritual leader, Rabbi Oksana (far right) and her mother, Larisa Mirvoda.

ZONTA CLUB OF CHELSEA AND NORTH SHORE NEWS



The Zonta Club of Chelsea and North Shore recently held their annual Holiday Celebration at Jimmy's Steer House in Saugus. Every year at this time they collect toys and bring them to this event to donate to The Salvation Army in Chelsea. This has been a tradition for at least 20 years and is one they hope to continue. Shown (left to right) are Diane Cambria, Mary Jane O'Neill, Theresa Czerepica, Janice Sikorski, Sheila Arsenaault, Trish O'Flaherty, Roberta Bayne, Adele Lubarsky, Christine DePrizio, Pam Miller, Barbara Lawlor, and Joan Lanzillo-Hahesy. Missing from photo is Georgia Green.



Zonta Club of Chelsea & North Shore's Fall Project during the International 16 Days of Advocacy. Members of the Zonta Club of Chelsea and North Shore recently delivered bags of toiletries to women obtaining permanent housing through Bay Cove Human Services in Chelsea. The gifting of the toiletries was this year's club project, serving local women during the International Sixteen Days of Advocacy. Shown (left to right) are Joan Lanzillo-Hahesy; Christine DePrizio; Theresa DiPietro, Director of Housing Services, Bay Cove Human Services; Deanna Sierra, Specialized Case Manager; Cindy Rivera, Director of Low Threshold Housing; Mary Jane O'Neill; Barbara Lawlor, and Georgia Green.

FKO // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gram. These notes recognized the special qualities that make each child an essential part of the FKO community. "Collaborating with Chelsea Station for this event has been a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the children and staff," said Johanna Cline, FKO Site Director. "Mike

Sheridan and Mark Nadow's generosity and commitment to Chelsea students truly made this holiday celebration unforgettable." FKO extends its heartfelt thanks to the Chelsea Station team for providing this exceptional meal at a discounted cost. This partnership exemplifies the

power of community in creating meaningful experiences for children. FKO is proud to work alongside local businesses and schools like Chelsea Station and Chelsea Public Schools to support Chelsea's youth, ensuring every child feels valued and celebrated during the holiday season and beyond.

For Kids Only After-school (FKO) is a leading provider of high-quality afterschool north of Boston. With nearly forty years of experience, FKO programs offer safe and nurturing environments where children can learn, grow, and thrive beyond regular school hours.

Chelsea unveils approximately \$2 million opioid abatement grant program using settlement fund

Special to the Record The City of Chelsea has announced it will allocate approximately \$2 million in State Opioid Settlement Funds to distribute Opioid Abatement Grants to local organizations and individuals committed to delivering activities and events designed to promote the prevention and intervention of opioid use in its community. The funds, which are part of a settlement between Massachusetts and companies involved in distributing opioids, will be paid out to the City in increments over time through Fiscal Year 2038.

Over this period, Chelsea will earmark Opioid Abatement Funds to launch an Opioid Abatement Micro Grant Program open to Chelsea-based organizations and individuals who aim to deliver activities or events focused on opioid prevention and intervention. Each year, grants of up to \$2,500 will be available to support these efforts as funding allows.

Applications for the Micro Grant Program will be accepted on a rolling basis until funds are fully allocated. To apply, visit chelseama.gov or contact Flor Amaya, Director of Public Health, at fama-ya@chelseama.gov.

Chelsea first began to put its Opioid Settlement Funding to use by awarding larger Opioid Abatement Grants to two key local organizations in September 2024: An award to Roca in the amount of \$123,989.57 to be paid out incrementally over the course of three years, and a grant to Community Action Programs In-

ter-City, Inc (CAPIC) in the amount of \$525,600 to be incrementally paid out over a three-year period.

Roca, a violence intervention and behavioral health program for young people with headquarters in Chelsea, will use its award to deliver life-saving cognitive behavioral theory (CBT) skills, as well as education and workforce readiness programming, employment, and effective referral and connection to harm reduction services and clinical care, to local young people with opioid and substance use disorders.

