



CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

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State Representative Judith Garcia speaks at the press conference at the State House as co-filer of the PROTECT Act.

Reps. Garcia, Vargas introduce PROTECT Act to safeguard access to justice and strengthen Massachusetts courts

Special to the Record

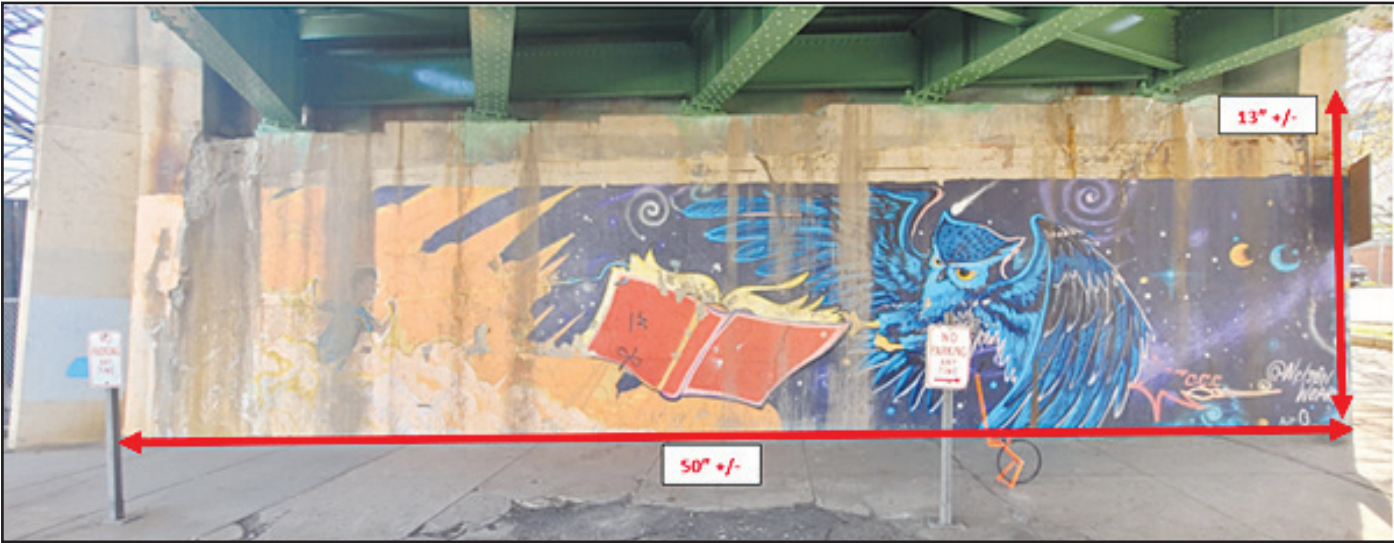
Representative Judith Garcia (D-Chelsea) and Representative Andy Vargas (D-Haverhill) joined members of the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus to formally introduce the PROTECT Act,

An Act Promoting Rule of Law, Oversight, Trust, and Equal Constitutional Treatment. The legislation is designed to protect courthouse access, uphold due process, and establish clear statewide standards governing civil immigration enforcement.

Representative Garcia spoke at the press conference about the impact the bill would have on her district of Chelsea and Everett. “Our courts must be places where people can participate fully and safely in the justice system,” said Garcia.

“In Chelsea, the courthouse sits in the middle of daily life, next to small businesses, restaurants, and homes. Immigration enforcement in and around that space disrupts court operations,

See SAFEGUARD Page 3



The City of Chelsea is calling on artists and artists teams to submit proposals for a new public mural beneath the Tobin Bridge.

Chelsea calling for artists to create Chick Corea mural under Tobin Bridge

Special to the Record

The City of Chelsea is inviting artists and artist teams to submit proposals for a new public mural beneath the Tobin Bridge on Everett Avenue as part of the New England’s Foundation for the Arts’ 2025 Making It Public Program.

The project, titled Keys to Chelsea, will honor world-renowned jazz pianist and composer and Chelsea native Armando Anthony “Chick” Corea,

and advances the city’s efforts to revitalize underused public spaces through public art. The deadline to apply is Sunday, March 1 at 11:59 p.m.

The mural will replace a previously damaged artwork and transform a highly visible underpass into a welcoming civic gateway connecting Chelsea to neighboring communities. The site is especially significant: Chick Corea grew up in a home that once stood adjacent to the mural location, making this project both a tribute and a homecoming.

The call for proposals is open to artists or artist teams ages 18 and older based in the United States. Preference will be given to artists with ties to Chelsea

or experience working in immigrant, working-class, or environmental justice communities. Emerging artists are strongly encouraged to apply.

Artists are encouraged to interpret Chick Corea’s legacy through themes of innovation, excellence, cultural pride, and creativity, while reflecting Chelsea’s diverse, immigrant, and working-class identity. Designs may be abstract or symbolic; a literal portrait is not required.

The mural will be installed on a 50-foot-wide by 13-foot-high retaining wall under the Tobin Bridge on Everett Avenue, between Chestnut Street and Walnut Street. The site experiences heavy pedestrian and vehicular traffic and serves as a

key entry point to the city.

Corea was born in Chelsea in 1941 and went on to become a member of Miles Davis’ band in the late 1960s before forming the jazz fusion band Return to Forever. Over the course of his long career, the pianist was nominated for 79 Grammy awards, winning 29 times.

The selected artist or artist team will receive a \$12,000 award, inclusive of all project costs including artist fees, materials, insurance, travel, and installation.

Final design and installation are subject to MassDOT review and approval, and the selected artist will enter into a grant agreement

See MURAL Page 2

Planning board gives positive feedback on Library Street development

By Adam Swift

The planning board was receptive to the changes for a proposed apartment project at 46-48 Library St. at its meeting last week.

The board voted to recommend the approval of the special permit and variances for the project to the zoning board of appeals.

The proposal to have nine apartment units built over three garage bays and connect it to the existing three-family home on the parcel raised some questions from the planning board when it was before it in December. The project will be built on the existing footprint of the garage.

Those questions revolved around how the new units

would connect to the existing building, the entrances to the new units, and the number of windows at the back of the units.

“Right now, if you drive by the property, it’s somewhat of an eyesore,” said project attorney John Mackey. “If this gets approved and developed, it’s going to be a beautiful project and it is going to increase the housing stock and it is also going to provide for a couple of affordable housing units.”

Project architect Beth McDougal said in December, planning board members had some recommendations for the project, and that she tried her best to pull

See LIBRARY STREET Page 12

APPRECIATION

Community mourns the loss of legendary businessman and former Chamber President Frank Kowalski Sr.

By Cary Shuman

The City of Chelsea is fondly remembering Frank Kowalski Sr., owner of Val’s Flowers and former president of the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Kowalski, a well-known, lifelong Chelsea resident and graduate of the Chelsea High School Class of 1959, passed away on Jan.

29, 2026. He was 84.

Mr. Kowalski received a heart transplant 27 years ago. According to Stacey Kowalski Gurska, the oldest of four children to Frank and Patricia Kowalski, her father led a vibrant life and inspired others with his story of resilience and strength.

“He got an extra 26 years

See APPRECIATION Page 6



Frank Kowalski Sr., pictured with his wife, Patricia Kowalski (right), and their four children, Lauren Dalton, Stacey Gurska, Lynn Hardy, and Frank Kowalski.

Senate passes DiDomenico’s young reader early literacy bill

Special to the Record

The Massachusetts Senate unanimously passed Senator Sal DiDomenico’s early literacy legislation that supports young learners by ensuring reading instruction is rooted in proven, evidence-based practices. DiDomenico first filed this bill last session and worked alongside advocates, educators, and administrators to ensure that all students are taught the skills they need to read and teachers are given the support and tools they deserve.

The bill creates new statewide standards for literacy

education and assessment, offers professional development resources for educators, and offers flexible options and supplemental funding for public schools

See LITERACY Page 2

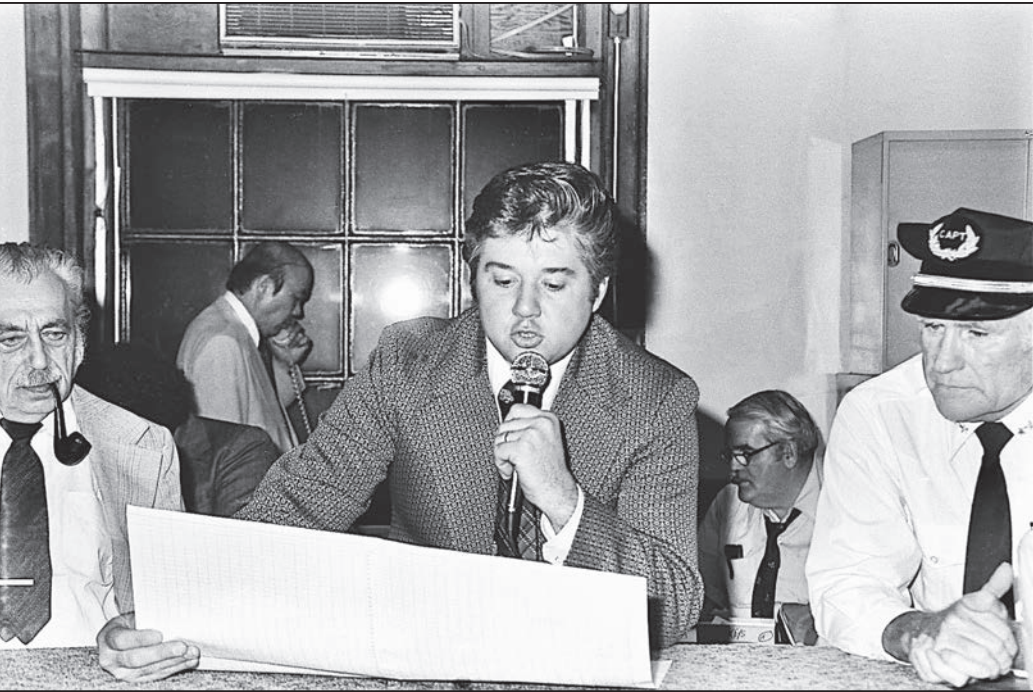


Senator Sal DiDomenico

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FROM THE PHOTO ARCHIVES OF
ARNOLD JARMAK



This Arnie Jarmak photo, which appeared in the Chelsea Record on September 26, 1979, shows the late Frank Kowalski Sr. (center), who passed away last week, announcing the election results of the Chelsea city primary election. Also pictured are the late Harry Toltz, a prominent attorney and chair of the Excise Board (left); the late Chelsea Police Captain Ike Creedon (right); and, in the background between Kowalski and Creedon, the late Water Commissioner Myles Johnson.

Chelsea celebrates Black History Month

By Adam Swift

Chelsea is celebrating Black History Month with a number of events across the city in February.

During last week’s meeting, the city council accepted a resolution celebrating February as Black History Month.

The resolution states that in In 1926, historian Carter G. Woodson - the child of enslaved parents - suggested the second week of February be declared “Negro History Week”to celebrate and study the accomplishments of African-Americans.

Woodson believed the teaching of Black history in schools was essential to ensure the intellectual and physical survival of African-Americans, arguing “if a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated.”

African-American educators and students at Kent State University in Ohio first proposed Black History Month in 1969, with the first celebration taking place in February 1970, and President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month in 1976.

At the local level, the resolution states that every February, the Chelsea Black Community (CBC) hosts its Annual Black History Month Celebration, bringing the community together to honor the achievements, culture, and contributions of Black individuals throughout history.

District 8 Councilor Calvin T. Brown pointed to the importance of Black History Month, as well as the recent Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebrations in the city.

“There was a lot of sacrifice to go into this celebration and for it to become a national holiday,” said Brown. “It is a great opportunity, not only to serve our

community, but to really get into our community and find out about Dr. King, his dream, his work, (and) his legacy.”

Council President Roberto Jimenez-Rivera also highlighted some of the upcoming Black History Month events in the city this month.

On Thursday, Feb. 4, there is the opening reception for an art exhibit celebrating Black History Month at city hall from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. On Friday, Feb. 12 at 6 p.m., there will be a presentation on the underground railroad at the Chelsea Public Library; and on Sunday, Feb. 21, there will be Verb Flow and Vision celebrating Black History Month at Spencer Loft Gallery at 60 Dudley St. at 7:30 p.m.

The CBC Black History Month community celebration will take place at the Browne Middle School on Friday, Feb. 26 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Mural // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with the City of Chelsea.

Applications can be submitted by visiting tinyurl.com/Bridge2Chelsea. Printed applications are also available in the Housing & Community Development Department located at 500 Broadway, Room 101.

Full application details, site images, and project requirements are available at www.chelseaprospers.org/callkeys2chelsea.

Questions can be sent to Delia Harrington, Manager of Arts, Culture & the Creative Economy for the City of Chelsea at dharrington@chelseama.gov or 617-466-4103.

Literacy // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that work to implement evidence-based curricula. The bill, S.2924, An Act relative to teacher preparation and student literacy, ensures that every Massachusetts student from kindergarten to 3rd grade+ learns to read using phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and phonemic awareness—practices that data show as the best building blocks for lifetime learning.

“This is a monumental moment for children across our state because we passed my bill through the Senate to ensure all our students learn essential literacy skills,” said Senator Sal N. DiDomenico, lead Senate sponsor of the legislation. “We can all agree that teaching our kids to read and write is one of the most fundamental skills we can instill in them, but far too many children in our schools are not meeting basic literacy benchmarks. Working with our teachers and administrators, this legislation will institute evidence-based curriculum to ensure all our students’ success in early literacy and give them the bright futures they deserve. I want to thank Senate President Spilka, Education Chair Lewis, my staff, the educators, and the advocates for their dedication to pushing this needed policy change over the finish line.”

“Our state’s future success is built on ensuring that our children become confident readers,” said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). “Today, the Senate passed legislation to do just that—ensuring every child in a Massachusetts public school is taught using proven, research-based methods, while providing educators and school districts with the resources they need to succeed. This legislation builds on years of work to advance equity in our schools and ensure that, no matter a child’s background, every student can access a world-class, data-driven education. I am grateful to Chair Rodrigues and Chair Lewis for their work on this legislation, and to Senator DiDomenico for his leadership in filing it.”

