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# CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

VOLUME 135, NO. 2

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

35 CENTS



CPS' School Resource Officers pictured together with their Name, Strength and Story Awards. Standing left to right, are Chief Keith Houghton Ofc. Maldonado, Ofc. Daniel, Ofc. Stutto, Ofc. DiNicola, Ofc. Robles and Community Service Capt David Rizzuto.



Attendance Supervisor Phil Carangelo pictured with Dr. Abeyta and the Chelsea School Committee.

## Under Investigation

Chelsea teen killed in stabbing on Eastern Ave.

By Adam Swift

Police continue to investigate a violent incident that took place on Eastern Avenue Saturday night that resulted in the death of 17-year-old Chelsea High School student Juan Carlos Lemus and the hospitalization of a 15 year old.

At about 8:45 p.m. on Saturday, Chelsea and State Police responded to an incident on Eastern Avenue. They found two male stabbing victims.

Lemus was transported to Everett CHA, where he was declared dead, and the 15 year old was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital with serious but non-life threatening injuries, according to the Chelsea police.

Chelsea detectives, along with Massachusetts State Police detectives assigned

to the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, are actively investigating the incident that allegedly involved a firearm and knives, according to Chelsea police.

"Our thoughts are with the victims, their families, and the entire Chelsea community as we work diligently to bring those responsible to justice," said Chelsea Police Chief Keith Houghton.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Chelsea Police Department at (617) 466-4805 or provide an anonymous tip through the department's social media (FB / X / INSTAGRAM / www.chelseapolice.com).

"Violence like this shocks and saddens our immediate neighborhoods and our entire society, as it should,

See INVESTIGATION Page 2

## Councilor seeks clarification on snow and ice, senior bus motions

By Adam Swift

District 6 City Councilor Giovanni Recupero wants to make sure local businesses pay up if they don't clean up the snow and ice on their sidewalks following snow and ice storms.

At Monday night's council meeting, City Manager Fidel Maltez submitted a letter in response to Recupero's motion asking for an ordinance requiring business owners to pay for the clean up in front of their properties in addition to a \$50 fine.

"We got a lot of complaints about these businesses because the streets were still full of ice and they did not clean," said Recupero. "So you give a \$50 ticket and that does not mean anything. What you want to do

is you clean it; if you don't want to clean it, the city will clean it and if they do, you get a bigger ticket, you pay what it cost to clean it."

Maltez stated that state regulations do allow the city to charge for cleaning costs if a business does not clean up after a storm and the city does it. He said the city charges through a tax lien for abandoned properties that need to be cleaned after a storm, noting that this is what the city does at the Forbes property.

"In the case of what occurred earlier, this year we got a lot of calls of ice on sidewalks and streets, and our DPW is happy to help anyone," said Maltez.

In other council business,

See COUNCIL Page 8

## SROs, attendance officer honored at school committee meeting

By Adam Swift

The Chelsea Police Department's school resource officers and a long-time Chelsea High School attendance officer were honored with this month's Name, Strength, and Story recog-

initions at last week's school committee meeting.

The Name, Strength, and Story honors recognize school district staff and community members who build close connections with students, staff, and families in the Chelsea

school system.

The school district's SROs - Ofc. Garrison Daniel, Ofc. Matthew DiNicola, Ofc. Joseph Stutto, Ofc. Jaime Robles, and Ofc. Jonathan Maldonado, were all recognized with the honors.

"It's so important that

our young people see officers who care about them, who know them, who are reaching out, wanting to help every single day," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta. "I am so

See HONORED Page 5

## Historical Commission seeking resident input on downtown design

Special to the Record

To help protect and preserve Chelsea's historic districts in the downtown area, the Chelsea Historical Commission wants to create guidelines for how new buildings should be designed in these districts. The commission is asking for input from the community to help shape these guidelines, which

will influence the future look and feel of downtown Chelsea's historic districts.

The historical commission will be hosting two virtual community meetings in March to gather public input on how people experience the downtown historic districts; learn what building elements and materials do they like and dislike; what architectural styles they enjoy;

what relics of the past they enjoy and want to maintain; and what places do people enjoy and would like to see in Chelsea. A third in-person community meeting will be held in April.

Evening Zoom meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 6-7 p.m. Registration Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8T-0Kn-5iwkm706w>

Lunch-Hour Zoom meeting is Wednesday, March 26, 12-1 p.m.

Registration Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8T-0Kn-5iwkm706w>

Anyone with questions can contact William Cecio, Planning and Land Use Manager for the City of Chelsea, at [wccocio@chelseama.gov](mailto:wccocio@chelseama.gov) and (617) 466-4186.

## Legendary coach Joe Bevere will celebrate his 94th birthday March 24

Special to the Record

Joseph Bevere was an All-American punter at Drake University. Yes, the best punter in Division I college football in America, according to Collier's magazine.

Joseph Bevere, the former Chelsea High School baseball head coach, will celebrate his 94th birthday March 24.

"Coach Bevere is aces," said Bobby Spinney, the starting centerfielder for Bevere's 1975 Eastern Mass. champion CHS baseball



Joe Bevere Sr., pictured during his career as a teacher in the Chelsea school system.

team. "He's a great mentor and I've always looked up to him as a great coach. A great

man, a great father, and he has a great family. I wish him the best. I hope he can have 20 more great years. Happy Birthday, Coach Bevere."

Bevere is the father of former Chelsea High School cheering captains Jacqueline Bevere and Jolene Bevere, and Joe Bevere Jr., easily one of Chelsea's greatest athletes of all time.

Longtime Pony League fans will remember Mr. Bevere standing behind the Voke Park fence on the first-base side (Washington Avenue) trying to blend in with other

parents (even though everyone knew who Mr. Bevere was) and watching proudly as his son, Joe Bevere Jr., played for Larry Notkin's Royals. Young Joe - an extraordinary pitcher, fielder, and hitter - led the Royals to three consecutive CYBL championships.

Mr. Bevere has so many wonderful memories from his children and grandchildren - and his wife, the late Kay Bevere, with whom he shared 44 years of marriage.

Happy Birthday, Coach Bevere!

## Making Meaningful Changes

Garcia appointed as Vice Chair of Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities

Special to the Record

Representative Judith Garcia (D-Chelsea) has been appointed as Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities by House Speaker Ronald Mariano, a key legislative body dedicated to advancing policies that support the Commonwealth's most vulnerable residents. In just two years in the Legislature, Representative Garcia has quickly emerged as a leader, earning a prominent role in shaping policy that directly impacts children, families, and individuals with disabilities across Massachusetts.

In addition to her leadership role, Representative



Rep. Judith Garcia

See GARCIA Page 2

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## STREET CLOSURES FOR CHELSEA PA'LANTE FEST MARCH 15

The City of Chelsea has announced that three streets will be closed for Chelsea Pa'Lante Fest, a community block party on Saturday, March 15, from 2-5 p.m. in Chelsea Square. The block party will transform the area into a vibrant celebration of the city's future, with activities for everyone, from free miniature golf and face painting, to food, shopping, and an opportunity to engage and learn more about Chelsea ¡Pa'Lante, Onward! – the City's first Comprehensive Plan since 1970 – currently in development.

To ensure public safety and accommodate the block party's many activities, the following streets will be closed to traffic from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 15: Winnisimmet Street at Broadway; Broadway at Second Street; and Second Street at Park Street.

Chelsea Square is located at approximately 189 Winnisimmet Street and is bordered on one end by the Apollonaire Theatre and on the other end by our Chelsea Police Station, 19 Park Street. For those who are unfamiliar with the area, signs will be posted to help

guests find their way.

At the event, the City Manager's Office will unveil the new logo for Chelsea ¡Pa'Lante, Onward! – a visual symbol of the City's commitment to moving Chelsea forward together. The logo aims to capture the city's festive and diverse community and symbolizes both Chelsea's past and future. The community will also have the opportunity to meet with the members of the Chelsea Pa'Lante Steering Committee – all comprised of Chelsea residents – and Utile, the design consultant for the plan.

The Chelsea Police and Fire Departments will also host a pop-up "Touch-a-Truck" event at Chelsea Pa'Lante Fest, opening up their vehicles to the public, allowing people to get a close look at the equipment, ask questions, and learn about the important work these teams do in our community.

For more information about the event in English, visit [onward.chelseama.gov](http://onward.chelseama.gov) and Spanish, visit [palante.chelseama.gov](http://palante.chelseama.gov), or contact Devon Fields, Deputy City Manager of Operations for the City of Chelsea, at [dfields@chelseama.gov](mailto:dfields@chelseama.gov).

## HOW TO HELP WHEN SOMEONE WITH ALZHEIMER'S WANDERS FROM SAFETY

"Police are asking for the public's help in finding a missing person with Alzheimer's disease." Stories like this occur frequently nationwide, because wandering is a common behavior among individuals living with Alzheimer's and other dementia-related illnesses. When you need to run this type of story in your area, here are tips from the Alzheimer's Foundation of America that individuals who encounter someone who is wandering can use to help them (after contacting first responders):

- Approach the person slowly and calmly from the front with your hands down.
- Introduce yourself in a soft, caring tone and explain you are there to help and listen. Offer your hand, make eye contact, and speak slowly.

- Check whether the person is injured.

- Don't attempt to correct the person if they are unaware of their environment. Listen and be supportive.

Wandering prevention tips for family caregivers are also available through the Alzheimer's Foundation of America.

## Revere City Council approves agreement bringing Chelsea into regional dispatch center

By Adam Swift

The Revere City Council unanimously approved an intermunicipal agreement allowing Chelsea to join Revere and Winthrop in the Metro North Regional Emergency Communications Center (MNRECC).

Since the MNRECC began 15 years ago, Revere Mayor Patrick Keefe said the goal has always been to have three communities as a part of the regional dispatch center.

"For the last 15 years, we have been kind of chasing to get Chelsea back in because it really makes the most sense," said Keefe. "When you have a regional 911 through the state, there are tiers one, two, and three. Revere and Winthrop operate currently as Tier 2 communities."

When it comes down to state grants and funding, Keefe said Tier 1 communities, which the MNRECC should be classified as with Chelsea onboard, are eligible for more grant money and resources.

The MNRECC currently operates out of the Revere Police Station on Revere Beach Parkway, and the mayor said it is outgrowing its space from when the station first opened.

