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CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

35 CENTS



North Suffolk Community Services employee Louis Waweru of Winthrop was honored with an Award of Excellence by the Providers' Council for his outstanding care and commitment to persons with disabilities.

North Suffolk Community Services employee Louis Waweru honored with statewide award

Special to the Record

North Suffolk Community Services is pleased to announce that longtime employee Louis Waweru of Winthrop was honored with the Gerry Wright Direct Service Award from the Providers' Council, a statewide human services trade association, on Oct. 6 in Boston.

The award, which recognizes Waweru's outstanding dedication and care for persons with disabilities, was presented during the Providers' Council's 50th Annual Convention and Expo. He has worked for NSCS for 26 years.

"When I first began this journey, I never imagined that the small, everyday things I do could mean so much not only to the individuals I support, but to their families, my colleagues, and the entire community," said Waweru, who supports individuals with developmental disabilities living in a residential group home in Winthrop. "I'd like to dedicate this award to all the individuals I've had the honor of supporting. They are my teachers, my inspiration, and the reason I keep striving to do better every day."

Direct support professionals (DSPs) provide essential supports, services, and care to individuals with varying needs. Nearly half of NSCS' 1,000 employees are DSPs, providing support and care across the organization's 38 residential programs.

"Louis approaches every task with thoughtfulness and integrity, earning the trust and admiration of everyone around him," said NSCS President and CEO Judi Lemoine. "Throughout his 26 years he has been a constant and invaluable presence at his program, thriving in a very difficult job. He brings cheerful energy, a positive attitude, and a warm smile to every shift,

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11-year-old wins City's 'I Voted' sticker contest

Special to the Record

Adrian F., an 11-year-old Chelsea resident, has won the City's "I Voted" sticker contest, which invited residents to submit original sticker designs to replace the traditional "I Voted" stickers handed out during the upcoming election on November 4, 2025.

Participants were asked to create original, nonpartisan designs that prominently featured the words "I Voted." Adrian's sticker, which features a cheerful cat giving a thumbs up with the words "I Voted," on it.

"This design contest was created to encourage voter turnout and bring more attention to the local election," said City Manager Fidel Maltez. "Adrian's design captures the spirit of civic pride in a fun, relatable, and memorable way. We're proud to showcase local creativity at our polling places and find creative ways to engage residents of all ages in the democratic process."

All submissions were reviewed by a panel of city officials, who selected a group of finalists based on creativity, originality, and alignment with the contest guidelines. The finalists' designs were then posted online for a public vote, which received a total of 658 responses. The final results are as follows:

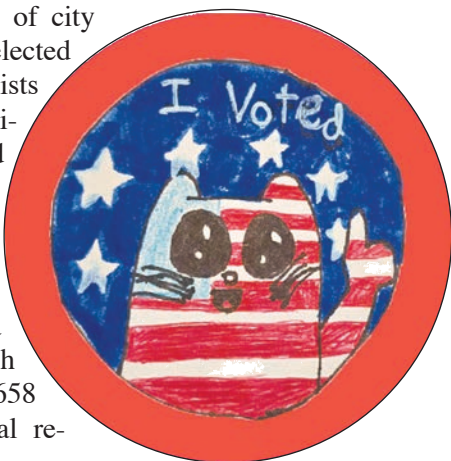
- 1st Place: Adrian F.
- 2nd Place: David Matute
- 3rd Place: Victor Tiernan
- 4th Place: Grace Agosto
- 5th Place: Marianne Ramos

Each of the five finalists will receive a commemorative pin featuring their sticker design, courtesy of the Chelsea Public Library.

The sticker contest was organized by the Office of the City Clerk in collaboration with the City Manager's Office as part of a broader initiative to encourage civic engagement and celebrate



11-year-old Chelsea Resident Adrian F. went to City Hall to meet with City Officials and collect a special pin with his sticker on it.



11-year-old Chelsea Resident Adrian F.'s "I Voted" sticker design featuring a cheerful cat giving a thumbs up and the phrase "I Voted."

local artistic endeavors.

To view Adrian's winning design and the other finalists, check your voter registration status, find your polling location, or learn more about the upcoming election, visit www.chelseama.gov/city-clerk.

The November 4 election will determine the next term of City Council and School Committee members.

School committee gets update on new cellphone policy

By Adam Swift

Thanks to a new policy, students at Chelsea High School are no longer allowed to use their cellphones during the school day.

At last week's school committee meeting, Chelsea High interim principal Alan Beausoleil provided an update on how the implementation of the policy has been going with teachers and students.

"In December of 2024, the school committee passed the cellphone and electronics-free policy for the district," said Beausoleil.

Soon after the vote, Beausoleil said the school staff began preparing for the policy to go into effect with the beginning of the 2025-26 school year. That work included getting out the word about the policy to students and families.

He said Chelsea High was also looking at how other schools in the region have implemented similar policies.

"We reached out to connections and tried to find the best practices that we could to implement at Chelsea High," said Beausoleil. "In the spring of 2025, we decided to utilize Yondr pouches ... and we ordered the pouches and magnets that go with them. They lock and then they unlock at the end of the day with the magnet."

When students come into one of the four doors that are open at the high school in the morning, there is an administrator or a dean and the students are asked to turn off their phones and put them in the pouches and lock them. At the end of the day, there are multiple

See CELLPHONE Page 5

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Kelly Garcia announces her candidacy for re-election as City Councilor-at-Large

Kelly Garcia has announced her candidacy for re-election for Chelsea City Councilor-at-Large.

The following is her statement:

"My name is Kelly Garcia, and I have the honor of serving as your At-Large City Councilor. I'm a lifelong Chelsea resident, a proud first-generation college graduate with a B.A. from College of the Holy Cross in Psychology and an M.Ed. in Special Education from Boston University, and a passionate advocate for the families who make our city strong.

For more than a decade,



Kelly Garcia

See GARCIA Page 5

Melinda Vega announces her candidacy for re-election as District Two City Councilor

Melinda Vega has announced her candidacy for re-election to District 2 City Council. The following is her statement:

"My name is Melinda Vega, proud mother of two boys, daughter of community leader Gladys Vega, lifelong Chelsea resident, community advocate, homeowner and your District 2 City Councilor. Today, I am honored to officially announce that I am running for re-election to a 4th term on the Chelsea City Council.

My commitment to public service began early at just 18 years old, I ran for



Melinda Vega

School Committee and became the youngest person

See VEGA Page 3

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THE CHELSEA SCOOP

News Briefs

What’s Happening at Chelsea’s Public Meetings?

Chelsea Resident Nina Lee recaps public meetings in latest Chelsea Scoop.

Hi everyone, this is Nina, and I’m back with another issue of The Chelsea Scoop!

Residents turned out for the September 22 City Council meeting, spoke about housing, city decision-making, and the future of affordable housing in Chelsea. Along with public testimony, the Council debated and approved measures on housing initiatives, infrastructure, and city governance, highlighting the wide range of priorities shaping our community.

You can watch the full meeting on YouTube at [youtube.com/@chelseacommunitycable7517](https://www.youtube.com/@chelseacommunitycable7517), but I’m also recapping it for you below.

Main agenda items this week included:

- Resident feedback on housing and tenant protections.
- Approval to join the Greater Boston Regional Off-Site Construction Strategy to expand housing options.
- City maintenance services and community improvements.
- Communications from the City Manager on city business, donations, board appointments, and infrastructure projects.



Chelsea resident Nina Lee stands in front of the Tobin Bridge.

Housing Concerns Front and Center

Some residents spoke about housing and encouraged the Council to continue strengthening tenant protections, ensuring landlord accountability, and improving response times. The Council noted these concerns and emphasized that housing remains a focus of its work.

Regional Housing Strategy MOU

The Council authorized the City Manager to enter into a memorandum of understanding between the City of Chelsea and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. The agreement

confirms that the City will take part in the Greater Boston Regional Off-site Construction Strategy alongside neighboring communities to increase affordable housing. The Council approved the memorandum and noted that any future obligations, such as funding contributions, etc., will be reviewed before moving forward.

Other Local Service Topics

The Council reviewed updates from the City Manager and voted on or referred several items for further discussion, including:

- Transfers of funds to support key infrastructure projects
- Plans for a community meeting on the Everett Soccer Stadium proposal
- Public Works Committee meetings in October on renovations to the Chelsea City Yard
- A proposal to consider stipends for residents appointed to city boards that require significant time commitments
- Updates on the Market Basket and Veterans’ Home housing development projects
- Orders related to street-light inspections, missing trash barrels, property damage from trees, renter notification policies, and explor-

ing a community center

- A motion to draft an ordinance giving renters the same notification rights as homeowners for planning and zoning changes was referred for legal review.

Looking Ahead

The Council will continue revisiting many of these topics, including housing, transparency, regional partnerships, city services, and community engagement in upcoming meetings. These conversations reflect the Council’s ongoing commitment to improving housing options, strengthening city services, and supporting Chelsea residents.

On another note, the Chelsea Youth Commission (CYC) has resumed meetings this semester, and the members will soon be officially sworn in. The CYC is a group of students who work with the City to share young people’s ideas and help plan community projects for teens.

That’s all for this edition of The Chelsea Scoop. Stay tuned for the next update!

This blog is written by Nina Lee, a member of the Chelsea Youth Commission and student blogger for the City Manager’s Office this fall.

City manager requests transfer for DPW City Yard project

By Adam Swift

City Manager Fidel Maltez is asking the city council to transfer \$1.75 million which was originally approved for a City Hall attic expansion project towards the final phase of a renovation project at the DPW City Yard.

Last week, the council moved the request to its ways and means subcommittee.

“We are excited to begin the final stage of renovation at the DPW City Yard,” Maltez stated in a letter to the council. “From this property we operate seven days a week to run our water and sewer, streets and sidewalks, solid waste,

buildings and grounds, fleet maintenance, and snow operations.”

The DPW yard has not seen significant renovations since it was built in 1976, according to Maltez.

Four years ago, the city replaced the tar and gravel roof with a weathertight white vinyl roof for \$500,000. Two years ago, the city replaced the siding and overhead bay doors for \$1.1 million.

“We are now undertaking the renovation of the interior office, locker, and storage areas to allow our staff to more efficiently use this space as they serve our residents,” said Maltez.

The continued cost of this project is \$3.25 million, for

a total renovation investment of \$4.85 million, according to the city manager, adding that the project is well below the cost of new construction.