CAPIC, which delivers equitable harm reduction interventions, connection to care, and wrap-around services to individuals with substance use disorders, will use its award to connect individuals to appropriate and equitable interventions in a coordinated way with an overall goal to increase their quality of life.

Chelsea will also allocate \$13,333.50 to fund its Critical Incident Management System (CIMS) Software, which facilitates the sharing of non-fatal drug overdose data with other communities in the Commonwealth.

The City of Chelsea is set to receive approximately \$2 million from a total of seven opioid settlements through Fiscal Year 2038. This funding is part of a larger agreement reached between Massachusetts, other states, and opioid manufacturers, distributors, and retailers who contributed to the opioid crisis. These settlements provide funds annually to strengthen resources for opioid prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE



Re: Canadian Liquors, Inc d/b/a Broadway Variety 2 469 Eastern Avenue, Chelsea, MA Chelsea Licensing Commission, January 9, 2025 Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Chelsea Licensing Commission on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, MA. For a Change of DBA and Change of Category from Wine and Malt Alcohol Beverage (off premise) License change to an All Alcohol Beverage (off premise) License application for Canadian Liquors, Inc. d/b/a Broadway Variety 2 change d/b/a to Liquor Point at 469 Eastern Avenue, Chelsea, MA. 02150. Please be advised that you must notify, via Certified Return Receipt mail, all abutters to the licensed premise. CHELSEA LICENSING COMMISSION Naomi Libran Licensing Administrator 12/19/24, 12/26/24

LEGAL NOTICE

for CAPIC Head Start CLOSING DAY AND TIME: Sealed proposals will be received no later than: January 17, 2025 Small and minority firms are encouraged to apply. The advertisement is subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the request for proposals. CAPIC, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Affirmative Action Agency. PLEASE MARK SEALED ENVELOPE: "IT Smart Screen Bid" RETURN PROPOSAL TO: Community Action Programs Inter-City, Inc. Attn: Richelle Cromwell, Executive Director 100 Everett Avenue, Unit 14 Chelsea, MA 02150 Organizational Overview Community Action Programs Inter-City, Inc. (CAPIC) invites qualified vendors to submit proposals for the purchase and installation of Smart Screens in the CAPIC Head Start Program. CAPIC is a private, non-profit corporation chartered in 1967 and designated to identify and eradicate the root causes of poverty in Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop. CAPIC has been designated by the State and Federal Government as a Community Action Agency and currently employs approximately 115 employees. CAPIC's After School Program provides Project Description Scope of Work Community Action Programs Inter-City, Inc. (CAPIC) invites qualified vendors to submit proposals for: Item Part number Quantity 75"LG CreateBoard 4K UHD LED-LCD Touchscreen

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Display 75TR3DK-B.MUSQ 12 Large Fusion Manual Height Adjustable Mobile Cart LPAUB 12 Rally Bar + Top IP Graphite Bundle for Video Meeting Rooms 991-000419 1 ClickShare C-10 Gen2 - US version with 2 Buttons R9861611USB2 1 65" LG CreateBoard 4K UHD LED-LCD Touchscreen Display 65TR3DK-B.MUSQ 1 Large Fusion Micro-Adjustable Fixed Wall Display Mount, Black LSM1U 1 Freight Freight 1 Installation Installation 1 Applications to include but not limited to: • Delivery locations are: \* 67 Crescent Ave, Chelsea, MA \* 65 Nahant Ave, Revere, MA \* 30 A Rose St, Revere, MA \* 45 Pauline St, Winthrop, MA \* Delivery must include moving devices inside from the delivery vehicle, not simply "door to door" \* Installation SOW must include installation of 12 Screens on carts, and one (1) screen mounted on drywall with provided mounting materials. \* Delivery will include removal of all packing materials and containers from delivery locations Required Documents On 8.5" by 11" white paper in portrait orientation, include: 1. Your company name

