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# CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

VOLUME 135, NO. 14      THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025      35 CENTS



The Class of 2025 seated for Commencement. See Pages 4 to 9 for Special Graduation Pages.



Chelsea High School Class Officers pose for a photo at Graduation.



Graduates from Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy (black gowns), Chelsea Opportunity Academy (maroon gowns) and Chelsea High School (red gowns) sit and listen during the Commencement Ceremony.

## City signs up with local cities for next phase of heat mitigation project

By Adam Swift

Chelsea is joining up with several local communities on a project to help combat extreme heat.

Last week, the city council formally accepted an intermunicipal agreement with Arlington, Everett, and Malden for the “Wicked Cool Mystic – Super Fresco

INDEPENDENT Newspaper Group

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Mistico: Implementing resident-led outdoor cooling solutions in environmental justice neighborhoods” project.

“You may recall that the City received funding for this project through the Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) action grant in FY25/26,” City Manager Fidel Maltez stated in a letter to the council. “The goal of this project is to implement community-led designs of cooling strategies in environmental justice communities.”

The first round of the project, Wicked Hot Mystic, was focused on engag-

ing residents about where they felt hottest. Matlez said that local residents shared that they wanted more cooling features at bus stops.

“The current phase of the project is funded by an MVP action grant for \$687,000 to pursue a two-year regional project to design and implement cooling strategies,” said Maltez. “Proposed cooling features include water fountains, misters, and shade sails. Having cooling features at bus stops is crucial for several reasons, such as providing comfort and safety for rides – especially during heat waves – and encourag-

ing more public transportation use.”

Cooling features can help mitigate heat stress, reduce the risk of heat stroke, and make waiting for the bus a more pleasant experience, Maltez said.

“Once completed, these cooling features will offer opportunities for heat resilience and respite from rising temperatures, goals that are in alignment with the City’s 2018 MVP Community Resilience Building Summary of Findings,” the city manager said.

See MITIGATION Page 2

## Public hearing set for water, sewer, trash rates

Special to the Record

The Chelsea Department of Public Works will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed changes to the City’s water, sewer, and trash utility rates for fiscal year 2026 on Tuesday, July 1, at 6 p.m. in Room 305 located on the third floor of Chelsea City Hall.

Utility rates in Chelsea are proposed annually by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works (DPW) and approved by the City Manager at the start of each fiscal year. The

rates are presented to and discussed with the Chelsea City Council and members of the public before implementation. This year’s proposed changes are driven by rising infrastructure and disposal costs as well as planned capital investments by the City’s supplier, the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA), according to city officials.

“Despite rising costs to the City, we’re keeping overall rate increases minimal for households and

See HEARING Page 2

## City Council approves extended Enterprise lease

By Adam Swift

The city council unanimously approved a new 20-year lease with Enterprise Rent-a-Car for its continued use of the property at 324 Marginal St. at last week’s meeting.

“This lease agreement will effectively extend our lease with Enterprise through the end of Fiscal Year 2045 on terms that are advantageous to the city,” said City Manager Fidel Maltez.

In 2014, following the issuance of a request for proposals in 2013 for the use of city-owned property at 324 Marginal St., the city executed a lease with Enterprise.

“The lease was structured as a 10-year agreement, consisting of a 5-year initial term with an option for Enterprise to extend for an additional 5 years,” Maltez stated. “Enterprise utilizes the site for rental vehicle operations and, in return, provides excise tax payments to the city. The parcel is located adjacent to Highland Park on the non-water side of Marginal Street.”

The original RFP allowed for a lease term of up to 20 years. In 2017, the city negotiated to extend the lease to the full 20-year term until 2034 under conditions that Maltez said were mutually beneficial to the city and the

See LEASE Page 2

## DiDomenico secures over \$2 million in FY 26 Budget

Special to the Independent

Senator Sal DiDomenico secured \$625,000 for organizations and schools in the district, and over \$1.5 million for statewide programs in the \$61.4 billion state budget passed by the Senate. These local investments will support school arts departments, education programs and antipov-erty nonprofits across Cambridge, Charlestown, Chelsea and Everett. DiDomenico’s successful amendments for statewide programs will expand health care services for those in need, improve community safety, aid housing assistance programs, and support education offerings for all students.

The final budget—which safeguards the state’s finan-



Senator DiDomenico speaking in support of his amendments in the Senate Chamber.

cial health, protects the state’s most vulnerable residents, and makes investments that reinforce the Commonwealth’s economic vitality in the face

See BUDGET Page 3

Happy Father's Day!

See Page 16

TRASH NOTICE

Trash will be delayed by one day due to Juneteenth on June 19, 2025!

For the latest news in Chelsea that you need to know, check [chelsearecord.com](http://chelsearecord.com)



# Chelsea

RECORD

**PRESIDENT:** Stephen Quigley  
**EDITOR IN CHIEF:** Cary Shuman

## OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IS ON THE CRITICAL LIST

Anyone who has been to a hospital emergency room lately has seen firsthand the health care crisis that we are facing in this country.

ERs routinely are filled beyond capacity, with patients lying on their hospital beds in corridors while they wait for a room to open up -- sometimes for days.

And during the respiratory illness season, when seniors and young children flood the ERs, our overcrowded hospitals resemble something out of a developing country, rather than what is supposedly the most advanced healthcare system in the world.

The statistics tell a bleak tale: The U.S. has less than three hospital beds per 1,000 residents, while the European Union has more than five and Japan almost 13. On average, 75% of America’s hospital beds are occupied on any given day, 11 points higher than in 2019.

In Boston’s hospitals, the daily occupancy rate reportedly is 86%. According to some experts, the system becomes overloaded when the occupancy rate reaches 85%.

We grew up in a time (the 1960s-70s) when just about every city and town in Massachusetts had its own hospital, institutions that were the pride of their communities. But starting in the 1970s, thanks to a combination of declining reimbursement rates from state and federal governments and surging costs for modern-day equipment (such as MRI machines) and treatment, community hospitals one-by-one began to disappear, leaving us in our present predicament of too few hospitals serving too many people.

Another looming crisis in our healthcare system is a shortage of doctors. It is estimated that there are 1,010,892 active physicians in the U.S., of whom 851,282 are direct patient care physicians. (Physicians who do research or are administrators represent the difference between the two numbers.)

Anyone whose primary care doctor recently has retired knows how difficult it is today to find a new doctor. But this shortfall is only going to get worse over the next decade. By 2037, the United States is expected to face a shortage of 187,130 physicians, including 87,150 primary care physicians.

It is estimated that there already are 75 million Americans who live in areas where it is difficult to get access to primary care -- and the ratio of primary care providers is projected to decline to 76.8 per 100,000 people by 2037, from 81.6 per 100,000 in 2022.

To make matters worse, the present -- and future -- shortfalls in hospital beds and doctors do not take into account the effects of the policies in Washington that are threatening to cut back on Medicaid eligibility, to reduce Medicare reimbursements even further, to limit the loan programs available to medical school students, and to restrict (if not prevent) foreign-born doctors from coming into this country.

In short, all of the ingredients are in place to create the Perfect Storm for a healthcare crisis in our nation.

## THERE MUST BE ZERO TOLERANCE FOR VIOLENT PROTESTS

We completely understand the anger and frustration on the part of many Americans with the manner in which members of immigrant communities are being arrested and deported not only without any semblance of due process of law, but also in a deliberately cruel and inhumane manner.

But the urge to respond with acts of lawlessness, including throwing rocks and dangerous objects at police officers and other law enforcement personnel, burning vehicles in the street, smashing windows of businesses, and defacing property, is not the answer.

The First Amendment of the Constitution guarantees the right “of the people peaceably to assemble” -- and we would emphasize the word “peaceably.”

However, the protests that we have seen the past few days in Los Angeles have not been peaceful. They are creating a dangerous situation for everybody concerned -- and it is inevitable that if the protesters escalate their actions, the outcome will be a tragedy.

Those who are partaking in the protests should keep in mind the words of Winston Churchill during the height of WWII when England was facing a threat to its very existence:

“You do your worst and we will do our best.”

## SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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# Forum

## Chelsea Police Department joins North Metro Swat Team in partnership with Everett and Revere departments

Special to the Record

The Chelsea Police Department recently announced its formal partnership with the North Metro SWAT Team, a regional tactical unit comprising highly trained officers from the Chelsea, Everett, and Revere Police Departments. This strategic collaboration enhances the region’s ability to respond to high-risk incidents and critical threats with coordinated, well-equipped, and professionally trained personnel, according to Chelsea Police Chief Keith Houghton.

On May 27, a comprehensive tryout and selection process was conducted for Chelsea Police Officers seeking appointment to the North Metro SWAT Team. The rigorous evaluation, consistent with the team’s standards since 2016, included a physical fitness test, learning application scenarios, a team stress event, and a formal panel interview. Senior tactical commanders and team leaders from all three departments oversaw the selection process.

After a thorough review,

the five officers from Chelsea who were selected for appointment to the North Metro SWAT Team were Sergeant Kyle Meehan, Officer Joseph Varraso, Officer Rafael Serrano, Officer Aristides Rodriguez, and Officer Damian Strait. These officers demonstrated exceptional performance in leadership, physical readiness, decision-making under stress, and teamwork, according to the chief.

“Joining the North Metro SWAT Team represents a critical step forward in

strengthening regional emergency response and inter-agency coordination,” said Houghton. “I commend all our officers who participated and congratulate the selected individuals. Their commitment reflects the professionalism and readiness of the Chelsea Police Department.”

Houghton said the Chelsea Police Department looks forward to working closely with its partners from the Everett and Revere Police Departments to ensure the safety and preparedness of the communities.

## Hearing // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

businesses,” said Chelsea DPW Commissioner Cate Fox-Lent. “We expect the new water and sewer rates to only cost average households an additional \$25.45 per year. These minimum rate changes are necessary to balance our goals of ensuring City utilities are affordable for all residents, maintaining high-quality services, and managing rising costs to the City.”

The Chelsea community can expect:

- Water Rates for Tier 1, 2, and 3 users to increase by 3.5%;
  - Tier 1 sewer rates to remain the same;
  - Tier 2 sewer rates to increase by 0.5%;
  - Tier 3 sewer rates to increase by 1%;
  - and
  - Trash fees across all non-owner-occupied units to increase by 10%.
- Trash services for all owner-occupied units will remain free.
- “As landfill space be-

comes more limited in Massachusetts and state mandates increase, local governments must adapt to rising costs,” said Fox-Lent. “The increase in our trash fees will offset rising disposal costs and services like mattress recycling.”

Residents, business owners, and nonprofit representatives are encouraged to attend the July 1 public hearing to learn more and provide feedback. For those who cannot attend, please

call Chelsea 311 at (617) 466-4209 to leave a comment.

