

Multi-Chamber Legislative Breakfast held at Anthony's

Special to the Independent

The Chambers of Commerce of Revere, Everett, Chelsea, Malden, Medford and Melrose hosted the Multi-Chamber Legislative Breakfast May 21 at Anthony's, Malden.

Dennis Cataldo, president and CEO of Cataldo Ambulance, was the master of ceremonies.

Malden Mayor Gary Christenson brought the greetings of the city. Christenson thanked Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, the program's guest speaker, for "the positive impact that she has had on our city."

Christenson told the large gathering, "Thank you everyone for being here and being a part of what makes our cities and towns great places to live, work, and grow."

Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria led a delegation of area city's chief executives including Revere Mayor Parick Keefe, Medford Mayor Breanna Lungo-Kohen,

and Melrose Mayor Jennifer Grigoraitis. Also recognized was Chelsea Councilor-at-Large Leo Robinson, the longest-serving councilor in that city.

Rep. Joseph McGonagle and Sen. Jason Lewis delivered remarks on behalf of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and State Senate respectively.

Rep. Monagle lauded the organizers of the breakfast. "What a great crowd here today," said Monagle. "Thank you to the Chamber for another successful breakfast event."

Monagle praised Lt. Gov. Driscoll, stating that "her presence here this morning reassures the Administration's support of the businesses in the Commonwealth."

Monagle said that "small businesses are the driving force of our economy."

Sen. Lewis had the honor of introducing Lt. Gov. Driscoll, "the 73rd lieutenant governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

Driscoll, who served commendably as the mayor of Salem for 17 years prior to being elected lieutenant governor, was credited by Lewis for "spearheading several of the Administration's priorities and initiatives including being a key proponent for the economic development of Massachusetts cities and towns and helping to address our housing affordability crisis."

Driscoll delivered an outstanding address highlighting the pro-business efforts by the Healey-Driscoll Administration and their ongoing quest to create more affordable housing options for residents of the Commonwealth.

"We passed the largest investment in housing in the state's history, a \$5.2 billion bond bill that also had 49 policy shifts with it," said Driscoll. "All of this region, frankly, are really good examples of the positives that come from growth. When you develop housing, you actually have more vibrant

downtowns supporting your local coffee shops and local businesses. Density can be your friend if it's placed in the right way and done well."

Driscoll said "the statewide housing plan that we worked on has demonstrated that we are 220,000 units short of the housing that we're going to need through 2030."

Following her remarks, Driscoll took questions from the audience. There's no doubt that Driscoll was a big hit with the large audience and she certainly enhanced her reputation as a valuable teammate to Gov. Healey in the Administration (Interestingly, both Healey (Harvard) and Driscoll (Salem State) were college basketball stars, with Driscoll being a part of Salem State's 1986 NCAA Division III national championship team that finished with a 29-1 record.

The popularity and success of the multi-chamber legislative breakfast has generated thoughts, notably by Revere's esteemed Chamber Executive Director Erica Porzio, of building a regional Chamber of Commerce organization, similar to the Greater Lynn, Greater Beverly, and North Shore Chambers of Commerce that currently operate in the area. The North Shore Latino Business Association also has a strong regional presence.



Mayor Patrick Keefe, Chelsea Chief of Health and Human Services Tracy Nowicki, and Supt. of Everett Schools William Hart.



Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell, Master of Ceremonies Dennis Cataldo, and Everett Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Cheryl Smith.



Everett Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Cheryl Smith, School Committee Chairperson Samantha Hurley, Supt. of Schools William Hart, Director of Human Resources Elaine Monge, Asst. Supt. of Schools Dr. Margaret Adams, and School Committee Member Robin Babcock.



Among those pictured are Everett Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Cheryl Smith, Assistant Director Linda Maloney, Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell, and Revere Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Erica Porzio.



Cataldo Ambulance President and CEO Dennis Cataldo (second from right) leads a large delegation of Cataldo personnel at the Multi-Chamber Legislative Breakfast.

Chelsea Summer Food Service Breakfast & Lunch Program Enrolled Sites and Camps

The Chelsea Public Schools is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all eligible children free of charge. (To be eligible to receive free meals at a residential or non-residential camp, children must meet the income guidelines for reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program. The income guidelines for reduced-price meals by family size are listed on the next page.) Children who are part of households that receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly foods stamps) benefits, or benefits under the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) are automatically eligible to receive free meals. Acceptance and participation requirements for the Program and all activities are the same for all regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be

provided at the sites and times as follows:
Salvation Army
258 Chestnut St
June 30- August 15
8:00- 8:45 Breakfast
Closed to the Public
11:30- 12:30 Lunch
In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through

the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Income Eligibility Guidelines

These are the income scales used by the United States Department of Agriculture to determine eligibility for reimbursement in the Summer Food Service Program

Effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

# of Household Members	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	23,606	1,968	454
2	31,894	2,658	614
3	40,182	3,349	773
4	48,470	4,040	933
5	56,758	4,730	1,092
6	65,046	5,421	1,251
7	73,334	6,112	1,411
8	81,622	6,802	1,570
For Each Additional person, ADD	+8,288	+691	+160

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Daminelli, Dawson	Kambouris, Michael P	100 Boatswains Way #406	\$500,000
Mcgoff, Thomas C	Richard A Wilburn Lt	100 Boatswains Way #510	\$566,000
Cvd Realty LLC	122 Warren Vg LLC	122 Warren Ave	\$1,115,000
Landaverde, Eduardo	Colon, Justillano	124 Bloomingdale St	\$620,000
Cote, John P	Lee, Aidan	165 Cottage St #213	\$373,000
Yan, Tang J	Perez, Andres	25 Bloomingdale St	\$1,080,000



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CHELSEA RECREATION HOLDS ANNUAL BIKE RODEO

CARY SHUMAN PHOTO



Rain did not stop Chelsea Recreation's annual spring Bike Rodeo held in partnership with Mass Safe Routes to School. Families came together for a day of bike safety education, community connection and free bike and helmet giveaways. Chelsea Recreation's next big event is: Meet the Machines to be held on Tuesday, July 1 from 5-8pm at the Mary C Burke Complex, 300 Crescent Ave. Families are invited to climb, touch, and explore all kinds of big trucks, vehicles and equipment! A sensory friendly period is from 5-5:45pm when agencies will refrain from using horns, sirens, and lights! Don't miss it! For more information or to register, visit www.recreation.chelseama.gov or call 617-466-5233.

CHA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

provements to the site and the surrounding area, from new water pipes to improved roads and traffic configurations. He noted that the pipes currently running under the parcel are more than a century old.

The CHA units will be identical to any of the market-rate residential units, a process that was also taken at the Innes Development.

Nowicki noted that without having a private development partner onboard for the project, it would be impossible to fund the redevelopment for the CHA residents.

While the CHA goes above and beyond to care for the units and make repairs as needed, Nowicki said the CHA and the city would not be able to fund the kind of new units the residents will

be getting on their own.

Corcoran, Mary Davis, and Sean McReynolds of the John M. Corcoran Company all noted that while the Innes Development project has been a success, they have committed their companies to beginning the outreach process sooner for the Fitzpatrick and Prattville project in order to address any concerns from the residents and the community.

