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CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

VOLUME 135, NO. 37

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

35 CENTS

Alfaro honored during school committee meeting

By Adam Swift

The school committee honored member Yessenia Alfaro for more than a decade on the board at its meeting last week.

It was the final school committee meeting for Alfaro, who ran for a city council seat rather than seeking reelection to the committee in the fall.

“I want to say thank you, you were on the school committee that hired me in 2019, and thank you for be-

See ALFARO Page 2



Yessenia Alfaro

CHELSEA'S SANTA PARADE AND ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING



Carolina Bonilla, Julianna Hassell, City Manager Fidel Maltez, Penelope Sunsin, Jaylen Hassell, and Jennifer Hassell at Chelsea's Annual Santa Parade and Tree Lighting. See Page 9 for more photos.

Superintendent gets five-year contract extension

Special to the Record

The Chelsea School Committee recently announced that Superintendent Dr. Almudena (Almi) G. Abeyta received a contract extension through January 1, 2031, marking the second extension of her tenure as the district's educational leader.

Dr. Abeyta joined Chelsea Public Schools in August 2019 and has since guided the district through unprecedented challenges and significant progress. The School Committee unanimously expressed confidence in her vision, leadership, and commitment to Chelsea's students, families, and staff and its meeting last week.

“Dr. Abeyta has demonstrated unwavering dedication to our community,” said School Committee Chair Ana Hernandez. “Her leadership through the pandemic, her focus on academic



Superintendent Dr. Almudena G. Abeyta and City Manager Fidel Maltez.

growth, and her ability to build strong partnerships make her the right person to continue moving our district forward. Our school system is in a great place under her leadership.”

See EXTENSION Page 2

Council to take up further discussion on charter review

By Adam Swift

City Manager Fidel Maltez recently asked the city council to reaffirm its 2021 vote on proposed amendments to the Chelsea City Charter.

At last week's city council meeting, several councilors said that rather than just reaffirming the vote from more than four years ago, the council could take the opportunity to take a closer look at the city charter now.

The motion was moved to a council subcommittee on conference for further discussion.

“As you will recall, from June 2020 through January 2021, the City Council conducted a thorough review

of the Charter as required by the Charter's mandate to undertake such a review every ten years, in each year ending in zero,” state Maltez in a letter to the council. “Throughout this process, the Council held multiple meetings and public hearings to examine the Charter's provisions, receive community input, and consider recommendations for improvement.”

Following that process, the council voted in October of 2021 to approve a set of proposed charter amendments and submit them for consideration by the state legislature.

“Recently, we were notified that, unfortunately, the proposed Charter amend-

ments were not adopted by both branches of the Legislature and signed by the Governor prior to the end of the legislative session,” stated Maltez. “As a result, the legislation must now be resubmitted in order to proceed.”

To do so, Maltez said the council must take a new vote reaffirming the action it previously took, and that a new public hearing is not required prior to the reaffirmation vote.

“I think the direction for this is not just to reaffirm what we did, but to reconvene the charter review,” said District 1 Councilor Todd Taylor. “I think that there are a lot of problems that could really be solved.”

Taylor said that a new review would be a lot of work, but that he would volunteer to be on a new charter review board.

“I think it is worth another go-around to try to tackle some of these problems that we have that couldn't get done last time because of the really combative nature of where the city council was four years ago,” said Taylor.

Councilor-at-Large Roberto Jimenez-Rivera said he believed it would be best to see if the council could get an updated charter review moved through the legislature.

“Councilor Taylor is not

See CHARTER Page 3

Council presented latest round of CPA grant recommendations

By Adam Swift

In its latest round of grant recommendations, the Chelsea Community Preservation Committee recommended the city council approve Community Preservation Fund grants for four projects.

However, at last week's city council meeting, several councilors raised concerns about the Community Preservation Act (CPA) program. The grant requests

were moved to the council's ways and means subcommittee.

Chelsea voters approved the CPA in 2016. The CPA imposes a 1.5-percent surcharge on residential and commercial properties, with exemptions for low- and moderate-income homeowners. The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) recommends using those funds for grant projects for housing, open

See GRANTS Page 4

Police business manager moving to new role in city

Special to the Record

Last Friday, Dec. 5, the police department celebrated and said farewell to Business Manager Ledia Koco, on her final day with the Chelsea Police Department. Ledia joined CPD in March 2020, stepping into a critical role during one of the most challenging periods in recent public safety history. Over the next four years, she became the backbone of the department's business

operations and a trusted administrative leader.

As the Chelsea Police Business Manager, Ledia served in a professional civilian capacity, managing the department's business systems, including:

- Financial Management: budget planning, accounting, forecasting
- Grant Administration: advising on opportunities and overseeing all grants
- Administrative Oversight: ensuring compliance with policies and accreditation
- Policy & Systems: researching improvements and supporting accreditation efforts
- Liaison Duties: repre-

See KOCO Page 2



Chelsea Police Business Manager Ledia Koco with Police Chief Keith Houghton and members of the department.

COURTESY PHOTO

INDEPENDENT
Newspaper Group

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For the latest news in Chelsea that you need to know, check chelsearecord.com

NEWS IN BRIEF

POLICE INVESTIGATE PEDESTRIAN STRUCK BY MOTOR VEHICLE

On Tuesday, Dec. 2 at approximately 5 p.m., Chelsea police responded to a motor vehicle accident involving a pedestrian. The accident happened in the area of 275 Second Street.

The struck pedestrian was a 33-year-old Malden man who was listed in critical but stable condition following the accident. The operator of the motor vehicle remained on scene and cooperated, and was also sent to the hospital for evaluation.

Both the Chelsea and state police detectives responded and are actively working together on the investigation. At this time, there are no charges pending on the operator as it appears that the accident was due to heavy rain and poor visibility, according to police.

CITY EXPANDING BICYCLE SHARING PROGRAM

Chelsea is expanding its Bluebikes bike share system by adding 36 new bicycles across three new locations next spring, and has launched a community survey to collect resident input on station locations.

The survey is available in English at <https://arcg.is/0zG9f0> and Spanish at <https://arcg.is/m5KSb1>.

The project, and the cost to operate the expanded system, will be fully funded by a \$146,775 Shared Streets & Spaces grant from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and \$132,561 grant from the Boston Region

Metropolitan Planning Organization (Boston Region MPO), according to city officials.

"We're grateful to MassDOT and Boston Region MPO for their support for this project, which will provide greater access to public transportation in Chelsea and make it easier for residents and visitors to complete the 'last mile' of their trips without a car," said Sara Han, Project Manager for Chelsea's Department of Housing & Community Development. "The project will also reduce traffic congestion and toxic emissions on our streets."

Residents and visitors can use the Bluebikes app or a station kiosk to find and rent a bicycle to travel around Chelsea and other participating municipalities. With Bluebikes, users can unlock a bike at one station and return to any other station in the system. The cost to use a bike varies.

Chelsea first introduced Bluebikes in 2019 with the installation of six stations located at key transit hubs and neighborhoods across the city. The three new stations are scheduled to be installed next spring, pending the input from the resident surveys.

Last year, the city council approved a motion allowing the city to enter into a contract of up to nine years for a bikeshare service in the city. Several councilors at that time said they supported a program that could potentially take more cars off the streets in Chelsea.

Residents can get help filling out the survey by calling Chelsea 311 at 617-462-4209 during City Hall business hours. To learn more or request a paper copy residents can contact Sara Han available at shan@chelsea-ma.gov or 617-466-4183.

Alfaro // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

believing in me and for your years on the school committee," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta. "You have been so supportive and I'm really going to miss having you on the school committee. You're such an encourager to me, and you've always been supportive, you've asked good questions, and when I was hired you made me feel right at home."

School committee Chair Ana Hernandez said Alfaro is one of the most positive people she has ever met.

"You always have such a positive look at everything, and such a helpful way of wanting to extend yourself to everyone — families, kids, the city — and it has been thoroughly a pleasure to be

with you on school committee and share this experience with you," said Hernandez. "I hope that whatever you plan on doing next will be just as exciting as school committee was."