Supporting documents, including the full rate analysis and draft rate schedules, are available on the City’s website at [www.chelseama.gov/departments/water\\_sewer/index.php](http://www.chelseama.gov/departments/water_sewer/index.php) or can be picked up in person at Chelsea City Hall, Room #310, 500 Broadway.

## Lease // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

company.

“Recently, Enterprise has expressed a desire to expand its operations at this site by adding truck rentals, while the city seeks to secure an increase in excise tax revenues over a longer period of time,” Maltez stated. “To achieve both objectives,

we propose terminating the current lease and executing a new 20-year lease that will extend through Fiscal Year 2045.”

The city manager stated that the new lease will ensure increased guaranteed excise tax payments from Enterprise. In return,

if Enterprise’s excise tax payments exceed the guaranteed amount, the city will reimburse Enterprise from the excess funds for the cost of its site improvements.

“Upon approval, the city will see financial benefits beginning in FY26,” said Maltez. “Revenue

projections will reflect the increase in excise collections outlined in the new guaranteed schedule, while budgeted expenditures will account for the additional reimbursements stipulated in the lease.”

## Mitigation // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The city will complete its design and construction of cooling features at high ridership and high heat area bus stops by June 30, 2026. The design process includes coordination with the housing and community devel-

opment department and the department of public works, as well as with city officials from Arlington, Everett, Malden, and Mystic River Watershed Association staff, Maltez stated.

“I’m excited to see this

move forward,” said Councilor-at-Large Roberto Jimenez Rivera. “It’s really exciting to have seen a number of bus stops that have gone up along Broadway and seen the covered areas for people to wait in.

## Your opinions, please

The Record welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Letters may also be e-mailed to [stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com](mailto:stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com). Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

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

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

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## CHELSEA

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# Chelsea and Somerville ask federal court to block stripping of federal funding

Special to the Record

Last Tuesday, June 3, the sanctuary cities of Chelsea and Somerville asked a federal court to block the Trump Administration’s attempts to strip them of federal funding because they refuse to be coerced into participating in the Administration’s mass deportation efforts, according to a lawsuit.

The Cities’ preliminary injunction motion follows a formal notice issued the previous week by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), designating both Cities as jurisdictions that must change their policies “immediately” or face consequences.

Represented by Lawyers for Civil Rights, the Cities filed their lawsuit in February 2025, asserting that the Administration’s heavy-handed tactics—threatening to “de-fund” and prosecute them for failing to bend to the President’s will—violate their Constitutional rights. Last week’s motion asks the court to enjoin any such attempts while the lawsuit proceeds.

Somerville and Chelsea have identified as welcoming/sanctuary cities since 1987 and 2007, respectively, recognizing that victims and witnesses are less likely to report crimes if they

know that local police are working in concert with federal immigration authorities. By avoiding that entanglement, sanctuary cities improve public safety and quality of life not just for immigrant residents, but for all residents and community members, according to a press release from Lawyers For Civil Rights.

Since his inauguration, President Trump has issued a series of Executive Orders threatening to cut off federal funds to sanctuary cities; the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has warned of criminal and civil prosecutions against them while purporting to freeze all DOJ funding; and the Department of Transportation (DOT) has said it will de-prioritize transportation funding to sanctuary cities, among other actions taken by the Administration. Most recently, on May 29, DHS published a list of jurisdictions, including Chelsea and Somerville, that it claims “obstruct the enforcement of Federal immigration laws” and warned that they must “immediately review and revise their policies” or face consequences.

“The President cannot use federal funding as a weapon to force local governments to undermine public safety and participate

in his mass deportation efforts,” said Oren Sellstrom, Litigation Director of Lawyers for Civil Rights, one of the Cities’ attorneys.

Sellstrom said with the preliminary injunction motion, they seek to protect sanctuary and welcoming cities, so they can continue to make public safety decisions that are in the best interests of their residents.

“Chelsea will not be bullied or intimidated into enforcing federal immigration laws, and we will not allow federal policies to dictate how we care for people that call Chelsea home,” said Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez. “We stand firm—alongside our neighbors in Somerville and our partners at Lawyers for Civil Rights—in defending the rights and dignity of our immigrant communities. Chelsea is a city built by immigrants, sustained by their contributions, and strengthened by our shared values of inclusion, justice, and resilience. We will continue to protect and serve every resident, regardless of their immigration status.”

Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne said the city’s residents know that the community is safer when police focus on preventing crime rather than raiding the local sandwich shop.

“We know that stripping

cities of their rights, erodes everyone’s rights,” she said. “We know that spreading hate and lies about an entire group of people has historically led to harm and injustice for all.

“And we know that withholding federal funding for no good reason threatens the health and safety of all residents,” the mayor continued. “We urge the Administration to honor our Constitution, pursue humane immigration reform instead, and let us serve our communities as we know best. This isn’t something you should have to fight for in court—but Somerville will continue to stand up for our rights.”

Somerville received approximately \$19.4 million in federal funds to support a variety of community and public safety services in fiscal year 2024, including roadway safety initiatives, homelessness prevention services, and efforts to address and reduce youth tobacco usage and alcohol consumption. During that same fiscal year, Chelsea received approximately \$14.5 million in federal funding, including for education and a downtown reconstruction project.

## Budget // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of mounting federal threats passed with bipartisan support by a vote of 38-2. It neither raises taxes nor spends dollars from the state’s stabilization fund—also known as the ‘Rainy Day Fund’—which currently stands at a historic \$8.1 billion.

“The Senate Budget is a victory for schools, public infrastructure, healthcare access, and housing in my district and throughout the Commonwealth,” said Sal DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. “I am proud to direct hundreds of thousands of dollars to my district and over a million dollars statewide for organizations and programs that provide vital services for our residents. These investments will create new opportunities for people of all ages in our communities, ensure all our children can enjoy the best education possible, and support organizations fighting against poverty by helping our neighbors get the resources they need.”

The Senate FY26 budget supports students of all ages by maintaining investments in public education at every level. The budget fully funds the fifth year of the Student Opportunity Act, provides a historic funding commitment to the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC), and stands with public and private institutions of higher education at a volatile time.

For the second year, the Senate’s budget dedicates \$120 million to fully fund MassEducate, the Commonwealth’s universal free community college program that became law in last year’s budget. By again delivering free tuition and fees for residents, the FY26 proposal continues its support for this vital initiative that expands economic opportunity in a regionally

equitable manner across the Commonwealth.

The budget establishes a special commission to study how local aid is distributed, evaluate its effectiveness and equity, and make recommendations to maximize the equity of the distribution. In addition to traditional sources of local aid, this budget also increases payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for state-owned land to \$54.5 million. PILOT funding is a source of supplemental local aid for cities and towns working to protect and improve access to essential services and programs.

The Senate’s FY26 budget funds MassHealth at \$22.41 billion, an increase of \$2.34 billion over the last fiscal year. As the largest cost driver in the state’s budget, MassHealth alone accounts for 65 per cent of the total spending increase over the FY25 budget.

As the state envisions a more fiscally sustainable path for its future, increasing affordable housing opportunities and addressing housing challenges remain at the forefront of the Senate’s agenda. This budget therefore invests more than \$1.16 billion in housing initiatives, dedicating resources for housing stability, residential assistance, emergency shelter services, and homelessness assistance programs. The Senate’s FY26 budget deploys a humane, responsible, and sustainable approach to support families and individuals in need with affordable, safe, and secure housing options.

With both chambers of the Legislature having approved different versions of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, they will now reconcile their versions before sending a final FY26 budget to the Governor for her signature.

# CPC recommends funding for five upcoming projects

By Adam Swift

At last week’s city council meeting, the Community Preservation Committee presented five recommendations for grants from the Community Preservation Fund.

City voters adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in 2016. The CPA imposes a 1.5 percent surcharge on residential and commercial properties, with exemptions for low- and moderate-income homeowners. The CPC can make recommendations for the use of the funds for affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space proposals.

At its May 15 meeting, the CPC recommended ap-

proval of five applications for funding for referral to the city council. The council moved the recommendations for a second reading and a potential vote at its next meeting on Monday, June 23.

By statute, the city council can approve, reject, or lower the amounts of the CPC’s recommendations.

The CPC recommendations include \$100,000 for the La Colaborativa Housing Voucher Program, \$200,000 for Polonia Park, \$200,000 for the Quinn Residences, \$100,000 for The Neighborhood Developers Top Off Rental Assistance program, and \$197,433 for the Walnut Street Synagogue.

The La Colaborativa

Housing Voucher Program provides low- and moderate-income residents experiencing imminent or current homelessness with rental assistance with rental assistance stipends.

The money for Polonia Park would be used by the city’s housing and community development department to support environmental site assessments to understand the nature and extent of contamination at Polonia Park, and support any necessary remediation work to address risks before the park’s redevelopment construction.

The grant for the Quinn Residences would support the razing of an existing development of an existing building structure and the

development of a 20-unit affordable owner-occupied residential building.

The Neighborhood Developers grant would allow for top-off rental assistance, and the Walnut Street Synagogue grant would be used for repairs to water damage inside the 116-year-old building.

“This is really going to support our residents in terms of people who need rental assistance and also to support environmental assessments at Polonia Park,” said Councilor-at-Large Roberto Jimenez Rivera. “I think it is a good thing that we are doing by spending these funds by supporting some of our neediest residents.”

# Officer Nicole McLaughlin honored with statewide law enforcement exemplary performance award for mental health advocacy

Special to the Record

Chelsea Police Officer Nicole McLaughlin has been awarded the Law Enforcement Exemplary Performance Award by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health.

This distinguished recognition honors her pivotal role in advancing mental health and crisis intervention services through her assignment to the HUB model—a groundbreaking, multi-agency initiative supporting some of Chelsea’s most vulnerable residents.

Officer McLaughlin will be formally recognized and presented with the award on July 29 in Worcester.

Officer McLaughlin has been instrumental in the success of the HUB model in Chelsea. Working alongside the department’s Community Engagement Specialist and numerous partner agencies—including healthcare providers, housing services, social workers, and mental health professionals—she has helped deliver timely, coordinated support to individuals experiencing behav-

ioral health crises, homelessness, and substance use disorders.

The HUB model—originating in Canada and first adopted in the U.S. by the Chelsea Police Department—focuses on early identification of individuals at elevated risk and delivering proactive, compassionate intervention before crises escalate. This collaborative approach reflects a modern vision for public safety that prioritizes well-being and community trust.

“Officer McLaughlin’s work with the HUB team has been nothing short of transformative,” said Police Chief Keith E. Houghton. “Her partnership with our Community Engagement Specialist and other agencies has helped connect hundreds of individuals to mental health care, housing, and addiction recovery services. She has become a vital bridge between law enforcement and social support systems.”

Since its inception, the HUB initiative has served over 1,000 individuals, sig-

nificantly reducing emergency service calls related to mental health and improving long-term outcomes through coordinated care. Officer McLaughlin’s compassion, professionalism, and dedication have been central to these successes.