“With the completed renovations, the building will be weathertight, with a full fire protection system for our staff and equipment, as well as adequate staff spaces and locker spaces, and significantly improved air quality from an upgraded, energy efficient HVAC system,” Maltez stated.

In FY25, the city council approved \$1 million to allow the city to begin the planning and design process.

With the design process nearing completing, Maltez

said the city is seeking to transfer the \$1.75 million from the FY24 capital improvement plan that was set aside for the city hall project to the DPW project.

“The FY24 City Hall attic final design was originally funded for \$3 million,” said Maltez. “To date, no expenditures have occurred and there are still no pending obligations.”

With the expenditure, Maltez said the DPW team will be able to proceed with all the fire safety requirements identified by the engineers and ensure that construction on the City Yard can begin in early spring 2026 in order to complete the work before winter.

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN LOCAL ELECTION IS OCTOBER 25

The last day to register to vote, or change your address, in Chelsea’s local election taking place on November 4 is Friday, October 25. Community members have until 5 p.m. to register in-person at the City Clerk’s Office in room 209, located on the second floor of City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea. Alternatively, community members have until 11:59 p.m. to register online at sec.state.ma.us/ovr/.

This election will determine the next terms of the Chelsea City Council and School Committee.

For more information about the local election, visit www.chelseama.gov.

BOSTON CIVIC SYMPHONY TO PRESENT CONCERT AT JORDAN HALL

The Boston Civic Symphony will present our first

classical concert of its 101st season on Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 3:00 p.m., at New England Conservatory’s Jordan Hall in Boston. The opening concert will feature Amanda Harberg’s Solis for Orchestra, first debuted in 2015, followed by Brahms Double Concerto for Violin and Cello. The Double Concerto will feature the Boston Symphony’s fantastic soloists Sophie Wang (violin) and Mickey Katz (cello). After an intermission, the orchestra will perform Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 6, also known as the Pathétique Symphony. The program is a demonstration of the Boston Civic’s signature contrasts of time and style, progressing from Harberg’s 21st century American voice to the European Romantic traditions of Brahms and Tchaikovsky.

For information on how to purchase tickets, please visit the orchestra’s web site at www.bostoncivicsymphony.org.

Application open for second round of Family Child Care Capital Grants

Special to the Record

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced today that they have opened applications for the second round of the Family Child Care Capital Grant Program, building on the success of the inaugural round earlier this year. This round includes \$4 million in new funding, marking a significant increase in the state’s investment to strengthen family child care programs. Providers can apply for capital funding to make essential facility improvements that strengthen program quality, expand capacity, and create safe, developmentally appropriate environments for children.

“We’re increasing child care capital funding because it allows providers to increase educator salaries and provide affordable, high-quality care to more families,” said Governor Maura Healey. “Programs like these are a smart investment in our children, our workforce and our future, and we encourage providers across the state to apply.”

“Last month, it was wonderful to celebrate the first Family Child Care Capital Grant Program awardees with providers and community members. Today’s \$4 million in funding builds on the \$2.7 million we already awarded, supporting our local child care businesses to improve their outdoor play areas and make learning spaces more inclusive for children and educators,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll.

The Department of Early Education and Care, in partnership with MassDevelopment, administers the Family Child Care Capital Grants Program. Applications for the second round are due October 31, 2025, closing at 11:59 p.m. Updates have been made to the application process in response to feedback from the first round that make it easier and more accessible for providers.

Licensed family child care programs can apply for \$500 to \$25,000 in funding for:

- Indoor and outdoor renovations
- HVAC and energy-efficiency upgrades
- Emergency repairs
- Accessibility improvements
- Purchase and installation of program-dedicated equipment, such as washing machines, refrigerators, security cameras, and access control systems

“Family child care providers are essential partners in expanding access to high-quality early education,” said Education Secretary Dr. Patrick Tutwiler. “By investing in their spaces and programs, we are ensuring that children across Massachusetts—no matter their zip code—have safe, supportive, and enriching environments to learn and grow.”

“Family child care providers are not only educators, many are also small business owners who create jobs and strengthen their local economies,” said Economic Development Secretary Eric Paley. “By expanding this grant program, we’re helping providers invest in their facilities, grow their businesses, and continue delivering high-quality, affordable care that working families across Massachusetts rely on every day.”

Earlier this month, the Administration celebrated the success of the first round in Worcester, highlighting how family child care providers across the state have already used this funding to transform their programs and better serve children and families. The administration awarded \$2.7 million to more than 150 family child care programs across Massachusetts in the first round. With increased funding available in the second round, the administration anticipates even greater impact statewide.

“Family child care providers are essential to expanding access to high-quality early education across Massachusetts,” said Early Education and Care Commissioner Amy Kershaw. “These capital grants are an

See GRANT Page 5

POLICE NEWS

DRUG SEARCH WARRANTS LEAD TO MULTIPLE ARRESTS

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, Oct. 8, the Chelsea Police Department’s Narcotics/Gang Unit, working in collaboration with the DEA Task Force 2 and Metro North SWAT, executed two coordinated search warrants at 100 Stockton Street, Unit 448, and 944 Broadway, Apartment 4 in Chelsea. The operation stemmed from an ongoing investigation that led to probable cause for detectives to seek search warrants for the distribution of crack cocaine by Anthony Burt, 33, of 100 Stockton Street, and Julia Scalia, 50, of 944 Broadway.

Chelsea Detectives sought the assistance of Metro North SWAT based on the information developed during the investigation.

At approximately a.m., SWAT teams simultaneously entered both addresses.

At 100 Stockton Street, five individuals were detained, including Burt. Two others, Joshua Sullivan, 45,

of 1 Webster Ave., Chelsea, and Scott McDonald, 42, of Salem, were both arrested on active warrants. A search of the apartment yielded several items of evidentiary value, including multiple digital scales, packaging materials, and drug paraphernalia, according to police. They stated that evidence suggested attempts to destroy narcotics in the bathroom before police entry. Burt was charged with possession of a Class B drug and possession of a Class E drug under MGL Chapter 94C §34.

At 944 Broadway, two individuals were detained: Scalia and William Linscott, 51, who was arrested on an outstanding warrant. A search resulted in the discovery of suspected cocaine and crack cocaine in multiple containers. Scalia was charged with possession of a Class B drug, according to police.

All evidence was secured in accordance with department policy and will be submitted to the Massachusetts State Police Drug Lab for testing, according to police.

The operation concluded without injury to officers or civilians.

“This operation reflects the coordinated effort of our department and regional partners to remove dangerous drugs and repeat offenders from our community,” stated Chelsea Police Chief Keith Houghton. “Our commitment to keeping Chelsea neighborhoods safe remains unwavering.”

CHELSEA POLICE ARREST EVERETT MAN FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION INTO PRESCRIPTION PILL DISTRIBUTION

Following a months-long investigation into the illegal distribution of prescription pills in the City of Chelsea, Chelsea Police detectives on Oct. 9 executed a search warrant on Ramon Vega, 74, and his residence at 17 Irving Street, Everett, resulting in multiple narcotics seizures and felony charges.

Investigators obtained search warrants from the Malden District Court for

Vega’s person and residence after developing probable cause that Vega was distributing narcotics in Chelsea, according to Chelsea police. Vega, while operating his vehicle in Chelsea, was stopped on Everett Avenue near Dunkin’ Donuts.

During the stop, officers recovered several containers of prescription medications—including Oxycodone, Clonazepam, and Gabapentin—and seized \$996 in U.S. currency believed to be proceeds of drug sales.

Detectives then executed the companion search warrant at Vega’s residence in Everett, where they recovered 94 additional Oxycodone pills and \$5,794 in cash.

Vega was taken into custody and transported to Chelsea Police Headquarters, where he was booked without incident. Vega was charged with:

- Possession with Intent to Distribute Class B (Oxycodone),
- Possession with In-

See POLICE Page 11

2025

★★★★★

CHELSEA ELECTION NEWS

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS HOST CHELSEA CANDIDATES’ FORUM



Several local organizations collaborated to host a Chelsea candidates’ forum in advance of the Nov. 4 municipal election. Pictured at the forum are community leaders Joan Cromwell (CBC), Richelle Cromwell (nonprofit leader), Jennifer Hassell (Chamber of Commerce), Molly Baldwin (Roca), Damali Vidot (Community Activist/Former City Councilor), Monica Elias-Orellana (Green-Roots), Zaida Ismatul Resident/Community Activist) Grace Muwina (Chelsea Community Connections), Angelica Gonzalez (Chelsea Community Connection), and Roseanne Bongiovanni (Green Roots). More coverage of the forum will appear in the next edition.

Crossing Guard, School Administrator receive
October’s Name, Strength and Story Awards



ChelseaAdministrator – The school committee presented a Name, Strength, and Story Award to Chelsea High School administrator Michael Talbot.



Crossing Guard – The school committee and administrators honored crossing guard Zuleika Sala with a Name, Strength, and Story award last week.

Special to the Record

Superintendent of Chelsea Public Schools Dr. Almi G. Abeyta honored two Chelsea Public Schools staff members with Name, Strength and Story Awards at the October meeting of the Chelsea School Committee: Crossing Guard Zuleika Sala and Chelsea High School Administrator Michael Talbot.

“These awards go to people who have built relationships with our students and with our families,” Dr. Abeyta said at the meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 8. “We wanted to lift up our educators, our staff who are making a difference and really knowing our students by name, strength and story.”

Sala, a CPS Crossing Guard for more than three years, was recognized for her role in keeping students, families, staff and residents safe when walking and commuting to school. She recently played a key role in reuniting a lost student with its family as she developed relationships with the student and family from her time as a crossing guard.

Talbot, an educator and administrator at Chelsea Public Schools for over 20 years, was highlighted for his dedicated service to CPS students and families. Dr. Abeyta credited Mr. Talbot for knowing all his students, present and past, by name. She referenced his supportive presence at various events throughout the

school district and community, celebrating all that his students accomplish.

The School Committee meeting also featured four individual schools in the school district receiving honors for academic improvement or growth during the 2024-25 school year: Morris H. Seigal Clark Avenue Middle School, Browne Middle School, Berkowitz Elementary School and Hooks Elementary School.

The Hooks was also named a School of Recognition by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) after making double-digit gains on its MCAS data compared to the previous school year.

Vega // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ever elected to public office in Massachusetts history. That experience shaped my belief that leadership should be rooted in service, courage, and community and love for your neighbor.