"We are in the process of rebuilding and putting a

new regional 911 at the old McKinley School," said Keefe. "It will be fully refurbished, state of the art, and it will be seismically reinforced, because if there is a hurricane or catastrophic event, we want to make sure the 911 communications and call center is operating."

By bringing in a community like Chelsea, Keefe said the city would be eligible to receive upwards of \$15 million in grant funding for the project.

Keefe said the communities will also save money by spreading out the overhead for the operations between three, rather than two, communities.

In addition to the 14,000-square-foot regional communications center at the old McKinley School, Keefe said ESSER Covid-relief funds will also be used for a 200-seat early childhood education center at the school. The city is also looking to use federal funds to refurbish the basement as a food hub and incubator in the basement.

"It is a big deal for the city of Revere and it is long overdue," said Keefe.

Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez said the conversations for his city to join the MNRECC have been ongoing for years.

"When I started my role in January of last year, it was one of the first things we got to work on," said Maltez. "As you can imagine, there was a lot of selling that we had to do internally to our staff and our community. I am very proud that our city council voted on this proposal 11-0, and we are working through the growing pains, but I know this is going to be a benefit to all of the communities."

Several Revere councilors praised the efforts to bring Chelsea into the regional dispatch center.

"It's more money for public safety, it's a huge win for not only Revere, but for Chelsea and Winthrop, as well," said Councilor-at-Large Robert Haas III.

Councilor-at-Large Anthony Zambuto praised the mayor for his efforts in making the agreement a reality, noting that the regional dispatch center is something he was pushing for years ago.

"The funding we are going to get for this is unbelievable," said Ward 2 Councilor Ira Novoselsky. "We have an older building we've all been screaming about for the last 10 years, and finally, we are going to get some funding to make things happen in that building."

## Investigation // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

especially when the victims are so young," said Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden. "We move forward best when we have help from the community and we hope anyone with information about this tragic incident will contact us."

The Chelsea School Department offered its condolences and support to the family and friends of Lemus.

"We want to remind everyone that our counseling services are available to provide help to anyone in need, and we encourage those seeking support to reach out," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta. "The loss of Juan Carlos has deeply affected us all, and our thoughts and prayers remain with his loved ones."

The Chelsea City Council

held a moment of silence for Lemus and the 15 year old who was injured at its meeting on Monday night.

"I hope this type of violence doesn't happen anymore in our city; I hope it disappears completely," said District 6 Councilor Giovanni Recupero. "I feel sad for the young man and the other young man who is in the hospital still, and the parents."

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## Chelsea man with outstanding warrants charged with shoplifting, assault

Special to the Record

A Chelsea man with five outstanding warrants was arraigned last month in Chelsea District Court after filling multiple bags with unpaid merchandise and assaulting a store employee before fleeing the Dollar Tree on Revere Beach Parkway, according to Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden.

ROBERT MAZZEO Robert Mazzeo Jr., 41, was charged with unarmed robbery and assault and battery.

Mazzeo has five outstanding warrants out of Chelsea District Court and East Boston municipal court. Prosecutors requested Mazzeo's bail to be revoked on his warrants, including pending shoplifting and larceny cases.

Judge Amanda Ward or-

dered Mazzeo held on \$250 bail. Mazzeo is due back in court on March 14 for a pre-trial hearing.

At about 2:22 p.m. on February 11, Chelsea police responded to Dollar Tree located at 1090 Revere Beach Parkway for a shoplifting call.

The store manager reported an unknown male, later identified as Mazzeo, filled multiple bags with merchandise and attempted to leave without paying. The manager told police Mazzeo punched him in the face and pushed him against a wall outside of the store when he tried to stop Mazzeo from leaving.

Officers observed minor bruising on the victim's left eye.

Mazzeo allegedly dropped the merchandise before fleeing in a blue Toy-

ota sedan with an unknown female, according to the district attorney's office.

The DA's office said video footage shows the altercation occurring at the store entrance and corroborates the manager's account. Police recognized Mazzeo from the video and obtained a warrant for his arrest. All items left behind were returned to the store, totaling just over \$200.

"We want workers to be safe in their workplaces and shoppers to be safe in their shopping spaces," said Hayden. "Retail crimes hurt everyone—sometimes physically, as in this case, and always from an economic and access angle, not just for the stores involved but the shoppers too, especially when stores close or when frequently-stolen items are locked up."

## Garcia // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Garcia has also been appointed to the House and Joint Committee on Ways and Means, the Joint Committee on Education, and the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. These assignments position her to play a critical role in shaping the state's budget and advancing policies that im-

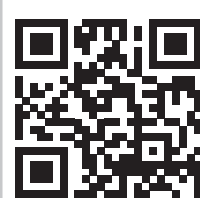
pact education, health care access, and economic opportunity.

"I am honored to take on these new responsibilities and continue advocating for policies that uplift working families, expand educational opportunities, and ensure access to quality health care," said Repre-

sentative Garcia. "I want to thank Speaker Ron Mariano for entrusting me with these committee roles and I look forward to working with my colleagues to drive meaningful change for the people of Chelsea, Everett, and the Commonwealth."

## Real Estate Transfers

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Tnd Acquisitions LLC	156 Park LLC	156-160 Park St	\$4,680,000
Tnd Acquisitions LLC	156 Park LLC	165 Pearl St	\$4,680,000
Feldman, Sarah	78 Englewood LLC	80 Englewood Ave #2	\$775,000
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## Chelsea School District and Project Bread celebrate National School Breakfast Week

During National School Breakfast Week (March 3 – 7, 2025), Chelsea School District celebrated the impact that free school breakfast has on students each day. Staff members from statewide food security nonprofit Project Bread joined Assistant Principal Julie Shea and cafeteria staff onsite at Clark Avenue Middle School on Wednesday, March 5 to enjoy a school breakfast of ham, egg, & cheese burritos, avocado toast, plus a brand new recipe for egg & spinach empanadas that kids were enjoying throughout the morning period. Students also grabbed over-

night oats with banana and blueberries, as well as fresh hummus and cottage cheese bowls. Staff reported that one of the student favorites is the Thursday egg & cheese croissants, and they always rush in to grab them early.

“Kids need to start their day with breakfast. Going to class hungry is not an option,” shares Christine Follis, the Clark Avenue Cafeteria Manager with a nearly 30-year tenure in Chelsea food service. “We know presentation matters, and kids eat with their eyes, as we all do. We always make sure to have freshly prepared items each morning, so kids want

to grab a breakfast here.”

Students who start their day with a nourishing school breakfast attend class ready to learn, score higher on tests, and have a higher attendance rate. In Chelsea, the school district is lifting up their freshly prepared and culturally relevant meals, even purchasing fresh eggs as prices continue to rise.

Project Bread connects people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating for policies that make food more accessible—so that no one goes hungry. For more information, visit: [www.projectbread.org](http://www.projectbread.org).



Cafeteria staff Christine Follis and Griselda Velazquez make sure students have an entrée and fruit when checking out their school breakfast. Photo courtesy of Project Bread.

## Renowned cartoonist Liniers visits with CHS students

Chelsea High School Librarian Trent Bordok, in coordination with Wondermore, hosted an awesome, educational event that featured the world-renowned cartoonist, Liniers, visiting and speaking with three separate groups of students inside the Andrew P. Quigley Memorial Library.

Liniers, whose real name is Ricardo Siri, delighted the students with stories of his childhood in Argentina and his early career in advertising before deciding to become an illustrator and cartoonist for magazines and newspapers.

Liniers told the beautiful story of how he proposed to his future wife in his own comic strip that appeared in the newspaper that day. Liniers and his wife, now have three daughters.

A humble genius of his art, Liniers displayed eight covers of the famed New York magazine in which he had the honor of providing the illustrations.

The message that Liniers instilled in the students: “Do what you love to do” – as Liniers has in his brilliant career - but adding wisely, “you still need to pay the bills.”



CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

From left, Chelsea High School ELA teachers Gisele Francioli, Emily Oberg, Kadian James, Zoe Novak, guest speaker, Liniers, CHS Librarian Trent Bordok, and ELA teacher Frances Hart.

Liniers was being “real” with his audience.

Find the right college or trade, study hard, work hard, and then dedicate yourself to getting a job that you will like each day of your life.

It was a great day for the CHS students who had the opportunity to hear from a talented man who has reached the highest level in his field.



Chelsea High School Librarian Trent Bordok (right) and Kim Westheimer (left), Executive Director of Wondermore, welcome world-renowned cartoonist, Liniers (center) for his guest-speaking appearance at the Andrew P. Quigley Library at CHS.



Chelsea High School students display some of Liniers' books during his visit to the library. From left, are Kelly Phan, Nathaly Rodriguez, Eliany Canelas, cartoonist and guest speaker, Liniers, Edwin Mendoza, and Sherlyn Perez.

# CHELSEA RECORD

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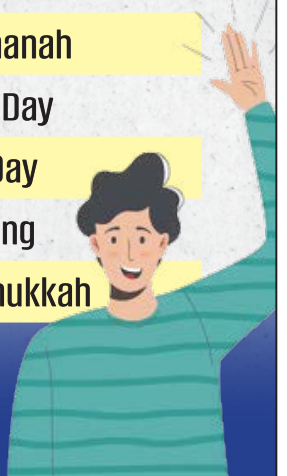
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# Chelsea

R E C O R D

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

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# Forum

## PLEASE: NO PUBLIC OR UNDERAGE DRINKING ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

With the St. Patrick's Day holiday and traditional South Boston parade approaching on Sunday, March 16, we urge our public safety officials to plan for enforcing the laws which prohibit drinking in public, especially by underage drinkers.

A couple of years ago in the aftermath of the South Boston parade, we found ourselves in the unfortunate situation of riding the Red Line to the South Shore. The trains were packed with highly-inebriated, rowdy, under-age drinkers who were drinking openly on the trains and then flinging their empties around the train cars, striking other passengers. The platforms resembled war zones, with large-scale fights and scores of youths who were passed out left-and-right.

We realize that everyone wants to relax and have a good time on St. Patrick's Day, but that is no excuse for our public safety officials turning a blind eye to underage drinking and drinking in public. In addition, for those of us of Irish descent, the perception that being "Irish for a day" means drinking heavily is highly-insulting.

It is all-but-inevitable that with the high degree of public intoxication that is tacitly permitted by our public safety officials, there will be a tragedy. We urge our public officials to take steps ahead of time to stop this annual reign of dangerous mass chaos and drunkenness.

