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# CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

VOLUME 135, NO. 48

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

35 CENTS

## Clean-up efforts continue in wake of blizzard

By Adam Swift

Local public works crews have been put to the test this winter, with the latest blow coming with a blizzard on Monday that dumped a foot-and-a-half of snow on Chelsea and featured whipping wind gusts.

Crews were on the roads during the storm, and will continue clean up throughout the week, according to City Manager Fidel Maltez.

“What was very unique about the storm was the wind that came down with it,” said Maltez. “We were hearing gusts up to 60 mph, and because of that, there was a lot of snow in the air and it really lowered visibility, you couldn’t see more than one car ahead and it made traveling on the road really, really dangerous. I want to thank all residents for really hearing the concerns; I didn’t see many vehicles on the street, residents really took the notice to heart and a lot of people were off the streets.”

Because of the wind and amount of snow, Maltez said it was difficult for the DPW crews to keep up during the



Voke Park in Chelsea was immersed in snow following the blizzard that struck the city hard Monday.



William Vasquez clears the snow from the sidewalk in front of his home on Sagamore Avenue Tuesday morning following Monday’s blizzard that dropped 18 inches of snow on the city.

height of the storm.

“Our DPW workers were working all night to make

sure that the streets were safe,” said Maltez on Tuesday morning. “The employ-

ees have done an amazing

See **BLIZZARD** Page 9

## Chelsea selected for economic development accelerator

By Adam Swift

Chelsea is one of six Gateway Cities in the state recently chosen by Mass-Development to participate in its Transformative Development Initiative (TDI), a competitive program designed to accelerate economic growth within

focused downtown neighborhoods or commercial districts.

The newly designated districts within the cities of Chelsea, Fitchburg, Holyoke, Lowell, Malden, and Peabody will be awarded TDI fellows – MassDevelopment employees who will provide on-the-ground

economic development expertise and collaborative leadership – and will have access to a range of tools to help accelerate development, including technical assistance, grants, and more during a three-year period.

In Chelsea, the newly created district will be called “El Centro” and will strad-

dle Downtown Broadway and Everett Avenue to bring foot traffic to and from the Commuter Rail and Chelsea’s Downtown District, according to Chelsea Director of Planning and Community Development Ben Cares.

See **ACCELERATOR** Page 2

## Chelsea Public Schools’ District leaders Alpert, Cross receive statewide recognitions

Special to the Record

Chelsea Public Schools Coordinator of PE, Health, and Athletics Amanda Alert and Administrative Health Manager Alexandra Cross each received statewide honors in their respective fields, recognizing the exemplary support and services they provide Chelsea Public Schools students, staff and schools.

“Amanda leads with purpose and a belief that every student deserves access to opportunity. Her commitment to equity in



Amanda Alert

athletics has transformed our programs - - expanding middle school sports,



Alexandra Cross

increasing high school offerings, and ensuring our student-athletes have the support and equipment they need to succeed. What makes Amanda exceptional is not just her organizational leadership, but the pride she carries for Chelsea every single day. We are incredibly fortunate to have her representing our district across the Commonwealth,” stated Chelsea Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Almi G. Abeyta.

Alpert was named the

Massachusetts Secondary School Athletic Directors Association (MSSADA) District 5 Athletic Director of the Year. This award is presented to an athletic administrator from each of the nine athletic districts in Massachusetts. Alpert was recognized as an individual who has displayed outstanding leadership and meritorious achievement in interscholastic administration at the local, district and state levels.

“I am honored to be the recipient of this year’s District 5 Athletic Director of the year. It was a shock to have been nominated, by Charlie Conefrey the Malden Athletic Director. My goal for Chelsea Athletics has always been to bring equity to all the sports we offer, giving them all the spotlight they deserve. We now offer middle school

See **RECOGNITIONS** Page 5

## City manager provides five year financial forecast

By Adam Swift

City Manager Fidel Maltez and his administrative team have prepared a five-year financial forecast for the city.

Maltez was prepared to present the forecast to the city council at Monday night’s scheduled meeting before it was postponed due to the weather.

“The preparation of a comprehensive five-year financial forecast is essential to creating a strong financial foundation and guiding sound financial decision-making,” stated Maltez. “The City’s commitment to future financial planning allows us to anticipate future challenges and develop future solutions to ensure Chelsea’s fiscal

health and sustainability.”

Maltez said Chelsea possesses an inherent and enduring strength and resilience.

“The local economy has rebounded well from the depths of the pandemic and we continue to attract investment from within and outside the City,” stated Maltez. “However, we must prepare for a more challenging fiscal landscape ahead. The City faces uncertainty around funding from our State and Federal partners.”

Preliminary state aid estimates show only modest increases in state support as compared to prior years, he noted.

“The City’s largest local revenue source, the prop-

See **FORECAST** Page 2

## Administration to provide a report on nonprofits receiving municipal funds

By Adam Swift

City Manager Fidel Maltez provided the city council with a blueprint for a system to evaluate measurable outcomes for agencies that obtain city funding.

Earlier this month, Council Vice President Norieliz DeJesus introduced a motion asking that the city manager work with relevant departments to develop and implement a system through which agencies, organizations, and programs receiving city funding are able to record outcomes, impact, and direct community services provided through the use of city funds. The order also asks that the system include measurable outcomes, such as the number of Chelsea residents served and the impact of the programs that can easily be presented to the city council.

DeJesus said the motion was introduced as a follow-up to past discussions on the council. She noted there have been past conversations with councilors Kelly Garcia, Tanairi Garcia, and Todd Taylor about ways to increase transparency about how taxpayer money is used.

“Our administration is in full agreement with this Council order and its goal of increasing transparency and measuring impact for all City funds,” Maltez stated in a letter to the city council. “Our Auditing team is preparing a report that captures the spirit of the Council order. The report will not include organizations that deliver a consumable project such as WB Mason or Polar Springs.”

See **FUNDS** Page 3

## ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

### DiDomenico files for re-election

Special to the Independent

Senator Sal DiDomenico has pulled nomination papers for his re-election to the State Senate. DiDomenico now needs to collect 300 signatures from constituents over the coming months to ensure his name will be listed on the ballot.

“Thank you to the residents of Cambridge, Charlestown, Chelsea, and Everett for your support, trust, confidence and friendship throughout my tenure, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue fighting on your behalf for critical funding and transformative legislation that improves daily life in my district and throughout Massachusetts,” said Senator DiDomenico. “You

have given me one of the great honors of my life and I sincerely appreciate the privilege to serve you in the State Senate.”



Senator Sal DiDomenico is shown with his nomination papers for re-election.

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**TRASH NOTICE**

Trash will be delayed  
by one day due to  
Monday’s Snow Storm

# Start date of Chelsea's street sweeping program delayed by blizzard

Special to the Record

Due to the blizzard, the City of Chelsea's annual street sweeping program will not begin as originally scheduled on Monday, March 2 as street sweeping requires dry, clear road conditions to be safe and effective. A new start date has not yet been announced.

The Chelsea Department of Public Works (DPW)

will monitor conditions following the storm and will announce a new start date as soon as it is determined. Residents will be given advance notice before sweeping and parking restrictions go into effect.

Chelsea community members can make sure they receive the updated start date by signing up to receive any of the following City alerts at [www.chelseama.gov/signup](http://www.chelseama.gov/signup)

[www.chelseama.gov/signup](http://www.chelseama.gov/signup)

**E-Notify**—Sign up to receive automatic email notifications whenever the City posts a news update.

**Emergency Alerts**—Sign up to receive text, phone, or email alerts for major city events.

**City E-newsletter**—Sign up for "Chelsea Happenings" to receive news about City programs, resources, events, and more (English

and Spanish versions available).

Once the program begins, every street in Chelsea will be swept on a specific day of the week when it gets swept. Sweeping happens between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. If a car is parked on the street during that time, it will get a ticket.

To find out which day a street gets swept, community members can look for the

posted signs on their street, and a street sweeping calendar and schedule are available on the city's website for viewing at [www.chelseama.gov/streetsweeping](http://www.chelseama.gov/streetsweeping).

The program typically runs March 1 until December 31, 2026.

Street Sweeping will NOT take place on the following holidays:

Patriots' Day  
Memorial Day

Juneteenth National Independence Day

Fourth of July, which will be observed on July 3

Labor Day  
Columbus Day  
Veterans Day  
Thanksgiving Day  
Christmas Day

Questions about the program? Call Chelsea 3-1-1 at 617-466-4209 for more information.

## City manager promotes Chelsea as home of WNBA practice facility

By Adam Swift

Last year, former Boston Celtics co-owner Steve Pagliuca made a \$325-million bid to purchase the WNBA's Connecticut Sun with a potential move for the team to Boston.

Since then, the sale of the team and a potential move have been in limbo, as there have also been talks that the WNBA could see the team move to Houston.

However, if Pagliuca and his team are able to move the professional women's basketball team, the city of Chelsea is looking to be in the talks as a potential home of a new practice facility for the Sun.

