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VOLUME 135, NO. 51

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

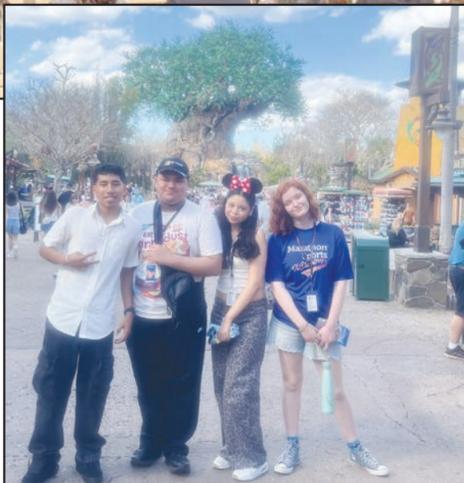
35 CENTS



One of the songs Jazz Band performed was the theme music from Disney's "The Incredibles." See Page 12 for more photos.

CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND AND CANTARE PERFORM AT DISNEY WORLD

During the month of March, students and educators from the Chelsea High School Jazz Band and Cantare traveled to Walt Disney World, where they performed at the Disney Springs AdventHealth Waterside Stage. The five-day trip created memories that will last a lifetime for the students and educators who participated.



Chelsea students enjoyed the day at Animal Kingdom, taking a group photo with the famous Tree of Life in the background.

Council takes up zoning overlay district

By Adam Swift

A proposed zoning amendment to create a new zoning overlay district called the West Chelsea Mixed-Use Overlay District was moved forward to the planning board for a recommendation at last week's city council meeting.

However, there were some questions raised about the name of the new overlay district by several councilors as well as members of the Chelsea Black Community during the public speaking portion of last week's council meeting.

"This overlay district will cover roughly the area bounded by the Chelsea-Everett border, Second Street, and the Route 1 Memorial

Highway," stated City Manager Fidel Maltez. "This amendment presents an exciting opportunity to unlock the potential of this area and transform it into a vibrant, walkable, mixed-use destination for current and future residents."

Maltez said that as the city concludes its master planning effort, a central finding is the need for new growth, both to increase tax revenue and address local and regional housing needs.

"Strategic growth is essential to strengthening the City's fiscal position in an uncertain economic climate while responding to our pressing housing needs,"

See ZONING Page 4

Council discusses cost of Bluebike rental program

By Adam Swift

Several city councilors would like more information about the financial commitment to the Bluebikes program in Chelsea.

At last week's council meeting, City Manager Fidel Maltez provided information about the regional Bluebikes program, which allows the rental of the bikes to travel between a number of neighboring communities, including Revere, Everett, Malden, Boston, Somerville, Cambridge, Brookline, Salem, and Arlington. Maltez said the system's portal allows for the sharing of information including trips generated and where they originated.

"Over the five-year pe-

riod from March 2021 through February 2026, Chelsea residents made 20,172 trips from five Bluebikes stations across the city," Maltez stated. "That number has grown substantially over time, and ridership more than doubled in 2024, reaching 6,160 trips, and remained strong in 2025 at 5,444 trips. The highest usage is in the station next to the Commuter Rail, which is across Market Basket on Everett Avenue."

The highest usage is in the station next to the Commuter Rail, which is across Market Basket on Everett Avenue. While the usage is distributed across the full network, the computer

See BLUEBIKE Page 2

School budget hearing rescheduled due to heavy turnout

By Adam Swift

The city hall chambers were filled beyond capacity for a school committee public hearing on the school budget last Thursday, March 12.

Students, staff, and teachers crowded into every available space of the room while school committee members tried to determine the best way to proceed with the meeting.

Eventually, police and

fire officials stated that the room was past capacity and creating a fire hazard, and the school committee canceled the meeting.

During the meeting, there was some back and forth between the audience and the school committee members over the next steps for the meeting, with some suggesting it be moved to a larger location that night.

However, due to the open meeting law and posting requirements, school commit-

tee members said the meeting could not be moved that night.

The meeting was rescheduled and was set to take place on Tuesday evening, March 17 at Chelsea High School to accommodate the large crowd and give the opportunity for all those who wish to speak to be heard, according to School Committee Chair Ana Hernandez.

"We want to ensure the safety of every single person

in this room," said committee member Kati Cabral. "I want to ensure that folks are heard; that is not up for discussion. We want to make sure that folks are heard, but right now we want to ensure the safety of every single person in this room."

Hernandez said she has been involved with the schools and the school committee for 17 years and had never seen that amount of

See SCHOOL BUDGET Page 2

Renovations underway at Polonia Park

New play structures, dog park, and more coming soon

Special to the Record

The City of Chelsea today announced that construction to renovate Polonia Park began this week and will be closed until further notice. The renovation, which was guided by a robust public engagement process, includes the construction of two new playground structures—one for children aged 2-5 and another for children aged 5-12—as well as a fenced-in dog park, splash pad, shaded picnic area, and additional green space.

This project is funded by a \$500,000 PARC grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and \$200,000 from Chelsea's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) and is part of the annual park proj-

ect overseen by the Department of Housing & Community Development.

During the renovation, community members are encouraged to enjoy Chelsea's other parks. Chelsea boasts 17 parks with playgrounds, which range from neighborhood "tot lots" to larger playgrounds that include jungle gyms, rock climbing structures, and swings. These playgrounds are primarily geared toward children ages 2-12 and their hours of operation are from dawn until dusk.

Chelsea parks with playgrounds include: Bellingham Hill Park, Bosson Playground, Box District Park, Carter Park, Creekside Common Park, Eden Street Park, John Ruiz Park, Judie Dyer Park, Kayem Park, Mace Tot Lot, Mary C. Burke Park, Mary O'Malley Park (DCR), O'Neil Park, Paul A. Dever, Polonia Park, Port Park, Quigley Park, Voke Park, and Washington Park.

Polonia Park is located at 37 Tremont Street be-



Artist rendering of the Polonia Park renovations.

tween Medford and Beacon Streets. It serves as a community hub for local residents and features green space and recreational areas.

With questions about the renovation project, please contact Sara Han, Planner/Project Manager for the Department of

Housing and Community Development. Han can be reached at shan@chelseama.gov or 617-466-4183 during City Hall operating hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Chelsea launches new website for applying for permits and licenses

Special to the Record

The City of Chelsea has announced it has a new website for submitting permit and license applications with its Public Works and Licensing Departments. The online portal, called "Citizenserve," is now active at www.chelseama.gov/online-services and replaces the City's former permitting software for these departments, ClearForms.

Because this is a completely new portal, everyone must create a new account prior to submitting any applications. Instructions for each application will be available to users once an account is created.

Citizenserve gives both the City and its residents the ability to keep track of licenses, permits, and code enforcement activity. Among the special features available to residents is the ability to monitor their permits and licenses with 24/7 access to comments, doc-

uments, and other project updates.

"Through this new software, Chelsea residents and people who do business in Chelsea will be able to track their application and react in real time to any needs identified by the City in pursuit of their permit," said Cheryl Fisher, City Solicitor.

The Licensing and Public Works Departments are the only departments that will use Citizenserve as their application and permitting software.

Applications filed on or before March 12, 2026, using the ClearForms software will be reviewed in that system. ClearForms will be fully shut down beginning June 30, 2026. The City of Chelsea encourages residents to bookmark www.chelseama.gov/online-services.

If there are any questions about the software or if you are experiencing issues, please contact the Chelsea Licensing Department at 617-466-4150.



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

FROM THE PHOTO ARCHIVES OF ARNOLD JARMAK



This classic Arnie Jarmak photo was taken at the scene of a five-alarm blaze at 150 Marginal St. that engulfed two buildings on October 25, 1982.