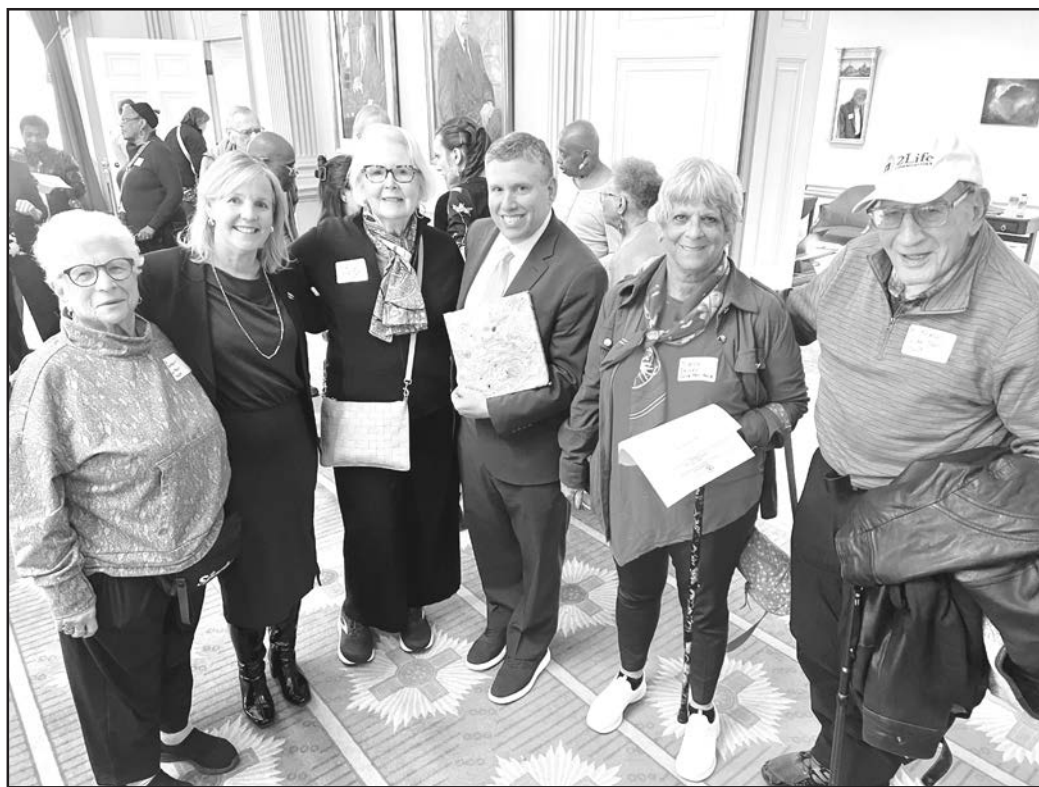
Alfaro said the reason she initially ran for the school committee was to help enact social change and to make policy changes as a mother and a grandmother.

"I'm going to continue to advocate for that, and you will always have me at any given time you will see me popping up at a meeting," she said. "I'm truly going to miss all of you, each one of you have a special place in my heart, and I hope that I can continue to be there when you need me."

OLDER ADULT RESIDENTS GIVE DIDOMENICO HANDMADE ART

Dozens of older adults from 2Life Communities visited the State House and gifted their handmade artwork to legislators, including Senator Sal DiDomenico. DiDomenico said, "It was an honor to receive such a beautiful work of art from one of these talented artists." Residents created their pieces using an acrylic painting technique called tree ring pour painting, chosen because tree rings represent history, strength, and wisdom.

Over the past several months, with support from funding provided by MassHousing, over 70 residents from across 2Life Communities' 7 campuses have engaged in an interactive arts & advocacy project centered around leveraging art to reflect unique identities, stories, and perspectives.



Senator Sal DiDomenico with seniors who came to the State House.



Senator DiDomenico speaking with one of the attendees in the Senate Gallery.



Senator Sal DiDomenico holding the artwork given to him by the artist standing to his left.

Extension // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Highlights from the New Contract

Key elements of Superintendent Abeyta's 2026–2031 contract include:

Term of Employment: January 1, 2026 – January 1, 2031.

Annual Salary: \$260,000 with annual cost-of-living adjustments aligned to non-bargaining employees.

Professional Expectations:

- Authority to oversee curriculum, staffing decisions, budget administration, and district operations.

- Representation of the district at local civic events and state and national educational conferences.

The extension affirms the School Committee's continued support for Dr. Abeyta's strategic direction, including her emphasis on academic excellence, family engagement, educator support, and whole-child initiatives.

"I am deeply honored to continue serving the Chelsea community," said Dr.

Abeyta. "Our students are talented, resilient, and full of potential. I look forward to building on the progress we've made together and continuing the work of ensuring we know every student by name, strength and story."

The new contract was officially approved by vote of the Chelsea School Committee on Dec. 4.

During the meeting, state Senator Sal DiDomenico praised Abeyta for her leadership.

"I am so happy that I was here tonight for the five-year contract extension," said DiDomenico. "I was hoping it would be a 10-year extension of our superintendent, I call her and I'm not afraid to say it, and I have a lot of superintendents; she is the best superintendent of schools in the entire state of Massachusetts, bar none. Chelsea is very lucky to have her leading the school system."

Abeyta has dedicated 29 years to advancing teach-

ing and learning in urban education. A proud product of public schools, she was raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Before becoming Superintendent of Chelsea Public Schools in January 2020, Dr. Abeyta served as Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning in several districts, including Somerville Public Schools (2017–2019), Santa Fe Public Schools (2012–2017), and Boston Public Schools (2009–2012). Her leadership and commitment to equity in education have been recognized nationally; in 2015, she received the inaugural Latina Administrator of the Year Award from the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS), and in 2021, she was honored with the first-ever La Lucha Award by Latinos for Education. In 2025 she was recognized as a Massachusetts Commonwealth Heroine and an ALX100 honoree, an annual list compiled

by Amplify LatinX (ALX), a Massachusetts-based organization, that recognizes and celebrates 100 influential Latino and Latina leaders across various sectors in the state. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she was also a frequent guest on WBUR's In This Together radio series, offering insights and guidance to the public.

Dr. Abeyta began her administrative career as principal of the Donald McKay K-8 School in Boston from 2004 to 2008. Prior to that, she began her career in education as a kindergarten teacher.

She earned a bachelor's degree in Communication and Journalism from the University of New Mexico, and later completed two master's degrees as well as a doctorate from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Koco // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

senting CPD with other City departments

Her work strengthened the department's readiness, supported major upgrades, expanded grant capacity, and kept the police department aligned with best practices in public safety administration.

Beyond her role, Ledia

was a valued colleague, a great listener, and someone who always found time for a quick chat with her co-workers. Whether helping with a budget question or checking in on someone's day, she made the Chelsea Police Department feel like a close team. Her presence will be missed far beyond

the business office.

We are proud to share that Ledia has been promoted within the City and will continue her public-service journey as the city's Chief Procurement Officer. This is a well-earned achievement, and we know she'll bring the same dedication, integrity, and passion to her new

role, said Police Chief Keith Houghton.

During her send-off, Houghton presented Ledia with a plaque for her new office as a token of appreciation from the men and women of the Chelsea Police Department.

LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF CHELSEA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Regarding New Mattress/Box-Spring Collection and Recycling Fees

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

6:00 PM

Chelsea Public Library
569 Broadway, Auditorium

In accordance with Section 1.15, Part IV of the City of Chelsea administrative code section 22-64(b) Establishment of solid waste collection fees.

The public is invited to attend.

Cate Fox-Lent
Commissioner of Public Works

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

Schools honor DiDomenico

By Adam Swift

The school committee presented state Senator Sal DiDomenico with a Champion in Education Award at last week's meeting.

"This is Sal's 15th year as our state senator, and Sal has advocated for education in the state of Massachusetts; I know you were behind the Student Opportunity Act funding and you are constantly and continually advocating for education in Chelsea," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta. "Every year he puts earmarks in the budget for performing arts, every year he is always thinking about us and how (he) can help and advocate for the Chelsea Public Schools."

The Champion in Education Award honors DiDomenico for elevating the importance of learning at every stage through visionary advocacy and promoting innovative pathways that open doors for all students.

"It has always been a pleasure working with you (and) advocating for education," said school committee member Yessenia Alfa-

ro. "I know that you are the number one believer in our Chelsea schools, especially with the non-accompanied students that were coming; the immigrant rights that no one wanted to touch at the State House, you were the champion always protecting us and you are still protecting us."

School committee member Mayra Balderas praised DiDomenico for his leadership, his caring for the community, and his transparency.