“Officer McLaughlin embodies the spirit of community policing—one that sees officers not just as enforcers, but as advocates, connectors, and protectors,” said

Houghton. “We are honored to celebrate this statewide recognition of her work and the model she represents, which is now setting a national standard for integrating mental health strategies into public safety.”

The Chelsea Police Department congratulates Officer McLaughlin on this well-deserved award and reaffirms its commitment to supporting collaborative, health-centered solutions through the HUB model.

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CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION 2025



Stephen Ceyala from the COA receives his diploma.



Owen Garcia graduates with his daughter by his side.



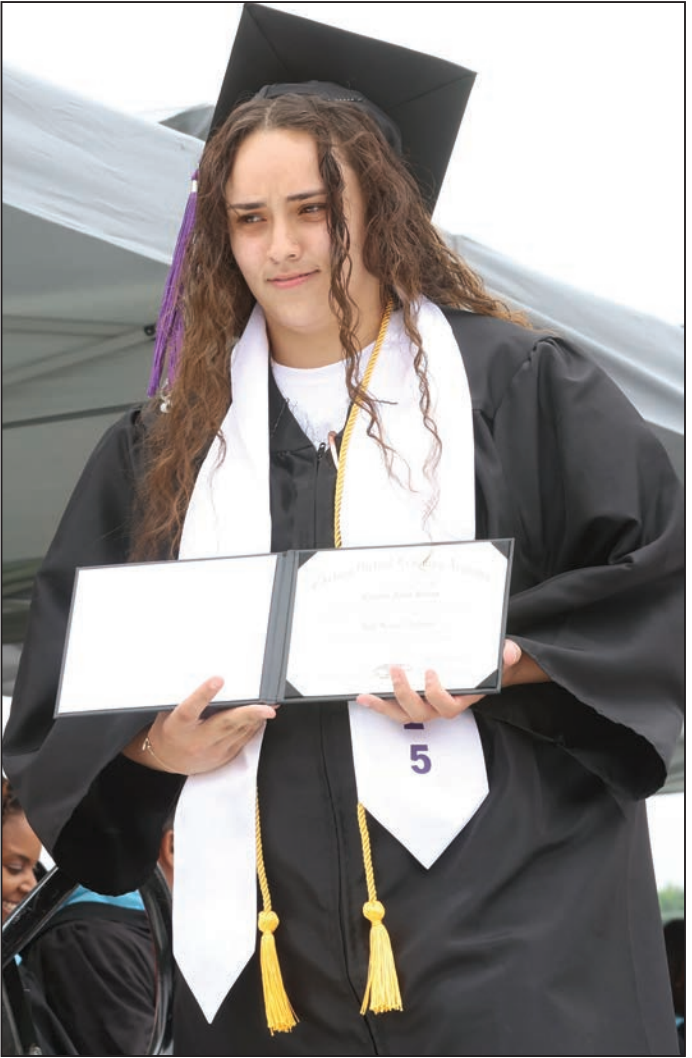
Maria Daniela Chavez from the COA graduated in the Class of 2025.



Graduates smiling for the camera.



Katherine Ximena Alvarado receives her diploma.



Taliyah Rivera Graduates from the Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy.



Tatiana Pineda Santos.



Alexander William Amaya receives his diploma.



Alexandra Guimaraes DaRosa CHS Class of 2025.



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the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce!

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Chamber of Commerce  
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**State Sen. Sal DiDomenico & family**

Congratulations!  
CLASS OF 2025!

**FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE JUDITH GARCIA**



CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION 2025



Classmates from the Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy prepare to graduate as part of the Class of 2025.



Classmates from the Chelsea Opportunity Academy ready to receive their diplomas.



Sarah Bana and Jessly Barahana graduating from the CHS Class of 2025.



Even with rain it's a big smile day for the graduates.



CHS Interim Principal Alan Beausolell welcomes everyone to the graduation ceremony.



Taliyah Rivera Graduates from the Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy.



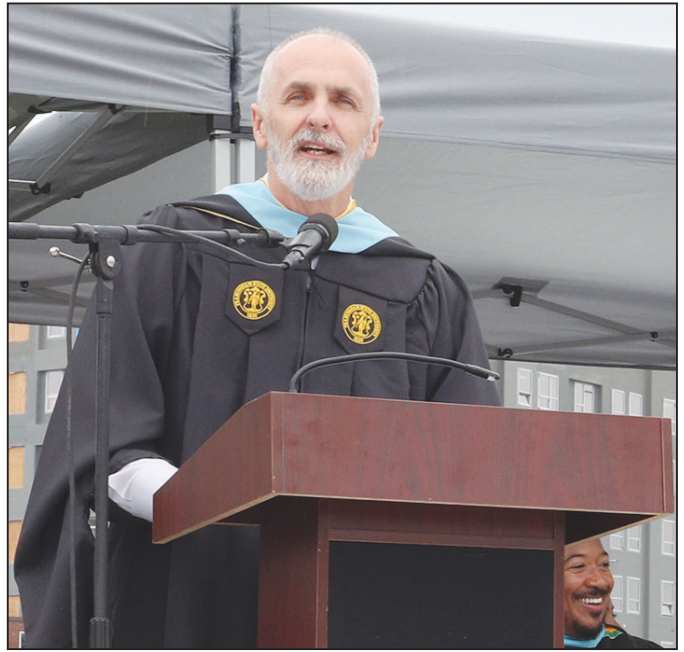
CHS Graduate Christopher Yax performed the National Anthem.



Chelsea City Councillor Leo Robinson at the City of Chelsea's Graduation.

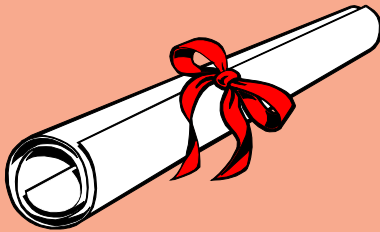


Local dignitaries including Chelsea Public Schools administration, the Chelsea School Committee, City of Chelsea leadership and Senator Sal DiDomenico posed for a photo after Graduation



Acting Principal of the Chelsea Opportunity Academy, Ronald Schmidt.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025...MAY YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE!



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CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION 2025

In Their Words

VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS  
Holly Hattleber



Hello Class of 2025 and everyone here today! It is an honor to speak before you as Valedictorian of our class.

For those of you who don't know me well, I do too much and hope for the best. Normally everything turns out okay! I will admit in retrospect that perhaps I shouldn't have taken 12 APs over the course of three years while representing the USA at international dance competitions, but here I am. Ballroom dancing is what takes up most of my time after school. I have been dancing for thirteen years now, and when I started high school, I never thought ballroom would take me as far as it has and continues to do. Like really. I never thought my partner and I would end up competing in Austria and winning 3rd in the world while in high school.

My high school experience has been far from normal. Everyone in NHS can tell you that I've dashed out the door saying hasty goodbyes more than once because I had to catch a flight, while all my wonderful teachers don't even bat an eye anymore when I show up to school in competition self-tanner looking like a tangerine. "Are you competing again?" they ask instead. The infinite number of late-night practice

sessions drilling the same footwork and technique over and over again, with the forever growing stack of homework has led me to learn the importance of determined and hard work. You will get better the more effort you put into an activity. For me it was dance and schoolwork, but each of us has a different passion. Do not throw away your shot at making your dreams come true because of the possibility of failure - put in the hard work and everything else will fall into place.

While the days in AP Calc may have been rough after arriving home at 2 am from the airport and the shower curtain was a pain in AP World, I am so grateful for each and every experience I have had at Chelsea High. I am proud of where I am today and the work I have put into school, even though the path to where I am right now was not always easy.

Many of you have similar experiences of juggling

school with your passions and the possibility of failure. Some of you are running successful businesses you thought would fail four years ago. Some of you have made it to competing in and even winning events at states or even nationals in your respective sports, even through the pain, sweat, tears, and unrecognized work. A still-resentful group of you fought for your grades in a certain Algebra/Pre-Calc class, and ended up passing just fine. Others weren't sure they would even be able to graduate... and here you are.

Each and every one of us have something to be proud of. We all are impressive and valuable people, and I want you to remind yourself of that because we don't hear it nearly enough. You are a valuable member to society, and I want you to know that there is always someone rooting for you. Impossible things are happening every day, and those impossible things will be done by each of you all.

While my time up here is running out, and our time as high schoolers is coming to a close, we are given the privilege of beginning our journey in a world full of infinite possibilities. Use it to your advantage.

Congratulations, Class of 2025. Thank you.

SALUTATORIAN ADDRESS  
Angelina Agostini



Good morning, family, friends, city officials, faculty, and most importantly, the graduating class of 2025. My name is Angelina Agostini, and I am honored to stand before you today as the Class of 2025 Salutatorian.

First and foremost, I want to thank my parents, who have always supported me and prioritized my education. I am forever grateful for the values they instilled in me and for the sacrifices they made to raise me and my sister. Without them, I wouldn't be the person I am today. I also want to thank my sister Lidia and my friends, who've always had my back through hard times. And a huge thanks to all the teachers who've guided me on my journey. You helped me grow and become a better student. I couldn't have made it through school without your unwavering support.

To my fellow graduates: I may not know all of you, but I know one thing for sure: we're a class of warriors. We endured a global pandemic, a year of online school, our freshman year behind face masks, and a challenging senior year. Over these past few months, we've juggled college applications, extracurriculars, taking care of siblings, working late-night shifts, and so much more, all while managing demanding classes and trying to keep our grades up.

those challenges head-on and ask for help in times of need. You have many more years to learn, grow, and become the person you're meant to be. High school is just one chapter in a much bigger story.

But as you step into the real world, be sure to never forget where you started. Don't take graduating as a chance to start over. See it as an opportunity to build from the lessons, struggles, and experiences of high school. Never forget the voices that inspired you, the teachers and family members who believed in you, and the friends who stood by your side. Our time in Chelsea has made us the people we are today, and it will forever be a part of who we are.

So once again, congratulations, Class of 2025! We did it!

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Buenos días, familia, amigos, funcionarios municipales, maestros y, sobre todo, a la clase de 2025. Mi nombre es Angelina Agostini y es un honor para mí estar aquí hoy ante ustedes como la Salutatorian de la Clase de 2025.

Many of us have grown up together over the past 12 years, from the ELC to CHS. Others joined us along the way and soon became vital members of our community. Our class comes from all over the world, from El Salvador to Albania, Cambodia, and beyond. Some of us are first-generation graduates, the first in our families to get a high school diploma or pursue a college education.

Yet no matter where we started or what path we've traversed, we've all made it here as Chelsea High graduates. You should be incredibly proud of what you have accomplished.

