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CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

VOLUME 132, NO. 48

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025

35 CENTS



On MLK Day, CPS elementary, middle and high school students participated in Chelsea's annual MLK celebration at the Clark Avenue Middle School. Later in the day, a cohort of elementary school students sang at Boston Symphony Hall at Boston Children Chorus' MLK Tribute Concert.

Chelsea students celebrate life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Special to the Record

It was a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to remember for Chelsea Public Schools students who participated in events in Chelsea and Boston to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. King. Students of all ages gathered at the Morris H. Seigal Clark Avenue Middle School (CAMS) on MLK Day to participate in Chelsea's annual MLK Celebration. Later in the day, a cohort of elementary school students sang at Boston Symphony Hall in front of thousands at Boston Children Chorus' 22nd annual MLK Tribute Concert.

At CAMS on Monday morning, the attendees enjoyed performances by the district's Middle School Advanced Band - representing students from the Browne, Clark and Wright - as well as singers from Chelsea High School's Cantare. The middle school band was directed by CPS



Students from Chelsea High School's Cantare sang at the MLK Celebration.

COURTESY PHOTOS

educator Lee Thomas and the CHS Cantare was led by Chelsea High School teacher Michael Bednarsky.

As part of the event, winners of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay, Poetry and Art Contest received awards. Those in

attendance were presented with certificates by city officials, local dignitaries and community leaders. The students who won the contest included Camila Mendoza Amador, Sokolowski School (Art); Staphanie Alas Zapata, Browne Middle School (Essay); Amparo Barillas, Browne Middle School (Art); Alejandro Perez Guzman, Browne Middle School (Art); Ashley Castro, Morris H. Seigal Clark Avenue Middle

School (Art); Staphanie Alas Zapata, Browne Middle School (Essay); Amparo Barillas, Browne Middle School (Art); Alejandro Perez Guzman, Browne Middle School (Art); Ashley Castro, Morris H. Seigal Clark Avenue Middle

See MLK Page 6

A Unified Front

La Colaborativa, together with advocacy groups, file first lawsuit in state to challenge Trump administration's birthright citizenship order

Special to the Record

La Colaborativa, in partnership with Lawyers for Civil Rights and the Brazilian Worker Center, has filed the first lawsuit in the Commonwealth to halt what they call the Trump administration's unconstitutional, inhumane policy stripping U.S.-born children with immigrant parents of citizenship.

"For over 35 years, La Colaborativa has safeguarded, uplifted, and relentlessly fought for our community," said Gladys Vega, President of La Colaborativa. "Along with our allies, we're committed to leading a unified front to counter the Trump administration's grave violation of civil rights. We stand united to protect the rights and safety of our fam-

ilies, regardless of where they come from."

Prompted by what it characterizes as a cascading array of damaging executive actions, La Colaborativa is spearheading the lawsuit on behalf of expectant mothers, working families, and immigrant communities adversely affected by this policy.

"La Colaborativa refuses to let the federal government create a caste system that dehumanizes U.S.-born children and their families," stated Dinanyili Paulino, Executive Vice President of La Colaborativa. "As the consequences of the election increasingly harm working families, children, and immigrants, La Colaborativa will remain a cor-

See LAWSUIT Page 3

City releases Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2030

Special to the Record

The city released its Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) outlining strategic capital investments in the City's infrastructure, open spaces, and facilities for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2030.

The CIP is available to the public online at chelseama.gov/financedocs and in person at the Chelsea Public Library and City Clerk's office.

Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez delivered the Capital Improvement Plan to the Chelsea City Council, along with a communication letter, during its meeting Monday night, pursuant to the obligations under Section 5-4 of the Chelsea City Charter. The City Council will host a public hearing,

followed by a vote for adoption during their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 17.

The list of projects includes the replacement of all rooftop HVAC units at the Early Learning Center; safety improvements for pedestrians and motorists on roadways and intersections; and the rehabilitation of various parks and open spaces, including the tot lot located at Voke Park.

"Strategic capital investments play a pivotal role in ensuring the sustainability and prosperity of our beloved Chelsea," said Maltez. "We firmly believe that these priorities outlined in this plan align with the

See IMPROVEMENT Page 3

Community invited to shape renovation of Voke Tot Lot Playground

Special to the Record

The City of Chelsea invites residents to participate in the renovation of the Voke Tot Lot by attending a

Public Meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Chelsea Public Library, located at 569 Broadway.

The City plans to up-

date the play equipment for children ages 2-5 only. Attending the meeting is an opportunity for the community to share their ideas and preferences for the new

play equipment, ensuring that it meets the needs of all children, including those with disabilities. The City is particularly focused on making the new equipment

accessible, allowing children in wheelchairs to play alongside their peers.

"We want to hear from our residents about what they'd like to see in the up-

dated play area," said Emily Granoff, Deputy Director of the Chelsea's Department of Housing and Community Development. "This is an exciting opportunity to create a more inclusive, fun, and safe space for our youngest community members."

The City encourages families, caregivers, and local residents to attend and provide their valuable input. Those unable to attend the meeting are welcome to reach out to Emily at egrannoff@chelseama.gov to share questions or feedback.



COURTESY PHOTO

The renovation will center solely around updating the play equipment (right) for children ages 2-5.

Retired Chelsea Police Lieutenant Robert Griffin attends prestigious Inaugural Ball. Page 12

INDEPENDENT Newspaper Group

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Chelsea

R E C O R D

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

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Forum

GLP-1 WEIGHT-LOSS DRUGS SHOULD BE MADE AFFORDABLE FOR ALL AMERICANS

The widespread acceptance of the so-called GLP-1 drugs, Zepbound by Eli Lilly and Wegovy by Novo Nordisk, for weight loss has created a game-changing dynamic for the overall health of the 72% of Americans who struggle with maintaining a healthy weight.

The U.S. presently ranks among the most obese nations in the world and the trend had been predicted to climb upwards. However, for the first time in decades, obesity rates among Americans declined in 2024, reversing decades of our unhealthy collective weight gain as a nation. (The average American male today weighs 30 pounds more than he did in 1960 and the average American female today weighs 26 pounds more than she did in 1960 -- and no, it's not because we are taller today than then.)

The principal reason for this welcome reversal has been the use of the GLP-1 drugs, which have been shown both to decrease a person's appetite (thereby preventing overeating) and to make sugary, salty, and high-fat foods less appealing.

These drugs initially were formulated to assist persons with diabetes to maintain control of their blood sugar levels. However, it soon became clear that the drugs had the "side-effect" of a reduction in patients' body-weight because the drugs reduced their cravings and overeating.

Yes, the GLP-1 drugs have side-effects -- patients who use them lose muscle mass -- but overall, the drugs have been nothing short of a miracle for persons who struggle with eating healthily. In addition, the drugs have shown promise both in combating a number of other addictive behaviors (including alcohol abuse and gambling) and having direct, positive effects on other health conditions such as cardiovascular disease (the drugs lower blood pressure, among other things).

Making these drugs affordable for all Americans (in addition to those who receive prescriptions for their diabetes treatment for whom insurance covers the cost) should be the proverbial no-brainer. Yes, the drugs are extremely expensive (about \$1500 per month without insurance), but those costs will come down as Eli Lilly ramps up production at its new drug-making facilities in the near-future. Further, the federal government can negotiate price reductions for those on Medicare.

But right now, these drugs, when used for weight control only, are available as a practical matter only to the very wealthy who can afford the high price tag. In addition to plain fairness, making these drugs affordable for everybody who needs them to reduce their weight by covering them under insurance will make our nation healthier, which not only is a laudable goal in itself, but also will reduce our health care costs (most of which are traceable to being overweight) in the years ahead.

In short, failing to make the GLP-1 drugs widely affordable and available to all Americans is the proverbial case of being penny-wise and pound-foolish (and yes, the pun is intended.)

WE'RE OVER THE HUMP

The winter season generally is measured in two ways. There's meteorological winter, the three months of December, January, and February. And then there is astronomical winter, which begins with the winter solstice on December 21 and ends with the spring solstice on March 21.

But however you want to think about "winter," the last week of January basically brings us over the proverbial hump for the 2025 winter season. December and January are in the rear view mirror with only the short month of February ahead. (If you prefer astronomical winter, we'll be very close to the mid-point between December 21-March 21 by the end of this week.)

Of course, as we all know, Ol' Man Winter doesn't always play by the rules -- or the calendar. The infamous Blizzard of '78 occurred in February, as did a number of other huge storms. The first week of March may bring out the colorful crocuses and snowdrops pushing through the ground in our garden, but just as often as not, they're peeking through a fresh few inches of snowfall.

But what is undeniable, however you prefer to measure the seasons, and regardless of what Ol' Man Winter has in store for us, the days are now getting noticeably longer. There will be 10 hours and five minutes of daylight on February 1, compared to just the nine hours and eight minutes that we had on December 21.

In addition, when we take our walks and go for our runs, the sun's warmth is becoming noticeably stronger every day. And even if we get some snow, it typically disappears much faster in February and March than in January thanks to the strength of the sun.

So yes, after our colder-than-normal January, as far as we are concerned, spring can't come soon enough!

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.

LOCAL OFFICIALS COMMENT ON THE NEW IMMIGRATION POLICIES

A message from City Manager Fidel Maltez

Dear Chelsea Community,

As someone who immigrated to this country as a young child, I understand deeply the importance of keeping families together and supporting the safety and well-being of all who call Chelsea home. Recently, there have been troubling reports regarding ICE raids in our community paired with a concerning announcement from the President about fast-tracking deportations of immigrants and that schools and churches are vulnerable to these operations.

As of today we can confirm that while ICE temporarily mobilized in Chelsea, to our knowledge, there were no subsequent arrests of Chelsea residents.

Massachusetts law -- and the law of our city -- does not allow local authorities to detain individuals solely due to their immigration status. A 2017 Supreme Judicial Court case, *Lunn v. Commonwealth* made it clear that local law enforcement cannot enforce federal immigration laws.

The City of Chelsea will continue to focus on serving all of our residents. The

Officers of the Chelsea Police Department are focused on protecting our community and upholding local and state laws, not federal immigration enforcement. City of Chelsea employees, including the members of our Chelsea Police Department (CPD), do not, and will not, inquire about immigration status during routine interactions.

To reiterate this, Chelsea Police Chief Keith Houghton sent a memo to every Chelsea police officer outlining the department's priorities and limitations; that the department's priority continues to be ensuring public safety and fostering strong community relationships; and that the department does not enforce federal immigration laws and will not engage in actions that undermine trust with our immigrant communities.

While the police department does comply with judicial warrants and court orders, the members of CPD do not act as agents of ICE. The department only communicates with ICE in cases involving serious criminal offenses, such as violent crimes, consistent with state

law and departmental policy.