“This is an incredible opportunity because we don’t have many locations like this in Chelsea where a big area has the ability to absorb more density, and we are able to kind of shape what a neighborhood looks like,” said Maltez. “We are also really excited about the potential of this project bringing in a lot of infrastructure money.”

During his time as the public works commissioner, Maltez said the department responded to a lot of water main breaks in the area, and he added that the sidewalks and other infrastructure in the area are not in the best shape.

“Without any development there, we would have to fund it ourselves,” said Maltez. “By leveraging this development, we are going to tap into state programs, into state grants like MassWorks and HousingWorks in order to leverage this development to improve the infrastructure of the overall neighborhood. We all win by doing that.”

Like the development and CHA partners, Maltez said public outreach is going to play a big part in making the project a success.



ADAM SWIFT PHOTO

CHA Executive Director Paul Nowicki, Sean McReynolds of the John M. Corcoran Company, City Manager Fidel Maltez, Jennifer Corcoran of the Joseph J. Corcoran Company, Mary Davis of the John J. Corcoran Company, and Matt Frank, director of operations at the CHA, on the site of the CHA properties that the Corcoran companies will be redeveloping along with the CHA.

“We learned a lot with the project on Central Avenue; we know that it is very important to meet with the residents to ensure that their voices are centered in the development, to reassure them,” said Maltez. “In the early stages of Central Ave., a lot of residents had this mistrust about whether the project was going to happen, whether the project was going to result in better homes. Now, they are back in the property, they see how beautiful the project is; so we know we have to do a lot of trust building with the residents.”

Chelsea Summer Food Service Breakfast & Lunch Program
Open Sites 2025

Chelsea Public Schools is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination during the meal service. Meals will be provided at a first come, first serve basis, and must be consumed on site, times as follows:

Mary C. Burke Complex
300 Crescent Ave
June 30 - August 15
Breakfast 7:30-9:00,
Lunch 11:15-12:45PM

Early Learning Center
99 Hawthorne St
June 30 - August 8
Breakfast 7:30-9:00, Lunch 11:30-12:30PM

Clark School
8 Clark Ave
June 30 – July 24
Breakfast 7:30-8:30, Lunch 11:30-12:30PM
(Closed Fridays)

Chelsea High School
299 Everett Ave
June 30 – July 24

Breakfast 7:30-9:00, Lunch 11:00– 12:30PM
(Closed Fridays)

Voke Park
Washington Ave
June 30 -August 15
Breakfast 8:30-9:30,
Lunch 11:45-12:45PM

Mace Development
449 Crescent Ave
June 30 – August 15
Breakfast 8:00-8:30, Lunch 11:30-12:00PM

Prattville Apts
Exeter & Burma Rd
June 30 – August 15
Breakfast 8:15-8:45, Lunch 11:45-12:15PM

Bellingham Hill Park
115 Bellingham St
June 30 – August 15
Breakfast 8:30-9:00,
Lunch 12:00-12:30PM

Bossom Park
40 Bellingham St
June 30 – August 15
Breakfast 8:15-9:15, Lunch 11:30-12:30PM

Quigley Park
25 Essex St

June 30 – August 15
Breakfast 9:00-9:30, Lunch 12:30-1:00PM

Chelsea Library
569 Broadway
June 30 – August 15
Lunch 11:30-1:00 PM

Kayem Park
Chestnut Ave & 5th St
June 30 – August 15
Lunch 11:00- 12:30 PM

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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Programa de Desayuno y Almuerzo del Servicio de Alimentos de Verano de Chelsea Sitios abiertos 2025

Las Escuelas Públicas de Chelsea están participando en el Programa de Servicio de Alimentos de Verano. Los alimentos se entregarán a todos los niños de forma gratuita y son las mismas para todos los niños independientemente de su raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad o discapacidad, no habrá discriminación durante el servicio de alimentos. Los alimentos se entregarán por orden de llegada y deben consumirse en el sitio, en horarios de la siguiente manera:

Mary C. Burke Complex
300 Crescent Ave
30 de junio – 15 de agosto
Desayuno 7:30-9:00, Almuerzo 11:15-12:45PM

Early Learning Center
99 Hawthorne St
30 de junio – 8 de agosto
Desayuno 7:30-9:00, Almuerzo 11:00-12:30PM

Clark School
8 Clark Ave
30 de junio – 24 de julio

Desayuno 7:30-8:30, Almuerzo 11:30-12:30PM
(Closed Fridays)

Chelsea High School
299 Everett Ave
30 de junio- 24 de julio
Desayuno 7:30- 9:00, Almuerzo 11:00- 12:30PM
(Closed Fridays)

Voke Park
Washington Ave
30 de junio – 15 de agosto
Desayuno 8:30-9:30, Almuerzo 11:45-12:45PM

Mace Development
449 Crescent Ave
30 de junio – 15 de agosto
Desayuno 9:00-9:30, Almuerzo 12:30-1:00PM

Prattville Apts.
Exeter & Burma Rd
30 de junio – 15 de agosto
Desayuno 8:15-8:45, Almuerzo 11:45-12:15PM

Bossom Park
40 Bellingham St
30 de junio – 15 de agosto
Desayuno 8:15-9:15, Almuerzo 11:30-12:30PM

Bellingham Hill Park
115 Bellingham St

30 de junio – 15 de agosto
Desayuno 8:30-9:00, Almuerzo 12:00-12:30PM

Quigley Park
25 Essex St
30 de junio – 15 de agosto
Desayuno 9:00-9:30, Almuerzo 12:30-1:00PM

Chelsea Library
569 Broadway
30 de junio – 15 de agosto
Almuerzo 11:30-1:00 PM

Kayem Park
Chestnut Ave & 5th St
30 de junio – 15 de agosto
Almuerzo 11:00- 12:30 PM

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information

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(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
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(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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Chelsea

RECORD

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley
EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

ISRAEL HAS NO CHOICE

Israel’s decision to eliminate Iran’s nuclear and ballistic missile facilities not only comes as no surprise, but should be welcomed by everyone who understands that the only threats to world peace come from the authoritarian rulers of the Axis of Evil of Iran, Russia, and China.

Ever since Iran became a theocratic state 46 years ago, its leaders have been committed to one thing -- the elimination of the State of Israel. The Iranian regime even has installed a “doomsday clock” in Tehran’s public square to count down to the year 2040, which the regime has set as the date for the destruction of Israel.

Iran throughout the past four decades has funded terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis, and, until his downfall, the murderous regime of former Syrian dictator Bashir al Assad, all with the aim of wreaking havoc and terror throughout the Middle East, which culminated in the horrific attack on Israel on 10/7/23.

Iran also has been supplying drones and armaments to Russia to assist with its invasion of Ukraine, clearly demonstrating that it is part of the 21st century Axis that seeks to destabilize the Western democracies.

As for their own country, the Iranian rulers have tortured and murdered their own people since they came to power in 1979.

But as awful as Iran has been over the past 40 years, can one even imagine how much worse its leaders will act if they were to obtain a nuclear weapon?

The world has witnessed first-hand what a nuclear-armed dictator is capable of during the past few years with the tragic war in Ukraine. Vladimir Putin never would have dared invade Ukraine if he didn’t have nuclear weapons, using them as a threat to intimidate the rest of the world into providing only marginal help to the Ukrainians, whose civilians are being bombarded mercilessly by Putin.