If officials in many Florida communities have been able to curb the rowdiness of spring-breakers, we can do so here on St. Patrick's Day.

## THERE'S AN UPSIDE TO OUR LOUSY PRO SPORTS TEAMS

When we were younger (from when we were kids through our 40s), the adrenaline rush from watching one of our local sports teams compete in a big game was something we looked forward to.

But now that we're a "bit" older, the thrill of it all has made us wary of getting too excited, as every long-time diehard Sox, Bruins, Pats, and Celtics fan who has had the urge to throw a shoe at the TV screen can attest.

We thought we were unique in our stressed-out sports-mindedness when our teams lost a big game, but we recently read of a study in the American Journal of Cardiology that found an increase in the rates of cardiovascular deaths (and deaths from all causes) in the Los Angeles area when the Rams lost to the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1980 Super Bowl. The death rates were higher on the day of the Super Bowl and the following two weeks compared with other days.

In a study of the 2006 FIFA World Cup, the incidence of cardiac emergencies in Bavaria was 2.66 times higher on days when the German team played, according to a study in the New England Journal of Medicine. These events were highest in the quarterfinal, when Germany beat Argentina in a penalty shootout.

Most of the cardiac events occurred in the first two hours after the start of matches, though the numbers were higher for several hours before and after the contests. It should be noted that about 47% of those who had heart attacks already had been diagnosed with coronary artery disease -- which means older people are more vulnerable to the effects of a big game.

So yes, it's been sad to watch the pathetic play of the Sox and Pats (and now the Bruins) these past few years after their great successes in the era from 2001-2019. But the upside to their string of last-place finishes is that we can watch a game with no hopes and no expectations -- and thus no reason to get stressed-out by the outcome.

To be sure, it is not fun to be on the outside looking in, so to speak, when other teams are competing for world championships. But on the other hand, fewer of us will be taken out on a stretcher to the ER.



## Mass Poetry's Teen Spoken Word Festival returns for second year

Special to the Record

Mass Poetry is thrilled to announce its second annual Teen Spoken Word Festival "Write Here | Write Now | Speak Loud!", set to take place on March 15-16, 2025, at Emerson College. This groundbreaking event will draw teens from across the Commonwealth, while providing a unique platform for them to share their stories, insights, and creativity through poetry.

With the theme of "Sweet Resistance," this year's Teen Spoken Word Festival will feature workshops, poetry slam competitions, performances, and a multitude of activities tailored to inspire and engage teen participants. By providing a welcoming and inclusive environment, Mass Poetry aims to encourage young poets to express themselves freely and interact with like-minded peers. The festival will draw teens from Boston, Lowell, Worcester, and beyond.

"Our aim is to engage and empower the next generation of poets, sparking creativity and fostering a community that values diverse voices," said Daniel Johnson, Executive Director of Mass Poetry. "This event is more than just a competition; it's a platform where young people can confidently express themselves, break down barriers, and engage meaningfully with others."

Throughout the weekend, attendees will have the chance to participate in a series of enriching workshops, engage in open mic sessions, and listen to inspiring performances from both established and emerging voices in the spoken word community. The festival is designed not only to showcase young talent but also to nurture it, offering guidance and mentorship from Boston's most experienced poets and educators—something the city sees worthy of investment.

"Boston is an incubator for artistic talent, including the literary arts, and we're thrilled to welcome teen poets from across the state to our City for the Teen Spoken Word Festival," said Kenny Mascary, Boston's Interim Chief of Arts

and Culture. "By nurturing young poets' creativity, the Teen Spoken Word Festival will strengthen our community and inspire the next generation to become thoughtful, passionate leaders and storytellers. Thank you, Mass Poetry, for uplifting youth voices by bringing this festival to Boston."

The Teen Spoken Word Festival boasts an impressive lineup of special guests, including both local and nationally-recognized poets such as Porsha Olayiwola, Boston's former Poet Laureate and Emerson College professor, who will be a liaison between Emerson College and Mass Poetry. Crystal Valentine, Mass Poetry's Director of Programming and a former Youth Poet Laureate, alongside Anthony Febo, Mass Poetry's Lead Youth Spoken Word Coordinator and cofounder of FreeVerse!, Lowell's youth poetry slam, will also be present to guide and inspire the participants. Headlining the festival are Hanif Abdurraqib, a 2021 MacArthur Fellow, and Safia Elhillo, a National Book Award longlist nominee, both of whom are former slam poets and will bring a wealth of experience and accolades to this celebration of youth voices. Participants of the Festival include Parker-Vincent Alva, the current Boston Youth Poet Laureate and a Mass Poetry SW@MP member.

"I want my poetry to get across to the world that you aren't who you are, until you try to be yourself," shared Parker-Vincent-Alva. "Last year's festival offered a supportive space to share our stories, and I'm grateful for the friendships and inspiration it fostered."

A highlight of the Teen Spoken Word Festival is the Individual Slam Finals on Sunday, March 16th. To earn a spot in the finals, participants must compete in one of three preliminary bouts held across Massachusetts in February and March. These Individual Slam Competitions serve as a qualifying event for the Mass Poetry Youth Slam team, where selected poets will engage in writing, performance, and slam competitions throughout the summer. Mass Poetry will also

send the team to Brave New Voices (BNV), an national youth poetry slam festival, and is actively seeking funding to make this opportunity possible.

Former team member, Maria Zaki said "I joined Spoken Word at Mass Poetry (SW@MP) just over a year ago and immediately was greeted with community. Throughout SW@MP and the Teen Spoken Word Festival, Mass Poetry creates and nurtures connections through poetry by holding space for youth voices. At SW@MP I not only found ways to express myself but also grow with others through examining the world around us and how we can change it. I was honored to join the Mass Poetry team of youth poets going to Brave New Voices! This entailed weeks of practices and coaching that truly shaped me as an individual. After BNV I went off to college but the experiences never left me. I went on to host open mics and lead a few workshops out of state. I saw how writing brings relief and revolution to any space and though I have much to learn, Mass Poetry gave me the knowledge I

now bring everywhere I go. I am excited to return for the 2025 Teen Festival!"

The Teen Spoken Word Festival held at Emerson College is open to all teens to participate, ages 13 – 19, with a passion for poetry. Additionally, all ages are welcome to attend as audience members to cheer on the youth in their Festival events. Mass Poetry invites young poets and their supporters to join this vibrant celebration of youth creativity and expression. For more information and to register for the Write Here | Write Now | Speak Loud! Teen Spoken Word Festival, visit [masspoetry.org/teen-spoken-word-festival](http://masspoetry.org/teen-spoken-word-festival).

Launched with the 2008 Massachusetts Poetry Festival, Mass Poetry envisions a world where poetry catalyzes connection and understanding. From our in-school poetry residencies to innovative community programs, we aim to build a vibrant, inclusive community that lifts all voices. Mass Poetry now serves as an arts-partner-in-residence at GrubStreet's Center for Creative Writing. Learn more at [www.masspoetry.org](http://www.masspoetry.org).

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## CHELSEA

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# Chelsea resident Steven Romero Hernandez named Student of the Year at Tech

Special to the Record

Superintendent David DiBarri is pleased to share that Northeast Metro Tech has recognized student Steven Romero Hernandez as the school's vocational student of the year.

Steven, who is bilingual, is a senior from Chelsea studying Robotics and Automation. He has maintained a 4.39 GPA, ranking him third in the senior class, while also earning more than a dozen awards for his work on robotics and automation.

Among the awards



PHOTO COURTESY NORTHEAST METRO TECH  
**Student of the Year Steven Romero Hernandez**

earned by Hernandez is a bronze medal at the 2024

National SkillsUSA Robotics and Automation Competition, as well as a gold medal at both the state and district competitions, where Hernandez's work earned him a scholarship.

"Steven is a confident and mature leader who represents Northeast Metro Tech with excellence," said Principal Richard Barden. "His dedication to both his school and community, combined with his hard work and achievements in Robotics and Automation, make him truly deserving of this honor. He embodies the work ethic, character,

and humility that defines our students, as well as the skills, determination, and commitment to making a positive impact. Steven leads by example, and we are proud to celebrate his accomplishments and this well-earned recognition."

Steven plans to pursue an Engineering Tech degree at the Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology, and has already taken numerous Advanced Placement courses.

Steven has been recognized with two Craftsmanship Awards from Northeast Metro Tech, has twice been

student of the trimester, and is an active participant in both the National Technical Honor Society and STEM. He is certified in OSHA 10 and NC3 Digital Multimedia.

"Steven is polite, respectful, and a natural leader," said Robotics and Automation Department Head Brian Caven. "Steven is always on time to class. He is always ready to support others who have difficulty with the material, and he works tirelessly to complete all projects with efficiency and precision. Steven is truly a model student and a citizen who

will represent Northeast Metro Tech with honors."

Beyond academics, Steven contributes to his community as an open house volunteer, a recycling center assistant, and a band member at his church.

"Steven is a student who exemplifies the skill, dedication, and community spirit that we strive to instill in our students here at Northeast Metro Tech," said Superintendent DiBarri. "I congratulate Steven on this well-earned honor and recognition!"

# BBBSEM and BSAGB unite to expand one-to-one mentoring programs for youth

Special to the record

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts (BBBSEM) and Big Sister Association of Greater Boston (BSAGB) are merging to expand access to one-to-one youth mentoring programs and resources for hundreds of children, families, and volunteer mentors across the region. The announcement comes after months of strategic planning in which the co-affiliates have agreed to operate as one organization under the BBBSEM umbrella.

"Our innovative approach to youth mentoring, and ability to scale across 150 communities throughout Eastern Massachusetts enables us to play a vital role in the youth development landscape," says Mark O'Donnell, BBBSEM President & CEO. "The merger with Big Sister Association of Greater Boston will help us to expand girls' programming outside of Boston and help to further our collective impact across the region to ensure young people have consistent access to mentorship."

As part of the merger, BBBSEM will maintain BSAGB partnerships and programs, which will give BBBSEM an opportunity to learn, grow, and evolve gen-

der-specific programming. The entire BBBS community – the mentors, mentees, and their guardians – will continue to be professionally supported by BBBS staff members with access to resources and shared-best practices to continue best in class gender-specific programming, curriculum, and match support. By creating a stronger, unified voice for mentorship in the region, youth will gain access to a variety of support and recruitment of volunteers and partners to the mission will broaden. BBBSEM is committed to building a gender-inclusive community where mentorship is accessible so all youth and families can thrive. To date, one part-time and six full-time staff members from BSAGB have joined the BBBSEM team and nearly 300 BSAGB community-based matches and over 80 site-based matches have transitioned their mentoring relationships to be supported by BBBSEM.