"My favorite thing about Sal is that he's not someone that you have to turn to to convince him why you have to support your cause, he's already there with you because he shares our values; he understands the issues Chelsea faces and the solutions we need to tackle them," said school committee member Dr. Sarah Neville. "We don't have to tell him what to do, he's already on it, he's always in our corner, and he's always our champion."

School Committee Chair Ana Hernandez said she was honored to have been able to work with the sena-



Chelsea Supt. of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta (second from left, front row) and City Manager Fidel Maltez (far right) and members of the Chelsea School Committee are pictured with State Sen. Sal DiDomenico, who was honored as "A Champion For Education," at the Dec. 4 School Committee meeting at Chelsea City Hall.

tor over the past decade.

"You gave me back faith in politics ... you are so down to earth, so human, you are an amazing dad, you are an amazing senator, and an amazing person, and I thank you so much for holding Chelsea in such a special place in your heart and working so hard along with us," she said.

City Manager Fidel Maltez praised DiDomenico for being a uniter and a strong advocate for Chelsea.

DiDomenico praised the school committee and Abeyta for their efforts in working for the community, and he praised his staff for their role in his 15 years as a state senator.

"I didn't know what to expect when I found out I was being recognized tonight, but this was more than I could have expected," said DiDomenico. "Your words really touched me, because Chelsea ... I say it and I try to show it to the people of Chelsea how much I care about this community."

DiDomenico noted that his mother grew up in Chelsea and his parents got married at St. Rose Church.

"I tell the students wherever you go when you leave Chelsea, never say you are from Greater Boston, never say you are from Massachusetts, always say you are from Chelsea," he said. "Be very proud of where you came from, because Chelsea is very proud of you."

Green Line will be suspended between North Station and Babcock Street Dec. 8 - 22

Special to the Record

This notice serves as a reminder of the upcoming Green Line closure previously announced on November 18.

During this service change, the MBTA will replace the 130-year-old wooden overhead catenary wire "trough," continue Green Line Train Protection System installations, and more.

BOSTON - The MBTA is today reminding riders that Green Line service will be suspended between North Station and Babcock Street on the B Branch, Kenmore on the C and D Branches, and Heath Street on the E Branch for 15 consecutive days, December 8 - 22. Regular Green Line service will operate between North Station and Union Square as well as Medford/Tufts during this service change.

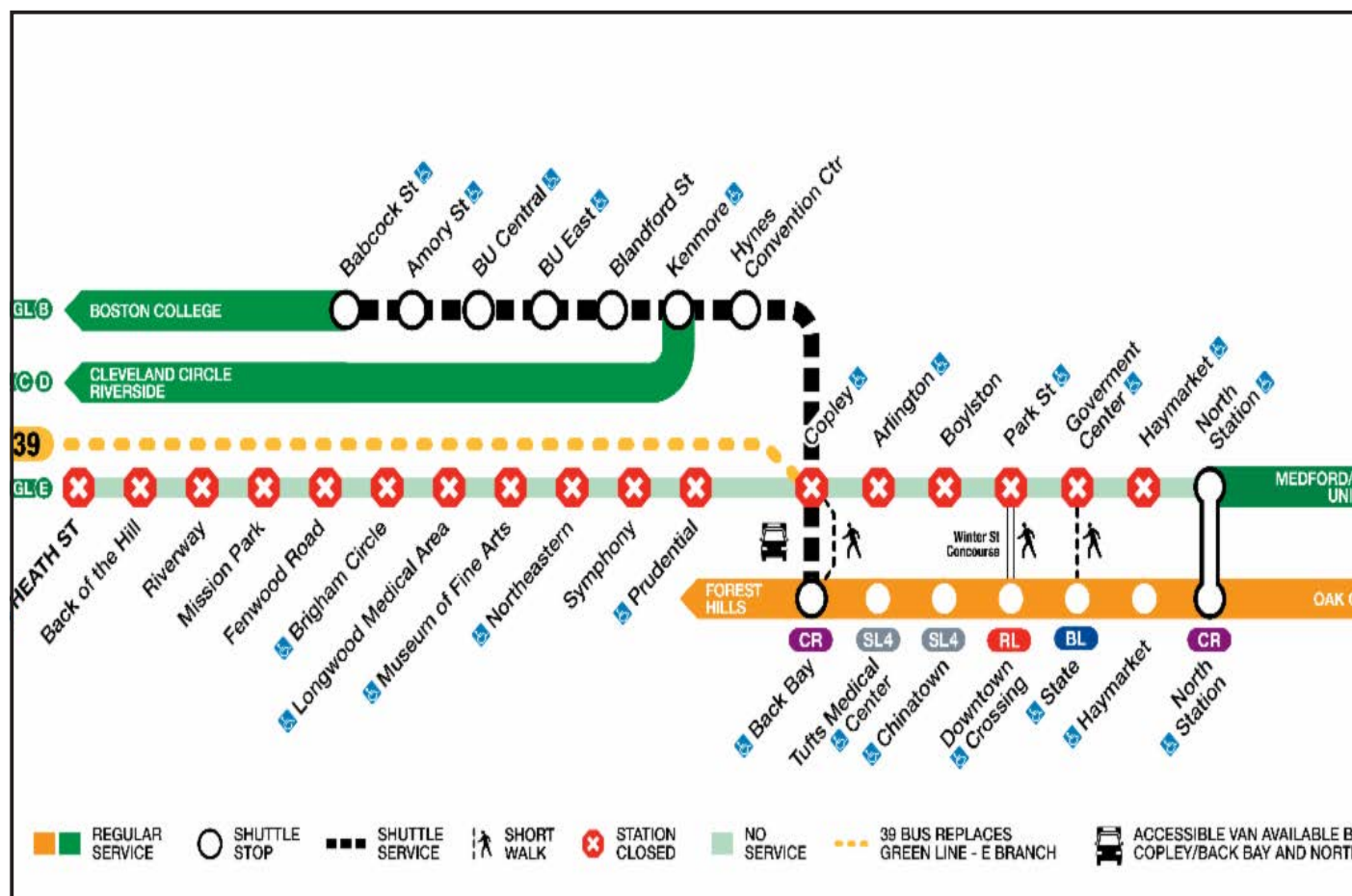
The MBTA will perform work to replace the 130-year-old wooden overhead catenary wire "trough" in the Green Line tunnel, which is original to the tunnel's construction in the late 1890s. The trough houses the Green Line's overhead wires and will be replaced with a modern, more durable, metal trough. With unencumbered access to the underground Green Line track areas, MBTA crews will also perform continued work to install Green Line Train Protection System (GLTPS) infrastructure. When complete, GLTPS will combine vehicle and wayside equipment to avoid train-on-train collisions, incorporate speed enforcement, and more. A number of other projects will also perform work, including signal modernizations, tunnel inspections, station brightening, and more.

The wooden overhead

catenary trough - seen here at Park Street - dates back to the late 1890s and will be replaced with a modern, more durable, metal trough.

Riders can find complete information at mbta.com/GreenLine. More information on these service changes and alternate travel options is below:

- Riders using shuttles bus service should budget ample extra travel time. For example, a rider travelling to Park Street from Boston College should budget at least an additional 20 minutes of travel in addition to their regular commute.
- B Branch:** Free and accessible shuttle buses will operate between Babcock Street and Back Bay.
- Riders can connect to the Orange Line at Back Bay for continued service through downtown toward North Station.
- There will be free fares at Kenmore with the fare gates open. Fares will also be free at all surface-level stops west of Kenmore.
- Route 57 bus service will be fare-free during this service change.
- C and D Branches:** Free and accessible shuttle buses will operate between Kenmore and Back Bay.
- Riders can connect to the Orange Line at Back Bay for continued service through downtown toward North Station.
- There will be free fares at Kenmore and Riverside with the fare gates open. Fares will also be free at all surface-level stops west of Kenmore.
- E Branch:** Route 39 will replace Green Line E Branch service between Heath Street and Back Bay. Extra buses will be added to the 39 to accommodate additional capacity. The route will be fare-free during this service change.



- Accessible van service will be available for Green Line stops between Copley/Back Bay and North Station.
- The Worcester Commuter Rail Line will be fare-free between South Station, Back Bay, and Lansdowne during this Green Line service change. Riders should note that regular fares should be purchased beyond Lansdowne and regular fares should be purchased if traveling on a Commuter Rail line other than the Worcester Line.
- More information is also available through in-station signage and public announcements. Transit Ambassadors and MBTA staff will be available on-site to offer information and assistance during these service changes. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA on X @MBTA for up-to-date service information.
- For more information, please visit mbta.com/GreenLine or connect with the T on X @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

Charter // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the only one who has expressed wanting to look at the charter again, I think many of us want this to happen," said Jimenez-Rivera. "I agree, and I think it is worth the conversation

of whether we just want to move it forward or actually stop and review the whole thing and do it again."