Is there any doubt that Iran would act the same way if it were to have nuclear weapons at its disposal?

By taking on Iran by itself, the Israelis, like the Ukrainians, are fighting for Western civilization as we know it. They are the ones defending Western democracy against the forces of totalitarianism -- they are on the front lines, taking the hits to their civilian populations.

The bottom line is that we cannot bury our heads in the sand any longer. As the International Atomic Energy Agency made clear this past week, Iran undeniably is in the process of making a nuclear weapon, the effect of which will pose a threat to Western democracies.

Iran has said loud and clear it wants to wipe Israel off the face of the map — and the time has come to take that threat seriously.

NEAR THE WATER? WATCH YOUR CHILDREN!

With school out and summer vacation season upon us, we wish to remind our readers of the need to exercise extreme vigilance whenever they are near the water, whether at a pool, a lake, or the ocean, with young children.

Approximately 4500 Americans die from drowning each and every year. To put that into perspective, that figure is about 50 percent greater than the total number of victims who died on 9/11.

An even more surprising -- and sadder -- statistic is that drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 1-4.

What is stunning to us about that statistic is that we cannot imagine that whenever a parent is with a small child near the water -- whether it be the bathtub in their home or at the beach -- the parent is not watching over their child like a hawk without even a second’s worth of distraction (including texting on a cell phone).

Young children are especially susceptible to drowning because of their small lung capacity, which means that once they silently slip under, their tiny lungs can fill with water almost instantly. Even if a child is saved from death by drowning, the lack of oxygen to the brain can result in a serious brain injury that will have lifelong implications.

The bottom line is that a young child never should be left unattended for even a moment when near the water. And it goes without saying that every parent should be 100% sober whenever they are near water with their child, whether on a boat, at the beach, at a pool, or in their home.

HAPPY JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth, which has been a national holiday since 2021, marks the day when the Union Army entered the city of Galveston on June 19, 1865, and freed the slaves in Texas pursuant to President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, which had gone into effect more than two years earlier on January 1, 1863.

Juneteenth celebrations began as early as the following year and expanded over the decades, largely on the local level across the country, until President Joe Biden signed into law the official observance of Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

Juneteenth serves to remind us both of our nation’s tragic past and of the hope for a better future, as often was expressed by Dr. Martin Luther King: “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

Forum

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Christian DeJesus Franco announces his candidacy for City Council

Christian DeJesus Franco has announced that he is a candidate for District 1 City Council. The following is his statement:

“As of May 26, I am proud to officially announce my candidacy for Chelsea City Council, District 1.

I was born in Puerto Rico and moved to Chelsea when I was five years old. I have a brother who is proudly serving in the U.S. Navy and a sister who is currently a college student at Bunker Hill Community College. We were all raised by our mother in the Chelsea Housing Projects, formerly known as Innes Apartments. I had the privilege of attending Chelsea Public Schools and



Christian DeJesus Franco.

Northeast Metro Tech.

Chelsea has been my lifelong home. Over the years, I’ve witnessed our community grow and evolve—but now it’s time for a new

kind of change: one that brings people together, ensures every voice is heard, and moves our city forward with purpose and unity.

Chelsea is not just any city. We are a vibrant, diverse community filled with strength and potential. But we deserve leadership that will fight for truly affordable housing, expanded opportunities, improved infrastructure, and environmental policies that create a healthier, safer city for all of us.

I bring both experience and dedication to this work. I’ve had the honor of serving on the Chelsea Planning Board and the Human Rights Commission, advocating for equity and community-driven solutions. As Junior Warden at St. Luke’s—San Lucas Episcopal Church, I help lead outreach efforts and provide hot meals to our neighbors in need.

Chelsea is my home—a place I love deeply. I’m ready to take on the responsibility of representing our community with transparency, compassion, and determination. Together, we can build a better Chelsea—one that reflects the voices, needs, and dreams of every resident.

Let’s work together. Let’s move Chelsea forward.”

Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS), and in 2021, she was honored with the first-ever La Lucha Award by Latinos for Education.

She will be honored at the Commonwealth Heroines Class of 2025 Celebration on Thursday, June 26, at the Massachusetts State House.

Heroine // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

honor by Senator Sal DiDomenico. Elected officials are encouraged to submit one woman from their constituency as a means of recognizing their invaluable efforts and extraordinary acts of service, who are making a big difference in their communities but not necessarily making the news. This year, the Class of 2025 Commonwealth Heroines comprises more than 125 women from across the state, leaders in

industry, business, nonprofit, advocacy, and more.

Dr. Abeyta has dedicated 28 years to advancing teaching and learning in urban education. A proud product of public schools, she was raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Before becoming Superintendent of Chelsea Public Schools, Dr. Abeyta served as Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning in

several districts, including Somerville Public Schools (2017–2019), Santa Fe Public Schools (2012–2017), and Boston Public Schools (2009–2012). Her leadership and commitment to equity in education have been recognized nationally; in 2015, she received the inaugural Latina Administrator of the Year Award from the Association of Latino

Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS), and in 2021, she was honored with the first-ever La Lucha Award by Latinos for Education.

She will be honored at the Commonwealth Heroines Class of 2025 Celebration on Thursday, June 26, at the Massachusetts State House.

Reconstruct // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will modernize the intersection to enhance safety, reduce conflicts between vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians, and support ongoing and future neighborhood redevelopment, including affordable housing and transit access, according to city leaders.

“Funding for this project directly addresses long-

standing safety concerns at one of Chelsea’s busiest intersections,” said Ben Cares, Director of Housing & Community Development for the City of Chelsea. “As we continue focusing on making our streets safer and more accessible for everyone – whether they’re walking, biking, driving, or taking transit –

we’re grateful for funding opportunities like this that help us deliver on that commitment for our residents and the region.”

The project is presently in its design phase, with a public hearing scheduled tentatively for this upcoming fall. Residents and community members are encouraged to attend to

share their concerns, experiences, and hopes for improvements to the Park and Pearl intersection. The Chelsea community will have opportunities to input on the project, which the city hopes to be completed by 2032.

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

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Your opinions, please

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

Letters must be signed.

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CHELSEA

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DIDOMENICO CELEBRATES BUS SERVICE EXPANSION
WITH LOCAL CELEBRITY AND MBTA ADVOCATE – PARI KIM

Senator DiDomenico recently attended a ribbon cutting for the expansion of EZRide transit service which now includes midday and weekend operations. DiDomenico celebrated the announcement with Transportation Secretary, Moni-

ca Tibbits-Nutt, Cambridge elected officials, local leaders, and a local resident, Pari Kim who has become famous through her role in Netflix’s Love on the Spectrum and her tireless advocacy for public transportation.

“There is no better person to celebrate a new public transit launch with, than Pari Kim (AKA Princess Pari),” said Senator DiDomenico. “The fare-free EZRide shuttle expansion in Cambridge will serve as a model for regional transit.

By connecting the Green Line to the Red Line with fare-free service during the middle of the day and weekends, our residents will have greater access to jobs, education, healthcare, and other essential needs across Greater Boston.”