Serving our community has been one of the greatest responsibilities of my life. I have always shown up rooted in equity, compassion, and action and together, we have made real progress.

Our Accomplishments Together

Over the years, I have worked alongside residents, community partners, city staff, and local organizations to deliver meaningful results for District 2 and all of Chelsea. Some of our proudest accomplishments include:

Housing & Community Development

Supported affordable housing projects and homeownership opportunities that help families stay in Chelsea.

Strengthened tenant protections and anti-displacement measures so families can keep their keys and dignity.

Helped advance the Upper Broadway Project, bringing \$30 million in investments to transform our district.

Youth & Education

Co-led youth listening sessions that elevated young people’s voices in city government.

Helped drive the hiring of Chelsea’s first full-time Athletic Director, expanding youth recreation programs.

Supported funding for youth programming and safe public spaces.

Equity & Inclusion

Introduced Chelsea’s first Autism Awareness Resolution, bringing visibility and support to neurodiverse families.

Co-founded the Chelsea Women’s Commission, giving women and girls permanent representation in city leadership.

Advocated for racial and housing equity across city policies.

Historic and Cultural Preservation

Supported restoration funding for Temple Emmanuel, preserving an important cultural and historic landmark.

Advocated for investment in neighborhoods to protect the character and history of District 2.

Community & Public Health

Organized community resource efforts for families during times of crisis.

Advanced environmental justice efforts to protect our neighborhoods impacted by pollution.

Supported our veterans and service members by organizing yearly drives to provide essential items and support.

My Priorities for the Next Term:

Our work is not finished. With your support, I will continue to fight for:

Affordable, dignified housing for working families

Economic development that benefits residents not just developers

Youth investment through sports, mental health resources, and safe spaces

Cleaner neighborhoods and environmental justice for frontline communities

Public safety with accountability and prevention-focused solutions

Support for small businesses and local entrepreneurship

Community-centered leadership driven by transparency and action.

I believe leadership is about listening, collaboration, and courage. I and that our city moves forward when everyone has a voice. I am proud of what we have accomplished, but I am even more energized by the work ahead.

I humbly ask for your support as we continue building a stronger, fairer, and more united Chelsea.”

With gratitude and commitment,
Melinda Vega

Award // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

setting the tone for a supportive and respectful environment.”

Founded in 1959, North Suffolk Community Services, formerly North Suffolk Mental Health Association, touches the lives of nearly 10,000 people annually in more than 75 programs throughout Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, Charlestown, and Boston. North Suffolk supports adults, children, and families across the lifespan with behavioral health issues, substance use disorders and/

or developmental disabilities. The organization employs more than 1,000 talented individuals who provide services in nine languages, including ASL, through a community behavioral health center and three outpatient clinics; mobile crisis response team; 38 residential programs; two Recovery Support Centers and a Recovery Learning Center. It operates a Training Center for employees and the community as well as a 24/7/365 Recovery Support hotline. Visit nortsuffolk.org.

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RECORD

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A FITTING TRIBUTE TO
BILL RUSSELL

The recent dedication of the “William Felton ‘Bill’ Russell Bridge” that connects Charlestown to the North End represents a fitting tribute to a wonderful man who not only was a sports legend, but who exemplified by the way he led his life the values of excellence, courage, strength, dignity, decency, and humility.

The beautiful new bridge replaces the decrepit No. Washington St. Bridge, a structure that was both an eyesore and a safety hazard, close by to the TD Boston Garden, the arena where Bill Russell led the Celtics to 11 NBA titles in 13 years in the 1950s and 60s, a dynasty that remains -- and always will remain -- unparalleled in the sports world.

For those of us who were Boston sports fans in our childhood while growing up in the 1960s (and who remember often walking across the old No. Washington St. Bridge en route from where the bus from Chelsea dropped us off at the old City Square station to our summer job in Government Center in the 1970s), there was only one real hero -- and that was Bill Russell. Yes, we had Bobby Orr and Carl Yastrzemski, but Bill Russell stood out, not only by virtue of the number of championships he won, but also because he spoke out on the major issue of that time-- civil rights -- when others were too timid to do so.

The Celtics and Bill Russell were the epitome of success, especially in comparison to the other Boston sports teams of that era. However, even at our young age, there was something about Bill Russell that we recognized as transcending the typical athlete of that period.

We recall that when Bill Russell published his autobiographical memoir in the mid-60s, Go Up for Glory, we eagerly bought the paperback. It was one of the few (if any) books that we read outside of our required school reading.

We knew instinctively, even at our young age, that if Bill Russell had something to say, it would be important -- and he did so in a straightforward and honest way that often was lacking in the turbulent era that was the 1960s (and remains so today).

The hippies proclaimed, “Don’t trust anyone over the age of 30,” but that did not apply to Bill Russell, who won his final NBA title as the Celtics’ player-coach in 1969 at the age of 35. Bill Russell’s honesty and integrity were unquestioned.

To paraphrase a popular TV commercial, “When Bill Russell spoke, people listened.”

Bill Russell was as elegant and graceful in his demeanor off the court as he was in his athleticism on the court. Just as his emphasis on defense, rebounding, and leading the fast break not only revolutionized the game of basketball, but also set the standard for the definition of selflessness and the concept of a team player, so too, did his truthful outspokenness on the subject of racism in America set a new standard in the sports world for elevating our national conversation about race and other social topics.

As we grew into adulthood, if we were hanging out with friends, whenever we might be playing the, “If you could have dinner with anyone famous, who would it be?” game, our answer always would be, “Bill Russell.”

Bill Russell passed away in the summer of 2022 while the new bridge that now bears his name was still under construction. We know we speak for millions of past and present Boston sports fans in expressing our delight that a man who was a hero in every respect now will be honored forever in our city.

AT LAST: PEACE IN THE
MIDDLE EAST

The prospect of a lasting peace in the Middle East, a place that has been the root of so much pain and suffering in our world, truly is a reason for rejoicing today.

The wars, bombings, and hostage-takings that have emanated from both nation-states and terrorist organizations in that region for more than 80 years appear to have come to an end.

The ability of President Donald Trump to engineer a peace deal among all of the players in the Middle East, a goal never achieved by any other U.S. President, has been truly extraordinary.

It is clear that Trump, and only Trump, could have brought enough pressure to bear upon the Israeli government, the Hamas terrorists, and the major nation-states in the region to achieve this historic breakthrough.

Although it is appropriate to mourn the Israeli citizens who were slaughtered by Hamas terrorists on 10/7/23 and the estimated 250,000 Gazan civilians (at least half of whom were children) who have either been killed or wounded during the two-year war, this week marks the start of a new day in the Middle East.

Hopefully, the parties to the peace agreement will have learned from the mistakes of the past so as not to repeat them. But now, all parties must move forward in peace, for the sake of both those who are alive today and the future generations to come.

We hope that the words of President Trump are embraced by all:

“This is the day that people across the region and around the world have been working, striving, hoping, and prayed for. They have done things over the last month that I think were really unthinkable. Nobody thought this could happen. With the historic agreement we’ve just signed, those prayers of millions have finally been answered.”

CHS GIRLS SOCCER
WINS TWO;
IMPROVES TO 6-5-1
ON SEASON

The Chelsea High girls soccer team turned in a pair of superb performances to defeat Greater Boston League rivals Everett and Lynn English last week. The victories improved the Lady Red Devils to 6-5-1 on the season, moving them over .500 and bringing them within striking distance of achieving a first-ever feat for a CHS girls team -- qualifying for the post-season state tournament.

“Our 2–0 victory over Everett was a thrilling match that showcased the team’s determination and teamwork from start to finish,” CHS head coach Rady Grajal said of last Tuesday’s match at Chelsea Stadium.

The first half was a tightly-contested battle, with both teams creating chances but unable to break the deadlock, sending the game into halftime at a nil-nil stand-off. Chelsea came out of the break energized and focused, and just 13 minutes into the second half, freshman Edlyn Hernandez-Enriquez opened the scoring.

After receiving a pass from sophomore Emili Rodriguez-Rodriguez, Edlyn dribbled past a defender and calmly finished a 1-on-1 against the Lady Crimson Tide goalkeeper with a precise shot to the left side.

The intensity continued as Everett pushed hard for an equalizer, but Chelsea held strong defensively. In the 79th minute—just one minute before the final whistle—Emili once again found Hernandez-Enriquez with a perfectly-timed through-ball, and Edlyn finished with another composed shot to the left side of the keeper to secure the 2–0 win.

“It was a complete team performance marked by resilience, discipline, and pride,” said Grajal. “The team defended their home field with heart and refused to let Everett take control, sealing an impressive victory.”

Two days later the Lady Red Devils traveled to Lynn English on Thursday and came away with an impres-

sive 3–1 victory. The match was highlighted by a hat trick from freshman Edlyn Hernandez-Enriquez and three assists from sophomore Emili Rodriguez-Rodriguez, capping off an outstanding week for both players — five goals for Edlyn and five assists for Emili.

The game started evenly, with both teams fighting for control until Edlyn broke through in the 24th minute to give Chelsea the lead. Just two minutes before halftime, Lynn English was able to level the score at 1–1.

Chelsea came out strong after the intermission, determined to take back control. Eleven minutes after the restart, Emili found Edlyn inside the box, and she finished calmly to make it 2–1. Later in the half, Edlyn completed her hat trick with another well-placed goal to secure the 3–1 triumph.

“Once again, the team

showed tremendous heart and teamwork,” said Grajal. “Every player contributed -- attacking, defending, and supporting one another throughout the match. The team continues to grow stronger with each game, demonstrating unity, effort, and a commitment to improvement. The coaches are proud of how far this group has come and excited to see them keep building toward their full potential.”

With five games left on their schedule, Grajal and his crew need four points (out of a possible 10) in order to finish with the .500 record that is required to punch their ticket for a Journey to the Tourney. The Lady Red Devils were scheduled to play at Revere this past Tuesday and at Malden today (Thursday). They will return home to host Medford next Tuesday and will trek to Lynn Classical next Thursday.

CHS BOYS SPLIT
TWO CONTESTS

The Chelsea High boys soccer team split its two contests this past week.

In a contest at Everett last Tuesday, the Red Devils moved out to an early 2-0 lead with a pair of goals in the opening 10 minutes.

The first came on a free kick by Cristian Lopez, who delivered a well-placed strike low and under the Everett wall. A few minutes later, Cristian reached the back of the Everett net to make it 2-0.