District 8 Councilor Calvin T. Brown said he had legal questions about

whether the city could review the charter prior to the 10-year time frame, but said he wouldn't be against it if there was a legal opinion permitting it.

Tis the Season for Chelsea Christmas Kids

Share your photo to be included in this year's SPECIAL PAGES

BY FRI. DEC. 19

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Please include names with your photo.

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PHOTOS PUBLISHED WEDS. DEC. 24th

Chelsea

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Forum

CHELSEA UNIFIED BASKETBALL TEAM HONORED

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS



The members of the Chelsea Unified basketball team were honored in recognition of their first season of competition. Also pictured are CPS Chief Academic Officer Adam DeLeidi, Director of Athletics Amanda Alpert, and Assistant Coach Greg Sullivan.



City officials, school leaders, and school parents are pictured with the members of the Chelsea Unified basketball team who were honored at the Dec. 4 School Committee after completing a very successful inaugural season of play.

THE MAHA MOMS ARE RIGHT ABOUT TOXIC WASTE

As our regular readers know, we have been highly-critical of the so-called Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) movement led by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the least qualified and least knowledgeable person ever to lead the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), whose policies regarding vaccines and scientific research threaten the health of millions of Americans.

However, last week some prominent MAHA activists sent a petition to President Donald Trump urging him to fire Lee Zeldin, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, over a series of recent decisions by Zeldin that will pave the way for the use of proven harmful chemicals that ultimately will contaminate our air, our water, and our food.

“Rather than supporting your initiative to ‘Make America Healthy Again’, which millions of Republicans and independents alike embraced, Administrator Zeldin has prioritized the interests of chemical corporations over the well-being of American families and children,” the petition reads.

Also supporting the petition is the group Moms Clean Air Force (MCAF), which seeks to protect children from the effects of air pollution and climate change.

“With every proposed deregulation, he (Zeldin) is allowing families and children to be exposed to more soot, more mercury, more methane, more toxic chemicals, more tail-pipe pollution, and more climate pollution,” said MCAF founder and director Dominique Browning. “Lee Zeldin must go.”

And what have we heard from RFK Jr., the man who says he wants to make America healthy again and who himself was an environmental lawyer, had to say about Zeldin’s kow-towing to the chemical industry?

Crickets -- and that says all we need to know about RFK’s supposed commitment to Americans’ health.

HAPPY HANUKKAH

The eight-day observance of Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, starts this Sunday evening, December 14, and will culminate on Monday, December 22.

Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days by lighting the candles of the Menorah, one on each day of the eight-day celebration. (The Menorah itself consists of nine candles, one of which typically stands above the rest and is used to light the other eight.)

Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees in 166 BCE when the Maccabees liberated the Jewish people from the Greek-based rulers who essentially had outlawed the Jewish religion.

When the triumphant Maccabees captured the city of Jerusalem, they quickly entered the Holy Temple, tossing out the images of the Greek gods that had been installed there by the occupying rulers. When the Maccabees went to light the Menorah candles in the Temple, they thought they only had one day’s worth of oil. However, the candles remained lit for eight days -- hence the miracle of the Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah is a joyous occasion for Jews world-wide, marked by gatherings of friends and families and the playing of traditional games such as the dreidel and eating traditional -- and delicious! -- foods such as latkes.

We wish to take this opportunity to wish our friends and readers of the Jewish community a happy, healthy, and joyful Hanukkah season.

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Grants // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

space, or historical preservation.

The city council can affirm, reject, or lower the grant amounts recommended by the CPC.

The projects recommended by the CPC this fall include:

Stitching Against the Heat for \$50,000 from the Housing and Community Development department. The grant would be used to provide cooling features in high-use public spaces, and would be a collaborative project between community development and the senior center

Creekside Commons Park Rehab and Rehabilitation for \$200,000 from the public works department. The grant would be used to support improvements to Creekside Commons park, including restoration of shade structures and redesign of the spray pad and splash features.

Fitzpatrick Prattville Pre-development for \$200,000 from the Chelsea Housing Authority. The grant would help with the predevelopment for the replacement of housing development units.

TND Top Off Rental Assistance for \$50,000 from The Neighborhood Developers. The grant would be used to administer flexible top-off rental assistance.

District 6 Councilor Giovanni Recupero didn’t mince words when it came to his concerns about the CPC recommendations.

“I think this is all a bunch of crap,” he said. “For years, I pay CPA, and every time,

it is the same organizations that get the same money. Why don’t they give some of this money to the people, like fixing their homes so they can afford it? But I don’t see that, but by state law, they can’t do that.”

Recupero said the average individual doesn’t benefit from the funds, while the same organizations benefit every year from knowing how to use the system.

“The bottom line is this, every time you see these grants come up, you come and you look who gets them, and then you tell me if it’s fair,” he said. “The system is not set up for the average person.”

District 1 Councilor Todd Taylor said Recupero hit near the mark on some of his concerns about the CPA.

“For the record, I was originally against the Community Preservation for this reason, that this is an extra tax,” said Taylor. “Now that we have established that tax, which the state was originally supposed to kick in money, which it basically has not, .. we are now stuck with an extra tax. The money has to be spent, so then we have to look around for who is going to come up with a project where that money has to be spent.”

Taylor said the intent of the CPA was good, but that the city could have done the majority of the projects on its own without imposing an additional tax.

“They are siphoning off that tax into the usual suspects of community organizations,” said Taylor.

“I think that we do need to take a look at whether Chelsea wants to continue to support the Community Preservation Act; I think it is a bad deal for Chelsea. But I would say this, as long as we are going to have the Community Preservation Act, we need to put more funds into historical preservation.”

District 8 Councilor Calvin T. Brown noted that the proposed grant projects are all ones that will benefit the city and its residents.

“It was a vote taken by the public and it is something we should support,” Brown said of the CPA.

City Manager Fidel Maltez said the state is providing matching funds for the CPA, but that it is currently at 18 percent as opposed to the 40 percent when the act

was first enacted.

Maltez noted that there are two funding rounds per year for CPA funds, one in the spring and one in the fall.

“The fundings are open to anyone, of course, there is an application that is complicated and you have to do a lot of contract documents,” said Maltez. “So it lends itself to be more prone for organized entities to get it, but it is no different than doing any business with the city. It requires a legal entity and the ability to accept funds.”

Maltez said the practice in the past has been to send the CPC recommendations to ways and means, and in ways and means, the council has the opportunity to learn more about each project.

Your opinions, please

The Chelsea Record welcomes letters to the editor. Our address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@chelsearecord.com. Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

CHELSEA RECORD

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Author Huda Fahmy inspires students during visit to CHS

By Cary Shuman

Author and illustrator Huda Fahmy visited students at Chelsea High School Dec. 5 to talk about her comedic, multi-book series.

Fahmy spoke at the Andrew P. Quigley Memorial Library, continuing a successful author-visitation program organized by CHS Librarian Trent Bordok, with the assistance of Wondermore who made the visit possible free of charge through a grant from the Cummings Foundation. It is the third visit that Wondermore has made to the Chelsea school district to date during academic year.

Bordok delivered the introductory remarks, expressing his gratitude to school administrators and Wondermore, and to CHS teachers for preparing the students for the visit.

“We’ve spent the last couple of weeks learning about our author and we’re excited to finally meet her,” said Bordok.

Fahmy told the students that she knew she wanted to be a writer early in her life.

“If you had asked me years ago what I wanted to be at five years old, I knew immediately that I wanted to be a writer,” said Fahmy. “I had told one joke

and made somebody laugh, I got addicted to it. I really always wanted to make people laugh, and I always wanted to do it by telling them stories and things that happened to me that day.”

A child of immigrants and a first-generation American, Fahmy said she learned how to speak English by reading the comics in the newspaper.

“I taught myself how to speak English by reading comics,” said Fahmy, whose parents conversed with her only in Arabic.

Fahmy said she attended the University of Michigan where she majored in English. She received a full scholarship to law school but left after one year.

Fahmy became an English teacher (“I loved being a teacher,” she said) for eight years before leaving the field of education in 2016 to raise her child.

During that time, she decided to pursue a goal of being an author, but she was met with several rejections from book agents.