Senator DiDomenico with announcement with Transportation Secretary, Monica Tibbits-Nutt (third from right), Cambridge elected officials, local leaders, and a local resident, Pari Kim (second from right).



Senator DiDomenico with local celebrity and MBTA advocate, Pari Kim.

La Colaborativa Announces Chelsea’s New Center for Economic Development

Special to the Record

La Colaborativa, a pre-eminent Latinx-led non-profit organization, recently announced the launch of the Center for Economic Development.

Serving Chelsea and surrounding communities, the Center represents a historic investment in economic justice for residents who have long been excluded from opportunity, due to systemic barriers.

The decision to build the Center comes at a critical moment. Recently, the Massachusetts Board of Education voted to adopt a lottery-based admissions process for vocational schools, ending decades of exclusionary practices that disproportionately impact-

ed low-income, immigrant, and Latino youth.

La Colaborativa has been advocating for equitable vocational access for years. During a period of unprecedented political and economic turbulence, this victory underscores the urgent need for new models of economic mobility that meaningfully uplift Latinx and immigrant residents.

“Our community fought hard for fairness in vocational education, and now we’re stepping up to fill the gap,” said Gladys Vega, Executive Director of La Colaborativa. “The Center for Economic Development will offer free, high-quality training that leads directly to stable, living-wage careers. It will be one of the only options in the region

outside of traditional vocational schools, and entirely cost-free for students.”

Consistent with La Colaborativa’s commitment to sustainable neighborhood development, the project will entail the transformation of a vacant, underutilized site into a four story, state-of-the-art building.

“Chelsea represents the economic engine of the Greater Boston region, yet upward mobility remains out of reach for too many of our residents,” said Alex Train, COO at La Colaborativa. “We’re thrilled to embark on this strategic investment that will foster locally-owned small businesses, cultivate an agile workforce, and equip the next generation of community leaders to pursue re-

warding careers and build lasting wealth.”

Catering to a diverse range of residents, the building will house programs centered on high-demand sectors including clean energy, the building trades, digital technology, and healthcare, with specialized workshops, a fabrication lab, incubator spaces, and multipurpose classrooms. Juxtaposed by a lush public plaza that will serve as a community gathering area, the project has been deliberately designed in harmony with the surrounding neighborhood.

Over the last year, La Colaborativa has deliberately built local capacity by launching multilingual workforce training, small business development, and

vocational education programs. Upon completion, the Center for Economic Development will anchor an expansion of this portfolio of leading edge economic mobility programs in the City’s first zero carbon institutional building.

Chelsea’s workforce embodies notable skills, tenacity, and determination, but residents are held back from economic opportunity, due immigration status, limited English proficiency, and non-transferable credentials. The Center is designed to remove these barriers, empowering single parents, English learners, and historically marginalized residents with the tools and training to pursue economic mobility.

This new facility joins

La Colaborativa’s broader effort to meet the region’s growing needs, while accelerating economic growth for residents. Previously, the organization completed a number of unique community development projects, such as the conversion of a former industrial space into a vibrant Survival Center and premiered a new Youth Development Center. Together, these infrastructure investments form a powerful anchor of equity and opportunity during a time of rising turbulence.

La Colaborativa invites residents, partners, and funders to join this legacy investment and support a future where every member of the community has access to prosperity, purpose, and a place to grow.

CHELSEA POLICE NEWS

CHELSEA MAN
CHARGED WITH
WIELDING
KNIFE WHILE
SHOPLIFTING
IN DOWNTOWN
CROSSING

A Chelsea man was arraigned earlier this month in the Central division of Boston Municipal Court for brandishing a knife at police officers after shoplifting from a Downtown Crossing department store, according to Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden.

David McGrath, 51, of Chelsea was charged with two counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (knife), shoplifting by asportation, resisting arrest, and disturbing the peace.

Judge James Coffey set bail at \$1,000 and ordered McGrath transported to Roxbury BMC on a probation violation warrant on an assault and battery with a deadly weapon case in which McGrath pleaded guilty to in April.

At around 5:37 pm on June 5, Boston police officers on patrol around Summer and Arch streets observed a Macy’s security employee following a shoplifter. The employee told officers that the shoplifter, later identified as McGrath, had stolen merchandise and was armed with a knife, according to the district attorney’s office.

McGrath then led officers on a foot chase during

which they observed a knife in McGrath’s right hand. McGrath ignored multiple commands to drop the weapon, according to police.

As officers closed in, McGrath allegedly tried to move the knife from his right to left hand. Officers then attempted to subdue McGrath, who they stated resisted.

McGrath pointed the knife at the officers during the struggle, but they were able to disarm him. After being brought to the ground, McGrath continued to actively resist arrest. Police were able to subdue McGrath, place him under arrest, and recover the knife, according to the district attorney’s office.

“This call started as a retail theft then turned into a violent encounter in a busy shopping area during a busy time of the day,” Hayden stated. “The incident was both a threat to workplace safety and public safety, neither of which is tolerable in Downtown Crossing or any other area of the city.”

Hayden’s office, the Boston Police department, regional retailer groups and small business owners in 2024 launched the Safe Shopping Initiative, an effort to increase consumer safety and help store managers strategize responses to shoplifting and retail larcenies. The initiative formed amid increasing national and local frustrations around retail crime, along with concerns over the clo-

sure of several pharmacies serving minority communities in Boston.

CHELSEA POLICE
SEARCH WARRANT
LEADS TO ARREST
AND SEIZURE OF
COCAINE

Last Friday, members of the Chelsea Police Department’s Detective Unit executed a court-authorized search warrant at 181 Highland Street, Apartment #303, resulting in the arrest of Jose Eduardo Baez Baez, 29, on charges related to cocaine trafficking.

The operation followed an ongoing investigation into suspected narcotics distribution involving multiple controlled purchases, according to Chelsea police. Detectives conducted surveillance in the area and observed Baez exiting the residence. He was detained without incident and advised of the search warrant.

Following the detention, detectives executed the search warrant at the residence with the assistance of a K-9 unit from the Peabody Police Department. The search resulted in the recovery of suspected crack cocaine, powder cocaine, drug packaging materials, a digital scale, and currency believed to be proceeds from drug sales, according to Chelsea police.

Baez was transported to the Chelsea Police Department and processed per standard procedures. He is

charged under Massachusetts General Laws with Trafficking in Cocaine (18 grams or more, less than 36 grams). The suspected narcotics have been submitted to the State Police Drug Lab for official analysis, according to police.

CHELSEA MAN
ARRAIGNED FOR
MARCH STABBING
DEATH

Brayan Alfredo Lopez-Padilla, 26, of Chelsea was arraigned last Thursday afternoon, June 12, in Suffolk Superior Court and ordered held without bail in the stabbing death of Juan Carlos Lemus, 17, of Chelsea on March 8 in the area of Eastern Avenue.

A second juvenile victim sustained non-life threatening injuries during the incident. Lopez-Padilla is charged with murder, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and assault with intent to murder. He will return to court on July 10 at 2 p.m. for a pre-trial hearing.

A 17-year-old, also of Chelsea, was charged with one count of accessory after the fact and was scheduled to be arraigned in juvenile court last was not arraigned today due to the defense attorney work stoppage. He is being held overnight and scheduled to be arraigned tomorrow at 2 p.m. in the Boston Juvenile Court.