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and address 2. Net terms 3. The list of above equipment, with unit, and extended pricing. 4. SOW for installation, including scheduling, and fees or penalties for termination, 5. Listing of all delivery locations on the SOW as understanding there are 4 different delivery locations. 6. Separation of bid pages by location is permissible. The SOW for installation may be on a separate document, if needed, as long as that document is clearly marked as an installation SOW TAXES CAPIC is exempt from Federal Excise and State Sales tax; therefore, tax must not be included in the proposal price. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS \* CAPIC reserves the right to accept any proposal or alternative proposal proposed in whole or in part, to reject any or all proposals or alternatives proposals in whole or in part and to waive irregularity and/or informalities in any proposal and to make the award in any manner deemed in the best interest of CAPIC. \* CAPIC reserves the right not to consider any proposal which it determines to be unresponsive and deficient in any of the information requested within the RFP. \* CAPIC reserves the right to determine whether the scope of the project will be implemented entirely as described in the RFP, a portion of the scope, or that a revised scope be implemented. CAPIC appreciates your time and effort in preparing this proposal. Please note that all proposals

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must be received at the designated location by the above referenced deadline. Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered for the award of the contract, and will be considered void and unacceptable. R,C,W 12/24, 12/26

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NOTICE OF HEARING Case No. 2024-23 Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A that a Regular Meeting of the Chelsea Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 Chelsea City Hall - 500 Broadway - City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor 6:00 p.m. With reference to the application of: David Bennett For Special Permit and Variance seeking approval for the construction of a two residential unit dwelling structure which does not meet the minimum requirements for number of parking spaces, front yard setbacks, front yard set-backs and lot size at the premises known as: 73 Library Street A copy of the application and petition is available for review at: City Clerk's Office during normal business hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. - Friday, 8 a.m. to noon 12/19/24, 12/26/24

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NOTICE OF HEARING Case No. 2024-24 Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A that a Regular Meeting of the Chelsea Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 Chelsea City Hall - 500 Broadway - City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor 6:00 p.m. With reference to the application of: 686 Architects, LLC | James Christopher For Special Permit seeking approval for the Approval for a Driveway Opening Permit which is not permitted within the required front yard setback nor within five (5) feet of a side lot line nor within five (5) feet of a wall containing windows at the premises known as: 57 Palmer Street A copy of the application and petition is available for review at: City Clerk's Office during normal business hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. - Friday, 8 a.m. to noon 12/19/24, 12/26/24

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Re: El Kiosco Corp. d/b/a El Kiosco

LEGAL NOTICE

212 Broadway, Chelsea, MA Chelsea Licensing Commission, January 9, 2025 Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Chelsea Licensing Commission on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, MA. For a Change of Hours from Tuesday-Sunday 3pm-11pm to Monday-Sunday 11am-11pm and New Categories (radio, tv, disc jockey, use of amplification and Live shows) on a New Amusement & Entertainment License application for El Kiosco Corp.d/b/a El Kiosco at 212 Broadway, Chelsea, MA. 02150. Please be advised that you must notify, via Certified Return Receipt mail, all abutters to the licensed premise. CHELSEA LICENSING COMMISSION Naomi Libran Licensing Administrator 12/19/24, 12/26/24

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE OF HEARING Case No. 2024-25 Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A that a Regular Meeting of the Chelsea Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 Chelsea City Hall - 500 Broadway - City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor 6:00 p.m. With reference to the application of:

LEGAL NOTICE

686 Architects, LLC | James Christopher For Special Permit seeking approval for the Approval for a Driveway Opening Permit which is not permitted within the required front yard setback nor within five (5) feet of a side lot line nor within five (5) feet of a wall containing windows at the premises known as: 75 Palmer Street A copy of the application and petition is available for review at: City Clerk's Office during normal business hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. - Friday, 8 a.m. to noon 12/19/24, 12/26/24

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING In accordance with M.G.L Ch. 40A, Section 5, the Chelsea City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 6th, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150 to discuss proposed amendments to the Chelsea Zoning Ordinance, Sections 34-300 "Table of Principal Uses," which would allow "enclosed seafood processing, seafood packing and packaging, seafood loading and seafood distribution" in the Industrial (I) zoning district by Special Permit. Copies of the proposed amendment are available for inspection in the City