This week, City Manager Fidel Maltez shared a draft letter with the city council he would like to send to

Pagliuca promoting a potential practice facility at 150-200 Marginal St.

"We believe that Chelsea would be a wonderful home for a practice facility for the team," Maltez stated in a letter to the council. "There are several properties available on the waterfront that offer available land for such a facility."

Maltez said the letter to Pagliuca speaks to Chelsea's competitive advantages.

"Chelsea has prime location, transportation access, a proven track record of working through complex development projects, and notable public-private partnerships," Maltez stated. "Chelsea offers immediate adjacency to downtown Boston with direct highway access. Chelsea is minutes

from Logan International Airport and has high regional visibility despite our compact geography."

Maltez noted Chelsea offers public transportation to both South Station and North Station, has several bus lines to Haymarket, Medford, and the Boston waterfront. He added that Chelsea is a major regional hub and home to major employers such as Kayem Foods, State Garden, the FBI's Boston offices, the state MITC building, and the New England Produce Center.

"We are excited to launch our business attraction campaign funded by the City Council," said Maltez. "The themes in this letter will center on Chelsea's competitive advantage and pro-development administration."

## City could have site for Admirals Hill fire station

By Adam Swift

A new fire station could be in the works for the Admirals Hill neighborhood.

Over the past several years, several city councilors, including District 6 Councilor Giovanni Recupero, have tasked the city administration with finding a suitable spot for an additional firehouse in Chelsea.

"I hope that one day, the dream I have to have a new fire station will come, because that will make us safer," said Recupero at a council meeting late last year asking for an update on a potential site.

Recupero said that the waterfront side of his district along the waterfront and Marginal Street is more at risk because of the lack of

a nearby fire station.

This week, City Manager Fidel Maltez provided an update to the council that includes a potential site for a new fire station on Chelsea Jewish Lifecare property.

"Our Fire Chief and I have been pursuing several options since the Council first tasked us with this search ... in March 2025," stated Maltez. "Since the city does not own any property that could accommodate a fire station, we have reached out to several property owners. We have had very fruitful and positive conversations with Mr. Barry Berman, CEO of Chelsea Jewish Lifecare, regarding a potential collaboration on their property in Admirals Hill."

Maltez said the city would be able to fit a fire station on the property.

"Our Department of Public Works has begun preliminary design of such a fire station and has also completed a cost estimate," Maltez stated. "Our Fire Chief and I will continue our outreach to see if any other potential properties arise. We will keep the Council updated as we make progress."

The proposed station would be on Captain's Row near the intersection with Commandants Way.

The preliminary cost estimate for the two-story, 10,000-square-foot building is just under \$6.1 million, according to the materials submitted to the city council.

## Forecast // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

erty tax, continues to be limited by the financial constraints of Proposition 2½, a measure imposed with good intention and designed to protect taxpayers from excessive tax increases, but which also creates significant challenges to the City's budget," Maltez stated. "As property tax revenue is limited by 2½ annually, the costs of running the City continue to rise at a much higher rate. The City must contend with the increasing cost of labor, materials, and employee benefits, worsened by the inflationary pressures experienced in the country over the last several years."

The fiscal pressures strain the city's ability to sustain service levels and invest in essential infrastructure improvements, the city manager stated.

"Chelsea's budget is prepared with conservatism as its guiding principle," Maltez said. "By adopting a conservative revenue forecast, we ensure our spending stays aligned with realistic funding and protects the City from financial deficits and unexpected financial crises. These best practices help prepare us for economic downturns, and more than ever the City needs to commit to the tradition of financial discipline that has allowed us to main-

tain high-quality services while continuing to be fiscally responsible."

To ensure long-term financial resilience and avoid overburdening taxpayers, the Maltez said the city's administration is committed to prioritizing its economic development efforts.

"The strategic expansion of the City's tax base provides additional revenue to fund services and infrastructure improvements, securing the City's fiscal health with less reliance on residential tax increases," Maltez stated. "Economic growth serves as a vital engine for financial stability and creates employment opportunities for our residents and elevates the quality of life for all members of our community."

The focus on economic development is an essential part of the city's strategy to build a more resilient and sustainable financial future, according to the city manager. He said the revenues generated through a growing, diversified tax base will offset costs and stabilize the budget.

"This balanced approach will help us build a foundation for long-term fiscal stability, benefiting both the city's budget and its residents," Maltez stated. "Our commitment to support public education in the City

of Chelsea remains strong. FY2027 promises to be a very difficult budget year for our partners at Chelsea Public Schools. The school budget has benefitted greatly the last two fiscal years due to significant increases in state educational funding provided by the Student Opportunity Act.

"However, as the Act enters its final year, any benefits that were to be provided to the City were offset by a significant loss in funding due to a steep drop in student enrollment," Maltez continued. "Chapter 70 aid will increase only ½% for FY2027, as compared to the 5½ and 6% increases experienced over the past two years. We are cautiously optimistic that the state will continue this valuable investment in local education for FY2028 and beyond."

The current drafted financial forecast projects an FY27 budget increase of 5% for city budgets, a reduction from the previous year that acknowledges the uncertain economic times ahead, Maltez said.

"The City is prepared to meet these challenges by continuing our efforts to streamline City processes and service delivery as well as seeking opportunities to promote economic development and enhance the City's tax base," Maltez said.

## Accelerator // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The Transformative Development Initiative gives Chelsea a structured way to align public investment, private energy, and community leadership in our Downtown District," said Cares. "This is about strengthening our small business ecosystem, activating our public realm, and reinforcing the identity and pride that define Chelsea."

Cares said the TDI is an effort to leverage partnerships and network into the community to bring about new ideas and fresh perspectives to invigorate one of the busiest and lively parts of Chelsea. The city's primary partners in the district will be the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce, the Apollinaire Theatre Company, and Bunker Hill Community College.

"We are trying to leverage new growth around the commuter rail station, and we feel this effort is a great way to honor that sentiment in the master plan," said Cares. "That is our focus right now, to continue to support our downtown business community, but also to try to bring some connectivity and foot traffic into downtown from the folks who are living around the commuter rail station."

Part of the TDI process with MassDevelopment is selecting a professional fellow who would be the liaison between the programmatic staff at MassDevelopment and would work with and be based in the

city, Cares said.

In bringing in the chamber of commerce, the theater, and the college as partners, Cares said it represents a great cross section of Chelsea's business, cultural, and educational life.

Having the chamber on as a partner means the city can help extend more resources to entrepreneurs and small businesses.

"Then having the Apollinaire Theatre as a partner, they are really a cultural and arts anchor of our downtown and they bring a lot of interest into the community from those spaces and one of the visions for this district is to really enhance those cultural and arts features," said Cares. "It is something that we feel will bring together community cohesion in the district, and it's great to have one entity that can serve as an advisor and have a representative of the community."

Having Bunker Hill Community College as a partner helps small businesses through its Enterprise Center as well providing workforce development opportunities.

While the partners will play a big role in the shape of the TDI district, Cares said there will also be much communication with residents and businesses to make sure the city is honoring what people want to see in their urban environment.

"I also feel that with it being MassDevelopment that is supporting this initiative,

it really brings in tangible financial and technical assistance and resources to the district to activate underutilized properties or commercial spaces, to bring in outside investment ... to make different developments or improvements to the businesses and our community a reality," said Cares.

MassDevelopment's Transformative Development Initiative brings a full-time economic development professional and a suite of tools and resources to help cities advance a shared vision for their downtown or commercial district, said Economic Development Secretary Eric Paley, who serves as Chair of MassDevelopment's Board of Directors.

"We look forward to seeing how this program continues to help communities strengthen local partnerships, support small businesses, foster vibrancy, and lay the groundwork for additional investment," Paley said.

MassDevelopment is the state's development finance agency and land bank, delivering financing solutions, real estate expertise, and other assistance to strengthen and grow the Massachusetts economy. It partners with businesses, nonprofits, developers, banks, and municipalities, providing resources to help create jobs, build housing, and foster vibrant communities across the state.

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Senator Sal DiDomenico with Catherine D'Amato (third from left), President and CEO of the Greater Boston Food Bank, and Robbie Goldstein (far left), Massachusetts Department of Public Health Commissioner.

## DiDomenico celebrates new Community Health and Nutrition Center

Special to the Record

Last week, Senator Sal DiDomenico attended the Greater Boston Food Bank's official launch of The Takeda Center for Community Health and Nutrition in Boston. This Center will create greater access to nutritious and medically tailored food for communities throughout

Eastern Massachusetts. The Takeda Center was made possible by a four-year, \$4 million grant from Takeda, the largest-ever donation in the food bank's history. DiDomenico has been a longtime supporter of the Greater Boston Food Bank and this contribution combined with funding he se-

cures each year will ensure that more food insecure individuals and families will be reached.

"This extraordinary accomplishment demonstrates the commitment to health, nutrition equity, and community wellness, by both the Food Bank and Takeda," said DiDomenico.



Chelsea community members participate in a free Salsa lesson at Chelsea Pa'Lante Fest, March 2025.