Fahmy complemented her elite writing skills by becoming a skilled illustrator, investing in software.

Ultimately through her determination and perseverance, Fahmy became a published author and a finalist for the 2023 National Book



Esteemed author Huda Fahmy autographs a book for CHS ninth grader Miguel.

Award for Young People’s Literature.

What was quite impressive to observers at the book talk at Chelsea High School was the respect, courtesy, and model comportment the students extended to the esteemed author throughout the talk. In the case of Fahmy’s visit, the author-visitation program was productive in creating an outside-the-classroom experience through which students were inspired while learning about the dedication that goes into writing a book and then having the book published.

Bordok said that Fahmy “captivated students’ attention with her funny sense of humor and inspiring success story.”

“What stood out was when she told students that they can do what they love if they’re willing to work for it,” said Bordok. “An important tip she gave students was to keep writing and drawing until they finish a piece of work instead of striving for perfection. Ms. Fahmy suggested having friends critique their finished work to provide feedback and help improve their writing and illustrating. After the visit, students mentioned they enjoyed getting their books signed, as it offered an opportunity to speak with Ms. Fahmy personally. Many thanks to the nonprofit organization Wondermore for providing the visit.”



Pictured at the author visitation event are Morris H. Seigal Clark Avenue Middle School Librarian Lauren Redding, CHS teachers Anna Aghili-Nasab and Ashley Moray, and CHS Librarian Trent Bordok.



Judi Seldin of the Wondermore non-profit organization, special guest author and illustrator Huda Fahmy, and Chelsea High School Librarian Trent Bordok.

MBTA celebrates 25th annual Fill-A-Bus with Gifts program

Special to the Record

The MBTA and Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) celebrated the 25th Annual Fill-A-Bus with Gifts program. Employees from both state transportation agencies donated a total of 2,746 toys this year, which will be donated to the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the Boys and Girls Club of Boston, and Heading Home.

“Fill-A-Bus is entirely employee-led and represents the spirit of what we stand for as public servants, making people’s lives better,” said Interim Secretary and MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng. “I want to thank the MBTA employees who organized this program, which is in its 25th year, as well as my colleagues at the T and MassDOT who showed generosity by donating gifts that filled our bus. I’m also grateful to our partners at the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the Boys and Girls Club of Boston, and Heading Home for distributing these gifts to families every year.”

“The MBTA’s Fill-A-Bus with Gifts event is a special chance for employees to give back to the communities we work with year-round. Each holiday season, the Fill-A-Bus visits MBTA garages, RMV locations, MassDOT offices, and other sites to en-



MBTA Graphics Manager David Wood (front left), who has organized the Fill-A-Bus with Gifts event for the eighth year, kneels with MBTA Bus Operator Dianna Johnson (front right), who drove the holiday bus route for the first time this year. They stand with representatives from Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the Boys and Girls Club of Boston, and Heading Home.

gage as many people as possible,” said MBTA Graphics Manager David Wood, who has organized the Fill-A-Bus with Gifts event for the past eight years. “Each year, I’m proud to see so many of my transportation colleagues get involved. The generosity shown by my peers brings a lot of joy to countless families during the holidays.”

This year, MBTA and MassDOT employees donated a record-breaking 2,746 gifts (up from 2,651 in 2024) to their Fill-A-Bus partners at the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC), the Boys and Girls Club of Boston, and Heading Home.

“Last year, MSPCC provided gifts to almost 1,000 children,” said MSPCC Director of Development Melanie S. Lima. “The presents donated through the MBTA and MassDOT Fill-A-Bus program are far more than toys—they offer moments of joy, and help children feel valued and included. Because most MSPCC families live in poverty, parents often tell us they want to create a happy holiday for their children, but financial strain makes that difficult and stressful. The generosity of the Fill-A-Bus programs helps MSPCC ease some of that burden and ensure that hundreds of children experience a brighter, more joyful

holiday season.” “The Yawkey Club of Roxbury is proud to partner with the MBTA once again for the Fill-A-Bus toy drive,” said Corey Manning, Executive Director, Yawkey Boys & Girls Club of Roxbury. “As we celebrate our 115th anniversary, this effort reflects exactly who we are at our core, a community that shows up for young people and families. The MBTA’s support helps us bring joy to hundreds of children, ages 6 to 12, during the holidays, and we are grateful to stand together in service of our neighborhoods as we continue saving the world one smile at a time.”

“Partnering with the MBTA and MassDOT via the Fill-a-Bus initiative, has helped us bring a little joy, laughter, and fun to many of our families. What seems like a simple toy, means so much more to our families—it represents a moment of normalcy, happiness, and hope,” said Heading Home Chief Development Officer Karen Grant. “Nothing beats seeing the smiles on the faces of the kids, adults, and volunteers when the toys are dropped off at our shelters. Thank you to the MBTA and MassDOT and everyone who makes this possible.”

For more information, connect with the T on X @



Employee volunteers help to load the bus full of the donated toys.

MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

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

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



Donated toys cover the inside of the MBTA Fill-A-Bus.

THE CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS NEIL SIMON'S PLAY RUMORS

DEREK KOUYOUJIAN PHOTOS



Lenny Ganz, played by Joslany Peters, pretending to be Charley Block, gives the police officers a wild and unhinged explanation of the evening's events. The police officers are surprisingly convinced.

The Chelsea High School Drama Club produced Neil Simon's play Rumors. It is a dark comedy with sophisticated dialog and much adult anxiety. The story takes place at the home of New York City's Deputy Mayor and his wife for their 10th Wedding Anniversary. As the guests arrive they discover that the house is empty except for the host who shot himself in a failed suicide attempt. The fear of scandal keeps these four couples in a state of panic as they try to formulate a plan to help their friend while keeping the facts from becoming embarrassing news.



Cassie Cooper, played by Jaylannie Hunter, is angry at her husband Glenn.



Cookie Cusack, played by Adriann Best and Lenny Ganz, played by Joslany Peters, peer out of the window in fear of their secret being discovered.



Ken Gorman, played by Aimee Hernandez, and Chris Gorman I, played by Karla Anzora fought back against being blamed for what the situation the characters have fallen into.



Lenny Ganz, played by Joslany Peters, and Glenn Cooper, played by Yuki Sanches, attempt to restrain Claire Ganz, played by Ronnie Padilla.



Cassie Cooper, played by Jaylannie Hunte, decides to anger her husband by becoming flirtatious with Ken.



Lenny Ganz, played by Joslany Peters, reacts when the character is grabbed by Cassie Cooper played by Jaylannie Hunter.



Cookie Cusack, played by Adriann Best, and her character's husband Ernie Cusack, played by Sheyly Fajardo, what helplessly as the police interrogate the party guests.



Claire Ganz, played by Ronnie Padilla, watches as her friend Cookie Cusack, played by Adriann Best, so her best to deal with back spasms.



The party guests get an intercom call from their unseen host Charley Block in his bedroom to let them know that he's alright.



The cast of Chelsea High School's production of Neil Simon's play Rumors.

THE CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS NEIL SIMON'S PLAY RUMORS

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Glenn Cooper, played by Yuki Sanches, is confronted by his wife Cassie, played by Jaylannie Hunter.



Chris Gorman, played by Karla Anzora, tries to explain the evening's chaos to Officer Ben Welch, played by Girlie Bajinka



Chelsea Public Schools Chief Academic Officer Adam Deleidi with Superintendent Dr Almi Abeyta



Glenn Cooper, played by Yuki Sanches, struggled with his wife Cassie, played by Jaylannie Hunter.



Chelsea Public Schools Director of Fine Arts Pete Pappavaseli with Kelly School Principal Lisa Lineweaver and her husband Brian Hatlebert.



Police officers Pudney, played by Arwa Ait-Chaib, and Ben Welch, played by Girlie Bajinka listen to Glenn Cooper, played by Yuki Sanches, try to explain the goings on in the house.



The story takes place in the living room of the house of New York Deputy Mayor Charley Brock and his wife Myra, both unseen through the story.



In an act of desperation, Lenny Ganz, played by Joslany Peters, pretends to be Charley Block, who is incapacitated in the bedroom.



Joslany Peters plays Lenny Ganz who with his wife Claire played by Ronnie Padilla is trying to navigate the chaos they've found themselves in.



Glenn Cooper, played by Yuki Sanches, is confronted by his wife Cassie, played by Jaylannie Hunter.



Cassie Cooper, played by Jaylannie Hunter, reflects on her character's life.