Six Massachusetts community colleges launch new apprenticeship degree

Special to the Record

Six Massachusetts community colleges, including Bunker Hill Community College, are partnering with employers across the state to launch new apprenticeship degree programs that combine paid, on-the-job training with academic coursework—connecting students to high-growth careers while helping employers close critical talent gaps.

The Chelsea Public Schools are also taking part in the program as one of over 30 employer partners taking part in the program.

“Apprenticeships allow us to grow our own talent pipeline while giving paraprofessionals already on our team meaningful opportunities to advance,” said Chelsea Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta. “With the time and cost of traditional degree pathways, this model makes licensure and career growth more accessible for everyone.”

The apprenticeship degree model is new in Massachusetts but gain-

ing momentum nationwide. Apprenticeship degrees take a long-proven workforce development approach, common in careers such as plumbing and electrical trades, and apply it to new occupations where there is significant and long-standing need for talent with post-secondary credentials. With this model, the learning takes place in both the classroom and at the workplace, and students earn both wages and credit while in the program. These programs open doors to high-demand careers for students who may need to work while they learn, while providing employers with a reliable, local pipeline of skilled talent.

The initiative is supported by over \$6 million in grants from the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation and Accelerate the Future, which have partnered to accelerate innovation and workforce alignment across higher education.

Six colleges each received multi-year grants

to launch apprenticeship degrees. Four colleges—Bunker Hill Community College, Quinsigamond Community College, Mass-Bay Community College, and Middlesex Community College—have already enrolled students in apprenticeship degree programs. North Shore Community College and Northern Essex Community College will launch programs in fall 2026. The Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges also received a grant to hire a statewide apprenticeship project manager to oversee the development, registration, and scaling of registered apprenticeships across Massachusetts’ 15 community colleges.

Apprentices are currently training for careers as licensed practical nurses, medical assistants, behavioral health technicians, and K-12 educators. Additional programs are coming online in early education, cybersecurity, surgical technology, social work, medical lab-

CITY OF CHELSEA VETERANS SERVICES DIVISION INVITES VIETNAM VETERANS TO SPECIAL LUNCHEON

Chelsea’s Vietnam Veterans are invited to a special luncheon on Monday, March 30, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Chelsea Senior Center located at 10 Riley Way in honor of National Vietnam Veterans Day.

The luncheon will be hosted by Chelsea’s Veterans Services Division, which is part of the City’s Health & Human Services Department. During the

event, Veterans Services Agent Francisco Toro and Assistant Veterans Agent Juan Morales will provide guests with a complimentary lunch and conversation about vital services, programs and resources available to the veterans community.

To reach Chelsea’s Veterans Services Division, call 617-466-4250, or visit the team in person at their office located on the first floor of Chelsea City Hall, Room 100, 500 Broadway.

About Chelsea’s Veterans Services Division

Chelsea’s Veterans Services Division provides assistance in obtaining bene-

fits from federal, state, and local programs for veterans and their dependents, as well as aids them by providing financial assistance for ordinary living expenses and medical needs. The Division also helps veterans with counseling, medical, employment and other services. On the average, we have an active caseload of about 35 recipients, whose services are about evenly divided between medical services and general support services. Additionally, the Veterans Administrator works closely with the Soldier’s Home to provide housing for Veterans in need of shelter.

Bluebike // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rail station and the Chelsea Square station account for about 55 percent of all rides.

“We have noticed interesting patterns in the system,” Maltez stated. “June through September accounts for roughly 45% of annual ridership, with August as the peak month. The system is active across all seven days of the week, with Fridays seeing the highest volume.”

The single busiest day on record was June 8, 2024, with 51 trips across the network.

“Chelsea has one of the highest rates of car-free households in Massachusetts,” Maltez stated. “For many residents, BlueBikes are an important tool. Bluebikes provides a benefit on how residents and visitors can get to work, to transit, and around the city.”

Maltez said every trip taken is a rideshare not purchased, a car trip not made, or a transit connection that would otherwise require a long walk.

District 6 Councilor Giovanni Recupero said he believes that the Bluebikes program does provide a service in the city, but that he was not convinced of the accuracy of the data.

District 1 Councilor Todd Taylor said he appreciated the information on the program provided by Maltez, but that it failed to address some of the concerns raised during a previous subcom-

mittee meeting about actual numbers.

“You can say that there were so many trips generated, that’s not the issue,” said Taylor. “The issue is how many Bluebikes do we have, how many Bluebikes are actually being used, and why on earth would we want to spend more money on getting more Bluebikes if the ones we are using aren’t being used to capacity?”

Taylor said the city needs to address budget issues during a tight financial year, especially as the school department is facing potential cuts.

“I myself am worried about the schools having enough money and I think that is one of the top priorities in Chelsea and among Chelsea voters who have said to me that the school is one of the top priorities right after public safety,” said Taylor. “I would appreciate it if the city would actually dig down and get some real data for us so we can decide whether it is worth the money to spend.”

District 8 Councilor Calvin T. Brown said he has seen that the bikes are used and that there is a need for Chelsea residents.

“If we need to have a subcommittee to find out exactly how much we should spend and how much we shouldn’t spend, that should be the conversation, but I do think that these bikes are being used,” said Brown.

City manager provides info on snow melter purchase

By Adam Swift

Between Chelsea’s narrow streets and the stormiest winter in almost a decade, the issue of how to dispose of snow was at the forefront of many people’s minds this year.

Earlier this year, the city council submitted an order asking City Manager Fidel Maltez to look into the possibility of Chelsea purchasing a snow melter to more efficiently clear city streets

after snowstorms.

A 150 ton per hour snow melter would cost about \$900,000, and it would take the city about nine months of lead time to purchase the heavy machinery from Canada, according to Maltez.

“Aside from purchasing the unit, Public Works would have to continue getting crews to load the snow into the melter,” stated Maltez. “We would likely set up the melter in a central location on a large street with a

large sewer pipe, such as the City yard, a park or a school parking lot. We estimate that the crew would cost \$25,000 per night, per crew, for loaders/skids and dump trucks to take snow to the melter. In addition, we will spend about \$3,000 per unit on fuel.”

Maltez said that if the council wants to pursue the purchase, he could get more details and add the item to the city’s capital improvement plan figure.

“This will be very greatly appreciated by the people of Chelsea,” said District 6 Councilor Giovanni Recupero. “They know what we are going through with the snow that was here. This will help us tremendously, and I don’t see (any) issues with us getting one, it should be very appreciated by the people, and thank you once again to the city manager for getting us all the information that we need.”

School Budget // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

people turn out for public comment for a budget hearing, even when there were bigger cuts proposed.

“I assumed there would be a lot of people, but not that,” said Hernandez. “Having a quick response to everything that is said, we are not working against you, I know you want to believe we are, but we are not.”

At issue is the district facing a potential \$8.6 million budget shortfall leading to the possible loss of dozens of positions.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta said that the position cuts currently on the table total \$6,850,000 for school-based staff and \$1,762,000 for district-based staff. Increases in staff salary and step raises, health insurance costs, and transportation have all contributed to the budget shortfall, she said.

Abeyta noted that the district position salaries and benefits account for a much

lower slice of the overall budget pie at about 4 percent of the total cost, compared to 73 percent for the school-based position, adding that as the district began to face a budget shortfall last year, there was a total of \$1.3 million cut in district positions.

Abeyta recently sent a letter to staff, families, and community members addressing the difficult budget process this year.

“As conversations continue in our community about the proposed school budget and the potential reduction in positions, I know many people are paying close attention and sharing their perspectives,” Abeyta wrote. “These discussions reflect how deeply people care about our schools and the people who work in them. I want to acknowledge that this is an incredibly difficult moment, especially for the educators and staff whose positions may

be affected. I also want to share some context about the financial realities we are facing.”