When it comes to Chelsea Public Schools (CPS), our schools are committed to providing a safe learning environment where all individuals are treated with kindness and respect. We believe that our diversity and inclusivity is our strength. Everyone belongs at Chelsea Public Schools.

When it comes to our students or families' immigration status, please know that CPS maintains the following protections:

CPS will not release information contained in pupil records to federal agencies without the permission of the student's parent or guardian or pursuant to judicial warrant, subpoena, court order or as otherwise required by law.

Requests to enter any Chelsea Public Schools by any immigration enforcement office shall immediately be forwarded to the Superintendent's Office for review to ensure the safety and confidentiality of all students, as well as compliance with applicable state and federal laws.

While there is uncertainty surrounding national policy,

please rest assured that our city will continue to protect the dignity and rights of every resident. If you or someone you know faces the threat of deportation, there are resources available; we are sharing links to online resources below. We will also work with our legal partners to continue offering opportunities for our residents to understand their rights and protections under Massachusetts law.

I am proud of the diverse community we've built here in Chelsea. We are stronger because of our immigrant population, and we will not let fear or misinformation divide us. Chelsea is a city for all, and that will never change.

Stay safe and may God bless the City of Chelsea.

Un mensaje del Gerente Municipal Fidel Maltez

Querida comunidad de Chelsea,

Como alguien que emigró a este país cuando era niño, entiendo profundamente la importancia de mantener a las familias unidas y apoyar la seguridad y el bienestar de todos los que

See MALTEZ Page 3

A message from Dr. Almi G. Abeyta Superintendent Chelsea Public Schools

Information Regarding Family and Student Immigration Status

Dear Chelsea Public Schools Families,

In Chelsea Public Schools we will always welcome and educate all. We are committed to providing a safe learning environment where all individuals feel belonged at school and are treated with kindness and respect. We believe that our diversity and inclusivity is our strength. Everyone belongs at Chelsea Public Schools.

When it comes to our students or families' immigration status, please know that CPS maintains the following protections:

• We will not release information contained in pupil records to federal agencies without the permission of the student's parent or guardian or pursuant to judicial warrant, subpoena, court order or as otherwise

required by law.

• Requests to enter Chelsea Public Schools by any immigration enforcement office shall immediately be forwarded to the Superintendent's Office for review to ensure the safety and confidentiality of all students, as well as compliance with applicable state and federal laws.

We felt it was important to reaffirm these procedures with our community. We will adhere to these procedures in any future interactions with federal agencies or immigration enforcement officers should they arise.

Per our usual protocol, students are dismissed only to people authorized by parents/guardians. Please ensure your student's information is up to date. You can update it by contacting your student's school.

Principals and school-based staff have received detailed guidance on protecting students' rights.

We are committed to providing safe and supportive environments at our schools where every student in Chelsea can succeed. If you have further questions, please speak with your student's school.

Información sobre el estatus migratorio de familias y estudiantes

22 de enero de 2025
Estimadas familias de las escuelas públicas de Chelsea:

En las Escuelas Públicas de Chelsea siempre daremos la bienvenida y educaremos a todos. Estamos comprometidos a brindar un ambiente de aprendizaje seguro donde todas las personas se sientan parte de la escuela y sean tratadas con amabilidad y respeto. Creemos que nuestra diversidad e inclusión son nuestra fortaleza. Todos pertenecen a las Escuelas Públicas de Chelsea.

Quando se trata del esta-

tus migratorio de nuestros estudiantes o familias, tenga en cuenta que CPS mantiene las siguientes protecciones:

• No divulgaremos información contenida en los registros de los alumnos a agencias federales sin el permiso de los padres o tutores del estudiante o de conformidad con una orden judicial, citación, orden judicial o según lo requiera la ley.

• Las solicitudes para ingresar a las Escuelas Públicas de Chelsea por parte de cualquier oficina de control de inmigración se enviarán inmediatamente a la Oficina del Superintendente para su revisión para garantizar la seguridad y confidencialidad de todos los estudiantes, así como el cumplimiento de las leyes estatales y federales aplicables.

Nos pareció importante reafirmar estos procedimientos con nuestra co-

See ABEYTA Page 3

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Lawsuit // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

nerstone of our community, providing vital resources for all residents, regardless of their background or immigration status.”

La Colaborativa representatives stated that the executive orders, issued hours after the inauguration, have been widely condemned as unconstitutional, harmful, and an abject violation of human rights. The organization stated that the string of announcements has exacerbated the growing fears within immigrant communities, which have grappled with decades of repression and disinvestment.

“Unquestionably, these policies are designed to spur fear and division,” said Alex Train, Chief Operating Officer of La Colabo-

rativa. “In this moment of darkness, we must remain vigilant and united, with an unwavering commitment to safeguarding human rights at all costs.”

In a press release, La Colaborativa stated that the executive order in question denies U.S.-born children their rights, protections, and citizenship—instilling fear and uncertainty within immigrant communities. Advocacy groups argue that such actions not only violate constitutional principles but also inflict profound harm on families, destabilize communities, and erode trust in public systems.

Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez said that as a naturalized citizen with children born in this coun-

try, the issue is very personal for him.

“The unknown is very scary,” said Maltez. “For the past week, we have been trying to calm our residents and telling them not to jump to conclusions.”

Maltez said the city is concerned that people in need will be less likely to call for needed resources in the current climate. He said the city, the police, and fire departments are committed to serving and protecting everyone in the city, and that the school department is committed to educating everyone.

“That will not change, we will serve and protect all of Chelsea,” Maltez said.



Gladys Vega, Executive President of La Colaborativa, alongside Lawyers for Civil Rights and the Brazilian Worker Center, during the press conference announcing a lawsuit against President Trump's Executive Order denying U.S. citizenship to children of immigrant parents.

Maltez // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

llaman hogar a Chelsea. Recientemente, ha habido informes preocupantes sobre redadas de ICE en nuestra comunidad, junto con un anuncio alarmante del Presidente sobre acelerar las deportaciones de inmigrantes y señalar que las escuelas y las iglesias son vulnerables a estas operaciones.

Hasta el día de hoy, podemos confirmar que, aunque ICE se movilizó temporalmente en Chelsea, según nuestro conocimiento, no hubo arrestos de residentes de Chelsea.

La ley de Massachusetts – y la ley de nuestra ciudad – no permite que las autoridades locales detengan a individuos únicamente por su estatus migratorio. Un caso del Tribunal Supremo Judicial de 2017, Lunn v. Commonwealth, dejó claro que la policía local no puede hacer cumplir las leyes federales de inmigración.

La Ciudad de Chelsea continuará enfocándose en servir a todos nuestros residentes. Los oficiales del Departamento de Policía de Chelsea están enfocados en proteger a nuestra comunidad y hacer cumplir las leyes locales y estatales, no en hacer cumplir las leyes federales de inmigración. Los empleados de la Ciudad de Chelsea, incluidos los miembros de nuestro Departamento de Policía de Chelsea (CPD), no preguntan, ni preguntarán, sobre el estatus migratorio durante interacciones rutinarias.

Para reiterar esto, el Jefe de Policía de Chelsea,

Keith Houghton, envió un memorando a cada oficial de policía de Chelsea detallando las prioridades y limitaciones del departamento; que la prioridad del departamento sigue siendo garantizar la seguridad pública y fomentar relaciones sólidas con la comunidad; y que el departamento no hace cumplir las leyes federales de inmigración y no participará en acciones que afecten la confianza con nuestras comunidades inmigrantes.

Si bien el departamento de policía cumple con las órdenes judiciales y los mandatos judiciales, los miembros del CPD no actúan como agentes de ICE. El departamento solo se comunica con ICE en casos que involucren delitos graves, como crímenes violentos, de acuerdo con la ley estatal y la política departamental.

En cuanto a las Escuelas Públicas de Chelsea (CPS), nuestras escuelas están comprometidas a proporcionar un ambiente de aprendizaje seguro donde todas las personas sean tratadas con amabilidad y respeto. Creemos que nuestra diversidad e inclusividad son nuestra fortaleza. Todos pertenecen a las Escuelas Públicas de Chelsea.

En cuanto al estatus migratorio de nuestros estudiantes o sus familias, sepan que CPS mantiene las siguientes protecciones:

CPS no divulgará información contenida en los registros de los estudiantes a agencias federales sin el

permiso de los padres o tutores del estudiante, o de acuerdo con una orden judicial, citación, mandato judicial o según lo exija la ley.

Cualquier solicitud de ingreso a las Escuelas Públicas de Chelsea por parte de cualquier oficina de cumplimiento de inmigración será inmediatamente enviada a la Oficina de la Superintendente para su revisión, con el fin de garantizar la seguridad y confidencialidad de todos los estudiantes, así como el cumplimiento de las leyes estatales y federales aplicables.

Si bien existe incertidumbre sobre la política nacional, les aseguro que nuestra ciudad continuará protegiendo la dignidad y los derechos de cada residente. Si usted o alguien que conoce enfrenta la amenaza de deportación, existen recursos disponibles; estamos compartiendo enlaces a recursos en línea más abajo. También trabajaremos con nuestros socios legales para seguir ofreciendo oportunidades a nuestros residentes para entender sus derechos y protecciones bajo la ley de Massachusetts.

Estoy orgulloso de la comunidad diversa que hemos construido aquí en Chelsea. Somos más fuertes gracias a nuestra población inmigrante, y no permitiremos que el miedo o la desinformación nos dividan. Chelsea es una ciudad para todos, y eso nunca cambiará. Manténganse seguros y que Dios bendiga la Ciudad de Chelsea.

La Colaborativa, junto con Advocacy Group, presenta demanda para impugnar órdenes ejecutivas inconstitucionales dirigidas a familias inmigrantes

La Colaborativa, en colaboración con Lawyers for Civil Rights y el Brazilian Worker Center, ha presentado la primera demanda en el estado para detener la política inconstitucional e inhumana de la administración Trump que despoja de la ciudadanía a niños nacidos en Estados Unidos con padres inmigrantes.

“Durante más de 35 años, La Colaborativa ha protegido, elevado y luchado incansablemente por nuestra comunidad,” dijo Gladys Vega, Directora Ejecutiva de La Colaborativa. “Junto con nuestros aliados, estamos comprometidos a liderar un frente unido para contrarrestar esta grave violación de los derechos civiles por parte de la administración Trump. Nos mantenemos unidos para proteger los derechos y la seguridad de nuestras familias, sin importar de dónde provengan”.

Impulsada por una serie de acciones ejecutivas dañinas, La Colaborativa lidera

la demanda en representación de mujeres embarazadas, familias trabajadoras y comunidades inmigrantes afectadas por esta política.