LEGAL NOTICE

Clerk's office during normal City Hall business hours. Norieliz DeJesus President, Chelsea City Council 12/19/24, 12/26/24

LEGAL NOTICE

On December 10, 2024, the Chelsea Board of Health voted to update the Tobacco Sales Regulation and adopted a Nicotine Free Generation Policy. The policy prohibits the sale of nicotine products, including e-cigarettes to anyone born on or after 1/1/2004. In addition, the policy limits the sale of Oral Nicotine pouches to adult only retail stores only. The policy is effective January 1, 2025. Copy of the updated regulation is available upon request to the City's Director of Public Health, Flor Amaya, available at fama-ya@chelseama.gov and 617-466-4209. 12/26/24

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE In accordance with Section 6-3 (b) of the Chelsea City Charter notice is hereby given that at a Regular Meeting of the Chelsea Traffic and Parking Commission held on December 3, 2024, the Commission voted to approve the following regulations: To post a handicap sign at 28 Everett Avenue. Jeannette Cintron White Parking Clerk 12/26/24



# OBITUARIES

## Hiram Flores

Family man and more than 20 year employee of the Soldiers Home



ton and his wife, Jeany of Peabody, the late Michael McDonald, and Darren McDonald and partner, Heather Jaynes of Lowell and sisters-in-law, Theresa Figueroa Hatch of New Hampshire and the late Brenda McDonald.

A lifelong resident of Chelsea, Hiram worked at the Soldier's Home for over 20 years and made many friends along the way. Hiram had a witty sense of humor and would always crack jokes, use funny voices or make silly faces to lighten any mood or any occasion. He could strike up a friendly conversation with anyone at any time and had such a positive aura that was infectious to be around. He was known for his heart of gold and thoughtful personality, as he wouldn't hesitate to go out of his way to take care of those around him.

Hiram had many childhood friends who he kept in contact with up until the time of his passing, including Scott Benton and Paul Molton, both of Chelsea.

Hiram was a homebody whose favorite pastime was staying in with his wife, Sharleene to watch a movie or a new show. He was a movie buff and horror movie enthusiast who loved the Friday the 13th series and Jaws. He was eager to share movie and show suggestions, and he never missed an opportunity to pull his phone out to show someone a new movie preview.



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Relatives and friends attended calling hours and the funeral for Hiram Flores at the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea on Monday, December 23rd.. The gathering was immediately followed by a Funeral Mass at the Immaculate Conception Church, 133 Beach St., Revere.

Hiram Flores, 56 years young, of Chelsea, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, December 18th, 2024, after a brave and courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by his caring family.

Hiram was born on November 29, 1968, in Orocovic, Puerto Rico to Paulina Baez, and the late Juan Flores. Hiram was especially known for his unwavering faith in God, and he was a parishioner at the Immaculate Conception Church in Revere, where he married the love of his life and best friend, Sharleene Flores on June 25th, 2016, whom he leaves behind as well as their cherished children: Jordanna Vergara and her partner, Tito Castillo of Taunton, Shawn McDonald of Medford and Aisha McDonald of Chelsea, and their grandchildren, Johnathan, Jordan, Ariana, Keeanu, Jeylianna, Kauan, Layla, Skyler, Amina and Saoirse.

The youngest of five children, Hiram is survived by his mother, Paulina and his older siblings - Santos Flores and his wife, Cathy of Deltona, Pedro Flores and his wife, Lisa of Lynn, Ana DeJesus and her husband, Elvis of Deltona, Geraldo Flores and his partner, Madelyn Garcia of Saugus. He has many beloved nieces, nephews and Godchildren that he loved dearly, who reside in different areas of his home state of Massachusetts and his second home of Florida. He is also survived by his brothers-in-law, Skip Redding-

Hiram was an avid sports fan who had a vast knowledge of all things relating to football, hockey, baseball and especially basketball. At any moment, he could rattle off stats from any sport, player or team dating back to the 1960's. He was a walking encyclopedia for all things sports. He enjoyed being in front of the TV watching, but most importantly, yelling at his favorite teams as they played. He loved the latest gadgets and electronics alike.