Over the last several years, Abeyta stated that student enrollment in the district has steadily declined.

“This is not unique to our community,” she stated. “Across Massachusetts and the country, districts are seeing fewer school-age children. Because school funding is closely tied to enrollment, fewer students also means fewer dollars coming into the district.”

Abeyta said that at the same time, the cost of operating the schools continues to rise. When enrollment declines while costs continue to grow, Abeyta said the district is left with a gap that cannot be ignored.

“None of this makes the impact easier,” Abeyta stated. “The possibility of reducing our number of employees is incredibly dif-

icult. I want to personally express my deep appreciation for the educators and staff who serve our students every day.”

She said their dedication, professionalism, and care for students has significantly and positively impacted students and community. Abeyta added that the district will work diligently to reassign affected staff to open positions whenever possible to support them during the transition.

“My responsibility as superintendent is to care for our people and our students while also ensuring the long-term financial health of our school system,” Abeyta wrote. “That means being honest about the financial realities we are facing and working with the School Committee, city leaders, and union to make sure our district remains financially sustainable in the years ahead.”

TEMPLE EMMANUEL OF CHELSEA CELEBRATES PURIM

Purim is a festive holiday celebrated in March that marks the salvation of the Jewish people from genocide plot in ancient Persia. It's a celebration in a carnival effect, with costumes, the sending of gifts of food, and an offering of charity.

Last week at the Chelsea Temple Emmanuel, Rabbi Oksana Chapman and the members of the congregation celebrated Purim with a wonderful meal, shared with family and friends. Rabbi Chapman offered prayer with members of the congregation participating in the ceremonies. The event was topped off with a delicious Chinese Food dinner with members of the congregation.



Rabbi Oksana Chapman welcomes everyone to the Purim celebration at Temple Emmanuel.



Carole Turransky offers prayer and breaking of the Mish-loach Manot, shared with all in attendance.



Murry and Dotty Novak look over the menu before dinner.



Stephen Vider offers a prayer and a wine toast.



Seated: Marsha and Herman Weiss and Danny Gerrich. Standing Ken Wacks, Rabbi Oksana Chapman, Cynthia and Barry Stig.



Seated: Stephen Vider, Murray and Dotty Novak, Cindy Millman, Edythe Shuman, Ronda Winer, and Ellen Goldstick. Back row, Karim Kurdu and Sue Huberman.



Seated: Rena George, Janice Doherty, Carole and Ralph Turransky, Ed White, Michael Callahan. Standing: Howie Soruin, Ken Wacks, and President of the Temple Sara Lee Callahan.

Fire department responds to falling bricks on Washington Avenue

Special to the Record

The Chelsea Fire Department responded to reports of dangerous conditions at 124 Washington Ave. on Monday, March 9 at 8:15 p.m. The initial call was a report of bricks falling from the building and a pedestrian possibly injured. Upon arrival, firefighters found that a section of the brick exterior wall over the second-floor window had collapsed onto the sidewalk below. They checked the area and did not locate anyone who was injured.

This building has been vacant since the 2-alarm fire that occurred there in January, which caused extensive damage to the second and third floors of the structure. The area around the building was immediately cordoned off, and Inspectional Services responded to inspect the damage. The remaining section of wall on the Washington Ave side of the property was determined to be unstable, and a collapse zone was established out of an abundance of caution and will remain

in effect until the structure can be stabilized and safely secured.

At this time, the collapse zone remains in place, and the sidewalk and a section of Washington Ave between Addison Street and Orange Street are currently closed. The property owner has been notified and will be required to have the structure shored and stabilized by a qualified contractor.

The Fire Department remained on scene until the stabilization work was completed.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PAYS TRIBUTE TO FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DONALD M. HARNEY



CARY SHUMAN PHOTO

The Chelsea Chamber of Commerce paid tribute to its former executive director, the late Donald M. Harney, at the Installation of Officers Dinner March 12 at Chelsea Station. In the photo above, Executive Director Jennifer Hassell is pictured with Mr. Harney's proud sons, Don Harney (left) and Ken Harney (right), at the event. Mr. Harney's son, Scott Harney, and daughter, Cynthia Harney Becker, were unable to attend the dinner. More photos from the installation will appear in the next edition of the Chelsea Record.

Join us for a luncheon

HONORING OUR VIETNAM VETERANS

This National Vietnam Veterans Day

Monday, March 30, 2026
1-3 PM
Chelsea Senior Center
10 Riley Way, Chelsea



Your host, Francisco Toro, Chelsea's Veterans Services Agent, invites you to join us for a special luncheon in honor of National Vietnam Veterans Day. Come together to discuss vital emergency services and outreach available to our veterans community.



Visit Us
City of Chelsea Veterans Services
Chelsea City Hall, Room 100
500 Broadway, Chelsea, MA

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Chelsea

R E C O R D

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

Forum

MASS. SHOULD END SNAP FOR JUNK FOOD

First and foremost, we wish to express our abhorrence that federal SNAP benefits (formerly known as the Food Stamp program) have been eliminated for more than two million Americans thanks to the budget that Congress enacted last year.

America is the richest nation in the history of the earth, yet millions of our fellow citizens suffer from food insecurity on a daily basis, a state of affairs that is nothing less than shameful.

However, we think one aspect of the SNAP program everyone can agree upon is that SNAP benefits should not be used for the purchase of junk food items.

For decades, the junk food industry successfully lobbied federal officials to allow SNAP recipients to use their benefits to buy items such as soft drinks, candy, and other sugar-filled, ultra-processed foods, which are “food” only to the extent that they can be consumed.

Not only do these junk foods lack any nutritional value, but they also are incredibly harmful to human health.

It is estimated that 40 percent of all Americans meet the definition of obesity and another 30 percent are overweight. Thanks to our appetite for sugar-filled junk food products, diabetes has reached epidemic proportions throughout our society.

Even worse, these products are highly-addictive. The food industry’s scientists have designed their formulas both to stimulate the pleasure receptors in the brain and to send signals from the stomach to the brain indicating a lack of satiety.

In other words, almost no matter how much junk food you eat, your stomach never tells your brain that it is “full.”

We ourselves know the addictive nature of these products. Our mother’s grocery list always included packaged cupcakes and similar products in boxes of 12 -- and we (four boys) would attack them like locusts.

As young adults ourselves, our shopping list at the wholesale clubs for our young families included bulk cartons of candy bars. (They were “for the kids,” wink, wink).

When we lost power during Hurricane Irene in 2011, we had to throw out a bunch of food from our downstairs freezer -- which included (no exaggeration) 43 pints of premium ice cream.

In short, we ourselves were lifelong junk-food junkies. And the cumulative result of our decades of a poor diet? A triple by-pass because of clogged arteries. Even though we ran marathons and triathlons for our entire lives, we learned first-hand that you can’t outrun an unhealthy diet.

It is ironic that the “N” in SNAP stands for “Nutrition” (the full acronym is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) when almost 25 percent of SNAP benefits reportedly are used to purchase sugary drinks, candy, and snack products. Soda is the top item bought with SNAP benefits.

Studies have shown that reducing consumption of junk food for just three weeks can reset both our palates and our mind-body connection to make healthier foods more appealing.

For too long the federal government has been subsidizing the purchase of foods that are a major contributor to chronic diseases.

We urge Massachusetts officials to take immediate advantage of a new regulation by the federal government that allows states to eliminate the use of SNAP benefits -- of which about 40% are used for children -- for the purchase of junk food products.

These addictive and unhealthy foods have no place in the diets of any American, especially our children.