“La Colaborativa se niega a permitir que el gobierno federal cree un sistema de castas que deshumanice a los niños nacidos en Estados Unidos y a sus familias”, afirmó Dinanyili Paulino, Vicepresidenta de La Colaborativa. “A medida que las consecuencias de las elecciones afectan cada vez más a las familias trabajadoras, los niños y los inmigrantes, La Colaborativa seguirá siendo un pilar de nuestra comunidad, brindando recursos vitales a todos los residentes, sin importar su origen o estatus migratorio”.

Estas órdenes ejecutivas, emitidas solo horas después de la toma de posesión, han sido ampliamente condenadas como inconstitucionales, perjudiciales y una violación flagrante de los derechos humanos. Cabe destacar que esta serie de

anuncios ha exacerbado los temores en las comunidades inmigrantes, que han enfrentado décadas de represión y desinversión.

“Sin duda, estas políticas están diseñadas para fomentar el miedo y la división”, declaró Alex Train, Director de Operaciones de La Colaborativa. “En este momento de oscuridad, debemos mantenernos vigilantes y unidos, con un compromiso inquebrantable de salvaguardar los derechos humanos a toda costa”.

La orden ejecutiva en cuestión niega a los niños nacidos en Estados Unidos sus derechos, protecciones y ciudadanía, generando miedo e incertidumbre en las comunidades inmigrantes. Los grupos de defensa argumentan que estas acciones no solo violan los principios constitucionales, sino que también causan un daño profundo a las familias, desestabilizan comunidades y erosionan la confianza en los sistemas públicos.

Abeyta // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

munidad. Seguiremos estos procedimientos en cualquier interacción futura con agencias federales o agentes de inmigración si se produjera.

De acuerdo con nuestro protocolo habitual, los estudiantes solo pueden salir si están autorizados por sus padres o tutores. Asegúrese

de que la información de su estudiante esté actualizada. Puede actualizarla comunicándose con la escuela de su estudiante.

Los directores y el personal escolar han recibido información detallada sobre la protección de los derechos de los estudiantes.

Nos comprometemos a brindar entornos seguros y de apoyo en nuestras escuelas donde todos los estudiantes de Chelsea puedan tener éxito. Si tiene más preguntas, comuníquese con la escuela de su estudiante.

Improvement // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

needs of our community and we are dedicated to working closely with the City Council to ensure projects are implemented efficiently and responsibly.”

The CIP provides a program for prioritizing, scheduling and funding long-term investments. It consists of a capital budget and serves as an outline for capital expenditures for the four years beyond the capital budget, according to the city manager.

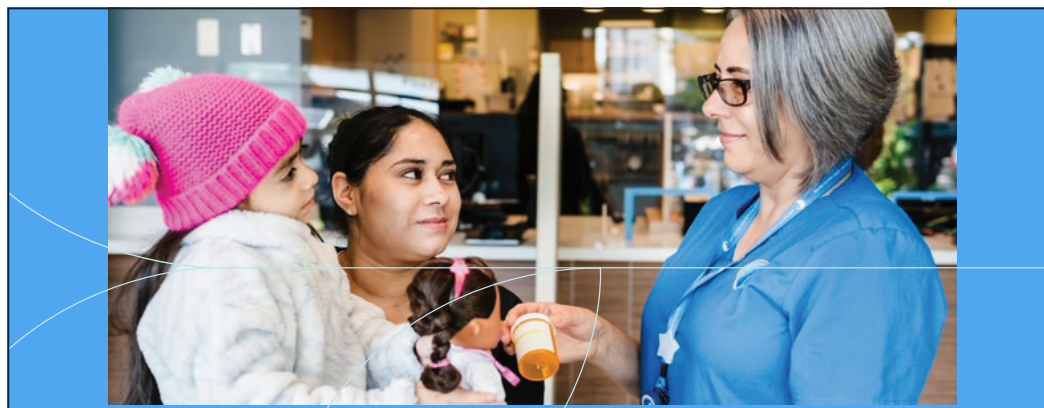
The CIP is prepared in conformance with the City's Charter and Administrative

Code, under the City Manager/City Council form of government. It is divided into six “Program Areas.”

“The CIP continues the City's commitment to utilize City Reserves, and our fiscal strength to enhance the quality of life for our residents,” said Maltez. “The Plan highlights the City's commitment to pursue outside funding and leverage grant opportunities that can offset City expenses. The proposed total investment for FY26 is just under \$20,000,000.”

This document marks the 27th CIP submitted to the Chelsea City Council, a significant milestone in the fiscal management of Chelsea, according to Maltez.

Questions and comments about the City of Chelsea Capital Improvement Plan can be sent to Fidel Maltez, fmaltez@chelseama.gov, City Manager, Devon Fields, dfields@chelseama.gov, Deputy City Manager of Operations, or Michael Mason, mmason@chelseama.gov, Deputy City Manager of Finance.



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DO YOU REMEMBER?



Chelsea officials this month paid tribute to the late Richard "Richie" Smith, a longtime city employee who passed away in October after a courageous battle with cancer. During the small ceremony, officials dedicated the city's dispatch room to Smith, unveiling a plaque dedicating the room in recognition of his 50 years of municipal service, which he spent in various roles including Senior Lead Dispatcher. This photo from the late 1970s by legendary Chelsea Record photographer Arnie Jarmak shows Richie as a young man on duty in the dispatch center that now bears his name.

Cross appointed Vice President of Development at Legacy Lifecare

Legacy Lifecare, a not-for-profit organization providing management services to affiliated non-profits in the senior living and healthcare sectors throughout Massachusetts, is pleased to announce that Betsy Cross, CFRE, has joined the organization as Vice President of Development. In this role, Ms. Cross will support Legacy Lifecare affiliates in their philanthropic efforts, helping to ensure residents can live as independently as possible by providing quality care at all stages of senior life.

"We are thrilled to have Betsy Cross on our leadership team," said Adam Berman, President & CEO of Legacy Lifecare. "Betsy exhibits an innovative and strategic approach to fundraising. Moreover, her expertise, passion, creativity and drive are a tremendous asset to our organization."

Betsy brings nearly 30



Betsy Cross.

years of experience in healthcare development, most recently as Director of Development at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She has deep expertise in many areas of philanthropy, including engagement strategies, events, and donor relations.

"I'm excited about this new role and supporting the wonderful work of the Legacy Lifecare affiliates," said

Cross. "Legacy Lifecare's mission really speaks to me. I am thrilled to be a part of this dynamic organization and look forward to seeing the impact philanthropy has on our residents every day."

Betsy holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She resides in Framingham, MA.

Legacy Lifecare Inc., a nonprofit management resources collaborative, provides small-to-mid-sized organizations access to the infrastructure needed to succeed in today's complex senior care environment. Affiliates include Chelsea Jewish Lifecare, JGS Lifecare, German Centre, Elizabeth Seton Residence, Marillac Residence, Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Stone Rehabilitation & Senior Living, Sophia Snow Place and Saint Joseph's Living Center.

Healey proposes significant changes to Right to Shelter law

Governor Maura Healey proposed significant new changes to the state's Right to Shelter law, including imposing a statutory residency requirement for families and strengthening criminal background checks. The Governor submitted the recommendations in a letter to the Senate President, Speaker, and House and Senate Ways and Means Chairs, urging the changes to be in the Emergency Assistance (EA) Supplemental Budget.

The latest problem for the Right to Shelter Law occurred at the Quality Inn in Revere on December 27 where an illegal immigrant was arrested for having more than \$2M in fentanyl and carrying an unregis-

tered rifle.

"I have evaluated the Right to Shelter Law and regulations as well as the operational burdens on the system. Based on that review, and in the face of continued inaction by Congress and no assistance from the federal government, I believe these changes are appropriate and needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the state shelter system in a way that aligns with the original intent of the law," said Governor Maura Healey. "In addition, these proposed changes will allow us to continue to ensure the safety of our system, support cities and towns in addressing the needs of unhoused families in their communities and

put us on the path toward a more fiscally sustainable shelter system."

"Our administration has made progress in making the shelter system more fiscally and operationally sustainable," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We're now seeing unprecedented numbers of families exiting shelter for permanent housing because of the work we've done, including a more effective use of housing stabilization programs, workforce training, and job placements."

Among the proposed changes to the Right to Shelter law include:

- Strengthening criminal background checks. Governor Healey's proposal would require all applicants to disclose criminal convictions in Massachusetts or elsewhere. It will also codify the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities' policy of conducting a CORI check prior to placement.

- Implementing a statutory requirement of residency and intent to remain. Currently, any intent to remain in Massachusetts may be proven solely through self attestation. This change would require that anyone receiving EA show an intent

See SHELTER Page 11

City looks to move forward with study for community center

By Adam Swift

One item that has been big on the wishlist of many city councilors and Chelsea residents going back many years has been the construction of a community center.

There is now some action being taken on the municipal level to some day make that wish a reality.

"For many years, this Council has shared the aspiration of providing our residents with a dedicated space for recreation, connection, and community building," stated City Manager Fidel Maltez in a letter to the council. "I am pleased to present a Request for Proposal (RFP) developed by Charlie Giuffrida, our Director of Sports Tourism and Athletic Infrastructure, to undertake a comprehensive feasibility study for this project."

The study will allow the

city to carefully evaluate potential sites for a community center and identify the diverse needs and priorities of residents to ensure the final project will benefit the entire city, Maltez stated. "Under the leadership of Mr. Giuffrida, this work will be thorough and deliberative," stated Maltez. "We recognize that this effort may span several years, it is a necessary and thoughtful approach to ensure we create a space that meets the aspirations of our residents and enhances the quality of life for Chelsea for generations to come."

The study is being funded in part through an earmark in the state budget secured by State Representative Judith Garcia and State Senator Sal DiDomenico, said Maltez.

"To fully fund this feasibility study, we will be approaching City Council

with a \$15,000 supplemental funding request using free cash," stated the city manager.

The council will continue discussion of the funding request at a future subcommittee meeting.

District 6 Councilor Giovanni Recupero said the community center is something he has been advocating for for many years.

"I grew up in East Boston and they had a community center and it was very important to me," said Recupero. "This city has not had a community center for many years."

Recupero said a community center will have a positive effect on youth as well as grownups in the city.

District 1 Councilor Todd Taylor said a community center is one of the high ticket items he would like to see completed during his time on the council.

Council to continue talks on regional dispatch center

By Adam Swift

The city council will continue subcommittee meetings on the proposed regionalization of the city's E911 dispatch center.