## Chelsea Pa'Lante Fest and International Women's Day Event to take Place in March

The City of Chelsea is excited to invite the community to two events taking place in March 2026: Chelsea Pa'Lante Fest and Chelsea's International Women's Day Event.

The City's second annual Chelsea Pa'Lante Fest—a citywide, family-friendly block party—will take place on Saturday, March 14, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Chelsea Square. There will be music, dancing, face-painting, a bouncy house, a food and vendor

market, and an opportunity to review and give feedback on the City's comprehensive master plan "Chelsea !Pa'Lante Onward," which is currently in development. If it rains, the event will be held at the Williams School (180 Walnut Street).

The Chelsea Women's Commission, in partnership with ROCA, will host Chelsea's second annual International Women's Day Event to celebrate women and girls on Saturday, March 7, from

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at ROCA's Chelsea satellite location at 101 Park Street (#1). The event will include a networking breakfast, a roundtable discussion with the Women's Commission, and a Peace Circle on the Female Experience.

These events are free, family-friendly, and open to the public. With questions about either of the events, reach out to the City Manager's Office citymanager@chelseama.gov or 617-466-4100.

## Officer Moschella honored for lengthy service and commitment

Special to the Record

Last week, the Chelsea Police Department proudly honored Officer Robert Moschella in a special badge presentation ceremony.

In recognition of his seniority and unwavering commitment to the community, Officer Moschella was officially issued Chelsea Police Badge #1 — a distinction reserved for the department's senior patrol officer. The badge was issued by Chief Keith Houghton, pinned by Patrol Commander Capt. Tom McLain Jr, and witnessed by his fellow officers.

Officer Moschella has dedicated an incredible 43 years of service to the residents of Chelsea, including 40 years as a sworn Chelsea Police officer. His career reflects

the very best of our mission: Community. Pride. Dedication, Houghton said.

"Please join us in congratulating Officer Moschella on

this well-deserved honor and thanking him for more than four decades of faithful service to the City of Chelsea," said the chief.



Police Chief Keith Houghton, Officer Robert Moschella, and Capt Tom McLain Jr. COURTESY PHOTO

## Parking Department updates schedule of extended hours following blizzard

To accommodate the large number of residents who still need to submit their Residential Parking Permit applications, the Chelsea Parking Department will stay open late until 6 p.m. on the following dates:

Wednesday, February 25  
Thursday, February 26  
Monday, March 2

Wednesday, March 4

Thursday, March 5

Monday, March 9\*

\*The Parking Department will now have extended hours on March 9 to make up for the City Hall blizzard-related closure on Monday, February 23.

The renewal period for the City's residential parking permits began January

5. From January 5 to February 28, parking permits are free. Beginning March 1, a \$10 application fee per permit will apply for all renewals—no exceptions.

For more information, visit [www.chelseama.gov](http://www.chelseama.gov) or call Chelsea 3-1-1 at 617-466-4209 during City Hall business hours.

## Funds // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The report will also not include organizations that deliver a required municipal service, such as its parking vendor or trash hauling company.

For the purpose of the report, Maltez said the report will include non-profit organizations based in Chelsea that receive at least \$25,000

in operating budget funds (not CPA, community block grants, or ARPA funds), and that deliver human services to Chelsea residents.

"If the City Council would like to expand these criteria or include other criteria, please let me know," Maltez stated. "We will make this report available

to the City Council for your first meeting in March. After reviewing the report, the City Council can evaluate whether it would prefer a subcommittee meeting with each organization or a written report from each organization."

### A SHORT STORY ABOUT A MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT 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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# Chelsea

R E C O R D

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

## WE ARE SO DONE WITH WINTER

When winter finally released its icy grip last week, with temperatures reaching above freezing for the first time in weeks, we had figured the worst of this winter season was behind us.

Needless to say, that was wishful thinking.

As native New Englanders, by no means were we so naive as to believe that Mother Nature would fail to have a few surprises remaining for us.

When March 1 starts to roll along on the calendar, we always are reminded of the proverb we first learned as young children at Our Lady of Grace parochial school in Everett: "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb."

So we were well-aware that nasty weather still lay ahead. We were braced for a lion, but we weren't expecting a prehistoric beast.

So we were both incredulous and exasperated as we listened to the weatherman's increasingly-dire predictions for a major weather event headed our way as this weekend approached.

We've all become familiar with the relatively-recent meteorological term of "bombogenesis" to describe the rapid intensification of a storm system that seems to take on a life of its own.

But we did not anticipate the fury of this week's blizzard that had such a wide impact and that caused so much misery for so many of us.

We well remember the Blizzard of '78, the No Name Storm of 1991 (also known as The Perfect Storm), and the Snowmageddon Winter of 2015.

We took all of those major weather events in stride. As impactful as they were, they were simply annoyances for us at the time. But we were younger then, and youth has a way of brushing aside even the harshest of circumstances -- a four-foot drift looks like a playground instead of a back injury waiting to happen.

Despite the frigid temperatures, we still ran outside almost every day throughout this winter, even in the face of daily, single-digit wind chills. We were determined not to let Ol' Man Winter get the better of us.

But truth be told, this winter season of 2026 has pushed us over the edge. The "lion" finally bit us -- and Florida suddenly seems very appealing.

## WHY HASN'T THE NHL BANNED FIGHTING?

Our love of hockey dates back to the 1960s, the golden era when "Bobby Orr and the Big, Bad Boston Bruins" (that was the title of a book that we've had since our youth) ruled the hockey world and the B's were the toast of the town.

We recall the bad blood between the Bruins and some of their notable opponents, the Canadiens and the Rangers (among others), and well recall the game when Derek Sanderson got into a fight with a member of the Chicago Black Hawks -- Sandy pulled off an opponent's jersey and then, while skating around the rink, jersey in hand as if it were a trophy, tossed it into the stands (in Chicago!).

Fighting was not merely just a part of the game, it was even expected. Each team had its "enforcer" who could be expected to take a run at the other team's star player, which in turn would trigger a retaliatory run by the enforcer on the other side, and mayhem inevitably would be the result.

We were just youngsters at the time and just accepted it as "part of the game." It was a time when goalies still didn't wear masks and certainly no player wore a helmet.

Times have changed. Goalies wear expensive masks and every player is helmeted. Teams no longer devote a roster spot to an enforcer and rates of fighting have decreased significantly.

But fighting remains a part of the game and is tolerated to an extent not seen in any other sport. The fans still lust for blood and cheer with every punch. ESPN shows the highlights of every fight.

We were thinking about this as we were watching -- and thoroughly enjoying -- the Olympic hockey matches these past two weeks. It was so nice to watch a game with no flights and none of the chippiness and illegal hits that are trademarks of the NHL. The teams just skated relentlessly up and down, without the long delays caused by brawling and fighting.

Fighting remains a vestige of pro hockey's brutal past -- and in our view, the sooner the NHL bans it all together (which it could easily do with harsher penalties than just a five-minute major), the better.

The time has come to retire the Rodney Dangerfield joke, "I went to a fight the other night, and a hockey game broke out."

# Forum

## More snow shoveling? Don't let blizzard cleanup blow out your back

Tips you may not know to avoid injury when shoveling back-to-back snowstorms

Special to the Record

Winter is here with a vengeance, and at this point in the season a lot of shovelers are already feeling it in their aching backs and other body parts. Those living along the East Coast who are experiencing the bombogenesis blizzard are surely dreading cleanup after yet another winter storm. To avoid putting too much stress on the body, an expert at the University of New Hampshire offers some little-known tips on how to stay physically safe when digging out.

Storm after storm, repetitive shoveling can take a toll on not only the back but also the knees, shoulders, wrists and heart. To avoid any serious injuries, Dain LaRoche, professor of kinesiology and associate dean for research at UNH, shares some do's and don'ts that you may not know to stay physically safe at any age.

"While it seems simple, shoveling is actually a deceptively high-risk task, similar to other occupational tasks that require frequent lifting of heavy items," said LaRoche. "It's important to be aware of how to hold the shovel, how to lift the snow and to take it slow."

Here are some things most people don't realize:

- The Shovel:
- The shovel head should be kept as close to the body as possible to reduce impact on the lower back.
- Try to keep the torso as vertical as possible and lift with the legs.
- Ergonomic shovels that have a bend allow the shovel head to be closer to ground and can help minimize bending.
- How to Shovel:
- Pushing snow is better than lifting.
- Avoid twisting to throw snow sideways, try to shovel snow straight ahead.
- Try to minimize how high you lift the snow which can increase the workload on back and shoulders. Avoid lifting above the waist.
- Swap arms periodically to distribute the weight across the body's muscles.
- Taking smaller shovel loads will reduce the muscular load over time.
- Wet snow is significantly heavier than fluffy dry snow so take smaller 'bites' on the shovel to keep the load manageable.
- Warm up:
- Ease into shoveling until muscles warm up - muscles and tendons are less elastic when cold and may be more susceptible to injury.
- Wearing proper clothing is important to prevent

overheating, sweating and causing additional strain on the cardiovascular system. Layer and remove layers as you get warm, put them back on if you get cold.

