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CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

VOLUME 135, NO. 42

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026

35 CENTS



Shown (left to right) are Fire Chief John Quatieri, Firefighter Yvad Rosado, Firefighter Mark Reddick, Firefighter Clemente Acosta, and Deputy Fire Chief Phil Rogers.

Three new Chelsea Firefighters graduate Firefighting Academy

Special to the Record

The Chelsea Fire Department is proud to announce the graduation of three new firefighters from the Massachusetts State Fire Academy.

Firefighters Acosta Clemente, Mark Reddick and Yvad Rosado were awarded

their certificates of completion during a graduation ceremony on January 9, 2026.

The new firefighters successfully completed the State's rigorous Firefighter I/II training program, which included instruction in fire suppression, emergency medical response, hazard

ous materials awareness, rescue operations, and firefighter safety.

Fire Chief John Quatieri stated, "We are proud to welcome these firefighters to our department and look forward to their continued training and service to the community."

Before being assigned to their respective shifts, the new firefighters will complete additional emergency medical training and equipment familiarization with the department's Training Division.

Chelsea looks for repeat as All-America City

By Adam Swift

Chelsea is a three-time winner of the All-America City Award from the National Civic League, most recently taking home the honor last year at a ceremony in Denver.

City leaders are now looking to win the award for the fourth time, and in back-to-back years.

In a letter to the city council, City Manager Fidel Maltez shared that Chelsea has formally submitted a letter to the National Civic League expressing its commitment to apply for the 2026 All-America City Award.

"Our team has already begun work on the full application, which is due at the end of February," Maltez stated.

"This national recognition program celebrates communities that demonstrate inclusive civic engagement, collaboration, innovation, and measurable impact: values that deeply reflect the work we do every day in Chelsea."

The application will focus on three core initiatives that Maltez said exemplify the strength and spirit of the community.

The first initiative is the Chelsea Police Department's community trust-building efforts, which the city manager said highlights the city's commitment to public safety through transparency, relationship-building, and meaningful engagement with residents.

The second initiative is Chelsea's food distribution

and food security efforts, which Maltez said showcase citywide collaboration to ensure access to food and support for residents facing food insecurity.

The final initiative is Chelsea's youth programs and Cradle-to-Career initiatives, reflecting long-standing investment in young people through coordinated efforts that support long-term success.

"These initiatives tell our story, a story rooted in partnership, resilience, and trust," Maltez stated. "The 'Chelsea Way' is the entire community working collaboratively to improve the lives of all of our residents. We are excited to shine a national spotlight on Chelsea

at the National All-America City competition this summer."

In the letter to the National Civic League, Maltez stated that Chelsea is uniquely positioned to showcase its work on the national stage.

"If invited to participate in this process, (we) will bring our indomitable spirit, our community and our personal and collective story-telling to this prestigious competition," he stated. "Chelsea is a small city with a big heart, shaped by our communities' resilience, collaboration, and an unwavering commitment to equity. When crises arise, they often hit Chelsea faster and harder, but so do our responses."

Maltez said Chelsea is once again ready to stand on the national stage "and share how a diverse, immigrant-rich, and resource-limited city builds trust, responds to crisis, and invests in its future. If selected, we will bring our residents, partners, and collective energy to the All-America City Awards process with the utmost pride and authenticity."

ey in the budget for potentially other spots, but it's just that the timeline won't necessarily work at this point to do the feasibility,"

Following a public hearing last week, the traffic and parking commission approved four spots on Highland Park, and two each on Crescent Avenue, Cabot Street, and Washington Avenue. The spots will be earmarked for electric vehicles from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and will be open for use by all vehicles from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

The city has received grant funding to help pay for the EV charging stations, the operation of which will be administered by Commonwealth Electrical Technologies for the Mass Clean Energy Center.

Emily Granoff said there is the potential in the future for more EV charging

"I think we do have mon-

See STATIONS Page 3

Traffic commission approves EV charging stations

By Adam Swift

Ten new electric vehicle charging stations could soon be coming to the city.

Following a public hearing last week, the traffic and parking commission approved four spots on Highland Park, and two each on Crescent Avenue, Cabot Street, and Washington Avenue. The spots will be earmarked for electric vehicles from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and will be open for use by all vehicles from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

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"I think we do have mon-

See STATIONS Page 3

Maltez names Paul Sagarino Deputy City Manager of Finance

Special to the Record

City Manager Fidel Maltez has named Paul Sagarino the new Deputy City Manager of Finance for the City of Chelsea. Sagarino, who officially started in the role on January 7, 2026, succeeds Michael Mason Jr., who now serves as Director of Finance & Operations for Randolph Public

See SAGARINO Page 3

Paul Sagarino

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

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Our Office will be closed on
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in observation of
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
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TRASH NOTICE
Trash will be delayed by one day due to the Martin Luther King holiday on Monday, Jan. 19, 2026

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Chelsea, Revere seniors earn coveted Questbridge and Posse scholarship awards

Special to the Record

Pioneer Charter School of Science I (PCSS I) is proud to announce that two of its students have received coveted full ride scholarships to prestigious higher education institutions.

Emily Green, 18, of Chelsea has been named a Posse Foundation finalist and will attend Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania on a full-tuition scholarship. The Posse Foundation is a national nonprofit organization that identifies, recruits, and supports diverse student leaders and places them in supportive cohorts or "posse" at partner colleges and universities. Green intends to major in political science and attend law school upon graduating from Bryn Mawr.

Merisa Kllomollari, 18, of Revere has been named a QuestBridge National College Match finalist and was matched with Yale University through the program. QuestBridge is a national nonprofit that connects high-

achieving students with leading colleges and universities. Kllomollari will be attending the New Haven, CT school this fall on a full scholarship, where she plans on studying neuroscience and pursuing medical school after graduation.

"We are incredibly proud of Merisa and Emily for earning these well-deserved honors," said Barish Icin, CEO of Pioneer Charter School of Science. "Their accomplishments reflect the very mission of our school: preparing students for success in college and life by developing strong academic skills, resilience, and a love of learning. Merisa and Emily embody the dedication, ambition, and character we strive to cultivate in every PCSS student."

Through a rigorous curriculum with an emphasis on STEM and the humanities, PCSS prepares students for excellence in any path they choose. The school looks forward to seeing Merisa, Emily, and all its students continue to reach their high-



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIONEER CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
Emily Green, of Chelsea, has been named a Posse Foundation finalist.

est potential.

PCSS is a rigorous college preparatory charter school that aims to prepare

educationally under-resourced students for today's competitive world. PCSS I, located in Everett, serves students in Grades



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIONEER CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
Merisa Kllomollari, of Revere, has been named a QuestBridge National College Match finalist.

K through 12 from several communities North of Boston, including Everett, Chelsea, and Revere.

PCSS II, located in Saugus, serves students in Grades K through 12 from Saugus, Salem, Peabody, Lynn, and Danvers.

POLICE NEWS

POLICE DEPARTMENT SEEKS INPUT FOR CITIZEN PERCEPTION SURVEY

The Chelsea Police Department is conducting its 2026 Citizen Perception of Crime Survey as part of our MAPAC accreditation process. This survey is an important way for the department to hear directly from the community it serves.

Citizen feedback helps the department better understand public perceptions, assess how it is doing, and identify opportunities to improve services, communication, and community engagement.

Whether you have interacted with the Chelsea Police Department recently or not, your perspective matters, according to the police department. The survey includes questions about professionalism, responsiveness, community programs, and overall trust and confidence in the department.

The survey is anonymous

and only takes a few minutes to complete at <https://forms.gle/NKWiWH-HZCnLtwgdMA>. It is also available on the police section of the city website.

The police department thanks residents for taking the time to share their thoughts and help the department continue working toward transparency, accountability, and service excellence for the Chelsea community.

CHELSEA POLICE SEEKING DONATIONS FOR STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING YOUTH CAMP

Chelsea Police Officer Damian Strait (Chelsea High School SRO and certified fitness instructor), along with the Chelsea Police Department Community Services Division and Chelsea Public Schools, are launching a week-long Strength and Conditioning Youth Camp during February and April vacations for select-

ed Chelsea High School students who are currently passing their classes.

This program blends physical training with classroom instruction, focusing on discipline, leadership, and positive relationship-building between youth and law enforcement.

To motivate participants, the department will be raffling \$500-\$1,000 in athletic gear daily (Nike Tech suits, sneakers, backpacks), with a grand finale giveaway.

The police department is asking the community to come together and help support #BuildTheBaseCamp in partnership with the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce. Any donation or share helps. There will also be future fundraising to support this program; stay tuned!

Registration for the program has begun, and anyone with questions can contact Strait at dstrait@chelseama.gov.

Donations can be made at the link at <https://square.link/u/17kDXtia>

Upcoming in-person customer assistance events hosted by National Grid

Special to the Record

National Grid continues its commitment to supporting customers with a series of in-person Customer Assistance Events this January. With colder temperatures here, these events are designed to help residents

manage seasonal energy bills and explore cost-saving programs. Many events will be held at local senior centers, making it easier for older adults to access personalized assistance. At every location, National Grid Customer Service Specialists will be available to provide tailored guidance on payment options and energy solutions to meet each household's needs.

"As we enter the new year, National Grid is focused on helping customers navigate winter energy costs with confidence," said Bill Malee, Chief Customer Officer, National Grid. "Our team is ready

to meet residents where they are, whether at a local senior center or community event, to offer practical solutions and personalized support. These in-person events are designed to empower customers with the tools and information they need to manage their energy bills and discover new ways to save."

Throughout the rest of January, in-person events will be held across our Massachusetts territory, making it easier for customers in every region to access support.

All of our in-person customer assistance events are open to the public and opportunities throughout January are available online and below.

Customers attending in-person events will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from National Grid, who will be on-site to assist with billing issues and provide information on:

- Enrolling in National Grid's new Payment Assistance Bundle

- Enrolling in Budget Billing

- Enrolling in the Energy Discount Rate (for qualifying customers)

- Scheduling home energy assessments and sharing information on other energy

efficiency opportunities for homes or businesses

These events are part of National Grid's broader commitment to affordability and reliability. Customers can also access support by calling 1-800-233-5325.