Since 1951, Big Sister Association of Greater Boston has delivered a range of programming to support girls and young women across 69 cities and towns of Greater Boston. Through one-to-one and group mentoring, school- and site-based programs, group and near-peer

mentoring, and its New Girls Network, BSAGB has been a leader in gender-intentional mentoring, fostering a supportive community for thousands of girls and gender-fluid youth over the past seven decades.

"Both organizations share a deep commitment to empowering youth through the transformative power of mentoring and I am excited about this merger which represents a significant step forward in achieving this shared vision," says Anissa Essaibi George, Big Sister President & CEO. "Big Sister has a long, nationally recognized, legacy of serving girls and young women in the Greater Boston area. The merger with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts will lead to expanded gender-intentional programming and a strengthening of the power of that sisterhood to more female-identifying youth. By working together, we will create a brighter future for more young people in Greater Boston, equipping them with the tools and confidence to reach their full potential."

In its 75th year of service, BBBSEM stands at its highest point as the second largest Big Brother Big Sister affiliate in the country, behind only the nonprofit

covering the entire state of Texas. This year, the organization is supporting nearly 4,000 youth, over 50 percent of whom identify as female. In the past seven decades, BBBSEM has created and served more than 25,000 matches.

BBBSEM is now enrolling and matching Littles and Bigs. The organization welcomes Bigs and Littles of all races, ethnicities, cultures, socio-economic backgrounds, genders, sexual orientations, and physical abilities. For more information, to donate, or to become a volunteer or register your

child, visit: [www.emassbigs.org](http://www.emassbigs.org).

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts is an innovative, energetic organization that is making a real difference in the lives of nearly 4,000 youth annually by providing them with an invested, caring adult mentor in long-term, professionally supported relationships. With research and proven outcomes at its core, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts is working to defend the potential of children facing adversity and ensure every child has the support from caring adults

that they need for healthy development and success in life. The organization's vision is to inspire, engage and transform communities in Eastern Massachusetts by helping youth achieve their full potential, contributing to healthier families, better schools, more confident futures and stronger communities. Throughout its 75 years, the largest Big Brothers Big Sisters affiliate in New England has created and served more than 25,000 youth. For more information about the agency and its mission, visit [www.emassbigs.org](http://www.emassbigs.org).

# City provides work update on Downtown Broadway project

Special to the Record

The city manager's office provided a recent update on work scheduled to be completed as part of the Downtown Broadway Utility Project (DBUP) over the next few weeks and what the community can expect in terms of traffic impacts.

The outline of the expected work over the coming weeks includes:

March 10 - March 26: Broadway Down to One Lane

- On February 10, a DBUP crew began working on Broadway from Fourth Street to Fifth Street.

- This work is anticipated to be completed by March 26.

March 10 - March 14: Broadway/Everett Ave Down to One Lane

- On February 13, a DBUP crew began work on Broadway from Congress Ave to Cross Street.

- This work will spread to Everett Ave as the work progresses.

- This work is anticipated to be completed by March 14.

March 17 - April 7: Broadway/Everett Ave Down to One Lane

- On March 3, a DBUP crew began work on Broadway at Everett Ave.

- Everett Ave should remain open as a single lane. Travelers will need to take the right onto Broadway and can use Winnisimmet Street

to get onto Park Street.

- This work is anticipated to be completed by April 7.

Any residents or businesses with questions and concerns related to the Downtown Broadway Project can contact Malcolm Bybee, Senior Resident Engineer, Dewberry Engineering; Desk - (617) 531-0810 Cell: (978) 879-3001.

Traffic and parking information is available on the City's Traffic Advisory webpage at [www.chelseama.gov/traffic](http://www.chelseama.gov/traffic) and the Chelsea, MA Traffic Advisory Facebook Page. For more information, visit [www.chelseama.gov/broadway-construction](http://www.chelseama.gov/broadway-construction) or contact Chelsea:311 (617) 466-4209.

# Chelsea man with five outstanding warrants charged with assaulting Dollar Tree employee

Special to the Record

A Chelsea man with five outstanding warrants was arraigned last month in Chelsea District Court after filling multiple bags with unpaid merchandise and assaulting a store employee before fleeing, Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced.

Robert Mazzeo JR., 41, was charged with unarmed robbery and assault and battery.

Mazzeo has five outstanding warrants out of Chelsea District Court and East Boston BMC. Prosecutors requested Mazzeo's bail to be revoked on his warrants, including pending shoplifting and larceny cases.

Judge Amanda Ward ordered Mazzeo held on \$250 bail. Mazzeo is due back in court on March 14 for a pre-trial hearing.

At about 2:22 p.m. on February 11, Chelsea police responded to Dollar Tree located at 1090 Revere Beach Parkway for a shoplifting call.

The store manager reported an unknown male, later identified as Mazzeo, filled multiple bags with merchandise and attempted to leave without paying. The manager told police Mazzeo punched him in the face and

pushed him against a wall outside of the store when he tried to stop Mazzeo from leaving.

Officers observed minor bruising on the victim's left eye.

Mazzeo dropped the merchandise before fleeing in a blue Toyota sedan with an unknown female.

Video footage shows the altercation occurring at the store entrance and corroborates the manager's account. Police recognized Mazzeo from the video and obtained a warrant for his arrest. All items left behind were returned to the store, totaling just over \$200.

"We want workers to be safe in their workplaces and shoppers to be safe in their shopping spaces. Retail crimes hurt everyone—sometimes physically, as in this case, and always from an economic and access angle, not just for the stores involved but the shoppers too, especially when stores close or when frequently-stolen items are locked up," Hayden said.

Hayden's office, the Boston Police department, and regional retailer groups and small business owners in 2024 launched the Safe Shopping Initiative, an effort to increase consumer safety and help store man-

agers strategize responses to shoplifting and retail larcenies. The initiative formed amid increasing national and local frustrations around retail crime, along with concerns over the closure of several pharmacies serving minority communities in Boston.

All charged individuals are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden's office serves the communities of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Mass. The office handles over 20,000 cases a year. More than 160 attorneys in the office practice in nine district and municipal courts, Suffolk Superior Court, the Massachusetts Appeals Court, the Supreme Judicial Court, and the Boston Juvenile Courts. The office employs some 300 people and offers a wide range of services and programs to serve anyone who comes in contact with the criminal justice system. This office is committed to educating the public about the services we provide, our commitment to crime prevention, and our dedication to keeping the residents of Suffolk County safe.

# Honored // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

incredibly grateful of our partnership with you."

Chelsea Public Schools Chief of Staff Dr. Aaron Jennings thanked the officers on behalf of the Superintendent and Superintendent's Executive Team.

"Thank you for knowing us by name, story and strength, but more importantly knowing our students by name, story and strength," said Jennings.

CPS' Attendance Supervisor Phil Carangelo was also recognized with a Name, Strength and Story Award. A CPS staff member of over 20 years, Carangelo's role is critical in keeping students' attendance on track to ensure they obtain academic success. Past students have credited Mr. Carangelo for keeping them in school and helping them graduate.

At the meeting, Dr. Abeyta referenced a story about a

former Chelsea High School student who now works with youth in the community. This student credited Carangelo for helping them while they were at CHS, and expressed that they now want to do for youth what Carangelo did for them.

In other business at last week's school committee meeting, Dr. Tamara Blake-Canty, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, gave a presentation on the implementation of new high quality instructional materials in the schools over the past three years. The learning materials were introduced at the elementary school level first, followed closely the next year at the middle and high schools.

Thanks in part to Covid relief funds, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta said the district has been able to invest \$1.7 million

in the new high quality instructional materials over the past several years.

Blake-Canty said the high quality instructional materials are research-based, scientifically sound, and that this is a rigorous rubric to determine what materials can be used. She said district teachers were part of special councils to review the materials and select the ones they believed were best for their schools.

"If you look at MCAS, where you are seeing the most growth ... in our elementary grades," said Abeyta. "That's no surprise because we are in year three of implementing high quality instructional materials."

Abeyta said she expects to see growth in the MCAS in the higher grade levels as there has been more time to implement the new instructional materials.

The Chelsea Record reserves the right to edit letters for space, accuracy and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with our submission. The Chelsea Record publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Chelsea Record. Text or attachments emailed to [editor@chelsearecord.com](mailto:editor@chelsearecord.com) are preferred.

Please visit [chelsearecord.com](http://chelsearecord.com)

# DIDOMENICO FOUNDATION ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION AND ROAST



Embracing the name Sal "O'Di-Domenico" the Massachusetts State Senator, of Italian-American heritage, celebrated the coming of the Irish-American holiday of St Patrick's Day with his annual Dinner. The night

saw many esteemed guests from Massachusetts government, each bravely stepped up to the podium to tell some jokes, spread some laughs, and enjoy the evening together. Proceeds from the evening are to help fund the DiDo-

menico Foundation. The Foundation offers scholarships and conducts a Toy Drive that helps brighten the lives of many children in the Senator's district.



Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico applauds during Governor Healey's speech.



Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey and Lt Governor Kim Driscoll take the podium.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu speaks, recounting her recent appearance before the US Congress and restating Boston's commitment to Democracy.



Students from the O'Shea-Chaplin Academy of Irish Dance perform for the St Patrick's Day celebration.



Massachusetts Lt Governor Kim Driscoll (3rd from left) with Chelsea City Councilor Leo Robinson, Chief Of Police Keith Houghton, and City Manager Fidel Maltez (2nd from right), Revere City Councilor Juan Pablo Jaramillo, Mayor Patrick Keefe and Chelsea's Matt Frank.



Members of the Chelsea organization La Collaborativa gather for a photo at their table.



Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey (right) and Lt Governor Kim Driscoll with Sal DiDomenico Jr. (center), son of Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico.



The Knights Of Columbus Hall in Charlestown was filled to capacity as attendees toasted the coming of St Patrick's Day during the Annual DiDomenico Foundation St. Patrick's Day Celebration and Roast, hosted by State Senator Sal DiDomenico.