Chris Gorman, played by Karla Anzora, feels the need to visit the bar with the pressure her character is undergoing.

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CITY PAWS

Digital dog training resources

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

We often remind our readers that the cold, wet weather of winter is a perfect time to reinforce your dog's training. Keep in mind that, just as you get tired when you have to adapt to a new tech tool, adjust to a significant phone update, or take classes to learn a new skill, your dog is ready to rest after a good training or retraining session. So, add some training to your schedule for the winter months.

Good training is ongoing

Dog training is really a matter of training yourself, and that should also be ongoing. Early in our dog days, we relied on books and training classes. Today, you can keep up with the

latest research and adapt to new methods from experts with digital resources. While some of these have fees, others are free online or at your local library. Penny has taken a recommended dog-training class on Kanopy, thanks to the Boston Public Library. Even an old dog guardian can learn new ways.

We stay up to date with the latest training methods and ideas by subscribing to dog publications like the Whole Dog Journal. You can also follow Patricia McConnell, Ph.D., a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (CAAB) Emeritus, on "The Other End of the Leash."

YouTube and other video services have many offerings for those who want to refine their skills so they

can work with their pup in new ways. However, as with all Internet sources, you will find both good and bad options.

Positive training is the key

Good training is about positive reinforcement, not punishment. That means no devices like choke chains or shock collars. If you Google, "Where are shock collars banned?" you will be shocked by the number of places where they are illegal and stunned by some of the punishments for using them. For example, Wikipedia notes that, in the Netherlands, "Its use is subject to €20,000.00 fine and three-year prison sentence."

We highly recommend following renowned train-



While your dogs can't be trained by watching a screen, you can learn how to train dogs with digital resources.

er Victoria Stilwell and the resources she offers on her site www.positively.com. She has gathered a roster

of writers on the topic and even has a "Find a Trainer" box on her site in case you need an in-person option after exploring the digital world.

What Works for Dogs

As you think about how you will approach any training with your dog, try to imagine yourself in the dog's position and think about the ways you can refine what you are saying and make what you want to happen clearer to the dog. Ask yourself if you would be able to figure out what you are asking if you didn't speak the language?

Part of training yourself to train your dog is learning how dogs learn and what is important to them. Then

be more specific and think about how a particular training method, reward, or hand signal will work for your dog.

Make a list of the behaviors you want to reinforce and those you would like to add to your dog's life. These will not be the same for those living in a single-family home as for those living in a dog-friendly condo or apartment building. As one of our former editors likes to say, "You Do You" and personalize your training to your needs and those of the unique creature on the other end of your leash.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

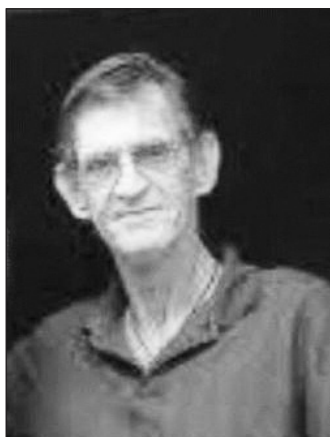
OBITUARIES

Edward Joseph (Eddie) Engebretson

He will be deeply missed and forever remembered by his family and friends

Edward Joseph (Eddie) Engebretson, 77, of Goffstown, NH passed away on November 27, 2025.

Born on November 5, 1948 in Boston, he was the son of the late Russell and Sophie (Kanarkiewicz) Engebretson of Peabody. He was known for his sense of humor and great generosity to his friends and family. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen; his daughters, Corrie and her husband, Tyson of Melbourne, FL and Rachel of Durham, NC and his siblings, Russell and his wife, Jeannie Engebretson of West Palm Beach, FL, and Anna Hipple of Harrisburg, PA; his two step children: Patick Rivard and his wife, Jenny of Chester, NH and Stephanie Rivard of Hamden, CT, Edward was a devoted and proud grandfather to: Brendan, Ray, Addison, Audriana, Dominick, Arabelle, Ellie, Leo, Enzo, and Devon who were among the greatest joys of his life. He was predeceased by his sisters: Jeanette Engebretson of Raynham, MA; Laura Engebretson of Chelsea and



Virginia Ahearn of Hampton, NH and his brother in law, James Ahearn of Hampton.

Edward served in the US Army during the Vietnam War and received several awards during his service.

Calling hours were held on Friday, December 5th followed by a funeral at the French and Rising Funeral Home, 17 South Mast Street, Goffstown NH 03045.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Liberty House or Stop Soldier Suicide are preferred. A formal burial will be held in the spring. Edward's legacy lives on in the love he shared, the stories he told, and the lasting impact he had on those fortunate enough to know him. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered by his family and friends. For more information or to sign an online guestbook please visit www.frenchandrising.com.

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Sandra Lee Bridges

A dedicated Chelsea teacher and respected mentor to many fellow educators for over 30 years

Sandra Lee (Neal) Bridges passed away unexpectedly but peacefully on Sunday, November 30th.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Paul M. Bridges; her two sons, Paul and Jason; her daughter-in-law, Yvonne; and her four cherished granddaughters: Halina, Gwen, Ashlyn and Charli, whom she often referred to as her "beautiful and precious girls."

A lifelong New Englander, Sandy was raised in Everett. The daughter of Charles Neal, an Everett firefighter, Alyce Neal, a local nurse, and sister of Dr. Charles (Doug) Neal. She graduated from Everett High School in 1964 and earned her teaching degree from Boston College in 1968.

For over 30 years, Sandy dedicated her career to the Chelsea Public School system, the community where she also raised her family. Known for her supportive nature, she was a dedicated teacher and a respected mentor to many fellow educators throughout her service.

During the 1980's and 90's, while her sons attended Our Lady of Grace school and church, Sandy was a prominent fixture in the parish community, often volunteering her time for church events and fundraisers.

Following her retirement from teaching, Sandra settled in Pembroke, Massachusetts, to embrace



her most treasured role: "Nana." She devoted her time, energy, and heart to serving as the family matriarch, skillfully binding her family's love as it expanded over the years.

Sandy's infectious warmth meant she was always quick to share a bright smile, a comforting hug, and unwavering support with her many friends and family. She cherished sharing a good laugh and a nice glass of wine with those she loved.

Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend visiting hours in the Carafa Family Funeral Home, 389 Washington Ave., Chelsea today, Thursday, December 11, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. followed by a Funeral Service in the Funeral Home at 11:30 a.m.. Interment will follow at Puritan Lawn Memorial Park in Peabody.

We encourage family and friends to visit carafafuneralhome.com to offer condolences by means of the online guest book or to send a personalized sympathy card.

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NSMT's Bill Hanney and Karen Nascembeni featured 'Power Duo' in Bostonman Magazine's anniversary issue

Special to the Record

BostonMan Magazine is proud to announce that Bill Hanney and Karen Nascembeni have been selected as one of this year's official Power Duos, a new editorial feature debuting in the magazine's 7-Year Anniversary Issue, set to be unveiled at the 2025 Runway Ball on Saturday, December 14 at the Hilton Boston Park Plaza.

The Power Duo series celebrates influential pairs across New England whose partnership, creativity, and shared vision are shaping the region's cultural, business, philanthropic, and artistic landscape. Bill and Karen—whose impact spans the performing arts, entertainment innovation, community rebuilding, and leadership at both North Shore Music Theatre and Theatre By The Sea—were a natural and unanimous selection.

Their profile chronicles their remarkable journey, both individually and together: from Bill's visionary reinvention of historic theatres across New England, to Karen's courageous and inspirational role in transforming North Shore Music Theatre into one of the region's most beloved artistic

institutions. It also highlights their deep partnership, shared mission, and the dynamic synergy that has made them one of New England's most admired arts leadership teams.

The feature will premiere the same night they take the stage at The Runway Ball, BostonMan's signature winter event that fuses high fashion, culture, performance, and philanthropy before a sold-out audience of the city's most influential creative and business leaders.

To celebrate their selection, Bill and Karen have secured an exclusive promotional code for their network:

Use Promo Code: NSMT50 for \$50 Off Each Ticket to The Runway Ball

Guests will be among the first to receive the historic 7-Year Anniversary Issue, see the full Power Duo portfolio, and experience one of Boston's most spectacular evenings of fashion, entertainment, and community connection.

Launching this year, the Power Duo feature honors the region's most dynamic pairs who are driving innovation, cultural growth, re-

See NSMT Page 10



Bill Hanney and Karen Nascembeni.