Help with Managing Energy Bills:

National Grid is committed to delivering safe and reliable energy to the customers and communities we serve. We recognize that affordability is a significant concern, and National Grid offers various programs and services to help customers save energy, manage their bills, and access financial assistance. It is not too late to explore programs that help manage energy costs, including signing up for a Payment Assistance Bundle. The bundle combines three helpful solutions to make it easier for managing energy costs and paying down past due amounts over a 12-month period.

• Deferred Payment Agreement: Spread out past-due balance into future monthly payments.

• Automatic Monthly Payments: Automatically deduct payments from your bank account each month and avoid missing due dates.

• Budget Plan: Break down annual energy costs into balanced monthly payments, making it easier to budget and plan expenses.

Customers interested in enrolling in the Payment Assistance Bundle can do so online by visiting ngrid.com/hereforyou, at an in-person event, or by calling 1-800-233-5325.

Budget Billing: Allows customers to spread their usual payment over twelve balanced monthly payments to help offset the traditionally high winter heating and summer air conditioning peak bills. Doing so makes it easier to anticipate monthly energy costs and plan household budgets. Additional information can be found here.

Discount Rates: Income-eligible customers may qualify for a discounted rate on energy service. To be eligible, applicants must be a National Grid customer and already enrolled in an eligible benefit

program or the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Visit the Discount Rate application to determine eligibility and apply.

Heat Pump Rate: National Grid introduced a new Residential Heat Pump Rate November 1st to help electric customers save during the winter heating season. Qualified customers who use heat pumps for home heating will receive a reduced delivery rate on electricity from November through April, lowering monthly costs. Customers who think they qualify but did not receive an enrollment confirmation should visit ngrid.com/heattputrate to fill out the enrollment form to apply and ensure they receive the discount.

National Grid encourages Massachusetts customers to learn more about all bill assistance programs and services by visiting ngrid.com/hereforyou.

Upcoming January Events:

All of our in-person customer assistance events are open to the public

- January 22 – The Home Family Resource Center, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., 95 4th Street, Chelsea.

National Grid (NYSE: NGG) delivers electricity and natural gas to more than 20 million people across New York and Massachusetts. We're committed to meeting our customers' energy needs and supporting economic growth across the regions we serve—providing safe, reliable energy today and building the resilient networks of the future.

National Grid Ventures, our commercial business, develops and operates infrastructure that delivers affordable and reliable energy to consumers. National Grid Partners, our corporate investment and innovation arm, invests in and collaborates with technology companies that are transforming the energy sector and accelerating industry-wide innovation.

For more information, please visit our website, follow us on X, watch us on YouTube, like us on Facebook and find us on Instagram.

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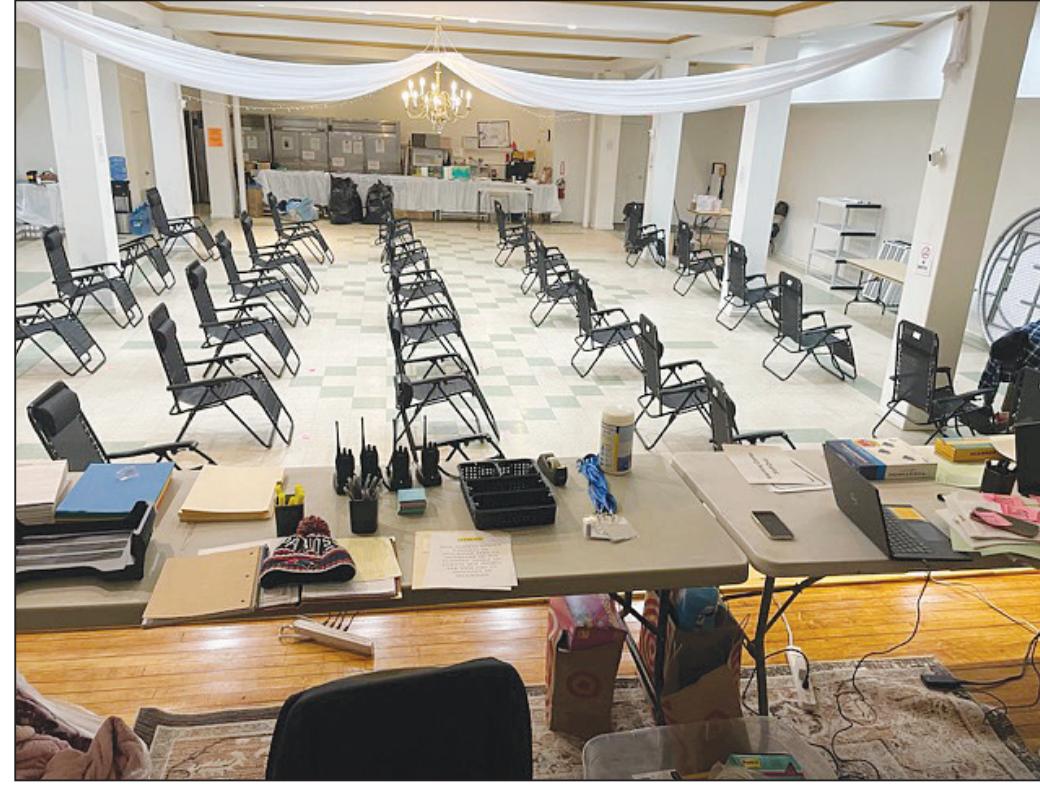
City of Chelsea opens regional overnight emergency warming center

Special to the Record

The City of Chelsea has opened a regional emergency warming center that will provide overnight comfort and shelter for individuals aged 18-years-old and older during the winter months. The center, which opened January 5, and will operate through March 31, represents a milestone as Chelsea's first warming center and will address critical regional needs. The center is open to any person from across the region.

Located at SELAH Day Resource Center at Luz de Cristo Church (738 Broadway), the center can serve up to 30 individuals per night seven days a week from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Guests will be provided with a safe, warm environment, as well as essential services, case management support, and one hot meal per person each night. Intake procedures, security checks, and clear operational guidelines will ensure a safe environment for all guests.

Chelsea's Director of



Chelsea's Regional Emergency Warming Center, which can provide shelter for up to 30 individuals aged 18-years-old and older seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Health & Human Services, Tracy Nowicki and her department led this initiative along with Revere's Public Health Division. The two cities jointly applied for funding from the Execu-

tive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EO-HLC) and were awarded a grant that will fully fund the center.

Nowicki said, "This warming center has been

more than a year in the making and demonstrates what neighboring municipalities and service organizations can accomplish when we work together."

The City of Chelsea se-

lected Housing Families, a Malden-based shelter and housing services nonprofit organization, to run the warming center following a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Housing Families will manage day-to-day operations with a team that includes direct care, and security staffing.

SELAH Day Resource Center was selected as the host agency through a separate RFP process and will provide the facility, hot meals nightly, cleaning services, and additional support staff to ensure smooth operations.

"Building the framework for Chelsea's first warming center required careful coordination and clear operational expectations," added Nowicki. "We'll continue to meet weekly with Housing Families and SELAH to monitor operations, address any issues quickly, and ensure the safety and well-being of both guests and the community."

The City of Revere is

providing crucial support as a regional partner, including transportation assistance for clients and security cameras throughout the premises to enhance safety. Those seeking transportation to Chelsea's warming center, or nearby centers, contact 339-242-7436.

The Chelsea Police Department will conduct regular patrols and maintain direct communication with warming center staff. The City of Chelsea Health and Human Services Department will oversee ongoing coordination among all partners.

The Regional Emergency Warming Center is only open to individuals age 18 and older; families and minors cannot be accommodated at this location, but can contact Steve Staffier, Chelsea's Emergency Management Director, for support.

For more information about the Regional Emergency Warming Center, contact Nowicki at 781-484-6402.

RIBBON-CUTTING FOR NUTRITION 4 U.

Please join us in congratulating Nutrition 4 U in successfully participating in the City of Chelsea's 2025 Storefront Improve-

ment Program. Nutrition 4 U recently celebrated its rebranding with a Ribbon Cutting attended by Omar Miranda from the City of

Chelsea, the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce, and CRG the design firm who created the sign.



Craig Murphy (CRG), Jennifer Hassell (Chelsea Chamber of Commerce), Saul Varela, Nelly Herrera (Nutrition 4 U - Co-Owner), Omar Miranda (City of Chelsea), Roman Gold (Chelsea Chamber Board Member), Arthur Arsenault (Chelsea Chamber Board Member)



Marina Chirinos, Nelly Herrera and Family during the cutting of the ribbon to celebrate the rebranding of Nutrition 4 U.

Council // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

past two years.

"We have a parking problem in our city, so it is a good thing to figure out exactly how many cars we have in the city, how many cars are registered here, how many cars that are commercial that are given stickers to park in our street," said Recupero. "They say the parking problem isn't increased; well, here is a way to figure it out. Within the last two

years, (has) it increased or decreased?

"I believe that it is increased, so by asking (for) this information, we would exactly know how many cars there (are) and how many parking spots we really have," he continued. "When we build future development we will have that in consideration for what is there, that we have parking problems."

Another order filed by Recupero asks that the city manager find out from The Neighborhood Developers how many residents of the affordable housing developments at 170 Cottage Street, 25 Sixth Street and Park and Pearl were Chelsea residents prior to their tenancy in these respective developments and report back to the city council.

"We are very fortunate to welcome Paul Sagarino to Chelsea as the City's new Deputy City Manager of Finance," said City Manager Fidel Maltez. "He was an ideal candidate for the position and brings a skill set shaped by many years as a municipal leader and public accountant. I look forward to working with him as we develop the upcoming budget and strive to maintain

Chelsea's nearly 30 years of financial excellence."

"I am excited for the opportunity to contribute to the growth and success of the City of Chelsea," said Sagarino. "I look forward to working with City Manager Maltez and the City Council to build upon the City's strong financial foundation and continue the City's practice of excellent financial management. Chelsea has so many great things going on and I am happy to be a part of it."

Sagarino will be responsible for assisting City Manager Fidel Maltez in the preparation of the City's annual operating and capital budgets, financial forecasting, collective bargaining, risk management, and developing and recommending city financial policies.