At Monday night's city council meeting, City Manager Fidel Maltez provided the council with additional information about the proposal for Chelsea to join the Metro North Regional Emergency Communications Center alongside Winthrop and Revere.

Plans are underway to convert the old McKinley Elementary School in Revere into a new communications headquarters for the regional dispatch center.

On Jan. 14, the council held a subcommittee on conference meeting with representatives from the regional dispatch center, as well as with the Revere mayor, the Winthrop town manager, and members of the union representing Chelsea's E911 employees.

"Over the past year, Chelsea has engaged in discussions with Revere and Winthrop to explore the benefits and logistics of consolidating E911 dispatch operations into a regionalized system," Maltez stated. "This partnership aims to create a robust, state-of-the-art dispatch system that addresses the unique needs of each participating community while leveraging shared resources for maximum efficiency."

Maltez stated that while the initial communication on this matter was out of the city's control, and not what it desired, he said the administration has since made every effort to ensure that all employees directly impacted by this change have access to comprehensive information and the opportunity to voice their concerns.

"As recently as last week, the Administration reached out to the employee representative to continue open communication and the representative indicated all communication should move forward in the bargaining process," Maltez stated in a letter to the city council. "The Administration has scheduled impact bargaining over the next two weeks. We remain committed to ongoing dialogue as this initiative progresses. Regionalizing E911 operations is projected to yield substantial financial benefits for Chelsea."

Over the first five years,

Maltez said the city is expected to save approximately \$4.5 million because the Commonwealth grant will cover Chelsea's share in an effort to incentivize this streamlined process.

"Even after the assessment fee is introduced in year six, the costs associated with regionalized dispatch operations will remain below the current operational budget of the department," Maltez stated. "In the Chelsea Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Budget, our expense for the entire Emergency Management department was approximately \$1.6 million. If we had been operating under the regional center, Chelsea's assessment would have been approximately \$1 million."

Maltez has stated that the city has started conversations with the unions representing the Chelsea E911 employees, and that those employees are guaranteed a position in the regional center. He further noted that Chelsea works with Winthrop on other regional initiatives, such as public health and climate resiliency.

During the public speaking portion of Monday night's council meeting, several E911 employees stated that they continue to have concerns about the regionalization plans.

Miriam Acevedo, an emergency dispatcher and president of one of the

unions representing the E911 employees, said they have heard about the benefits of a new regional dispatch building, but pointed out that the city has already spent millions of dollars to upgrade its existing building.

"Tonight, you will be presented with numbers that look pretty appealing on paper, \$4.5 million in savings over the cost of five years, that is a pretty number for a city to save," said Acevedo. "But at what cost; layoffs of city employees, slower response times, three times the workload, first responder safety? We are dealing with life or death, quite literally."

Acevedo said Chelsea 911 is a lifeline for the city's residents, with employees who know the city and many of the people who call on a regular basis.

Several city councilors stated that the council is still some time away from making a decision on joining the regional dispatch center.

"Speaking for myself, I am not ready to vote on this yet," said Councilor-at-Large Roberto Jimenez-Rivera. "I think there are a lot of questions and a lot of points of view, and I want to make sure everyone knows we are not taking a vote here and have not scheduled a vote. We are in the process of having a full conversation about this."

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Open space draft plan available for review

The city has unveiled its draft 2025 update to its Open Space and Recreation Plan and is seeking feedback from the community.

This plan, updated every seven years, sets priorities for the future of parks, recreation, and open space in Chelsea. The updated plan is available for viewing at chelseama.gov/openspace

The plan was updated in collaboration with many city departments, agencies, and organizations—along with federal, state, and regional partners— and Chelsea residents, who provided their input via various engagement opportunities including a public survey and multiple community events.

“We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed their time and ideas to this project, especially the Chelsea residents who shared their thoughts through surveys and public meetings,” said Emily Granoff, Deputy Director of Chelsea’s Department of Housing + Community Development. “Your input has been vital in shaping the future of Chelsea’s parks, open spaces, and recreational resources.”

The updated plan provides a roadmap for maintaining and expanding Chelsea’s open spaces and recreation facilities, while integrating these efforts with the city’s broader goal of building resilient infrastructure. It outlines three key goals, each with specific

action steps to move forward:

Enhance Environmental Quality – Use our parks as part of the City’s response to climate change; provide opportunities for cooling during hot summer months, increase diverse plantings to support our ecosystems, and absorb stormwater to reduce flooding.

Expand Active & Recreational Programming – Increase the variety and accessibility of active recreational options in every neighborhood, and for every age group

Enhance Parks as Community Spaces – Add more amenities to parks to support a wide range of events and programs, such as bathrooms, electrical outlets, and water bottle fillers, and streamline the permitting and reservation process for community events

The city has made significant investments in its open space and recreation facilities since the last plan update and remains committed to continuing this work to improve the health and well-being of its residents, according to city officials.

To request a physical copy of the plan or for more information, please contact Emily Granoff, Deputy Director of the Department of Housing + Community Development, at egranoff@chelseama.gov or call (617) 466-4193.

NEWS IN BRIEF

CITY AND CHAMBER PARTNER ON STOREFRONT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The City of Chelsea is once again partnering with the Chamber of Commerce to run its 2025 Storefront Improvement Program designed to help local business owners enhance their storefronts by distributing grants of up to \$10,000 to local business owners. The program is open to all Chelsea business owners.

Designed to support the growth of small businesses, while catalyzing improvements to the downtown, the Storefront Improvement Program provides funding to downtown businesses for signage, lighting, awning, and exterior upgrades.

To learn more and apply, visit chelseachamber.org/2025-storefront-improvement-program/.

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS FEB. 11

Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez will deliver a State of the City Address before the Chelsea City Council at 7 p.m. on Monday, February 11, in the City Council Chambers, located on the third floor of Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway. The event is open to the public.

The address will reflect on the city’s accomplishments and challenges in 2024 and the state of the city’s finances and more.

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH ON FREEDOM TRAIL

Freedom Trail® Foundation’s acclaimed African American Patriots® Tours celebrate the African American patriots that played a vital role in the start of the American Revolution in

Boston and in the formation of our country. Led by 18th-century costumed guides, tour-goers can view history through the eyes of these courageous men and women throughout Black History Month in February.

African American Patriots® Tours begin on Saturday, February 1 and are held regularly in February on Saturdays and Sundays departing at 10:45 a.m. from the Boston Common Visitor Information Center. Revolutionary figures such as Crispus Attucks, Phillis Wheatley, Prince Hall, Peter Salem, and others come to life during these 90-minute walking tours while zigzagging through the Freedom Trail – Boston’s iconic 2.5-mile brick trail leading to 16 nationally significant historic sites. African American Patriots Tours invite visitors and residents alike to discover the immense contributions of Black Bostonians during the American Revolution and beyond, as the stories unfold along Boston’s historic red-lined path. Hear about the sacrifices these patriots made, the battles they fought, and the legacies they left behind, as well as the stories of significant abolitionists and civil rights activists in Boston’s history.

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Karen P. Houghton, who departed this life unexpectedly at the age of 61 on January 24, 2025.

Born in Chelsea, Karen was the cherished daughter of Daniel V. O’Callaghan and the late Rosalie A. (Adams) O’Callaghan. One of seven siblings, she grew up in a loving and close-knit family that laid the foundation for the remarkable woman she would become.

Karen attended The Assumption Parochial School and graduated from St. Rose High School in 1981. Her commitment to education led her to Fitchburg State College, followed by North Shore Community College, where she earned her Associate’s Degree in Nursing. This achievement marked the beginning of a devoted career in healthcare, where she touched countless lives.

In a loving partnership that spanned over three decades, Karen married Robert Houghton on March 3, 1991. Together, they raised two devoted sons, Rob and Kyle, who were, along with her husband, the absolute joy of her life.

A former resident of Chelsea, she has resided in West Peabody for the past 32 years, where she created a warm and inviting home and Karen was an unwavering pillar of love and support.

Throughout her nursing career, Karen demonstrated an extraordinary dedication to her patients. She began as a Licensed Practical Nurse at the Chelsea Jewish Nursing Home. After obtaining her Registered Nurse designation, she further advanced her career at the Deaconess Hospital Oncology Department and most recently, in the Maternity Department at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston.

Beyond her professional life, Karen was a woman of many passions. She delighted in the joy of Broadway Musicals and had a deep appreciation for show tunes and classical music. Karen can be fondly remembered for her ability to entertain, annually hosting classic movie nights where friends gathered to reminisce and sing along. She was a devoted family party planner, ensuring that family and friends came together during holidays and Super Bowl Watch Parties, filling their lives with warmth and laughter. Furthermore, Karen cherished her travels, traveling abroad, enjoying ocean cruises, and visiting



Disney World, where she created lasting memories with her loved ones.

She was not only a devoted wife and mother but also a cherished friend, admired for her compassion and care across her vast network of nursing colleagues, old high school friends, the Peabody ladies, and family. Without asking, Karen was always there to help and support anyone she saw in need.

Karen leaves behind her loving husband of 32 years, Robert Houghton and her devoted sons, Rob Houghton of Somerville and Kyle Houghton of West Peabody. In addition to her husband and sons, Karen is survived by her father, Daniel V. O’Callaghan of West Peabody; her siblings: Daniel V. O’Callaghan and his wife, Pat of Xenia, OH, Diane M. Douglas and her husband, Paul of McDonough, GA, Jean A. Monahan and her husband, Brian of Londonderry, NH, Joseph P. O’Callaghan and his wife, Donna of East Hampstead, NH, Kevin J. O’Callaghan and his wife, Julie of Fremont, NH, and Kathleen R. Piote of Plaistow, NH., along with numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, extended family members, and friends, all of whom will miss her dearly and will forever remember her kindness, compassion, and unwavering support.

Relatives and friends are most kindly invited to attend visiting hours in the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea on Friday, January 31st from 4 to 8 p.m. Funeral from the Welsh Funeral Home on Saturday, February 1st at 9 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church, 59 Nichols St., Chelsea at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with committal prayers at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Should friends desire, in lieu of flowers, contributions in Karen’s name may be made to the American Heart Assoc., 93 Worcester St, Wellesley, MA 02481 <https://www.heart.org/en/get-involved/ways-to-give>

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

Arnold J. Cimino, Jr. January 25, 1956 - January 22, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Arnold Cimino, a devoted son, brother, and beloved friend, who departed this life on January 22, 2025, at the age of 68 after a sudden illness.

He was born on January 25, 1956, in Chelsea and spent his formative years here. He was a graduate of Chelsea High School, where he fostered lifelong friendships that would endure throughout his life.

Arnold was a cherished son of Dorothy (Ducey) Cimino of Chelsea and the late Arnold J. Cimino, Sr. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Carol Diane (Crosby) Cimino, whom he had adored until her passing two years prior.