COURTESY PHOTO

CHELSEA'S SANTA PARADE AND ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus gathered at Central Fire Station where the annual Santa Parade kicked off and made its way through the streets of Chelsea. A holiday Marketplace and Festival and Tree Lighting Ceremony capped the festive day in Chelsea Square.



Carolina Bonilla and Jennifer Hassell of the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce welcome Jason Pompeo to Chelsea's Annual Santa Parade on Saturday.



Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus wish a happy holiday season to Megan Walker and her daughters, Bonnie Walker and Grace Walker, before the parade.



Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus and Jisela McCarthy (right) greet Lynce Lopez and children, Emanuel Lopez and Elena Lopez.



Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus greet Chelsea residents before the parade.



Santa Claus pays a special visit to first responders from the Chelsea Fire and Police Departments.



Pastor Keila Velez, Jisela McCarthy, Santa Claus, and CCCTV Technical Director Ricky Velez.



City Councilor-Elect Deron Hines, Mrs. Claus, Chelsea Police Sgt. Star Chung, Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell, and City Manager Fidel Maltez.

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Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus and Santa's assistant, Jisela McCarthy, welcome Kimberlyn Hernandez (left) and son, Ian Hernandez, to the parade.



Chelsea Police Officer Joseph Stutto joins Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, and the Grinch for a photo Saturday before the parade kicked off at Central Fire Station.

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DIDOMENICO CELEBRATES ITALIAN CULTURE WITH CONSULATE GENERAL OF ITALY

Senator Sal DiDomenico recently spent an evening with the Consulate General of Italy in Boston, Arnaldo Minuti, and friends celebrat-

ing Italian cuisine and its ongoing path towards recognition as UNESCO intangible cultural heritage. The group enjoyed a specially

curated menu—designed by Chef Ambassador Mario Marini and inspired by the principles of sustainability and biodiversity—which

explored the values, identity, and benefits that define Italy's culinary tradition.

“What an honor and privilege to celebrate my Italian

heritage with the Consulate General of Italy in Boston and the Chef Ambassador,” said DiDomenico. “I am extremely proud of my roots,

and it was great to take part in this celebration of Italian culture with community leaders from throughout Greater Boston.”



Senator Sal DiDomenico with the Consulate General of Italy in Boston (middle).

Senator Sal DiDomenico speaks alongside Consulate General of Italy in Boston, Arnaldo Minuti, at the celebration.

NSMT // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

silience, and leadership in New England. Each duo is selected not only for their individual accomplishments, but for the transformative impact they make together.

The Runway Ball is BostonMan Magazine's pre-

mier annual gala, merging couture runway presentations, live performances, art showcases, and community celebration. The 2025 Ball marks the debut of several new designers, featured performers, and the launch

of the 7-Year Anniversary Issue.

Since opening in 1955, NSMT has become one of the most attended theatres in New England, with approximately 250,000 patrons annually. With a national and

regional reputation for artistic achievement, NSMT has received numerous industry awards including Elliot Norton Awards, IRNE Awards, the Rosetta Le Noire Award from Actors' Equity, and the Moss Hart Award. NSMT

produced the World Premiere of 'Memphis' in 2003, the show went on to win four 2010 Tony Awards including Best Musical. Under the new ownership of Bill Hanney since 2010, NSMT continues to annually produce a

musical subscription series and an annual production of 'A Christmas Carol' along with celebrity concerts, children's programming and year-round education classes for children and adults.

LEGAL NOTICES - legals@chelsearecord.com

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE

In accordance with Section 2-7 (b) and (d) of the Chelsea City Charter notice is hereby given that at a regular meeting of the Chelsea City Council held on December 1, 2025, the City Council voted after a second reading to adopt the following order:

Ordered, that, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 44, Section 64, budget management procedures, whereby costs incurred in FY25 were not paid and are owed to the vendors, and to meet this obligation funds are required from the current year FY26 budgets as noted, the Chelsea City Council hereby authorizes the following expenditures to satisfy the unpaid balances that total \$37.95 from prior years.

Ordered, that pursuant to Section 3-5 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Chelsea, and M.G.L. c. 44, §53A½, the Chelsea City Council hereby accepts the gift of \$10,000 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to the Chelsea Public Library for a community event to further the mission of the library and benefit our community.

Ordered, that, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 53A, the Chelsea City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to accept a \$15,000 grant from Mystic Valley Elder Services, Inc. for a health and wellness program at the Chelsea Senior Center.

Ordered, that pursuant to Section 3-5 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Chelsea, and M.G.L. c. 44, §53A½, the Chelsea City Council hereby accepts the gift of \$1,000 from The Ruby Bridges Foundation to the Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs as part of the 2025 Safe Routes Partnership's Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day mini-grant. Ordered, that, by this vote, the Chelsea City Council endorses this project for the receipt of PARC grant funds; appropriates \$825,000 representing the full project cost, from General Stabilization Fund #7020; affirms Kayem Park's designation as open space parkland in

perpetuity, in accordance with Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution and M.G.L., c. 45, s. 3; authorizes the City Manager to utilize any surplus funds for current and future PARC funded improvements for open space within the City of Chelsea; certifies the City Manager's authority to enter into an agreement for the receipt of these funds; and directs the City Manager to take any and all necessary action to accomplish the project.

Ordered, that, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 53A, the Chelsea City Council hereby accepts and approves a grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley for the public purpose of funding the One Chelsea Fund Program.

Ordered, that the Chelsea City Council authorizes the appropriation of \$100,000.00 from General Stabilization Fund #7020 to the City Manager's Department - #0112352 account series for emergency assistance efforts and the City's One Chelsea Fund Account, also referred to as the One Chelsea Fund, and funding shall be available for the program until it's completion.

Copies of the orders are available at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 500 Broadway, Room 209, Chelsea, MA 02150. Jeannette Cintron White City Clerk

12/11/2025

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS DESIGNER SELECTION-USD OFFICE RENOVATION The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Proposals for marked "DESIGNER SELECTION-USD OFFICE RENOVATION". Request for Qualifications will be available on or after December 11, 2025, by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php.

- An Optional Site Visit is

scheduled on 12/16/2025 @ 10:30am; Located at City Hall, Inspectional Services, 500 Broadway Room #201, Chelsea MA Proposals must be sealed and clearly marked "DESIGNER SELECTION-USD OFFICE RENOVATION" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 11:00 AM on December 30, 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 7C, §§ 44-58. Dragica Ivanis Chief Procurement Officer

12/11/2025

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Chapter 90 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and pursuant to Section 6-3 of the Charter of the City of Chelsea that a Public Hearing of the Chelsea Traffic and Parking Commission will be held on:

Tuesday, January 6, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. City Council Chambers 500 Broadway Pursuant to Section 6-3 of the Charter of the City of Chelsea, the purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments regarding the approval of four (4) Electric Vehicle charging installation projects: Highland Park, Crescent Avenue, Cabot Street, and Washington Avenue. Copies and filings may be viewed at the City Clerk's Office. Per Order Chief Keith E. Houghton

Chairperson 12/11/2025

LEGAL NOTICE



DRAFT NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND DRAFT NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS December 11, 2025 The City of Chelsea, Department of Housing & Community Development 500 Broadway, Rm. 101 Chelsea, MA 02150 617-466-4000

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Chelsea. REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS On or about January 6, the City of Chelsea will submit a request to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities for the release of Community Development Block Grant FY25 funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake projects known as the Voke Park Accessibility Project for the purpose of ensuring that children with mobility impairments are able to access and enjoy play equipment in Chelsea's parks.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT The City of Chelsea has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at City of Chelsea, Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, MA 02150 where ERR can be examined and may be examined or copied Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 8 A.M. to 4 P.M., Tuesdays 8 A.M. to 7 P.M. and Fridays 8 A.M. to 12 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Chelsea, Benjamin

Cares, Environmental Certifying Officer. All comments received by January 5 will be considered by the City of Chelsea prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing. ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Chelsea certifies to Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities that Benjamin Cares in his capacity as Environmental Certifying Officer consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. EOHL's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Chelsea to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS EOHL will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Chelsea's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Chelsea; (b) the City of Chelsea has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by EOHL; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to EOHL at 100 Cambridge St., Ste. 300, Boston, MA 02114. Potential objectors should contact EOHL to verify the actual last day of the objection period. Benjamin Cares, Director,

Housing and Community Development 12/11/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING Case No. 2025-24