Prior to accepting the role in Chelsea, Sagarino served

as Finance Director and Town Accountant for the Town of Bedford. He previously served as Burlington's Town Administrator and held finance positions with the Town for 14 years. He is a certified public accountant with a Master of Public Administration degree from Northeastern University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

He serves on the Massachusetts Municipal Association's Fiscal Affairs Committee and holds a Certificate in Costing Labor Contracts from the University of Connecticut School of Public Policy.

To learn more about the City of Chelsea, visit [www.chelseama.gov](http://chelseama.gov).

Stations // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

services, but still have on-street parking available for residents who do not have electric vehicles.

Traffic commission members did raise questions about what the charges would be for people using the EV chargers.

Steven Conte of Commonwealth Electrical Technologies said that most mu-

nicipalities charge a modest fee per kilowatt hour for the charging services.

"I will say that on our current chargers, we initially were offering them free to people who were using them," said Granoff. "That did help boost usage at the start, and then we got to a point that they were getting more expensive to operate,

and now we charge a fee on our other chargers, so I think that is probably what we would do here."

Down the road, the city could also look at whether it would want to charge fees for electric vehicles that use the spots to park after they are fully charged.

LOST PET?

FREE RESOURCES AND HELP ON FACEBOOK:
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LOST AND FOUND PETS NETWORK:
CHELSEA, EVERETT, MALDEN, REVERE

Chelsea

RECORD

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

HAPPY 91ST BIRTHDAY, BOB FEE!

We want to wish a "Happy Birthday" to our former running partner, Bobby Fee, who celebrated his 91st birthday this past Sunday.

Bob was one of the all-time great athletes in Chelsea High history and went on to enjoy a stellar football career at Indiana. He played football with the Chelsea Nu-Way Sweepers semi-pro team and was a hair-width away from being selected for the original Boston Patriots pro football team.

Bob went on to coach the Chelsea High football team and became both successful and well-respected in the coaching fraternity.

But beyond his many accomplishments, Bob has been one of our city's greatest and most well-liked citizens for his entire life. He is a man who has led a life of great integrity. When we think of Bobby Fee, it brings to mind the cathartic closing lines from the movie, *Saving Private Ryan*: "Tell me I've led a good life. Tell me I'm a good man."

Bobby Fee has led an exemplary life and has been a great man. We know we join with all of our long-time Chelsea residents in wishing Bob, "Happy Birthday," with many more to come -- as well as one more thing: "Go Hoosiers!"

REMEMBERING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

For those of a certain age, it is hard to imagine that 2026 will mark 58 years since the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis while he was standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel on April 4, 1968. Recalling how we felt when he first heard the news of Dr. King's murder still brings chills and a deep sense of sadness that never has subsided.

For those who are too young to have been alive in that era of American history, there are a few things that everyone should know about Dr. King that should provide inspiration to all of us.

First, Dr. King was fearless. He knew from the inception of his rise to prominence of the Civil Rights movement that he would become a target for those who opposed change. Yet, even though he often told others that he believed his death would be imminent, he did not relent in his fight to continue his work in the civil rights movement.

Second, Dr. King stood for the rights of all Americans, not merely those of color. He was in Memphis because he was working with striking sanitation workers, whose pay and working conditions he was seeking to help improve. He also was an outspoken critic of the Vietnam War because he knew it to be an unjust war, not only for poor Americans who could not get a college deferment for the draft, but also for the people of Vietnam, whose homeland was being bombed into oblivion at great profit for the American military-industrial complex.

Third, Dr. King spoke forcefully about the economic inequality that existed in the 1960s -- and that has been exacerbated exponentially today -- making the attainment of the American Dream all but impossible except for a select few.

If Dr. King were alive today, there is no doubt that he would be in the forefront of the protests against the barbaric deportation program by the federal government.

Dr. King's words ring as true today as they did two generations ago. His "I Have A Dream" and "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speeches are among the most powerful orations not only in American history, but in all of Western civilization.

All of us should learn from the example set by Dr. King. His life was a testament to the idea that each of us has the power to change the world -- and that each of us has the capacity to inspire others, whether through our words or deeds, whether on a small or large scale, to make the world a better place. Many of our fellow citizens have followed the path set by Dr. King and many more will do so in the years ahead.

Dr. King often would say, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Admittedly, that "bend" often has taken a less-than-direct path in recent years.

But as we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day this Monday, let us recall not only his memory and the many things that he accomplished, but let us also resolve never to yield to the forces of intolerance, prejudice, and hate that continue to plague our country and the world today.

STILL TIME TO GET FLU SHOTS FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR CHILDREN

An estimated 7400 Americans already have died from the flu this season. Although most deaths occur among senior citizens, young children are the next most-vulnerable group.

The tragedy is that almost all of these deaths would have been preventable if those who died had received their flu shots.

It is not surprising that this flu season has seen more hospitalizations and deaths compared to last year. Fewer Americans have received a flu shot, even though a vaccination is the number one means by which Americans of all ages can receive protection from serious illness and death.

It is estimated that 90% of pediatric deaths -- four deaths have been reported in Mass. thus far this season -- occur in children who were unvaccinated.

This tragedy in our country is the inevitable result of the spread of misinformation about the safety and efficacy of vaccines. Instead of following medical guidance, those who do not get vaccinated instead are relying on social media and other, uninformed sources to guide their medical decisions.

So our advice to everyone who is unvaccinated simply is this: Stop listening to know-nothing social media feeds and get a vaccination ASAP -- it just might save your life or that of a loved one.

Forum

GreenRoots, Eastie Farm receive environmental justice funds

Special to the Record

Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell recently announced the distribution of \$475,000 to 12 organizations across the Commonwealth to aid in addressing economic, environmental, and health-related burdens.

Included in that funding round were Chelsea-based GreenRoots and Eastie Farm Regional Community Supported Agriculture in East Boston.

The funding represents the first round of disbursements from the Environmental Justice Fund, established last year in the Commonwealth's FY2025 budget, to support community-based projects that address environmental harms in disadvantaged communities and funded through civil penalties obtained in judgments and settlements in the Attorney General's Office (AGO)'s Environmental Protection Division.

"This funding marks a major milestone for communities around our Commonwealth that have waited far too long for meaningful investment," said Campbell. "When I proposed the En-

vironmental Justice Fund, along with Representative Fluker-Reid and Senator Gomez, I did so with the conviction that every neighborhood deserves clean air, safe water, and a healthy environment. These funds, which we procured by holding polluters accountable, will help repair historic harms and ensure that these resources flow directly to the communities most in need of our support."

GreenRoots received \$25,000 for the Cool Community in Hot EJ Neighborhoods program.

The program has the goal of advancing climate justice in the frontline community of Chelsea, particularly along the Mill Creek waterfront. GreenRoots will use the funding to support community engagement in waterfront and ecological restoration efforts, the construction of a new permanent open space, and the development of a tree keeper stewardship program to increase Chelsea's tree canopy.

"We are so grateful for the support and partnership of Attorney General Andrea Campbell and her office who have been steadfastly

working to ensure environmental justice populations are treated fairly and equitably, particularly in righting the environmental ills of decades of toxic pollution," said Roseann Bon-giovanni, Executive Director of GreenRoots. "These communities, like Chelsea, have faced disproportionate exposures to toxic pollution for decades which has resulted in poor health outcomes, premature death and more. We're thrilled that Attorney General Campbell is ensuring pollution violation funds are being invested in EJ communities."

State Senator Sal DiDomenico said that environmental justice is one of his top priorities, and that he was excited to see Campbell award critical funding to organizations fighting environmental health disparities in his district.

"Thanks to this investment, GreenRoots, Green Cambridge, and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health will be able to promote climate resilience, increase community engagement in restoration efforts, and improve environmental risk identification tools across the state," stated Di-

Domenico.

Through the establishment of a regional CSA program, Eastie Farm plans to use the \$25,000 it received to increase the access of fresh and affordable produce in East Boston, a federally recognized food desert. With this funding, Eastie Farm intends to connect two in-need groups by benefiting food insecure residents of East Boston with free and subsidized CSA shares and patronizing small, struggling farmers.

This project is in direct alignment with the New England Food Vision, which calls for the building of a local food system for health, economic, and climate resilience.

"We appreciate the Office of the Attorney General working with community-based organizations

toward developing food procurement strategies that address economic and health needs of today while prioritizing environmental goals," said Kannan Thiruvengadam, Executive Director and Alex Graora, Development Manager of Eastie Farm.

La Colaborativa selected for federal health innovation network

Special to the Record

La Colaborativa, a preeminent nonprofit organization committed to enhancing the welfare of Chelsea and the Metro North Region, has been designated as a Spoke for the prestigious Investor Catalyst Hub, a nationwide health innovation network launched by the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). The designation is emblematic of the unique, community-driven solutions La Colaborativa undertakes to holistically address health disparities through its triage model.

"From racing door-to-door to safeguard residents from COVID-19 to providing healthcare to all, regardless of income, La Colaborativa is committed to uplifting the wellbeing of our community," said Gladys Vega, President of La Colaborativa. "After spearheading efforts to have the ARPA-H Hub established in Cambridge, I'm thrilled that we're partnering with the

Investor Catalyst Hub."

Through this endeavor, La Colaborativa gains access to potential funding and flexible contracting for faster award execution compared to traditional government contracts. Spoke membership also offers opportunities to provide input on ARPA-H challenge areas and priorities, along with access to valuable networking opportunities and a robust resource library. This effort expands the foundation of health interventions designed by La Colaborativa and Massachusetts General Brigham, with the goal of eliminating health disparities.

"Through this partnership, we look forward to tackling the most daunting challenges of healthcare affecting our community with a thoughtful approach that addresses housing, food security, and economic mobility to promote positive health outcomes," stated Dinanyili Paulino, Executive Vice President.

Based in the Greater Boston area and managed by VentureWell, the ARPA-H Investor Catalyst Hub seeks to accelerate the commercialization of groundbreaking and accessible biomedical solutions. It utilizes an innovative hub-and-spoke model designed to reach a wide range of organizations, with the ultimate aim of delivering scalable healthcare outcomes for all Americans.