To support school districts and educators with implementation, the legislation would create a new Early Literacy Fund with \$25 million in funding to help districts with costs and support educators’ professional development. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) would also make additional professional development resources available.

Schools would have DESE-approved options to implement the new curriculum requirement: utilize a complete curriculum that is made available for free by DESE; use a curriculum from a list that meets evidence-based criteria; or receive a waiver authorizing the use of another curriculum that meets the same standards but had not been previously reviewed and approved by DESE.

The legislation makes sure parents and schools engage in constructive communication about student progress. It requires twice-yearly assessments to gauge every young learner’s reading progress and to screen for dyslexia and requires schools to contact a parent or guardian within 30 days if a student has fallen significantly behind and propose a response if that is the case.

The Senate passed the bill on a 38-0 roll call vote, and the legislation was sent to the House of Representatives to reconcile the few differences between Senate and House bills.

Statements of Support

Mary Tamer, Founder and Executive Director, MassPotential

“This is an historic and necessary step forward for education in Massachusetts. Senate President Spilka and Senator DiDomenico have championed a transformative literacy bill that will change the trajectory of countless students across the Commonwealth, all of whom deserve the right to read. This legislation doesn’t just mandate best practices—it opens the door to opportunity for every child in every district. Reading is the foundation upon which all learning is built, and today, we are one step closer to guaranteeing that no child will be denied the bright future that literacy makes possible.”

Luisa Sparrow, Boston Public Schools Teacher; 2025 Mass. Teacher of the Year

“We become teachers because we dream of helping students learn. Learning to read is the most important academic skill we can possibly teach our students. But when we enter the classroom, too many educators realize we don’t have all the tools we need to actually teach our students to read. This bill will give teachers the tools we need to be effective in the classroom so that ALL students have the opportunity to attain the literacy skills they deserve.”

Dr. De’Shawn C. Washington, Founder and President, Cultivating Changemakers; 2024 Mass. Teacher of the Year

“The ability for a child to read is one of the greatest and most essential gifts an educator can ever bestow. Literacy is a civil right, and it is the civic responsibility of the village to raise our children so they are empowered to become lifelong readers. The Right to Read Bill is a monumental step towards honoring that responsibility. By passing this legislation, Massachusetts affirms that every child attending school in the Commonwealth has the right to learn to read and use literacy as a vessel for purpose, possibility, and liberation. This bill also honors our educators by equipping them

with the evidence-based tools and training needed to teach reading exceptionally well to our students. When we ground literacy instruction in research and invest in our teachers in training, we invest in a future where 100% of our children can read, learn, and lead, with confidence and boldness.”

Nancy Duggan, Executive Director, Decoding Dyslexia MA

“All students need to start their academic careers with strong foundational reading skills. This legislation ensures high quality standards for that to happen in every classroom across the Commonwealth.”

Dr. Sarah Fennelly, President, The Reading League Massachusetts

“Reading is more than a subject in school. It is a life skill every person needs to be a productive member of society. It is also a right, not a privilege. It is not a developmental milestone; it requires direct instruction by educators. We have research and evidence to show that there are best practices to teach children this important skill, and that there are practices that have been shown to be ineffective for a majority of students. This bill will ensure that best practices are applied so all students are taught this important life skill. This is not just best for students, it is best for all of us as a society to create a generation of well read, critical thinkers who can make important decisions and become the future leaders we need.”

Jennie Williamson, State Director, EdTrust MA

“Today marks a defining moment for literacy in Massachusetts. With the Senate’s passage of comprehensive literacy legislation, our state is taking bold action to close long standing equity gaps that have held too many students back—not because of ability, but because they lacked access to the instruction and support every child deserves. This bill helps change that by ensuring students in every community receive evidence based literacy instruction from well prepared educators. We are deeply grateful to Senate leadership for tackling this urgent issue, and to the MassReads coalition for the fierce advocacy that made this milestone possible.”

Bithiah Carter, President and CEO, Give Black Alliance

“The right to read has always been a civil right, won through struggle, sacrifice, and lives lost. Our 21st century responsibility is to finish the work by protecting this right, because when every child can read, knowledge becomes liberation, and democracy survives. When our children look back on this moment, we want to be on the right side of history.”

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City celebrates 50 years of Greg’s Service Center

By Adam Swift

The city council celebrated 50 years of local business Greg’s Service Center at its meeting last week.

Many of the councilors thanked Greg and his son Michael Evangelis and their family, along with long-time employees like Bobby Baggs and Italo Bove, for their longtime commitment to providing quality service for the residents of Chelsea.

Gregory Evangelis immigrated to the United States from Greece in 1971, finding work as a mechanic at a small gas station and auto repair shop at 51 Park Street in Chelsea. In 1975, Greg - along with wife Patricia, an elementary school teacher - purchased the business, which - with just two bays and one lift at the time - became Greg’s Service Center.

“While his son, Michael, manages the repair shop and gas station today, Greg - at 80 years old - still shows up every day to help in any way possible,” the resolution stated. “Chelsea is a tight-knit community, and none of this success would have

been possible without the loyalty of customers - many of whom have been coming to Greg’s to get their cars repaired since 1975.”

District 6 Councilor Giovanni Recupero said the story of the Evangelis family highlights the power of immigrants coming to live and work in the community.

“I commend all the immigrants that come to our nation to make it better,” said Recupero.

District 5 Councilor Lisa Santagate noted that she and her family have a long history of getting their cars serviced at Greg’s.

“A couple of months ago, you actually helped me with my flat tire, so I just wanted to say thank you again for everything that you do and contribute to the city,” said Councilor-at-Large Kelly Garcia. “As the daughter of a mechanic, the work is not easy.”

Over the course of five decades, District 8 Councilor Calvin T. Brown said the family has maintained a loyal customer base through its service and willingness to help the city.



The city council with members of the Evangelis family and Greg’s Service Center, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Safeguard // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

harms local businesses, and affects everyone who lives or works nearby.”

During a six-month period in 2025, there were more than thirty documented ICE enforcement incidents at the Chelsea District Court. Some occurred in secure areas, while others took place in public spaces such as hallways, entrances, or just outside the courthouse. In many cases, ICE was seeking individuals who were not in custody but were appearing for scheduled court hearings.

The PROTECT Act responds to these realities by establishing a clear statewide rule that civil immigration arrests may not take place in or around Massachusetts courthouses, or while someone is traveling to or from court, unless there is a judicial warrant or court order signed by a judge. The bill does not interfere with criminal law enforcement or arrests based on criminal warrants.

The legislation also requires quarterly public reporting on immigration-related enforcement activity in courthouse settings, without including names or personal identifying information, to ensure accountability.

“When people hesitate to come to court, cases stall, victims stop reporting crimes, and witnesses do not come forward,” Garcia said. “That weakens the justice system for everyone.”

The PROTECT Act currently has 78 cosponsors in the Massachusetts Legislature and is supported by all 26 members of the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus. House leadership has been engaged throughout the process, and Speaker Ron Mariano continues discussions with the Caucus and House leadership, including hosting a members meeting this week to continue deliberations on the legislation.

The bill is the product of more than nine months of work by an immigration policy task force convened through the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus. Representative Garcia was appointed to the task force, which engaged directly with impacted individuals, their families, attorneys, advocates, and com-



State Representative Andy Vargas speaks at the press conference at the State House as co-filer of the PROTECT Act.



Gladys Vega, of La Colaborativa, speaks at the press conference at the State House in support of the PROTECT Act.

munity leaders to ensure the legislation is grounded in lived experience and within state authority.

“This legislation is about policy, not symbolism,” Garcia said. “It sets clear, enforceable standards for how our courts operate and protects due process and constitutional rights, regardless of immigration status.”

In Chelsea and statewide, Garcia recognized Gladys Vega, President and CEO of La Colaborativa, for her role in shaping the legislation, including meeting directly with the Caucus to provide insight during the drafting process.

Across Chelsea and Everett, residents have consistently supported their

neighbors during moments of crisis, often acting independently and without recognition. In Everett, community organizations, including LUMA, have also been present in this work.

“To the residents of Chelsea and Everett who continue to show up for their neighbors, often at real personal cost, your commitment matters,” Garcia said. “Our communities are stronger because of it.”

The PROTECT Act strengthens Massachusetts courts statewide by preserving access to justice, maintaining public safety, and ensuring courthouses remain safe, orderly spaces where the rule of law can function as intended.

News in Brief

CHELSEA COMMUNITY INVITED TO HEAR THE STATE OF THE CITY

The Chelsea community is invited to hear the State of the City Address as it is delivered by Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez to the Chelsea City Council on Monday, February 9, at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers (third floor, Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway). The event is free and open to the public.

During the event, Maltez will discuss the state of the City’s finances, Chelsea’s 2025 achievements and challenges, his administration’s goals for 2026, and more.

Chelsea Community Cable Television (CCCTV) will be onsite to film the address during the Chelsea City Council’s regularly

scheduled meeting on Monday, February 10.

Community members can also watch the address from the comfort of their homes on Verizon channel 22 or facebook.com/ChelseaCommunityCable. The speech will also be recorded in English and Spanish and be available at www.youtube.com/@chelseacommunitycable7517.

COMMUNITY INPUT WANTED FOR DESIGN OF NEW SKATE PARK

The City of Chelsea Housing and Community Development Department is collecting community input on potential design concepts for a new concrete skatepark at Mystic Overlook Park via a survey available on the city’s website. The community’s input will be reviewed by the design team

and used to inform concept designs that will later be presented to the community during a public meeting on March 24.

Before taking the survey, community members are encouraged to review possible design concepts, available in PowerPoint slides on the website.

Chelsea first announced plans to build a skate park at Mystic Overlook Park in 2024 and has held several successful public meetings with community members. The Mystic Overlook Park, which was last renovated in 2013, offers walking paths under the Tobin Bridge and views of the Mystic River and Boston skyline.

Anyone with questions about the survey or any step of the process can contact Sara Han, Planner and Project Manager for the Department of Housing and Community Development, at shan@chelseama.gov.

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Chelsea

RECORD

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FRANK KOWALSKI SR.

Long-time Chelsea residents were saddened to learn of the passing of Frank Kowalski Sr. this past week.

Frank and his family were pillars of the Chelsea business community for decades -- 64 years to be exact -- operating the well-known Val's Flowers, which was started by Frank's dad, Val, in 1947. Upon Val's passing, Frank operated the family business until he retired in 2011.

Frank was a Chelsea guy though-and-through. He was a graduate of the Chelsea High Class of 1959, served as a member of the Chelsea Board of Registrars of Voters for two decades, and raised his four children in the city.

He served as the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce president, received the Chamber's 2011 Outstanding Chelsea Citizen of the Year, and lived a vibrant life after receiving a heart transplant 27 years ago.

However, the most notable aspect about Frank that we'll remember was his decency and honor. He was a genuinely good man.

We know we join with all of our fellow residents in offering our condolences to his wife Pat and their four children, Stacey, Frank Jr., Lauren, and Lynn.

May he rest in peace.

ACCLIMATING TO OUR LOCAL ICE AGE

The bitterly cold weather that we've been experiencing day-after-day this winter has been oppressive (not to mention costly because of our high heating bills).

The daily lows in the single digits, coupled with the strong winds that have brought the wind-chills well below zero, have tested even the hardest New Englanders among us.

We are fortunate to live on an island near the coast, where the ice-bound harbor has created an Arctic-like seascape that is peaceful and calming, leaving us awestruck every morning when we wake up and look out at the frozen tundra that surrounds us.

The usual blue of the ocean has been replaced by a sea of white, and at sunset, the fiery pink and orange hues in the sky are reflected in the ice in soft pastels.

Our daily workout routine has been altered. The sandbar near our home that uncovers for about a quarter of a mile at low tide and that serves as our personal running track has been a sheet of ice when the tide recedes.

When our cold weather first set in a few weeks ago, the sea water on the surface of the sand bar instantly flash-froze as the tide receded. But for the past two weeks, the thick sheets of ice have been left stranded at low tide, rising and falling with the ebb and flow of each tidal cycle.

Still, we've been able to get outside on many occasions during the cold snap and enjoy what we figure have been the coldest runs of our life. Needless to say, we were dressed for the elements with five layers of clothing, a wool cap, a hoodie, and gloves. The wind chill officially was below zero, but we ran back-and-forth in the roadway around our island on the leeward side, protected from the wind by a hill, and being careful to slow down on any patches of black ice.

Most importantly, the sun was shining brightly on these runs. Even when the temperatures are in the single digits, the strength of the sun to provide warmth is apparent and very welcome.

These runs, as cold as they have been, were far better than pounding on the treadmill in our gym. They were invigorating both for our body and our soul.

Although the early part of this week was not particularly warm -- the temps reached the high 20s -- it felt like a heat-wave compared to the past few weeks. We shed our coat, hat, and gloves, and wore shorts for our daily runs on the sunny side of our island.

As we ran back-and-forth on our roadway for our 30-minute workouts, enveloped by the piles of snow and the ice floes in the nearby harbor, it occurred to us that as trying as our winter has been, so much of what we dread about these months is in our minds.

It is possible -- with a little bit of sunshine and the right attitude -- to get acclimated to the harshness of winter, and even revel in it.

GO PATS!

It seems like it was just yesterday that Patriot Nation looked forward to our Patriots making it to the Super Bowl almost every year. From 2002-2019, the Pats went to nine Super Bowls in 18 years, winning six of them, a dynastic record of consistency spearheaded by Bill Belichick and Tom Brady that we feel confident in saying will never be equaled in the NFL.

But after a bit of a drought for the past half-decade, the Patriots once again are back in the big game and Patriot Nation is at the center of the sports world's universe, this time with head coach Mike Vrabel and quarterback Drake Maye leading the way.

The Super Bowl is such a gigantic event that it attracts the non-sports fans among us, even if the major draw for them is the halftime show, which this year will feature Puerto Rico's Bad Bunny, the number one recording artist in the world, or the Super Bowl ads, which themselves generate their own conversation.