MORE THAN 3,100 PEOPLE STAYED AT CHELSEA’S WARMING CENTER THIS SEASON

To the Editor:

For those who don’t know me, my name is Nina and I write The Chelsea Scoop, a blog about what is discussed during Chelsea’s City Council and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings. Today, though, I am sharing an important update regarding our community’s effort to keep a vulnerable population safe.

This past January, the City of Chelsea, in a regional partnership with



Nina Lee, a Chelsea teenager, concerned about the impact and importance of Chelsea’s warming center.

Revere officially opened its first-ever regional emergency warming center to provide overnight shelter for adults who are experiencing homelessness. The

center, located at the SE-LAH Day Resource Center (Luz de Cristo Church at 738 Broadway), has been open every night since then from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. seven nights a week, offering a hot meal and a safe place to rest for those in need.

In just two and a half months, the center has served about 3,120 people. Although winter is coming to a close, I am asking the Chelsea community to help raise awareness of this critical safety net. In the future, if you see someone struggling with homelessness and in need of a safe refuge from the extreme conditions of the winter weather, please

let them know that a warm environment is available on Broadway. People in need of shelter may not be on social media, or checking the city’s websites. Sometimes, the only way news reaches a neighbor in need is through conversation.

For more details about the warming center, or to learn about more resources like this, call Chelsea’s Director of Health & Human Services, Tracy Nowicki, at 781-484-6402. Let’s make sure everyone in Chelsea stays safe and cared for during the rest of the season and our future cold seasons.

Sincerely,

Nina Lee

Zoning // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Maltez stated. “The Master Plan specifically identifies ‘West Chelsea’ as an area well suited for transformation due to the underutilization of existing parcels and the area’s access to transit. This effort builds upon prior planning initiatives, such as the West Chelsea Economic Development Study and Urban Renewal Plan, which collectively articulate a long-standing vision for transit-oriented development, multi-family housing, and expanded employment opportunities.”

To advance the vision, Maltez stated that the proposed ordinance establishes a flexible and predictable framework for dense mixed-use development. It also emphasizes an urban form that supports an engaging pedestrian experience, encourages active ground-floor uses, enhances walkability, and establishes a distinct sense of place for West Chelsea, he added. “A key component of this ordinance is establishing Everett Avenue (along with portions of Spruce Street and Arlington Street) as a ‘primary pedestrian street,’ intended to transform Everett Avenue into a strong, connective corridor linking Chelsea’s Commuter Rail station with the City Center,” Maltez stated.

All developments will be required to provide usable open space, with larger developments required to provide publicly accessible open space. An inclusionary zoning requirement will ensure a portion of housing units will be affordable, ac-

ording to Maltez.

“In recognition of the area’s transit access, the ordinance will eliminate minimum parking requirements and instead implement a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program,” he stated. “An additional site and design standards will require buildings to be oriented close to the sidewalk, incorporate transparent facades with frequent entrances, and utilize a varied building massing so that larger structures read as multiple buildings rather than a single monolithic form.”

During the public speaking portion of last week’s meeting, Stacey Smith of Grove Street raised questions about the overlay district being referred to as West Chelsea.

“Using the term West End Chelsea, I don’t really know where this comes from,” she said. “We are a two-mile city, and to my knowledge, for generations back in my own family, that was known as the ghetto, so to now call it back and to see these developments that are coming to our community, it is great that we are moving forward in a more positive way.”

But she said, she was afraid the city was forgetting about commitments to the area for development that were made generations ago before the fire of 1973, as well as the commitments to rebuild Black churches after the fire.

“I hope that you guys pay close attention to things like this and you are on the right

side of history when we continue to move forward and make changes, because some of us feel like we have been left behind and oppressed, and that’s not a good feeling, especially when you read things like this tonight,” Smith said.

District 8 Councilor Calvin T. Brown asked if Maltez could give some more background on the name of the overlay district.

“I think that this was a miscalculation on our part,” said Maltez of the naming of the overlay district. “We have been talking about a rezoning of the Mystic Mall, essentially for a long time, probably for about a year. We should have probably just called it that, the Mystic Mall.”

“We were trying to be creative and it was a well-intentioned idea of making a new area that sounded good and was going to be more easily marketed, if you will, but it was something that was made by our consultants without any deep analysis of the history of the area.”

Maltez said the city is not tied to the name for the overlay district.

“It really doesn’t matter what we call this area, and this is going to be a very technical document, it is not going to be used for any educational aspects at all,” said Maltez. “But we recognize that we were not as diligent as we could have

been.”

District 1 Councilor Todd Taylor noted that Maltez referred to the district as being identified in the master plan.

“Let’s make this clear, there is no master plan at the moment, we have not adopted a master plan,” said Taylor. “So while the planning committee, which I’m a part of, is going through these things and has identified certain things, this is still not an official document, we have not endorsed that plan, this is a little premature.”

Taylor said he didn’t have any personal objections to West Chelsea as a rebranding effort.

“I do, however, think it is always great to tap into the public and get their feedback on certain things, because there may be some sort of better idea that is tied to historical (ideas),” said Taylor.

District 4 Councilor Tanairi Garcia said there should be some integration of the history of the city into the district.

“I feel like having something related to Mystic will identify our people that have been here and have not been displaced because of high rising costs and will also be welcoming to those who are coming to Chelsea,” said Garcia. “Maybe we can have pictures and demonstrate the history of Chelsea, how it was before.”

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Chelsea Record is published every Thursday by the Revere -based Independent Newspaper Group. Periodical postage rates paid at Boston, MA. Subscription rates are \$40 per year in Chelsea, and \$80 per year outside the city.

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USPS NO. 101-680

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Healey highlights recent wave of business expansions bringing thousands of jobs to the state

Special to the Record

During her address to the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Forum last week, Governor Maura Healey will highlight a wave of recent business expansions and investments across Massachusetts that are bringing with them thousands of jobs and strengthening the state's leadership in innovation, advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence and life sciences.

Recent announcements from global firms and homegrown companies across multiple industries show continued momentum in Massachusetts' innovation economy, with businesses choosing to expand and invest in the state's talent, research institutions and collaborative business environment.

"Massachusetts is where companies come to build the future," said Governor Maura Healey. "We have the best talent in the world, unmatched research institutions and an innovation ecosystem that helps businesses grow and compete. Companies are choosing Massachusetts because they know this is the place to innovate, create jobs and lead the next generation of industries. But we know that residents

and businesses alike are facing headwinds driven by high costs and President Trump's policies, and that's why we're continuing to work every day to make Massachusetts more affordable and competitive."

"These announcements show that companies across industries continue to choose Massachusetts as the place to innovate, grow and create jobs," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We're proud to partner with businesses, universities and workers across our state to support economic growth and ensure Massachusetts remains a global leader in innovation – and we're going to keep doing everything we can to maintain this positioning."

"These announcements show the breadth of Massachusetts' economy, from innovative technology and life science companies to businesses that serve our communities every day," said Economic Development Secretary Eric Paley. "Companies from across the globe are investing here because of our world-class talent, our strong business environment, and the partnerships that help businesses grow. We're focused on making sure companies of all sizes can continue to ex-

pand and create jobs across the state."

Governor Healey will highlight this momentum during her remarks to the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, where she will discuss the state's economic competitiveness, investments in innovation and workforce development, and efforts to lower costs for residents and businesses.

While recognizing that the state faces headwinds, including high costs, Governor Healey will also highlight the many competitive strengths that Massachusetts has, starting with its world-class talent. Last year, Massachusetts students ranked number one among states on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) – often called the Nation's Report Card – and just recently, College Board announced that Massachusetts students earned the highest scores on Advanced Placement (AP) exams last year and broke the all-time record for the highest percentage of graduates who scored 3 or higher on an AP exam.