La Colaborativa joins a dynamic nationwide network of organizations aligned to ARPA-H's overarching mission to improve health outcomes through the following research focus areas: health science futures, proactive health, scalable solutions, and resilient systems. Investor Catalyst Hub spokes represent a broad spectrum of expertise, geographic diversity, and community perspectives.

"Harnessing our varied experience, this effort will enable La Colaborativa to pioneer new solutions that meaningfully improve

healthcare access, nutrition, economic security, and the built environment, with the goal of fundamentally reshaping the healthcare system to the benefit of our community," said Alex Train, COO, La Colaborativa.

Chelsea Schiller, Director of the Investor Catalyst Hub said the vibrant spoke network reflects a robust range of experts with a shared commitment to closing gaps in innovation.

"By building connections between our network and ARPA-H programs, we can help speed up the transition of innovative ideas into sustainable health solutions for all," Schiller said.

The spoke network will continue to grow as the Investor Catalyst Hub expands its efforts, with applications being selected on a rolling basis. Interested organizations can visit <https://investorcatalysthub.org/> to learn more or submit a membership application.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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Healey announces safety reforms following release of the ALR Commission's final report

Special to the Record

Governor Maura Healey announced a comprehensive set of reforms to strengthen safety, transparency and consumer protections in assisted living residences (ALRs) across Massachusetts. This action follows the submission of the ALR Commission's final report to the Legislature, which outlines both regulatory and legislative solutions to improve the safety and well-being of residents.

The ALR Commission was established through the 2024 Act to Improve Quality and Oversight of Long-Term Care and undertook an extensive review of the ALR sector to ensure it continues to meet the needs of an aging population while prioritizing resident health and safety. The Commission was expected to file its final report on August 1, 2025. Following the tragic fire at Gabriel House in Fall River, Governor Healey signed into law an extension passed by the Legislature so that the Commission had additional time to incorporate lessons learned from the fire. The Commission voted unanimously by those in attendance to approve its final report on January 12, 2026.

The Commission's recommendations aim to ensure ALRs continue to meet the evolving needs of older adults while significantly strengthening transparency and oversight, emergency preparedness, staffing, and consumer protections. The Commission met 16 times, held two public hearings, and incorporated direct feedback from residents, families, industry experts, and first responders. Key recommendations include:

Stronger Fire Safety & Emergency Preparedness Standards – enhance inspections and coordination with local fire departments to prevent future tragedies.

Transparent Public Data – create a new statewide online database to provide families with clear access to compliance records, ownership information, and corrective action plans.

Standardize Disclosures – standardize information on services, costs, staffing, and resident rights for easier comparison across ALRs.

Staffing & Nursing Leadership Requirements – ensure every ALR has access to licensed nursing support and leadership training that matches resident needs.

Clear Assessment Practices – ensure consistent evaluations of resident needs with clear notice of

any cost or care changes.

Affordability Task Force – create a task force to evaluate new models that expand access for low- and middle-income older adults.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration is taking immediate action to begin the implementation of a majority of the regulatory and administrative recommendations in this report.

"Every older adult deserves a safe home and peace of mind, and every family deserves transparency and accountability," said Governor Maura Healey.

"The heartbreaking tragedy at Gabriel House showed us that we cannot wait to strengthen protections for assisted living residents. We are taking immediate action on these recommendations so we can better protect residents, support families and ensure our assisted living system continues to serve people well into the future."

"Massachusetts has a responsibility to protect residents in every single assisted living community, and families are counting on us to get this right," said Aging & Independence Secretary and ALR Commission Chair Robin Lipson.

"These changes will strengthen fire safety, clarify standards and practices that impact resident well-being, and make critical information more accessible so families can make informed decisions. We have already begun putting stronger protections in place and will work to ensure that residents across the Commonwealth are safer, better supported, and treated with the dignity they deserve."

The Commission recommends legislative action to further strengthen resident safety and consumer protections, including establishing a dedicated funding mechanism to expand state oversight and public reporting, amending state law to authorize certified medication aides in assisted living settings, and creating a statewide registry for ALR executive directors.

The report also urges the review of ALR building classifications and the modernization of building code requirements. Finally, the Commission recommends forming an ALR Affordability Task Force to look into sustainable models that expand access for low- and middle-income older adults.

"These recommendations are very important. The Gabriel House fire in Fall River increased the urgency of action," said Senator Patricia Jehlen, member of the ALR Commission. "AGE

can implement most of the recommendations about transparency and emergency preparedness without legislation. But it's important to give them the budgetary resources to enforce the rules. The legislature needs to act on the recommended statutory changes, including establishing a dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism, supported by certification and recertification fees and fines."

"ALRs are an important pillar of the Commonwealth's continuum of care for our aging population, helping older adults age in place and maintain their independence. The health, safety and well-being of these residents is paramount. This principle guided the Commission's deliberations over the past year, especially following the devastating fire at Gabriel House in Fall River," said Representative Thomas Stanley, member of the ALR Commission.

"I am proud of the comprehensive recommendations the Commission produced in this final report and look forward to the work ahead, including establishing the proposed ALR Affordability Task Force.

"I'd like to thank my fellow commission members for their service on behalf of our older adults in ALRs and their caregivers, and salute Secretary Lipson and her team at AGE for their incredible leadership and engagement throughout this process."

"While there are quality residences across Massachusetts, inadequate regulations have allowed bad actors to persist for far too long," said Senator Mark Montigny, lead legislative sponsor of the ALR Commission.

"As the devastating Gabriel House fire showed, vulnerable lives are at stake and we need to continue to demand more action from legislators, regulators, and residence owners. I appreciate the hard work of this commission over the past year to come to a set of actionable recommendations that can be implemented immediately and in the near future to help protect residents and improve the overall assisted living model in the Commonwealth."

"I would like to thank the commission for their thoughtful review of existing policies and procedures and for the recommendations outlined in this report that will provide for important enhanced safety measures for all residents of assisted living centers throughout the state in the aftermath of the tragic Ga-

briel House fire," said Fall River Mayor Paul Coogan.

"I am gratified to see the ALR Commission release its report detailing a number of comprehensive reforms that will strengthen safety and increase transparency for ALRs all across the Commonwealth. The extensive reviews following the tragic fire at the Gabriel House will ensure that our seniors will not only have the latest in health and safety protocols in place, but that ALR staff will be equipped with the highest training and certifications standards in the industry. The new statewide online database will also provide families with clear access to important compliance records, ownership information, and mandate that their facility has a proven corrective action plan in place," said Senator Michael J. Rodrigues, Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

"All older adults deserve a safe dwelling and their families the utmost in transparency and accountability for the aging parents."

"The ALR Commission Report and recommendations deliver achievable goals. Legislative action is needed to ensure uniformity and compliance," said Representative Alan Silvia (D-Fall River).

"After our community experienced the tragic and deadly fire at Gabriel House last year, we have been evaluating necessary remedies and changes to prevent catastrophes like this," said Representative Carole Fiola (D-Fall River).

"Thanks to the work of this Commission, we are seeing important changes to help improve safety, affordability, and care. Thank you to Secretary Lipson and my colleague Chair Stanley for their tireless dedication to this issue."

"I thank the ALR Commission for the work and report, it brings attention to needed improvements. I applaud the state's commitment to promptly addressing the issues and listening to concerns brought forward," said Representative Steven J. Ouellette (D-Westport).

"I strongly support efforts to avoid serious incidents, particularly those that help our seniors and those ability hindered."

The Commission's report contains a comprehensive set of reforms that will significantly improve resident safety and ensure families have the information they need to make informed decisions.

OBITUARIES

Norah Jean Salvato

February 14, 1943 - January 2, 2026

At the age of 82, Norah Jean (Barr) Salvato passed away on Friday, January 2, 2026, while receiving supportive care at Hunt Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Danvers. Born in Liverpool, England on February 14, 1943, she was the cherished daughter of the late William B. and Norah (Hamilton) Barr.

Norah's formative years were spent in England, alongside her brother Peter, where she pursued her education and began her career as a registered nurse. In her pursuit of new opportunities, Norah immigrated to the United States, where she found purpose and fulfillment as a nurse's aide at Jewish Memorial Hospital in Roxbury and later at Chelsea Jewish Nursing Home. After years of dedicated service, Norah embraced retirement, leaving behind a legacy of compassion and care.

A memorial gathering and celebration of Norah's life was held at the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea, on Saturday, January 10.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Norah's name may be made to a charity of choice, reflecting her spirit of generosity and care for others.

To send expressions of sympathy, visit www.welshfh.com.

Welsh Funeral Home
Burial and Cremation Service
www.WelshFH.com

Patrick J. Pelosi

He loved sports and the thrill of the game

Patrick J. Pelosi entered eternal rest on Friday afternoon, January 9, 2026, at the Cambridge Health Alliance Hospital in Everett. He was 50 years old.

Born in Malden, he was the son of the late Frank Pelosi and Barbara E. (Chapman) Ostler. Patrick grew up in Everett, attending school at Our Lady of Grace and Pope John XXIII High School.

Patrick loved sports and the thrill of the game. He never missed an opportunity to go to the track or place a wager at The Sportsbook.

Though his path was not an easy one, he was fiercely himself. Patrick will be forever missed and cherished by all who loved him.

Patrick was the beloved father of Peyton Pelosi of Chelsea. He was the dear nephew of Marie Abrams, Beth Baker, Ellen Chapman and the late Danny Chapman and loving cousin to Meredith Rennie,



Christopher Baker, Melissa Abrams, Melanie Abrams and Stephanie McHugh.

Family and friends gathered for Patrick's Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Grace Parish in Chelsea on Tuesday, January 13. Interment was private. 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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His wife, Marta, children - Sammy, Tony, Marta, Jesus & Izzy and grandchildren - Michael, Gabriela, Andrea, Amy, Lydia, Angelina, Jessica, Jennifer, Julia & Joanna great-grandchildren Myles, Prudence, Adelaide & all of his family & friends.

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CHELSEA BOYS HOOP DEFEATS REVERE, 55-50

The Chelsea High School boys basketball team defeated Revere, 55-50, in a Greater Boston League game in Revere.

Head coach Cesar Castro's contingent played excellent two-way basketball

to build an insurmountable 20-point lead.

Chelsea improved its record to 6-0, but had its winning streak snapped by East Boston, 66-65, in a non-league game Friday.