Arnold was a dedicated employee at Harvard Vanguard Health Center in Wellesley, where he served faithfully for 26 years before retiring. In his personal life, Arnold was passionate about music, particularly playing the drums and exploring other instruments. He cherished the joy of Karaoke and created countless memories with Carol during relaxing summers at their camp in Wells, Maine.

He is survived by his loving mother, Dorothy, and sisters Cathy Terry of Everett, Dotty Lombardi and her husband, Tony of Peabody, and Susan Tenaglia and her



husband, Robert of Lynn. He was also preceded in death by his sisters, Donna Marie Cimino and Frances Cimino. Arnold leaves behind a legacy of love as a cherished uncle to Saverio Lombardi, Cindy Sambataro, Anthony Lombard, and Christine Hebert, as well as an adored great-uncle to Nino, Nicholas, and Jack Sambataro, Emma and Ava Lombardi and Rose-Marie and Jerome Hebert. He is also survived by many extended family members and friends who were touched by his kindness and spirit

Friends and family gathered, reflected and shared memories to celebrate his life on Tuesday, January 28th in the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea immediately followed by a Funeral Mass in Our Lady of Grace Church, 59 Nichols St., Chelsea at 12 noon. Services concluded with interment at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. To send expressions of sympathy, visit www.welshfh.com.

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MLK // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

School (Art); Jose Erazo Padilla, Chelsea High School (Poetry); and Joseline Osorio, Chelsea High School (Art).

The students who sang at Boston Symphony Hall participate in Chelsea Public Schools' after school program with Boston Children's Chorus (BCC). A BCC vocalist comes to the Mary C. Burke Elementary Complex every Thursday after school to work with the students. They performed a holiday concert for families in December, and have been preparing for the MLK Tribute Concert since the fall. It marked the third cohort of CPS students who have sung at the renowned concert, which is one of Boston's noteworthy MLK Day events.

Students representing the Berkowitz, Hooks, Kelly and Sokolowski El-

ementary Schools arrived at Symphony Hall shortly after 11:00 on Monday to prepare for the concert. They had one final rehearsal alongside students from Ellison Parks, a school in Mattapan, before joining the rest of the BCC choirs

for an on-stage rehearsal later in the afternoon. After a quick lunch break, the students moved into the hall for the concert. The students sang two songs on the stage, "Like a Mighty Stream" and "Road to Freedom". They also accompanied

other BCC choirs in other songs from their perch on the "second stage", which was the middle balcony at Symphony Hall.

Other special components for these third and fourth grade students was the participation of three

Chelsea High School students, who served as mentors for their elementary counterparts. The students' families were also able to attend the concert with tickets provided by the school district. Families were also offered transportation from

Chelsea to Boston Symphony Hall.

The names, strengths and stories of both CPS students and MLK himself were felt throughout the day on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



An example of the students' artwork that was recognized at the celebration. CHS student Jose Erazo Padilla created this piece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



The Chelsea Public Schools Middle School Band, with students representing the Browne, Clark and Wright Middle Schools, performed at the MLK Celebration on Monday.



One of the students who won the MLK Poetry, Essay and Art Contest received their award from Senator Sal DiDomenico (right), Joan Cromwell (middle) and Superintendent Dr. Almi G. Abeyta (left).



Chelsea Public Schools students on stage at Boston Symphony Hall singing at the Boston Children's Chorus MLK Tribute Concert

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Students greeted family and friends seating below from their perch on the "second stage", which was the middle balcony at Symphony Hall.



Students' families and members of the CPS community seated at Symphony Hall before the concert.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Record encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151.

We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com

THE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPERS HOLDS WINTER CELEBRATION

The Neighborhood Developers (TND), under the leadership of Executive Director Rafael Mares, held its Winter Celebration Jan. 23 at its headquarters on Gerrish Avenue.

Event coordinators Jasmin Bach, TND Placekeeping Manager, and Glendy Alvarez, Chelsea Community Building Manager, welcomed the guests to the celebration.

“We are here tonight to celebrate you and all of your hard work in 2024,” Bach told the gathering. “Whether you live or work in Chelsea or Revere, you dedicated your time and efforts to beautify, advocate, and/or educate these communities. You inspired new members

to join and grow our mission to create stronger communities and stable futures. Please take a moment to reflect as we celebrate your accomplishments.”

During Mares’ innovative tenure, TND has emerged as a national model for the

development of safe, affordable homes at a time when housing prices have increased significantly.

TND’s portfolio is growing to 712 homes serving more than 1,600 people. Currently, the team is managing projects that will cre-

ate another 300 homes. TND has been hailed for the Box District, which was created during the administration of City Manager Jay Ash. The project converted factories on Gerrish Avenue, into a vibrant, mixed-income neighborhood that truly beautified the area and created better housing options for working families.

Other residences in Chelsea and Revere, includ-

ing the newest addition to TND’s portfolio at 26 Sixth Street Chelsea (62 apartments located next to a new MBTA Silver Line Station) have added to TND’s sterling reputation as a leader in affordable housing opportunities. A residential-housing property, 170 Cottage Street, Chelsea, is currently under construction.

TND’s ongoing approach of staying connected to the community by holding

such fun, informative, and festive events as the Winter Celebration is admirable.

Rafael Mares noted at the event that current City Manager Fidel Maltez has been an outstanding partner in TND’s mission.

“He [Maltez] has been fantastic. He’s such a great partner to work with. He’s doing such an amazing job for the city,” credited Mares.

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS



Revere City Councilor Ira Novoselsky, Samir Janjar, and TND volunteer Brian Rose.



Marcus Queen and Glendy Alvarez.



Preparing to deliver the welcoming remarks at the TND Winter Celebration are Glendy Alvarez, Chelsea Community Building Manager, and Jasmin Bach, Placekeeping Manager.



TND Connect Director Joe Aponte and Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell.



Jose Iraheta of TND and Jeffrey Tellez of GreenRoots.



TND Assistant Director of Community Building Jose Iraheta, TND volunteer Susan Carella, TND Associate Director of Resident Services Andrew Melendez, TND Connector Director Joe Aponte, and TND Americorps VISTA Member Victoria Adler.



David Hahey and Joan Lanzillo-Hahey, enjoying the TND Winter Celebration Jan. 23 at the TND headquarters on Gerrish Avenue.



Ana McHugh of Omar Financial and Khadija Afdal, owner of Crown Fried Chicken, Revere.



Rep. Judith Garcia, Revere City Councilor Ira Novoselsky, TND Executive Director Rafael Mares, and Chelsea City Councilor Lisa Santagate.



Jim Tierney of East Cambridge Savings Bank, Michelle McKenzie of North Suffolk Community Services, Sandy Youssef of East Cambridge Savings Bank, and Osvaldo Guevara of East Cambridge Savings Bank.



Representing Winn Residential, Regional Vice President Celines Sanjurjo, Site Accountant Silvia Bnilla, Maintenance Supervisor Aggrey Cole, Regional Maintenance Manager Garfield Blake, and Senior Property Manager Vanessa Viele.



Serving the delicious buffet meal that included food from Crown Fried Chicken, Revere, are TND Connect Director Joe Aponte, TND Special Navigator Ruby Savinon, TND Lead Grant Writer Anne Cody, and TND Executive Director Rafael Mares.

BRUINS Beat by Bob Morello

BRUINS PLAYOFF HOPES...

With 51 games of the regular season schedule already played, maybe now would be a good time to look back a bit and savor some of the plusses the Bruins have managed to earn. Currently in position for the first Wild Card spot, it is probably not a spot that many expected from this roster, which has been on somewhat of a roller-coaster ride all season long. Win one, lose two, get crushed by the opponent's scoring one night, then come back and shutout the opposing team the following night. But such has been the fortunes for Boston in 2024-25. The upside of all of this is that despite a poor start, and a coaching change, they have managed to hang on to a playoff position. They have been able to stay healthy for the most part, but the injury that has probably hurt them the most was the loss of defenseman Hampus Lindholm for 35 games. Both Lindholm and Charlie McAvoy were playing well together on the blue line, but the loss of Lindholm for so many game, and recently having McAvoy for several games joining the Bruins' M.A.S.H. unit with an upper body injury has been tough. With McAvoy and Lindholm both out of the lineup, Brandon

Carlo and Nikita Zadorov have worked well together to fill the top blue line pairing. The good news is McAvoy and Lindholm had a full practice with the team on Monday, but probably won't be playing against the Buffalo Sabres tonight (Tuesday), but could be welcomed back to the bench as soon as Thursday to face the Winnipeg Jets. McAvoy and his wife Kiley welcomed their first round pick – Rhys Michael, to the McAvoy team on Sunday.

On offense, the Bruins have often shown signs of not being able to put the puck in the opponents net, making the jobs of goal-tenders Jeremy Swayman and Joonis Korpisalo more difficult. Swayman has recently brought his record to an even .500, posting his 18th win to equalize his 18 losses – all while bringing his goals-against-average down to 2.95, with a .898 save percentage. Korpisalo is settling in comfortably in his backup role, all while maintaining a solid record of 9-4, with a 2.70 goals-against-average, and a save percentage of .899.



A slight correction to David Pastrnak's game has him back on target, upping his numbers 24 goals and 35 assists for a team leading 59 points. Add into that Morgan Geekie who has nicely taken his game to the next level, as in the last six games he has scored five goals, many times the ultimately important – first goal of the game! The resurgence in Geekie's goal scoring has jump-started the offense, and it appears to have put many people back into their comfort groove. Pastrnak regained his goal scoring touch, not only scoring goals, but also showing lots of creativity in playing with, and setting up goals for Pavel Zacha and Geekie. A spark in scoring will bring up the sparse team numbers currently, with Pastrnak's 59 points leading the way, followed by Brad Marchand's 38, Zacha's 29, and Geekie's 26 points. Under interim head coach Joe Sacco, the Bruins are 17-11-3; since he replaced former head coach Jim Montgomery's 8-9-3 start.

This deep into the season is the time for team's to stake a position in their

conference's standing. At press time (Monday), the Bruins were clinging to the first wild card, currently tied with the Ottawa Senators' for the eighth and final spot. Those numbers like the stock exchange, could change daily, as right behind Boston's 56 points are four Eastern conference teams, (Columbus Blue Jackets 55, Montreal Canadiens 53, New York Rangers 52, Detroit Red Wings 51). Showing clearly the importance of every single win or loss can move a team quickly up or down, and in or out of the playoff standings.