• Take a Break:  
• Be sure to take breaks. If there is a lot to shovel, break it up into sections.

• Stop when feeling fatigued, strained or weak -- when mechanics might be compromised.

• Heed Heart Warnings:  
• Stop shoveling If you feel lightheaded, have chest

pains, irregular heartbeat, dizziness, shortness of breath, joint pain or other significant discomfort.

• Shoveling is heavy work that people may not be used to and can cause increased stress on heart, lungs and muscles.

"Shoveling makes the heart work harder because the upper body is doing intense effort while the lower body stays mostly still, which can cause blood to pool in the legs," said LaRoche.

This elevated demand underscores the importance of taking precautions during extreme winter weather events, particularly for individuals with underlying health conditions. Overall, LaRoche reminds that ideally people should engage in strengthening, stretching and cardiovascular exercise

throughout the year to stay healthy and help with overall aging but also help condition the body so shoveling is not so burdensome.

LaRoche has expertise in physiology, biomechanics, technology and human performance. His work bridges fundamental discovery with real-world application, examining how exercise and technology can enhance health and functional capacity across the human lifespan, from optimizing elite athletic performance to promoting mobility, independence, and vitality in older adults.

The University of New Hampshire inspires innovation and transforms lives in our state, nation and world. More than 15,000 students from 50 states and 87 countries engage with an award-winning faculty in top-ranked programs in business, engineering, law, health and human services, liberal arts and the sciences across more than 200 programs of study. A Carnegie Classification R1 institution, UNH partners with NASA, NOAA, NSF, and NIH, and received over \$250 million in competitive external funding in FY24 to further explore and define the frontiers of land, sea and space.

## Chelsea Ward 2 Democrats to hold Democratic Caucus

Chelsea Ward 2 will be holding their Caucus on February 28, at the Chelsea Library, registration starts at 9:30, Caucus open at 10: am. This year's convention will be held on May 29, at

the DCU Center in Worcester, Massachusetts.

This year's Convention will be a 2026 Nominating Convention.

Those interested in getting involved with Ward

Two Democratic Committee or have questions about membership should, please feel free to contact us at the info listed below.

If you are interested, please contact Calvin

Brown at 617466-1548 or Elizabeth "Beth" Novak by email. bgolibersuch@gmail.com.

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

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# Do you know a community hero?

## Nominate someone who's making a difference

Every day in our community, people are making a difference in the lives of older adults and people with disabilities. These folks deserve recognition, and you can help them receive it.

Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) will be presenting its Community All-Star Awards this spring. If you know someone who makes an impact, please nominate them for an award. They do NOT need to be affiliated with Mystic Valley Elder Services.

Community All-Stars could be the volunteer who gives hours of their time helping older adults, the person who always helps

set up at the senior center, or the veteran who supports older veterans. The key criteria is that they're active in one of the communities served by MVES: Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, North Reading, Reading, Revere, Stoneham, Wakefield or Winthrop.

Nominations are due by April 1. Visit [www.mves.org/mves50](http://www.mves.org/mves50) to learn more or to fill out a simple nomination form. Or, you can nominate someone by contacting [development@mves.org](mailto:development@mves.org) or 781-388-4802.

Celebrating the Award Winners: The Community All-Star Award winners will

be honored at Mystic Valley Elder Services' spring fundraiser, the MVES Legacy50 Summit. The event will be held June 4, 11 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., at the Cummings Center at Tufts University, 177 College Ave., Medford. In addition to the awards, the Legacy50 Summit includes luncheon, an expo fair, and Keynote Speaker Ashton Applewhite — who is a TED speaker, author, and nationally recognized anti-ageism activist. Tickets are \$75 each and all proceeds benefit MVES' mission. Reserve tickets by March 31 for a free copy of Ashton Applewhite's book, while supplies last.



## Recognition // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sports and have added more options for high school students. We work closely with different organizations to be able to provide our student athletes the equipment they need to be successful," Alpert said. "I'm proud of the work we've put into the program and excited to see the growth. Most of all, I'm proud to represent Chelsea on the state level and wear that Chelsea C on my chest."

Cross was named a 2026 Innovator in Healthcare by the Boston Business Journal in the Community Health category. She was recognized for her leadership in delivering health services to our students and school communities, overseeing staff training, nutrition supports, and innovative initiatives that expand access to care and improve student wellness and learning outcomes.

"Community and health equity are at the heart of our student health program at CPS. Nothing is possible without my incredible team of nurses and

healthcare professionals," commented

Cross. "I am so proud of my team's collaboration, teamwork, and grace; growing together has been one of the greatest joys of my life, and we are only getting started!"

Superintendent Abeyta shared that "Alex embodies what it means to lead with compassion and vision. Her dedication to health equity and student wellness has strengthened the foundation of care across Chelsea Public Schools. She has built and nurtured a team culture rooted in collaboration, trust, and excellence. I am deeply grateful for her leadership and incredibly proud to see her work recognized at the state level."

Alpert will be recognized formally at an event later this year where she will be celebrated alongside the other Athletic Directors of the Year in the state. Cross was recognized for her achievement at an event last week hosted by the Boston Business Journal.

## OBITUARIES

### Carol A. Pompeo

July 18, 1939 - February 19, 2026

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Carol A. Pompeo, who departed this life on February 19, 2026 at Life Care of Stoneham following a brief decline in health. Carol, who graced the world with her presence for 86 years, was a lifelong resident of Chelsea where she was born on July 18, 1939 to the late Andrew S. and Genevieve Kopaczynski.

A proud graduate of St. Rose High School, Carol lived her life dedicated to her family and community. She married Joseph J. Pompeo on October 28, 1962, and together they raised a loving family, including their daughter, Andrea, and sons, Jason and the late Marc Pompeo. She shared a remarkable bond of 47 years with her beloved husband, Joe, until his passing in 2009. Their love story was a testament to commitment and companionship, and Carol often reflected on the beautiful memories they created together, drawing strength and joy from those cherished moments.

Carol's devotion to her home and family was evident in everything she did, from cooking for holiday gatherings to celebrating summer vacations with her husband at the Frank Davis Resort in Connecticut.

Professionally, Carol made contributions as a secretary with John Hancock Life Insurance before serving as the Office Manager for Chelsea Neighborhood Development. She concluded her career at Summit Press in Chelsea. Outside of her professional endeavors, Carol was an active member of the Revere Elks and



Beachmont V.F.W., reflecting her deep connection to her community.

Carol is survived by her cherished children: Andrea Gustin and her husband, Bryan of Stoneham, and Jason Pompeo and his wife, Darlene of Chelsea. She is the dear sister of Irene Lombardozi and her late husband, Richard and Dennis Kopaczynski, all of Chelsea. Carol's legacy lives on in her grandchildren: Sean Gustin and his wife, Nicole, Breanna Gustin, Erick Pompeo, and Brittani Pompeo, as well as a multitude of extended family members and friends who will miss her greatly.

Relatives and friends attended a funeral gathering and procession in honor of Carol at Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea, on Tuesday, February 24th immediately followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Rose Church, 600 Broadway, Chelsea. The services concluded with interment at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett.

May Carol's memory continue to inspire all those who were fortunate enough to know her.

To send expressions of sympathy, visit [www.welsh-fh.com](http://www.welsh-fh.com).



### Blanche Barber Morgan

She built a life rooted in family, strength and devotion

Blanche Barber Morgan, born January 3, 1935, in Belfast, Ireland, later made her home in Brooklyn, New York. It was there she built a life rooted in family, strength and devotion.

She was the beloved mother of Louis, Linda, Christine, James and Gary. She was a cherished grandmother to her grandchildren: Lucia, Jennifer, Jackie, Tracy, Samantha, Anthony, Sarah, and Caresa and was affectionately known as "GG" to her great-grandchildren.

Blanche now joins those who went before her: her revered husband, Leroy, her sons, Louis and James and her daughter, Christine. She is survived by her daughter, Linda Alioto-Robinson and her husband, Leo, her son Gary Alioto and his wife, Lucy. Her memory is also honored by Linda Coiro and Michael Mariano, the



spouses of her late children, Louis and Christine, as well as her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Blanche will be remembered for her fierce love, honesty, and the comfort she brought to those she held dear. Her legacy lives on through the many generations she raised with pride and the love she gave so freely.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

(May her soul be at the right hand of God)

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### CHELSEA POLICE DEPARTMENT HOSTS BUILD THE BASE YOUTH CAMP PROGRAM

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

Chelsea Police Department, in collaboration with Chelsea Public Schools and the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce, held its inaugural Build the Base Youth Camp during February vacation week (February 16-20), at Chelsea High School. Over 30 students participated in the mentorship program designed to expand access to athletic training and develop leadership skills.

“Our goal is to educate young minds to become productive adults, and this program is an extension of that,” said Captain David Rizzuto, who works with the school resource officers to create a safe and secure space for students and staff. “It’s about giving kids opportunity, guidance, and mentorship. With discipline, anything’s possible.”