However, after Chelsea left a gap in its midfield formation, Everett senior captain Gabriel Garcia found himself alone against a Chelsea defender, where he had plenty of time to take his shot and score. Garcia scored again shortly thereafter after a similar course of events to bring the game

See **ROUNDUP** Page 5

BRUINS Beat by Bob Morello

BRUINS STREAK ENDS....

The Bruins three-game win streak came to an end with Monday’s matinee, as the Tampa Bay Lightning came out flying, and the locals on the other hand, came out surprisingly slow. The result was a 4-3 loss, the first for the Bruins (3-1) this season, following wins over the Washington Capitals, Chicago Blackhawks, and the Buffalo Sabres to begin the season. It was refreshing to see Boston had the fight in them to overcome deficits of 3-0 and 4-1, as they displayed resiliency, and managed to bounce back each time, despite their slow start. Bruins goals came off the sticks of Casey Mitchellstadt (2), Jordan Harris (1), and Morgan Geekie (2). Following the game, Coach Marco Sturm summed up the loss via, “We know from their starting six, we knew they wanted to get to work right away and we just were not ready. That’s why we made mistakes and that’s why it ended up with four (goals), pretty much, on an empty

net.” His comments were right on, as Bruins goaltender Joonas Korpisalo (19 saves on the night) was basically left out on a limb, with little or no defensive protection on all four Lightning scores. The limited Bruins highlights were, the impressive streak of 14 penalty kills, while Boston earned four power plays, and had nothing to show for it, and the Bruins winning 41 of 60 face-offs (68%). On the downside, the Bruins had a night where they were handing out turnover after turnover, with each one providing the Bolts with a major chance to score. Coach Sturm decided to leave for the road trip immediately after the game on Monday, hoping that the time together will give his troops a chance to bond as a team. Sturm explained, “We put some thought into it because this is our only time, we don’t have anything in October, I think. November, not really, so that’s why we are leaving early.” Defenseman Hampus Lindholm is on the trip, still

recovering from a lower body injury, but his playing time is questionable at this point. Sturm said he is looking forward to some off-ice bonding time with his players during the upcoming trip. The Bruins hit the road following the Lightning’s game on Monday, and will now enjoy a rare two-day layoff, between games, with their first stop taking place tonight (Thursday 10pm), as they take on the Vegas Golden Knights. On Saturday 9pm, the Colorado Avalanche will host Boston in the first game of a back-to-back set. On Sunday 7pm, the back-end game will end the three-game road trip, as they take on the Utah Mammoth. A return to TD Garden ice will start a three-game home stand which will feature visits from former Bruins Captain Brad Marchand and the Florida Panthers on Tuesday 7:30, followed by a Thursday 7pm contest with the Anaheim Ducks, and the Colorado Avalanche here for a 3pm matinee on Saturday.

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CHELSEA FIRE DEPARTMENT PREVENTION WEEK OPEN HOUSE



As part of Fire Prevention Week, the Chelsea Fire Department hosted an Open House Saturday, Oct. 9 at Central Fire Station. The event raised public awareness about fire safety and educated people on how to prevent fires and protect themselves and their families. In the photo above, Chelsea Fire Chief John Quatieri (third from right) and the dedicated firefighters in the department are pictured with some of the local families who enjoyed the Open House.

Cellphone // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stations on the first floor of the school where the phones can be unlocked.

“We also have handheld magnets in case of emergencies, we also bring those out at dismissal to speed up the process,” said Beausoleil. “If kids need a magnet for any particular reason, they can get one.”

The school also came up with the violation process if a student does violate the policy, he added.

The policy includes not just cellphones, but also electronics including earbuds and headphones, said Beausoleil. He said it was decided that if there is a violation, the teachers did not

want to take students out of the classrooms, so they call security, and then security radios a dean or administrator to go to the classroom and they talk to the student and then take the phone to a lockbox in the main office.

“For the first violation, the students line up at 2:45 to get their phone, we don’t want them lining up at 2:30 because that is right at the end of the day ... and it is also a little penalty, a little wait, 15 minutes goes a long way with some kids,” said Beausoleil. “The second offense is a 3:30 pickup, so it is basically a phone detention.”

For subsequent vio-

lations, the parents have to come and pick up the phones.

If students forget their pouch, there is no penalty, but they are expected to put their phones in the main office. There is also a \$30 fee if students damage their Yondr pouch.

“There are a lot of kids looking at TikTok figuring out ways to get around the system and break the lock,” Beausoleil. “Kids are trying to be one step ahead of us, so we are trying to figure out the ways they are figuring out their way around the system and keep ahead of them.”

Beausoleil said the staff

are seeing a lot of positives from the new policy.

“We are seeing kids talk to each other, we are seeing kids more engaged in the classroom,” he said. “We are seeing less students in the hallways and less negative interactions and less physical interactions at the high school, which is a big thing.”

Beausoleil said he has heard from teachers who have seen scores in their classrooms go up and have seen less fights in the classrooms and halls since the policy was put in place.

Garcia // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I’ve served as an educator, advocate, and public servant—including eight years on the Chelsea School Committee, with four as Chair. Whether in the classroom, City Hall chambers, or testifying at the State House, my mission has always been the same: to defend Chelsea families and deliver real results.

When schools shut down during the pandemic, I helped mobilize more than 5,000 Chromebooks, hotspots, and meals to keep learning going. I co-founded the Equity Committee and the College & Career Awareness Advisory, ensuring our students had access to the tools and opportunities they deserve to succeed beyond their high school years.

As your Councilor, I’ve made housing a top priority. Since 2010, over 500 affordable units have been added to Chelsea. We are converting city properties into affordable condos, expanding homeownership pathways, and holding slumlords accountable through our Good Standing Policy and Up to Code initiative.

But housing is only one piece of the vision. By 2040, I believe Chelsea can be a vibrant city where families can stay, businesses prosper, and strong community networks help everyone thrive. A city where public safety is built on trust and prevention, where families have access to beautiful parks on streets like Bossom, Forsyth, and Clinton, and where cultural diversity remains our greatest strength.

We are also tackling key emerging issues: public safety, open space, economic development, and immigration impacts on schools and services. The Pa’lante Plan, Chelsea’s first comprehensive plan since 1973, will help guide this work—ensuring growth is strategic, equitable, and community-driven.

Chelsea deserves steady, proven leadership—and I’m ready to continue this work. On November 4, I’m asking for your support so together, we can keep building a stronger, fairer, and more united Chelsea.

Sincerely,
Kelly Garcia”

OBITUARIES

Walter “Deedee” Maslowski
Graduate of Chelsea High School, Class of 1970

Walter R. “Deedee” Maslowski passed away suddenly at his home in Beverly on October 5, 2025. He was 75 years of age.

Born in Roxbury, he was the son of the late Walter and Blanche (Sokolowski) Maslowski. Walter was a longtime Chelsea resident, attending school in Chelsea and graduating from Chelsea High School, Class of 1970. Walter was retired.

The former husband of Diane A. (DeCain) Maslowski, he was the beloved father of Christopher R. Maslowski of Georgia, Derek K. Maslowski and Tracy L. Maslowski, both of Chelsea. Walter was predeceased by his two brothers, Ronald Maslowski and Gregory Maslowski.

Funeral Services are private. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Carafa Family Funeral Home in Chelsea.

We encourage family and friends to visit <http://www.carafafuneralhome.com> to offer condolences at this time by means of the online guest book or to send a personalized sympathy card.

Roundup // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

back to level at 2-2.

A few minutes after that, Chelsea gave up a penalty and Garcia hit the PK for a 3-2 Everett lead at the intermission.

The rest of the game proved to be a grueling battle between the two teams. After the five goals in the first half, nothing seemed to be working for either team until CHS captain Jose Joj, having just been subbed back in, scored on his first touch back on the pitch after receiving a ball in the box from a free kick.

However, Chelsea’s smiles did not last too long as Garcia took a throw-in quickly and potted his fourth goal to make it 4-3 with about two minutes to play.

The Red Devils had an opportunity to earn a tie in the final minute with a PK, but the Everett keeper made a superb save to thwart the CHS attempt.

Two days later in a battle with Lynn Classical, the Devils scored two first-half goals that stood up to secure the victory. Lopez sent in a sharp corner and junior Ryan Orellana threw

his whole body for a diving header for the first goal. Not too long after, Lopez sent Joj in for the second tally.

Coach Mick Milutinovic and his crew, who stand at 8-3-1 on the season, need just one point in their final six games in order to qualify for the post-season state tourney.

In addition, the Red Devils, who hold second-place in the Greater Boston League with a 6-3-1 record, were scheduled to host first-place Revere (7-1-2 in the GBL) this past Tuesday. A victory will move Chelsea within a point of the Patriots, with both teams having three GBL games remaining on their schedule.

The Red Devils will host Malden this evening (Thursday) at 5:30 and will travel to non-league foe Boston International tomorrow (Friday). They will travel to Medford next Tuesday and entertain Lynn Classical next Thursday.

RED DEVIL RUNNERS DEFEAT ENGLISH, 24-33

The Chelsea High boys cross country team earned

a 24-33 victory over Lynn English last Wednesday at Admiral’s Hill.

Six Red Devils set a personal record (PR), the biggest coming from Sebastian Molina, who improved his 5K time by about 40 seconds to finish in sixth place.

Chelsea’s top runner, Xavier Guzman, also turned in a PR by 20 seconds to finish in second place.

“This is Xavier’s first season of cross country and he runs better each meet,” said CHS head coach Cesar Hernandez. “Carlos Perez, who finished in third place in 19:14, has been coming off an injury, but is steadily getting back in rhythm as well.”

Boys results:
Xavier Guzman -- 2nd place, 19:09
Carlos Perez -- 3rd, 19:14
Zakaria Moubtassim -- 5th, 20:06
Sebastian Molina Regil -- 6th, 20:13
Bryan Amaya -- 8th, 20:54
Jeffriso Mercado -- 10th, 22:21

On the girls side, Chelsea did not have enough runners to qualify for a win, but

Hazel Hatleberg finished in second place with a clocking of 23:30. Teammate Aly Perez finished in third place in 24:44, which marked Aly’s first 5K race under 25 minutes.