Massachusetts State Rep Dan Ryan (center) with Rich Scirocco and Hung Goon.

happy st. patrick's day

= from eastern salt =

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# DIDOMENICO FOUNDATION ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION AND ROAST



Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico with members of his staff.



Massachusetts State Auditor Diana DiZoglio was well prepared with many zings to deliver as well as a singing performance of the classic Irish folk song Red Is The Rose.



Massachusetts Senate President Karen Spilka speaks.



Rev Robert G Brown of Zion Church Ministries delivers the blessing before dinner is served.



Members of the Everett High School Choir sing the National Anthem.



Massachusetts Lt Gov Kim Driscoll (3rd from left) with Rich Scirocco, Hung Goon, Ana Dai, Mei Xu, Lulu Zhao, and Shirley Lai.



Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey (right) and Lt Governor Kim Driscoll with Everett School Superintendent Bill Hart (center).



Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico with members of his family.



Massachusetts State Senator Lydia Edwards, who served as City Councilor and later State Senator before redistricting, soaks at the podium.



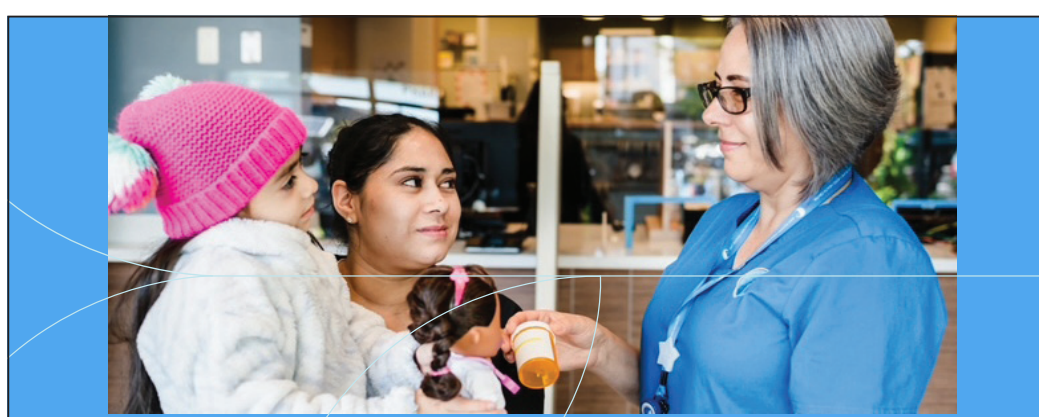
Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata speaks.



Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico with members of the afterschool resource For Kids Only.



Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico with the President of Chelsea Black Community Joan Cronwell, CBC member Beverly Martin Ross, and Cary Havey



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**BRUINS Beat** by Bob Morello

**BRUINS MAKE CHANGES**



What a whirlwind week this has been for the Boston Bruins' players and their fans. General Manager Don Sweeney has taken a few swings, and has cleared the bases. Whether it turns out to be a 'home run,' or an out, is a question that will not easily be answered for a while yet. In hopes of bringing everyone up to full speed, the outline of the moves are listed below:

The major move by the Bruins was made minutes before the trade deadline, and it was the trade that sent Bruins captain Brad Marchand to the Florida Panthers, in exchange for a conditional second round 2027 draft pick. The condition was explained as it would be either a 2027 or 2028 first-round pick only if the Panthers win a pair of rounds in the 2025 Stanley Cup Playoffs...plus Marchand has to appear in at least half of Florida's playoff games, along with the Bruins retaining half of his salary. In a press release issued by the Bruins, they outlined the impact Marchand has made in Boston. Marchand has appeared in 61 games with Boston this season, recording 21 goals and 26 assists for 47 points. The

5-foot-9, 180-winger has skated in 1,090 career NHL games, all with the Bruins, totaling 422 goals and 554 assists for 976 points. Currently in his 16th NHL season, Marchand ranks first among active NHL players in plus-minus (plus-284), fifth in game-winning goals, ninth in goals, tied for 19th in assists and 12th in points. He also ranks third for most overtime goals and is tied for eighth in shorthanded goals in NHL history. Marchand has also played in 157 career playoff games, ranking seventh among active NHL skaters in playoff games played, fourth in playoff goals (56), sixth in assists (82) and is tied for fifth in playoff points (138). The Halifax, Nova Scotia native was originally selected by Boston in the third round (71st overall) of the 2006 NHL Entry Draft.

Next up, Charlie Coyle: The Bruins have acquired forwards Casey Mittelstadt and William Zellers and a 2025 second-round draft pick from the Colorado Avalanche in exchange for forward Charlie Coyle and a 2026 fifth-round draft pick. Boston will receive which ever second-round draft pick Colorado currently

owns that results in a lower placement in the draft order. Coyle, 33, has appeared in 64 games with Boston this season, recording 15 goals and seven assists for 22 points. The 6-foot-3, 215-pound forward has skated in 931 career NHL games with Boston and Minnesota, tallying 187 goals and 285 assists for 472 points. The East Weymouth, Massachusetts native was originally selected by San Jose in the first round (28th overall) of the 2010 NHL Entry Draft. Mittelstadt, 26, has appeared in 63 games with Colorado this season, recording 11 goals and 23 assists for 34 points. The Eden Prairie, Minnesota native was originally selected by Buffalo in the first round (8th overall) of the 2017 NHL Entry Draft. Zellers, 18, has appeared in 40 games with the Green Bay Gamblers (USHL) this season, totaling 37 goals and 21 assists for 58 points. He is committed to play at the University of North Dakota for the 2025-26 season. The Maple Grove, Minnesota native was originally selected by Colorado in the third round (76th overall) of the 2024 NHL Entry Draft.

Boston acquired for-

ward Fraser Minten, a 2026 first-round draft pick (top five protected), and a 2025 fourth-round draft pick (from Philadelphia) and from the Toronto Maple Leafs in exchange for defenseman Brandon Carlo. Boston will retain 15 percent of Carlo's salary. Carlo, 28, has appeared in 63 games with Boston this season, recording one goal and eight assists for nine points. The 6-foot-5, 221-pound defenseman has skated in 617 career NHL games, all with the Bruins, totaling 29 goals and 80 assists for 109 points. The Colorado Springs, Colorado native was originally selected by Boston in the second round (37th overall) of the 2015 NHL Entry Draft. Minten, 20, has appeared in 15 games with Toronto this season, recording two goals and two assists for four points. The 6-foot-2, 195-pound forward has skated in 19 career NHL games. The Vancouver, British Columbia native was originally selected by Toronto in the second round (38th overall) of the 2022 NHL Entry Draft.

Don Sweeney also announced that the team has acquired defenseman Henri Jokiharju from the Buffalo

Sabres in exchange for a 2026 fourth-round draft pick (originally from Edmonton). Jokiharju, 25, has appeared in 42 games with Buffalo this season, recording three goals and three assists for six points. The 6-foot, 200-pound defenseman has skated in 389 career NHL games with Buffalo and Chicago, totaling 19 goals and 74 assists for 93 points. The Oulu, Finland native was originally selected by Chicago in the first round (29th overall) of the 2017 NHL Entry Draft.

The Bruins acquired defenseman Daniil Misyul from the New Jersey Devils in exchange for forward Marc McLaughlin. McLaughlin, 25, has appeared in 12 games with Boston this season, recording two goals. The 6-foot, 202-pound forward has also skated in 34 games with the Providence Bruins this season, tallying five goals and nine assists for 14 points. McLaughlin has played in 169 career AHL games, all with Providence, totaling 26 goals and 32 assists for 58 points. The North Billerica, Massachusetts native was originally signed by Boston as a free

agent in 2022. Misyul, 24, has appeared in one game with New Jersey this season. The 6-foot-3, 176-pound defenseman has also skated in 47 games with the Utica Comets (AHL) this season, tallying eight assists. The Minsk, Belarus native was originally selected by New Jersey in the third round (70th overall) of the 2019 NHL Entry Draft.

The regular season schedule resumes tonight (Tuesday 7pm) for the Bruins who will face Atlantic Division rivals for their next four games. The locals will host the Florida Panthers (sans injured Brad Marchand) tonight; travel to Ottawa (Thursday 7pm) to face Linus Ullmark and the Senators; then back on TD Garden ice to host both the Tampa Bay Lightning on Saturday, 7pm, and the Buffalo Sabres on Monday, 7pm.

**Council** // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Maltez responded to another motion made by Recupero requesting information on the protocol for veterans using the Senior Center's shuttle bus service.

"The shuttle service is a program that was started by our Director of Health & Human Services, Tracy Nowicki," stated Maltez. "The service is contracted to a third party transportation company."

The transportation services provide trips to medical appointments, social

activities, and to Market Basket. Maltez said the service is available to all Chelsea residents over 62 and that residents, including veterans over 62, are encouraged to book trips by calling the senior center.

"While the Senior Center is focused on residents over the age of 62, I know that our staff go above and beyond to help any residents in need," stated Maltez. "Our Director of Constituent Services would also be happy to connect residents

with necessary services."

Recupero said he would have liked more information on the bus service pertinent to veterans and that he would like to see the shuttle available for Chelsea veterans regardless of their age.

"How about a poor veteran who is 30 years old?" Recupero asked. "What can he do, are you going to contact him to another agency? The point of this order was to see if the bus could be used by veterans that are not 62."