Led by Chelsea Police school resource officers, the

initiative combines strength and conditioning with classroom instruction that focuses on mental health and accountability. Build the Base reinforces teamwork, resilience, and work ethic while encouraging positive engagement with law enforcement.

“These young men are the classiest young men you’re ever going to find. They shake your hand and look you in the eye,” boasted Chief Keith Houghton. “Besides physical fitness, they’re learning to make right decisions. Life throws curveballs at you. Growing up in the inner city where I grew up and where they grew up, these are opportunities we can’t miss to connect. I couldn’t be prouder of the athleticism and discipline.”

Sergeant Star N. Chung expressed her hopes that, with continued funding, Chelsea Police will be able to host Build the Base every

school vacation, and in the summer, as well as expand the program with offerings for female athletes.

“We’re trying to teach these teenagers to become young adults, creating a foundation to take care of themselves physically and mentally,” explained Sergeant Chung, who also believes in the importance of incorporating field trips and awards to boost morale and fun.

Lead Coach Damian Strait shared that the mission of Build the Base is to care for the youth, who are the future of the community, one of the most diverse cities in Massachusetts, where many families face economic barriers.

“The goal of me wanting to develop this program is to give back to them and make sure they’re appreciated and have support,” expressed Coach Damian, Chelsea High School graduate, Class of 2015.



Captain Jason Farden, Councilor Calvin Brown, Captain Tom McLain, Jr., and Fire Department Chief John Quatieri.



Lead Couch Damian Strait explaining his mission to care for the youth of the community.



Students stretching during the Build the Base Observation Day on February 19.



Chief Keith Houghton describing his pride in the athleticism and discipline displayed by student participants.



Chelsea Police Department Sergeant Star Chung, Captain Jason Farden, Captain Tom McLain, Jr., Chief Keith Houghton, Captain Brian Dunn, and Captain David Rizzuto.



More than 30 Chelsea High School students participated in the Chelsea Police Department’s first Build the Base Youth Camp during February vacation.



Coach Strait Damian encouraging students as they stretch.

### CHELSEA POLICE DEPARTMENT HOSTS BUILD THE BASE YOUTH CAMP PROGRAM



Sergeant Star N. Chung describing the power of community.



City and school leaders, members of the Chelsea Police and Fire Departments, and the Chamber of Commerce attending Build the Base Observation Day on February 19.



Build the Base participants, Quisaun Amado, 7th grade, Xavier Felipe, 9th grade, and Sophonie Mkurnziza, 9th grade.



Captain David Rizzuto expressing his focus to create a safe and supportive environment for students and staff of Chelsea High School.



Students participating in strength and conditioning drills during the February 19 Build the Base Observation Day.



Police Chief Keith Houghton and Councilor Lisa Santagate.



Students demonstrating a running drill.



Assistant Principal Kadian James, and her daughter, Kavya James, 5.



Coach Damian demonstrating lunges with students

# Diann Slavit Baylis announces candidacy for Governor's Council

Special to the Record

Immigration attorney Diann Slavit Baylis announced that she is running for Governor's Council in Massachusetts' 6th District. Slavit Baylis, a resident of Marblehead, took out nomination papers this week from the Secretary of State's Office, and plans to collect nomination signatures throughout the district.



Diann Slavit Baylis

The Governor's Council is an elected body in Massachusetts that provides advice and consent on the Governor's judicial appointments, pardons and commutations, and warrants for the

state treasury. The Council also plays a role in the certification of statewide election results. The 6th district encompasses parts of Boston, most of Cambridge,

the cities of Chelsea, Everett, Lynn, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Revere and Somerville, and the towns of Lynnfield, Marblehead, Nahant, Reading, Saugus, Stoneham, Swampscott, Wakefield, Winchester and Winthrop.

"We need judges with knowledge, integrity and compassion at every level of our judiciary, and I will be a voice for that on the Governor's Council" said Slavit Baylis. "What many people don't know is that critical decisions impacting the lives of children who enter the country unaccompanied, like the clients that

I have represented as immigration counsel, are being made in our state probate courts. This is a dangerous time for immigrant families. We must ensure that people appointed to judgeships understand immigration law, and that they will stand up for the constitutional rights, safety and best interests of immigrants and immigrant children."

While most immigration proceedings take place in federal immigration courts, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, a path to citizenship for unaccompanied minors, is determined at the state level through the probate

courts. Slavit-Baylis, a lifelong resident of the North of Boston region, is a graduate of Merrimack College and Suffolk Law School. She has a long history of public service, including volunteering for the Lawyer of the Day program at Essex Probate Court. Earlier in her career she served as Deputy Campaign Coordinator for the Massachusetts Democratic Party, and she is currently an active member of the Marblehead Democratic Town Committee. Slavit Baylis has also supported the work of the Massachusetts Coalition to

Prevent Gun Violence, having testified at legislative hearings and spoken at State House rallies to urge action on much-needed gun violence prevention legislation.

"I come from a tradition of public service," said Slavit Baylis, the youngest daughter of former Haverhill Harbormaster William "Red" Slavit. "There is important work to be done on the Governor's Council, and I look forward to engaging voters in a conversation about their priorities, and what I can offer them as their Councilor from the 6th District."

## Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical will be at Boston's Boch Center Wang Theatre April 25

Special to the Record

Get ready for an electrifying experience that will ignite your passion for rock 'n' roll!

Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical, the thrilling spectacle where the timeless music of Jim Steinman and Meat Loaf reigns supreme!

Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical will be at Boston's Boch Center Wang Theatre for one night only on April 25, at 7:30PM.

General on-sale begins Friday, February 13, at 10AM ET at bochcenter.org.

Featuring some of the most iconic rock songs ever recorded, Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical boasts an epic world class cast of singers,

dancers, actors, accompanied by a dynamic eight-piece rock band.

This reimagined award-winning show promises to be a thrilling experience.

Bat Out of Hell – The Musical won the UK'S Radio 2 Audience Award for Best Musical at the Evening Standard Awards and was nominated for 8 LONDON What'sOnStage Awards, including Best New Musical.

Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical wowed critics and public alike when it played limited seasons at Manchester Opera House, London Coliseum, London's Dominion Theatre, Toronto's CAA Ed Mirvish Theatre and New York City Center.

It garnered 5 stars from the UK's The Independent, Daily Mirror, Daily Express, Manchester Evening News, Metro.

The New York Times raved that Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical is 'extravagant, absurd, compulsively hummable' and Theatermania said 'See it while you can'.

The musical also had successful runs in Canada, Germany, a residency in Las Vegas and the international tour took the show to the UK, Ireland, Germany, Australia and New Zealand.

Bat Out Of Hell became one of the best-selling albums in history, selling over 68 million copies worldwide. 16 years after the release of the original album,

Steinman scored again with Bat Out of Hell II: Back into Hell, which contained the massive hit I Would Do Anything for Love (But I Won't Do That). For the stage musical, the legendary and award-winning Jim Steinman incorporated iconic songs from the Bat Out of Hell albums, including You Took the Words Right Out of My Mouth, Bat Out of Hell, I Would Do Anything for Love (But I Won't Do That), It's All Coming Back to Me, and Two Out Of Three Ain't Bad, as well as the previously unreleased song What Part of My Body Hurts the Most.

As the Lost boys and girls flee into the tunnels below the city from its ruler Falco, his teenage daughter Raven

locks eyes with fearless leader of the Lost, the immortal Strat, and the immensity of their love-at-first-sight-obsessions threaten to destroy both of their families. Experience the thrill of the electrifying songs of Jim Steinman and Meat Loaf's epic collaboration: "Bat Out of Hell."

Bat Out Of Hell - The Musical has book, music and lyrics by Jim Steinman, direction by Jay Scheib, with musical supervision and additional arrangements by Michael Reed, additional choreography by Xena Gushart, set and costume design by Jon Bausor, original wig designs by Linda McKnight, video design by Finn Ross, lighting design by Patrick Woodroffe, sound design by

Gareth Owen, orchestrations by Steve Sidwell, original casting by David Grindrod CDG, North American Tour Casting by Kinlore Casting – Kate Lumpkin, CSA, and General Management by Evan Bernardin Productions – Jenna Lazar.

The Canadian and US dates of Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical, are produced by Emmy and Tony Award winner Michael Cohl, CEO of S2BN Entertainment and the former Chairman of Live Nation, Tony Smith & David Sonenberg with executive producers Glenn Orsher and Julian Stoneman.

Website: BatOutOfHellMusical.com  
Instagram, X & Facebook: @BatTheMusical

## LJ Henriquez and Telma Särkipaju crowned Red Bull Heavy Metal 2026 Champions

Special to the Record

More than 25,000 spectators packed Boston City Hall Plaza on Saturday for the return of Red Bull Heavy Metal, one of the top contests in modern street snowboarding. Energized by the largest crowd in street snowboarding's history, LJ Henriquez and Telma Särkipaju claimed overall titles in the men's and women's category.