Hernandez and his crew were scheduled to travel down the Parkway to Medford’s Macdonald Park along the Mystic River yesterday (Wednesday) and will trek to Pine Banks to meet Malden next Wednesday for their final dual meet of the season. The GBL Championship Meet is set for two weeks on Wednesday, October 29, at Macdonald Park.

CHS FOOTBALL TEAM AT MALDEN TONIGHT

The Chelsea High football team, which stands at 2-3 on the season, will be seeking to get to the .500 mark when the Red Devils travel to Macdonald Stadium in Malden to take on the Golden Tornadoes this evening (Thursday). The opening kickoff is set for 6:00.

Chelsea will host Medford next Friday under the lights at Chelsea Stadium.

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Grants // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

important way we can support the dedicated educators who open their homes to young children, helping them improve their spaces, strengthen their programs, and continue serving families in their communities.”

“This program is improving and expanding child care across our state and bolstering our family child care providers as small businesses and job creators within our communities,” said MassDevelopment

President and CEO Navjeet Bal. “As the Healey-Driscoll Administration now launches a new round of available grant funding, we encourage all eligible licensed family child care providers to apply for these resources.”

“These grants are a great way to support and increase the capacity of family child care providers to help serve more children and families across the state,” said Senator Jason Lewis, Senate

Chair of the Joint Committee on Education. “The first round of grants earlier this year was a great success, and the \$4 million available in this round will continue to help more providers upgrade their facilities, enhance safety, and increase quality of care.”

“We know that access to high-quality early education and care is truly a game changer for our youngest learners,” said Representative Ken Gordon, House

Chair of the Joint Committee on Education. “By continuing the Family Child Care Capital Grants, we’re not only expanding access to early education for more children—we’re also strengthening the foundation for their lifelong success.”

For more information on eligibility, application materials, and deadlines, visit mass.gov/info-details/early-education-and-out-of-school-time-capital-grants.

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La Colaborativa recognized with digital equity award

Special to the Record

The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative’s (MassTech) Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) recently announced the winners of the 2025 Massachusetts Goes DigitALL Awards, including Chelsea non-profit La Colaborativa.

The awards recognize individuals, organizations and initiatives for their significant contributions to expanding digital access across Massachusetts. Winners submitted applications for contributions in the categories of Digital Access Champion, Excellence in Community Impact and Lifetime Achievement.

“Massachusetts is proud to recognize key individuals and organizations making a substantial difference in expanding internet access to those who need it most,” said Massachusetts Economic Development Secretary Eric Paley. “As we work to close the digital divide, our partners at the local and regional level are indispensable. These awardees set the standard for innovation, collaboration and impact.”

The Massachusetts Goes DigitALL event was held at Top of the Tower in Worcester to mark the state’s progress toward achieving internet for all. The event

featured lightning-round presentations and provided an opportunity for professionals to network, collaborate and form partnerships.

“Over 30% of Chelsea residents lack access to high speed internet, severely impacting our community’s ability to pursue high wage jobs, connect with health-care providers, and excel in school,” said La Colaborativa COO Alex Train. “After devoting decades to addressing the digital divide, La Colaborativa is honored to receive the Excellence in Community Impact Award from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ Digital Ecosystem Awards.

Train said that in partnership with Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech and MassHire Metro North Workforce Board, La Colaborativa’s Digital Equity Initiative is one of the first multilingual digital inclusion efforts in the Commonwealth.

“From exciting digital education classes and advanced workforce training to the distribution of free laptops, the program is cultivating skills, increasing access to technology, and empowering residents to secure high wage jobs in an evolving 21st century economy,” Train said. “We’re also proud to have devel-



Chelsea non-profit La Colaborativa was recently honored with a MassTech digital access award.

oped the digital equity curriculum now used throughout the Commonwealth, as well as trained Digital Navigators to maximize our impact.”

This year, MBI has awarded \$64.2 million in support of affordable and public housing internet through the Residential Retrofit Program, \$19 million in grants to support participants of the Digital Equity Partnerships Program, \$12.6 million to expand internet in 96 municipalities through the Gap Networks Grant Program, and \$555,747 to nine municipalities as part of the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program.

“Over the coming decade, a dramatic transformation of the economy risks leaving our most vulnerable residents behind. La Colab-

Chelsea firefighters extinguish blaze at Kayem Foods, investigation underway

On Monday, October 13, 2025, at approximately 8 p.m., the Chelsea Fire Department received multiple 911 calls reporting a fire inside the Kayem Foods facility located at 75 Arlington Street in Chelsea.

Engine 4 was the first unit to arrive on scene and reported heavy smoke in the building and were advised by staff that there was a fire above the commercial ovens on the mezzanine level. Crews reported flames extending toward the roof area, prompting the Incident Commander to strike a sec-

ond alarm due to the size of the building and the difficulty getting to the fire area.

Crews initiated an aggressive interior attack while additional companies worked to ventilate the structure. The fire was brought under control within approximately one hour, preventing damage to production areas and limiting the fire’s spread beyond the mezzanine and sections of the roof.

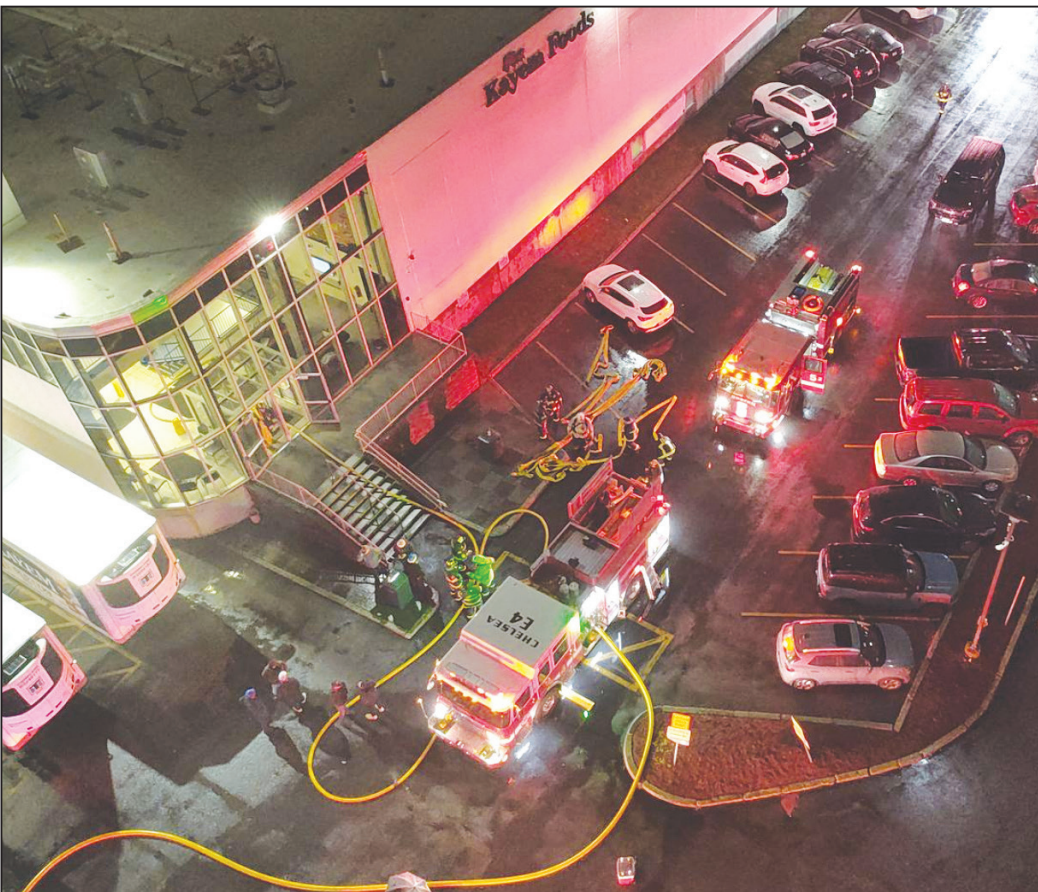
All Kayem Foods employees were safely evacuated prior to the arrival of the fire department. There

were no injuries reported.

“Our firefighters did an outstanding job containing this fire in such a large facility. Their quick response and coordinated effort prevented what could have been a much larger incident,” said Fire Chief John Quatieri.

The Chelsea Fire Department Fire Investigation Unit is currently investigating the cause of the fire.

Mutual aid was provided by Everett, Revere, Boston, Winthrop and Massport fire departments.



The Chelsea Fire Department drone captures the scene outside the Kayem Foods facility on Monday, October 13, 2025.



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NeighborHealth hosts policy panel on maternal health equity, urging action on systemic disparities

Special to the Record

On Tuesday, October 7, NeighborHealth convened state legislators, health-care leaders, and public health officials for Maternal Health Legislation in Action: Panel Update – a timely and urgent discussion on the persistent disparities in maternal health outcomes in Massachusetts, particularly those affecting Black and Latino individuals and people with disabilities.

Held at NeighborHealth’s South End location, the panel featured State Senator Liz Miranda of the Massachusetts Legislature who championed the 2024 Maternal Health Omnibus Bill; community health advocates from the Department of Public Health (DPH) – a key state agency that has released critical reports on maternal health inequities; representatives from MassHealth, which plays a crucial role in covering most pregnancies in the state; as well as leaders from the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission and Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC). The panel also included community-based providers and services such as Flourish Care, South Cove, Upstream, and Brockton Neighborhood Health Center, all of whom work directly with birthing individuals and families.

Michael Curry, President and CEO, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, offered the event’s opening remarks, which centered on progress towards actionable solutions to improve maternal health outcomes, particularly for



Massachusetts Senator Liz Miranda speaks on NeighborHealth’s State and City panel at Maternal Health Legislation in Action event on October 7 in the South End.

Black, Latino, American Indian, and Alaska Native communities who are two to three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than their White counterparts, regardless of income or education levels.

“Too many lives have been lost because our systems have failed to meet the needs of birthing people of color,” said Mimi Gardner, LICSW, MPH, Vice President and Chief Equity Officer at NeighborHealth. “At NeighborHealth, we believe everyone deserves the chance to experience pregnancy and birth safely. This event is an important step toward the systemic changes needed to make that a reality. We’re deeply grateful to the legislators who continue to fight for equity in underserved communities, and to everyone who showed up to be part of the conversation.”

Panelists explored solutions across four key areas: legislative reforms, community-based models, health-care system transformation, and improved data transparency and accountability.