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**LEGAL NOTICES**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**CITY OF CHELSEA NOTICE FOR PUBLIC HEARING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) FY2026-2030**

In accordance with Section 5-4(c) of the Charter of the City of Chelsea, notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, March 24, 2025 in the City Council Chambers, Third Floor, Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150 at 7:00 PM regarding the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2026-2030. Examples of CIP projects include major building projects, roadway and sewer/water projects, climate resiliency efforts and open space improvements. Copies of the CIP are available for public review and inspection in the City Clerk's Office, Room #209, Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, MA 02150 during City Hall business hours. Norieliz DeJesus, President, Chelsea City Council

3/6/25, 3/13/25

**PUBLIC HEARING TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Chapter 90 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and pursuant to Section 6-3 of the Charter of the City of Chelsea that a Public Hearing of the Chelsea Traffic and Parking Commission will be held on: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. City Council Chambers 500 Broadway Pursuant to Section 6-3 of the Charter of the City of Chelsea, the purpose of the public hearing is to receive comment regarding the approval of the discontinuance of a parcel known as Merritt Road, between Webster Avenue and Stockton Street, pursuant to section 24-85 of the Chelsea Code of Ordinance. Per Order Chief Keith E. Houghton Chairperson

3/13/25, 3/27/25

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**CITY OF CHELSEA INVITATION FOR BIDS CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS - FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES**

The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Bids for marked "Chelsea

**Public Schools - Fire Protection Services"**

Invitation for Bids will be available on or after March 13, 2025 by visiting the City's website at [http://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current\\_bids\\_solicitations.php](http://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php). Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "Chelsea Public Schools - Fire Protection Services" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement. General Bids will be received until March 27, 2025 at 10:30AM and publicly opened, forthwith online. The contractor must be certified with the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in Alarm Systems and/or Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems. The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any proposal, to reject any or all proposals and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City. In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond. The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer. This Invitation for Bids is in accordance with M.G.L. 149. Dragica Ivanis Chief Procurement Officer

3/13/25

**LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT**

Suffolk Division (617)788-8300 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE Docket No. SU25PO467EA Estate of: Margaret Torosian Also Known As: Araxia Eugaper Torosian Date of Death: 01/23/2025 To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Sheila Arsenault of Chelsea, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate. Sheila Arsenault of Chelsea, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain

**orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.**

03/13/25

**LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT**

Plymouth Probate And Family Court 52 Obery Street Suite 1130 Plymouth, MA 02360 (508)747-6204 CITATION G.L. c. 210, § 6 Docket No. PL26A0029AD In the matter of: Nala Roxanne Miranda To: Unknown/Unnamed Father any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth. A petition has been presented to said court by: Richard Frank Young of Brockton, MA and Elizabeth Ashley Young of Brockton, MA If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person. An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but

is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms. IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: Plymouth ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 A.M.) ON: 04/11/2025 WITNESS, Hon. Patrick W. Stanton, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 20, 2024 Matthew J. McDonough Register of Probate

3/6/25, 3/13/25, 3/20/25

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Re:New Residential Property Management Regulations Chelsea Licensing Commission, March 20, 2025 Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Chelsea Licensing Commission on Thursday, p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, MA, to Adopt Regulations relative to licensing of the Residential Property Management companies in Chelsea, MA. For a copy of the proposed regulation go to the Licensing Department Room 307, Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, MA or email [nlibran@chelseama.gov](mailto:nlibran@chelseama.gov).

**gov. CHELSEA LICENSING COMMISSION Naomi Libran Licensing Administrator 3/6/25, 3/13/25**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**CITY OF CHELSEA Invitation for Bids SILBER EARLY LEARNING CENTER RENOVATION PHASE 3**

The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Bids for marked "SILBER EARLY LEARNING CENTER RENOVATION PHASE 3". Invitation for Bids will be available on or after March 13, 2025 by visiting the City's website at [https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current\\_bids\\_solicitations.php](https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php). Invitation for Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "SILBER EARLY LEARNING CENTER RENOVATION PHASE 3" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 11:00AM on Thursday, March 27, 2025. The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any or all proposals and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City. In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond. The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer. This Invitation for Bids is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30, 39M. Dragica Ivanis Chief Procurement Officer

3/13/25

**administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/25/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 18, 2025 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate

03/13/25

**LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT**

Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU25PO335EA Estate of: Paul Roger Beane Date of Death: 10/13/2024 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Paul R. Beane, II of Chelsea, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Paul R. Beane, II of Chelsea, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond unsupervised

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# Jaramillo Family launches perinatal health foundation

The Cord Foundation to focus on awareness, resources, and advocacy to address perinatal health challenges, outcomes

Special to the Times-Free Press

Crystal Jaramillo, of Revere, and her husband Juan Pablo Jaramillo, announced the launch of The Cord Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Its mission is to bring awareness to people who experience severe perinatal health challenges, and to build a network of support and resources for families and improve perinatal outcomes for parents and their children.

In late 2022, Crystal was diagnosed with postpartum psychosis (PPP) following a traumatic birth experience with her son Lucas. Hospitalized and seeking treatment, Crystal faced a severe and complicated diagnosis that is surprisingly common, affecting 1 in every 1,000 births. According to the Cleveland Clinic, PPP is a reversible mental health emergency that affects a person's sense of reality and can be dangerous to the birth parent and the child.

Dr. Leigh Simmons, a primary care provider at Massachusetts General Hospital and board member of The Cord Foundation, added that "pregnancy and childbirth are complex physical, emotional, and social events in a person's life. The Cord's mission to focus on supporting new parents will benefit families greatly during what can be a time of great stress. The best medicine is preventive medicine, and this model applied to pregnancy and postpartum care has great promise for improving health and social outcomes."

Inspired by the Jaramillo's perinatal story, which includes birth trauma, postpartum psychosis and recovery, The Cord Foundation was created with the mission to "bringing awareness to people who experience severe perinatal health challenges, and to build a network of support and resources for

families and improve perinatal outcomes for parents and their children" according to its website.

"My perinatal journey is not unique but it often is only spoken about when tragedy strikes. Thousands of birthing parents, like me, feel unheard throughout their maternal and postpartum care and often reflected in their perinatal and postpartum outcomes," said Crystal Jaramillo. "There are long-term structural gaps in our maternal care system that create barriers to holistic birthing care and postpartum mental health care resources while stigmatizing, in particular, historically marginalized populations. Lucas and I fell through those gaps and were blessed to have the unwavering support of my husband and our family throughout my recovery. The Cord will address the gaps by creating an infrastructure of care centered on birthing parents that removes the barriers to access that put new families at risk."

The Massachusetts Legislature passed a maternal health bill in the fall but language to define conditions like postpartum psychosis offered up Rep. O'Day and Senator Lovely failed to pass during the legislative debate.

State Senator Lydia Edwards a board member of The Cord Foundation said "last session the legislature recommitted to investing and improving perinatal health for all Bay Staters, still, maternal health is complex and historically misunderstood. The Cord's advocacy will help policymakers like myself to reframe the maternal health conversation to the full spectrum of care from conception through the postpartum stage and to bring support and visibility to people who have had severe perinatal outcomes."

The Cord will focus its efforts on three core tenets: Awareness, Resources, and Advocacy.

**Awareness** – The Cord Foundation amplifies the often-overlooked realities of traumatic perinatal experiences—particularly those shaped by socio-economic and racial disparities—by sharing stories like Crystal's, fostering visibility, and advocating for improved maternal and child health outcomes.

**Resources** – The Cord Foundation will support better perinatal outcomes by connecting parents with holistic birthing support, essential healthcare resources, and long-term postpartum care, while also aiming to provide scholarships, educational workshops, and advocacy to strengthen perinatal care accessibility and equity.

**Advocacy** – The Cord Foundation will advocate for expanded perinatal care and postpartum support, raising awareness of issues like postpartum psychosis and traumatic births while pushing for legislative action to improve early screening and protections for birthing parents.

The founding board members include: Crystal Jaramillo, as well as Dr. Leigh Simmons, State Senator Lydia Edwards, and Niles Welch. Dr. Simmons is a medical student educator and directs the internal medicine clerkship for Harvard Medical School students at Massachusetts General Hospital. Welch is a founding member of Beantown Law Group, LLC and a Revere resident. Senator Edwards has been a policy maker since 2017 when she was elected to the Boston City Council, then joined the Massachusetts State Senate in 2021.

For more information, please visit [thecordfoundation.org](http://thecordfoundation.org).



Crystal, Lucas, and City Councillor-at-Large Juan Pablo Jaramillo.

## La familia Jaramillo lanzó una fundación para la salud perinatal

Special to the Times-Free Press

Crystal Jaramillo, de Revere, y su esposo Juan Pablo Jaramillo, concejal general de Revere, anunciaron el lanzamiento de The Cord Foundation, una organización sin fines de lucro 501(c)(3). Su misión es sensibilizar a las personas que experimentan graves problemas de salud perinatal, y construir una red de apoyo y recursos para las familias y mejorar los resultados perinatales para los padres y sus hijos.

En 2022, Crystal fue diagnosticada de psicosis posparto (PPP) tras una experiencia traumática en el parto de su hijo Lucas.

Hospitalizada y en busca de tratamiento, Crystal se enfrentó a un diagnóstico grave y complicado que es sorprendentemente común, ya que afecta a 1 de cada 1.000 nacimientos. Según la Clínica Cleveland, la PPP es una emergencia de salud mental reversible que afecta al sentido de la realidad de una persona y puede ser peligrosa para el padre biológico y el niño.

La Dra. Leigh Simmons, médico de atención primaria del Hospital General de Massachusetts y miembro del consejo de la Fundación The Cord, añadió que "el embarazo y el parto son acontecimientos físicos, emocionales y sociales complejos en la vida de una persona. La misión de The Cord de centrarse en el apoyo a los nuevos padres beneficiará enormemente a las familias durante lo que puede ser una época de gran estrés. La mejor medicina es la medicina preventiva, y este modelo aplicado a la atención durante el embarazo y el posparto es muy prometedor para mejorar los resultados

sanitarios y sociales."

Inspirada en la historia perinatal de Crystal Jaramillo, que incluye el trauma durante el parto, la psicosis posparto y la recuperación, la The Cord se creó con la misión de "concienciar a las personas que experimentan graves problemas de salud perinatal y crear una red de apoyo y recursos para las familias y mejorar los resultados perinatales para los padres y sus hijos", según su página web.

"Mi historia perinatal no es única, pero a menudo sólo se habla de historias similares cuando ocurre una tragedia. Miles de padres y madres que dan a luz, como yo, no se sienten escuchados durante su atención materna y posparto, lo que a menudo se refleja en sus resultados perinatales y posparto", dijo Crystal Jaramillo. "Existen lagunas estructurales a largo plazo en nuestro sistema de atención materna que crean barreras a la atención holística antes y durante el parto y a los recursos de salud mental posparto, al tiempo que estigmatizan, en particular, a las poblaciones históricamente marginadas. Lucas y yo caímos en esas lagunas y tuvimos la suerte de contar con el apoyo inquebrantable de mi esposo y nuestra familia durante mi recuperación. The Cord abordará esas lagunas creando una infraestructura de atención centrada en los padres que dan a luz, que elimine las barreras de acceso que ponen en peligro a las nuevas familias".

El Córdon centrará sus esfuerzos en tres principios básicos: Concienciación, Recursos y Defensa.