Above all, Hiram was a family man. He had a very special way to bring everyone together in a way that only he could. He made everyone around him feel seen, heard and most importantly, loved. He had a special bond with his brother Geraldo, who he fondly referred to as his "twin" as they were so close in age and looks. He looked up to him and admired him, often saying how proud he was of him.

Hiram will be missed tremendously, but we will all ensure that his legacy lives on by echoing the sentiments that he held near and dear: Be faithful, be present, be supportive and be with each other, always, because his family meant the world to him, and he would want us to stick together no matter what.

To send expressions of sympathy, visit [www.welshfh.com](http://www.welshfh.com).

## SIMON SHINES AS CHS GIRLS TRACK OPENS WITH WIN

The Chelsea High girls indoor track and field opened its dual-meet season with an impressive 51-35 victory over Greater Boston League (GBL) rival Malden last Thursday at the Reggie Lewis Athletic Center in Roxbury.

Leading the way for the Lady Red Devils was sophomore star Thania Simon, who scored 15 points with first-place finishes in the 55 meter dash with a sprint of 7.75 seconds, the 300 dash in 48.71, and the long jump with a leap of 16'-3.75".

What was especially impressive about Thania's performance is that her time in the 55 dash was the fastest among all of the GBL competitors that evening (all eight of the GBL schools were at the Reggie to kick off their 2025 dual-meet season) and her long jump out-distanced the entire GBL field by 10 inches.

Additional first-place finishers for Chelsea were: Katherine Benitez in the 600 in a clocking of 2:20.11; Hazel Hatlerberg in the 1000 with a time of 3:55.53; and Kiara Ramirez-Villata in the shot-put with a throw of 32'-5", a distance that by far (almost six feet) was the best in the GBL that

## CHS Roundup

night. Adding three points to the CHS scoresheet with second-place efforts were: Aly Perez in the two mile; Lauren Nadow in the 55 hurdles; Angela Mejia-Martinez in the shot-put (Angela also scored a point with a third-place effort in the two-mile run); Isabel DeMatos-Lemos in the 1000; and Lily Serrano in the 55 dash.

## CHACON-ARACENA IS NO. 1 IN GBL IN SHOT-PUT IN OPENING DUAL MEET

Although the Chelsea High boys indoor track and field team came up on the short end of a 53-38 decision to Malden, a number of Red Devils turned in superb performances.

At the top of the list was senior Ariel Chacon-Aracena, whose shot-put throw of 47'-8" not only topped his Malden opponents, but proved to be the best among all of the GBL competitors on the night (all eight of the GBL schools were competing

in their season-openers at the Reggie on Thursday) by nine inches.

Ariel also scored five points for the Chelsea cause with a first place in the high jump with a leap of 5'-4".

Sherwin Kim scored points in three events, taking second place in the long jump, second in the 300, and a third in the 55 hurdles to score seven points on the night.

Bryan Amaya Yanes came across the line in first place in the 1000 in a clocking of 3:05.11. Teammate Kyle Leong was right behind in second place with a time of 3:05.90.

Xavier Guzman took second in the 600 dash with a clocking of 1:36.01, which was the fourth-fastest in the GBL that evening.

Carlos Perez-Acosta finished second in the mile to add three points to the CHS side of the scoresheet.

Eric Anderson also scored three points with his second-place finish in the two-mile run.