For our part, we've been getting ourselves pumped-up for the big game by watching highlights of the Pats' previous Super Bowl wins, including the 2015 victory over Seattle in which Brady rallied the Pats from a 24-14 deficit with 8:30 left in the game and Malcolm Butler made his immortal game-saving interception on the Patriot one-yard line.

So whether these Pats will bring us the joy of the Patriots' victories of the Brady/Belichick era or the pain of the losses to Green Bay, the Giants, and the Eagles (or, heaven forbid, the 1986 loss to the Bears), Sunday evening promises to be a fun time for all of us.

Forum

Boston Celtics honor Massachusetts State Police Trooper Rassin Charles as Hero Among Us

Special to the Record

Massachusetts State Police Trooper Rassin Charles was honored during the Boston Celtics vs. Portland Trail Blazers home game on Monday, January 26, for his calm, courageous response to a crisis on the Tobin Bridge.

In November, Trooper Charles responded to a report of an abandoned vehicle on the Tobin Bridge and found a man in distress standing on a high steel beam above traffic. Using his crisis negotiator training, Trooper Charles spent nearly two hours building

trust with the man. At the right moment, he secured his safety harness, stepped onto the beam, and was able to guide the man to safety, where he was transported to a local hospital.

Since its establishment in 1997 by the Boston Celtics, the Heroes Among Us program has recognized outstanding individuals who have made exceptional and lasting contributions to their communities. The award is presented at every Celtics home game and pays tribute to the heroic achievements of these outstanding citizens.



Massachusetts State Police Trooper Rassin Charles was honored as a Hero Among Us during the Celtics' January 26, 2026 home game against the Portland Trail Blazers for his response on the Tobin Bridge, where he spent nearly two hours guiding a man in crisis to safety.

CBC President Cromwell announces 2026 Chelsea Trailblazers Award honorees

Special to the Record

Chelsea Black Community President Joan Cromwell has announced the recipients of the 2026 Black History Month's Chelsea Trailblazers Awards.

This year's honorees are: community leader Anthony Martins, Pastor Keila Velez, former city councilor Damali Vidot, Chelsea Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director Bea Cravatta, and Sen. Sal DiDomenico.

City Manager Fidel Maltez, Rep. Judith Garcia, and City Council President Roberto Jimenez Rivera will deliver remarks at the celebration. Sen. DiDomenico will be in the dual role as honoree and speaker.

The exciting event will conclude the organization and the city of Chelsea's observance and participation in nationally recognized Black History Month.

President Cromwell spoke about the significance of the prestigious awards that will be presented at the Chelsea Trailblazers Celebration, an exciting annual event that will wrap up the CBC organization and the City of Chelsea's observance and participation in nationally recognized Black History Month.

"The Chelsea Trailblazer Awards are about honoring excellence, celebrating community, and reminding ourselves that leadership lives right here at home," said Cromwell. "Chelsea Trailblazers are more than leaders — they are builders. They create paths by opening doors, expanding opportunity, and uplifting others through their work in education, faith, safety, public service, culture, and community advocacy.

"The Chelsea Trailblazer Award, presented by Chelsea Black Community

(CBC), honors individuals who build trust, create access, and help shape a more equitable, connected Chelsea for all — laying foundations that future generations can continue to build upon. We believe it is essential to pause and give thanks to those whose impact is felt every single day. To give flowers while we can still smell them. To recognize the love, care, and commitment they pour into the communities they serve.

On behalf of Chelsea Black Community, we are proud to recognize this year's Trailblazers and celebrate the lasting legacy they continue to create," concluded Cromwell.

Following is President Cromwell official summary of the Chelsea Trailblazers Class of 2026:

Anthony Martins
Tony, your lifelong commitment to Chelsea and unwavering advocacy for youth impacted by trauma and urban violence have made a lasting difference. Through decades of service as a DYS provider, firefighter, youth sports referee, volunteer, and constant presence at community events you have empowered young people, strengthened our city, and helped shape brighter futures. You are a beacon of light for those who aspire to make a difference, and your tireless efforts are deeply respected and appreciated.

Pastor Keila Velez
Pastor Keila, you show up for everyone in our beautifully diverse community with compassion, care, and a genuine heart for the people. Through your leadership and people-centered ministry, you uplift families, support neighbors, and create inclusive spaces

where faith and community truly meet. Your presence and commitment continue to strengthen and bless our entire community. We are grateful for you and continue to pray for God's guidance, strength, and blessings over your life and the work you do for our community.

Damali Vidot
Damali, we celebrate you for the strength you bring to our community. As a social, political, and holistic leader, you uplift Chelsea by being a powerful voice for those who cannot always speak for themselves and a steady guide for those on their journeys of self-discovery and service, even when it meant standing alone for what is right and just. Through your compassion, wisdom, and unwavering support, especially for those in public service you continue to create pathways toward healing, purpose, and collective well-being. You are a true trailblazer and an enduring pillar of our community.

Bea Cravatta
Bea, your work has been guided by a powerful goal: to build a vibrant, inclusive cultural and recreational space where everyone in Chelsea feels welcomed and valued. You lead with intention, advocating for programs that reach people across languages and cultures and create meaningful connection. By honoring traditions such as Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Three Kings Day, and so many others, you reflect the true richness

of our community. Your vision continues to shape the spirit of Chelsea and inspire the work of Chelsea Black Community. We celebrate you and the lasting legacy you have built for this city.

Senator Sal DiDomenico
Sal, the impact you have on Chelsea goes far beyond policy or title, it's felt in the lives of the people you show up for every single day. You lead with heart, humility, and an unwavering commitment to this community, making people feel seen, heard, and valued when it matters most. Your willingness to stand with us, fight for us, and invest in every corner of Chelsea has helped shape who we are today. We are truly grateful to call you "the people's Senator." Sal, we would not be the community we are without you, and Chelsea Black Community proudly honors you for the lasting difference you continue to make. You are Sal our Pal!

"I am truly humbled to receive the Black History Month Trailblazer honor from my friends at the Chelsea Black Community (CBC)," said Senator Sal DiDomenico. "The CBC serves as a model for lifting up our neighbors with inclusive programming and meaningful partnerships. It is a privilege to support this fantastic organization and work alongside them to create a thriving community where everyone feels welcome and belongs."

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OBITUARIES

Thomas McNeil

Retired Chelsea Police Sergeant

Thomas E. McNeil, 76, of Kingston, New Hampshire, formerly of Chelsea, passed away at his home on February 1, 2026.

Born in Chelsea, Thomas was the son of the late George J. McNeil and Gladys M. (Borden). He was predeceased by the love of his life, Adele “Vicki” McNeil, with whom he shared 53 years of marriage. Together they created a lifetime of memories.

He proudly served the City of Chelsea as a Sergeant on the police force until his retirement in 2004. Beyond his career, Tom’s life was deeply connected to the water and the sun. A lifelong fixture at Alton Bay, NH, he spent every summer there from childhood on. Winters found him in Florida, forever chasing warm weather and the perfect tee time.

More than anything else, Tom’s greatest joy and most cherished role was being “Dad” and “Gampy.”

He found his happiness in time spent with his daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Thomas is survived by his daughters: Tricia A. Ciocco of New Hampshire and her partner Brian K. Mullaly, Vicki M. Galluzzo and her husband John of New Jersey, and Kerri A. McNeil of New Hampshire. He is also survived by his brothers: George J. McNeil, Jr. and his wife, Tena of Florida, and Danny McNeil and his wife, Linda of Massachusetts. He was the cherished grandfather of Tommy Ciocco and his wife Kelly, Anthony Ciocco and his wife Jaki, and Madison Galluzzo, and the great-grandfather of Arianna Ciocco, Tommy Ciocco, Connor Ciocco, Aubree Ciocco and Charlotte Ciocco.

The family has chosen to hold services privately. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Chelsea Police Relief Association.

Paula A. Grimaldi

August 5, 1960 - January 28, 2026

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Paula Ann Grimaldi, who departed this life unexpectedly on Wednesday morning, January 28, 2026, at the age of 65. Paula was stricken while driving to work and was taken to the Mass General Emergency Department in Boston.

A lifelong resident of Chelsea, Paula was the cherished daughter of the late Theresa (Proctor) and Gaetano C. “Guy” Grimaldi. She was educated in Chelsea, attending Our Lady of Grace Parochial School, and later graduated from St. Rose High School, Class of ‘78. Paula pursued her studies at Salem State College for two years, embarking on a long and distinguished career in banking.

She began her journey with Century Bank on Broadway in Chelsea and was most recently employed by Needham Bank at the time of her passing.

Paula will be remembered as a quiet, unassuming, and elegant lady whose life was devoted to caring for her close-knit nuclear family, and who extended her nurturing spirit to all those fortunate enough to know her.

A devout member of the Catholic faith, she was actively involved in the former St. Stanislaus Church. In her final days, she faced the sadness of losing her beloved mother, Theresa, just five weeks prior. They shared a profound devotion to St. Anthony and St. Jude, which reflected the strength of her faith throughout her life.



Paula is now reunited in heaven with her beloved parents, Theresa and Guy, her brother-in-law, Kevin Higgins, as well as numerous aunts and uncles. She is survived by her dearest sister, Carla Higgins, and a host of cousins and dear friends.

Relatives and friends attended a Funeral Gathering and Procession on Wednesday, February 4th at the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea. Following this gathering, Paula was honored with a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 250 Revere St., Revere. Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett.

In lieu of flowers, friends may wish to honor Paula’s memory by making contributions to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105-1905, or online at www.StJude.org/Donate.

Paula Ann Grimaldi will be dearly missed, and her legacy of compassion and faith will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

To send expressions of sympathy, visit www.welsh-fh.com



Giuseppe Recupero

He will be remembered as a man of great character who cherished his family above all else

Giuseppe Recupero, a devoted family man and longtime resident of East Boston, passed away peacefully in his home on January 31, 2026, at the age of 94, surrounded by the love and comfort of his family.

Born in Sicily, Giuseppe immigrated to the United States in the 1960’s along with his wife and two sons, seeking new opportunities while remaining deeply rooted in his heritage. He established his life in East Boston, where he remained a pillar of his community for over six decades.

Giuseppe was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Anna and his son, Francesco. He is survived by his sons, Giovanni and his wife, Anna, and Giuseppe and his wife, Carol. His legacy of hard work and devotion lives on through his 19 grandchildren and 38 great-grandchildren, as well as his grandkids in Milan and his extended family in Sicily.

He will be remembered as a man of great character who cherished his family above all else. He will be missed dearly by his family and friends on both sides of the Atlantic.



Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend visiting hours in the Carafa Family Funeral Home, 389 Washington Ave., Chelsea on Friday, February 6 from 4 to 8 p.m. His funeral will be from the Carafa Family Funeral Home on Saturday at 9 a.m. followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Grace Church, 59 Nichols St. Chelsea at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with interment at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden.

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.

Frank C. Kowalski, Sr.

August 14, 1941 - January 29, 2026

Frank C. Kowalski, Sr., a cherished member of the Chelsea community, passed away peacefully on January 29, 2026, at the age of 84, at the Massachusetts General Hospital, surrounded by his loving family.

Born on August 14, 1941 in Chelsea, Frank was the beloved son of the late Walerian “Val” and Leona (Huwe) Kowalski. He spent his entire life in Chelsea, where he made enduring contributions to both his family and the community.

Frank’s early years were spent working alongside his parents in their family flower shop, “Val’s Flowers,” where he honed his skills in floral design. He graduated from Chelsea High School in 1959 and continued to lead a fulfilling career in the floral business, eventually becoming co-owner alongside his sister, Barbara until the shop’s closure in 2011.

In a testament to his strength and resilience, Frank was a 27-year heart transplant recipient. He embraced life with vigor, finding joy in the simplest of moments with family and friends. In 1965 Frank married Patricia A. (Hartigan) Kowalski and together they built a loving family, raising a family of four: one son and three daughters. His legacy lives on through his 11 cherished grandchildren and one great-grandson.



Frank is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, Patricia A. Kowalski; their children, Stacey Gurska and her husband, Michael of Middleton, Frank Kowalski, Jr. and his wife, Susan of North Andover, Lauren Dalton and her husband, John of Haverhill and Lynn Hardy of West Newbury; his dear sister, Barbara Lawlor and her late husband, John, and Susan Lupoli and her husband, Dominic. He garnered love and admiration as “Banks” from his grandchildren: Courtney Gurska, Lindsey Gurska-Michella and her husband, Brian Michella, Michael and Meaghan Gurska, Amelia and Elijah Kowalski, Madeline, Jack, and Samuel Dalton, Richie and Lila Hardy, and his great-grandson, Tyler Michella.

In honor of Frank’s life, visiting hours will be held at the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea on Friday, February 6th, from 4 to 8 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in his honor at St. Michael the Archangel Chapel, 100 Summit Ave., Chelsea on Saturday, February 7th at 10 a.m. (Please meet directly at the Church). Services will conclude with interment at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett.

Frank Kowalski’s legacy of love, service and dedication will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to know him. His warm spirit will be dearly missed but will forever remain in the hearts of his family and friends.

To send expressions of sympathy, visit www.welsh-fh.com

Frank’s early years were spent working alongside his parents in their family flower shop, “Val’s Flowers,” where he honed his skills in floral design. He graduated from Chelsea High School in 1959 and continued to lead a fulfilling career in the floral business, eventually becoming co-owner alongside his sister, Barbara until the shop’s closure in 2011.

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In addition to his professional endeavors, Frank proudly served in the Massachusetts Army National Guard. His commitment to his community was evident through his numerous roles and contributions. He served as a long-time member and chairman of the Chelsea Registry of Voters and was a Past-Exalted Ruler of the Chelsea Elks B.P.O.E. He also held positions as Director and Past-President of the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce and was an active member of the Chelsea Rotary Club. Frank dedicated his time to St. Michael the Archangel Chapel at the Chelsea Soldiers Home, where he served as a lector and Eucharistic minister.