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A that a Regular Meeting of the Chelsea Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on:

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 Council Chambers. 3rd Floor, 500 Broadway 6:00 p.m. With reference to the application of: Frantz Noel For Special Permits seeking for the extension of the current use of a catering service to also include fast food restaurant take-out delivery service to individual customers at the premises known as:

103 Broadway A copy of the application and petition is available for review at: City Clerk's Office during normal business hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. - Friday, 8 a.m. to noon

12/11/2025

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Regarding New Mattress/Box-Spring Collection and Recycling Fees Tuesday, December 16, 2025 6:00 PM Chelsea Public Library 569 Broadway, Auditorium In accordance with Section 1.15, Part IV of the City of Chelsea administrative code section 22-64(b) Establishment of solid waste collection fees. The public is invited to attend. Cate Fox-Lent Commissioner of Public Works

12/11/2025

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE

In accordance with Section 6-3 (b) of the Chelsea City Charter notice is hereby given that at a Regular Meeting of the Chelsea Traffic and Parking Commission held on November 5, 2025, the Commission voted to approve the following regulations:

To Approve the International Street Safety Action Plan, Vision Zero Chelsea. To install a handicap sign at 122 Shurtleff Street. Jeannette Cintron White Parking Clerk

12/11/2025

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA Invitation for Bids Wicked Cool Mystic Cooling Features at Bus Stops The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Bids for marked "Wicked Cool Mystic Cooling Features at Bus Stops".

Invitation for Bids will be available on or after December 11, 2025 by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php. Invitation for Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "Wicked Cool Mystic Cooling Features at Bus Stops" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 11:00AM on Thursday, December 30, 2025. Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check, issued by a responsible bank or trust company. Or a bid bond duly executed by the bidder as principal and having as surety thereon a surety company approved by the City, all in the amount of 5% of the bid payable to the "City of Chelsea." The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any proposal, to reject any or all proposals and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City.

In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond. The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer. This Invitation for Bids is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30, 39M. Ledia Kaco Chief Procurement Officer

12/11/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Division INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Docket No. SU25P624EA

Estate of: Virginia Louise Widick Date of Death: October 23, 2025

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Logan J Widick of Chelsea MA. Logan J Widick of Chelsea, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court.

Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure.

A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

12/11/2025

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK WITH THE COURTS TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A FEE WAIVER

CHS Roundup

CHS WINTER SPORTS SET TO GET UNDERWAY

The winter sports season has arrived for Chelsea High athletes, who are scheduled to get their 2025-26 seasons underway in the coming week.

The CHS boys and girls indoor track teams get started tomorrow (Friday) with a tri-meet vs. Greater Boston League (GBL) rivals Somerville and Medford at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Roxbury.

The Red Devils will face all seven of their GBL foes (Lynn English, Lynn Classical, Revere, Chelsea, Medford, Malden, and Somerville) once each with all of the meets (which for the most part will be tri-meets with two GBL rivals) to be held at the Reggie. The GBL season will culminate with the league meet on February 5.

In addition, the Chelsea tracksters will compete in the usual invitationals and state meets throughout the season.

The CHS girls basketball team, under the direction of new head coach Bruce Harrison, will bounce into action on Monday with a match vs. non-league opponent Excel Academy at the CHS gym. The opening tip-off is set for :00.

The members of the 2025-26 edition of the CHS varsity are Karla Anzora Anaya,

Lidya Castillo Rodriguez, Monica Cespedes-Cruz, Jomari Guerrero, Fatuma Iman, Zeinab Iman, Jaliyah Santiago Lozada, Melize Siliro, Taylor Eliara Solano Recio, Yarisbel Torres, and Thiah Young. Three girls, Zoany (Angie) Antunez, Luciana Martinez Rosero, and Rahama Sidow, will be counted upon for added depth as JV/Varsity players.

After Monday's opener, the Lady Red Devils, who turned in a 43-28 victory vs. Mystic Valley in a scrimmage this past Monday, will travel to GBL foes Somerville next Tuesday and Everett next Thursday.

Coach Cesar Castro and the CHS boys hoop squad will host Somerville in their season-opener next Tuesday and then will entertain Everett next Thursday. Both contests will tip off at 6:00 in the CHS gym.

Both the boys and girls squads will meet their seven GBL foes (Lynn English, Lynn Classical, Revere, Chelsea, Medford, Malden, and Somerville) twice each.

The boys will complete their 20-game schedule vs. non-league opponents Boston English, East Boston, Tech Boston, Cambridge Rindge and Latin, Northeast Regional, and Brighton.

The Lady Red Devils will take on non-league foes Excel, Ipswich (2), Northeast (2), and Boston Latin Academy to round out their 20-game schedule.

A lot was happening for the Bruins on Monday, as they prepared for a hat-trick of road games, making stops in St. Louis (Blues) on Tuesday, Winnipeg (Jets) Thursday 8:00pm, and Minnesota (Wild) on Sunday at 6:00pm. Some excitement was due to the possibility of having a pair of injured players finally returning to the lineup. The expectations featured the return of Bruins' scorer/playmaker, David Pastrnak and defenseman Charlie McAvoy possibly being cleared to play. Pastrnak, who had been suffering with a lower-body injury that kept him out for five games, and close to two weeks is considered probable in the next game or two. McAvoy on the other hand is likely to be a bit slower on his return from the facial surgery he had performed following the November 15 injury he absorbed. Prior to leaving for the road trip, there was hope regarding the return of both players to the lineup during the scheduled three-game road trip. One of the recent positive outcomes for the Bruins has been the strong play of their netminders, Joonas Korpisalo looked solid in last week's win over the St. Louis Blues during a 5-2 victory after not getting the start in net for an extended period. Jeremy Swayman has been on fire lately, and

BRUINS Beat by Bob Morello

BRUINS KEEP PACE IN TIGHT RACE



he's been coach Marco Sturm's choice netminder most often, and he has responded well, as prior to the trip, he had posted a solid record of 9-3-0 in his last dozen starts, with a record of 12-7-0.


Much of the Bruins' recent resiliency has benefited from the scoring touch of Morgan Geekie and Alex Steeves. Geekie's soft touch around the net is no surprise, but Steeves' contributions are a new found blessing.

Following this brief road trip, the Bruins will return

to TD Garden ice on Tuesday to host the Utah Mammoth in a 7:00pm start, and Connor McDavid's Edmonton Oilers on Thursday at 7:00pm. Next up

will be visits to TD Garden from the Vancouver Canucks, Ottawa Senators and the Montreal Canadiens, to complete this homestand that has the locals playing five games in eight days. Last week's Bruin Beat column listed how tight both Eastern Conference divi-

sions are after 30 games or less. In the Atlantic Division the Detroit Red Wings (35 points) hold the top spot, with Tampa Bay Lightning and Boston Bruins tied for second with 34 points (17-13-0). The margin between first place and seventh place Ottawa Senators (30) is five points. Similarly, the Eastern Conference's Metropolitan Division is nearly as tight, with the Washington Capitals holding down the top spot with 39 points, and the Columbus Blue Jackets are residing in the eighth and final spot with 32 points — a gap of seven points from first to last.




City of Revere
Mayor Patrick M. Keefe Jr.

Point of Pines Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 13 • 4:30pm sharp
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CHELSEA YACHT CLUB HOLDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Chelsea Yacht Club held a Children's Christmas Party Saturday in the CYC function hall. The many guests enjoyed refreshments, music, games, and a special visit by Santa Claus.

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS



Carolyn Boumila-Vega and her daughter, Adrianna Vega, enjoy a visit with Santa Claus at the Chelsea Yacht Club's Children's Christmas Party.



Pictured at the activities table at the Chelsea Yacht Club Christmas Party are Mike Kupczewski and Brit Kupczewski and baby, Zach Kupczewski (right), and Kathryn Bourgea (left).



The Kupczewski Family joins Santa Claus for a photo at the Chelsea Yacht Club Children's Christmas Party.



Members of the Chelsea Kiwanis Club, from left, Rich Cuthie (Recording Secretary), Joe Carreiro (Social Media Director), Carolyn Boumila-Vega (President), Adrianna Vega (volunteer), Susana Carella, Michelle Mirthes and Kathryn Bourgea are pictured with Santa Claus at the Christmas Party Sunday at the Chelsea Yacht Club.



Members and friends of the Chelsea Yacht Club enjoy a photo with Santa Claus at the Christmas Party.

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