A third person, Ezer Lenin Ramirez-Maldona-

do, 18, of East Boston has been charged with murder, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and assault with intent to murder. Ramirez-Maldonado has since fled the country, according to the Suffolk County District Attorney’s office.

On March 8, the victims were walking down Eastern Avenue in Chelsea near the Mary E. Burke Elementary School Complex around 8:30 p.m. when Lopez-Padilla, Ramirez-Maldonado, and a 17-year-old juvenile approached them, according to the district attorney’s office. Video surveillance captured Lopez-Padilla and Ramirez-Maldonado stabbing the victims, according to the district attorney. Juan Carlos Lemus, 17, died from his injuries, the other juvenile sustained non-life threatening injuries. Video also shows that Lopez-Padilla, Ramirez-Maldonado, and the 17-year-old juvenile fled the scene together, according to a statement from the district attorney’s office.

SALVADORAN
NATIONAL
CHARGED WITH
ILLEGAL REENTRY

A Salvadoran national residing in Chelsea, has been indicted by a federal grand jury for unlawfully reentering the United States after deportation.

Rigoberto Hernandez Mancia, 34, was charged with one count of unlawful

reentry of a deported alien. Hernandez Mancia was arrested by immigration authorities on May 12, 2025.

According to the charging document, Hernandez Mancia was deported from the United States on July 31, 2024. It is alleged that sometime after his July 2024 removal, Hernandez Mancia illegally reentered the United States without permission.

The charge of unlawful reentry of a deported alien provides for a sentence of up to two years in prison, one year of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The defendant is subject to deportation upon completion of any sentence imposed. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

United States Attorney Leah B. Foley and Patricia H. Hyde, Field Office Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Enforcement and Removal Operations in Boston made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Allegra Flamm of the Major Crimes Unit is prosecuting the case.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

CHELSEA STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

At its last meeting of the school year, the Chelsea School Committee honored its Students of the Year at each of the district's schools. The honorees are pictured with family members, teachers, and members of the school committee.



Sokolowski Student of the Year Mayte M.



Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy Student of the Year Cris Guevara Lemus.



Chelsea Opportunity Academy Student of the Year Kevin M.



Hooks Student of the Year Aaliyah Trotman



Morris H. Seigal Clark Avenue Middle School Student of the Year Xander Jose.



Wright Science & Technology Academy Student of the Year Arwa Ait-Chaib.

2025

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RESIDENT AGE 65 & OLDER / RESIDENTE DE 65 AÑOS O MÁS
BEVERLY MARTIN ROSS

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PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR / AL EMPLEADO PÚBLICO DEL AÑO
ALEJANDRO "TITO" ARROYO

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR / ORGANIZACIÓN COMUNITARIA DEL AÑO
GREENROOTS

PROJECT OF THE YEAR, JULY 2024-JUNE 2025 / PROYECTO DEL AÑO, JULIO 2024-JUNIO 2025
DUO

BUSINESS OR BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR / EMPRESARIO O PERSONA DE NEGOCIOS DEL AÑO JULY 2024-JULY 2025 / JULIO 2024-JUNIO 2025
RENEE CASO (DUNKIN' DONUTS)

CHELSEA STUDENTS OF THE YEAR



Kelly Student of the Year Valeria Guifarro Castillo.



Browne Student of the Year Ashley Hernandez.



Berkowitz Student of the Year Selma Souabny.



Chelsea High School Student of the Year Angel S.

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City leaders, police address latest ICE activity in Chelsea

By Adam Swift

Chelsea continues to be a hot spot for the federal government’s controversial immigration policies and activity by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents.

Geovani De La Cruz Catalán, 20, was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents last Wednesday, days after his graduation from Chelsea High School, according to his stepmother, Mayra Balderas, a member of the Chelsea School Committee.

In addition, last week, the Boston Globe reported that Belizario Benito Vasquez, a 19-year-old Chelsea high school student, was arrested at a meeting he believed was part of his asylum application process, and then detained and transferred to a holding facility in Plymouth.

The Vazquez family is seeking asylum in the U.S. from Guatemala due to an abusive family situation and threats from Guatemalan gangs, according to family members. His mother, Marta, and his older brother, Alexander, immigrated to the U.S. five years ago. Both have clean records, possess work permits and have been compliant with the asylum process.

“I came to this country from Guatemala five years ago with my oldest son, Al-

exander, to escape an abusive, alcoholic husband and the daily threat of gang violence,” Marta Vasquez said at a rally in Chelsea on Saturday. “Last year, my youngest son, Belizario, was finally able to escape and join us here. Since arriving in the United States, my family has followed every rule, every procedure, and every law.

“Alexander and I both have work permits and work hard,” she continued. “Belizario is enrolled in school and thriving. We’ve had no trouble with law enforcement. We were building a new life here—peacefully, responsibly, and with hope.”

Vasquez said that when Belizario arrived in Massachusetts, immigration officials placed an ankle monitor on him. Then, last month, she said based on his consistent school attendance and compliance, he was told he no longer needed to wear it and was ready for the next step toward legal residency.

“But this past Wednesday, he was summoned by ICE for a meeting in Burlington—the same place where his previous hearings had been held,” Vasquez stated. “He went, as he always does, in good faith. Instead of a hearing, he was detained without warning and taken to a holding facility in Plymouth.”

Last Friday, June 13, a number of local mayors and city managers, including

Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez, Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria, and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu issued a joint statement addressing recent ICE activity in the region.

“For the past several weeks, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials have been entering some of our communities and arresting residents,” the statement reads. “ICE has stated that they are prioritizing the removal of people who pose a threat to public safety. However, increasingly, ICE is arresting bystanders with no criminal record and removing so-called ‘collaterals’ without regard to the impact on our communities.”

The city leaders stated that Immigrant residents who live in the communities are vital members of the Commonwealth who help to create the vibrancy that they celebrate.

The statement included examples of practices that they said they are seeing reports of in some of the communities, including:

ICE agents have detained residents because they looked like someone who could or “should” be detained. This raises questions of whether ICE is engaging in racial profiling.

ICE comes into some of our communities at times without any notice, detains individuals, and then sends them to another jurisdiction without providing any infor-

mation.

ICE agents are breaking into vehicles without a judicial warrant.

“Our residents are impacted deeply by these actions. Families are frightened to leave their homes to go to school, medical appointments, workplaces, or church,” the statement continues. “These actions are fomenting distrust between residents and local law enforcement officials, which further erodes public safety and destabilizes our communities. These actions and some accompanying statements conflating all immigrants with violent criminals stigmatize an entire group of people based on ethnicity, race, or origin, putting them and others at increasing risk of harm or possibly the violation of their rights.”

The city leaders stated that they believe that these ICE actions are jeopardizing public safety, and urged the US Attorney’s Office to immediately investigate these practices for constitutional violations and ensure that ICE makes public their policies regarding how individuals are targeted, due process, and use of force.

“We know that these ICE actions are spurring fear and

anger, which is increasing the number of demonstrations and protests in our communities,” the statement concluded. “We call on everyone in the Commonwealth to peacefully exercise their freedom of speech and to respect the role of law enforcement in maintaining public order.”

In a separate statement issued last week, the Chelsea Police Department sought to clarify what it said were recent online posts that inaccurately portray its involvement in several investigations.