Data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis also shows that Massachusetts led the nation in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth on a percentage ba-

sis through the first three quarters of 2025, which is the most recent data available.

Several recent announcements represent significant new job growth in Massachusetts. Major global companies are also making substantial investments in advanced manufacturing and research in Massachusetts:

P&G Gillette recently announced plans to establish its Grooming Headquarters and Technical Innovation Center in South Boston, representing a \$1 billion investment. The facility will support 750 permanent jobs, while construction of the new campus is expected to generate hundreds of additional jobs for members of the building trades.

GE Aerospace announced a \$42 million investment in its Lynn facility to upgrade sites producing defense engines and components, strengthening the U.S. defense industrial base.

Global veterinary specialty care company Dechra will relocate its global headquarters from the United Kingdom to Boston.

Boston-based wearable technology company Whoop announced plans to add more than 600 new jobs, primarily in Boston,

as it continues to expand its operations and workforce.

Massachusetts-based grocery chain Big Y announced plans to open six new stores across the state, representing a \$50 million capital investment and creating approximately 750 full and part-time jobs.

The state continues to see strong growth in advanced manufacturing and life sciences as well:

VulcanForms, a metal additive manufacturing company founded at MIT, recently secured \$220 million in financing and plans to open a third factory in Devens, adding more than 100 new jobs.

Medical technology company TransMedics is expanding its presence at Assembly Innovation Park in Somerville, leasing nearly 500,000 square feet of lab space and acquiring additional land to support the company's continued growth.

Biotech company Stoke Therapeutics also recently signed a lease for 98,500 square feet in Waltham, where it will relocate and expand its headquarters later this year.

Alnylam Pharmaceuticals Inc., a leading RNAi therapeutics company, recently announced an expan-

sion of its state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Norton.

Massachusetts is also continuing to attract investment from companies developing the next generation of artificial intelligence technologies. Anthropic, Lovable and xAI have recently established a presence in Massachusetts and begun hiring locally, further strengthening the region's growing AI ecosystem.

Massachusetts companies are also receiving global recognition for their innovation. A record number of Boston-area firms were recently named to the LexisNexis Top 100 Global Innovators list, including Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Moderna, Flagship Pioneering, Orna Therapeutics and SharkNinja.

Together, these recent announcements represent thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in private investment, reinforcing Massachusetts' position as a global hub for innovation, advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies. Massachusetts continues to attract companies from around the country and the world that are looking to grow, innovate and access the state's highly skilled workforce.

Healey takes action to bring in 10 GW of new energy, save \$10 billion and promote energy independence

Special to the Record

Governor Maura Healey is setting strong new targets for bringing more energy into Massachusetts and lowering energy bills. The Executive Order she has signed outlines her all-of-the-above approach to energy supply and directs her administration to secure 10 new gigawatts (GW) of energy resources for Massachusetts by 2035, as well as 5 GW of new energy storage.

Governor Healey's directive requires agencies to pursue a range of energy resources and ensure adequate supplies in place to meet growing demand and lower bills. The Executive Order outlines directives for state agencies related to solar, storage, wind, load management, gas, nuclear, and geothermal, leading to an estimated savings of \$10 billion for Massachusetts residents and businesses. Governor Healey signed the

Executive Order at Lynch Elementary School in Winchester, which is powered entirely from roof-mounted and ground-mounted solar.

Governor Healey laid out her energy supply plan amidst a dramatic spike in oil and gas prices due to President Trump's costly war and his failed energy policies that have taken American sources of energy like wind and solar off the table.

"The American people are now paying the price as oil and gas bills go through the roof because of President Trump's costly war," said Governor Healey. "I believe in an all-of-the-above approach to energy – that means solar, wind, gas, nuclear and hydro. While the President is taking American-built energy sources off the table, in Massachusetts, we are saying yes to more supply from more sources of energy. We are saying yes to American jobs and American energy

independence. And we are saying yes to lowering energy bills for all."

"When we invest in Massachusetts energy, we invest in Massachusetts energy jobs," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "It's Massachusetts gas, solar, offshore wind and electric workers that are keeping our lights on, homes warm and businesses moving. For many, these are 24/7, 365-day jobs. We need to support our in-state energy supply and the workforce that makes it possible."

"Setting firm targets and laying out a clear energy supply strategy will provide certainty and stability as we work to lower energy bills," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "And by building more energy resources with a fixed price, we can give Massachusetts a competitive edge. We're going to work as a region to power our communities and ensure more affordable, re-

liable service."

More Energy for Massachusetts

ISO New England projects that electricity consumption could rise by nearly 15 percent by 2035 and 50 percent by 2045, with peak electricity demand in the winter growing even faster. This is true across the country, as demand for electricity climbs and the cost to update the aging American electrical grid rises.

The Executive Order establishes a target of 10 GW of new energy supply-side and demand-side resources over the next 10 years, as well as a separate target for 5 GW of energy storage. 10 GW is roughly the equivalent of enough power for 2 million households. The 10 GW target includes 4 GW of new in-state solar and 3.5 GW of new electric demand reduction to be achieved through load management strategies such as energy efficiency, virtual power

plants, and electric vehicle charging management. This builds on Massachusetts' successful strategy of demand management over the past 20 years, during which electricity demand has declined while the economy has grown, increasing our overall energy productivity. Because of these past investments, all customers are saving \$800 million every year – or on average, \$20 each month – due to utilities not needing to spend on transmission and distribution infrastructure or buy electricity for their customers.

How We Get There

Governor Healey is directing agencies to take a number of immediate steps to get more affordable energy built in the near future, including to:

Ramp up efforts to build more solar projects before President Trump ends federal support; Expand opportunities for

wind, nuclear power, and fusion energy;

Explore natural gas and other fuel storage and delivery strategies to ensure reliability, avoid unnecessary spending and charges, and reduce reliance on imported liquefied natural gas.

Lower the cost of geothermal for heating and cooling; and,

Allow for flexible interconnection to make better use of the energy grid we already have and get more energy connected faster and cheaper.

Governor Healey filed the Energy Affordability, Independence, and Innovation Act to lower energy bills and bring more supply into Massachusetts. The legislation includes a key provision that would give the state more flexibility in procuring a range of energy resources when costs are at their lowest, rather than on a rigid schedule that locks ratepayers into high costs.

Opening day at Fenway: Lansdowne Street bars kick off the season with live music and Red Sox Ticket Easter egg hunt

Opening Day at Fenway Park returns on Friday, April 3, and Lansdowne Street's most iconic venues are celebrating with a full day of live music, DJs, and pre- and post-game parties. Loretta's Last Call, Lansdowne Pub, Bill's Bar, Bleacher Bar, and Game On! will open early

to welcome fans heading to Fenway Park for the first home game of the season and one of Boston's most anticipated spring traditions.

To add to the excitement leading into Easter Weekend, the Lansdowne Street venues are launching a citywide Fenway Opening Weekend

Easter Egg Hunt. On Friday, April 3, Easter eggs will be hidden around Boston containing pairs of Red Sox tickets for the Sunday or Monday home games. Each egg will include instructions on how winners can claim their tickets via the MLB Ballpark App. Clues will be

posted through the venues' Instagram accounts with minimal hints about the egg locations. Fans are encouraged to follow along for clues: @gameonfenway | @lorettaslastcall | @bleacherbar | @lansdownepub

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CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR CHS BASEBALL GREAT CHARLIE MOORE

Family, friends, and classmates attended a Celebration of Life for Charles "Charlie" Moore Sunday, March 15 at the Lodge of Elks in Revere.

Several members of Charlie's graduating class,

the CHS Class of 1978, were present at the gathering. Teammates from Charlie's CHS football and baseball-playing days celebrated his life and their years of friendship.