Overnight snow and light flurries helped set the stage as the world's best riders took on three zones built into Boston City Hall Plaza's natural terrain, using the city's rails, stairs, gaps and brick walls to put street riding on full display in front of a live audience.

LJ Henriquez, a Northeast native from Little Falls,

New Jersey, described the win a milestone moment.

"This is the pinnacle event in the world for street snowboarding right now," Henriquez said. "To win here, close to home, in front of my friends and family is such a surreal feeling. Everyone here is the best, so I had to go as hard as possible at all times to come away with the win."

Särkipaju, a first-time Red Bull Heavy Metal competitor who recently returned to riding after a back injury, said the win felt like a defining moment in her comeback.

"I had no expectations coming in and was just hoping to make finals, so to actually win something this big means a lot," Särkipaju said. "I saw videos from last year and thought it was

next level, but being here and feeling that crowd was unlike anything I've experienced. Their energy definitely made the difference."

The single-day finals unfolded across three distinct zones integrated into City Hall Plaza's renovated architecture, with the Loon Mountain Terrain Park Team trucking in roughly 150 tons of snow to shape the competition zones. Riders competed for individual zone wins and overall titles as the field mixed contest standouts with video part heavy hitters, including Lucas Magoon, Egan Wint, Halldor Helgason, Jess Perlmutter and Zeb Powell.

Powell, one of the sport's most recognizable riders and a fixture at Red Bull Heavy Metal, said the event's second year in Bos-

ton raised the bar.

"This was another one for the books for Boston," Powell said. "Same energy just leveled up. The production was bigger, the features were cleaner and more playful, and it was more dialed in for everyone. Seeing the Northeast snowboard community show out in record numbers meant everything to me. I can't wait to see where we take Red Bull Heavy Metal from here."

Red Bull Heavy Metal's legacy is rooted in video part riding and rail innovation, led by generations of riders who built street snowboarding into what it is today. The 2026 season honored that history by providing a platform designed to elevate the next generation of talent and introduce more people to the sport.

For the latest Red Bull Heavy Metal action and event updates, follow @redbullusa and @redbullsnow and visit redbull.com/heavymetal.



Nick Fox hits the jump at Red Bull Heavy Metal in Boston on February 21, 2026.



Benny Milam hits the ledge at Red Bull Heavy Metal in Boston on February 21.



LJ Henriquez hits the jump at Red Bull Heavy Metal in Boston.

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DIDOMENICO HIGHLIGHTS LITERACY BILL AHEAD OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS

Senator Sal DiDomenico spoke at the Educators for Excellence panel discussion, which was centered around his early literacy bill that has been passed through the Senate and House. DiDomenico highlighted the urgent need to get his bill signed into law, “we can all agree that teaching our kids to read and write is one of the most important 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 look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to put this bill on the Governor’s

desk for her signature.” DiDomenico was appointed as the lead Senate negotiator on the conference committee with the House to reconcile differences between the two literacy bills that each chamber approved. The first conference committee meeting will be in the State House this week.



Senator Sal DiDomenico speaking at the Educators for Excellence panel.



Senator Sal DiDomenico alongside Educators for Excellence organizers and speakers.

Blizzard // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The “Welcome to Chelsea” sign on Broadway at the Chelsea-Revere border glows in the sunlight Tuesday morning one day after a major snowstorm belted the city and the state Monday.

job opening the main streets up. The side streets are a little slower, we’re going to tackle it all day today and get to as many of the side streets as we can.”

Trash removal was delayed by one day this week due to the storm, but Maltez urged residents to be patient with the collection because of the amount of snow still on streets and sidewalks.

“Another thing that we learned from the last storm is that snow removal is going to be very important in order to free up parking and free up the sidewalks,” said Maltez. “We are starting snow removal tonight

and are going to continue as much as possible.”

The city will prioritize the downtown business districts and the areas around the schools for snow removal and then work down into other areas of the city, Maltez.

“We are running out of space, we have a ton of storage from the last storm and not a lot of melting,” said Maltez. “We still have a lot of snow to pile up; a lot of our parks are now full. We do stage snow at Highland Park, at Voke Park, and unfortunately, most of the parks are now full.

“We are going to keep

piling it up in many locations that are owned by the city and we may even ask big private property owners if we can stage snow on their properties.”

Maltez praised the public works staff for their work during the storm.

“Many of them were here for over 24 hours, and it takes a lot of effort to keep up with such as a big storm like this, and many of them are going to continue to work tirelessly to make sure as many sidewalks as possible are cleared and that all of our streets remain safe for Chelsea,” he said.

CHS Roundup

CHS BOYS DEFEAT MALDEN; READY FOR STATE TOURNAMENT

The Chelsea High boys basketball team was scheduled to open play in the Division 3 state tournament last night (Wednesday) with a preliminary round contest against Hudson as the Record was going to press.

The Red Devils (15-5) record are seeded #23 in D-3, while Hudson (12-6) is seeded #42.

Chelsea concluded its regular season on a positive note with a 64-53 victory over Greater Boston League (GBL) rival Malden last Thursday.

Geo Brito led the Red Devils in the scoring department with 29 points. Senior Moe Osman, who recently reached the 1000-point plateau in his brilliant CHS career, hit for 21 points.

“I’m proud of how our guys competed and closed out the regular season,” said CHS head coach Cesar Castro. “It was a full-team effort on both ends.

“Finishing 15-5 shows the growth of this program,” Castro continued. “Now our focus shifts to the state tournament. It’s a new season and we’re excited for the challenge ahead.”

If the Red Devils were successful last night, they

will advance to the Round of 32 where they will take on 10th-seeded Cathedral.

SERRANO, SIMON COMPETE IN MEET OF CHAMPIONS

Chelsea High track stars Lilly Serrano and Thania Simon competed in Saturday’s Massachusetts Meet of Champions that was held at The TRACK at New Balance in Brighton.

Lilly, competed in two events, the 55 meter dash and the 300m dash, in which she won medals the previous week at the Division 3 state championships.

In the 55m, Serrano finished in 18th place with a sprint of 7.43 and in the 300m, she came across the line in 20th place with a time of 42.05.

Simon competed in the long jump, finishing in 16th place with a leap of 16’-5.25”.

CHS GIRLS BASKETBALL CONCLUDES 2026 SEASON

A shorthanded Chelsea High girls basketball team concluded its season with a contest against Malden last Thursday in a make-up of a postponed game from earlier in the season.

“We only had seven

players and we were missing some starters,” said first-year head coach Bruce Harrison, whose Lady Red Devils fell short by a score of 70-39.

Jalayah Santiago Lozada led the CHS offense with 12 points and had five assists. Monica Cespedes Cruz hit for 11 points to add to her 1000+ scoring career. Taylor Eliana Solano Recio made a solid contribution and almost attained a double-double with eight points and eight rebounds.

“Overall, the season was good, but I thought it could have been better,” said Harrison, “We went 6-14, which is the most wins in a season in the last five years for a Chelsea girls basketball team.”

Maple Sugaring at DCR

Special to the Record

DCR is offering maple sugaring programs at parks across the state. Learn how to make maple syrup, a skill learned from Indigenous people from the northeast. Activities vary depending on location but include identifying maple trees, tapping trees, and gathering sap.

All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather.

Reasonable accommodations are available upon advance request.

**Maple Sugar Days**  
Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, March 15  
Blue Hill Reservation

11 Hillside Street, Canton MA

Preregistration required: Maple Sugar Days

Join us for a fun and informative guided exploration into all things maple sugar! Learn about the fascinating local history of maple sugaring and the evolution of the practice over hundreds of years. Learn how trees are tapped and practice drilling yourself, and finish your tour inside our aromatic sugar shack where you will see (and smell!) just how maple syrup is made! Families and curious adults are welcome!

Please preregister for a time slot for this event, and please arrive promptly at

your chosen time.

**Maple Sugarin’ Days**  
Saturday, March 14,  
10:00am - 2:00pm  
Breakheart Reservation  
177 Forest Street, Saugus, MA

Meet inside Visitor Center

Join us for this FUN annual event! Experience the process of maple sugarin’ from tapping a tree to sampling real maple syrup. Our hands-on tour includes the history of maple sugaring from Native Americans to today, tree identification & tapping, wood splitting, the evaporator and a tasting station! For more information, call (781) 233-0834

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Eat your roots

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

This column began as guidance on eating seasonally by including lots of root vegetables in your winter menus. Then Ed suggested we also include the ties that many cultures have to specific root vegetables.

He was right. His Italian family never included rutabaga in their meals. However, it was often on the tables of Penny's Irish family, and it was a must for holiday meals. Moreover, her family often referred to it as "Swede."

Familiar Roots

You may not have considered how many of your food choices come from family history. Most of us have a few universally loved roots in our pantry: potatoes, carrots, onions, garlic, beets, and sweet potatoes, which are having their moment in the sun.

If you have Asian ancestors, your supplies might include ginger, galangal, turmeric, ginseng, water chestnut, lotus root, and daikon.