“These posts have misrepresented our collaboration with state and federal partners, causing unnecessary fear and confusion within the community,” the police stated.

On Friday, June 6, Chelsea Police—working with the North Shore FBI Gang Task Force—placed Walter Alberto Romero De La Cruz, age 20, of Chelsea, under arrest for trafficking in methamphetamine and multiple outstanding warrants, police officials stated.

Later that evening, Chelsea officers, assisted by the Massachusetts State Police, arrested Gerlin Ariel Rosales-Munoz, age 23, of Chelsea, who allegedly attempted

to set fire to a Shawmut Street home in an act of arson and other related crimes, the statement continued.

On June 10, the FBI Gang Task Force—of which the Chelsea Police Department has an assigned detective—executed a federal search and arrest warrant at 80 Grove Street, resulting in the arrest of an individual on federal charges related to the trafficking of illegal firearms, according to police.

“In all three cases, a widely followed online platform misrepresented the Chelsea Police Department’s role and our lawful cooperation with partner agencies. Misinformation like this only fuels fear and spreads false narratives,” the statement read. “The Chelsea Police Department remains committed to transparency, accountability, and open communication. While some operations—particularly those involving violent crimes or narcotics—require operational discretion, we do not withhold public safety information. All significant developments are shared through our official communication channels to ensure accuracy and promote community awareness.”

FRESH AND LOCAL

Pack it to go

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Summer is a time when we prepare more food to take with us to another location. It might be supper or brunch with friends on our building’s roof deck. It could be for a day at the beach, a day trip to a favorite location, or a BBQ or potluck at a friend’s place.

For all these movable feasts, we are careful to keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot. Fortunately, a wide range of products can assist with this goal. These include old-fashioned vacuum-insulated bottles, lunchboxes, heavily insulated coolers, hot or cold packs, and even small coolers or refrigerators that you plug into either AC or DC power.

Many of these products have additional features, ranging from large thermos bottles with multiple compartments to professional-grade gear designed for caterers and deliveries.

Vacuum-Insulated Bottles

You may refer to this category as Thermos® bottles. However, that is a brand name and registered trademark. Nonetheless, they make great products. We have one of their 47 oz. “food jars” with two small containers that fit inside. We can fill these with individu-

al hot or cold items. Or, we might choose to fill the large jar with a curry, a soup, or a hot or cold drink. One tip when using this type of container is to heat or chill it with hot water or ice water before adding your food.

Lunchboxes

You’ll find traditional lunch boxes that work with ice packs. An alternative is one from a company called PACKIT. These containers are stored in your freezer and are chilled when you’re ready to use them. Of course, they are not the only game in town, and you’ll find dozens of options for packing one lunch or separate meals for each family member.

Coolers

Once upon a time, Styrofoam or simple plastic coolers were the choices. Today, companies like RTIC, Canyon, and Yeti were NYT Wirecutter’s choice for the best coolers in 2025. You can also choose between hard or soft-sided backpacks or wheeled options, as well as insulated totes. Penny loves her everyday backpack, which features a cooler compartment.

Plugable Options

With more and more places offering plugs to charge

phones and gear, consider a plug-in device to keep your food safe. For cold storage, some coolers and refrigerators operate on either AC or DC voltage.

A few of these offer a warming option. In either case, we recommend that you have the device and your food at the proper temperature before introducing the meal. We would also invest in a thermometer that would allow you to check the temperature until you learn how long your choice holds the food within the safety zone.

The USDA says, “Keep hot food hot—at or above 140 °F. Place cooked food in chafing dishes, preheated steam tables, warming trays, and/or slow cookers. Keep cold food cold—at or below 40 °F. Place food in containers on ice.”

In addition to a means of transporting your food, you’ll also need the kit to enjoy your meal. We have a pre-packed picnic bag with glasses, plates, utensils, a sharp knife, napkins, a cork-screw/bottle opener, a trash bag, paper towels, and any other essentials we might need away from home.

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

‘UNITED WE STAND’ RALLY IN SUPPORT OF CHELSEA RESIDENTS

A “United We Stand” Rally was held Saturday at City Hall in support of local residents who were detained by federal agents. Many residents attended the rally.

Showing their support for Chelsea residents at the rally are Naomi Zabot (holding her dog, Persephone) and City Council President Norieliz DeJesus.



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A wicker picnic basket may be the romantic image. However, there are far better food-safe ways to pack up a movable feast these days.

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The Greater Boston Food Bank celebrates hunger relief champions

Special to the Record

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB), the largest hunger-relief organization in New England, honored the individuals and organizations that demonstrated extraordinary leadership in supporting GBFB’s hunger-relief efforts throughout 2024 at its new GBFB Awards event, held at GBFB’s Yawkey Distribution Center in Boston. Awardees represent those who partnered with GBFB to advance its mission to end hunger here through food donations, volunteerism, advocacy, philanthropic support, and agency partnerships, empowering the 1 in 3 Massachusetts residents facing food insecurity in Eastern Massachusetts to access nutritious meals.

Formerly known as the Partner Appreciation Awards, the event marked the evolution of a two-decade tradition started in 2003, which now reflects the broader, cross-sector efforts fueling hunger relief across Eastern Massachusetts. The event spotlighted six individuals and organizations selected from GBFB’s network of food distribution partners, volunteers, public officials, donors and advocates who have shown dedication to mitigating the food insecurity crisis and providing wide-ranging contributions to support hunger relief efforts in Eastern Massachusetts.

“Every person and organization we honored this year has made a lasting impact on our collective duty to empower everyone with access to healthy food,” said GBFB President and CEO Catherine D’Amato. “In a time when millions of our neighbors are finding it harder than ever to make ends meet,

these outstanding partners remind us that hunger-relief can take many forms. Whether through advocacy, volunteerism, or strategic support, these champions step up to meet the moment with action and compassion.”

GBFB also celebrated the Framingham-based United Way of Tri-County (UWTC), the recipient of last year’s

GBFB Transformational Community Investment Grant. Over three years, GBFB has committed \$500,000 to fund capacity-building enhancements that will increase UWTC’s ability to serve more clients, distribute more food, and assist communities in need by launching a mobile food pantry, purchasing vehicles for food distribution, and acquire additional equipment and supplies for its food pantry and hot meals programs.

The celebration also spotlighted the 2024 Change Maker Award honorees (previously announced in November 2024), Wellesley Girl Scout Troup 64049, who graciously donated their cookie sales profits to GBFB,

as well as the 2024 GBFB Team Members of the Quarter for their dedication to driving GBFB’s mission of hunger relief forward.

The evening event was concluded by GBFB unveiling its new

Wall of Fame, recognizing over 40 of GBFB’s top corporate philanthropic donors by displaying their logos on the wall of the Yawkey Distribution Center’s main gathering place, where the event was held.

Food insecurity remains an enduring and widespread challenge in Massachusetts. The latest installment of GBFB’s annual study on food insecurity and access in Massachusetts, set to be

released in full on June 17, estimates that 1 in 3 adults in the Commonwealth continue to struggle with food insecurity and the total number of food-insecure individuals continues to steadily increase.