Known for his incredible

baseball talents that earned him a tryout with the Boston Red Sox, Charlie was a bigger-than-life personality who brought much joy and happiness to all who had the honor of being in his company.

On behalf of the family, Cindy Moore, Charlie's wife, would like to thank the many people who attended the beautiful observance of Charlie's life.

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS



Penny Gullage Sordello and Maryellen Yianacopolus.



Nicholas Marino and Minna Karas-Marino.



Frankie Mullins and Lisa Forman Mullins.



Charlie's friends from Clinton Court, Keith Yianacopolus, Mike Lush, and Frankie Mullins.



Councilor-at-Large Leo Robinson and CHS cross country and track legend Bobby Goss.



Friends and teammates of Charlie Moore, including Frankie Mullins, Paul Richards, Michael Lombard, Michael Kerrins, Michael Thompson, and Keith Yianacopolus.



Penny Gullage Sordello, Dawn McCarthy Williams, Sandi Eccleston Garofano, and Linda Fraser Stehm.



Moe Marshall and Maureen Lee.



Two excellent basketball players, John Martin and Jody Robinson.



Chelsea High School Hall of Fame inductees Mike Lush and Bobby Goss.



Robin Arsenault Domek and Claudia Gabriel.



Catherine Karas-Moore (right) and her mother, Patricia Cefalo.

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Michael Thompson and Debbie McDonald.

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CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR CHS BASEBALL GREAT CHARLIE MOORE

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS



Cindy Moore (second from right) and friends, who attended the Celebration of Life in honor of her husband, Charles "Charlie" Moore.



Wilfredo Martinez, Claudia Minacapilli, Lana Minacapilli, Catherine Karas-Moore, Nicholas Marino, and Dante Minacapilli.



The family of Charlie Moore, pictured at the Celebration of Life March 15 at the Lodge of Elks in Revere.



Members of the Chelsea High School Class of 1978 are pictured at the Celebration of Life for their outstanding classmate, the late Charles "Charlie" Moore.

Bobby Montesano delivers heartfelt eulogy for his father, Vincent John Montesano

By Cary Shuman

Calling it "a love letter to our father," Bobby Montesano delivered a touching eulogy at the funeral Mass for Vincent John Montesano held March 15 at Our Lady of Grace Church.

Speaking on behalf of his older brothers, Charles Montesano and Vincent Montesano (who like Bobby are outstanding athletes and gentlemen), and the seven Montesano grandchildren, Bobby began by expressing his gratitude to all the people who attended the memorial observances for Mr. Montesano, who passed away on March 6, 2026, at the age of 90.

Bobby spoke of his grandparents, Charles R. Montesano and Frances (Randazzo) Montesano who carried with courage their dreams across the ocean from Mistretta in Sicily, Italy, to the United States. Mrs. Montesano would become a popular and beloved foreign language teacher at Chelsea High School who later served on the Chelsea School Committee.

Bobby expressed his admiration for his father and how at the age of 18, he lost his father, yet carried on so well the family legacy and the family grew stronger.

"At age 23, you married the love of your life,

my mother, Jean (Mitchell) Montesano, and together you built something stronger than any hardship – a home filled with love, loyalty, and laughter," Bobby told the gathering.

Bobby said he and his brothers, Charlie and Vinny, "were raised with something priceless: love for one another, we were a reflection of yours and mom's character and work ethic and respect for family traditions."

Bobby noted how each of the grandchildren carry "pieces of you with them."

He remembered the heartbreak that his father felt when he lost his loving

companion and wife, Jean, to cancer in 2009.

At that point, feeling the weight of an intensely emotional speech, Bobby turned the podium over to his son, Robert Montesano Jr., who to his forever lasting credit, took the beautiful words of tribute eloquently to their conclusion.

"It was too early and we weren't ready to say goodbye," continued Robert about Mrs. Jean Montesano's passing. "She was the greatest mother a son could ever had. Not a day passes that she isn't in my thoughts and prayers. Dad, I was so proud of how you prepared yourself for that loss, and

how you held the family together and continued to do the best you could.

"You showed us what resilience and perseverance looked like."

Concluding the letter to Mr. Montesano and lauding the values (love, perseverance, family, and faith) he passed on to the next generation, Robert Jr. said on behalf of the family, "You just didn't give us a family, you gave us a legacy, and that legacy will live on forever. We love you, Dad, we always will, and we will carry you with us today, tomorrow, and for all the generations still to come."

Bobby Montesano's

words about his father were appreciated greatly by all in attendance, notably, Scott Leonard, Bobby's friend since the age of four in a strong, lifelong bond that continued through Camp Menorah, youth sports, and Chelsea High School football.

"We grew up together on Burma Road and our mothers were great friends," said Scott. "The Montesanos are just a tremendous Chelsea family, and I feel blessed to have been part of their lives and to be here for Bobby and his brothers, and the amazing tribute for their father that we all heard today in this church."

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BRUINS Beat by Bob Morello

BRUINS IN CRUCIAL SPOT



When the Bruins were finally able to end their road losing streak last Saturday, with their shootout victory over the Washington Capitals, many took a deep breath of relief. Now the situation coming to the forefront is: Could this road win show signs of the start of a winning streak – on the road? If the Bruins expect to keep their head above water in the tight Eastern Conference race, and hold a playoff spot, then the answer is...they will have to. Their loss on Monday to the New Jersey Devils put a stop to that hope of starting a win streak, although that is something that has now become a necessity to maintain a playoff spot. With eight of the 14 games left on the regular season schedule taking place on the road, winning on the road will obviously be a major factor in determining the Bruins' playoff hopes. More importantly those eight road games are all against Eastern Conference teams. The schedule contains road games versus the Detroit Red Wings, Buffalo Sabres, two very im-

portant matches with the Columbus Blue Jackets who continue to keep pace with Boston as they also look to gain a wild card spot, the Florida Panthers, Tampa Bay Lightning, Philadelphia Flyers, and the Carolina Hurricanes. The oft mentioned - every point is important at this time of the season, is a fact when you look at the Eastern Conference standings. The difference between a third place slot in the Atlantic Division and a wild card spot fluctuates between 2-3 points. The remedy needed right now are, offensive contributions, strong efforts from the defense, and continued solid goaltending from Jeremy Swayman. Also badly needed, is a step up in their power play effort, which

has been poor over their last dozen games. The Bruins go into tonight's game having come out of recent games with just a single point in previous games, they will have to find a way to pick up the much needed two points in order to enhance their playoff position. Tonight's game with the Winnipeg Jets (7:00pm) will be on TD Garden ice, followed by three games against Atlantic Division teams: the Detroit Red Wings who have been battling neck-and-neck with the Bruins for a wild card spot, will host the locals on Saturday 8:00pm. Tuesday will have the Bs hosting the Toronto Maple Leafs at 7:00pm, before they head back out on the road again, for the second game of a back-to-back series, taking on the Atlantic Division-leading Buffalo Sabres on Wednesday at 7:00pm. This week's schedule will make a definitive mark on Boston's playoff position, and if they play, as they say - the 'right way' – they will come out with a much better position in the playoff standings!

Healey demands \$1,745 refund for Massachusetts residents harmed by President Trump's tariffs

Special to the Record

Governor Maura Healey sent a letter to Treasury Secretary Bessent demanding a \$1,745 refund to every Massachusetts household for the financial harm caused by President Trump's unconstitutional tariffs. Data from the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee estimates that the Trump Administration's tariff actions cost American consumers approximately \$1,745 per household between February 2025 and January 2026. "With approximately 2.8 million households in Massachusetts, my office estimates that \$4,886,000,000 is owed to consumers in our state who shouldered the burden of increased costs. I call on the Trump Adminis-

tration to immediately formulate a plan to refund tariff proceeds and put money back in the pockets of the hardworking people of Massachusetts," wrote Governor Healey. "From groceries and household goods to construction materials and consumer products, Massachusetts residents paid more at the register and businesses absorbed higher operating costs. Having unlawfully seized over \$100 billion dollars from American people and businesses, the federal government must immediately take steps to pay full restitution." In the letter, she also continues to urge the President to reconsider his new global tariffs, as they will once again raise costs on consumers and businesses.