An avid pigeon enthusiast, Frank cherished raising and racing homing pigeons, a passion instilled by his maternal grandfather. He was recognized and received numerous awards for



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Councilor asks city to honor Chelsea legends

By Adam Swift

Heavyweight boxing champion John Ruiz and legendary jazz pianist Chick Corea are two of Chelsea’s most famous native sons.

District 6 City Councilor Giovanni Recupero wants to make sure Ruiz and Corea are both properly honored in their hometown with statues. There is a park named after Ruiz, and a block named after Corea in the city. In addition, the city recently put out a call for artists to create a mural under the Tobin Bridge in honor of Corea, a man who won more than two dozen Grammy awards during his lifetime.

Ruiz was a two-time WBA heavyweight boxing champion, and the first Latino boxer to hold a heavyweight championship belt.

Recupero noted that currently, the city only has a metal sign honoring the champ in John Ruiz Park.

“I think that it is time that we put a statue for the first Latino heavyweight champion instead of a piece of metal; we only have a piece of metal in that park,” said

Recupero.

The councilor notes that the Community Preservation Act sets aside money for historical projects, and that some of the money should be used to honor some of Chelsea’s historical figures.

“Every city I go into, it has a statue of a fighter made out of granite ... why don’t you put a good statue if you’re going to use CPA money?” Recupero asked. “Put a statue where it belongs to a gentleman who was never ashamed to say he came from Chelsea. Give him his respect; don’t give him a piece of metal – give him a statue like Brockton did with (Marvelous Marvin) Hagler.”

Likewise, Recupero said the city should have a statue celebrating the life of Corea, and not just a small sign.

“We always have all kinds of money to give everything to everything,” he said. “Why don’t we recognize the actual people who come from our own city? Maybe people will come by and say, hey, that’s a statue of the guy that was a great jazz musician.”

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Aquarium welcomes new members to Board of Trustees and Ambassador Council

Special to the Record

The New England Aquarium is beginning 2026 with six new members joining its Board of Trustees and Ambassador Council.

The Board of Trustees recently elected Danny Kalmar and Jane Willis to its ranks. Kalmar, who has served on the Aquarium’s Ambassador Council since 2018, is a partner at McKinsey & Company with significant experience in AI and digital transformation, operational excellence, and leadership development. Jane Willis is a partner at Ropes & Gray where she focuses her practice on complex business litigation, class action litigation, and antitrust matters. They were each elected to a three-year term on the Aquarium’s Board.

The Aquarium also welcomes four new members to its Ambassador Council: Alice Anne Barbo, Errin Davis, Matthew Marino, and Becca Schulman Havemeyer. These individuals serve as essential links to the community in advancing the Aquarium’s mission.

“The New England Aquarium is constantly evolving and inspiring people to form a deeper connection to the ocean with a dynamic combination of exhibits, scientific research, education, and advocacy. We are pleased to expand our Board with an impressive group of Trustees and Ambassadors who bring with them expertise in business, education, green energy, and more,” said Thomas R. Burton III, a Boston-based Mintz attorney and Chair of the Board



The new Trustees and Ambassadors joining the New England Aquarium. Clockwise from top left: Danny Kalmar, Jane Willis, Rebecca Schulman Havemeyer, Matt Marino, Errin Davis, and Alice Anne Barbo.

of Trustees.

New Trustees Danny Kalmar (Boston, MA)

Danny Kalmar is a Partner at McKinsey & Company and a senior leader in the firm’s Financial Services practice. He is highly experienced in AI and digital transformation, operational excellence, and leadership development. Kalmar has helped organizations around the world manage significant change and growth, influencing how companies stay competitive in an ever-changing business environment. Outside of his professional achievements, Kalmar has a deep passion for the ocean, having served as a submarine naval officer, being an avid sailor, and actively supporting bluetech initiatives. He holds a BA from the Technion Israel – Institute of

Technology and an MBA from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management.

Jane Willis (Boston, MA)

Jane Willis is a Partner at Ropes & Gray. She became a member of the firm’s policy committee (the firm’s governing body) in 2019 after serving for several years as co-chair of the global litigation and enforcement practice. Willis focuses her practice on complex business litigation, class action litigation, and antitrust matters, including, in large part, matters for health care and life sciences clients. She has been named the Best Lawyers “Lawyer of the Year” for Antitrust in Boston for several years. She holds a BA in Applied Mathematics from Harvard University and a JD from Harvard Law

School.

New Ambassadors Alice Anne Barbo (Boston, MA)

Alice Anne Barbo is a lifelong advocate for marine conservation and supporter of the New England Aquarium. She began her professional career as a secondary and adult education teacher in the fields of history, world cultures, political science, and study skills. Barbo served three parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston as the Director of Religious Education including managing the largest pre-k through grade 8 program in the diocese. She is happiest outdoors exploring natural wonders, parks, gardens and local history. Barbo earned a BA in History and Teacher Certification from the University of Massachusetts Lowell and a

Master Teacher certification from Regis College.

Errin Davis (Boston, MA)

Errin Davis serves as the Chief Operations Officer at The Davis System, LLC, where she oversees major contracts and event management initiatives. Her career spans various roles supporting elected officials, including Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, and State Senator Liz Miranda. Davis’s professional journey includes contributions to the Center for Public Leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government; Boston Public Schools Office of Equity, Strategy & Opportunity Gaps; and Emerge Massachusetts. Davis is a graduate of Salem State University, holding a BS in Business Administration focused in Entrepreneurship.

Matt Marino (Scituate, MA)

Matt Marino is the co-founder and CEO of ETX Upstream, an investment platform for Energy Transition projects. Prior to ETX, he was co-founder and CEO of Galehead Development, a renewable energy development platform that has delivered more than 2 GW of fully commercialized utility-scale solar and wind projects. Marino is an FII Level I Freediver and perpetually novice surfer. He resides in Scituate, MA, with his wife and two daughters, where they dive, beach, and surf when-

ever the weather allows. He holds a BA and MBA from Boston College and is currently matriculated at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography.

Becca Schulman Havemeyer (Chestnut Hill, MA)

Becca Schulman Havemeyer is co-founder and president of Beach Plum Properties, a design and development firm committed to building in an eco-friendly and climate-forward manner, limiting site waste, encouraging reuse and the incorporation of salvaged materials, and installing fossil fuel-free systems and appliances. Her early career was in nonprofit management and philanthropy, including time spent leading the Boston office of Room to Grow, managing programs at Jumpstart National, and leading corporate giving efforts at Manulife/John Hancock. Shulman Havemeyer serves as a marine mammal volunteer at the New England Aquarium. She earned a BA in Political Science and Women’s Studies from Brown University.

New England Aquarium is a nonprofit research and conservation organization that has protected and cared for our ocean and marine animals for more than 55 years. We provide science-based solutions and help shape policies that create measurable change to address threats the ocean faces. We inspire action through discovery and help create engaged, resilient communities.

Appreciation // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

after his heart transplant,” said Stacey. “He inspired people to live every day to its fullest. He still worked each day to make other people happy and be part of the community and to give back. I’m sure that flower shop made a lot of people feel very happy for weddings, proms, and Mother’s Day, and feel safe for funerals.”

Mr. Kowalski was a hard worker who would travel to the Boston Flower Market in the early morning hours to pick out flowers and load them into his vehicle for the return trip to Val’s Flowers on Broadway (later to its new location at the Parkway Plaza).

“My father taught us a good work ethic,” said Stacey, who is now an award-winning teacher at the John Silber Early Childhood Learning Center in Chelsea. “No matter what, you show up, you don’t quit, you persevere. He really supported his family, everything emanating from that little flower shop which delivered in so many ways. It put us through college, it paid for weddings, vacations – that tiny flower shop made its way.”

The four Kowalski children, Stacey, Frank, Lauren, and Lynn, and their cousin, Christine, helped out regularly at the shop, with Stacey



Frank Kowalski Sr. and Patricia Kowalski, pictured at their granddaughter Lindsay’s wedding almost two years ago.

and Frank Jr. extending their assistance to Saturdays.

A devoted family man and provider

Despite Mr. Kowalski’s busy schedule, he would always be present for family gatherings and his multi-talented children’s extracurricular events.

He was truly a proud dad when his son, Frank Kowalski Jr., became one of Chelsea Little League’s greatest home run hitters for the dynastic Indians, excelled on a Chelsea Americans All-Star team that won the district title, and continued his brilliant career at Malden Catholic and Salem State.

He was equally proud of

his daughters’ achievements in academics and business, such as Stacey’s prideful ownership of Best Friends Early Learning Center in Chelsea.

“My father supported my sisters in their schooling and education,” said Stacey. “He was a great husband, family man and provider who was always there for us. He took care of us all.”

His 11 grandchildren continued the family’s tradition of excellence in academics, athletics, and their professions.

“The grandchildren brought my father a lot of happiness,” said Stacey. “And there’s one great-grandson (one-year-old Tyler Michella, son of Dr. Lyndsay Gurska-Michella, who holds a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences, and Brian Michella).

A man with varied hobbies

Stacey said her father enjoyed a number of interests, including fishing, gardening, and landscaping.

“He loved taking care of his property,” said Stacey. “His favorite hobby was racing pigeons, which he acquired from his maternal grandfather. He grew up on Webster Avenue and his grandparents lived in the same house. His grandfather

had homing pigeons from Belgium, and he just immediately took to that from him. He just loved animals and he loved training and racing his homing pigeons. He made a lot of friends through the national homing pigeon association.”

Mr. Kowalski also enjoyed going on vacations with his wife and family. “He loved Aruba and lakehouses, anything on the water,” said Stacey.

Alpert: ‘One of the most caring and thoughtful persons I have known’

Allan Alpert said he first met Mr. Kowalski “when I was 10 or 11 years old.”

Alpert recalled that his uncle’s cab office was located across the street [on Broadway] from Val’s Flowers.”

“Guys like Lester Selbovitz, David Charak, and I used to hang around Bellingham Square on a Friday night and go bowling and for pizza, and if they [the Kowalski family] were working in the flower shop, I’d always stop in and say hello to Frank and his parents, Mr. [Val] Kowalski and Mrs. [Leona] Kowalski,” said Alpert. “His sister, Barbara [Lawlor] was also there. It was the old Chelsea family. My father [Julius Alpert] knew Val, and that’s how I got to meet

the Kowalskis.”

Alpert said he and Frank Kowalski enjoyed many good times as fellow members of the Chelsea Rotary Club.

“Anytime there was a club fundraiser, Frank was always there to so generously help out, and he served as sergeant-at-arms for two terms,” lauded Alpert. “He was just a great, great Chelsea person, all through and through.”

Alpert said as an adult he became a devoted customer of Val Flowers. “That’s where I bought my flowers for all occasions,” related Alpert. “They had excellent customer service. They were phenomenal. I know Frank would go the Flower Market in Boston at 5 or 6 in the morning picking up the flowers. His work ethic was second to none.”

Alpert recalled a special event when he was the installing officer at a Chelsea Chamber of Commerce dinner when Mr. Kowalski was taking office as president.

“The only officer I didn’t install that night was Frank Kowalski,” said Alpert. “But Val came to me and said, ‘I have a favor to ask.’ I said, ‘Sure, what is it?’ He said, ‘I know you always do the installations, but my son, Frank, is going to be the president and I’m a past president, I’d like to install him.’ I said, ‘Go ahead, it would be my greatest pleasure to have you do it.’”

So there Val Kowalski stood in front of the capacity crowd, proud as ever, as he installed his son, Frank Kowalski Sr., as the new president.

Alpert said for 64 years, the Kowalskis and their popular flower shop made a tremendous impact on Chelsea, and that legacy will live on.

“Frank was one of the most caring and thoughtful

persons that I’ve known,” said Alpert.

Ash: ‘A man to admire and emulate’

Then City-Manager Jay Ash was one of the presenters when Mr. Kowalski received the Chamber of Commerce’s 2011 Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award. His words then still ring true today as Ash remembers one of Chelsea’s most prominent residents over the past century.

“I have a special place in my heart for the Kowalskis and Val’s Flowers,” said Ash during his remarks at the 2011 event. “To Frank, I want to congratulate you for everything you’ve done for our city. You have certainly set an example for all of us to admire and emulate, and we thank you for the dedication that you have had to our community. And although the doors of Val’s Flowers are closed, we look forward to many more years of celebrating Chelsea with the Kowalskis.”

A final tribute

Councilor-at-Large Leo Robinson said the City Council will observe a moment of silence in tribute to Mr. Kowalski at its next public meeting.

“When a man of the outstanding caliber of Frank Kowalski leaves us, you remember and appreciate the respectful place that Val’s held in our hearts with their flowers for both joyous and solemn occasions - but we, as a city, have lost a tremendous connection to our glorious past,” said Robinson. “Frank Kowalski was an outstanding gentleman who will be missed by all. I offer my condolences to his family, and I also extend my gratitude to them for all the joy, kindness, and selfless contributions that Frank Kowalski Sr. brought to the residents of our city.”

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ZONTA CLUB OF CHELSEA AND NORTH SHORE NEWS

The Zonta Club of Chelsea and North Shore hosted the annual Amelia Earhart Dinner on January 15th at the Hilton Garden Inn, Boston, in collaboration with the Zonta Club of Malden. The event honors the spirit of pilot Amelia Earhart, who had been a Zonta member, and recognizes young women recently awarded Amelia Earhart fellowships to pursue Ph.D. degrees in aerospace engineering and space sciences.

Zonta International awards thirty \$10,000 fellowships annually. Three of these awardees, all Ph.D. candidates at MIT, were honored at Zonta's dinner: Myrella Cabral of Brazil, studying Aerospace Engineering; Palak Patel of the US, studying Mechanical Engineering, and Fatima Zaidouni of Morocco, studying Physics. Each spoke about her area of study contributing to global aerospace projects.



Keynote Speaker Dr. Irene Porro addresses guests at the Amelia Earhart Dinner.