And even if you feel like you didn't shine in high school—because let's be honest, things weren't all sunshine and rainbows—remember this: you are the main character in your story, and you play the central role in dictating what comes next. Life will be challenging, but it is up to us to face

Y aunque sientas que no brilleste en la secundaria (porque, seamos honestos, no todo fue color de rosas), recuerda esto: eres el protagonista de tu historia y juegas un papel fundamental en lo que viene después. La vida será desafiante, pero depende de nosotros enfrentarlos con decisión y pedir ayuda cuando la necesitemos. Tienes muchos años más para aprender, crecer y convertirte en la persona que estás destinado/a a ser. La secundaria es solo un capítulo de una historia mucho más grande.

Pero al entrar al mundo real, asegúrate de nunca olvidar dónde empezaste. No tomes la graduación como una oportunidad para empezar de nuevo. Considérala una oportunidad para construir a partir de las lecciones aprendidas, las dificultades y las experiencias de la secundaria. Nunca olvides las voces que te inspiraron, los maestros y familiares que creyeron en ti, y los amigos que te apoyaron. Nuestro tiempo en Chelsea nos ha hecho quienes somos hoy y siempre será parte de nuestra esencia.

Así que, una vez más, ¡felicidades, Clase de 2025! ¡Lo logramos!

CLASS PRESIDENT ADDRESS  
Allison Rivera Colindres



Good morning families, friends, staff, faculty, and most importantly, my fellow graduates.

My name is Isabela De Matos Lemos, and I'm honored to stand before you today as the President of Chelsea High School's Class of 2025.

Before I begin, I want to take a moment to thank a group of people who have played a huge role in my high school journey: my amazing student council team and our incredible advisors. It has been an honor to work alongside you through the challenges, the chaos, and the unforgettable moments of these past two years.

I'm forever grateful for your support, commitment, and the laughter we've shared. You've shown me what true teamwork and leadership look like. So Aimee, Bryan Martinez, Bryan Molina, Vanesa, Mr. Estrada, Ms. Lapolla and Ms. Patino—thank you. I wouldn't be standing up here without you.

But today is bigger than just one team, it's about each and every one of you sitting here in a cap and gown.

When I first sat down to write this speech, I felt nervous and overwhelmed. Not just because I'd be standing in front of hundreds of people, but because I wasn't sure I could capture the past four years in just a few minutes.

How do you sum up the anxious excitement we felt walking into school freshman year? Or the fear we felt returning to school amidst a pandemic? The relief of finishing MCAS sophomore year, only to face AP exams and SATs soon after? The uncertainty that came with junior year? Or these bittersweet moments that have

defined our final year?

The truth is, I couldn't. Not perfectly. Because these years have been much more than just milestones or major events, they've been a story, one we've written together, made up of endless small, yet meaningful moments.

The early mornings before school and the late nights of hard work. The loud victories and the quiet losses. The friendships, some just beginning and others that have been here from the start. The passions we discovered, the setbacks and disappointments we've faced, as well as all the lessons we learned along the way. These inevitable changes, which sometimes caught us when we weren't looking, were all chapters we lived through together—that's what made it all meaningful.

Although this may be the last time we're all in the same place, it is not the end of our story. Today we turn the page and begin a new chapter. One that we now have the tools, strength, and courage to write. Just by being here today, you have proven something powerful: you are resilient, capable, and ready to make your mark on the world. Never forget that.

So as we move forward, take this story with you. Not just the good parts, but all of it. Carry the tears, the laughter, the friendships, the com-

munity, and the strength that got you here, with pride.

Let it all be a reminder that what we've built at Chelsea High was real.

We are the authors of our own lives. We choose when and how our story ends. Today is not the end, it's the beginning. New, unwritten, and entirely ours to explore. It might be scary, and uncertain—the future always is. But you've done this once, and you'll do it again.

So as we part ways today and step into new schools, cities, and dreams, I hope you carry everything this chapter gave us. I hope you move forward with excitement, not fear. I hope you continue to write boldly, honestly, and with a full heart.

Lastly, I'd like to recognize the people who helped us get here.

To our teacher and staff: Thank you for believing in us, challenging us, supporting us, and shaping our lives in more ways than you probably realize.

To our families and friends: Thank you for all your sacrifices, your love, and the never-ending support when we needed it the most.

To my parents, the two people who have shaped my story more than anyone, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Mãe, Pai—obrigada por sempre acreditarem em mim e no meu potencial. O amor, o sacrifício e a força de vocês me trouxeram até aqui. Esse diploma é tão de vocês quanto é meu. Eu amo vocês com todo meu coração.

And finally, to my fellow graduates: This is your story, so make it unforgettable.

Thank You and congratulations Class of 2025. We did it.

Superintendent of Chelsea Public Schools  
Dr. Almudena G. Abeyta



Friends, families and distinguished guests, welcome to the Class of 2025's day! Congratulations class of 2025! What a journey this has been for you. Class of 2025, you are known for your spirit and academic excellence!

You have worked hard and enjoyed your years at Chelsea High School. And, I have enjoyed watching you over the years!

As a class, your accomplishments are many!

The Class of 2025 includes 436 students. This includes 355 students from Chelsea High School, 53 students from Chelsea Opportunity Academy and 28 students from Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy, our third class of graduates from Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy.

The CLASS OF 2025

Were accepted to 189 total colleges and trade schools.

Approximately 9.5 million in scholarships has been offered to the Class of 2025. This includes

- Specific college grants and scholarships
- Tuition assistance grants and other scholarships
- Pell Grants
- John & Abigail Adams

and a final year extremely challenging. During these last months, we have dealt with the applications for university admission, the activities extracurriculars, the care of our brothers, the shifts of work nocturnal and much more, all while we were dealing with demanding classes and we tried to maintain good grades.

Many of us have been together during these last 12 years, from the ELC -preschool- hasta CHS -colegio. Others se nos unieron en el camino y pronto se convirtieron en miembros vitales de nuestra comunidad. Nuestra clase proviene de todas partes del mundo, desde El Salvador hasta Albania, Camboya y más allá. Algunos somos graduados de primera generación, los primeros en nuestras familias en obtener un diploma de la secundaria o cursar estudios universitarios.

Sin embargo, sin importar dónde empezamos o el camino que hayamos recorrido, todos hemos llegado hasta aquí como graduados de Chelsea High. Deberían estar increíblemente orgullosos de lo que han logrado.

Y aunque sientas que no brilleste en la secundaria (porque, seamos honestos, no todo fue color de rosas), recuerda esto: eres el protagonista de tu historia y juegas un papel fundamental en lo que viene después. La vida será desafiante, pero depende de nosotros enfrentarlos con decisión y pedir ayuda cuando la necesitemos. Tienes muchos años más para aprender, crecer y convertirte en la persona que estás destinado/a a ser. La secundaria es solo un capítulo de una historia mucho más grande.

Pero al entrar al mundo real, asegúrate de nunca olvidar dónde empezaste. No tomes la graduación como una oportunidad para empezar de nuevo. Considérala una oportunidad para construir a partir de las lecciones aprendidas, las dificultades y las experiencias de la secundaria. Nunca olvides las voces que te inspiraron, los maestros y familiares que creyeron en ti, y los amigos que te apoyaron. Nuestro tiempo en Chelsea nos ha hecho quienes somos hoy y siempre será parte de nuestra esencia.

Así que, una vez más, ¡felicidades, Clase de 2025! ¡Lo logramos!

Scholarship

- Various community scholarships (the CHS Scholarship Committee oversees)
- City of Chelsea Scholarship (for students planning to attend BHCC),
- Chelsea Resident & Community Scholarship Fund

6 of you have decided to serve our country in the military.

What an impressive class!

Before I close, I also want to take a moment to acknowledge something that weighs heavily on many of our hearts. We are deeply saddened by what some of our classmates, friends, and families are experiencing in our community — especial-



CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION 2025

Class Accomplishments

Chelsea High School - 343 students  
Out of District - 12 students  
Chelsea Opportunity Academy - 53 students  
Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy - 28 students  
CHS Scholarship/Grant Money Offered- as reported by students, school counselors and committees  
Approximately \$9,500,000 that I have documentation for. This is money students were offered from schools both that they were accepted to but will not attend and schools they are planning to attend over the course of the 2 year/4 year duration including:  
- Specific college grants and scholarships  
- Tuition assistance grants and other scholarships  
- Pell Grants  
- John & Abigail Adams Scholarship  
- Various community scholarships (the CPS Scholarship Committee oversees)  
- City of Chelsea Scholarship (for students planning to attend BHCC)  
- Chelsea Resident & Community Scholarship Fund

**CLASS OF 2025 - CHS, COA, CVLA & OOD INFO**  
Post-Secondary Plans (self-reported by students)  
- 65% approx. of students attending a 2 or 4 Year College  
- 5% approx. of students attending Other Post-Secondary (Vocational/Technical Schools)  
- 1% approx. of students going to the Military  
- 24% approx. of students going to Employment  
- 5% approx. of students attending Other/Undecided/Unknown

**CLASS OF 2025 EARLY COLLEGE DATA**  
• The Class of 2025 completed a total of 1,203 credits, which amounts to \$309,171 based on a cost of \$771 per 3-credit course.  
• Of the Class of 2025, 229 students earned Early College credits!  
• 105 Seniors earned a spot on the Dean’s List with a 3.0 Grade Point Average or higher in their college courses.  
• 35 Seniors earned 12+ college credits with 3 seniors earning over 20 credits!

**WHO ARE OUR 2025 GRADUATES?**  
436 Graduates (343 CHS, 53 COA, 28 CVLA, 12 Out of District)  
• 187 Students spent 12+ years in Chelsea Public Schools  
• 50 Students were enrolled in CPS for 9-11 years

• 135 Students were enrolled for 4-8 years  
• 63 Students have been at Chelsea Public Schools less than 4 years  
• 153 Limited English Proficient Students and 80 Former Limited English Proficient Students who represent 6 different languages  
• 177 Immigrant Students from:  
Albania  
Brazil  
Cape Verde  
Colombia  
Dominican Republic  
El Salvador  
Guatemala  
Haiti  
Honduras  
Mexico  
Puerto Rico  
Tanzania  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Valedictorian - Holly Hatleberg (Message from School Counselor Ms. Carina Lawrence)  
Holly is an exceptional individual whose character and accomplishments set her apart as both a scholar and a leader.  
Ranked number one in her class of 2025, she has maintained the highest GPA through relentless dedication, late-night study sessions, and a deep commitment to academics. Her leadership role as President of the National Honor Society reflects her initiative and integrity.