Since President Trump began imposing tariffs on our trading partners, Governor Healey has spoken out against them. In an effort to curb the impact in Massachusetts, her administration launched the Massachusetts Tariff Response and Business Operations Support Initiative to align state resources to aid Massachusetts businesses, convened Massachusetts business leaders to discuss how tariffs were impacting them, and invited six Northeastern Governors and six Canadian Premiers to the State House to discuss regional collaboration. The full letter can be read online at www.mass.gov/doc/tariff-refund-letter/download.

Governor's Conference on Travel & Tourism to spotlight global events, MA250 and industry growth

Special to the Record

Tourism and hospitality leaders from across Massachusetts will gather on March 24 and 25 in Danvers for the 2026 Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism, the state's annual conference focused on strengthening Massachusetts' tourism industry and preparing destinations for future growth.

only adapting to change, we are leading through it and turning this historic moment into sustained economic growth." Tourism remains a major driver of the Massachusetts economy. The state welcomed more than 52 million visitors in 2024 who spent over \$24 billion statewide, supporting more than 155,000 jobs and generating more than \$2 billion in state and local tax revenue. The two-day conference will explore how destinations can respond strategically to global travel shifts while leveraging cultural assets such as film, music, and museums to drive growth. Sessions will examine how emerging technologies like artificial intelligence are reshaping how travelers can discover destinations, how music tourism can benefit both residents and visitors, and how partnerships with the creative sector can strengthen communities.

Positioning Massachusetts as the ultimate STEM tourism destination. The conference will also celebrate leaders whose contributions have shaped the state's cultural and tourism landscape. 2026 Award Recipients: Rhonda and Steve Woodman, Award of Appreciation, for their enduring service and stewardship of Woodman's of Essex, a culinary institution and tourism landmark. Laurie Norton Moffatt, recipient of the Larry D. Meehan Award, honoring 45 years of leadership at the Norman Rockwell Museum and her transformative impact on arts and cultural tourism. Virginia Bristol-Johnson, Massachusetts Film Award recipient, is recognized for her distinguished career as a costume designer and her contributions to Massachusetts' growing film industry. Nina Zannieri, Executive Director of the Paul Revere Memorial Association, recipient of the Revolutionary Award for advancing Revolutionary history through dynamic public engagement and stewardship of one of the state's most iconic sites.

With Massachusetts 250 celebrations, FIFA World Cup matches in Boston and Sail Boston on the horizon, industry leaders will focus on how the state can harness these global events to drive economic growth, strengthen communities and position Massachusetts as a premier destination for visitors from around the world. "Massachusetts is preparing to welcome the world in the coming years, with major global events like the FIFA World Cup, Sail Boston and the celebrations of America's 250th anniversary bringing new visitors and new opportunities to our state," said Governor Maura Healey. "Tourism is a powerful driver of jobs and economic growth, and this conference is an opportunity to showcase everything that makes Massachusetts special and keep our state a top destination for travelers."

A featured plenary session, "Global Moments, Local Impact," will examine how upcoming events including Massachusetts 250, Sail Boston, and the FIFA World Cup present once-in-a-generation opportunities for economic growth, international exposure, and strengthen Massachusetts long term position as a leading global destination. Throughout the program, conference attendees will engage in sessions including:

These awardees reflect the depth of talent and commitment across Massachusetts," said Kate Fox, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism. "From culinary heritage to film, from museums to Revolutionary landmarks, they demonstrate how cultural assets drive visitation, community pride and economic impact." In a year defined by global attention and shifting travel patterns, Massachusetts is positioning itself not only as the birthplace of the American Revolution, but as a forward-looking destination where history, innovation and creative industries intersect. For more information about the Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Travel & Tourism, visit: <https://massgovernorsconference.com/>.

"2026 is our opportunity to lead," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "In a rapidly changing global environment, Massachusetts succeeds when we work together. Through strong partnerships across tourism, culture, business, and technology, we are solving challenges, elevating our shared story, and putting our best foot forward on the world stage. Collaboration is how we honor our history and shape a stronger future." "Tourism today demands both imagination and execution," said Secretary of Economic Development Eric Paley. "We are embracing new tools like AI, elevating our creative economy and positioning our strengths in science, technology, and education as powerful visitor assets. By aligning culture, innovation, and global strategy, Massachusetts is not

only adapting to change, we are leading through it and turning this historic moment into sustained economic growth." Tourism remains a major driver of the Massachusetts economy. The state welcomed more than 52 million visitors in 2024 who spent over \$24 billion statewide, supporting more than 155,000 jobs and generating more than \$2 billion in state and local tax revenue. The two-day conference will explore how destinations can respond strategically to global travel shifts while leveraging cultural assets such as film, music, and museums to drive growth. Sessions will examine how emerging technologies like artificial intelligence are reshaping how travelers can discover destinations, how music tourism can benefit both residents and visitors, and how partnerships with the creative sector can strengthen communities.

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Revere Beach to host annual Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Massachusetts on March 21

Special to the Record

Get ready to freeze for a cause! On Saturday, March 21, hundreds of brave participants will gather at the historic Revere Beach for the 2026 Revere Polar Plunge. This high-energy event, formerly known as the Nahant Polar Plunge, invites community members to take a chilly dip in the Atlantic Ocean to raise vital funds and awareness for Special Olympics Massachusetts.

about more than just cold water; it's about going to the extreme to support the 20,000+ Special Olympics athletes across the Commonwealth. Every dollar raised helps provide year-round sports training, competition, and a sense of belonging for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Registration: Participants can sign up as individuals or teams at fundraise.specialolympicsma.org/events/979.

new teams to join the leaderboard. Whether you are plunging with a corporate team, a school group, or as an individual, your bravery helps build a more inclusive world on and off the playing field. For those taking public transportation, the event is conveniently located near the Revere Beach MBTA stop on the Blue Line. Parking is also available along Ocean Avenue. Special Olympics Massachusetts provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. These opportunities allow athletes to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience the joy of sharing gifts, skills, and friendship with their families and the community.

To participate, Plungers are encouraged to raise a minimum of \$100. Those who reach this goal will receive a limited-edition 2026 Polar Plunge long-sleeve shirt or crewneck sweatshirt. Current top fundraising teams include GE Aerospace - Lynn and South High & Friends, but there is still plenty of time for

The festivities will take place at the Reinstein Bandstand (350 Revere Beach Boulevard). Registration and check-in begin at 10 a.m., followed by the official Plunge at 12:00 PM. After the splash, an awards program will be held at 12:30 p.m. to celebrate the top fundraisers and most spirited participants. The Polar Plunge is

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Sen. DiDomenico speaks at Portal to Hope's legislator panel

Special to the Record

Senator Sal DiDomenico joined colleagues and advocates at Portal to Hope's "Talk Priorities with Legislators" event at the Medford Police Department. DiDomenico and the other panelists discussed programs from local nonprofits that support victims of domestic violence and how legislators can support their efforts with funding and legislation. The Senator highlighted his efforts to bring in more funding for these programs and legislation he has led on such as the Healthy Youth Act, Language Access, as well advocating for the Safe Communities Act which was filed by another legislator. These bills

would educate our children on forming respectful relationships free of violence, ensure access to public benefits and government resources for all residents regardless of their spoken language, and guarantee that our neighbors of any immigration status feel safe talking to the police and going to court to seek justice.