Dr. Irene Porro, Director of the Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center for Integrated Science Learning at Framingham State University was keynote speaker. Dr. Porro highlighted the importance of making science learning relatable and experiential across the ages, the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, and the importance of women's participation in global advances in science and space



Dr. Irene Porro front and center with MIT Fellows, Patak Patel, Fatina Zaidouni and Myrella Cabral Celebrate with members of the Zonta Club- Janette Giso, Diane Cambria, Sheila Arsenault, Barbara Lawlor, Janice Tatarka, Lee Farrington, Joan Lanzillo-Hahesy, Georgia Green, Christine DePrizio, Mary Jane O'Neill, and Janice Sikorski.

exploration.

Mary Knight, Secretary of Zonta District I presented

each fellow with, "wings," a pin symbolizing empowerment, academic excellence

and the legacy of Amelia Earhart. Janice Tatarka, President of the Zonta Club

of Chelsea and North Shore presented recipients with flowers.



Mary Knight, Zonta District 1 Secretary presents wings and certificates to MIT Fellows - from left to right, Fatima Zaidouni, Palak Patel, Myrella Cabral and Mary Knight.



Janice Tatarka, President of the Zonta Club of Chelsea and North Shore presented flowers to the MIT Fellows, Fatuna Zaidouni, Myrella Cabral and Palak Patel.

Revere Beach Partnership hosts annual Winter Wonderland on February 7

To celebrate the winter season at America's First Public Beach, the Revere Beach Partnership will host its annual Winter Wonderland event on Saturday, February 7, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Waterfront Square on Revere Beach.

This family-friendly winter festival will take Revere Beach coast into a seasonal destination filled with festive activities for all ages. Attendees can enjoy interactive experienc-

es, live entertainment, food vendors, chili competition, and the highly anticipated Ice Sculpting Competition, where 5 talented ice sculptors will compete for cash prizes by creating incredible works of art from ice throughout the day.

For those looking to warm up, the Winter Market will feature over 20 vendors offering unique seasonal goods, crafts, and food. The Chili Cook-Off, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, invites at-

tendees to taste and vote on their favorite chili. Winter Wonderland will also feature activities for children, photo opportunities, and roaming winter-themed characters, making it the perfect opportunity to embrace the magic of winter by the ocean.

With thousands of visitors expected, Winter Wonderland has become a beloved seasonal tradition and a must-attend event for residents and visitors alike.

This event is free and open to the public. We invite the community to bundle up, bring family and friends, and join us for a memorable winter celebration on Revere Beach.

Revere Beach Partnership is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 2001. Its mission is to preserve and enhance America's first public beach for the enjoyment of all. The Partnership is led by a volunteer board dedicated

to celebrating, maintaining, and promoting Revere Beach as a cherished community resource.

For additional infor-

mation, contact: Kelsey Ficociello | kficociello@fmpproductions.com | 978-866-6460.

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

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

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



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

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THURS. FEB. 12th

Healey takes action to keep ICE out of schools, hospitals, courthouses, and places of worship

Special to the Record

Governor Maura Healey took action to protect the people of Massachusetts from abuses by President Donald Trump and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. She filed legislation to keep ICE out of courthouses, schools, child care programs, hospitals and churches; make it unlawful for another state to deploy its National Guard in Massachusetts without the Governor’s permission; and allow parents to pre-arrange guardianship for their children in case they are detained or deported. This is the most comprehensive effort in the country to protect against ICE activity in sensitive locations.

Governor Healey also signed an Executive Order prohibiting the state from entering into any new 287(g) agreements unless there is a public safety need, prohibiting ICE from making civil arrests in non-public areas of state facilities, and prohibiting the use of state property for immigration enforcement staging.

“In Massachusetts and across the country, we continue to see unlawful and unconstitutional actions by ICE that are meant to intimidate and instill fear in our communities, including against United States citizens who are exercising their constitutional rights,” said Governor Healey. “This puts people at risk and in harm’s way, and I find it necessary in the interest of public safety to take this action today.”

For decades, the Department of Homeland Security maintained a “protected areas” policy requiring ICE to refrain from immigration enforcement actions in sensitive locations, including hospitals, houses of worship, courts, and school programs. This policy allowed all community members to access basic support and services without fear, and protected public safety by encouraging all people to seek necessary medical care and testify in court when necessary, whether as a victim, witness, or party. On January 20,

2025, the Trump Administration rescinded the protected areas policy, replacing it with a directive giving ICE agents unbridled power to take enforcement actions in medical facilities, houses of worship, courts, schools and child care programs. Governor Healey’s legislation would restore the longstanding protections against arrests by ICE agents in these essential spaces where families, children, and vulnerable people should feel safe.

Courthouses

ICE’s presence at courthouses creates confusion and chaos and is deterring witnesses, victims and litigants from coming to court. It has resulted in the dismissal of charges and release of defendants. Governor Healey’s legislation would ban warrantless civil arrests by ICE agents inside of courthouses to protect access to justice and ensure that anyone who walks through the courthouse doors to seek relief, protection, or to defend themselves should feel safe doing so.

Schools and Child Care Programs

School enrollment has declined dramatically, particularly in districts with high populations of immigrant students, across the state this school year, with record declines of over 5 percent in Chelsea and Everett. The Trump Administration’s decision to revoke the protected areas policy has allowed ICE agents to target schools and child care programs. As a result, some families have been fearful of sending their children to school or participating in sports or school events, like graduation ceremonies. In addition, with national reporting of child care workers being followed into child care programs and detained by ICE, parents are increasingly reluctant to use necessary child care services so that they can go to work

and continue to provide for their families.

Governor Healey’s legislation would prohibit elementary, middle and high schools, as well as licensed child care programs and after school programs, from allowing an ICE or immigration agent to enter the premises without a judicial warrant. Schools, child care programs, and after school programs will also be required to adopt and implement

their own policies on how to interact with or respond to requests from ICE agents, in line with guidance issued by the Healey-Driscoll Administration and Attorney General Andrea Campbell.

Hospitals and Medical Facilities

Health care providers have been reporting that more immigrant families are skipping medical appointments, delaying care or canceling their health insurance because they fear being detained by ICE. Hospitals also used to fall under the protected areas policy until it was revoked by President Trump. Governor Healey’s legislation would prohibit hospitals, community health centers, nursing homes, and substance use disorder programs from granting ICE access to nonpublic areas without a judicial warrant. These facilities will also be required to issue policies on how their staff and volunteers should interact with or respond to requests from ICE. In Massachusetts, no one should have to hesitate to seek essential or life-saving medical treatment because they fear detention, deportation or being separated from their families.

Churches and Houses of Worship

The Trump Administration’s cancellation of the protected areas policy has deterred many immigrants from attending religious services, as reported by religious orga-

nizations across the country. Governor Healey’s legislation would codify a statutory privilege against civil arrest for individuals within places of worship while attending services, protecting the First Amendment right of free exercise of religion.

National Guard

President Trump has been sending National Guard troops from other states into cities like Chicago and Los Angeles against the wishes of state and local officials. These deployments have drained resources, taken members of the Guard away from their day jobs, and have not made anyone safer. Governor Healey is the Commander of the Massachusetts National Guard, and her legislation would make it unlawful for a military force under the control of another state’s Governor to enter Massachusetts without her permission.

Guardianship

Governor Healey’s legislation would also allow parents to pre-arrange guardianship for their children in the event that they are detained or deported by ICE, ensuring that their child will be transitioned to a trusted caretaker. Parents will be able to designate an adult to be on standby to automatically assume temporary guardianship of their child, without losing their legal or parental rights.

Other Provisions

Governor Healey filed these provisions in “An Act Making Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2026 to Provide for Supplementing Certain Existing Appropriations and for Responding to Recent Federal Actions.” The supplemental budget proposes \$411.3 million in time-sensitive appropriations for deficiencies.

In addition to the supplemental appropriations, the legislation proposes veterans benefits access reforms to ensure eligible veterans are able to obtain state benefits even if they are denied federal benefits, indemnification provisions to protect public employees acting within the scope of their duties in connection with federal inves-

tigations, and technical and privacy-related amendments affecting higher education access and student records. The legislation also includes an important time-sensitive proposal that allows for the Joint Hazard Incident Response Team to proactively work together and coordinate for large scale events, such as the World Cup or Tall Ships. Finally, the legislation includes several collective bargaining agreement ratifications.

Executive Order

Governor Healey’s Executive Order prohibits any office or agency in the Executive Department from executing any new agreement under section 287(g) of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, or any similar agreements, unless there is a specific and certified public safety risk or need.

The Executive Order also prohibits civil arrests by federal immigration officers in nonpublic areas of state facilities, except when authorized by a judicial warrant or judicial order. Staff will be made aware of this requirement and trained on interacting with federal immigration officers.

The Executive Order also prohibits state facilities, and other property owned or controlled by the Executive Department, from being used by federal immigration officers as a staging area, processing location, or operations base for civil immigration enforcement efforts.

Additionally, the Executive Order directs the Executive Office of Education and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to support public and private entities in developing policies and guidance on interacting with ICE.

Statements of Support

Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland):

“I am grateful to Governor Healey for her leadership and partnership on the pressing issue of protecting our state and its residents during these dark and uncertain days. The Massachusetts Senate stands firmly with the Healey-Driscoll Administration in

this effort, and we will do everything in our power to return these proposals—along with additional protections developed by the Senate we feel necessary to defend the safety, dignity, and rights of our residents—to the Governor for her signature soon,” stated Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). “Massachusetts is the birthplace of American democracy. Right now, that democracy feels fragile, but we will not let it die on our watch. Together with our partners in state government, the Senate will continue to meet this moment by protecting our residents, defending our values, and demonstrating the leadership our residents expect of us.”

Attorney General Andrea Campbell:

“ICE’s activity across the country is a reckless, dangerous and lawless abuse of power. When militarized federal agents kill people in the streets, detain innocent children, attack protesters with tear gas and pepper spray, and remove law-abiding residents from their loved ones, it does nothing to make our communities safer. Attorneys general are stepping up to hold the federal government accountable, and I am grateful to Governor Healey for today’s announcement to further protect Massachusetts residents. I look forward to working with her and others, including legislative leadership and the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus, on related efforts.”

Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan:

“It is critical that we all act to protect the rule of law. Courthouses are sacred spaces where everyone must be able to access justice and protection without fear or intimidation. Governor Healey’s actions today are a welcome and necessary step forward, using the authority of the Commonwealth to place clear limits on where civil immigration enforcement actions can occur.”

Dr. Almudena G. Abeyta, Superintendent, Chelsea

See ACTION Page 11

AFT Massachusetts stands with State House efforts to protect residents from ICE

Special to the Record

The American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts joined Governor Maura Healey today as she unveiled an Executive Order to protect Massachusetts residents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers who continue to operate with unchecked authority fulfilling the immigration agenda of the White House.

“Masked ICE agents have been raiding communities across the Commonwealth

for months, ignoring the Constitution and our basic human rights. Immigrant families are gripped by fear,” said American Federation of Teachers President Jessica Tang. “Children cannot learn if they don’t feel safe. These threats take an emotional, psychological, and physical toll on our children and their families.”

For more than thirty years, schools, hospitals, and places of worship were considered “sensitive locations” – places protected from immigra-

tion enforcement. Under the Trump Administration, those places have been stripped of these protections, allowing ICE agents to target residents and families at their most vulnerable.

Today’s Executive Order bans ICE agents from entering schools, hospitals, places of worship, local courts, and other state-owned public property to conduct immigration enforcement. ICE would only be permitted in those locations with a judicial warrant.

“Educators are going above and beyond to try to reassure students and families that schools and their surroundings are the safe spaces they are supposed to be,” continued Tang, who was present at today’s announcement. “But that message rings hollow when parents are detained on the way to dropping their child off at school or when students who are here legally are detained and sent out of state. Children fear when they walk out the door, their family might not be there when they return.”

The Governor’s Executive Order takes a number of steps to protect students and families from a federal government that continues to operate above the law:

- Establishes a system for “standby guardianship” allowing parents to designate an alternative guardian that will spring into effect for 30 days in the event they are detained or deported;
- Directs the state to work with public and private schools, child care providers, medical providers, and shelters to make sure that they know their rights and have policies in place for interacting with ICE and knowing how to ask for warrants; and
- Bans state agencies from entering voluntary agreements with federal immigration enforcement.

“What we saw on the ground in Minnesota was inhumane and un-American.

No one should be afraid to drop their child off at school or go to the hospital or get essentials at the grocery store because they’re worried about being targeted for the color of their skin,” continued Tang. “We must use every tool at our disposal to safeguard our communities against a federal government that is making our streets more dangerous and dismantling our very democracy. The Governor’s action today is a crucial step in that work. We remain committed to working with the Governor, Legislature, and critical allies to build upon today’s steps and ensure we’re doing everything we can at the state and local level to protect our students and communities.”

The AFT Massachusetts represents educators and public school employees working in many of the state’s Gateway Cities. These districts, including Boston, Lynn, Lawrence, and Chelsea, are seeing significant enrollment drops due to the current immigration climate. Not only do these communities stand to lose generations of students, they face devastating shortfalls in funding due to enrollment declines.

To prevent these catastrophic shortfalls, the AFT Massachusetts is calling on the state to intervene, like it did during the COVID-19 pandemic, and support districts facing enrollment disruptions.

The Fiscal Year 2022 bud-

get included one-time assistance grants for districts facing “pandemic-related disruptions in their enrollment.” Nearly \$15 million was provided to 128 districts across the state to help stabilize school budgets during this unprecedented time.

“These communities, which serve disproportionate numbers of immigrant and high-needs students, are already being hit hard by skyrocketing costs while being a frequent target of the White House’s agenda to dismantle public education as we know it,” continued Tang. “The enrollment crisis will bring these districts to the point of no return. We urge the state to take action to ensure all students of the Commonwealth have access to the quality public education and safe schools they deserve.”

The AFT Massachusetts, a strong voice for collaborative education reform that is good for students and fair to educators, represents over 25,000 educators and staff working in public schools, universities, libraries, and health offices across the state.