Beyond the classroom, Holly shines as a ballroom dancer, winning 3rd place at the world competition in Austria and certified dance instructor, teaching younger children with patience and enthusiasm.  
Personally, she is known for her kindness, and emotional maturity—always planning ahead and balancing her academic, social, and personal life with remarkable poise. Holly is culturally open-minded and inclusive, willingly engaging in conversations in Spanish while forming meaningful connections across diverse backgrounds.  
Described by peers as approachable and nonjudgmental, and by educators as intelligent and independent, Holly is the kind of student who brings thoughtfulness and excellence into every space she enters. Her recent acceptance to Boston University with a scholarship is a fitting reflection of her hard work, character, and immense potential.  
Salutatorian - Angelina Agostini (Message from School Counselor Ms. Naomi Mejia )  
Angelina Agostini is a remarkable young leader whose academic achievements and quiet determination have left a lasting impact on her school and

community. A proud autodidact, Angelina completed all of her coursework at Bunker Hill Community College entirely online, demonstrating exceptional self-motivation and discipline.  
Known for her meticulous organization and calm demeanor, Angelina is someone who exudes quiet strength. Never one to show stress, she responds to pressure with a composed smile and a thoughtful silence that speaks volumes. Her kindness, thoughtfulness, and ability to listen deeply have made her a trusted friend and peer.  
At Chelsea High School, Angelina is one of the founding members of the Green Thumbs group, a student-led initiative focused on sustainability and community beautification. She not only helped launch the group but also authored and presented their official proposal to district personnel. Her advocacy secured three paid summer internships for Green Thumbs members to gain hands-on experience working alongside the Chelsea Public Schools building and grounds crew.  
Angelina’s academic excellence has been recognized at the national level. She is a Strive Scholar, a recipient of the National Hispanic Recognition Award from the College Board, and earned the Seal of Bilitocracy with Distinction. She has also been featured in the Boston Globe, the Chelsea Record, and communications from the Office of the City Manager of Chelsea.  
An avid reader with an intuitive understanding of literature, one of her former English teachers once said Angelina always knows exactly the right book to recommend to each of her peers—a testament to her empathy and intellectual depth.  
Angelina’s journey is one of quiet excellence, resilience, and meaningful action. Her efforts have been rewarded with a full-ride scholarship to Harvard University, where she will undoubtedly continue to lead with grace, intellect, and purpose.  
**CLASS OF 2025 (CHS, COA, CVLA & OOD)**  
Colleges/Other Post-Secondary/Programs - Students have confirmed attending (35 total):  
Amherst College  
Assumption University  
Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology  
Bentley University  
Berklee School of Music  
Boston University  
Bunker Hill Community College  
College of the Holy Cross  
Emmanuel College  
Fisher College  
Hampshire College  
Harvard University  
Lincoln Technical Institute  
Loyola University in MD  
MA College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
Monroe Community College  
Mount Saint Mary’s University  
National Aviation Academy  
North Shore Community College  
Northeastern University  
Regis College  
Salem State University  
Simmons University  
Suffolk University  
Temple University  
The Peterson School  
Tufts University  
University of MA Amherst  
University of MA Boston  
University of MA Lowell  
Wentworth Institute Technology  
Wesleyan University  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Worcester State University  
YearUp  
Colleges/Other Post-Secondary/Programs - Students have applied to and/or are attending (189 total):  
Agnes Scott College  
Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
American International College  
American University  
Amherst College  
Arizona State University  
Assumption University  
Auburn University  
Augusta University  
Babson College  
Baker College  
Barnard College  
Bates College  
Bay Path University  
Bentley University  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Bowdoin College  
Bowling Green State University  
Brandeis University  
Bridgewater State University  
Brown University  
Bryant University  
Bunker Hill Community College  
Butler University  
California Institute of Technology (Caltech)  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Centre College  
Clark University  
Colby College  
Colgate University  
College of the Holy Cross  
Columbia College Chicago  
Columbia University  
Connecticut College  
Cornell College  
Cornell University  
Curry College  
Dartmouth College  
Dean College  
Duke Kunshan University  
Duke University  
Electronic - Common App  
Elms College  
Emerson College  
Emmanuel College (MA)  
Emory University  
Fisher College  
Fitchburg State University

Florida International University  
Rivier University  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Roger Williams University  
Rutgers University  
Sacred Heart University  
Salem College  
Salem State University  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
Simmons University  
Skidmore College  
Smith College  
Southern Connecticut State University  
Southern New Hampshire University  
Springfield College  
St. Olaf College  
St. Thomas University (FL)  
Stanford University  
Stonehill College  
Suffolk University  
SUNY Binghamton University  
SUNY Buffalo State  
SUNY College at Geneseo  
SUNY University at Buffalo  
Syracuse University  
Temple University  
The College of New Jersey  
The Juilliard School  
The University of Arizona  
Trinity College  
Truman State University  
Tufts University  
Union College  
University of Chicago  
University of Connecticut  
University of Dallas  
University of Florida  
University of Georgia  
University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy  
University of Houston  
University of Illinois Springfield  
University of Maine  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
University of Massachusetts Boston  
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth  
University of Massachusetts Lowell  
University of Miami  
University of Nevada  
University of New England  
University of New Hampshire  
University of New Haven  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of North Florida  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of San Francisco  
University of Southern California  
Utah State University  
Vanderbilt University  
Washington Adventist University  
Wellesley College  
Wentworth Institute of Technology  
Wesleyan University  
West Chester University of Pennsylvania  
Western New England University  
Westfield State University  
Wheaton College  
Whittier College  
Williams College  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Worcester State University  
Yale University

Design  
Rivier University  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Roger Williams University  
Rutgers University  
Sacred Heart University  
Salem College  
Salem State University  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
Simmons University  
Skidmore College  
Smith College  
Southern Connecticut State University  
Southern New Hampshire University  
Springfield College  
St. Olaf College  
St. Thomas University (FL)  
Stanford University  
Stonehill College  
Suffolk University  
SUNY Binghamton University  
SUNY Buffalo State  
SUNY College at Geneseo  
SUNY University at Buffalo  
Syracuse University  
Temple University  
The College of New Jersey  
The Juilliard School  
The University of Arizona  
Trinity College  
Truman State University  
Tufts University  
Union College  
University of Chicago  
University of Connecticut  
University of Dallas  
University of Florida  
University of Georgia  
University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy  
University of Houston  
University of Illinois Springfield  
University of Maine  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
University of Massachusetts Boston  
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth  
University of Massachusetts Lowell  
University of Miami  
University of Nevada  
University of New England  
University of New Hampshire  
University of New Haven  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of North Florida  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of San Francisco  
University of Southern California  
Utah State University  
Vanderbilt University  
Washington Adventist University  
Wellesley College  
Wentworth Institute of Technology  
Wesleyan University  
West Chester University of Pennsylvania  
Western New England University  
Westfield State University  
Wheaton College  
Whittier College  
Williams College  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Worcester State University  
Yale University

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University of Massachusetts Boston  
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth  
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University of New Haven  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
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Utah State University  
Vanderbilt University  
Washington Adventist University  
Wellesley College  
Wentworth Institute of Technology  
Wesleyan University  
West Chester University of Pennsylvania  
Western New England University  
Westfield State University  
Wheaton College  
Whittier College  
Williams College  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Worcester State University  
Yale University

Abeyta // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ly those impacted by deportation and the fear surrounding it. These are not just policy issues — these are people we know and love.  
May we, the Class of 2025, strive to change the world to be more understanding, more compassionate, and more just. May we help others see the humanity and hope in our immigrant community — and understand why so many of us have come here: in search of safety, opportunity, and a better future that includes education. As the daughter of a migrant worker, I was raised with a deep respect for hard work and was taught that education was the key to success. The dreams and perseverance of

my ancestors shaped my unwavering belief in the power of education. This is why I am standing before you as the proud superintendent of Chelsea Public Schools  
As you graduate and go into the next season of your life, may you remember to be proud of where you come from and remember who helped you along the way! And, be proud that you are from Chelsea and a graduate of Chelsea Public Schools.  
I wish you my heartfelt congratulations on your accomplishments and your graduation today! The world awaits you!  
Congratulations Class of 2025!



The attendees of the CHS Class of 2025 graduation.



CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION 2025



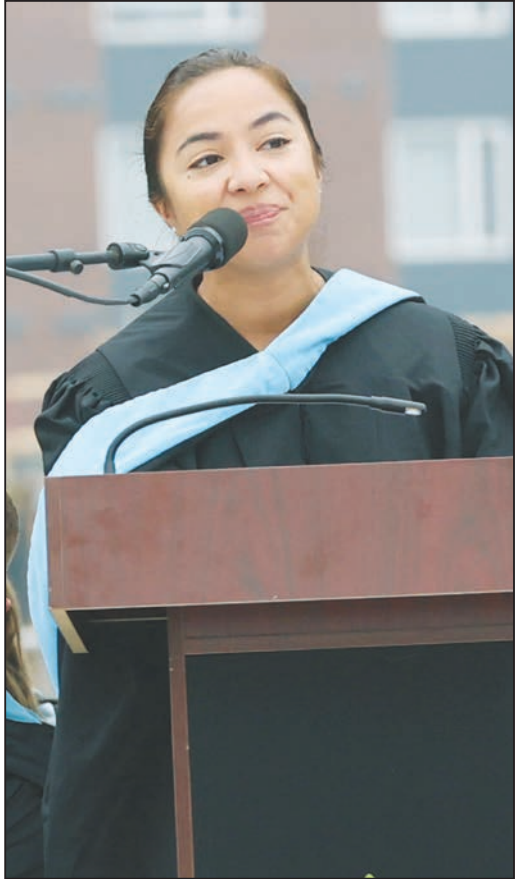
Kelly Garcia spoke for the Chelsea Council President Norieliz DeJesus.



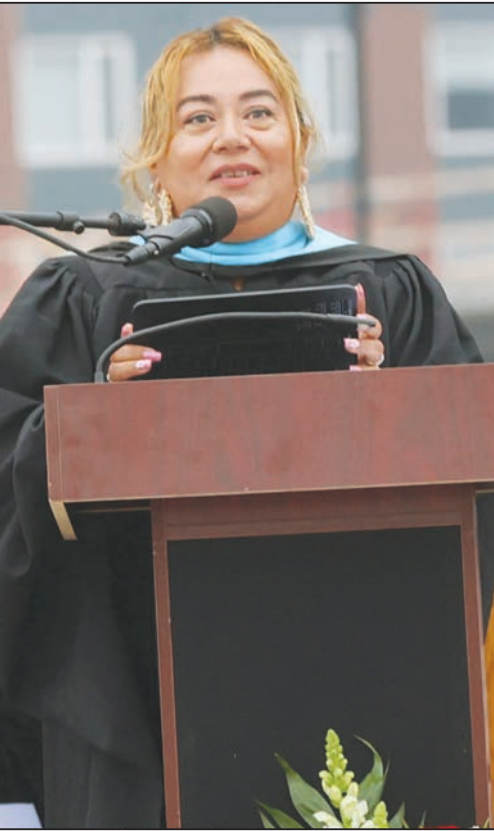
Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez with his remarks.