Following tonight's (Tuesday 7:00pm) game against the Eastern Conference last place team, the Buffalo Sabres, the Bruins will head home to begin a three game homestand. The visitors will include, on Thursday 7:00pm, the red-hot Winnipeg Jets, currently holding the top spot in the Western Conference, and winners of three straight contests; on Saturday, the New York Rangers will provide the opposition in a 3:30 matinee; and next Tuesday 7:00pm, the Minnesota Wild will try to extend their three-game win streak. Finally, there are some positives to enjoy while moaning about the negatives!

CHS Roundup

THREE RED DEVILS WIN MEDALS AT STATE COACHES

Three members of the Chelsea High indoor track and field team brought home medals at this past Saturday's MSTCA State Coaches Small School Invitational Meet that was held at the Reggie Lewis Athletic Center in Roxbury.

Sophomore Thania Simon won a fifth place medal in the triple jump with a flight of 34'-6.5." Thania also competed in the 55 meter dash, coming across the line in 7.65 seconds, which placed her 17th in the large field of 71 contestants, all of whom had to attain qualifying times for the meet.

Lady Red Devil teammate Kiara Ramirez-Villata earned an eighth-place medal in the shot-put with a throw of 31'-10.75."

On the boys' side, senior Ariel Chacon-Aracena brought home a fifth-place medal in the shot-put with a throw of 48'-2.75"6

Sophomore teammate Xavier Guzman finished in 36th place in his specialty, the 600 dash, in a clocking of 1:30.84.

CHS BOYS HOOP EARNS 71-61 WIN

The Chelsea High boys basketball team earned a 71-61 victory over the Edward Brooke Charter School this past Saturday.

The Red Devils were led in the scoring column by juniors Moe Osman and Moses Karenzo (who hit six three-pointers) with 24 points each. Fellow junior JJ Williams also reached double figures with 13 points.

"This was a collective team win," noted CS head coach Cesar Castro.

Last Thursday, the Red Devils came up short to Greater Boston League (GBL) rival Everett by a score of 58-51. "The boys played hard," said Castro. "We had a couple of bad turnovers and some missed shots that proved the difference."

Castro and his crew, who were scheduled to take on GBL fo Revere this past Tuesday, will host non-league opponent Tech Boston tomorrow (Friday) at 6:00 and Lynn Classical, which is in first place in the GBL, next Thursday at 6:00.

MBTA announces planned service outage scheduled to June

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) announced its planned construction schedule for the first half of 2025. Thanks to the great success of the 2024 Track Improvement Program, the MBTA now has more track meeting the state of good repair standards than in previous years, ensuring compliance with all applicable safety and performance requirements. Building on this progress, the MBTA will continue proactive track maintenance to prevent slow zones recurring. In 2025, the focus will shift to upgrading other critical infrastructure, including signal systems, improving accessibility across the network, and more.

ly reliable service," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits Nutt. "Infrastructure work is being done strategically to minimize the disruption for MBTA customers and to optimize the time work zones are in place. I am proud of the MBTA workforce and leadership team for getting so much done during planned service outages."

"I'm incredibly proud of and thankful to our entire workforce and our industry partners that delivered unprecedented work in 2024 to improve and deliver more reliable trips across our system, ultimately giving back our riders' precious time in their days. We couldn't have done that without the leadership of the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Legislature, which has continued to reinvest in public transportation. I also must thank the public for their patience and for continuing to ride the T as we perform vital work that allows us to keep the sys-

tem running safely and reliably as we build for the future," said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. "In 2025, the T is committed to proactive maintenance and repairs, including completing critical signal upgrades, which will allow us to deliver the level of service our riders expect and need. With a never-ending focus on the public we serve, we will continue to improve how we efficiently and effectively perform work to minimize disruptions and deliver meaningful results, building out a best-in-class system for the Commonwealth."

Key initiatives slated for 2025 include:

Signal Modernization
The MBTA will focus on the \$285 million project to modernize its signal system across the Red and Orange lines with the goal of reducing congestion and delays and providing operational flexibilities. The new upgraded signal system will allow for more frequent service, improved

scheduling, and enhanced safety. By upgrading its signals, the MBTA expects to significantly increase operational efficiency, reducing wait times and improving scheduling reliability for all riders.

Annual Programmed Maintenance

As part of its long-term sustainability plan, the MBTA will carry out annual programmed maintenance across its system, addressing routine needs and ensuring that all infrastructure remains in peak operating condition. This maintenance will include inspections, adjustments, and repairs to keep the system safe and running smoothly throughout the year.

Green Line Train Protection System (GLTPS)

The MBTA we begin implementing an added layer of safety to the Green Line. The GLTPS system will use safety monitoring equipment to transmit data to the train as it moves along the tracks. Using onboard alerts and communications, the system will notify the operator when another vehicle is detected, when the vehicle is speeding, and can automatically stop the train at stop signals. This safety system can also improve travel times by reducing unplanned stops.

Bridge Work Along Commuter Rail Lines

In collaboration with MassDOT, the MBTA will focus on completing essential bridge work along various Commuter Rail lines.

The MBTA will also continue regular bridge, tunnel, and station inspections and routine maintenance throughout the year.

Accessibility Enhancements

The MBTA is dedicated to ensuring that its services are accessible to all riders, including those with disabilities. Planned improvements in the second half of

2025 will include upgrades to station entrances, platforms, and elevators, as well as enhancements to communication systems to provide real-time updates to riders with hearing or visual impairments. There will be a large focus on improving accessibility on the Green Line. This will include the installation of elevators at Symphony Station to ensure that all passengers, including those with mobility challenges, can access the platform and board trains with ease. The MBTA is also looking forward to enhancing Ruggles Station along the Orange Line, which includes making a fully accessible Columbus Avenue entrance.

Anticipated 2025 Service Outage Plans:

Most of this work throughout the year will be targeted to weekends and evenings to minimize disruptions to weekday commuters, though there will be some longer outages planned to accommodate more complex projects. The MBTA is finalizing alternate service options, such as accessible shuttle buses, amplified service on other modes, and Commuter Rail options. Details will be shared as they are confirmed and ahead of the outages. Riders should also note that the tentative construction plan and dates are subject to change pending weather and other factors.

Notable planned service outages between January – June 2025 include:

- On the Red Line:
 - Ashmont to JFK/UMass
 - April 1 - April 9
 - For proactive rail maintenance.
- On the Orange Line:
 - North Station to Oak Grove
 - May 10 – May 18
 - To support MassDOT's Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge construction project.
 - North Station to Forest

Hills

- June 21 – June 29, 2025
- For signal upgrade work.
- On the Blue Line:
 - Bowdoin to Airport
 - June 7 - June 15
 - For infrastructure work.
- On the Commuter Rail:
 - On the Haverhill and Newburyport/Rockport Line
 - Oak Grove to North Station / Swampscott to North Station
 - February 1 – February 2
 - February 15 – February 16
 - March 8 – March 9
 - March 22 – March 23
 - April 5 – April 6
 - April 24 – April 27
 - To support MassDOT's Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge construction project and MBTA signal work.
 - Additional weekend construction work can be anticipated on the Lowell, Franklin, Worcester, Needham, and Fitchburg Line. Please note that these dates are subject to change.

The MBTA will host public open houses online and in-person to provide an overview of major projects. These will also serve as way for the community to ask questions or share comments and feedback. Meeting dates and locations will be posted at mbta.com/events.

The MBTA will provide regular updates on work progress and potential service disruptions through various channels, including in-station signage, social media, T-Alerts, and online at mbta.com. Any changes to project or open house schedules will be communicated.

Riders can find updates on service changes via signage, announcements, and by subscribing to text and email alerts at mbta.com/alerts. Transit Ambassadors, Fare Engagement Representatives, and staff will be on-site for assistance.

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VERB FLOW N VISION SPOKEN WORD, OPEN MIC AND ART SHOW

Devra Sari Zabot, founder of Clark Ave Productions and Dalia Valencia, owner of Kushala Sip & Tapas Bar, held their first of the monthly event VERB FLOW N VISION - a Spoken Word, Open Mic and Art show - to a sold out crowd on Jan. 18.

Essmaa Litim, from East Boston was the host; Jennifer Martinez, from Chelsea, was the featured poet, and Nelson (Werks) Saldana,

also from Chelsea, was the featured artist.

"The goal of Kushala is to be a restaurant where producers can have access to consistent space for cultural events and to build community," said Valencia. "I was so happy to see a lot of new faces from the Chelsea community at the event, as well as visitors from Cambridge and Boston. This is the fourth event that has

been in collaboration with Clark Ave Productions. I am thrilled we are able to provide the space for artists and performers to share their talent with the community on a monthly basis."

There were also a few faces from the City in attendance including City Manager Fidel Maltez with his family, Joan Cromwell, President of the Chelsea Black Community, and

Chelsea Police Sgt. Star Chung, who not only performed during the Open Mic, but also closed out the night with an update on Sunday's snow emergency.

"Local producers like me who are focused on building community through visual art and performance are so fortunate to have a supportive and generous partner in Dalia at Kushala," said Zabot. "Her set-up is per-

fect for intimate events like Spoken Word, and we are able to showcase not only local poets but also our local visual artists. Finding performance space for independent producers in Chelsea is challenging; Kushala is creating a solution. It was great seeing the City Manager at the event, on a night off, just there to enjoy the art and performances."

The next VERB FLOW

N VISION on February 15 is a collaboration with the Chelsea Black Community in honor of Black History Month. TruKwene is the featured poet. Brynna Boyd hosts, and Chelsea local Towana Wright's art will be on display.

For more information, please follow @clarkaveproductions on IG or email info@chelseacitystudio.com.

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS



The show's featured artist Nelson (Werks) Saldana (left), pictured with artist Max (Pro) Corona.



Devra Sari Zabot, producer, Clark Ave. Productions, welcomes the audience to the VERB FLOW AND VISION Spoken Word, Open Mic, and Art show at Kushala Sip and Tapas Bar, Chelsea.



Devra Sari Zabot and Chelsea Police Sgt. Star Chung, who performed during the Open Mic portion of the show.



Chelsea residents Michele Peruch and Naomi Zabot, pictured at the show.



Devra Sari Zabot welcomes Kenneth Umemba, Chelsea Police Sgt. Star Chung, and CBC President Joan Cromwell to the Jan. 18 show at Kushala Sip and Tapas Bar.



Devra Sari Zabot (second from left), show producer, welcomes host Essmaa Litim of East Boston, featured artist Nelson (Werks) Saldana of Chelsea, and featured poet Jennifer Martinez of Chelsea, to the event Jan. 18 at Kushala Sip and Tapas Bar.



Featured artist Nelson Saldana and his wife, Yesenia Saldana.