Concienciación - La Fundación Cord amplifica las realidades a menudo pasadas por alto de las experiencias perinatales traumáticas, en particular las que están

marcadas por disparidades socioeconómicas y raciales, compartiendo historias como la de Crystal, fomentando la visibilidad y abogando por la mejora de los resultados de la salud materna e infantil.

Recursos - La Fundación Cord apoyará la mejora de los resultados perinatales poniendo en contacto a los padres con apoyo holístico para el parto, recursos sanitarios esenciales y atención posparto a largo plazo, al tiempo que pretende ofrecer becas, talleres educativos y defensa para reforzar la accesibilidad y la equidad de la atención perinatal.

Abogacía - La Fundación Cord abogará por ampliar la atención perinatal y el apoyo posparto, concienciando sobre problemas como la psicosis posparto y los partos traumáticos, al tiempo que presiona para que se tomen medidas legislativas que mejoren la detección precoz y la protección de los padres que dan a luz.

Entre los miembros fundadores de la junta se encuentran: Crystal Jaramillo, así como la Dra. Leigh Simmons, la senadora estatal Lydia Edwards y Niles Welch. La Dra. Simmons es formadora de estudiantes de medicina y dirige las prácticas de medicina interna de los estudiantes de la Facultad de Medicina de Harvard en el Hospital General de Massachusetts. Welch es miembro fundador de Beantown Law Group, LLC y residente en Revere. La senadora

Edwards se ha dedicado a la formulación de políticas desde 2017, cuando fue elegida para el Consejo de la Ciudad de Boston, y luego se unió al Senado Estatal de Massachusetts en 2021.

Para más información visita [thecordfoundation.org](http://thecordfoundation.org)

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We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to [stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com](mailto:stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com)

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### DEMARIA ADAMANTLY DISPUTES OIG FINDINGS

EVERETT - Mayor Carlo DeMaria and his Administration issued a statement in which they strenuously disagree with the findings and conclusions of the Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in a letter sent to the President of the Everett City Council, Stephanie Martins.

In a public letter issued last Thursday, Inspector General Jeffrey S. Shapiro called on the Everett City Council to recover \$180,000 in longevity payments paid to Mayor Carlo DeMaria and to conduct an audit of all payments made to the mayor from Fiscal Year 2016 to present and recover any other overpayments discovered through the audit.

The letter to the city council president also provides details of the Office of the Inspector General's investigation. The investigation says that the mayor and his administration allegedly misapplied the mayoral longevity ordinance.

Mayor DeMaria's and his Administration responded to the OIG's findings, stating, "The City has worked with the OIG for nearly three years since learning of the investigation, producing documents and making City officials - including the Mayor - available for interviews with investigators. The release of a 16-page report by the OIG only two days after Mayor DeMaria voluntarily met with investigators suggests a pre-determined result.

In 2016, during a public meeting, the City Council passed the longevity ordinance in the ordinary course of business, and the City made annual payments to the Mayor consistent with its language. Contrary to the OIG's report, the Mayor did not propose the ordinance, draft the ordinance, or vote to approve the ordinance.

Neither the Mayor nor

any member of his Administration engaged in concealment. The City Council received information in multiple years concerning the Mayor's longevity payment amounts, which was included in City budgets posted on the City's website. It was not until the most recent mayoral election cycle in 2021 that the amounts were called into question. Any skepticism regarding the Mayor's longevity payment was spurred by this political campaign."

"The Administration is vigorously exploring options to address the OIG's unsupported and flawed conclusions. "I have worked too hard and too long as a public servant in the City of Everett to stand by while the Inspector General attacks my integrity and the integrity of the members of my Administration," said Mayor DeMaria.

### GSNA SUPPORTS PERCIVAL PLACE/ ORLEANS STREET PROJECT

EAST BOSTON -At last week's Gove Street Neighborhood Association (GSNA) monthly meeting, attendees heard plans for a project at 1-4 Percival Place/108-110 Orleans Street and subsequently chose to support it.

As part of this project, which was initially presented to the GSNA in October, Attorney Richard Lynds explained that they want to confirm the occupancy of six units at the Percival Place building and conduct interior work that includes life safety upgrades.

"This is currently occupied as six units. The record of occupancy is in doubt, and therefore, we are required to go through a process with the City of Boston to confirm that occupancy as a six-unit dwelling," said Lynds.

Lynds also noted that there would be no changes at 108-110 Orleans Street. "There's no expansion of these buildings being pro-

posed. There's no change in the exterior; all the existing conditions are going to remain," he said.

Moreover, Lynds talked about plans for a lot subdivision. "The building behind this building sits to the rear of the lot; the building here at 108-110 Orleans is toward the front of the lot. We would simply incorporate—for lack of a better term—the imaginary line to divide the parcels so these aren't two buildings on one lot," he said.

It should also be noted that there is an existing demolition plan for the 1-4 Percival Place building, and its headhouse will be removed.

Later, Lynds briefly outlined the zoning relief that would be necessary for the proposal but said, "The only relief that we would require is anything that would be triggered from the pre-existing conditions, but unlike a new development project, this doesn't really impact or create any additional impacts to the neighborhood because all of the same conditions will remain."

Eventually, attendees were able to ask questions and comment. One attendee wanted to ensure that the buildings would not be any higher. Lynds confirmed that would be the case and emphasized that the 1-4 Percival building would be lower due to the aforementioned headhouse removal.

Another attendee asked if the buildings were currently occupied, to which Lynds said yes. However, he mentioned that the renovations at 1-4 Percival were not imminent due to the permitting hurdles that still needed to be cleared.

"This particular property owner owns a good amount of units in the area. We have no issue with assisting with relocation and finding places before any construction starts, and certainly, we will work with those tenants in doing that before we get underway with any of the renovations," said Lynds.

Neel Batra, a member of the GSNA Board, followed up on the previous question and asked if the plan was for temporary relocation, where the tenants would be able to move back in following renovations. Lynds indicated he was unsure about those plans but emphasized, "The concept is to not have any evictions in order to proceed with this renovation."

Batra also wanted to clarify why two addresses were listed in this project. Lynds confirmed that it was because two properties currently occupy a single lot,

### WINTHROP U10 VIKINGS CAPTURE STATE CHAMP TITLE



COURTESY PHOTO

On Sunday the Winthrop Vikings Double A Squirts completed a 5-0 sweep of the State Hockey Championships to bring home the banner for the U10 Tier IV Small Division. Members of the Vikings AA Squirts are: LilyAnne Barron, Sofia Beutel, Ethan Caputo, Roman Carson, Catherine DiMento, Brady Emanuele, Talia Forbes, Toren Gleason, Alexia Graygor, Jayven Harris, Ciara Mahoney, Mario Marengi, Ryan Murphy, Jackson Stone, and Andrew Yang.

which would be changed as part of the subdivision.

Lynds also highlighted the feedback from the abutters meeting regarding the project. He indicated that many questions were similar to those asked during this GSNA meeting and did not recall any opposition.

One resident asked if there were future plans for the Orleans Street building. Lynds said it could change, but currently, there are no plans.

Finally, Batra wanted to know about the evidence that shows the 1-4 Percival building being six units because Lynds mentioned that there was evidence that dates back to the 1950s.

Lynds cited the property's building jacket and conflicting references in the building permits. He also added that tenants would say the building has six units, six kitchens, and six bathrooms.

Ultimately, eligible voters elected to support the project 8-2 in an online poll that was open until last Wednesday.

For more information about the GSNA, visit its website at <https://www.govestreet.org/home>. The next GSNA meeting is scheduled for March 24.

AHTF discusses upcoming programs

REVERE - The Board of Trustees of the Revere Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, February 12, in the City Council Chambers. Chair Joe Gravelese, vice-chair Claire Inzerillo, and treasurer Anayo Osueke were on hand

for the session, along with fellow board members Lori Manzo, Dean Harris, Matthew Wolfer, and Laila Pietri. In addition, City Planner Tom Skwierawski was in attendance.

Osueke presented the treasurer's report. He said the AHTF has a balance in its account of \$675,199.

Gravallese began the session by noting that the City Council recently adopted a Housing Production Plan (HPP). Skwierawski pointed out that the council rejected a proposal for single-room occupancy as part of the HPP.

On another matter, Skwierawski said that there are six tax-title properties that are awaiting a vote of the council to approve their transfer to the AHTF for which an RFP will be developed.

Gravallese and Skwierawski briefly discussed the RFP process for the sale and disposition of the tax-title properties, with an eye either to selling them to buyers who will develop those properties for affordable housing or selling them at market rate with the proceeds going to the AHTF for future affordable housing initiatives.

Gravallese said he and Inzerillo will be working on the RFP for presentation to the full board at its next meeting.

Skwierawski briefly discussed the City Council's approval for the creation of an HDIP (Housing Development Incentive Program) district in the Shirley Ave.-Green St. area that will provide local and state tax incentives to encourage developments that will include affordable housing. The council also approved an HDIP plan for market-rate housing at Suffolk Downs.

Gravallese and Skwierawski informed the board (and the public) that the state has contributed another \$75,000 to the first-time home-buyer program, which provides grants to assist them with the down-payment for their homes. The state initially provided the city with \$25,000 last year (to which the AHTF added another \$25,000), so the additional \$75,000 will expand the program for more local first-time home-buyers.

Gravallese and Skwierawski also discussed another potential initiative, which must be approved by the City Council, for a senior citizen home repair program to improve accessibility for seniors to allow them to "age in place" in their homes. Gravallese said the program would be oper-

ated under the auspices of the AHTF.

The board's last piece of business was a brief discussion of the progress of its two new subcommittees, one for fund-raising and the other for creating/finding affordable home ownership programs.

Prior to adjournment, Inzerillo informed her fellow board members of the sad news that she will be stepping down from the board in April. However, Inzerillo (who holds the designated seat on the AHTF for a market-rate tenant and works as a Policy Writer and Analyst in the office of the City Solicitor) said she still will be available to assist the board as needed in terms of posting minutes, etc.

Gravallese, echoing the thoughts of all of his colleagues, as well as all city residents, thanked Inzerillo for her service and dedication to the AHTF.

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOCUSES ON OVERRIDE OUTREACH

WINTHROP - Much of the focus of Monday's school committee meeting, barring an unfortunate Zoombombing incident, was on the upcoming school override vote on Saturday, April 5.