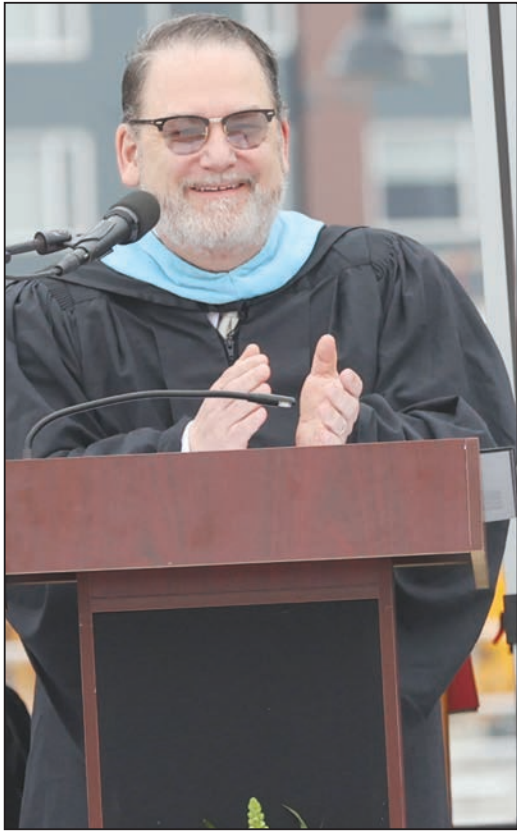
Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico congratulated the Class of 2025.



State Representative Judith Garcia with her remarks.



Chelsea School Committee member Ana Hernandez addresses the graduates.



Chelsea City Councillor Todd Taylor congratulated the Class of 2025.



Members of the Chelsea School Committee (L to R): Jonathan Gomez-Pereira, Mayra Balderas, Lucia Henriquez, Superintendent Dr. Almi G. Abeyta, Claryangeliz Covas Caraballo, Dr. Sarah Neville, Yessenia Alfaro.



CHS Junior Class President Allison Rivera Colindres with her address and congratulations.



Chelsea Public Schools Superintendent's Leadership Team (L to R): Officer of Innovation, Access and Opportunity Malik Howshan, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Tamara Blake-Canty, Assistant Superintendent Michelle Martinello, Superintendent Dr. Almi G. Abeyta, Chief of Staff and Wellness Dr. Aaron T. Jennings and Human Resources Director Christine Lee.



An aerial view of the Chelsea Public Schools Class of 2025 Commencement Ceremony, capturing all the graduates and attendees at the event.



CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION 2025

Chelsea Public Schools Hosts 2025 Early College Celebration

On a joyful evening at Chelsea High School, May 29, 2025, over 300 students, families, staff, and community members came together to celebrate the 2025 Early College Celebration. The event honored students who have taken college-level courses through the Early College program—a partnership between Chelsea High School and Bunker Hill Community College.

The celebration highlighted the growth of the program, which now offers 17 college courses across career pathways including healthcare, law, and education. Since its launch in

2018, the program has empowered students to earn college credits and explore their passions while still in high school.

The event was coordinated by the dedicated Early College team: Jackie Corbaci (Early College and Career Pathways Coordinator), Carolina Rojas-Piñon (BHCC Assistant Director of Dual Enrollment and Early College at CHS), Kristina Russo (Early College Lead Counselor), and Rosa Brito-Martins (Early College Support Specialist). Their leadership made the night a true success.

The evening featured

speeches from school and city leaders, including CHS Interim Principal Alan Beausoleil, Superintendent Dr. Almi G. Abeyta, Chelsea City Councillor Roberto Jimenez, and Steve Prudent (Director of High School Partnerships & Pathways at Bunker Hill Community College). Early College alumna Rosa Brito shared her inspiring journey and introduced standout student Gaby Canas-Constanza, who has completed 26 credits and been accepted to more than 10 colleges.

Former Chelsea City Manager Tom Ambrosino was recognized with the

Champion for Education Award for spearheading the City of Chelsea/BHCC Scholarship 10 years ago for Chelsea Public Schools' students.

After a shared dinner, the event culminated in a stole ceremony honoring students who completed 12 or more college credits—a symbol of their hard work and academic success.

The celebration reflected not just individual accomplishments, but the collective support of a community committed to educational equity and opportunity.



CPS Early College and Career Pathways Coordinator Jackie Corbaci and BHCC Assistant Director of Dual Enrollment and Early College at CHS Carolina Rojas-Piñon spoke at the event.



Students say with each other and with their families at the event.



The entire CHS Gymnasium was filled for the celebratory evening.



Superintendent Dr. Almi G. Abeyta presented the students with their stoles.



All in attendance were treated to a dinner served by Chelsea Public Schools and Bunker Hill Community College staff.



Former City Manager Tom Ambrosino pictured with Superintendent Dr. Almi G. Abeyta after receiving the Champion for Education Award.



CHS Interim Principal Alan Beausoleil speaking during the ceremony.



CHS student Gaby Canas-Constanza was recognized for completing a CHS-high 26 credits. She has been accepted to more than 15 colleges.



Students received Early College stoles that they can wear at Graduation.



An aerial view of the Chelsea Public Schools Class of 2025 Commencement Ceremony, capturing all the graduates and attendees at the event.







# Chelsea police arrest suspect in attempted arson incident

A man who has refused to identify himself is being held without bail in connection to an attempted arson incident last week.

At approximately 8 p.m. last Friday night, Chelsea police officers apprehended an adult male suspect following a brief foot pursuit that ended behind 151 Shawmut Street. The man was located by a Massachusetts State Police K9 unit while attempting to conceal himself inside a recycling barrel, according to Chelsea police.

Police officials stated that the arrest stemmed from an attempted arson incident. According to the victim, the suspect—who had been engaged in an ongoing dispute with a neighbor—allegedly ignited a mattress and placed it against the exterior of a residence at 156 Shawmut Street. The victim was able to remove the burning mattress before the fire could spread, preventing structural damage to the building, according to the police.

No injuries to officers or civilians were reported. The Chelsea Police Department is actively assisting the State Fire Marshal’s Office and the Chelsea Fire Department in the ongoing investigation. The suspect has refused to identify himself and is being held without bail by order of a Chelsea District Court Clerk.

The Chelsea Police Department urges anyone with information to contact them at (617) 466-4800 or provide an anonymous tip through their social media.

## CHS Roundup

### RAMIREZ-VILLATA WINS FIFTH-PLACE MEDAL AT MEET OF CHAMPIONS

Chelsea High star track & field performer Kiara Ramirez-Villata brought home a fifth-place medal in the shot-put at this past weekend’s MIAA Meet of Champions that was held at Fitchburg State University.

Kiara’s massive toss of 36’-4” set a new Chelsea High record and was almost

two feet further than her throw of 34’-5” the previous week that placed her in fifth-place at the Division 4 State Meet.

On the boys’ side, Red Devil Ariel Chacon-Aracena just missed the medal podium with a ninth-place effort with his throw of 53’-10.5”. Ariel won the Division 4 State Championship the week before with his toss of 55’-6.5”, which established a new CHS record.

# OBITUARIES

## Cathy Limoli Of Chelsea

Cathy Limoli of Chelsea entered into rest on June 7, 2025 at the age of 73. She was the daughter of the late Joseph and Grace (Deel) Limoli, beloved sister of Diane Limoli of Chelsea, Daniel Limoli of Wells, ME, and the late John Limoli. She also leaves her dear niece and nephew, Robin Limoli and JJ Limoli of Lynn as well as five grand nieces and grand nephews.



Funeral services will be held privately.

## Elizabeth Paradis April 22, 1940 - June 7, 2025

Elizabeth J. Paradis, known lovingly as Betty, passed away peacefully at the age of 85 on Saturday, June 7 at Whidden Hospital in Everett. She was the cherished daughter of the late Anthony F. and Genevieve A. (Sacherska) Szklar, and a lifelong resident of Chelsea before spending the last 23 years in Revere.



Betty was born on April 22, 1940, and was raised in a nurturing environment where her strong values formed. She attended St. Stanislaus Parochial School and graduated from Chelsea High School. In 1960, she married William H. Paradis, with whom she shared a joyful marriage and together raised a daughter and two sons. Betty’s deep devotion to her family was evident in her every action, providing them with love, support, and unwavering care throughout her life. Following the loss of her husband in 2000, she continued to embody resilience and strength.

With a passion for education, Betty dedicated over 16 years of her career as a teacher’s aide at the Williams School in Chelsea. In her retirement, she took great joy in assisting her granddaughter, Samantha, with love and guidance.

Betty’s commitment to her community was as profound as her dedication to her family. She served as a Cub Scout Den Mother for St. Stanislaus Cub Scout Pack 732, coached Chelsea Little League, and was involved with Everett Girl’s Softball. An avid reader, Betty often enjoyed finishing a book in a single day, and she found joy in playing Bingo during her leisure time.

In addition to her parents

and her husband, William, Betty was also predeceased by her son, William H. Paradis, II, and her brother, William Szklar. She leaves behind her devoted children and their spouses, Patrice Montefusco and her husband, Eric and Derek Paradis and his wife, Cassandra, all of Revere. Betty was also the cherished grandmother of Samantha Montefusco, Scott Montefusco, twins, Jason and Kyle Paradis and Aryanna Paradis.

Relatives and friends are invited to pay their respects during visiting hours for “Betty” at the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea, today, Thursday, June 12, from 4 to 8 p.m. Her funeral service will be conducted from the funeral home on Friday, June 13, at 10 a.m. and will be immediately followed by a Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church, 59 Nichols St., Chelsea, at 11 a.m. The services will conclude with her interment at Holy Cross Cemetery in Everett.

In honoring Betty’s legacy, the family welcomes expressions of sympathy and memorial contributions that reflect her spirit of kindness and community.

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



## Lillian Rachael Goldstein Beloved mother, grandmother, sister and friend

Lillian Rachael Goldstein, beloved mother, grandmother, sister and friend, passed away on May 30, 2025 at the age of 86.

Born in Chelsea, she was the daughter of Philip and Bessie Kaplan and the fourth of five children. She graduated from Chelsea High School, Class of 1956, as the class salutatorian. Lillian dedicated her life to her family and was always there with a story, a smile and a loving embrace. Expressing gratitude was very important for Lillian; she was always quick with a sincere “thank you” in appreciation for anything done on her behalf.



Lillian was intelligent, hardworking and excellent with numbers. Her first bookkeeping job after high school was at the Prattville Pharmacy and she retired after many years working for Insta-Care Pharmacy in their financial department. When her children were older, Lillian loved working at the Hamilton Elementary School as a teacher’s aide, helping children learn to read and write. She was a loyal sports fan and enjoyed rooting for the Red Sox and Patriots in her later years.