Moe Osman is not to be denied from scoring, even with a 4 on 1.



Senior Brook Ephrem takes control of the opening jump in center court.



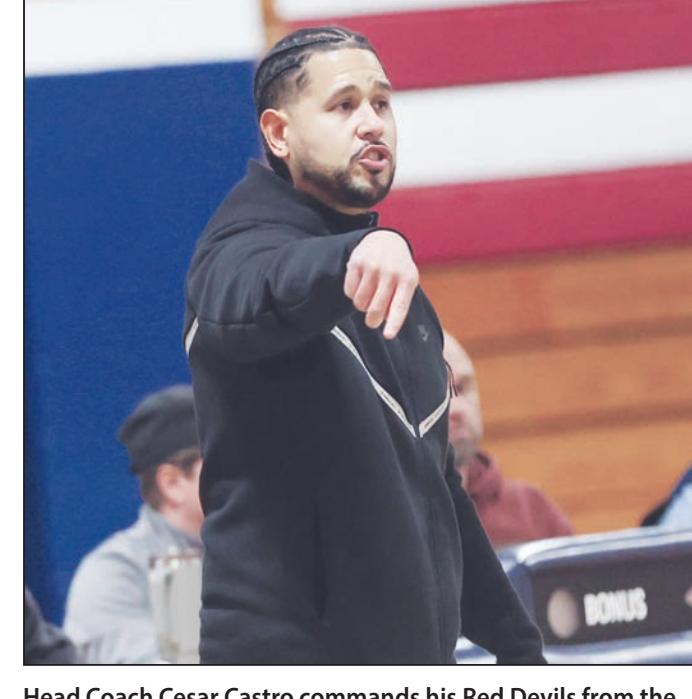
Roify Otanez Del Rosario makes a pass to a teammate.



A tight defense kept the Red Devils on a winning streak.



Hus Mohamed tries to keep a loose ball in play.



Head Coach Cesar Castro commands his Red Devils from the bench.



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2026

January 25 - January 31

#CSW26

National Catholic Schools Week (CSW) is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States.

CSW runs from the last Sunday in January through the following Saturday.

The Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2023 – 2026 theme is "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community."

Catholic schools have an irreplaceable role in the Church's evangelizing mission. Building on the central goal of Catholic schools to form saints, Catholic schools teach and embrace the whole person, body, mind and spirit.

The fact that all members of a Catholic school community share the Christian vision of faith that Christ is the

foundation of Catholic education is what unites the school as a faith-filled community.

While faith is the binding element in Catholic schools, the Church reiterates that parents are the first teachers of their children. Holding this tenet, Catholic school communities expand beyond the walls of school buildings to envelop the family as an integral part of the school community. Together teachers, administrators, staff, students and parents fuel the light of faith by integrating culture with faith and faith with living.

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Hus Mohamed grabs a rebound in mid-air.

Please visit chelsearecord.com

CHELSEA BOYS HOOP DEFEATS REVERE, 55-50



Geo Fernandes Brito fights off a Patriot defender.



In a timeout Head Coach Cesar Castro and staff talk things over with the team.



In the paint, Brouk Ephrem keeps two Patriots at bay under the basket.

IU Football Fee-Nom

Chelsea gridiron great Bob Fee will be rooting for the Hoosiers in title game

By Cary Shuman

Legendary Chelsea High School football player and head coach Bob Fee celebrated his 91st birthday January 11.

"Sunday was my birthday. I was born on 1-1-1," noted Fee in an interview from his residence in Prattville.

A potentially glorious celebration for Fee, his family, and friends may be forthcoming as his beloved alma mater, Indiana Uni-

versity, will be playing the University of Miami for the national championship Monday night in Florida.

"If Indiana wins, there may be a future celebration at the Merritt Club, where my son [Robert Fee Jr.], is a member," related Fee. "The whole club is pulling for Indiana."

One of Indiana's most illustrious football players, Fee has been closely following the Hoosiers' undefeated season. He has been in touch with Indiana Ath-



Bob Fee

letic Director Scott Dolson throughout the season.

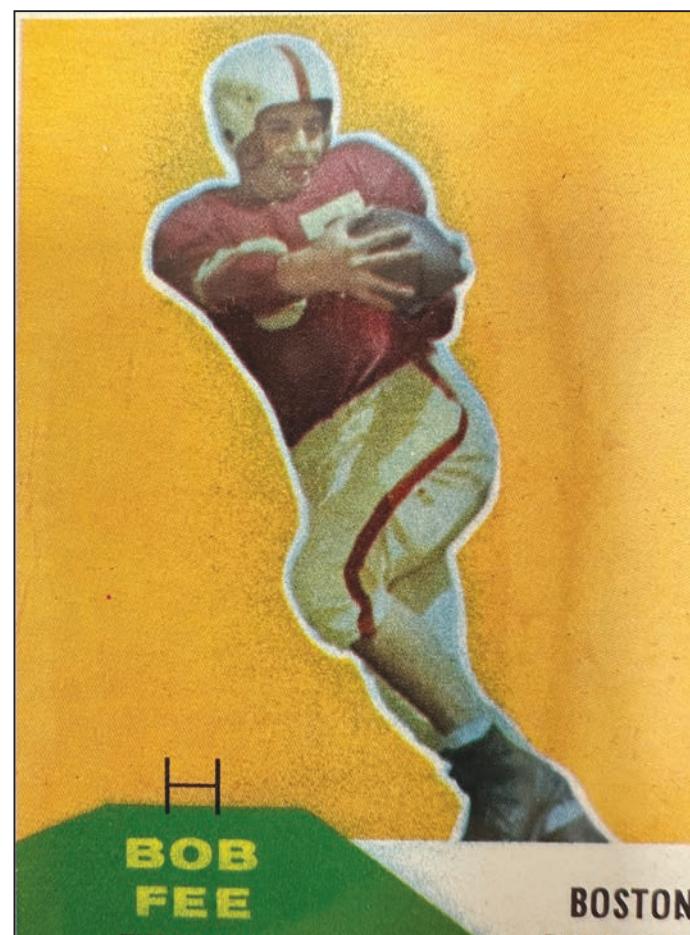
"He wanted me to come out to a game, but I wasn't able to make one, but I watch them on television every game - there's one more to go."

Fee said he's been very impressed with Indiana quarterback Fernando Mendoza, who won the Heisman Trophy as the most outstanding college football player in the country.

A superb career at Indiana

After earning All-Scholastic honors at Chelsea High School, Fee chose Indiana over several other schools, entering as an 18-year-old freshman.

"In a way, Indiana reminded me of Chelsea's situation. They were playing in the best football conference (Big 10) in all of football, and I wanted to play against the best and maybe I could help Indiana win a



Bob Fee's 1960 Boston Patriots card.

See FEE Page 8

CHS Roundup**CHS BOYS DEFEAT REVERE, MEDFORD; RANKED #8 IN D-3**

The Chelsea High boys basketball team remained undefeated in the Greater Boston League (GBL) with victories over GBL rivals Revere and Medford last week.

In the 55-50 victory over their archrival, the Revere High Patriots, coach Cesar Castro's crew captured Round 1 of the 2026 Battle of Broadway with a commanding effort that was not as close as the final score would indicate.

The Red Devils led for most of the contest and built a 20-point lead, a gap that Revere was able to narrow before the final buzzer.

"Late turnovers and rushed shots allowed the game to tighten, but the team showed composure to close it out, and a win is a win," said Castro.

"Moe Osman, who continues to anchor our defense, set the tone on both ends of the floor and finished with 13 points," said Castro. "Geo Brito led all scorers with 16 points, while Roify Otanez brought consistent energy and defensive presence, knocking down three three-pointers."

"Hus Mohammed continues to grow into a steady contributor, and Brouk

Ephrem, despite not being at full strength, left it all on the floor with a gutsy performance," Castro added.

Two nights later, the Red Devils ran their record to 5-0 in the GBL with a 61-56 victory over Medford. Moe Osman pumped in 25 points and Geo Brito hit for 20 to pace the CHS offense.

"This was a tough, hard-fought battle," said Castro.

The Red Devils then suffered their first loss of the season this past Friday with a narrow 66-65 defeat to non-league rival East Boston.

"I felt we went away

from what has been working for us -- attacking the basket -- and began settling for jump shots," Castro said.

"We didn't take care of the basketball and struggled at the free-throw line. The loss definitely hit our group, but I believe it has made the boys hungrier. Now it's about how we respond."

Castro and his crew rebounded from the defeat this past Monday and came away with a 55-46 victory over non-league foe Tech Boston. The Red Devils,

See ROUNDUP Page 8

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BRUINS Beat by Bob Morello**BRUINS REGAINING SCORING TOUCH**

When the Bruins have a game in which they score 10 goals, you just know that it deserves a second look back, making it a confidence builder. Such was the case last Saturday, when the New York Rangers were in town for a 1:00pm matinee with the Bruins, with the Blueshirts already on a losing streak. It started innocently enough with Mika Zibanejad putting a quick slap shot behind Bruins netminder Jeremy Swayman just 1.24 into the game. Answering the bell in the first period for the Bruins were goals from: Marat Khusnutdinov with his sixth of the year, and Pavel Zacha's pair of goals, numbers 11th and 12th of the season. End of first period Boston led 3-1. A bit over two minutes into the second period, Fraser Minten notched his ninth goal of the year. Back comes Khusnutdinov with his seventh, and Zacha back with his 'hat trick' goal number 13, before J.T. Miller briefly stopped the bleeding with his 11th goal fourteen plus minutes into the second stanza, before Charlie McAvoy's snap shot brought the numbers



to 7-2 Bruins end of two periods. Things did not get any better for the Rangers, as the third period saw Khusnutdinov sandwich goals number eight and nine around Minten's 10th goal of the season, a four-goal game for him, making the final score 10-2 Boston, an embarrassment by any measure, for the Empire State visitors. For the Bruins it was an awakening of the offense, with 'hat tricks' from Khusnutdinov – four goals on the night, and a trick from Zacha, with his three goals, plus a productive night for Minten with his pair of goals, and not to be overlooked David Pastrnak contributing six assists to tie a franchise record. Pasta's six put him into the company of Bobby Orr and Ken Hodge, the last two

Bruins to accomplish the feat. Pasta's efforts were rewarded as the NHL named him the NHL's Third Star of the Week for the week ending January 11. Boston's leading goal scorer, Morgan Geekie was not able to add to his numbers, as he had to leave the Garden after the first intermission, to attend to a family emergency. Jeremy Swayman finished up the game having stopped 27 of the 29 shots he faced, improving his record to 17-11-2. Joonas Korpisalo followed up on Sunday, as he took over the Boston net and recorded a 1-0 shutout over the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Tonight (Thursday) the Bruins will host the Seattle Kraken in an 8:00pm start, to be preceded by Zdeno Chara's Number Retirement Ceremony. Boston will head back out on the road to be hosted by the Chicago Blackhawks on Saturday (8:00pm), and then on Monday (7:30pm) to Dallas to take on the Stars, before returning to TD Garden ice on Thursday (7:00pm) to welcome former Bruins coach Bruce Cassidy and the Vegas Golden Knights.