AFT MA’s budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2027 are outlined in their recent letter to Governor Healey. It includes a call for the state to use funding from the Fair Share Amendment to provide additional support to districts facing enrollment disruptions, similar to grant funding they provided during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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CHS Roundup

CHS BOYS BASKETBALL SENIOR NIGHT IS THIS FRIDAY AT 6:00

When the Chelsea High boys basketball team hosts Northeast Regional tomorrow (Friday) evening for a 6:00 opening tip-off, the contest will be highlighted by Senior Night festivities at which the team’s members of the CHS Class of 2026 will be recognized for their contributions to the Red Devil boys basketball program.

In addition, also making the night special will be the appearance of long-time CHS boys coach Jay Seigal, who is now the head coach of the Northeast Golden Knights. Jay served as the long-time CHS assistant coach under the legendary Jack Niven in the 1980s and ‘90s before assuming the head coaching reins. Seigal’s Chelsea teams won numerous Commonwealth Athletic Conference titles and were perennial qualifiers for the state tourney during his lengthy tenure.

Seigal also re-instituted the big rivalry with Revere more than 15 years ago even before Chelsea rejoined the Greater Boston League, creating the highly-anticipated “Battle of Broadway” between the two ancient archrivals -- who had been foes dating back to the 1920s -- that has provided an opportunity both for the players and the fans

on both sides to show their school spirit. “We’re encouraging the community to come out and support our seniors on Senior Night,” said CHS head coach Cesar Castro. “Adding to the significance, Jay Seigal, my former head coach at Chelsea High, is now the head coach at Northeast. Coaching against him will be a true full-circle moment for me, as he played an important role in my development both on and off the court. “It should be a special night for our program, and we’re hoping to pack the gym.” Castro added.

RED DEVILS EDGE REVERE, NOW RANKED 22ND IN DIVISION 3; TO HOST CLASSICAL NEXT TUESDAY AT 6:00

The Chelsea High boys basketball team improved to 10-3 on the season and punched their ticket for a Journey to the Tourney with a scintillating 53-51 triumph over archrival Revere in a Greater Boston League (GBL) contest last Thursday before an enthusiastic “Black-Out” home crowd at the CHS gym.

The triumph assured coach Cesar Castro’s Red Devils of the .500 record needed to qualify for the Division 3 state tourney and kept them one game behind Lynn Classical in the race

for the 2026 GBL championship. The visiting Patriots, despite their 4-11 record, proved to be a formidable foe, as they always have been whenever Chelsea and Revere have gotten together since they re-instituted their ancient rivalry about 15 years ago. The Revere squad which was coming off a 68-62 victory in double overtime vs. Lynn English and had carried a lead into the fourth period against first-place Lynn Classical a few days previously, moved out to an 11-4 lead after one period.

However, the Red Devils increased their defensive intensity and turned the tables in the second period, creating numerous turnovers that led to fast-break buckets and taking a 25-19 advantage into the locker room at the half. Both teams came out on fire after the intermission, with Chelsea outscoring the Patriots, 15-14, to maintain its lead, 40-33, after three periods. The Red Devils pushed their margin to 10 points on two occasions in the fourth period, but the visiting Patriots refused to quit. They cut the margin to eight with 2:48 to go and eventually drew within two, 53-51, with just under a minute remaining after a pair of steals and two-three-pointers.

Revere stole the ball again with 14 seconds to play and had a chance to tie or win it. The final, frenetic

seconds proved to be an exciting finish to a high school basketball game. The Patriots had three, point-blank looks on layups and offensive rebounds, but the ball refused to fall through the cylinder and eventually was tipped out of bounds as time expired

The Red Devils were led in the scoring column by JJ Williams, who hit for 14 points and handed out eight assists to his teammates. Moe Osman (11 points) and Geo Brito (11 points) also reached double figures.

Chelsea is now 8-2 in the Greater Boston League and in sole possession of second place, one game behind Lynn Classical and one game ahead of both Everett and Somerville.

Castro and his crew have two GBL contests on tap this week. They were scheduled to play at Medford this past Tuesday and at Lynn English tonight (Thursday).

They will host non-league opponent Northeast Regional tomorrow (Friday) evening for a 6:00 opening tip and then will entertain Lynn Classical next Tuesday (Feb. 10) at 6:00 for what is shaping up as a showdown for the 2026 GBL title. The Red Devils dropped their earlier meeting with the Rams, 67-46, in mid-January, but will be seeking to turn the tables in the rematch. They will play at non-league opponent Brighton next Thursday.

CHS GIRLS TRACK DEFEATS MALDEN TO FINISH AT 4-3

The Chelsea High indoor track and field team defeated Greater Boston League rival Malden, 55-32, last Friday evening in its final dual meet to give the Lady Red Devils a winning record of 4-3 for the 2026 season.

Leading the way for Chelsea was junior Lilly Serrano, who scored 13 points for the Chelsea column on the scoresheet. Lilly took first place in the high jump with a leap of 5’-00” which was the top jump of the evening among all of the GBL schools.

In addition, Lilly won the 300 dash with a time of 43.75 and took second place in the 55m dash with a sprint of 7.45. Both of those clockings were the second-best among all of the GBL schools that night.

Junior Hazel Hatleberg turned in a performance worthy of Iron Girl, winning both the 1-mile with a clocking of 6:34.99 and the 2-mile with a time of 14:47.12.

Also scoring major points for Chelsea was fellow junior Thania Simon. Thania won the long jump with a leap of 16’-00.25”, which was the best jump of the evening among all of the participants from the GBL schools. Thania also took second in the 300 dash and third in the 55 dash to contribute nine points to the Chelsea winning effort.

Kimberly Ardona Romero scored six points, finishing second in both the 55 hurdles and the long jump. Kimberly Fuentes Chavez won the 600 with a time of 1:56.43 and Katherine Benitez won the 1000 with a time of 3:46.91

Also adding valuable points to the Chelsea victory were Aly Perez, who took second place in the 2-mile and third place in the 600, and Dieunie Cademus, who scored three points with a second-place finish in the shot-put.

The Lady Red Devils now will compete this evening (Thursday) in the GBL Meet at the Reggie.

CATCHING UP WITH FORMER SAVIO PREP SOFTBALL GREAT JAIME IPPOLITO LINCOLN



Former Savio Prep softball legend Jaime Ippolito Lincoln is pictured with her daughters, Francesca Lincoln, 10 (left) and Adrianna Lincoln, 7 (right) at the Jan. 29 Winthrop High-Saugus High girls basketball game. A phenomenal pitcher and potent hitter for the Spartans who graduated from the East Boston school in 2004, Jaime continued her superb career at Stonehill College where she pitched the first perfect game in school history. Jaime is the daughter of former Chelsea baseball standout Jimmy Ippolito and Jane Ippolito of Chelsea.

CHS BOYS FALL TO MALDEN 44-43

The hard-luck Chelsea High boys indoor track and field team came up just short in yet another close meet, falling to Greater Boston League (GBL) rival Malden, 44-43, last Friday evening at the Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury.

This marked the third loss for the Red Devils this season by a razor-thin margin, the other two having been by one point and two points.

Chelsea took first place in five events:

Xavier Guzman grabbed first place in the 600 with a time of 1:30.45; Bryan Amaya-Yanes took top spot in the 1000 with a time of 2:59.64; Sebastian Molina Regil took first place in the 2-mile with a time of 11:17.83; Gregory Ulloa won the long jump with a leap of 19’-2.50”; and the Red Devil 4 x 400 relay quartet of Bryan Amaya Yanes, Xavier Guzman, Carlos Perez-Acosta, and Zakaria Moubtassim defeated their Malden counterparts by almost five seconds with their clocking of 3:51.95.

Additional point-scorers for the Red Devils were:

- Gregory Ulloa grabbed a third in the 55 dash;
- David Ponce took second in the 55 dash and third in the 300 dash;
- Zakaria Moubtassim finished second in the 600;
- Carlos Perez-Acosta took second in the mile;
- Kevin Romero-Molina took second in the shot-put;
- Nathan Pleitez took third in the shot; and
- Aiden Rivas Ortega took second in the long jump.

The Red Devils, who finished their dual-meet season with a 2-5 record, will compete in the GBL Meet this evening (Thursday) at the Reggie.

CHS GIRLS EDGE LATIN ACADEMY, 42-41; HOST LYNN ENGLISH TONIGHT

The Chelsea High girls basketball team defeated Boston Latin Academy, 42-41, in an exciting contest this past Monday evening.

Monica Cespedes Cruz poured in 27 points for the Lady Red Devils, including four clutch free throws down the stretch. Jaliyah Santiago Lozada turned in a superb all-around effort, hitting for nine points, grabbing six rebounds, handing out seven assists, and making three steals.

Lidya Castillo Rodriguez made a major contribution to the victory, pulling down eight boards and scoring four points. Fatuma Iman also provided a strong presence in the paint, hauling in seven rebounds and scoring a big bucket,

“We played sloppy, but a win is a win,” said CHS head coach Bruce Harrison.

The Lady Red Devils were coming off a 51-27 loss at Revere last Thursday in which Monica Cespedes Cruz led Chelsea in scoring with 18 points. Jaliyah Santiago Lozada turned in a fine all-around effort with eight points, five rebounds, three steals, and four assists

“Zeinab Iman had five rebounds and showed great hustle,” noted Harrison.

“But overall, we did not come to play and did not play well, with too many turnovers and missed layups,” Harrison added.

The Lady Red Devils are scheduled to host Lynn English this evening (Thursday) at 5:30. They will travel to Northeast Regional on Monday and to Lynn Classical on Tuesday before returning home to host Ipswich next Thursday.

BRUINS Beat by Bob Morello

BRUINS BREAK FOR WINTER OLYMPICS

Playing outdoor hockey on a football field always proves to be interesting. When the game is the 2026 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series, and the teams are the Boston Bruins and the Tampa Bay Lightning, the excitement began to build even before the drop of the puck. Sunday’s spectacle at Raymond James Stadium served up a menu of moments that included: the fastest goal in NHL outdoor game history (Brandon Hagel – Lightning), just 11 seconds into the game; the first ever goalie fight in an NHL outdoor game (Jeremy Swayman – Bruins versus Andrei Vasilevskiy – Tampa) at center ice in the second period; Tampa completing the largest comeback in NHL outdoor history; as Boston blew a four-goal lead (5-1) after scoring five straight goals, only to have Tampa return the favor and score the next five goals to win the game 6-5. It was a memorable outdoor game for sure, but the Bruins appeared to lose momentum following the goalies fight, and the point they lost was vital in the closely fought wild card race. The Bruins on the day lacked discipline, for which they received 11 penalties, with the Lightning scoring three power-play goals in less than six minutes, in the second period alone, to narrow the score to 5-4. The Lightning were able to tie the game at 5-5 near the end of regulation, setting up their win with a shootout goal and a 6-5 victory. Bruins back on TD Garden ice following the Olympics, hosting the Columbus Blue Jackets, Thursday, February 27 at 7:00pm.

Boston played their final game before the Olympic break with the Florida Panthers last night (Wednesday). Seven Bruins players



were scheduled to head to Milan for the 2026 Winter Olympics. Those players are: USA: Charlie McAvoy, Jeremy Swayman – SWEDEN: Hampus Lindholm, Elias Lindholm – CZECHIA: David Pastrnak, Pavel Zacha – FINLAND: Henri Jokiharju. Earlier in the week, prior to the outdoor game, both David Pastrnak and Fraser Minten received honors from the NHL. Pastrnak was named the NHL Second Star of the Month for January. Pastrnak ranked second in the league for assists (20), even strength points (18) and points per game (1.79), and tied for second in points (25) in January. Pasta recorded points in 12 of Boston’s 14 games during the month, including seven multi-point games and a career-high six-point performance in the team’s 10-2 win over the New York Rangers on Jan. 10. Pastrnak also skated in his 800th career game on Jan. 17 in Chicago and notched his 900th career point on Jan. 26 against the Rangers, becoming the second-fastest Bruin to ever reach that milestone. He posted a season-high eight-game point streak from January 13-27, tallying three goals and 11 assists for 14 points. Pastrnak now ranks sixth on Boston’s all-time points list (902) and fourth in franchise history in multi-point games (257). As of press time on Wednesday, Pasta in 51 games with

the Bruins this season, had notched 22 goals and 48 assists for 70 points.

Bruins forward Fraser Minten was named the NHL’s Rookie of the Month for January. Minten led all NHL rookies in goals (8) and tied for the lead in points (14) in January, also ranking first in even strength goals (7) and tied for second in even strength points (11). His 14-point January ties the highest point total recorded by an NHL rookie in a calendar month this season. In January, Minten also posted a 32.% shooting percentage (min. two shots), highest among rookies. Minten is the first Boston player to be selected as the NHL’s Rookie of the Month since Jeremy Swayman in March 2022. Minten leads all rookie skaters in plus-minus this season (+20), ranking second on Boston’s roster and 20th overall in the NHL. Among rookies, he ranks sixth in scoring with 29 points and fourth in goals (14). The 21-year-old logged points in eight of Boston’s 14 games in January, averaging one point per game with four multi-point performances. Minten opened the month with a two-goal showing in Boston’s 3-2 victory in Vancouver on Jan. 3, including the game-winner in overtime. He added a three-point game (2G, 1A) on Jan. 10 in the team’s 10-2 win over the New York Rangers at TD Garden. He closed out the month with a three-point performance on Jan. 29 against Philadelphia, becoming the first Bruins rookie to produce multiple three-point games in a calendar month since 2018 (Jake DeBrusk). Minten has appeared in 56 games this season, recording 14 goals and 15 assists for 29 points, ranking sixth on the team in scoring.

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MOTOR SERVICES

LEGAL NOTICES - legals@chelsearecord.com

LEGAL NOTICE
AVISO LEGAL
AVISO DE REUNIÓN PÚBLICA
DEPARTAMENTO LEGAL Y DE
LICENCIAS DE CHELSEA
CONSUMO SOCIAL DE CANNABIS (MARIHUANA)

Por medio del presente, se notifica que el Departamento Legal y de Licencias de la Ciudad de Chelsea llevará a cabo una reunión pública el martes 10 de febrero de 2026 a las 5:30 p.m. en el Centro para Personas Mayores de Chelsea, ubicado en 10 Riley Way, Chelsea, MA 02150, para discutir las NUEVA ley de Consumo Social de Cannabis en la Ciudad de Chelsea.