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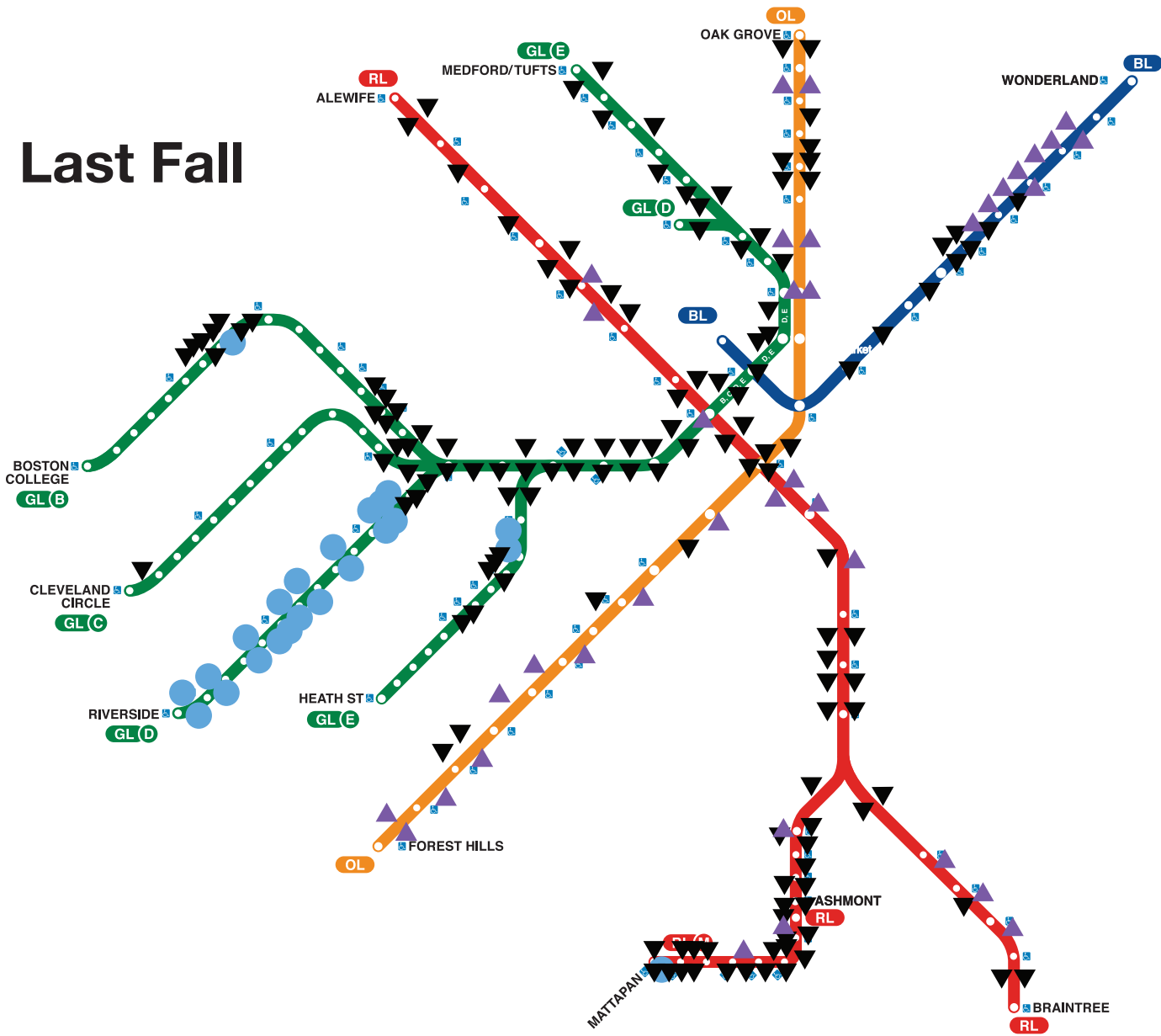
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# REASON 48:

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# THE WAY OUR SYSTEM MAP SHOULD LOOK

## Today



Last fall, our MBTA map showed more than 200 slow zones across all our subway lines. Today? It's the way our system map should look – free of slow zones and ready to deliver smoother, faster, and safer rides for you. And now even when new slow zones do pop up occasionally, we are committed to removing them within 30 days. This milestone is thanks to months of tireless effort by our teams and the patience and support of our riders. While there's still more to come in 2025, this marks a significant leap toward a better MBTA experience for everyone.

So many reasons to  
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