Awen Deng, Devra Sari Zabot of Clark Ave Productions, and her niece, Makeda Zabot-Hall.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

9 GENEVA STREET PROJECT UP FOR SALE

EAST BOSTON - A project at 9 Geneva Street, which has received approvals from the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) Board and the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA), is on the market.

The approved project calls for demolishing an existing auto body shop at the site to build a five-story residential building containing 28 units, five of which are affordable. Regarding the unit mix, there are plans for four one-bedroom, 20 two-bedroom, and four three-bedroom units.

Additionally, the project is slated to include 16 garage parking spaces and plans for the project indicate space for bike storage and a dog run.

Nicoletta Longo, the listing agent and Team Leader of the Realty Boston Team, explained that the current owner does not have the bandwidth to build out the project.

Further, Longo indicated that the current owner initially contemplated selling the project before approvals but changed course.

“Now, it’s completely ZBA-approved, and it’s post-appeal period, so whoever takes it on at this point basically just picks up the permits and gets working,” she said.

As for how the potential sale impacts the final project, Longo mentioned that a buyer can make minor design changes. However, items like the unit count or the number of affordable units are set in stone unless the buyer goes through a whole new approval process.

“I would imagine that most people would want to just buy it and move forward,” said Longo.

Longo, who has sold two projects for this owner at 10 Geneva Street and 255 Maverick Street, said she had already submitted two offers to the current owner for this project.

Longo also did not foresee the project staying on the market for long, citing the lack of large, permit-ready projects available in the area.

She later guessed that the project would sell in the next 30-60 days and that construction would take around 12-18 months and another six months to sell out the building.

“I’d say within two years, you should have a fully built and sold project,” said Longo.

A press release detailing the potential sale prices the project at \$4.895 million. For more information about the project, including floor plans and features, visit <https://9geneva.com/>.

HURLEY IS ELECTED SCHOOL COMM. CHAIR; CRISTIANO IS VICE-CHAIR

EVERETT - Samantha Hurley was unanimously elected chairperson of the Everett School Committee at the board’s organizational meeting that was held earlier this month.

School Committee member Jeanne Cristiano, who nominated Hurley, lauded Hurley’s election. “Samantha is just what we need,” said Cristiano. “She is a bridge-builder.”

Following her election, Hurley thanked her fellow committee members for their vote. Hurley noted four areas that will need attention in the coming year: The superintendent’s evaluation process; rules and policies that are overdue for amending; working with the City Council and other branches of municipal government to address the overcrowding problem in the Everett schools; and striving to have English as a Second Language (ESL) parents attend school board meetings because “their voices should be heard.”

Cristiano was unanimously elected the Vice-Chairperson of the committee.

In other matters, the School Committee unanimously voted to accept the following gifts and donations to the Everett schools:

- A \$10,000 engineering grant for Everett High School from Project Lead the Way;

- Gift cards totaling \$525 from the Kiwanis Club to the Everett Culinary Arts Department;

- 1,100 sets of new win-

EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL TIDE VARSITY HOCKEY TEAM



The EHS Crimson Tide Varsity Hockey Team, consisting of Everett High, Revere High, Malden High, and Mystic Valley Charter School of Malden.

ter hats and gloves from the Kiwanis Club;

- A donation of \$3,500 from Dr. Brian Leahy to the Whittier School; and

- Gift cards and toys totaling \$1,500 from the Teamsters Local 25 for the Keverian School.

COMMISSION APPROVES 1-DAY LICENSE FOR RBP WINTER WONDERLAND EVENT ON FEB. 8

REVERE - The Revere License Commission held its regular monthly meeting last Wednesday, January 15, in the City Council Chamber. On hand for the session were chair Robert Selevitch and fellow members Dan Occena and Liliana Monroy.

The first item on the agenda was a request from the Revere Beach Partnership (RBP) for a 1-day Mobile Food Vendor License to be exercised at the Revere Beach Plaza at the foot of the Markey Pedestrian Bridge on Saturday, February 8, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. for a Revere Beach Winter Wonderland event. The expected attendance is 5,000.

Haley Rosenblatt, the event manager, presented the application to the commissioners. She explained that this is the second annu-

al Winter Wonderland and the RBP is seeking to bring mobile food vendors for the event. The commissioners had no questions and approved the application unanimously.

Next up was a request from Revere Restaurant Group, Inc., d/b/a Tio Juan’s Margarita’s Mexican Restaurant, 85 American Legion Highway, for a change of manager from Sean M. Casey.

Susan Marie Jimenez, the new manager, appeared before the commission. She said there will be no changes to the restaurant and stated she has prior experience in the business. The commission unanimously approved the application.

The third item on the agenda was an application from Capri, LLC, d/b/a Capri

1559 North Shore Road to amend the entertainment license to allow a DJ until 12 a.m. from Thursday-Sunday. The current entertainment license allows for widescreen cable TV, radio, amplifiers, and a DJ, with the DJ only allowed on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Claudia Gallego, the manager of the establishment, presented the application, telling the commissioners that her customers have been requesting additional entertainment.

Occena pointed out that the area is highly residential. “My concern is having a DJ on Sundays until 12 a.m.,” Occena said.

Gallegos said that she has not received any complaints about the DJ in its current hours.

The commissioners unanimously voted to amend the entertainment license.

The fourth item on the agenda was a request by Lumina Lounge, LLC, d/b/a Lumina Lounge, 63 Revere Beach Boulevard, for a transfer of an All Alcohol Restaurant License from Boulevard Café Corp. The requested hours are Sunday from 11 a.m. – 2 a.m. and Monday – Saturday from 8 a.m. – 2 a.m. The requested seating is 120, and requested entertainment is widescreen cable TV (five screens), radio, DJ, jukebox, amplifiers, karaoke, vocal/instrumental music, dancing by patrons, and floor show.

Attorney Patrick MacDonald from Malden represented the applicant. He said that the new owners, the Preciado brothers, who presently operate the La Cantina restaurant on Broadway, are seeking to engage in a new venture in the city.

The new business will be replacing the former Samy’s Patio, the long-time

Revere Beach landmark bar and restaurant. MacDonald said the Preciados will be undertaking significant renovations to the existing building and the focus of the new business will be on serving Colombian food. The Preciados also operate successful restaurants in Lynn and Chelsea.

Selevitch noted that he has been to LaCantina. “You’ve done a great job there. It’s a great spot,” he noted.

“This family has done some great things in this city,” Occena added.

There were no opponents and the commissioners unanimously approved the application.

The next item was a request from Nbold Restaurant Consulting Corporation, d/b/a El Zarzal, 653 Broadway, Units 1 & 2, for a Wine, Malt, Cordials/Liqueurs Restaurant License. The requested hours are from Sunday-Saturday 8 a.m.–11 p.m. with requested seating for 34 inside and 20 outside and requested entertainment for widescreen cable TV, radio, and vocal/instrumental music.

Prominent Boston attorney Kristin Scanlon, who specializes in food and alcoholic beverages licensing, represented the applicant. She noted that Diego A. Osorno Patino, the president of the company, has 25 years of experience in the restaurant business. She said that the new restaurant will serve contemporary American cuisine for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Scanlon said the location was a former liquor store and has been vacant for about a year. She also noted that the new establishment will be family-friendly and there will be no alcohol.

The owner of a nearby residential building inquired about trash removal and possible noise impacts after 9:00 and Mr. Osorno Patino addressed those concerns.

Occena asked about the musical entertainment and Scanlon said the entertainment will be centered around brunch and will consist of an instrumentalist or vocalist.

After Selevitch added, “If there is a noise problem, you will be back here,” The commissioners unanimously approved the application.

Item six on the agenda was an application for a Wine, Malt, Cordials/Liqueurs Restaurant License by Perros Paisas Revere Corp. d/b/a Perros Paisas, to be exercised at 657 Beach Street in the existing restaurant. The requested hours are Sunday 10 a.m. – 11 p.m., Monday – Thursday 8 a.m. – 11 p.m., and Friday – Saturday 8 a.m. – 2 a.m.,

with requested seating for 25.

Andres Jaramillo, the manager of the restaurant, presented the application, noting that his restaurant has been open since the fall. Occena questioned why the present establishment, which essentially is a fast-food restaurant, would want to offer beer because that might encourage customers to stay.

However, Jaramillo said that the restaurant is more of a family-spot, which attracts dine-in patrons, for which a beer and wine license will be a boost to business.

The commission unanimously approved the application.

The commission conducted two hearings. The first was a continuation of a longstanding matter involving R K & E Corp., d/b/a BK’s Bar & Grill 264 Ocean Avenue, into violations including “unauthorized transfer of ownership and a lack of approved license manager.”

Atty. Jim Cipoletta told the commissioners that delays in the Suffolk County Probate Court (which still has a backlog because of COVID-19) has resulted in the snafu involving the necessary paperwork. Bob Kelly, the present owner of the business and its de facto manager, has been awaiting the Probate Court to take action on the will of his late parents, the previous owners of the business who both passed fairly-recently.

The commissioners agreed to allow Cipoletta (who is not handling the probate matter) to file additional paperwork with the understanding that the matter is “on track” to being resolved shortly.

The commission also conducted a “formal inquiry regarding security arrangements” involving Wonderland Entertainment, LLC d/b/a Oceanside Events Center, 1290 North Shore Road,

Selevitch said that in addition to the security issue, the commission has been receiving a lot of complaints from nearby residents regarding noise in the parking lot late at night after large events disperse.

Occena, who lives nearby, said he has been aware of patrons who are beeping horns and playing music loudly in their cars after an event has emptied out at 2 a.m.

Charles Delpidio, the general manager of the business, and a manager who accompanied him to the hearing told the commissioners they are doing what they can to address the problem. They noted that they have both private se-

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Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

curity and Revere police details to manage the crowd.

“We have to keep on trying to resolve the issue,” concluded Delpidio, who noted that the Wonderland venue was there long before the present apartment buildings that front Ocean ave. and that back up to the venue and its parking lot. “We’ll keep working to make it better and we’ll do our best.”

“If we end up back here, then we’ll have to do something,” said Selevitch.

The commission received an advisory this past month from the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) regarding the amendment to state law that makes changes to the forms of identification which licensees may reasonably rely upon for the purchase of alcoholic beverages.

Those forms of ID (the new amendment to the law added #7 and #8) are:

1. Massachusetts Driver’s License;
2. Massachusetts Liquor Identification Card;
3. Massachusetts Identification Card;
4. Passport issued by the United States or a government that is officially recognized by the United States;
5. Passport Card for a Passport issued by the United States;
6. United States Military Identification Card;
7. Valid Driver’s License issued by another state; and
8. Global Entry Card issued by United States Customs and Border Protection.