Beatrice Hernandez
Licensing Administrator

1/29/26
2/5/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE
LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
CHELSEA LAW/LICENSING
DEPARTMENT

SOCIAL CONSUMPTION OF CANNABIS (MARIJUANA)

Notice is hereby given that the City of Chelsea Law/Licensing Department will conduct a Public Meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at the Chelsea Senior Center, 10 Riley Way, Chelsea, MA 02150 to discuss the NEW Cannabis Social Consumption Law in the City of Chelsea.

Beatrice Hernandez
Licensing Administrator


1/29/26
2/5/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE
MassHire Metro North Workforce Board Announces Release of WIOA Youth Program Providers RFP

The Metro North Regional Employment Board, d/b/a MassHire Metro North Workforce Board (MNWB), has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure Youth Program Provider(s) under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) starting Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027). The RFP is released as of February 2, 2026, with a bidder's webinar scheduled for February 12, 2026 at 2pm. The RFP and related documents can be accessed on the MNWB website: [Masshiremetronorth.org/about/funding-opportunities/](https://www.masshiremetronorth.org/about/funding-opportunities/). MNWB is an EOE/AA program.

2/5/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE

In accordance with Section 2-7 (b) and (d) of the Chelsea City Charter notice is hereby given that at a regular meeting of the Chelsea City Council held on January 28, 2026, the City Council voted after a second reading to adopt the following order:

Ordered, that, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 44, Section 64, budget management procedures, whereby costs incurred in FY25 were not paid and are owed to the vendors, and to meet this obligation funds are required from the current year FY26 budgets as noted, the Chelsea City Council authorizes the following expenditures to satisfy the unpaid balances that total \$49,471.31 from prior years.

Ordered, that subject to the following conditions, the Chelsea City Council hereby authorizes the establishment of a revolving fund to be known as the 55 Heard Street Revolving Fund (#4643) ("the Fund") for the Law Department in accordance with the provisions of Section 53E½ of Chapter 44 of the General Laws, where no appropriation is needed, subject to the following conditions:

1. Only rental income and fees, reimbursements or recoveries related to the operation or condition of the property, and other receipts received by the City associated with 55 Heard Street shall be credited to the Fund;
2. Aggregate expenditures from the Fund shall not exceed \$400,000 in a single fiscal year;
3. All proceeds received in a single fiscal year after the Fund has reached a balance of \$400,000 shall be credited to the General Fund;
4. Expenditures from the Fund shall be authorized by the City Solicitor, DPW Commissioner, or City Manager, or their designees, and shall not exceed the available balance of the Fund;
5. Such funds shall be expended only for purposes directly

associated with the legal, management, maintenance, operation, and capital improvements of the property, and full or part-time personnel, and, with the written approval of the City Manager for related other purposes, subject to the City's procurement policies, internal financial controls, and applicable federal, state, and local laws;

6. No expenditure may be made from such revolving fund for the purposes of paying full time employee's wages or salaries unless the revolving fund is also charged for the costs of fringe benefits associated with the wages or salaries so paid and any such wages or salaries paid shall be reported in the budget submitted for the next fiscal year;
7. The Auditor shall include a statement on the collections credited to the fund, the encumbrances and expenditures charged to the fund and the balance available for expenditure in the regular report the Auditor provides the department, board, committee, agency of officer on appropriations made for its use;
8. City Council must vote annually on or before July 1 on the amount that may be spent from the Fund during the upcoming fiscal year;
9. This Council Order shall take effect upon adoption.

Ordered, that the Chelsea City Council authorizes the following Free Cash appropriations:

- 1.) \$7,000,000 from Free Cash to the General Stabilization Account, Fund #7020
- 2.) \$3,000,000 from Free Cash to the School Capital Stabilization Account, Fund #7024

Ordered, that the Chelsea City Council authorizes the following Free Cash appropriations:

1. \$50,000 from Free Cash to the Fiscal Year 2026 DPW Structures and Grounds Department – Building Maintenance Account #0147052-524100
2. \$30,000 from Free Cash to the Fiscal Year 2026 DPW Structures and Grounds Department – Overtime Account #0147051-510400
3. \$110,000 from Free Cash to the Fiscal Year 2026 DPW Streets and Sidewalks Department – Overtime Account #0142251-510400
4. \$15,000 from Water Retained Earnings to the Fiscal Year 2026 DPW Water Enterprise Department – Overtime Account #601051-510400
5. \$15,000 from Sewer Retained Earnings to the Fiscal Year 2026 DPW Sewer Enterprise Department – Overtime Account #600051-510400
6. \$30,000 from Free Cash to the Fiscal Year 2026 DPW Streets and Sidewalks Department – Details Account #0142252-538000
7. \$30,000 from Free Cash to the Fiscal Year 2026 DPW Streets and Sidewalks Department – Temporary Salaries Account # 0142251-510300
8. \$75,000 from Free Cash to the Fiscal Year 2026 DPW Streets and Sidewalks Department – EV Charging Stations Account # 0142252-521700
9. \$48,407.55 from Free Cash to the Fiscal Year 2026 DPW Various Accounts:

- DPW Streets and Sidewalks Department – Park Lighting Account #0142252-521600 - \$2,927.90
- DPW Buildings and Grounds Department – Lighting Account #0147052-521200 - \$14,285.20
- DPW Streets and Sidewalks Department – Street Lights Account #0142252-521300 - \$13,894.50
- DPW Streets and Sidewalks Department – Traffic Signals Account #0142252-521400 - \$2,170.04
- DPW Sewer Enterprise Department – Pumping Station Account #600052-521500 - \$15,129.91
- 10. \$21,500 from Free Cash to the Fiscal Year 2026 Emergency Management Department – Computer Maintenance Account #0123052-524500
- 11. \$30,000 from Free Cash to the Fiscal Year 2026 Streets and Sidewalks Department – Other Capital Account #0142258-587000
- 12. \$25,000 from Free Cash to the Fiscal Year 2026 Law Department – Legal Services Account #0115152-530100
- 13. \$15,000 from Free Cash to the Fiscal Year 2026 Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department – Part-Time Salaries Account #0163051-510300
- 14. \$125,000 from Free Cash to the Fiscal Year 2026 Executive Department – Community Events Account #0112352-571700 for Events dedicated to the 2026 FIFA World Cup
- 15. \$25,000 from Free Cash to the Fiscal Year 2026 Executive Department – Community

Events Account #0112352-571700

16. \$25,000 from Free Cash to the Fiscal Year 2026 Executive Department – Marketing Account #0112352-530050 to complete a New Growth Marketing Campaign


Ordered, that the Chelsea City Council authorizes the appropriation of \$2,000,000 from the Overlay Surplus to the DPW Buildings and Grounds account #0147058 Capital Series for land and building acquisition, and building enhancements including funds for an affordable housing project.

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

Jeannette Cintron White
City Clerk

2/5/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE

In accordance with Section 2-7 (b) and (d) of the Chelsea City Charter notice is hereby given that at a regular meeting of the Chelsea City Council held on January 28, 2026, the City Council voted after a second reading to adopt the following order:


Ordered, that the Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Chelsea as amended, be further amended and adopted as follows: Amend Chapter 2, Article V, Section 2-200 by adding a new entry to the Table of Authorized Revolving Funds.

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

Jeannette Cintron White
City Clerk

2/5/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE



CHELSEA CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING
REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 40, Chapter 131 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Wetlands Protection Act), that a Public Meeting of the Chelsea Conservation Commission will be held: Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 6:00 PM

Via Zoom video conference. The Public Meeting will be held to review the Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Eagle Air Freight to determine if work consisting of the construction of a 300 square foot vestibule, a concrete pad with dunnage platform, and the installation of a new transformer is subject to the Wetland Protection Act and its regulations.

Register to join here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/601051-510400>

Per Order
Stephen N. Sarikas
Chairperson

2/5/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA
INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB 2026-313 REPAIR OF MUNICIPAL STREET LIGHTING AND PARKING LOT LIGHTING

The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking sealed bids for all material for "Repair of Municipal Street Lighting and Parking Lot Lighting".

Invitation for Bids will be available on or after February 5, 2026 by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids solicitations.php

Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "Repair of Municipal Street Lighting and Parking Lot Lighting" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 11:30AM on Thursday, February 19, 2026.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check, issued by a responsible bank or trust company, or a bid bond duly executed by the bidder as principal and having as surety thereon a surety company approved by the City, all in the amount of 5% of the bid payable to the "City of Chelsea." The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any proposal, to reject any or all proposals and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City.

In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond.


The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

This Invitation for Bids is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30, 39M.

Ledia Koco
Chief Procurement Officer

2/5/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP 2026-311

Small Business Technical Assistance Program

The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Request for Proposals for Small Business Technical Assistance Program.

Request for Proposals will be available on or after February 5, 2026 by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids solicitations.php.

Proposals must be sealed and clearly marked "Small Business Technical Assistance Program" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 11:00 AM on Thursday, February 19th, 2026.

The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any proposal, to reject any or all proposals and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City.

In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond.


The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

This Request for Proposals is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B.

Ledia Koco
Chief Procurement Officer

2/5/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
LEASE FOR CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE SPACE

The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Request for Proposals for "LEASE FOR CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE SPACE".

Request for Proposals will be available on or after January 22, 2026 by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids solicitations.php.

Sealed proposals for the "LEASE FOR CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE SPACE" will be received at the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, City Hall, Room 204, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, Massachusetts until 10:30 AM, February 26, 2026.

The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any response, to reject any or all responses and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City.

In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond.

The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

This Request for Proposals is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B, Section 16.

Ledia Koco
Chief Procurement Officer

2/5/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF HEARING

Zoning Amendment ZA26-01

In accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A, a public hearing

of the Chelsea Planning Board will be held at Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 Broadway Tuesday, February 24th, 2026, 6:00 PM

For a recommendation to the City Council on proposed amendments to the Chelsea Zoning Ordinance: Section 34-157 Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

The amendment would allow accessory dwelling units up to 900 square feet by right in all zoning districts that allow single-family dwelling structures by right, aligning with state requirements.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

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

2/5/26, 2/12/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PROJECT: 111 Eastern Avenue Garage

LOCATION: 111 Eastern Avenue, Chelsea, MA 02150

PROPOSER: UGP-PreFlight Boston, LLC (an affiliate of InterPark Holdings LLC)

The undersigned is submitting an Environmental Notification Form ("ENF") to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs on or before February 2, 2026.

This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act ("MEPA", M.G.L. c. 30, ss. 61-62L). Copies of the ENF may be obtained from: Natty King | nking@tpa-inc.com | (617) 279-4380

Electronic copies of the ENF are also being sent to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board of Chelsea.


The Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs will publish notice of the ENF in the Environmental Monitor, receive public comments on the project, and then decide if an Environmental Impact Report is required. A site visit and/or remote consultation session on the project may also be scheduled. All persons wishing to comment on the project, or to be notified of a site visit and/or remote consultation session, should email MEPA@mass.gov or the MEPA analyst listed in the Environmental Monitor. Requests for language translation or other accommodations should be directed to the same email address.

Mail correspondence should be directed to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, Attention: MEPA Office, referencing the above project.

By UGP-PreFlight Boston, LLC

2/5/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE

In accordance with Section 6-3 (b) of the Chelsea City Charter notice is hereby given that at a Regular Meeting of the Chelsea Traffic and Parking Commission held on January 6, 2026 the Commission voted to approve the following regulations:

To install four (4) electric vehicle charging stations at Highland Street, from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., and to install two (2) electric vehicle charging stations at Crescent Avenue, Washington Avenue, and Cabot Street from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

To allow the use of one (1) parking space on Second Street, at Park Street, for a mobile coffee trailer on Fridays from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To install a handicap sign at 157 Highland Street.

To approve the Bus Network Redesign for routes 112-113-114 Capital Needs on Broadway, at the Fourth Street bus stop.

Jeannette Cintron White
Parking Clerk

2/5/26 C

HEARING

Project Description: Chelsea – Improvements at Mary C. Burke Elementary (Safe Routes To School)

Project File No. 612884

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed project in Chelsea, MA.

WHERE: Mary C. Burke Elementary School, Cafeteria 300 Crescent Avenue Chelsea, MA 02150

WHEN: Thursday, February 19, 2026 @ 6:00pm

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The purpose of this project is to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety in the vicinity of the Mary C. Burke School in Chelsea through the upgrade of an existing signal at Stockton St and Eastern Ave, realignment of Stockton St to be perpendicular to Eastern Ave, removal of the Toomey Square roadway, elimination of left turns out of Louis St, construction of a 10-foot-wide shared-use path for pedestrians and bicyclists along the west side of Eastern Ave, installation of a crosswalk with a rectangular rapid flashing beacon across Eastern Ave immediately north of Hooper St, realignment of Spencer Ave to be perpendicular to Eastern Ave at its north intersection, and the reconfiguration of parking to be back-in angle along the east side of Spencer Ave.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The city is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 612884. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted on the MassDOT website listed below.


This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR
CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

2/5/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP 2026-310

Personal Property Collection and Valuation Services

The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Request for Proposals for "Personal Property Collection and Valuation Services".

Request for Proposals will be

available on or after February 5, 2026 by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids solicitations.php.

Proposals must be sealed and clearly marked "Personal Property Collection and Valuation Services" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 11:00 AM on Thursday, February 19th, 2026.

The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any proposal, to reject any or all proposals and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City.

In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond.

The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

This Request for Proposals is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B.

Ledia Koco
Chief Procurement Officer

2/5/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
LEASE FOR CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE SPACE

The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Request for Proposals for "LEASE FOR CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE SPACE".

Request for Proposals will be available on or after January 22, 2026 by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids solicitations.php.

Sealed proposals for the "LEASE FOR CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE SPACE" will be received at the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, City Hall, Room 204, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, Massachusetts until 10:30 AM, February 26, 2026.

The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any response, to reject any or all responses and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City.

In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond.


The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

This Request for Proposals is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B, Section 16.