Shown (left to right) are Michael Curry, President and CEO, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers; Viveka Prakash-Zawisza, MD, MS, MBA, FACOG, Senior Medical Director, MassHealth; Elaine Fitzgerald Lewis, DrPH, MIA, Director of the Bureau of Family and Nutrition, MA Department of Public Health; Massachusetts Senator Liz Miranda; Becky Cruz-Crosson, Director of Healthy Start Systems Division, Boston Public Health Commission; Christin Price, MD, Perinatal and Neonatal Quality Improvement Network, MA Department of Public Health; Mimi Gardner, LICSW, Vice President and Chief Equity Officer, NeighborHealth; David Seltz, Executive Director, Health Policy Commission

Topics included expanding access to doulas and midwives, increasing culturally competent care, extending postpartum coverage under MassHealth, and the importance of scaling trusted community programs such as group prenatal care and neighborhood health centers.

“Massachusetts is facing a maternal health crisis that disproportionately impacts Black, Latino, and Indigenous communities. I was proud to file and pass the Maternal Health Omnibus Law, which extends MassHealth postpartum coverage, invests in doulas and midwives, and strengthens accountability across our

healthcare system. But laws alone are not enough,” said Senator Liz Miranda. “We must continue to listen to families, partner with trusted community organizations, and demand equity and dignity in every birthing experience. I am grateful to NeighborHealth and all the partners in this work for convening today’s important conversation.”

NeighborHealth organized the panel event as part of its broader commitment to advancing health equity and ensuring all residents, regardless of background, have access to compassionate, high-quality, and culturally informed care. Following the passage of the

Maternal Health Omnibus Law, NeighborHealth continues to play a vital role in advancing equitable care for underserved communities in Boston.

NeighborHealth, formerly East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, is one of the nation’s largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, serving over 130,000 people and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a National Quality Leader. For more than 50 years, NeighborHealth has offered access to comprehensive

primary care, specialty care and emergency care for patients in the Commonwealth. In a first-of-its-kind merger in 2020, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center joined forces with the South End Community Health Center and expanded services to patients who live and work in Boston’s South End and Roxbury neighborhoods. NeighborHealth champions innovative care models to actively bridge health equity gaps in our low-income and immigrant communities with services unique from other health-care providers in our state. For more information, visit www.neighborhealth.com.

State Fire Marshal and Fire Chiefs make statewide push on expired smoke alarms

Special to the Record

State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts (FCAM) are teaming up this month to draw attention to a wave of smoke alarms that are nearing the end of their useful lifespans.

In 2015, a change to the Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code set a new requirement that replacement smoke alarms in most Massachusetts homes have a sealed, 10-year battery and a “hush” feature. This requirement reduces the likelihood that residents will disable the device after a nuisance alarm from cooking smoke or remove the batteries for use in another device.

The long-life batteries in these alarms are reliable only for 10 years. For that reason, the alarms purchased and put into service by early adopters of this code change may no longer be reliable soon.

“Smoke alarms are like any other appliance – they don’t last forever,” said Westborough Fire Chief Patrick Purcell, who serves as FCAM President. “Right now, the alarms that were purchased and put into service 10 years ago are reaching the end of their useful lifespan. Our concern is that a wave of smoke alarms in homes across Massachusetts won’t be reliable in the months ahead.”

Chief Purcell kicked off the month-long push yesterday at a press conference with State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine, Auburn Fire Chief Stephen Coleman, and fire chiefs from across Massachusetts.

“Every smoke alarm should have a manufacturing date printed on the back of the device,” said Brockton Fire Chief Brian Nardelli, who serves as FCAM’s

First Vice President. “If it’s more than 10 years old, or if it doesn’t have a date, replace it right away. If it’s not 10 years old and it takes alkaline batteries, this is a great time to put fresh batteries in to be sure you’re protected through the winter.”

Chief Nardelli will host a press conference at the Brockton Fire Department on October 9 to promote the smoke alarm safety message for news media in Southeastern Massachusetts.

“When it’s time to replace your smoke alarms, we strongly recommend choosing new alarms that meet UL Standard 217, 8th Edition or later,” said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. “Look for that language on the packaging or the product specifications. These devices use the latest multi-criteria technology, which helps to prevent nuisance alarms caused by cooking smoke.”

“Sealed-battery smoke alarms are powered by lithium-ion batteries, so please don’t put them in your household trash or recycling,” said Easthampton Fire Chief Christopher Norris, who serves as FCAM’s Second Vice President. “If they’re crushed or punctured in a compactor truck or a transfer station, they could cause a fire that’s very difficult to extinguish. As



Fire service leaders from across Massachusetts emphasized the importance of working smoke alarms in every home and offered tips on how to choose devices that will offer the best protection while reducing nuisance alarms.

lithium-ion batteries have become more common, we’ve started seeing more and more of these trash and transfer station fires, and it’s a safe bet that the root cause is battery damage.”

Chief Norris will host a third press conference at the Easthampton Fire Department on October 29 to promote the smoke alarm safety message for residents in Western Massachusetts.

Each spring and fall, the Massachusetts fire service reminds residents to check their smoke and carbon

monoxide alarms when they change their clocks. The reminder is especially urgent this year as so many smoke alarms may need to be replaced. The State Fire Marshal’s office and Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts urge residents to follow these safety tips:

- Check the manufacturing date printed on the back of your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms
- Replace smoke alarms after 10 years and CO alarms according to the manufacturer’s instructions

(usually after 5, 7, or 10 years depending on make and model)

- Choose new smoke alarms from a well-known national brand and look for the mark of an independent testing lab such as UL or Intertek/ETL
- Be sure the replacement alarm has a sealed, long-life

battery and a hush feature and meets UL Standard 217, 8th Edition or later

Many communities have programs that can assist older or low-income residents who need help installing or maintaining their alarms. Contact your local fire department for more information.

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Big Apple Circus at Suffolk Downs

Story by Marianne Salza

The Big Apple Cirus is continuing its legacy of jaw-dropping thrills, breathtaking feats of strength, and dazzling artistry for its 48th season, returning to Boston for the first time since 2019. The Big Apple Circus, produced by The Gold Group, EMC Presents BAC, and Circus Vazquez, will thrill audiences with its newest show, “The World’s Best Under Our Big Top,” at Suffolk Downs now through November 2.

Families will be stunned witnessing the electrifying energy of The Flying Caceres trapeze group as they somersault through the air, and awestruck by the masterful balancing skills of the Kung Fu Boys, who combine martial arts and high-flying tricks.

The charismatic flair, fearlessness, and precision of the global cast will astound viewers of all ages. Performers, like Emiliano Vazquez Padilla, hope that the circus mesmerizes the audience, bringing out everyone’s inner child as they watch in amazement.

First generation American-born Emiliano was raised in Mexico. As the son of the owner of Circus Vazquez, a family-owned and operated circus founded in Mexico in 1969, Emiliano began learning acrobatic techniques by bouncing on

a trampoline as a boy.

Today, one may see the 17-year-old acrobat serving refreshments behind the concession stand, or center stage, juggling and balancing on a unicycle with his watercress dog, Canelo. Growing up, Emiliano learned the patience and disciple of training dogs from his grandmother.

“All my life, I’ve been doing acrobats. The unicycle part came during Covid,” began Emiliano, who practices up to 7 hours daily. “When we were in lockdown, I used to ride a bicycle with my family every day, and I got unusually good at it. I would ride without hands and do tricks. My family, being several generations of circus, had the idea of getting me a unicycle. Ever since then, I have been doing it every day.”

Emiliano described the energy from the circus stage as vibrant and less formal than a theater stage in that people are all around him, reactive. He is most proud of the part of his act when he and Canelo jump rope together, a stunt of coordination that took the two much time to perfect.

“It feels more real. You feel connected to the audience,” Emiliano shared. “When you’re on a circus stage, you can get close to people. You can look into their eyes – their souls. You feel like you can do any-



The Flying Caceres (Photo provided by the Big Apple Circus)

thing.”

Emiliano is also a member of the team that raises the tent. Whenever a new tent is used, the servicemen practice the intricate operation of constructing it and taking it down for several weeks, so that by showtime, the tent can be erected within two days.

“It’s a special skill. We have people with several decades of experience,” Emiliano explained. “It’s a complicated, systematic process. We have to put the towers up and make sure everything is aligned correctly. We have a big top that is beautifully erected.”

This is Circus Vazquez’s premier appearance in Boston, as well as Emiliano’s

first time visiting the city. Predominantly residing in Texas, Emiliano loves to travel. Whether internationally, or driving around the United States in his trailer with his unicycle act, he is passionate about adventuring and studying in new places.

“For me, the pinnacle of the human experience is being able to travel,” Emiliano emphasized. “Being able to witness and understand different cultures is something I can’t miss. That’s what I look forward to here.”

Emiliano, with his interest in architecture, has visited Downtown Boston, Revere Beach, and the North End, in a search for breakfast that led to an exploration into Old North Church, and down the narrow streets and alleys that reminded him of his time in Italy and Paris.

Emiliano, who speaks Spanish, English, and French, also dedicates much of his time to his hobbies of writing and philosophy.

“I feel like I haven’t reached my limit,” Emiliano proclaimed. “I have a strong belief that once you put a limit on yourself, you don’t give yourself an opportunity to explore. I’d rather set my mind to something. If I truly believe I can achieve it, then I will.”

Visit www.BigAppleCircus.com to purchase tickets for the Big Apple Circus.



West African Acrobats (Photo by the Big Apple Circus)



The Bingo Troupe, of Ukraine, practice their hula hooping act during an October 8 rehearsal (Photo by Marianne Salza)



The Flying Caceres, of the United States, practicing their trapeze act during the October 8 rehearsal (Photo by Marianne Salza)



Kung Fu Boys, of China, practicing their balancing act during the October 8 rehearsal (Photo by Marianne Salza)

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BPM KICKS OFF 10TH ANNUAL HARVEST PARTY WITH ARRIVAL OF BOSTON’S OFFICIAL PUMPKIN



On Tuesday, October 14 at 12:00 p.m., the Boston Public Market (BPM) will launch its 10th anniversary year in grand style with the arrival of the Official Pumpkins of Boston — giant gourds delivered by forklift from Market vendor Red Apple Farm. This beloved annual tradition marks the start of BPM’s annual Harvest Party, the Market’s signature fundraising event, taking place on Thursday, October 16, 2025. Happy 10th BPM! This year’s colossal pumpkins come from the fields of Art Kazenski of Irving, Massachusetts, and are generously donated by Boston Public Market vendor Red Apple Farm of Phillipston, Massachusetts. Each year, the arrival of these pumpkins delights visitors of all ages and sets the stage for the Market’s most festive season. Everyone is invited to gather on the plaza to watch the live unveiling and unloading of Boston’s official pumpkins, a photo-worthy moment that has become a Boston fall tradition. Shown is a previous year’s pumpkin.

NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION PRESIDENT BRIAN BILELLO SPEAKS AT JGBC BREAKFAST SERIES

Brian Bilello, president of the New England Revolution professional soccer team that plays in MLS, was the guest speaker at the Jordan Boys and Girls Breakfast Series Tuesday at the clubhouse on Willow Street. Bilello enlightened the guests on the upcoming World Cup international soccer tournament, noting that some of the games in the World Cup will be played at Gillette Stadium in June, 2026.

Bilello also spoke about the Kraft Group’s plans to build a 25,000-seat professional soccer stadium in Everett across from Encore Boston Harbor.



Josh Kraft, pictured with former CHS basketball star and Jordan Boys and Girls Club member Leslie Santiago, who was representing Kayem Foods at the breakfast.



Pictured at the Jordan Boys and Girls Club Breakfast Tuesday are Julio Izqueirido and Kevin Welsh of Pre-Flight Airport Parking, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell, New England Revolution President Brian Bilello, Councilor-at-Large Leo Robinson, Radouane Behhite of Pre-Flight Airport Parking, Inspectional Services Director Michael McAteer, City Manager Fidel Maltez, and Revere Mayor Patrick Keefe.



Breakfast Series Co-Chair Mark Robinson (left) and Jordan Boys and Girls Club Executive Director Gina Centrella (right) welcome guest speaker, New England Revolution President Brian Bilello, to the breakfast Tuesday at the clubhouse on Willow Street.



Chelsea Housing Authority Executive Director Paul Nowicki, Director of Health and Human Services Tracy Nowicki, Metro Credit Union Vice President Saritin Rizzuto, and City Manager Fidel Maltez.



Leslie Santiago, Tracy Nowicki, Jennifer Hassell, Michael McAteer, and Paul Nowicki.

New photovoice exhibit explores community energy through the eyes of Chelsea & East Boston residents

A new photovoice art exhibit composed entirely of photos taken by Chelsea and East Boston residents will be on display at the Chelsea City Hall Gallery beginning Thursday, October 23, at 6 p.m. – the night of the exhibit’s opening reception, a free event open to the public that will include refreshments.

To create the exhibit, titled “Energy in Our Community,” GreenRoots and Northeastern University invited residents of Chelsea and East Boston to take photos that tell the story of the complex and profound importance of energy in their communities as part of a research method known as photovoice, a research method where individuals document their lives and communities through photographs and accompanying narratives to identify and address social, environmental, or health issues.

The result of this research is a community exhibit that presents the experiences, concerns, and visions of residents in Chelsea and East Boston regarding energy transitions in their community.

Neighbors from Chelsea and East Boston are encouraged to attend the exhibit as a way to learn about their neighbors’ experiences, concerns, and visions regarding energy transitions in their community.

Kiera Alventosa, Energy Democracy Organizer for GreenRoots, Inc., said, “This gallery, and the Photovoice project, is a celebration of the community’s powerful vision of the future of energy. It reveals Chelsea and East Boston residents’ deep understanding of the challenges currently faced and pathways forward that are responsive to community needs, reliable, and bright.”

Laura Kuhl, Associate Professor of Public Policy and Urban Affairs and International Affairs at Northeastern University, said, “The goal of the project was to provide community members a chance to share

their experiences with energy and priorities for the future. We hope the exhibit will spark conversations about how to make our energy transitions as inclusive as possible to reflect these experiences and priorities.”

To learn more about this project, and for ways to get involved with energy democracy in your community visit

<https://greenrootsej.org/get-involved-with-energy-democracy> (English)

<https://greenrootsej.org/es/participa-en-la-democracia-energetica> (Spanish)

The Chelsea City Hall Gallery is located on the 2nd floor of Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, Massachusetts, and its hours are as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

This event is presented by the Chelsea Cultural Council (CCC). To learn more about the CCC, visit www.chelseama.gov/cc.



A photo of Everett and the Island End River from the perspective of a Chelsea resident.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Record encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com

The Play Ball Foundation, a privately funded nonprofit that provides free, school-based intramural sports for middle school students in Gateway Cities across Massachusetts, announced its newest partnership with Chelsea Public Schools — marking a major milestone in the organization's expansion for the 2025–2026 school year. The expansion means that hundreds of Chelsea middle schoolers will now have the opportunity to play on a team, wear a uniform, and experience the belonging that comes with organized athletics — often for the very first time.

“Chelsea is a proud, tight-knit community where kids show up for one another,” said Katie Small, Executive Director of the Play Ball Foundation. “We’re thrilled among Chelsea’s youth.

“This partnership with Play Ball continues to support one of our school district’s strategic priorities to increase access to engaging and enriching opportunities

Methuen, Quincy, Taunton, Chicopee, and now Chelsea.”

“This is what growth with purpose looks like,” said Small. “Our vision is simple: every middle schooler in Massachusetts should

the very first time.

“Chelsea is a proud, tight-knit community where kids show up for one another,” said Katie Small, Executive Director of the Play Ball Foundation. “We’re thrilled to partner with the district to bring the joy and power of sports to even more middle schoolers. Every student deserves the chance to play — regardless of background, neighborhood, or circumstance — and this partnership helps make that a reality.”

Through the new partnership, Play Ball will fund after-school sports leagues for Chelsea’s middle schools, including support for coaches, equipment, uniforms, and transportation. The program will launch with soccer and basketball, two of the most popular sports

among Chelsea’s youth.

“This partnership with Play Ball continues to support one of our school district’s strategic priorities to increase access to engaging and enriching opportunities for all students,” commented Dr. Almudena (Almi) G. Abeyta, Chelsea Public Schools Superintendent. “We are grateful to be teaming up with Play Ball to expand opportunities like these for our middle school students, which will help them grow academically, socially and emotionally.”

The expansion into Chelsea builds on Play Ball’s growing statewide presence — now serving more than 8,000 middle school students across 11 Gateway Cities, including Boston, Lawrence, Holyoke, New Bedford, Lynn, Salem,

Methuen, Quincy, Taunton, Chicopee, and now Chelsea.

“This is what growth with purpose looks like,” said Small. “Our vision is simple: every middle schooler in Massachusetts should have the opportunity to play — to move, to belong, and to thrive.”

Founded in 2006, the Play Ball Foundation partners with public school districts across Massachusetts to provide access to free, school-based sports leagues for middle school students. By funding coaches, equipment, uniforms, and transportation, Play Ball ensures that thousands of students in Gateway Cities can experience the connection, confidence, and joy that come from being part of a team.

Learn more at www.playballfoundation.org.

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CITY OF CHELSEA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
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The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Request for Proposals for "WATER METERS AND ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE". Request for Proposals will be available on or after October 23, 2025 by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids/solicitations.php.
Proposals must be sealed and clearly marked "WATER METERS AND ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 11:00AM on Thursday, November 06, 2025. The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any proposal, to reject any or all proposals and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City. In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond. The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer. This Request for Proposals is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B.
Dragica Ivanis
Chief Procurement Officer
10/16/25
C

Massachusetts leaders kick off Breast Cancer Awareness Month with equity-focused event

Special to the Record

The Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators (MCWL), in partnership with Senator Michael Rush, the Ellie Fund, and the Boston Breast Cancer Equity Coalition, launched Breast Cancer Awareness Month on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, with a powerful event at the Massachusetts State House Grand Staircase.

The program spotlighted the stark racial and socioeconomic disparities in breast cancer outcomes and emphasized urgent policy solutions to ensure equitable access to care for all women.

Attendees, dressed in pink, stood in solidarity with survivors, families, and advocates.

Voices for Change

The event featured inspiring remarks from leaders in medicine, advocacy, and government, including:

- Dr. Ana Gunturi, Chief Oncologist, Lowell General Hospital
- Magnolia Contreras, Vice President of Community Health, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Meredith Mendelson, Executive Director, Ellie Fund
- Representative Jessica Giannino (D-Revere), sponsor of legislation expanding access to patient navigators
- Senator Robyn Kennedy (D-Worcester) and Representative Christine Barber (D-Somerville), Co-Chairs of the MCWL
- Senator Rush, Senate

Majority Whip, underscored the importance of recent legislative victories, including An Act Relative to Breast Cancer Equity and Early Detection, which takes effect

January 1, 2025. “Our work reflects a clear and unwavering message: affordability and accessibility should never be barriers to care,” Rush stated.

Stories of Resilience

The event also highlighted the Faces of Faith photography exhibit, created by the Faith-Based Cancer Disparities Network and Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center. The exhibit lifts up the voices and portraits of survivors, honoring their strength while challenging stigma around cancer treatment.

Meredith Mendelson of the Ellie Fund reinforced the event’s call to action: “Together, we are moving beyond raising awareness. We are creating action by removing barriers to care and expanding access to life-saving treatment.”

Closing Gaps in Care

The Women’s Caucus emphasized its commitment to viewing breast cancer through the lens of health equity. “While Massachusetts leads in medical innovation, too many women—especially women of color and those in underserved communities—still face barriers to early detection, timely treatment, and survival,” said Co-Chairs Senator Kennedy and Rep-



Massachusetts legislators and elected officials standing together in solidarity for Breast Cancer Awareness and Action Month on October 1, 2025 at the MA State House.

resentative Barber. “That is why we are proud to partner with the Ellie Fund, whose services—from nutritious meals to transportation and childcare—ease everyday burdens so patients can focus on recovery and healing.”

Magnolia Contreras of Dana-Farber added: “We are extremely grateful to Governor Healey and the Legislature for the passage

of the breast cancer equity law, which will save more lives. Dana-Farber remains committed to advancing equity—including through our mobile mammography van, which has brought breast health education and screening to more than 24,000 women across underserved neighborhoods since 2002.”

The Ellie Fund provides essential support services—such as grocery gift cards,

delivered meals, transportation, childcare reimbursement, housekeeping, and integrative therapies—at no cost to patients undergoing treatment in Massachusetts. By reducing the daily stresses of life, the Ellie Fund allows patients to focus on what matters most: family, recovery, and healing.