Chelsea now accepting applications for property tax work-off programs for seniors and veterans

Special to the Record

The City of Chelsea is now accepting applications for its Senior Tax-Work-Off Program and Veterans Tax Work-Off Program designed to help eligible Chelsea adults aged 60 and older and veterans earn a reduction of up to \$1,500 off their annual real estate taxes.

Applications and full information about the program are available online at www.chelseama.gov/PTWOP and in-person at Chelsea's Human Resources Department located at

room 301 in Chelsea City Hall.

If a senior/veteran qualifies for either program, they will be employed by the City of Chelsea in one of its departments. The City offers a range of positions, including clerical roles and opportunities with the Department of Public Works. Selected applicants can work up to 100 hours per year, earning \$15 per hour.

The deadline to apply is January 31, 2026.

Qualifications for the Property Tax Work-Off Programs

Must be 60 years of age or older OR a veteran

Must be owner occupied (or spouse of owner)

Must be beneficiary or trustee on deed of said property

There is a limit of 25 participants per year, in the event that the City receives more than 25 participants a lottery will be held to determine the year's participants.

For questions about the program, please contact Andy Monsalve at 617-466-4174 or amonsalve@chelseama.gov.

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Must be beneficiary or trustee on deed of said property

There is a limit of 25 participants per year, in the event that the City receives more than 25 participants a lottery will be held to determine the year's participants.

For questions about the program, please contact Andy Monsalve at 617-466-4174 or amonsalve@chelseama.gov.

The deadline to apply is January 31, 2026.

Qualifications for the Property Tax Work-Off Programs

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School district sees positive trends for success

By Adam Swift

There are positive trends for the Chelsea schools with the latest indicators of success presented at last week's school committee meeting.

Those indicators, presented by assistant superintendent of schools Dr. Tamara Blake-Canty, included the school attendance rates, drop-out rates, and mobility rates for December. Several school committee members did ask questions about the high school attendance rate for the month.

"Our indicators of success offer us a transparent way to measure our progress, to celebrate our growth, and to identify where additional support or adjustment is needed," said Blake-Canty. "It also reinforces our dedication to deliver on our promises to our families and to all of our beautiful students."

Blake-Canty said all the indicators of success are connected to the district priorities of rigorous and culturally relevant instruction for all students.

"In terms of daily attendance, pre-k through eighth grade shows a strong outcome at above 90 percent on average," she said. "High school is holding steady, close to 77 percent on average for the month of December."

The high school dropout rate for December was 1.96 percent, which Blake-Canty said is the second-lowest rate the district has seen in the six years since it has been measuring it as an indicator of success.

"It indicates that nearly all students are remaining enrolled and progressing towards completion," she said.

The mobility rate showed healthy enrollment across the board for December, according to Blake-Canty. Overall, 42 students entered the district in December, while 22 left the district.

"Cumulatively, from September to current, we've had 297 students in, 169 students out," Blake-Canty said. "That is a difference of 128."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta said one of the reasons the district tracks mobility is because it recognizes that it



Students from the Chelsea High School Interact Club were honored at the Chelsea School Committee meeting on Thursday, Jan. 8 with an Outstanding Service Recognition for dedicating their time towards community service efforts. The students are pictured here alongside the Chelsea School Committee.

is a very mobile community.

"We have so many students coming in, and a lot of students going out, so we do track where we are gaining students but also where we are losing students," she said. "It shows the pattern of immigration, too, because we are a gateway community and when immigrants come to this country, often times we are the first stop and then families move out of Chelsea."

School committee member Katherine Cabral asked if there were programs being put in place to address the lower attendance at the high school in December, with the rate dipping close to 76 percent, which is lower than the rest of the district.

Administrators said that they have seen a dip in attendance in December and that they are working collectively with the staff at the high school to address attendance and put in place more proactive programs to involve the students and families.

Blake-Canty also noted that there is typically a dip in attendance across all districts during the holidays in December.

"We are definitely watching it, and it should jump back up in January, and if it doesn't jump back up, then we will all be at the high school calling families," said Abeyta.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta said one of the reasons the district tracks mobility is because it recognizes that it



Sari Ramos (pictured, middle), a teacher at the Wright Science & Technology Academy, was honored with a Name, Strength and Story Award at the Chelsea School Committee meeting on Thursday, Jan. 8.



Bryan Pinales (picture with certificate) is pictured with Superintendent Dr. Almi G. Abeyta, the Chelsea School Committee along with student representatives on the School Committee after receiving a Name, Strength and Story Award on Jan. 8.

The Museum of African American History marks a century of Black History commemorations throughout the month of February

Special to the Record

In 2026, Black History Week will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The observance was expanded into a monthlong celebration in 1970, reflecting the growing recognition of the importance of Black history and culture. To honor this historic milestone, the Museum of African American History (Boston & Nantucket) (MAAH) invites the public to take part in a vibrant series of programs, many offered at no cost, at its 46 Joy Street location on Boston's Beacon Hill. From wellness and music to poetry and thought-provoking discussions, these events honor Black history, creativity, and community across generations. All programs are open to the public. To RSVP and for additional information please visit www.maah.org/events.

Threads of Legacy: Pop Up Shop

Throughout the month of February, a pop-up shop

inside MAAH will feature a limited-edition collection of silk scarves honoring the resilience, and lasting impact of the Black women leaders who lived on Beacon Hill's North Slope during the 19th century. Developed through a collaboration between MAAH and the Bee Blunt fashion brand, the designs incorporate historic maps, architectural details, and symbolic references to activism. The 25' x 25" scarves are available for \$55 each or \$160 for all three while supplies last.

Jump Into the Past: Teen Takeover

Sunday, Feb. 1, 1-3 p.m.

FREE

MAAH and the Mayor's Office for Youth and Engagement welcome teens to an afternoon of food, fun and entertainment. Young people aged 11 to 18 will take part in a scavenger hunt, connect with friends, explore exhibits at the African Meeting House, and meet Boston's Youth Poet Laureate,

and enjoy a performance.

Saturdays with Sheila: Yoga at MAAH

Saturday, Feb. 7, 11 a.m.-

12 p.m.

FREE

Join yogi Sheila Thorne of Bous Yoga for an all-levels yoga class which is held on the first Saturday of each month. Arrive early to secure a mat or bring one from home.

Children's Storytime: We Go Slow

Saturday, Feb. 7, 1-2

p.m.

FREE

Artist, poet, and author Mariah des-sa Ekere Tallie will read from her award-winning picture book *We Go Slow*, which follows a young girl and her grandfather as they take a walk through their neighborhood. Ideal for children ages 4-8, this gentle and contemplative story celebrates the quiet joy of slowing down and noticing the world around us. Children must be accompanied

by an adult.

A Little History for Kids: An Interactive Workshop

Celebrating Black Historical Figures

Sunday, Feb. 8, 1-2 p.m.

FREE

Violinist Caden Burton of Castle of Our Skins, a nonprofit celebrating Black artistry through music, introduces children to historical figures including author Phillis Wheatley, inventor Garrett Morgan, and President Barack Obama. Elementary school aged children are encouraged to sing, clap, move, and imagine as they explore the stories of trailblazing figures. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

New Guinea Joy Walking Tour: A Tour Through Boston's Black Heritage

Sunday, Feb. 8, 2-4 p.m.

\$30 for adults, \$15 for youth 18 and under.

Together, MAAH, the West End Museum and Afrimmerican Academy trace Boston's earliest

Black roots, from the North End's historic New Guinea Settlement to Joy Street on Beacon Hill which by the 1800s was the center of the city's burgeoning Black community. This tour looks at the lives of the free Black Bostonians who shaped history from the colonial era through abolition and beyond.

Flower Arranging With Pilon Fleur

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 5:30-

7:30 p.m.

FREE

Just in time for Valentine's Day, Wendy Alexis-Janvier, founder of Pilon Fleur, will guide participants as they create colorful bouquets with refreshments provided. The session will cover basic floral design techniques, including flower selection, color balance, and arrangement. Everyone will leave with a one-of-a-kind bouquet, and refreshments will be served. Donations are welcome and encouraged.

From Ideas to Institutions: The Process of Making Black History

Friday, Feb. 13, 5:30-

8:30 p.m.

FREE

Discover how Black history is created, preserved, and celebrated. Angela Tate, Chief Curator and Director of Collections at MAAH; Kyera Singleton, public historian and Executive Director of the Royall House and Slave Quarters in Medford; and educator Jennifer Turner, board director for Communitas, an organization fostering inclusive and engaged communities in Greater Boston, will share the stories, strategies, and visions behind the institutions that honor Black history.

The program will be followed by a celebration of Frederick Douglass' 208th birthday, featuring music and refreshments.

See HISTORY Page 11

LEGAL NOTICES - legals@chelsearecord.com

LEGAL NOTICE

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Francisco A. Velez and Rebecca Velez to Beneficial Massachusetts Inc., dated July 18, 2007 and recorded with the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds at Book 42180, Page 73, subsequently assigned to U.S. BANK TRUST, N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR LSF9 MASTER PARTICIPATION TRUST by BENEFICIAL MASSACHUSETTS INC. by assignment recorded in said Suffolk County Registry of Deeds at Book 56798, Page 250, subsequently assigned to J.P. MORGAN MORTGAGE ACQUISITION CORP. by U.S. BANK TRUST, N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR LSF9 MASTER PARTICIPATION TRUST by assignment recorded in said Suffolk County Registry of Deeds at Book 60651, Page 84, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for Legacy Mortgage Asset Trust 2018-RPL2 by J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. by assignment recorded in said Suffolk County Registry of Deeds at Book 71336, Page 53 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on January 22, 2026 at 75 Prescott Avenue, Unit #1, Chelsea, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY IN CHELSEA, MASSACHUSETTS.