Climate and growing conditions often make root vegetables a staple in a given area. In Eastern Europe and the Scandinavian countries, ancestors survived on what they could grow and store for their diets. Those diets are heavy in potatoes, turnips, parsnips, and beets.

Some tropical cultures embrace cassava, jicama, yams, and salsify. Without realizing it, you may be using other root preparations like arrowroot, tapioca, and horseradish.

New Flavors

Shopping trips to supermarkets and stores catering to other cultures have enabled us to try Jerusalem artichokes, kohlrabi, rutabaga, turnips, celeriac, parsnip, and burdock. Some of these are popping up in traditional produce sections, making it easy to buy a sample to add variety to your winter roots.

Root Preparations

We most often roast, boil, and mash our root vegetables, or add those that can be

eaten raw, such as radishes, carrots, turnips, rutabaga, kohlrabi, and celeriac, to slaws and salads.

However, as you venture into unfamiliar territory, check because some roots, such as cassava, are toxic unless cooked properly. Cassava, like many roots, has multiple names. Some people know it as yuca, manioc, mandioca, and tapioca.

You might introduce new root combinations, such as mashed potato and rutabaga. We use this to top baked dishes like shepherd's pie. And the next time you make coleslaw, consider enhancing the celery flavor with celeriac and adding color and tang with radishes and shredded daikon.

In soups and stews, root vegetables add bulk, nutrition, and color. Cut a new root to a size that will cook at about the same time as your carrots and potatoes, or add a new flavor, such as fennel, to the base of onions and celery as you sauté them.



Rutabaga is a root vegetable we always keep on hand for soups, stews, or as a mashed side dish.

Roasted whole potatoes and sweet potatoes serve as the base for a meal when we stuff them with everything from canned beans and sausage stuffing to leftovers.

Ancestral Dialogue

In Food and Wine, Chef Kevin Gillespie explained how a trip to Scotland changed his attitude toward cooking. "It reframed my cooking not as personal ex-

pression, but as ancestral dialogue. To be a future ancestor, I realized, is to carry forward not only one's own story, but the stories of those who endured, adapted, and fed others before us."

As you choose the root vegetables and recipes to cook, share the stories of your personal connection to some of them with your friends and family. If, like us,

you love learning about other food traditions, expand your selections to include those of other cultures and pass them forward as well. Cooking and dining can be a form of armchair travel and mini-adventures into history and the unknown.

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

LEGAL NOTICES - legal@chelsearecord.com

LEGAL NOTICE

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
In accordance with Chapter 71, Section 38N, the Chelsea School Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at Chelsea City Hall for the purpose of receiving comments on:  
1. School Choice for the 2026-2027 school year.  
2. The proposed 2026-2027 school budget. Copies of the budget proposal will be available for inspection no later than 2 days prior to the hearing on the Chelsea Public Schools website at <https://www.chelseaschools.com/Page/2433>, at the Chelsea Public Library, and the Office of the Superintendent. Please call 617-466-4456 to request a hard copy or to have a copy emailed to you.

Please reach out to the School Committee Clerk with any questions: [cpsschoolcommittee@chelseaschools.com](mailto:cpsschoolcommittee@chelseaschools.com) or call 617-466-4456. The meeting will be live streamed for the public at: Chelsea Cable TV and <https://www.facebook.com/ChelseaPublicSchools/>  
**REUNION PUBLICA**  
De acuerdo con el Capitulo 71, Sección 38N, el Comité Escolar de Chelsea llevará a cabo una audiencia pública el jueves, 12 de marzo del 2026 a las 6:30 p.m. en la Sala del Consejo Municipal en la Alcaldía de Chelsea con el propósito de recibir comentarios sobre:  
1. La Elección de las Escuelas para el año escolar 2026-2027.  
2. El presupuesto escolar propuesto para el año 2026-2027. Las copias de la propuesta del presupuesto estarán disponibles para su inspección a más tarde 2 días antes de la audiencia en el sitio de web de Las Escuelas Públicas de Chelsea <https://www.chelseaschools.com/Page/2433>, en la Biblioteca Pública de Chelsea y la Oficina de la Superintendente de las Escuelas. Llame al 617-466-4456 para solicitar una copia impresa o para que

le enviemos una copia por correo electrónico. Si tienen alguna pregunta, pónganse en contacto con la secretaria del Comité Escolar: [cpsschoolcommittee@chelseaschools.com](mailto:cpsschoolcommittee@chelseaschools.com) o 617-466-4456

La reunión se transmitirá en vivo para el público en: Chelsea Cable TV <https://www.facebook.com/ChelseaPublicSchools/>

LEGAL NOTICE

**CITY OF CHELSEA INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
IFB 2026-337  
HVAC Services - Chelsea Public Schools  
The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Bids for marked "HVAC Services - Chelsea Public Schools". Invitation for Bids will be available on or after March 05, 2026 by visiting the City's website at [https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current\\_bids\\_solicitations.php](https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php). Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "HVAC Services - Chelsea Public Schools" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, City Hall, 500 Broadway Room 204, Chelsea, Massachusetts no later than 10:30AM on March 26, 2026. General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) - HVAC category and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime Update Statement. 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. This Invitation for Bids is in accordance with M.G.L. 149. Ledia Koco Chief Procurement Officer 2/26/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE

**CITY OF CHELSEA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
The Department of Public Works will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 17th, 2026 at 6:00pm at City Hall 3rd floor in the DPW Conference room. Proposed Work and Purpose: Petition of Eversource for the following petition: Eastern Avenue - Westerly side, approximately 165 feet north of Willoughby Street, relocate pole 10/27, approximately 15 feet south of existing location. Public comments will be accepted during the meeting. Written comments are accepted by email to [cfox@chelseama.gov](mailto:cfox@chelseama.gov) until 12:00pm on 3/17/26. The public is invited to attend. Cate Fox Lent Commissioner 2/26/26. 3/5/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE

**CITY OF CHELSEA INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
IFB 2026-346  
55 HEARD STREET BASEMENT SLAB REPLACEMENT  
The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Bids for: "55 HEARD STREET BASEMENT SLAB REPLACEMENT". Invitation for Bids will be available on or after February 26, 2026 by visiting the City's website at [https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current\\_bids\\_solicitations.php](https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php). Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "55 HEARD STREET BASEMENT SLAB REPLACEMENT" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, City Hall, 500 Broadway Room 204, Chelsea, Massachusetts.  
• A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 55 Heard St. Chelsea, MA 02150 on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026 at 10:00 AM. BIDS will be received no later than 11:00 AM on Thursday, March 12, 2026 and publicly opened. 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 149. Ledia Koco Chief Procurement Officer 2/26/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE

**CITY OF CHELSEA INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
IFB 2026-347  
VOKE TOT LOT CDBG IMPROVEMENTS  
The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking sealed bids for all material for "Voke Tot Lot CDBG Improvements". Invitation for Bids will be available on or after February 26, 2026 by visiting the City's website at [https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current\\_bids\\_solicitations.php](https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php). Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "Voke Tot Lot CDBG Improvements". Invitation for Bids will be available on or after February 26, 2026 by visiting the City's website at [https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current\\_bids\\_solicitations.php](https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php). Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "Voke Tot Lot CDBG Improvements" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 11:30AM on Thursday, March 12, 2026. A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will take place on March 3, 2026 at 2:00 PM via Zoom. Topic: Voke Park Tot Lot pre-bid Time: Mar 3, 2026 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82255987929?pwd=z0fzT5E-L1yHkK3o6q8kFEAFDh80A.1> 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. This Invitation for Bids is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30, 39M. Ledia Koco Chief Procurement Officer 2/26/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE

**CITY OF CHELSEA INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
IFB 2026-335  
Interior renovation of the library space at the Mary C. Burke Elementary Complex  
The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Bids for: "Interior renovation of the library space at the Mary C. Burke Elementary Complex". Invitation for Bids will be available on or after February 26, 2026 by visiting the City's website at [https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current\\_bids\\_solicitations.php](https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php). Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "Interior renovation of the library space at the Mary C. Burke Elementary Complex" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 11:30AM on Thursday, March 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. This Invitation for Bids is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 149. Ledia Koco Chief Procurement Officer 2/26/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Chapter 90 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and pursuant to Section 6-3 of the Charter of the City of Chelsea that a Public Hearing of the Chelsea Traffic and Parking Commission will be held on: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. City Council Chambers 500 Broadway Pursuant to Section 6-3 of the Charter of the City of Chelsea, the purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments regarding the review of existing parking conditions along Crescent Avenue, from Louis to Carroll Street, and a proposal to remove on-street parking along the southeast side. Copies and filings may be viewed at the City Clerk's Office. Per Order Chief Keith E. Houghton Chairperson 2/12/26, 2/26/26 C

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

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# Massachusetts House passes bills regulating AI use in elections

Special to the Record

The Massachusetts House of Representatives passed bills regulating the use of artificial intelligence in political advertisements. The bills would require the disclosure of AI use in political advertisements and would ban deceptive communications about a candidate or about the electoral process within three months of an election.