Founded in 1975, the MCWL is the longest continuously operating biparti-

san women’s caucus in the nation. With 62 members, the Caucus advances policies that promote women’s economic opportunity, health equity, and leadership in government.

Massachusetts legislators, staff, care providers, and partners united in solidarity to kick off Breast Cancer Awareness and Action Month on October 1, 2025 at the MA State House.

Neighborhood PACE celebrates 35 years of Aging with Dignity and announces building rededication in honor of longtime board chair Rita Sorrento

Special to the Journal

NeighborHealth’s Neighborhood PACE program, a nationally recognized program providing comprehensive, coordinated care for older adults, is celebrating 35 years of service to Greater Boston communities. As part of this milestone celebration, the program’s largest center at 10 Garofalo Street in Revere has been rededicated in honor of Rita Sorrento, a lifelong advocate for older adults and longtime chair of the NeighborHealth Board of Directors. The celebration also coincides with National PACE Month, which recognizes the impact of Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly nationwide.

Since its founding in 1990, Neighborhood PACE has helped thousands of older adults maintain their independence while receiving the medical care, social support, and daily assistance they need to thrive at home. Operated by NeighborHealth, the program has become a trusted lifeline for seniors across East Boston, Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, Everett, Malden, and surrounding communities.

“For more than three decades, Neighborhood PACE has stood for dignity, compassion, and community,” said Ernani J. DeAraujo, Vice President and Executive Director of Neighborhood PACE. “In addition to the program being a cor-

nerstone of how we care for older adults, it’s also a national model for whole-person care. It’s only fitting that we mark this anniversary by honoring Rita Sorrento and her late husband, James, whose dedication has helped make this program what it is today.”

The event, held on Thursday, September 25, in the day room of the newly dedicated Rita & James Sorrento Center for Senior Care, included dozens of PACE supporters, past and present. Sorrento, who has served as NeighborHealth board chair for more than two decades, was recognized for her outstanding commitment to older adults and her role in shaping the program’s mission and impact.

“This program has always been about keeping people healthy, connected and supported as they age,” said Rita Sorrento. “I’ve seen firsthand the difference PACE makes for participants and their families, and I’m so proud to have played a part in its growth. This recognition is deeply meaningful, but the true honor has been walking alongside the team and community that makes this work possible. I’m humbled and incredibly honored by this rededication.”

From its origins as a single-site initiative in East Boston, Neighborhood PACE has evolved into a robust, person-centered program with five sites

throughout Greater Boston serving over 900 participants each year. It integrates primary and specialty care, rehabilitation, mental health support, social services, nutrition, transportation, and home care into one seamless experience, helping participants live safely and independently in their homes and communities.

“Early on, Rita recognized PACE’s ability to transform lives, not just for seniors, but for their caregivers as well,” said Dr. Jim Pedulla, Medical Director and primary care provider for Neighborhood PACE for over 30 years. “As someone responsible for caring for so many in her own life, Rita has been a steadfast supporter of the PACE program, appreciating our team’s unique ability to nurture both independence and better health for frail seniors. Her encouragement has shaped our team and the way we deliver services. It’s truly special to honor her in this way as we celebrate 35 years of PACE.”

NeighborHealth, formerly East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, is one of the nation’s largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, serving over 130,000 people and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a National Quality Lead-



(From left to right) Ernani DeAraujo, Vice President, NeighborHealth and Executive Director, Neighborhood PACE; Dr. Jim Pedulla, Medical Director, Neighborhood PACE; Rita Sorrento, Board Chair, NeighborHealth; Massachusetts Sen. Lydia Edwards; Carolyn Gagnon, Director of Operations and Administration, Neighborhood PACE; Tina Smith, Director of Clinical Operations, Neighborhood PACE, accept a certificate of recognition from the senator for 35 years of excellence in senior care.

er. For more than 50 years, NeighborHealth has offered access to comprehensive primary care, specialty care and emergency care for patients in the Commonwealth. In a first-of-its-kind merger in 2020, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center joined forces with the South End Community Health Center and expanded services to patients who live and work in Boston’s South End and Roxbury neighborhoods. NeighborHealth champions innovative care models to actively bridge health equity gaps in our low-income and immigrant communities with services unique from other healthcare providers in our state. For more information, visit www.neighborhealth.com.



Longtime NeighborHealth Board Chair and PACE advocate Rita Sorrento stands alongside the placard naming the Revere PACE center as the Rita and James Sorrento Center.



Ashley Casey, Director of Quality and Clinical Initiatives, Neighborhood PACE, and Lidia Hernandez, Member Experience Manager, Neighborhood PACE, chat with Revere PACE participant Joanne LaRosa at the event at 10 Garofalo Street.

Police // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

tent to Distribute Class C (Clonazepam), and

- Possession with Intent to Distribute Class E (Gabapentin)

Chief Keith E. Houghton

commended the investigators for their diligence.

“This case demonstrates the commitment of our officers to disrupt the flow of dangerous and addictive

prescription narcotics into our community,” Houghton said.

“Our department will continue to pursue those who profit from those suffering from addiction and

work with our regional partners to hold them accountable.”

Vega was arraigned in Chelsea District Court on the Chelsea charges.

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Chelsea Public Schools welcomes new DESE Commissioner Pedro Martinez for special visit

Special to the Record

On Tuesday, Oct. 7, 25th commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Pedro Martinez visited the Chelsea Public Schools for the first time. The Berkowitz Elementary School, a 2024 DESE School of Recognition, welcomed the new commissioner with an afternoon of visiting

classrooms and meaningful conversations with school administrators, teachers and students.

Martinez became the DESE Commissioner on July 1, 2025 after serving as the Chicago Public Schools CEO for four years. As part of his first year in the Commonwealth, he has been visiting different schools and districts across the state with Chelsea being the latest stop.

On Tuesday, Chelsea Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Almi G. Abeyta, the Chelsea School Committee and Chelsea Teachers’ Union joined the Berkowitz School team to give him a tour of

the elementary school and speak about CPS. State Senator Sal DiDomencio, State Representative Judith Garcia and Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez participated in the school visit too.

“We were honored to welcome our new Commissioner,” said Abeyta.



New DESE Commissioner Pedro Martinez recently visited the Chelsea schools.

“Our educators and students at Berkowitz Elementary School demonstrated their incredible dedication and passion for learning. It was truly a proud moment for me as superintendent.”

“We were honored to share our passion and love for teaching with the commissioner,” added William A. Berkowitz Elementary School Principal Blanca Restrepo. “In these challenging times, we are especially grateful for the opportunity to highlight the best practices of our staff, families, and

students, and to elevate the strength and resilience of our community.”

The commissioner’s time at the elementary complex began with the Berkowitz School administration who shared a presentation about their school, highlighting their instructional

vision, student data and family engagement. He visited classrooms next where he observed student learning in the content areas of math and reading utilizing high quality instructional materials. His visit ended

with a powerful discussion with Berkowitz educators who shared insights about the importance of collaboration in their work to support every student and using student data to understand and support every learner.

The visit highlighted the district’s commitment to collaboration and continuous improvement, and provided an opportunity to share the name, strength and story of Chelsea Public Schools with state leadership.



Chelsea Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta with DESE Commissioner Pedro Martinez and a student.

CITY PAWS

Spaniels

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The American Kennel Club (AKC) recognizes 15 Spaniel Dog Breeds. Some, like the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Cocker Spaniel, English Cocker Spaniel, English Springer Spaniel, and Papillon, are popular breeds. Others, such as the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje, English Toy Spaniel, Boykin Spaniel, and Clumber Spaniel, are less well-known.

Spaniels are sporting dogs, bred to flush out game and retrieve. Like other dogs bred for this work, such as pointers, setters, and retrievers, they enjoy

a good game of fetch and bring back a ball or a stick.

While most spaniels enjoy the water, the American Water Spaniel and the Irish Water Spaniel are great swimmers, with the latter called “Among the champion swimmers of dogdom...” by the AKC.

Living with a Spaniel

In an article by Gemma Johnstone writing for The Spruce Pets, she gave her top tip as, “Spaniels tend to be high-energy, agile, and driven. Because of this, they’re generally best suited to living in an active household. Problem behaviors can

quickly surface if they don’t get enough exercise and enrichment. These breeds often make fantastic hiking, canicross, or competitive dog sports partners.” (Canicross is a dog sport in which the human runner is pulled along by a line connected to their dog.)

Spaniels are intelligent and respond well to positive rewards and lifelong training. The same desire to please that makes them great companions for hunters and working in packs to be high-energy, agile, and driven. Because of this, they’re generally best suited to living in an active household. Problem behaviors can

with children.

Health Issues

As with any group of dogs with similar physical characteristics, spaniels may have some common health issues. Those long floppy ears need to be checked regularly for possible ear infections, especially after swimming and wet weather. Cockers and King Charles are among the spaniels that might suffer from heart disease or congenital heart defects.

Many spaniels are food-oriented and can become obese if their food and exercise are not well-balanced. Not all rewards have to be food. Remember the drive to retrieve and consider making a game of fetch or playing with a favorite ball or toy as a routine reward. For those with a more

food-oriented approach, you can use low-calorie training treats or vegetables, such as cut-up carrots or slivers of cheese, as rewards.

We recently learned a great deal about Springer Spaniels from the book and audiobook “A Dog’s Quest to Be a Buddhist,” part of “The Enlightened Spaniel Trilogy” by Gary Heads. These books are written and narrated from the point of view of Bertie, a six-year-old Springer Spaniel, as he and his half-sister investigate meditation and the history of their breed.

Having known a good number of Springers over the years, Bertie’s attitudes, observations, and the differences between him and his half-sister ring true. Bertie is all about adventure, investigation, and action, and

she is happier resting and thinking about food. We highly recommend this funny take on a dog’s point of view to dog lovers and those exploring meditation.

If you are thinking of adding a Spaniel to your family, research the strengths, weaknesses, health issues, and grooming requirements of the specific breed that interests you. Then decide if you will rescue, for example, from a breed-specific rescue group or buy one from a breeder. In the case of a breeder, investigate the person and their reputation carefully before considering a purchase.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.



When we think of Spaniels, we think of kind faces and loving eyes like this gorgeous dog. (Photo by Phil Robson)

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EBNHC taking the necessary steps to protect our community

Kevin Murchella

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Chelsea's leaders plan to visit

Chelsea, City Manager

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