UNIT 1 IN PRESCOTT AVENUE CONDOMINIUM CREATED BY MASTER DEED DATED APRIL 15, 2003 AND RECORDED WITH THE SUFFOLK COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN BOOK 31162, PAGE 69 BEING THE SAME UNIT DESCRIBED IN PRESCOTT AVENUE CONDOMINIUM CREATED BY MASTER DEED RECORDED WITH SAID DEEDS IN BOOK 12697, PAGE 244 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF G.L.C. 183A. SAID UNIT IS LAID OUT AS SHOWN ON PLAN FILED WITH THE MASTER DEEDS AND TO WHICH IS ATTACHED A VERIFIED STATEMENT IN THE FORM PROVIDED FOR IN G.L.C. 183A, SECTION 9. SAID UNIT CONTAINS 1409 SQUARE FEET ACCORDING TO SAID PLAN. THE UNIT IS CONVEYED TOGETHER WITH A 50 PERCENT PERCENTAGE INTEREST (A) IN THE COMMON AREAS AND FACILITIES OF THE CONDOMINIUM, AS DESCRIBED IN THE MASTER DEEDS AND (B) IN THE PRESCOTT AVENUE CONDOMINIUM TRUST, DATED APRIL 15, 2003 AND RECORDED WITH SAID DEEDS IN BOOK 31162, PAGE 71 BEING THE SAME DECLARATION OF TRUST DATED JULY 24, 1986 AND RECORDED WITH SAID REGISTRY OF DEEDS ON JULY 24, 1986, BOOK 12697, PAGE 256. THE UNIT IS TO BE USED FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES AND USES ACCORDINGLY THERETO PERMITTED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE ZONING ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CHELSEA AND THE COMMON AREAS AND FACILITIES SHALL NOT BE USED FOR ANY PURPOSES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH AND THOSE PREMISES SHALL BE USED FOR NO OTHER PURPOSES, EXCEPT AS MAY BE EXPRESSLY PERMITTED BY THE TRUSTEES IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF THE PRESCOTT AVENUE CONDOMINIUM TRUSTS. THE GRANTEE ACQUIRES THE UNIT WITH THE BENEFIT OF, AND SUBJECT TO, THE PROVISIONS OF G.L.C. 183A, RELATING TO CONDOMINIUMS, AS THAT STATUTE IS WRITTEN AS OF THE DATE HEREOF AS IT MAY HEREAFTER BE AMENDED, THE MASTER DEEDS AND CONDOMINIUM TRUSTS REFERRED TO ABOVE AND BY-LAWS AND RULES AND REGULATIONS FROM TIME TO TIME ADOPTED THEREUNDER, AND ALL MATTERS OF RECORD STATED OR REFERRED TO IN THE MASTER DEEDS AS COMPLETELY AS IF EACH WERE FULLY SET FORTH HEREIN. GRANTEE ALSO ACQUIRES WITH SAID UNIT AN EASEMENT FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OF PARKING

SPACES NUMBER 1 AND 2 SHOWN ON THE SITE PLAN REFERRED TO IN SECTION 4 OF THE MASTER DEEDS. GRANTEE ACQUIRES SAID EXCLUSIVE EASEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5.2 OF THE MASTER DEEDS, BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED FROM JOHN P. HOGAN, JR. (MARITAL STATUS NOT STATED) TO FRANCISCO A. VELEZ AND REBECCA VELEZ, HUSAND AND WIFE, T/B/E BY DEED RECORDED 6/24/05, IN BOOK 37391, AT PAGE 133, IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE OF SUFFOLK COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for Legacy Mortgage Asset Trust 2018-RPL2. Present Holder of said Mortgage,

By Its Attorneys, ORLANS LAW GROUP PLLC PO Box 540540 Waltham, MA 02454 Phone: (781) 790-7800 23-003626

12/31/25, 1/8/26, 1/15/26

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and Use Limitation will limit the following site activities and uses on the subject property:

i. Use of the Property for a single- or multi-family residence, child day care facility, school, playground, health care facility, or nursing home;

ii. Cultivation of gardens in soils anywhere within the Property for the growth or harvesting of vegetables or other produce intended for human consumption;

iii. Any subsurface activity, construction or other work which may result in direct contact with and/or disturbance, excavation, relocation, or removal of, contaminated soils or groundwater presently located within the Property which is not conducted in accordance with the Obligations and Conditions of this Notice of AUL; and

iv. Any activity or use which, in the Opinion of a Massachusetts Licensed Site Professional (LSP), is reasonably likely to create a Significant Risk of harm to health, safety, public welfare or the environment. Any person interested in obtaining additional information about the notice of activity and use limitation may contact Ezra Coyne, Antea®Group, 161 Worcester Road, Suite 302, Framingham, MA, 01701, +1 800 477 7411.

The terminated Notice of Activity and Use Limitation, the 2025 Notice of Activity and Use Limitation, and the disposal site file can be viewed at MassDEP website using Release Tracking Number (RTN) 3-3550 at <http://public.dep.state.ma.us/SearchableSites2/Search.aspx> or at MassDEP, 150 Presidential Way, Woburn, MA 01801, +1 978-694-3200.

1/15/26

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LEGAL NOTICE

Section 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT TO BID MGL c.149 Over \$150K

THE CHELSEA HOUSING AUTHORITY, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Structural Concrete Repairs at State Aided Development: Buckley (667-2) in Chelsea, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by FERENTINOS ARCHITECTURE LLC.

The Project consists of but not limited to:

Structural concrete repairs to nineteen (19) existing concrete columns (seventeen substantial, two minor), including associated beam repairs, temporary shoring, surface preparation, and protective coatings, with work coordinated to maintain parking and resident access. The work is estimated to cost \$1,514,046.00.

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 01/16/2026 at 3:00PM EST for filed sub-bids and by 01/16/2026 at 3:00PM EST for general bids.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, General Building Construction, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until 28 January 2026 at 3:00PM EST and publicly opened online, forthwith.

1/15/26

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LEGAL NOTICE

Filed Sub-bids for the trades listed below will be received until 21 January 2026 at 3:00PM EST and publicly opened online, forthwith. Filed sub-bidders must be DCAMM certified for the trades listed below and bidders must include a current DCAMM Sub-Bidder Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Sub-Bidder's Update Statement.

TRADES
Painting Electrical Work
General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the CHELSEA HOUSING AUTHORITY. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000. Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

General bidders must agree to contract with minority and women business enterprises as certified by the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO). The combined participation benchmark reserved for such enterprises shall not be less than 13% of the final contract price including accepted alternates. Request for waivers must be sent to EOHLIC (Chad. Howard@mass.gov) 5 calendar days prior to the General Bid date. NO WAIVERS WILL BE GRANTED AFTER THE GENERAL BIDS ARE OPENED.

The Contractor and all subcontractors (collectively referred to as "the Contractor") agree to strive to achieve minority and women workforce participation. The Workforce Participation benchmark is set at 6.9% for women and 15.3% for minorities. The Workforce benchmark percentages are a statutory requirement under MGL c. 149 § 44A(2)(G). PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled Date and Time: 01/14/2026 at 10:30AM EST Address: 14 Bloomingdale Street, Chelsea, MA 02150 Instructions: Meet on Bloomingdale Street side of building. The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at: Nashoba Blue Inc. 433 Main Street Hudson, MA 01749 978-568-1167

1/15/26

C

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

January 15, 2026, January 22, 2026 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 February 3, 2026 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 FY24 funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake projects as part of the Chelsea Lead Hazard and Health Homes program. This program will abate lead and make necessary improvements for health and safety to benefit low/moderate income households in the City of Chelsea.

The City will on the same day request to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development for the release Lead Hazard Control/Healthy Home funds under Title X of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992.

The project will serve low and moderate-income residents

across the City of Chelsea. The program is expected to improve eighty low- and moderate-income units between March 2026 and March 2030, though that number may be slightly higher if some renovations cost less than anticipated.

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The project will serve low and moderate-income residents

responsibilities have been satisfied. EOHLIC and HUD'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

EOHLIC and HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Chelsea's certifications 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 on 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 EOHLIC or HUD; 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 regarding the use of CDBG Mini-Entitlement funds must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to EOHLIC at 100 Cambridge St., Ste. 300, Boston, MA 02114. Potential objectors should contact EOHLIC to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Objections regarding the use of HUD Lead Hazard Control/Health Homes funds must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD at the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, U.S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development, 100 S Charles St. Suite 500, Tower II, Baltimore, MD 21201. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Benjamin Cares, Director of Housing and Community Development

1/15/26, 1/22/26

followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court.

Persons interested in the estate

are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Janine D Rivers, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 26, 2025

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.

Register of Probate

01/15/2026

that have been maintained by the Chelsea Public Schools related to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, and/or provision of special education services to a student.

History // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Digging Deeper into Black Voices of the Revolution
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 5-7 p.m.
FREE

Hear the stories that history often overlooks. UMass Boston Professor Dr. Nedra Lee and MAAH's Chief Curator and Director of Collections will discuss the creation of the Museum's newest exhibition, Black Voices of the Revolution. From rare artifacts to AI-driven displays, this exhibit invites visitors to engage with history in a new way.

Storytime at the Museum: Joy Takes Root
Thursday, Feb. 19, 10-11 a.m.

a.m. FREE
Author Gwendolyn Wallace will share her children's picture book, Joy Takes Root, which follows a young girl as she connects with the earth, learns to grow plants, and honors her family's gardening traditions. Reviewers have called Joy Takes Root "a beautiful ode to both the natural world and intergenerational cultural wisdom..." Recommended for children ages 3-8. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

MAAH Lunch Club, A Taste of the Diaspora
Saturday, Feb. 21, 12-3 p.m.

p.m. \$50 per person.
Enjoy Southern hospitality at its best. Savor a flavorful meal created in collaboration with Heritage Market and award-winning chef Larry J of Larry J's BBQ Café followed by a performance and poetry workshop featuring Boston poet Amanda Shea.