“As artificial intelligence continues to reshape our economy and many aspects of our daily lives, lawmakers have a responsibility to ensure that AI does not further the spread of mis-

information in our politics. That’s why these bills are so important, as they mandate that campaigns disclose the use of AI in any political advertisements, and they ban the use of AI in campaign ads 90 days before an election,” said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). “I want to thank my colleagues in the House for their work on this legislation, and for recognizing the importance of the safeguards that these bills put in place.”

“If you watched the Super Bowl, you saw how widespread artificial intelligence has become. AI is no longer theoretical - it

is in our everyday lives,” said Representative Daniel Hunt (D-Dorchester), House Chair of the Committee on Election Laws. “At the same time, the conversation around election security, which has been front and center for the last several years, feels more turbulent and under siege. Voters deserve to know that what they’re seeing is real. That’s why the Legislature continues to strengthen our election infrastructure, and why we’re focused today on setting clear standards for the use of AI in election materials, so we can guard against deceptive or misleading content.”

“The use of AI-generated deepfakes for the purposes of manipulating voters and disrupting elections is an attack on democracy,” said Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier, House Chair on the Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity. “As technology advances at a rapid pace, voters should not have to wade through maliciously altered or AI-generated content to get the facts about an election. The House is taking reasonable and timely steps to mitigate any possible negative outcomes and preserve election integrity.”

“As we approach another election season, we cannot ignore the reality of artificial intelligence being weaponized to spread misinformation at an unprecedented scale,” said Representative Jessica Ann Giannino (D-Revere). “Deepfakes and synthetic media pose a direct threat to voter trust and to the integrity of our democratic process. These bills send a clear message: in Massachusetts, we will not allow deception to undermine our elections. Voters deserve to know that what they are seeing and hearing is real. I am grateful to Speaker Mariano, Chairman Hunt,

Chair Farley-Bouvier, and our colleagues for their leadership in advancing these critical protections to safeguard our democracy.”

“Integrity in our elections is essential to our democracy. These pieces of legislation require that the public be notified when AI is used in a political campaign and prohibits the unlawful use of AI to create fake ads. I am pleased to support both of these bills,” said State Representative Jeffrey Rosario Turco (D. Winthrop).

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## BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

**CHELSEA TRAILBLAZERS RECOGNITION**

**DATE**  
Thursday, February 26th, 2026  
5:00 – 8:00PM

**ADDRESS**  
Williams School  
180 Walnut Steet, Chelsea, MA

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
Rev. Art J. Gordon  
Director of Community Engagement for the Office of Governor Maura T. Healey  
Pastor of People's Baptist Church of Boston.

**SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMANCE**  
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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

# City Councilor Calvin T. Brown pays tribute to the late Rev. Jesse Jackson

By Cary Shuman

Chelsea City Councilor Calvin T. Brown participated in a memorial tribute to the Rev. Jesse Jackson Feb. 22 at the Grace Church of All Nations in Dorchester.

The Rev. Jackson, who became one of the most influential African-American activists in the history of the United States and twice ran for president in 1984 and 1988, died on Feb. 17, 2026. He was 84.

The Rev. Jackson was a superb orator who concluded his exhilarating speech at the 1988 Democratic Convention with his famous phrase, "Keep hope alive!" The Rev.

Jackson had a unique way of inserting clever, rhyming phrases, alliterative terms, and uplifting messages in his powerful speeches such as "If my mind can conceive it, and my heart can believe it, I know I can achieve it," and "It is time to turn to each other, not on each other."

Brown said he met and spoke to the Rev. Jesse Jackson on several occasions. "I have always been impressed with him as a pioneer of the civil rights movement and history with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and so many others. I am personally saddened by the news, and I know many in the world

share the same sorrow for our fallen hero," said Brown. Brown said he was present at the Rev. Jackson's last speaking engagement in Massachusetts.

"It was a blessing to have been invited to Grace Church of All Nations to hear Rev. Jesse Jackson last preaching engagement in Massachusetts," said Brown.

Brown said he was also "honored" to have been invited to speak in a video tribute to the Rev. Jackson that was shown at Sunday's service.

In that video, Brown said, "I think Jesse Jackson will be remembered as someone

who really, truly cared about the American fabric. Jesse Jackson ran for president two times. He was a vulnerable person back then because people thought he was militant, but he wasn't really militant. Jesse Jackson was a solid person that Black people and people of color truly got behind and wanted to really support his candidacy. But at that time, the time was not right. However, because of his run for the presidency, he opened up doors for other people of color for national office, United States Senate, and as we know, Barack Obama for president of the United States."



Chelsea City Councilor Calvin T. Brown is pictured with the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a civil rights icon and a superb orator who electrified audiences with his inspiring speeches.

# Chelsea Black Community and Clark Ave Productions hosts Verb, Flow & Vision

Special to the Record

For the second year in a row the Chelsea Black Community and Clark Ave Productions joined together to produce a special Verb, Flow & Vision event for Black History Month.

On Saturday, February 21st over fifty people, including City Manager Fidel Maltez, City Councilors Kelly Garcia, Deron Hines and Lisa Santagate and school committee members Kati Cabral and Dr. Sarah Neville gathered at Spencer Lofts Gallery. Joan Cromwell, President of the Chelsea Black Community, welcomed everyone to the event sharing inspiring words about the Black community's legacy in Chelsea. She also spoke about the Black Heritage Trail that the CBC is currently developing which will be the first history

trail of its kind in Chelsea.

The Chelsea Black Community is a non-profit organization dedicated to transforming the economic, social, educational, health, and safety landscapes for all members of the Greater Boston area. By fostering inclusive initiatives and building strategic partnerships, CBC works tirelessly to create a vibrant, equitable, and thriving community. Clark Ave Productions is a Chelsea based creative production company, founded by Devra Sari Zobot, focused on curating cultural events and producing documentary and branded style video content.

Verb, Flow & Vision is bi-monthly Spoken Word & Art event that includes Open Mic performers, visual artists and feature Spoken Word performers. The goal of the event is to build communi-

ty through creativity. Verb, Flow & Vision's (IG: @verbflowvision) new home is Spencer Lofts Gallery.

On February 21st we were thrilled to have the Spoken Word team TRULY Bad perform publicly for the very first time. TRULY Bad includes outstanding spoken word artists Tru KWENE, D. Ruff, Anita D. and Bryanna Boyd. We also featured select photos from the People of Chelsea with the Chelsea Black Community exhibition and welcomed ten open mic poets. Our evening's host was Essmaa Litim, who has been hosting the Verb, Flow & Vision events since 2025.

For information about the Chelsea Black Community please email visit <https://www.chelseablackcommunity.com>. To contact Clark Ave Productions email [info@chelseacitystudio.com](mailto:info@chelseacitystudio.com).



CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

CBC President Joan Cromwell, the evening's host, Essmaa Litim, Devra Sari Zobot of Clark Ave Productions, and City Manager Fidel Maltez, welcome to Chelsea the program's poets and spoken word performers Tru KWENE (far left), D. Ruff (second from left) Brynna Boyd (third from right) and Anita D (second from right).



Toby Zobot (right), pictured with her daughters, former city councilor Naomi Zobot and Clark Ave Productions Creative Director Devra Sari Zobot.



CBC President Joan Cromwell, pictured with her husband, Kenneth Umemba, and their daughter, Jayde Umemba.



The evening's host, Essmaa Litim, Clark Ave Productions Creative Director Devra Sari Zobot, School Committeewoman Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Neville, Councilor-at-Large Kelly Garcia, CBC President Joan Cromwell, and City Manager Fidel Maltez.



Karen Samedi and Devra Sari Zobot.



School Committee At-Large Katherine Cabral enjoys the Verb, Flow & Vision event Saturday night at Spencer Lofts Gallery.



The evening's host, Essmaa Litim, delivers her opening remarks.



City Councilor Deron Hines, Naomi Zobot, Devra Sari Zobot, and City Manager Fidel Maltez.

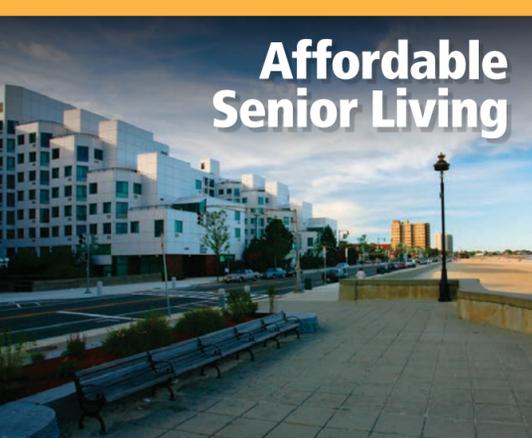


Devra Zobot welcomes esteemed engineer Kenneth Umemba to the event Saturday at Spencer Lofts Gallery.



Front row are Devra Sari Zobot of Clark Ave Productions and Marcy Harrison Back row, from left, are former city councilor Damali Vidot, Maureen Lee, Larry Elgart, CAPIC Executive Director Richelle Cromwell, CBC President Joan Cromwell, and Norma Mojica.

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