The commission concluded the meeting by renewing the licenses for 2025 for a number of local businesses as follows:

- Common Victualler:
- Bell Circle Assoc. d/b/a Comfort Inn & Suites, 85 American Legion Highway
- El Tipico Salvadoreno Restaurant, Inc., 227 Revere Street
- G.F. Enterprise, LLC d/b/a Taco Bell, 339 Squire Road
- Lu-Jac Corp. d/b/a Dunkin Donuts, 338 Squire Road
- The Stop & Shop Supermarket Co., LLC d/b/a Stop & Shop Supermarket Co. #011, 40 Furlong Drive
- The Stop & Shop Supermarket Co., LLC d/b/a Stop & Shop Supermarket Co. #043, 540 Squire Road
- Wendy’s of New England, LLC d/b/a Wendy’s #6205, 39 Squire Road
- Wendy’s of New England, LLC d/b/a Wendy’s, 42 Furlong Drive
- Class 2 Motor Vehicle Dealer:
- Avetis John Nakashian d/b/a European Exotics Auto Sales, 787 North Shore Rd
- Emanuele Gulino d/b/a Gulino’s Auto Body, 1062 Broadway

Master Auto Sales, Inc., 1027 Broadway
Noah Autobody Repair & Sales, Inc., 1095 Broadway
Sena Motors, Inc., 120 Squire Rd

Serop Rob Nakashian d/b/a Beach Motors Auto Sales, 787B North Shore Rd
Wonderland Auto, Inc. d/b/a Wonderland Auto, 1176 North Shore Rd

Innholder/Hotel:
Bell Circle Assoc. d/b/a Comfort Inn & Suites, 85 American Legion Highway
Parking Lot:

Bell Circle Assoc. d/b/a Comfort Inn & Suites, 85 American Legion Highway

The next meeting of the commission is set for February 19.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVES LANGUAGE FOR OVERRIDE QUESTION

WINTHROP - At a special meeting last week, the school committee approved the language for a school override vote expected to take place in the late winter or early spring.

Previously, the committee had brought forward a tiered question to the town council for approval, giving voters the option to select one, both, or neither of two override amounts.

At the Jan. 15 special meeting approved a two-question menu option for the override ballot.

The first question asks that the town be allowed to assess an additional \$3.5 million in real estate and personal property taxes for the funding of the Fiscal Year 2026 school operating budget. The second question asks that the town be allowed to assess an additional \$1.45 million in real estate and personal property taxes for the funding of a school stabilization fund for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2025.

Initially, the school committee had approved a tiered override question, asking voters to weigh in on \$4.95 million and \$3.5 million overrides, with the top amount winning approval taking precedence.

School committee finance subcommittee chair Gus Martucci said with the menu option, voters can approve either amount, one amount, or neither.

School Committee Chair Jennifer Powell asked what would happen if the stabilization amount of \$1.45 million passed, but the larger operational budget amount did not.

If only the \$1.45 million override passed, Martucci said it would be used to start the school stabilization account, and the school department would be able to

access the money if needed.

“So it wouldn’t go into the regular budget until we ask for it,” he said. “At that point, we would have to take a vote and then go to the town council and they would have to take a vote to give it to us.”

Superintendent of Schools Lisa Howard said that if only the smaller override amount passes, the school department would still be in the position where it has a large budget deficit.

“So the school committee would have to decide, like Mr. Martucci said, if they want to petition the town council to access that money that passed for the stabilization fund and be able to utilize that in the FY26 budget,” said Howard.

School Committee member Suzanne Leonard said it needs to be made clear to the voters that if only the \$1.45 million amount passes, it is still less than half of what the district needs to keep it at a level-service position.

“If only one of these passes and it’s the smaller number, we are still in a position looking at pretty dramatic likely staffing cuts and (cuts to) extracurriculars,” said Leonard. “I worry a little and the messaging needs to be really clear that by voting for only the smaller amount, you are not going to protect us from the catastrophic cuts that would still need to be made.”

Howard noted that the idea of creating a stabilization fund is to lengthen the amount of time that an operations override will last and that the schools will not have to come before the town with another override request in the near future.

“Ideally, we would like to see both pass so that we don’t have to come back within the next few years to ask for an additional override given the rest of the financial needs of the community,” said Howard.

Town Council President Jim Letterie said he believed the new language for the override questions gives more flexibility.

“What it also does, is it guarantees if the \$1.45 million passes, it is guaranteed to go into the stabilization account each and every year,” said Letterie. “A lot of this is based on education and letting people understand that there is a cause and effect.”

The town council was scheduled to take up the override language from the school committee at its Tuesday night meeting. Powell also said she planned on attending the meeting to reiterate the school committee’s desire to have the school override on a separate ballot from the proposed debt exclusion vote for a new fire station.

Shelter// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

to remain in Massachusetts, either through independent documentary verification or through three months of physical presence in the state.

• Eliminating presumptive eligibility. Under existing law, shelter applicants are presumed to be eligible for shelter and receive shelter benefits prior to producing the necessary documentation. Under Governor Healey’s proposals, shelter applicants would be required to verify their identity, residency, and status prior to placement.

• Changes to eviction eligibility criteria. Currently, families may be eligible

for shelter based on several types of no-fault eviction, but without geographic limitation. As a result, people who have been evicted in other states may come to Massachusetts for shelter. The administration proposes requiring evictions to occur in Massachusetts to support eligibility, eliminating the scenario where a neighboring state eviction leads to an individual coming to Massachusetts to seek EA shelter benefits.

• Requiring lawful status for all members of families with rare exceptions. Governor Healey’s proposal would require all family members to show they are

U.S. citizens or lawfully present in the U.S., with the rare exception for those households that include a child who is a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident.

Massachusetts became the only state in the country to adopt a Right to Shelter law 40 years ago, which was designed to provide housing for families in need, specifically pregnant women and children experiencing homelessness. For the past three years, thousands of families have been arriving in Massachusetts from other states and other countries seek

LEGAL NOTICES

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NOTICE OF HEARING
Case No. 2024-26

In accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A, a public hearing of the Chelsea Planning Board will be held at Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 Broadway Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 6:00 PM For Major Site Plan Review seeking approval to demolish two structures and for the construction of a one hundred twenty (120) residential dwelling unit structure with seven (7) first floor retail units at the premises known as:

105-115 Park Street, 12 Essex Street, 1 Ellsworth Street All interested parties are encouraged to attend. 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 1/23/25, 1/30/25

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA INVITATION FOR BIDS Solid Waste Removal Services for Chelsea Public

Schools Chelsea Public Schools is seeking sealed bids to furnish all services to provide “SOLID WASTE REMOVAL SERVICES AT ALL CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS”. Invitation for Bid documents are available on or after January 23, 2025 by visiting the City’s website <http://www.chelseama.gov/purchasing/pages/current-bids-solicitations>. Bids must be sealed and clearly marked “SOLID WASTE REMOVAL FOR CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS” and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 10:00 AM, February 07, 2025 Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check, issued by a responsible bank or trust company, or a bid bond duly executed by the bidder as principal and having as surety

thereon a surety company approved by the City, all in the amount of 5% of the bid payable to the “City of Chelsea.” The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any bid, to reject and/or all bids 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 invitation for bid is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B. Dragica Ivanis Chief Procurement Officer 1/30/25

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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Retired Chelsea Police Lieutenant Robert Griffin attends prestigious Inaugural Ball honoring military heroes

Retired Chelsea Police Lieutenant and Navy Reserve Lieutenant Commander Robert Griffin had the distinct honor of attending the Salute to Heroes Inaugural Ball on Inauguration Day in Washington, D.C. Griffin was accompanied by his girlfriend, Pam Buttner, at the prestigious event hosted by the American Legion.

The Salute to Heroes Ball, a tradition since 1953, recognizes the extraordinary service of Medal of Honor recipients. This year, over 26 of the 61 living Medal of Honor recipients were in attendance, offering a rare and humbling opportunity to celebrate the bravery and sacrifices of these military heroes.

While at the event, Griffin had a chance to reconnect with Medal of Honor recipient Leroy Petry. The two served together with the Special Operations Joint Task Force in Afghanistan. Griffin described Petry as “an awesome young soldier” when they first met, adding, “He was just an ordinary young American who ultimately did some extraordinary things when it mattered most.”

Leroy Petry earned the Medal of Honor for his actions on May 26, 2008, during a firefight in Paktia Province, Afghanistan. Despite already being wounded by enemy gunfire, Petry displayed exceptional courage when he selflessly picked up a live grenade to save his fellow Rangers. The grenade detonated in his hand, severing his right hand, but his heroic actions prevented further casualties and exemplified valor under fire.

Griffin and Buttner were also invited to the Capitol Hill swearing-in ceremony earlier in the day, courtesy. However, the event was moved indoors due to record-breaking cold weather.

“It was an unforgettable experience to be in the presence of so many American heroes and to share this moment with Pam,” Griffin said.

The Inaugural Ball and swearing-in ceremony served as poignant highlights for Griffin, a dedicated public servant and veteran who continues to serve his country as a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy Reserve.



Retired Chelsea Police Lieutenant and Navy Reserve Lieutenant Commander Robert Griffin (right) with Leroy Petry.



Retired Chelsea Police Lieutenant Robert Griffin with Pam Buttner.

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City councilor to represent Chelsea as member of the Champions Institute

Special to the Record

District 5 City Councilor Lisa Santagate was recently selected to represent Chelsea as a member of the Champions Institute, a program launched by Transportation for Massachusetts (T4MA) in partnership with Smart Growth America that helps elected officials become effective Champions for Complete Streets, downtown revitalization, and other local initiatives.

Santagate’s membership gives the opportunity to learn from national and local experts on topics ranging from Equity in Transportation, Community Engagement, Complete Streets Implementation and Funding. Since joining, Santagate has been meeting with T4MA staff one-on-



COURTESY PHOTO
City Councilor Lisa Santagate.

one to educate the organization on Chelsea’s challenges and in return receives tools and resources to support Santagate’s goals of making the streets in Chelsea safer for all.

Through this process, Santagate has identified the intersection of Broadway, Shurtleff Street, and Marlborough Street as an area in need of concern, and has flagged the area for intervention and potential redesign.

“There have been a large number of traffic accidents involving pedestrians at this intersection; improving pedestrian safety at this location is one of my main goals,” said Santagate. “I’m excited to walk away from this institute with the tools to make this intersection safer for all and look forward to working with the City to initiate positive changes. I’m also interested in making the streets and sidewalks safer and more accessible for residents and visitors who have mobility issues.”

Santagate has been collaborating with the City of Chelsea Housing and Community Development, Department of Public Works, Police Department, and Fire Department to evaluate the area.

It's Loveline Season at the Chelsea Record

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