Lillian’s unwavering support and encouragement and focus on educational pursuits resulted in her two children attending four year colleges. She was so proud of Lisa and Todd (Lisa,

Wellesley ‘83 and Todd, Brandeis ‘86 and Babson MBA ‘91). Her grandchildren brought her great pride and joy and she loved visiting Salt Lake City. Lillian enjoyed speaking with them on the phone and hearing updates about their lives and adventures.

She was predeceased by her siblings and their spouses: Sylvia and Ben Moldoff, Herman and Marilyn Kaplan and Jean and David Elfman. She is survived by her loving children and their spouses: Lisa and David Kieda and Todd and Claudia Goldstein; her grandchildren: Daniel (Holly), Zachary and Benjamin Kieda and Matthew Lawson; her brother and sister-in-law Sid and Judy Kaplan.

Her funeral took place on June 4th at the Farband Cemetery in Danvers. The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at the Winchester Nursing Home for their care and support.



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All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$195.00 per paper. Includes photo.No word Limit. Please send to [obits@reverejournal.com](mailto:obits@reverejournal.com) or call 781-485-0588



CHELSEA DISTRICT COURT HOLDS RECOVERY COURT GRADUATION CEREMONY

Chelsea District Court’s Chelsea Recovery Court Graduation Ceremony was held May 20 at the Court-house.

First Assistant Clerk Magistrate Edward F. O’Neil III was the master of ceremonies.

The Honorable Justice Matthew J. Machera delivered the official welcoming remarks.

Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Kimberly Budd congratulated the graduates on their completion of the Chelsea-based program that has become a state-wide model of excellence

in helping individuals with substance abuse disorders through judicial supervision.

Assistant Chief Probation Officer Janelle Reppucci also proudly offered congratulatory remarks to the graduates.

WCVB TV Channel Five’s highly respected reporter Ted Wayman was the guest speaker. Wayman spoke about his personal battle in overcoming addiction earlier in his life.

Justice Matthew J. Machera and Probation Office Leah Holland presented certificates to the graduates.



Chelsea Recovery Court graduate Daniel Joseph Hurley and District Court Chief Justice Stacey Fortes.



WCVB Channel 5 news reporter Ted Wayman, who was the guest speaker, and State Rep. Jeff Turco.



AngelMarie DiNunzio and Stacey Fortes to.



The Honorable Justice Matthew J. Machera presents a Chelsea District Court Recovery Court graduation certificate to Daniel Joseph Hurley.



Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts Kimberly Budd, Chief Justice of the Trial Court Heidi Brieger, Clerk Magistrate Kevin Murphy, and Trial Court Administrator Thomas Ambrosino.



City Manager Fidel Maltez, Chief Justice Kimberly Budd, Trial Court Administrator Thomas Ambrosino, and State Rep. Jeff Turco.



Assistant Clerk Magistrate James Dwyer, Assistant Clerk Magistrate Karen Dever, Assistant Clerk Magistrate Carmine DiRuzza, Chief Justice Kimberly Budd, and First Assistant Clerk Magistrate Edward F. O’Neil III.



Probation Officer Leah Holland (left) and Chelsea District Court First Justice Matthew J. Machera (right) congratulate graduates Joseph Edward Mahoney Jr. and Daniel Joseph Hurley on their successful completion of the Chelsea Recovery Court program.



Assistant Chief Probation Officer Janelle Reppucci, Assistant Suffolk County District Attorney Amelia Singh, and Chief Probation Officer Jessica Iovanna.

Orange Line service suspended June 21 to 29

Special to the Record

Between North Station and Forest Hills on Week-ends, Between Back Bay and Forest Hills on Week-days

This notice serves as a reminder of the upcoming Orange Line closure previously announced on May 20.

The MBTA is today reminding riders that Orange Line service will be suspended between North Station and Forest Hills on weekends and between Back Bay and Forest Hills on weekdays all day, every day, for nine days, June 21 to 29.

Riders can find complete information at [mbta.com/OrangeLine](http://mbta.com/OrangeLine). More information on these service changes and alternate travel options is below:

During the weekends of

June 21 – 22 and June 28 – 29, service will be suspended between North Station and Forest Hills:

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Forest Hills and Back Bay as well as Copley on the Green Line for parallel service through downtown to North Station.

The Green Line C Branch will also be extended to serve North Station during this time period.

An accessible van will directly serve stations between North Station and Back Bay as well as Copley on the Green Line. Riders should see onsite personnel to request this van service.

On weekdays, June 23 – 27, service will be suspended between Back Bay and Forest Hills:

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops

between Back Bay and Forest Hills.

The Commuter Rail will be fare-free between Forest Hills, Ruggles, Back Bay, and South Station during this service outage. Riders should note that regular fares should be purchased beyond Forest Hills.

Travel time between Forest Hills and Back Bay on the Franklin/Foxboro and Needham Commuter Rail Lines is approximately nine minutes. Trains operate approximately every 30 minutes during the weekday peak periods. Schedules are available at [mbta.com](http://mbta.com).

Bus Route 39 will be fare-free and additional service will be provided.

Riders using shuttle buses should budget ample extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to Downtown Crossing from For-

est Hills should budget an additional 30 – 45 minutes of travel time in addition to their regular commute.

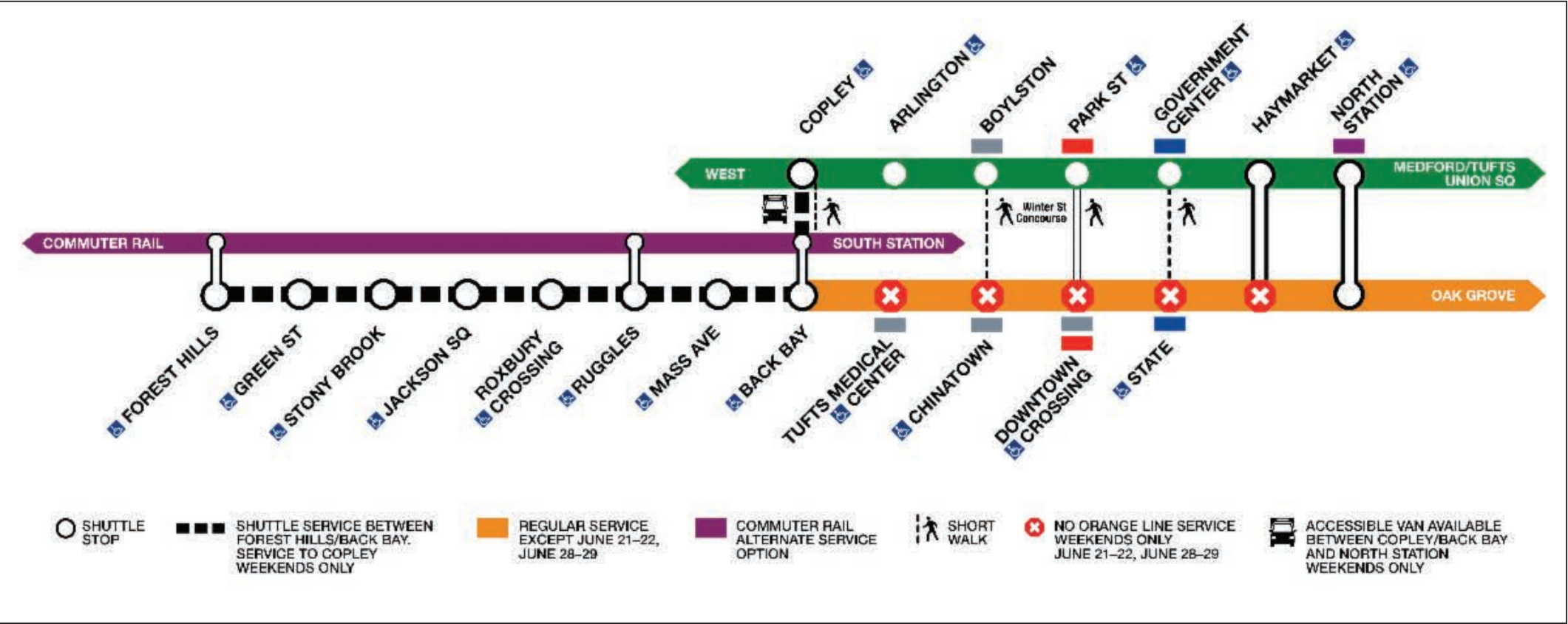
This service change is in place to accomplish signal upgrade work on the Orange Line. By upgrading its signals, the MBTA expects to significantly increase operational efficiency and improve scheduling reliability for all riders.

More information is also available through in-station signage and public announcements. Transit Ambassadors and MBTA staff will be available on-site to offer information and assistance during these service changes. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA on X @MBTA for up-to-date service information.

For more information, please visit [mbta.com/OrangeLine](http://mbta.com/OrangeLine) or connect with the T on X @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) opened America’s first subway tunnel in 1897, pioneering public transportation in the United States. Today, the MBTA is one of the largest public transit systems in the country, operating an extensive network of subway, bus, Commuter Rail, ferry, and paratransit services across 176 cities and towns. The MBTA is undergoing a transformative period, focusing on cultivating a culture of safety and excellence, modernizing infrastructure, and improving reliability and accessibility. Current priorities include accelerating critical infra-

structure repairs, expanding accessibility, and reducing emissions. The MBTA is committed to providing dependable, frequent, and accessible service that riders can rely on while supporting the region’s economic vitality. Through initiatives like the unprecedented Track Improvement Program, Bus Network Redesign, and Rail Vision, the MBTA aims to connect communities and improve riders’ daily experiences and trips. For questions or assistance, riders are encouraged to contact the MBTA Customer Center at 617-222-3200. Members of the press are encouraged to contact [mediarelations@mbta.com](mailto:mediarelations@mbta.com). For the latest updates on MBTA services, projects, and initiatives, visit [MBTA.com](http://MBTA.com) or follow @MBTA on social media.





# Family Legacy

## A proud son, John Nicewicz, remembers his beloved mother, Alice Nicewicz

By Cary Shuman

John Nicewicz and his siblings are fondly remembering their mother, the late Alice Francis (Day) Nicewicz, who passed away recently at the age of 98.

Mrs. Nicewicz and her husband, Frank Nicewicz, shared 32 years of marriage before Mr. Nicewicz’s passing in 1986.

“My father’s cousins had a band, the John Nicewicz and Sons Orchestra, that used to perform at the Polish Political Club (PPC) on lower Broadway, and my parents would go there to listen to music and dance. That’s where they first met,” said John. “My dad was Polish, and my mother was Irish and English. They were married in September, 1952.”

The Nicewicz family lived on Tudor Street and later on Guam Road in Prattville. In her senior years, Mrs. Nicewicz lived for a dozen years on Admirals

Hill.

“My brother, Bob, lived in a condo on Admirals Hill and he got to see my mother a lot,” said John appreciatively.