Black Wellness Retreat
Sunday, Feb. 22, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
\$40 per person

This half-day retreat invites adults 18 and up to focus on rest, creativity, and connection. Through movement, storytelling, and shared meals, participants

will explore ways to nurture themselves and build community. The Haus of Glitter, a dance company and performance lab, offers a space to refresh, recharge, and engage with others in meaningful ways.

US Premiere: In Search of Phillis Wheatley Peters
Thursday, Feb. 26, 6-8 p.m.

FREE
Executive Producer and Director Leslie Askew, founder of Askew Films, and Executive Producer Turlough White, the com-

pany's head of production, will host the premiere of their new documentary In Search of Phillis Wheatley Peters. The filmmakers will examine the remarkable life of Wheatley Peters, the first African American woman—and only the third American woman—to publish a book of poetry. Enslaved in Boston and later emancipated, she mastered English, Greek, and Latin, composing elegant verse on religion, freedom, and historic figures.

Suite for a Minor Meeting, Live Performance

Feb. 28, 5-7 p.m.
FREE
Join Tufts University Art Galleries and MAAH for Suite for a Minor Meeting, a new site-specific performance by Jonathan González, a Magical Thinking of Systems and Belief-commissioned artist who works at the intersections of choreography, sculpture, text, and media. This special presentation, featuring Ogechi Okoye and Valentine Umeh, takes place at the African Meeting House on the MAAH campus.

Real Estate Transfers

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SELLER 1

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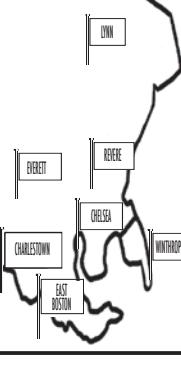
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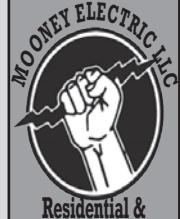
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CPS Superintendent Dr. Almi G. Abeyta mentors two aspiring Latina Superintendents

Special to the Record

Under the leadership and guidance of Superintendent Dr. Almudena (Almi) G. Abeyta, two superintendent fellows from the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Doctor of Education Leadership Program are serving in Chelsea Public Schools this school year, receiving mentorship and hands-on experience as they aspire to be superintendents.

Carolina Armstrong and Epsy Villafranca joined Chelsea Public Schools from the Education Leadership Program at the start of the 2025-26 school year. They have completed one semester of the fellowship, serving the district in a variety of roles while learning about the responsibilities and duties of a superintendent from Dr. Abeyta.

What makes this dynamic particularly unique and special is that both Armstrong and Villafranca are aspiring Latina female superintendents who both hope to follow in Dr. Abeyta's footsteps to a superintendency.



Epsy Villafranca



Carolina Armstrong

According to the Mid-Decade Update of the American Superintendent Study by AASA (The School Superintendents Association), only 1.1 percent of superintendents identified as a Hispanic/Latinx female in 2020 when Dr. Abeyta became Superintendent of Chelsea Public Schools. Over the last five years, Hispanic/Latinx female superintendents have increased in representation to 6.3 percent per the AASA mid-decade report, but is still an under-represented sub-group nationally.

Dr. Abeyta is also one of just three Latina superinten-

dents in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts according to the 2024-25 Staffing Data by Race/Ethnicity and Gender Report released by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

“Giving back and paying it forward is central to my leadership. As one of the few Latina superintendents in Massachusetts, I feel a profound responsibility to pay it forward and open doors for others,” Dr. Abeyta said. “Mentoring two aspiring Latina leaders like Carolina and Epsy is a reminder of how powerful

representation and shared lived experiences can be. Supporting them is both a privilege and an investment in the next generation of superintendents.”

Both Armstrong and Villafranca are experienced educators in urban education and public education settings. They both are first-generation college graduates and immigrants who draw on those experiences to inform their roles, making both fellows ideal fits to serve the Chelsea Public Schools community.

Armstrong, a native of Chile, has served as a classroom teacher, curriculum specialist, staff developer, school administrator, and district leader in education settings in both North Texas and Boston. Her varied roles have focused on school improvement, turnaround work, instructional capacity and enhancing the learning experience of multilingual learners.

“As a Latina immigrant and first-generation college graduate myself, who now has the privilege and op-

portunity to attend an Ivy League School like Harvard, I am deeply inspired by Dr. Abeyta, and I see a mirror in her journey, identity, and a role model in her visionary, innovative, yet caring and compassionate approach to leadership,” commented Armstrong.

She continued, “Her leadership and mentoring are a testament not only to the generosity of her time and her commitment to pouring into others and building capacity, empowering the next generation of system-level leaders, but also to the critical importance of the power of representation in the communities we serve.”

A native of El Salvador, Villafranca is a former special education teacher and principal with over 16 years of experience in public education in California. Her work has focused on building systems that strengthened teaching, expanded opportunities for students and advanced culturally responsive practices.

Villafranca commented, “As I consider my path af-

ter the program, Dr. Abeyta’s words about communities needing leaders with a shared lived experience and the passion to change the status quo resonate deeply. I am grateful for the opportunity to see someone of similar roots representing and fighting for a community as passionately and intentionally as she does. I am certain that my continued involvement with the Chelsea team this school year will prove as inspiring and motivating as the fall semester did.”

Under Dr. Abeyta’s guidance, Armstrong and Villafranca are gaining not only hands-on leadership experience, but also a strong example of how representation, particularly in urban school districts, has a powerful effect on a district’s growth and success. The first-hand experience they are benefitting from with Dr. Abeyta in Chelsea will contribute to their success in the fellowship program and beyond, potentially leading a school district themselves in the future.

FRESH AND LOCAL

Savory pancakes

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

When you think of pancakes, do you picture a stack of golden discs with a big pat of melting butter and a cascade of maple syrup? That is one side of the pancake story. The other side is all the savory pancakes that people enjoy around the world. Today, we'll give you some ideas for pancakes that are perfect for a hearty breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

World Tour

You may have already enjoyed savory pancakes in international versions at home or abroad. Perhaps you've tasted French crêpes or buckwheat galottes, Indian roti, Japanese okonomiyaki, Vietnamese banh xeo, Ethiopian injera, Latin American tortillas, or

Eastern European Blini, but didn't consider these pancakes.

Wikipedia defines this food as “... a flat type of batter bread like cake, often thin and round, prepared from a starch-based batter that may contain eggs, milk, and butter, and then cooked on a hot surface such as a griddle or frying pan.”

Pick Your Starch

Many pancakes begin with all-purpose flour. But that is not the only option you can use to explore the world of savory pancakes. Injera is made with teff flour, and the batter is fermented to create the lovely texture that soaks up and holds the food you pick up with it.

Buckwheat gallets may be made with 100% gluten-free buckwheat flour.

However, many cooks add some wheat flour because it makes the batter easier to work with. If you're gluten intolerant, ask before you order this pancake. The same is true of buckwheat blini.

Cornmeal pancakes are among our favorites. Johnny cakes, or journey cakes, are traditional New England cuisine said to have originated in Rhode Island. Think of the mix-ins you can add to a cornmeal pancake to create a savory meal. Beyond tacos or arepas, we recommend making a simple cornmeal pancake recipe with less sugar, adding corn kernels, jalapeño, and chili powder, and topping it with leftover meat and cheese.

Chickpea flour is used to make pancakes in both Asia and Italy. The website Seri-

ous Eats has a great article on Italian farinata, with tips to make it without ending up with a dry, uninteresting result. Like many serious eaters, Daniel Gritzer uses ratios. “The key to custardy farinata is to use the right ratio of water to chickpea flour: three to one by weight, respectively. You'll end up with a batter that looks very thin and watery: That's okay, it's what you want.”

Mix, Top, Fill, or Roll

How you turn a pancake savory is up to you. You can add mix-ins from a favorite flavor profile. You can use it as a base and top it with the ingredients from an Irish breakfast. You can fill it and roll it like a crêpe or roti. As is often the case with classic foods, you can create a great meal with leftovers



A Dutch Baby is another pancake variation you can fill with savory ingredients.

and reduce food waste.

One final note that may account for many pancake failures is that many recipes call for resting the batter for a recommended period. Resting allows the flour to hydrate fully and, in some cases, ferment.

When you see a form of pancake on an ethnic food menu, give it a try. If you

love it, you can check out the recipe. You might find it is relatively simple to make, and could add some variety to your menu rotation.

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

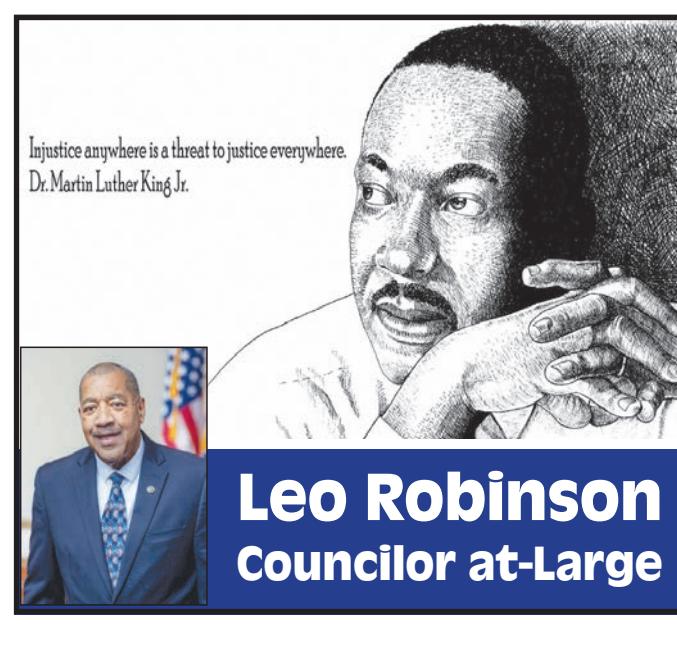
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From State Representative Judith Garcia



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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Leo Robinson
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