Ledia Koco
Chief Procurement Officer

2/5/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE



CHELSEA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

011-0184 284 Eastern Avenue – Request to Amend Order of Conditions

In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, the Chelsea Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on: Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 6:00 PM

via Zoom video conference to review the Request to Amend an Order of Conditions submitted by Energizer Storage, LLC, to amend the Order of Conditions (OOC) that allowed for the construction of a battery energy storage system to approve proposed project modifications.

Register to join here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/601051-510400>

Call in Number+ 1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 840 9994 0229

A copy of the Notice is available for review in the Department of Permitting and Land Use Planning, Rm 106, City Hall, during City Hall business hours.

Per Order
Stephen Sarikas
Chair

2/5/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF HEARING

Zoning Amendment ZA26-02

In accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A, a public hearing of the Chelsea Planning Board will be held at Council Chambers, City Hall,

500 Broadway Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 6:00 PM

For a recommendation to the City Council on proposed amendments to the Chelsea Zoning Ordinance for a new Section 34-189 Fitzpatrick-Prattville Smart Growth Overlay District in the area bounded by Fenno Street, Garfield Avenue, Revere Beach Parkway, and the Chelsea-Revere city limit. This zoning amendment would establish the "Smart Growth District" under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40R and 760 CMR (Code of Massachusetts Regulations) 59 (Department of Housing and Community Development – Smart Growth Zoning Overlay District) allowing the development of multi-family residential and mixed-use development (along with parking and associated site amenities) subject to Plan Approval by the Chelsea Zoning Board of Appeals acting as the "Plan Approval Authority" (PAA). Developments undertaken within the proposed "Smart Growth District" would be subject to special site and building design standards, parking and dimensional controls and affordability requirements for no less than 20% of all projects including more than 10 units.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

A copy of the application and petition is available for review at: City Clerk's Office during normal City Hall business hours.

2/5/26, 2/12/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate and Family Court

24 New Chardon Street
Boston MA, 02114

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405

Docket No. SU26P0126PM

In the matter of: Robert Ferrandini

Of: Chelsea, MA

RESPONDENT (Person to be Protected/Minor)

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Jessica Rogers o/b/o Highland Park R of Chelsea, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Robert Ferrandini is in need of a Conservator or other protective order that Louis A. D'Amorino, Esq. of Taunton, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate.

The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding.

If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 02/19/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition.

If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you.

In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both.

The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person.

If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

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

Date: January 28, 2026

Stephanie L Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

02/05/2026 C

Action // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Public Schools:

“Education has always been the great equalizer of our country. Our children deserve the opportunity to learn, regardless of their citizenship. But that fundamental right is under threat. In these uncertain times, we must hold tight to the core value of education. Every child has the right to attend school and must be in school to learn. Let us not forget this fundamental right and may we protect it fiercely.”

Amy O’Leary, Executive Director, Strategies for Children:

“We applaud Governor Maura Healey and her Administration for taking action today. Every child deserves safety, stability, and the opportunity to learn and grow. Schools and early learning programs must remain safe spaces where children can learn and play without fear. We know that early childhood educators are on the front lines. We continue to be inspired by this dedicated and resilient workforce and their commitment to problem solving, building partnerships and providing high-quality learning experiences under incredible continuing circumstances. We are grateful to our leaders for showing empathy, compassion, and understanding what is at stake for people across Massachusetts.”

Dr. Mary M. Bourque, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents:

“Our students, families, and educators continue to live in terror and trauma because of the cruel and often unlawful acts of federal ICE agents. We are grateful to the Healey-Driscoll Administration for standing up to the Trump Administration, particularly to ensure that parents can send their children to school every day without fear.”

Brooke Thomson, President and CEO, Associated Industries of Massachusetts:

“We have seen the negative impact of escalating tensions in Minnesota and Maine brought about by recent federal immigration enforcement activity. Businesses are not immune. Our members throughout Massachusetts cannot afford the economic uncertainty brought about by this type of activity, and we have heard from members experiencing workforce challenges as a direct result of enforcement. That is why Associated Industries of Massachusetts supports Governor Maura Healey’s efforts to set clear rules for what activity can take place and where it is permitted. AIM looks forward to reviewing the Governor’s legislation and executive order and to working with elected leaders on this important issue.”

Bishop Cristiano Borro Barbosa, Archdiocese of

Boston:

“As an immigrant myself and as a bishop ministering here in the Commonwealth, I can affirm that many among the good people we serve are experiencing and living in constant fear and distress. Legal protection for safe spaces in schools, hospitals and houses of worship are needed as one means of providing locations and institutions to renew the spiritual and physical lives of all of us and our neighbors. All human beings with their God given dignity deserve to feel safe and protected.”

Ashley Blackburn, Interim Executive Director of Health Care For All:

“Everyone should feel safe seeking medical care in Massachusetts – period. Thriving immigrant communities are vital for a thriving Commonwealth, economically, socially and culturally. Health Care for All stands with Governor Healey and our partners throughout our Commonwealth in ensuring doctor’s offices, hospitals and community health centers remain safe places for immigrants who are patients, caregivers or part of the health care workforce. It is critical that all providers are equipped to help their patients know and understand their fundamental rights in health care settings anywhere in the Commonwealth. Fear should never be a barrier to accessing the health care you need.”

Dr. Olivia Liao, President, Massachusetts Medical Society:

“The physicians, residents, and medical students of the Massachusetts Medical Society firmly believe that health care is a basic human right. For that right to be fully realized, it is imperative that all health care settings remain safe, welcoming, and free from intimidation. It is unacceptable that immigrant patients in Massachusetts are avoiding care out of fear. Such barriers compromise individual and community health. We commend the Healey Administration for taking action that strengthens protections for our patients and helps ensure access to essential medical care for all.”

Gladys Vega, President & CEO, La Colaborativa and Co-Chair of the Governor’s Latino Empowerment Council:

“The protections announced today by Governor Healey mean the world to me and my community—people I see every day asking for reassurance that they can live a normal life again. Like sending their children to school, going to doctors’ appointments, going to work, and continuing to contribute to this state. These protections will help us navigate this new reality we all live in, and I know they will offer hope that, in Massachusetts, we have a leader who knows what’s right, that our people deserve dignity, and that enough is enough.”

Josiane Martinez, CEO & Founder, ASG, and Co-Chair of Governor’s Latino Empowerment Council:

“The Governor’s Latino Empowerment Council has carried the voices of immigrant and Latino families marked by hope and resilience, but also by the constant fear of federal enforcement actions that threaten to tear families apart. Today, Governor Healey answered that call with courage. By delivering protections for sensitive locations like schools, churches, and hospitals, and ensuring state resources are not used to aid federal overreach, she is standing up to federal intimidation and refusing to be complicit in the destabilization of our communities. We stand in full support of these actions to safeguard the dignity and stability of all who call Massachusetts home.”

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CITY PAWS

Tales of tails

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

“Dogs laugh, but they laugh with their tails,” said Max Eastman in his book *Enjoyment of Laughter*. Anyone who has ever watched a dog at play would have to agree. Dogs use tails to express all manner of mood.

Social Signals

A tail can say many things, and to understand what the dog is communicating, you have to look at more than the wag. The position of the tail, the speed of the wag, and the signals coming from elsewhere on the dog are all important.

There are a few tail actions that humans can understand. A tail held high and still, or with stiff, small wags, is a sign of a dog on alert and perhaps even threatening. A tail tucked between the legs can be a sign of a fearful and/or submissive dog. Low, slow wags signal a dog questioning and unsure.

A dog feeling relaxed and secure holds its tail in its most natural position. Add a dose of happiness to that, and you see a gentle wag. The return of a favorite per-

son could bring on a mighty circular wag.

There are exceptions to these rules. For some breeds, like Greyhounds, a tail tucked between the legs is the natural position. A shepherd will know that a herding dog, like a Border Collie, is concentrating on the job when the tail is tucked between the legs. In this instance, a wagging tail means the dog is goofing off.

On The Job

Tail shape and size have evolved to fit each breed of dog. A precise tail description is part of most breed standards in the show dog world. The fine print will describe the size, thickness, color, curl, feathering, and how the dog carries it in minute detail.

Frequently, a dog’s tail has evolved to fit its intended work. Beagles and other hunting dogs often have white tips on their tails and carry them high over their backs so hunters can spot them easily in tall grass.

Dogs that hunt underground, such as Dachshunds and Terriers, have been bred to have tails that a person can use to haul them

out of burrows if they get stuck. Sled dogs, like the Siberian Husky, have long, curved, furry tails to keep them warm when they curl up in the snow.

Some dogs are also said to use their tails as a counterbalance when running. Water dogs can use their tails as rudders when swimming.

Other Tales a Tail Can Tell

A dog’s tail can also alert you to a medical problem. Anytime you see your dog’s tail carried in an unusual position, you should do a bit of checking. It can signal something simple (like an itchy hot spot on the skin) or a more serious condition.

In his book, “What’s Wrong with My Dog?” Boston resident Jake Tedaldi, D.V.M., writes about tucked tails. “It can be a sign that a dog is experiencing pain or discomfort of some sort.” Since it can also be a sign of fear, he suggests that you should first do what you can to make your dog comfortable and relaxed. If the tail is still tucked, look carefully for other signs of pain or injury in the spine, anal region, or abdomen. A visit to



Beagles have white tips on their tails and carry them high over their backs so hunters can spot them easily in tall grass.

the vet may be in order.

On your next walk, check out the puppy tails around town. See how many types, shapes, and uses you can

observe and brush up on your “tell-tail” language skills.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws?

Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

Changes proposed for design of battery storage facility

By Adam Swift

The owners of a proposed Flatiron Energy Energizer Storage battery facility proposed for 284 Eastern Ave. held an informational meeting with the planning Board on proposed changes to its original plan last week.

Flatiron will be back before the planning board on Tuesday, Feb. 24 for the public hearing on the change request for the special permit, which was originally approved in the fall of 2024.

Flatiron Energy is an energy developer, owner, and operator that owns and operates the energy storage systems it develops. The original plan was to construct a two-story building on the property for the energy storage unit.

Now, Flatiron is looking to replace the single, two-story building with about 124 individual modular units on the property.

The company has agreed to a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) and community-host agreements for the project with the city.

The property itself is about 3.7 acres and includes Willoughby Street, which will be the main access point to the project.

The property is also adjacent to the Eversource Chelsea electrical substation and Flatiron will be able to tie into the electrical grid.

At last week’s planning board meeting, several board members asked questions about the safety of the new approach, both from a security and fire view.

In addition, Flatiron plans to build a screen along the property with a potential mural.

“Since (October of 2024), Flatiron has contracted with a contractor to build the project, Consigli Construction,” said Flatiron project manager Hunter Prange. “Additionally, since then, this project was awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Energy procurement for the energy stored, discharged, and charged by this project.”

As part of the original design of the building-based design, there were a series of special permit exemptions that were granted, said Flatiron project developer Erin Baker. That design also had a building height of 40 feet, which was within the height allowed by right in the zoning district.

Baker also noted that the previous use of the lot was for a limousine company, which is no longer in operation.

“So right now, there is just the existing building that is there that will be demoed in any project scenario,” said Baker. “There was a use, there were robust cars and a lot of parking ... that has now ceased and he has moved his operation and that is now just a vacant lot and that building.”

The proposed more modular, container-based design is common for battery storage projects across the country, Prange said.

“In terms of resiliency, compared to when it was in

a building, all equipment on site will be raised so it is in accordance with the 14-foot base flood elevation,” he said. “This matches up with our 25-year lifetime of the project until 2050, accounting for floods, storm surge, sea level rise, etc.”

The new configuration is also setback from the sewer lines that run through the site, Prange said. Additionally, he said Chelsea Fire Chief John Quatieri is supportive of the design.

“Finally, one of the other main changes from the previous design is the substation which allows us to connect directly to the Eversource substation,” Prange said. “This should limit impact within the MBTA zone of influence, which is up on (the) side of the project.”

The proposed changes will allow the project to come online much earlier and condense the construction timeline, Prange said.

“It will also allow us to adhere to the conditions of the host-community agreement faster and payments will start flowing into the city faster,” he said.

Planning board member Eric Czernizer asked if the modular units were accessed from the inside or the outside.

“To access for maintenance purposes for any reason, there will be a panel on the side to open and access the components,” Prange said. “These are not designed to be walked in at all.”

Board members also raised questions about how the site will be monitored for security purposes.

“The site will be monitored 24/7 from a security standpoint with access to central station monitoring,” said Prange.

In the areas where there is not a screen wall around the property, he said there will be a high fence and there will also be cameras located on site.

Board member Nick Valentine asked about the operation and the end purpose of the stored energy.

“Massachusetts has what they call a clean peak standard, so the ultimate goal for this project and projects like this is to store energy when supply is very high and demand is a little lower,” Prange said.

That energy can then be sent back to the powergrid when there is a higher demand, he said.

Library Street // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

the ideas together and update the design.

“First off, what we did is we changed the siding on the existing building over on the right,” said McDougal. “We heard you with regards to it kind of looking disjointed and we agreed. We spoke to the client and he agreed to change the siding and the windows so that it would look very cohesive as one building on the site.”

The architects also looked at the back side of the proposed building, which was initially flat and undulated the back.

“If there are kitchens or bathrooms that don’t necessarily have to have a

window, we recessed it to three feet so that we could actually put in windows in bedrooms on this side and a little slider with a small balcony,” McDougal said. “The top floor we kept the original three-foot step back ... we like the horizontal band so that we have a base, a middle, and a top to the building, which helps the proportion of it.”

McDougal said the project keeps as many three-bedroom units as possible, since she said the owner wants as many units for families as possible.

“I think this is a great job of listening to the board and really coming back to

us with some great ideas in terms of some things we asked,” said board vice-chair Regina Taylor.

Board member Nick Valentine also said he liked the redesign of the project, and that there was a much better flow between the new units and the existing three-family. He did ask if there was going to be any interior work to the existing building or just to the exterior. McDougal said the current plan is just to do the work to the exterior and leave the interior as is.

The next meeting of the zoning board of appeals is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 10.

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