The 2024 GBFB Award honorees are comprised of the following individuals and organizations:

Kip Tiernan Award – Dr. Regina Wu

The Kip Tiernan Award is named in honor of GBFB’s founder, honoring an individual or organization that demonstrates extraordinary leadership in philanthropic and human services and exemplifies GBFB’s mission through outstanding involvement, dedication, and collaboration to help end hunger in the community. Dr. Wu is a primary care physician at Mass General Brigham, was honored for her leadership in hunger relief and community-based philanthropy. A long-time advocate for food access in Newton, Dr. Wu began volunteering at local mobile markets before stepping into her role on the Newton Food Pantry’s Board of Directors. Dr. Wu made transformational contributions to the organization, including the onboarding of professional staff, launching the innovative “Freedge” program to expand access to fresh food, and securing a land donation for a new pantry set to open in 2026. She now serves on the board of GBFB partner Food for Free, continuing to advance food justice throughout Eastern Massachusetts.

Corporate Partner of the Year – Delta Air Lines

Delta Air Lines was honored for deepening its commitment to GBFB through sustained giving and active employee engagement. Since 2009, Delta has con-



Wendy Zinn, YMCA of Greater Boston Chief Partnerships & Social Responsibility Officer; Gaby Jimenez, Captain at Trader Joe’s Seaport; Will Walls, Regional Vice President at Trader Joe’s; State Representative Christine Barber; Catherine D’Amato, GBFB President and CEO; Candice Stover, Delta Air Lines General Manager New England Sales; Jenny Zamora, Delta Air Lines Senior Sales Account Executive; Volunteer of the Year Paul Waber; April Strack, YMCA of Greater Boston Executive Director of Collaborative Food Access Hub.

tributed \$560,000, including \$100,000 in 2024. The company actively sponsors GBFB’s signature events and campaigns including Spring for Meals and Taste the Food Bank, and hosts regular volunteer shifts, setting the bar for corporate involvement.

Food Donor of the Year – Trader Joe’s

Trader Joe’s was honored for donating 1.7 million pounds of food in 2024, through its Neighborhood Shares Program. With 19 stores across GBFB’s territory that work with 26 agency partners, Trader Joe’s provides fresh, culturally relevant, and nutritious food with at least four pickups per week per store. These food recovery efforts play a vital role in reducing food waste and getting high-quality food into the hands of neighbors who need it most.

Agency Partner Award – YMCA of Greater Boston

YMCA of Greater Boston was honored for its innovative, client-centered approach to hunger relief. Since becoming a GBFB agency partner in 2020, the YMCA has grown to distribute more

than 2 million pounds of food annually through a well-organized network of mobile markets and community-based food pantries. Their willingness to collaborate with smaller, grassroots organizations have extended food access across the city. Recent efforts include the leasing of a new warehouse to support regional food storage and plans to open two community “storefront” food access sites offering client-choice shopping. Their forward-thinking model continues to serve as best practice across GBFB’s network.

Advocate of the Year – State Representative Christine Barber State Representative Christine Barber (D-Somerville) was honored for her commitment to advancing hunger relief through public policy since 2015. A long-standing supporter of the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP), Rep. Barber has helped direct state investments to agency partners like the Mystic Valley YMCA. Now serving as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment

and Natural Resources, she continues to champion food access and food systems innovation, including expanding GBFB’s ability to partner with local farms and food producers.

Volunteer of the Year - Paul Weber

Paul Weber was honored for his years of dedicated volunteer service to GBFB. A retired math teacher and Natick resident, Paul began volunteering with GBFB in 2018 and has since logged over 430 hours. Known for his positivity, flexibility, and teamwork, Paul is trusted to help train new volunteers and adapt quickly to any new task. He exemplifies the dedication and compassion needed to fulfill GBFB’s mission to end hunger here in Eastern Massachusetts.

2024 GBFB Team Members of the Quarter

Adrian James, Warehouse Associate II

Kristiana Le, Manager of Community Engagement

Samantha Prescott, Agency Relations Manager

Trish Vallery, Senior Manager of Human Resources and Administrative Services.

DIDOMENICO JOINS BOSTON RED SOX ITALIAN NIGHT CELEBRATION

On June 2, the Boston Red Sox invited fans to join their Italian Celebration at Fenway Park for Red Sox replica “Italia” jerseys in Italian colors and entertainment celebrating Italian culture.



Shown (left to right) are Senator DiDomenico, Representative Adrian Madaro, Representative Jessica Giannino, and Representative Jeff Turco.



Shown (left to right) are Senator DiDomenico, Representative James Arena-DeRosa, Representative Adrian Madaro, and Representative Paul Donato.

“It was a great experience joining Italian-American legislators at Fenway Park for the Boston Red Sox Italian Night Celebration!” said Senator Sal DiDomenico.



Senator DiDomenico with Italian-American legislators at Fenway.

Denver // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Housing and Community Development, under Cares’s leadership, GreenRoots, (Executive Director Roseann Bongiovanni, the Mystic River Watershed Association (Executive Director Patrick Herron), the Chelsea Department of Public Works (Commissioner Cate Fox-Lent), and the Chelsea Public Schools, led by Supt. of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta, have collaborated well with

Maltez throughout the successful nomination process.

Cares said there is excitement and enthusiasm about the trip to Denver and the quest for national recognition.

“Garnering national recognition for local climate resiliency efforts and environmental sustainability initiatives is really important for the city,” said Cares. “The award is celebrating

Chelsea’s ability to rise from adversity, whether that be major fires, the COVID-19 pandemic, or the constant environmental justice issues that we face. I think we emerge stronger every time, and we rebuild with equity and purpose in everything that we do.”

Cares believes the All-America City Award could set the foundation for the future funding of Chel-

sea projects.

“I think attracting national recognition and potential funding for projects that are facing a dearth of funding in the face of this current federal climate and those impacts to the state’s budget is a solid move, and I commend the city manager for bringing us around this effort and this potential award,” concluded Cares.

News Briefs

BIKE RODEO ROLLS ON MEET THE MACHINES IS NEXT UP!

Rain did not stop Chelsea Recreation’s annual spring Bike Rodeo held in partnership with Mass Safe Routes to School. Families came together for a day of bike safety education, community connection and free bike and helmet giveaways.

Chelsea Recreation’s next big event is: Meet the Machines to be held on Tuesday, July 1 from 5-8pm at the Mary C Burke Complex, 300 Crescent Ave. Families are invited to climb, touch, and explore all kinds of big trucks, vehicles and equipment! A sensory friendly period is from 5-5:45pm when agencies will refrain from using horns, sirens, and lights! Don’t miss it! For more information or to register, visit www.recreation.chelseama.gov or call 617-466-5233.

FREE SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR CHELSEA YOUTH: TENACITY AND NATURE EXPLORATION

The City of Chelsea’s Department of Recreation & Cultural Affairs is excited to announce two free, five-day-a-week summer programs for youth ages 6 to 15, taking place from June 30 to August 8 at Voke Park, 546 Washington Avenue.

Families can choose from two enriching programs:

Tenacity Chelsea – An engaging summer tennis and reading program that blends physical activity with literacy support.

Wild Wonders – A hands-on nature exploration program that inspires curiosity and environmental learning through outdoor activities.