During the special election, voters will be asked to consider a \$3.5 million Proposition 2-½ override to cover expected budget shortfalls for the Fiscal Year 2026 school budget, as well as a \$1.4 million override to fund an education stabilization fund.

During Monday's meeting, Superintendent of Schools Lisa Howard highlighted the efforts that are underway both on the FY26 school budget as well as the push to get out information about the override vote.

Howard said there has been a lot of communication between the district, the citizens' override committee, and the town council, as well as with the fire department, on getting out reliable information on both the school override and the debt exclusion vote for a new fire station.

"They have a Facebook page that's called Yes for Winthrop's Kids," said Howard of the override committee. "It's a great page because the information that they are putting on there is factual information and they do check with me."

See REGION Page 11

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**Friends of Belle Isle Marsh Annual Meeting**  
Sun. March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm

**St. John's Episcopal Parish House**  
222 Bowdoin Street  
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Free and open to the public

**Keynote Speaker: Ed Reiner**

Ed Reiner is an experienced senior wetland scientist with a demonstrated history in the environmental services industry. He is skilled in ecological restoration, wetland restoration, coastal vegetation, and environmental compliance.

**Please join us!**

- Updates from Board
- Election of Officers
- Refreshments and networking
- Email for more information: [contact@friendsofbelleislemarsh.com](mailto:contact@friendsofbelleislemarsh.com)

Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

The district and the override committee have worked together to create messaging from the schools, along with the district's attorney, to see what the district can provide for information. Howard said the district can make a bigger push this time getting out information in anticipation of the April vote than it did for the override vote last fall.

The district principals will also be providing information to parents about the vote, and how they can register to vote if they have not done so already.

"Denise Quist (the town clerk), has done a great job at providing information about how to register, how to get an absentee ballot," Howard said. "Where this is a Saturday vote in April, which is the height of wedding season and certainly the beginning of spring youth athletics and co-curricular activities as well as the beginnings of high school activities, so we wanted to make sure that families and voters who don't have children in the schools, that if you do have a wedding, you have the opportunity to do a mail-in vote."

Because it is a local election, Howard noted that there will not be mail sent

out from the town about requesting a mail-in ballot, but that residents will have to request them.

"Also, we felt strongly that people needed to see what the ballot looked like and what the questions looked like on the ballot, so that will be an attachment to the notice that the principals will send out, as well as a link to the frequently asked questions that the override committee worked on," said Howard.

School Committee Chair Jennifer Powell noted that there are two websites with information on the school override. Investinwinthrop.com provides information on both the school override vote and the fire station debt exclusion, while yesforwinthropskids.com provides information on just the school override from the override committee.

In other outreach efforts, Howard said she will be talking about the override on WCAT and that the program will be shown on the local channel as well as the WCAT YouTube page.

The superintendent said that she is available to answer questions from anyone in the community.

"There is no question that is silly, no matter what you

think, so if you have a question, you can email me," said Howard. "If it is something I think you can easily access through frequently asked questions, I may turn you to the frequently asked questions, but I'm always up for further discussion. Not necessarily up to debate whether or not the schools need an override, because I am the one managing the budget ... along with my administration, and so we are coming forth being transparent and honest."

As for the explicit Zoom-bombing incident during the public speaking section at the beginning of the meeting, Howard said the unidentified person must have circumvented security measures the district has in place, and that the administration's IT department would work on investigating and resolving the issue.

"We will certainly do the investigation and I will encourage anybody that wants to make a comment to this committee, that can be submitted prior and read at the meetings, so I don't want to shut down voices or make it that people can't reach us if they need to, we are definitely available for the appropriate audiences," said Powell.

# Man sentenced for obstructing investigation of fire in Chelsea

Special to the record

A Massachusetts man, who was extradited from Stockholm, Sweden, was sentenced on Tuesday in federal court in Boston for obstructing an investigation of fires set at Jewish institutions in Chelsea, Arlington, and Needham in May 2019.

Alexander Giannakakis, 37, formerly of Quincy, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Patti B. Saris to 42 months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. In November 2024, Giannakakis pleaded guilty to concealing records in a federal investigation; tampering with documents and objects; and tampering with an official proceeding. In February 2022, Giannakakis was indicted by a federal grand jury. In February 2024 he was extradited to the United States from Sweden.

"Rather than assist authorities, Alexander Giannakakis chose instead to impede the FBI's investigation by lying to investigators and destroying and concealing evidence," said United States Attorney Leah B. Foley. "Obstructing law enforcement is a serious crime that can embolden individuals to continue crim-

inal behavior, sometimes with serious or even deadly consequences. Today's sentence leaves no room for doubt, that this type of deceit and obstruction will not be tolerated."

Jodi Cohen, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division, said Giannakakis destroyed evidence and obstructed the FBI's investigation into his brother's acts of domestic terrorism that sent shockwaves of fear throughout the Jewish community.

"Instead of doing what was right and calling out his brother's vile conduct, Mr. Giannakakis tried to cover for him," Cohen said. "Anyone who thinks they can lie to us and get away with it, should think twice. The FBI can't properly carry out investigations, if the people we interview think they can deceive us without consequence."

In approximately February 2020, Giannakakis' younger brother became the prime suspect in an investigation into four fires set at Jewish institutions in the Boston area: the first during the evening of May 11, 2019 at a Chabad Center in Arlington; the second at the same location during the

evening of May 16, 2019; the third at a Chabad Center in Needham; and the fourth during the evening of May 26, 2019, at a Jewish-affiliated business in Chelsea. At the time Giannakakis' brother was identified as a suspect, he was hospitalized in a coma. He remained in a coma until his death later that year.

Shortly after his brother was identified as a suspect, Giannakakis left the United States for Sweden, where he was living at the time, with his brother's electronic devices and documents.

According to court documents, when Giannakakis returned to the U.S. in March 2020, he was questioned by investigators about his brother's involvement in the arsons and made false and misleading statements. He later concealed and destroyed physical evidence being sought by investigators that implicated his brother in the arsons. Within hours of concealing and destroying that evidence, Giannakakis fled the United States for Sweden. Giannakakis remained in Sweden until his arrest by Swedish authorities in February 2022, according to the U.S. Attorney's office.

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### FRESH AND LOCAL

## Dial it in!

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Recipes are not infallible. If you spend a lot of time cooking from or brainstorming with recipes, you'll find a few reliable sources and many that are not as trustworthy. However, even recipe developers who produce well-measured, fully-explained, and reliable recipes can't consider a few essential factors.

#### Where to Start Adapting

As a cook, you should dial in a recipe, accounting for allergies, aversions, taste, and even what you have on hand. A recipe is a starting point or a guideline. You'll find variations in different recipes for the same dish. Read through a few and choose to begin with the one most appealing to you.

More experienced cooks may adjust the ingredients or measurements immediately. We usually reduce the added salt depending on the other salty ingredients called for in the original. We are a no-mayo household. When an interesting recipe calls for mayo, Penny begins by considering whether yogurt, crème fraîche, sour cream, or a vinaigrette can substitute. Ed has a mango allergy; therefore, another tropical fruit will replace mango in a dish.

If you're cooking for someone gluten-free, veg-

etarian, or vegan or with a special medical diet or cultural restrictions, we suggest you begin with recipes designed for those needs. Today, we are fortunate that special foods are widely available, making accommodating these diets easier.

#### Taste and Adjust

When ingredients like raw proteins are safe to taste, begin working with your tasting spoon. There are sanitary ways to do this. You can keep a cup of tasting spoons nearby and use a new one each time. You can use the cooking spoon to drip some of the food onto your tasting spoon. As your skills grow, you can drip a bit on the back of your hand and taste it.

Be as mindful as possible as you taste, and consider the primary flavors and their balance. We've learned much about this balance from cooking and eating Thai food, where chefs work to harmonize salty, sweet, sour, spicy, and creamy flavors. We add umami to that grouping.

If you find one flavor note dominating or missing, put some food in a small bowl and experiment. If sour is dominant, add a dash of sweet. If you want a creamier texture, add a thickener or more of any creamy ingredient, such as coconut milk. Once you're happy with the

flavor, adjust the rest.

Use all your senses to make the food pleasing to your palate. Remember, flavor is a combination of aroma and taste. Chefs often pull the steam above a pot closer to their noses with an open hand to test the aroma.

Texture is also a factor in food enjoyment. A typical example in our culture is the vegetable okra, which is a bit slimy when cooked in specific ways. Some people love it, and others say, "No thanks."

One of the final adjustments Penny will make to any dish is adding a bit of an acid. Consider what a squeeze of lemon will do for a piece of fish or a teaspoon of vinegar for a cabbage dish.

#### Family Recipes

Many families have recipes passed down through generations, which are now meaningful traditions. However, Grandma and Aunt Sally may make slightly different versions. You can decide which you like and then make it your own. Your version may become the favorite, causing the next generation to continue the tradition.

*Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.*



Taste and sniff to adjust a recipe to make it your own.

## Gov. Healey declares March to be American Red Cross Month in Mass.

Gov. Maura Healey has issued a proclamation declaring March to be American Red Cross Month in Massachusetts, joining a national celebration of the work of Red Cross volunteers.

This tradition began over 80 years ago when President Franklin Roosevelt issued the first national Red Cross Month proclamation.

"Since Massachusetts' own Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross over 140 years ago, multiple generations have stepped up to deliver relief and care across our country and around the world, bringing out the best of humanity in times of crisis," reads the proclamation. "More than 2,400 Red Cross volunteers in Massachusetts remain unwavering in their commitment to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the

face of emergency."

In addition to responding to home fires and other local disasters an average of twice a day around the state, Red Crossers who live in Massachusetts have already deployed more than 300 times since July 2024 to aid large disaster relief operations in other parts of the country, including the California wildfires and Hurricanes Helene and Milton which impacted several Southeastern states. In fact, 2024 recorded the second-highest number of billion-dollar disasters in a single year, due to major events like hurricanes, floods and tornadoes, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Governor Healey's proclamation will be displayed at the State House in Nurses Hall, from 10-3, then will be brought to its permanent

location at a Red Cross office.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org/MA](http://redcross.org/MA) or [CruzRojAmerica.org](http://CruzRojAmerica.org). Follow us on social media: Red Cross of Massachusetts on Facebook and LinkedIn, @RedCrossMA on X (formerly Twitter) @AmericanRedCross on Instagram and TikTok.

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