Mrs. Nicewicz worked as a home health aide at Intercity Homemakers. Mr. Nicewicz worked as a supervisor at Murdoch Corp., a Chelsea-based electronics company. Following his career at Murdoch, Mr. Nicewicz worked at the Chelsea Soldiers Home.

**A large, close-knit family**

Alice and Frank Nicewicz had four children, Jean, John, Richard, and Robert. There are four grandchildren, Jason and Christian Nicewicz, and Jerry Swankowski Jr. and Crystal Swankowski, and four great-grandchildren.

“My sister and I went to Our Lady of Grace School,” recalled John. “My two younger brothers attended Chelsea public schools.”

John recalled some fun-filled days at Voke Park and

“the Guam Road projects.” He played baseball in the Chelsea Little League and Chelsea Pony League, later excelling as a member of the Northeast Regional High School team, graduating in 1978.

“I played on the same Orioles team with Mike Lush, Jerry Dion, Bob Ham, and some other great ones in the Pony League,” said John Nicewicz, who worked at Summit Press in Chelsea. “I played in a couple of All-Star games myself.”

Most importantly, as John reflects on his excellent baseball career, he says respectfully, “My parents came to all my games – every single one of them. They brought their lawn chairs. I also played Chelsea Youth Hockey from Pee Wees to Bantams. My brothers played Little League Baseball.”

In a jestful note about his high school years, John said, “I used to drive my parents car around the park-



Alice Nicewicz, family matriarch (holding Tessa Punyawai), with members of the Nicewicz family that loved and respected her so much, Jerry Swankowski Jr., Crystal Swankowski, John Nicewicz (holding Trinity Punyawai), Jerry Swankowski, Jean Swankowski, and Richard Nicewicz.

## Project Bread welcomes Michele Caroll as COO

Special to the Record

A passionate advocate for equity and systems change, Michele Caroll steps into the role of Chief Operating Officer at Project Bread, bringing over 20 years of experience across corporate leadership, nonprofit innovation, and community empowerment. From leading startups to mentoring future leaders, Caroll has built a career focused on impact—and now joins Massachusetts’ leading statewide food security organization to help drive bold, lasting solutions to hunger.

“My commitment to this work is grounded in both personal values and lived experience,” says Caroll. “I was raised in a family where food was not just nourishment, but a way of life—my grandparents were farmers in Arkansas, and every summer I spent time learning about the food system firsthand. Today, my mother continues that legacy by running a church food pantry, where I’ve gotten to see my own children help pack and distribute meals. I’ve seen how access to food builds dignity and opportunity, and I’m proud to now be part of an organization making that possible for every family in Massachusetts.”

As COO, Caroll will lead cross-functional strategy and support infrastructure development to ensure the organization remains



COURTNEY PHOTO

Michele Caroll.

effective, inclusive, and nimble as it scales its impact. Before joining Project Bread, she held leadership roles at Duet and The Partnership, Inc., where she built systems, coached emerging leaders, and fostered inclusive workplace cultures. Earlier in her career, she spent a decade at Procter & Gamble, where she developed foundational expertise in sales, coaching, and mentorship.

“Michele brings a powerful combination of heart and systems-thinking to Project Bread,” says Erin McAleer, President and CEO. “She’s joining us at a time when our mission has never been more urgent, as we fight against federal attacks on critical nutrition programs and seek to uphold the autonomy of every Massachusetts resident. With her passion for equity, her operational insight, and her deep respect for the communities we serve, I know Michele will be instrumental in help-

ing us end hunger for good in Massachusetts.”

A graduate of Howard University with a degree in Communications, and Simmons University with a master’s in Communications Management, Caroll is a proud third-generation college graduate and lifelong advocate for community empowerment. Outside of work, she serves on the board of the Alray Scholars Program, mentors emerging professionals, and enjoys spending time with her family—often driving between youth activities for her two children, catching movies with her husband, and traveling.

“Hunger is not just about food—it’s about access, equity, and opportunity,” says Caroll. “When we remove the barrier of food insecurity, we unlock people’s potential in every part of their lives. That’s the kind of impact I want to help lead at Project Bread—practical, measurable, and deeply human.”

People experiencing food insecurity should call Project Bread’s FoodSource Hotline (1-800-645-8333), which provides confidential, free assistance getting connected to a variety of food resources in 180 languages and for the hearing impaired. Counselors can pre-screen families and help them to apply for SNAP. Learn more at [www.projectbread.org/get-help](http://www.projectbread.org/get-help).

About Project Br

ing lot. I did take eventually take driver’s education.”

**Family trips to New Hampshire**

Among John’s favorite childhood memories was taking summer trips with the family each year to Angle Pond in New Hampshire.

“We would rent a place for a week, and we would visit on weekends,” said John. “We had some great times.”

Alice and Frank Nicewicz enjoyed each other’s company, relishing their time together at social events and family gatherings.

“When we got older, my parents, who loved to dance, used to go to the American Legion Post in Everett on

Friday nights,” said John. “My parents also bowled at Granada Lanes in Malden and in the PPC Bowling League.”

John said his mother often visited her grandchildren and great-grandchildren in Florida.

“She loved the grandkids and great-grandkids dearly,” said John. “She also visited her sister in California, and then they would travel to Hawaii.”

“And she loved the Bruins – she was a big sports fan,” said John, a former season ticketholder. “And she loved my dog, Hazel, a Goldendoodle. We would visit my mother all the time.”

**A full and meaningful life**

John Nicewicz, who was

born in 1960, said his mother enjoyed a rich and fulfilling life as the matriarch of the prominent Chelsea family.

“She was 98, and she was really looking forward to turning 100,” said John. “If you asked her how old she was, she would say, ‘I’m almost 100.’”

Chelsea has lost a lifelong resident and a beautiful connection to its historic past. “She loved this city,” said John.

John Nicewicz said there will be a celebration of his mother, Alice Nicewicz’s life, this summer.

“We have so many good memories and good times as a family that we’ll cherish forever,” said John.

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Shairani, Khan B	Merson, Joshua	4 Ferry St #4	\$639,000
Batres, Kleelia S	Reyes, Enrique	521 Washington Ave	\$631,000
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Shown in this photo are the Sokolowski Girls on the Run team and running buddies at our end of season 5K at the Boston Common. The 5K is a culmination of our 8 week season. Throughout our season we focus on running and finding a happy pace to promote health and wellness. At each practice we teach lessons that give girls the tools to build confidence, connection and community. Each of the 4 elementary schools had a team of about 30 girls who participated in the program. Congratulations to all the girls who participated in this wonderful program!

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# Join the Cast: Apollinaire’s Youth Performance Project!

Apollinaire Play Lab invites young performers to join their Performance Project, a dynamic theatre program that runs from July 14 to September 21, culminating in performances of It’s Elementary, directed by Audrey Johnson, at Apollinaire’s Festival\* in September.

### For Ages 6–9

Does your child love to perform, play pretend, or take center stage? This track is tailored for our youngest performers, offering fun, supportive rehearsals twice a week. Participants will work together to bring It’s Elementary to life and will take the stage at the Festival\* in September.

### For Ages 10–14

Calling all aspiring actors! Youth in this age group will audition to take part in the program, which focuses on actor training, character

development, and ensemble performance. Rehearsals are held twice weekly, led by experienced theatre professionals. Participants will perform more challenging pieces from the It’s Elementary collection at Apollinaire’s Festival\* in September.

### \*About the Festival

To celebrate its 30th anniversary, Apollinaire is launching a Festival and Open House on September 20 and 21. The Chelsea Theatre Works building and Chelsea Square will feature free performances, workshops, art exhibitions, youth and bilingual activities, an Escape Room, and local food and craft vendors. Some highlights of the event include youth performances of It’s Elementary, as well as a special original play created and performed (within just 48 hours!) by

Apollinaire actors from the past three decades.

### Details & Registration:

- Program Dates: July 14–September 21
  - Rehearsals: Twice a week in the evening (schedules vary by age group)
  - Location: Riseman Family Theatre at the Chelsea Theatre Works, 1897 Winnisimmet St., Chelsea, MA
  - Scholarships, payment plans, sibling rates, and Card to Culture discounts available
  - Auditions for ages 10–14: June 14 and June 28, or by video
  - Registration required. Space is limited.
- For full program details and registration, visit [www.apollinaireplaylab.com](http://www.apollinaireplaylab.com)

Don’t miss this chance to shine on stage and be part of the Festival!



Some of the children involved with the Apollinaire Play Lab.

## Four tips for preventing dog attacks on mail carriers

Can you picture a member of your family attacking a mail carrier? Of course not, but it happened over 6,000 times last year across the nation.

“I was bit by a dog on my leg recently and my mail satchel helped protect me,” said Francisco Juarez, a letter carrier who delivers in Houston, TX. “The sound of a dog barking while on my route puts me on high alert and I try to be ready to protect myself.”

Juarez recognizes the importance of the safety training he’s received as a letter carrier to help protect himself from dog attacks while delivering the mail. Even though he diligently follows dog bite safety protocols while on his route, he was still attacked by a dog.

When a dog attacks a letter carrier, the dog owner could be held liable for all medical expenses, repayment of lost work hours, replacement of the uniform and other costs, which can run into thousands of dollars. The Postal Service makes the safety of its employees a top priority and dedicates time each year on Dog Bite Awareness.

Here are four simple tips to prevent dog bite injuries

year-round:

**Door Delivery:** If a carrier delivers mail or packages to your front door, place your dog in a separate room and close that door before opening the front door. Some dogs push through screen doors or plate-glass windows to attack visitors. Dog owners must keep the family pet secured. Never let your child take mail directly from carriers in the presence of the family pet, as the dog may see this as a threatening gesture.

**Restrain Your Dog:** Carriers may assume that if they see no physical fence around a property that the property is animal-free. This can be a dangerous mistake. Postal Service officials request that you keep your dog restrained or inside when the mail is delivered. Although the electronic fence may keep your dog from wandering, it does not protect your carrier, who must enter your property to deliver the mail. Even homes with curbside mailboxes may have oversized packages or signature-needed items that require the carrier to approach a doorstep and cross the boundaries of the electronic fence. This poses a serious risk to car-

rier safety.

**Dog in the Yard:** Make sure your dog is properly restrained on a leash and away from where your mail carrier delivers the mail. If the carrier deems a residence unsafe because of an unrestrained dog, mail delivery service can be interrupted. When service is interrupted at an address or in a neighborhood, all parties involved will have to pick up mail at their local Post Office. Service will be restored once assurance has been given that the animal will be confined during regular delivery hours.

**Tracking:** Dog owners who have access to postal notification features, such as Informed Delivery ([informeddelivery.usps.com](http://informeddelivery.usps.com)) for letter mail and package tracking, are urged to use these features to determine when the carrier is on their way and to ensure their dog has been properly restrained. Expecting a postal package delivery on Sunday? Postal officials urge dog owners to restrain their animals on Sundays as well, since more residences now receive deliveries throughout the weekend.

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