Programs run Monday through Friday, with both morning and afternoon

sessions, from 9:00am to 4:00pm. The sessions are divided by age group, so families should inquire at the time of registration to ensure placement in the appropriate session. In addition to these exciting programs, free summer breakfast and lunch will be served to youth daily at the park as part of the City’s summer meals initiative, ensuring that all participants are nourished and ready to learn and play.

“These programs reflect our commitment to providing high-quality, accessible summer opportunities for Chelsea youth,” said Bea Cravatta, Director of Recreation & Cultural Affairs. “We’re proud to bring learning and nourishment together in one welcoming space.”

For more information or to register, visit www.recreation.chelseama.gov or call 617-466-5233.

Dr. John E. McDonough and Suzanne Lee to be honored or Leadership in Improving Healthcare Access

Boston Senior Home Care (BSHC), a trusted provider of home- and community based services, is pleased to announce Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Inc. (PLAN of MA & RI) as its Diamond Sponsor for its upcoming Legacy of Leading Gala: Transforming Communities Through Service celebration on October 16, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency Boston.

BSHC will honor two distinguished community leaders at this year’s gala:

• Dr. John E. McDonough, Professor of the Practice of Public Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

and key architect of healthcare reform legislation, will receive BSHC’s Patricia A. Lynch Excellence in Public Service Award for his work improving healthcare access for vulnerable populations.

• Suzanne Lee, President Emeritus of the Chinese Progressive Association, will be presented with the Community Advocacy Award for decades of service promoting immigrant rights and community development.

This year’s gala comes amid increasing demand for caregiving services and potential federal funding cuts. BSHC provides essential services for 12,000 older adults, people with

disabilities, and caregivers annually. The involvement of PLAN of MA & RI highlights the importance of specialized financial planning services that offer robust support for families navigating complex caregiving journeys.

The highly anticipated annual fundraiser brings together more than 250 community advocates and state leaders, with proceeds supporting older adults, people with disabilities, grandparents raising grandchildren, and family caregivers. Candy O’Terry, a Massachusetts Hall of Fame broadcaster, will emcee the event.

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A SHORT STORY ABOUT A MOTORCYCLE. AND A SUDDEN TURN.

When she was a young college student, Elisabeth Marra had a serious motorcycle accident that ultimately changed her life. Two years after the crash, her painful open fractures had failed to heal. Then she heard about a new and complex surgery pioneered by a surgeon who used a patient’s own stem cells to concentrate the healing process. This time, her surgery and subsequent therapy were successful.

Elisabeth’s experience caused her to redirect her own career aspirations. Inspired by the medical professionals who helped her reclaim her active lifestyle, she changed her major to study physical therapy—a profession where her own experience could help other patients prevail through difficult recoveries.

We tell Elisabeth Marra’s story here to illustrate two of the most profound messages we know. Don’t give up, and remember to give back. If reading it inspires just one more person to achieve something special, then its telling here has been well worth while.

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DIDOMENICO TESTIFIES WITH FIREFIGHTERS ON HIS PTSD BILL

Senator DiDomenico joined leaders from the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts (PFFM) to testify in support of his Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) bill, S.1821, before the Joint Committee on Public Service. This legislation would expand access to health benefits for public safety personnel if they are diagnosed with PTSD.

DiDomenico remarked

during his testimony that, “this legislation is needed to safeguard the health and well-being of our public safety personnel who are on the front lines daily to protect our communities. If passed, this bill will take a necessary step toward destigmatizing mental health challenges and will give public safety workers the support and help they deserve.”



Senator DiDomenico testifying in support of his bill alongside leaders from the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts (PFFM).



Senator DiDomenico with leaders from the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts (PFFM).

North Star
Mackenzie DeRiggi shines in musical at NSMT

By Cary Shuman

What better place to perform in a smash hit musical than in your own hometown. What better venue to make your debut than at Bill Hanney’s regional treasure, the North Shore Music Theatre in Beverly.

Mackenzie DeRiggi just completed a “very fun” acting gig as the youngest member of the cast of “Waitress,” a play that drew rave reviews and enthusiastic audiences who responded with standing ovations at the end of each show.

Mackenzie is the five-year-old daughter of Cayla DeRiggi, an NSMT alum herself, and Adam DeRiggi of Beverly. Mackenzie has a strong Chelsea connection. Her grandparents are former Chelsea residents Corinne (Bonita) Resca and David Resca and Gail DeReiggi and Emil DeRiggi.

Mackenzie earned the roles of Young Jenna and Lulu in “Waitress” following an audition at the theatre. She had the opportunity to play the childhood version (Young Jenna) and daughter of the supremely talented Christine Dwyer (Jenna), who interestingly began in acting as a student at Lynnfield Middle School.

“Mackenzie has been taking dance lessons since she was three, and she’s done one show, “Lion King Kids,” but this was her first professional show, where she gets paid and gets to perform with theater professionals from Broadway,” said Cayla DeRiggi.

Following in mom’s footsteps

As a teenager Cayla DeRiggi performed in two shows, “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” in 2002 and the Wizard of Oz in 2003.

“It seems like Mackenzie really enjoys it, and for now, as long as she keeps having

fun, we’ll keep at it,” said Cayla. “Starting so young and getting to see the ins and outs and what the rehearsal process is like, and working with professionals and seeing the hard work that goes into it, and the fun everyone’s having – it’s been a great experience for my daughter.”

Cayla added that Mackenzie’s interaction with the cast members has been “wonderful.”

“Everyone treats her so great,” said Cayla. “Everyone knows her name, and they’re so excited to see her every time she steps in the theater. She’s having a great time.”

Her NSMT debut

Mackenzie made her NSMT debut in the June 4 matinee. She has appeared in two other matinee performances.

“I thought the show was amazing. My husband and I cried the whole time, just getting to see her on stage,” related Cayla. “So, that first show was very emotional, but all the actors were phenomenal. The actress [Christine Dwyer] who plays Jenna is breathtaking. She’s absolutely tremendous. Everyone in the cast has such a great background in theater. Having an opportunity to meet them was definitely a great experience for Mackenzie.”

An interview with Mackenzie

In what is believed to be her first interview with a reporter, Mackenzie DeRiggi handled the experience well.



CHELSEA CONNECTIONS: Mackenzie DeRiggi, who made her professional acting debut in “Waitress” at NSMT on June 4, is pictured with her proud parents, Cayla DeRiggi and Adam DeRiggi. Mackenzie is the granddaughter of former Chelsea residents Corinne Bonita Resca and David Resca.

“I had so much fun in the musical,” said Mackenzie.”

Mackenzie said one of the highlights was getting to dance with Jenna during the curtain call at the end of the show.

“I really liked that part,” said Mackenzie. “It’s been so exciting and fun. I like hearing the applause. Jenna [Christine Dwyer] is really talented and nice. The round [circular] theater is different but very good. It felt great to meet all the actors.”

“I enjoyed everything,” said Mackenzie, who had

previously attended the musicals “Frozen” and “Beatle Juice Jr.” at NSMT.

With one big show on her record, Mackenzie DeRiggi is looking forward to more performances at NSMT and bringing more joy and pride to her family with her acting skills.

“I’m looking forward to seeing the Wizard of Oz [at NSMT in July],” said Mackenzie, whose favorite Oz character is Glinda the Good Witch.

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