"I am proud to fight for Portal to Hope's legislative priorities and support them and other fantastic organizations and agencies like Jane Doe Inc. and the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance as they face funding threats ahead," said DiDomenico. "I want to thank Deb Fallon and her team at Portal to Hope for organizing this meeting and



Senator Sal DiDomenico speaking on a panel alongside legislators and advocates at the Medford Police Department.

for all they do each day supporting victims of domestic violence in our communities."

Portal To Hope is an award-winning non-profit organization committed to helping victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes.



Senator Sal DiDomenico with Portal to Hope's Founder, Deb Fallon (far left), as well as legislators, advocates, and Medford Police at the event.

Sparky the Fire Dog is turning 75!

Special to the Record

Sparky the Fire Dog®, the official mascot of the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), is turning 75! This milestone birthday reflects a legacy that spans the generations. Since his official launch on March 18, 1951, Sparky has helped fire professionals, teachers, safety advocates, civic organizations, businesses, and the media, among others, share educational fire and life safety information with the public, delivering invaluable impact.



"Sparky is an emblem of fire safety for kids and adults alike, and his messages are just as relevant today as they were nearly 75 years ago," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "His dogged determination to highlight the importance of home fire safety over the decades has ultimately helped reduce fire loss and injuries in North America."

Among his many achievements, Sparky has touted long-lasting fire

safety messages in support of Fire Prevention Week™ – NFPA's largest annual public awareness campaign – such as "Stop, drop and roll"; "Get out, stay out"; "Dial 9-1-1"; and "Know two ways out". He has also served as the brand for countless NFPA educational programs, resources, and initiatives, including NFPA's Learn Not to Burn® curricula, children's books, online activities, videos, apps, safety tip sheets, and brochures, to name just a few, promoting basic but critical fire safety information with a mix of spirit, authority, and compassion.

In recognition of Sparky's big day, NFPA is reminding the public that

while we've continued to make significant progress in reducing the home fire problem, real risks remain. A U.S. fire department responded to a fire every 23 seconds, on average, in 2024. A home structure fire was reported every 96 seconds, while a home fire death occurred every three hours, and a home fire injury occurred every 59 minutes. In addition, the majority of U.S. fire deaths (70 percent) continues to occur in homes.

"The number of U.S. home fires has declined significantly over the past decades, which reflects significant progress, but the home fire death rate has not seen the same declines in recent years. In fact, you're more likely to die in a home fire today than in 1980," said Carli. "These sobering statistics reinforce that our work is far from done."

Visit Sparky's website at sparky.org/ for a wealth of age-appropriate games, videos, apps, and other activities that make learning about fire safety easy and fun, along with fun resources and activities that can be used to celebrate his big day. In addition, Sparky School House offers fire safety lesson plans, resources, and activities for teachers, parents, caregivers and students, many of which can be easily downloaded and shared.

Markey calls for FCC Chairman Carr to resign following threats to revoke broadcast licenses over Iran War coverage

Special to the Record

Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), member of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, sent a letter to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Brendan Carr, urging him to resign over his latest social media post threatening to revoke broadcasters' licenses if they do not cover the illegal war with Iran with Donald Trump's preferred narrative. Senator Markey highlights this post as an extraordinary abuse of FCC authority and a clear violation of the First Amendment, as well as the Trump administration's latest authoritarian attempt to weaponize the FCC's statutory authority to censor the media.

In the letter, Senator Markey wrote, "Your post on Saturday demonstrated your continued effort to turn the FCC into Trump's personal speech police. ... Your Saturday post is not an aberration. It is the latest and most dangerous step in a sustained campaign to use the FCC's licensing authority as a weapon against broadcasters and journalists whose coverage displeases the Trump administration. ... The FCC's credibility depends on its willingness to exercise its authority on the merits, not at the direc-

tion of the President, and not as an instrument of retribution against journalism. You have once again shown that you are unwilling to maintain that independence and uphold your sworn oath to defend the U.S. Constitution, and I once again call on you to resign."

Senator Markey has aggressively pushed back on the Trump administration's efforts to attack news organizations and intimidate the media. In November 2025, Senator Markey asked unanimous consent to pass a resolution condemning President Trump's suggestion that criticism of him is "illegal" and recognizing Americans' constitutional right to criticize the president. Republicans blocked it. In September 2025, Senator Markey, Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), and Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.)

led seven of their colleagues in writing to Chairman Carr urging the FCC to cease its censorship of media organizations. Senator Markey then went to the Senate floor to ask unanimous consent to pass a resolution condemning Chairman Carr for his censorship of Jimmy Kimmel. Senator Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.) objected without any explanation. In March 2025, Senators Markey and Lujan, along with Senator Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.) introduced the Broadcast Freedom and Independence Act, legislation that would prohibit the FCC from revoking broadcast licenses or taking action against broadcasters based on the viewpoints they broadcast.

Read the full text of Sen. Ed Markey's letter online at: www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_to_carr_on_iran_war_censorship.pdf

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CITY PAWS

License your animal now!

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Did you receive your dog license renewal package in the mail? If not, it's time to pick up an application or download one from your local Animal Control Department. Under Massachusetts state law, all dogs must be licensed by April 1st of each year. You may also be required to license and provide proof of rabies vaccinations for cats in some places.

Gather What You Need

You'll need a valid rabies certificate. Proof of spaying or neutering may lower the cost of an annual license from your city or town. There are potential fines for non-compliance.

Some veterinarians include confirmation that the animal is spayed or neutered on their rabies certificates. You can also ask your current veterinarian to issue a confirmation that your dog is not intact if you have lost your original paperwork.

If you or someone you know is age 70 or is licensing a service dog, you should check whether your city or town has adopted a provision of state law. Chapter 140 Section 139 of the Massachusetts laws says, "No fee shall be charged for a license issued under this section for a service animal as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or regulations promulgated thereunder. No fee shall be charged for a license for a dog owned by a person aged 70 years or over in a city or town that accepts this provision."

Why License Your Animal?

Aside from the fact that it is required by law, we see licensing dogs as a form of dog advocacy. Adding to the list of homes with animals supports organizations fighting for services for those who share their lives with dogs and cats.

It's easy for politicians to ignore the wishes of

people when setting funds for recreational space and services, when the official number of dogs is vastly decreased by those who don't get a license. In addition, dog walkers, kennels, dog parks, and some residential buildings require licensing.

Should you ever face an animal control officer or a lawsuit, the fact that your animal is not licensed will work against you. A current license on a dog's collar also serves as proof that they have been vaccinated. It will allow those who might have to assist in caring for him in an emergency to interact with your pet securely.

In addition to a dog emergency, your pets might need assistance if something happens to you. First responders often have to call animal control when caring for a person. If that happens, you will want your dog licensed.

Should you have any incident involving a person or another dog, the license will



We waited in line in Boston to experience a low-cost rabies vaccine and license clinic in Boston's South End.

provide immediate proof that your dog is vaccinated and legal. That can sometimes be enough to keep stress levels from escalating.

Save Money at Rabies Clinics Statewide

The state provides a list of low-cost rabies clinics at this web address. <https://massnr.org/rabies/editors/clinics.aspx>

Those in the Greater Boston area should note that the Boston clinics listed there are available to residents of other cities and towns at a slightly higher price. At many of these clinics, you can also obtain a dog or cat license. We have attended these events in the past to

ensure we can recommend them. We found the staff and other animal guardians warm and friendly, and while we did wait in line, we walked away with the job completed.

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

LEGAL NOTICES - legals@chelsearecord.com

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA INVITATION FOR BIDS MOBILE OUTDOOR LED DISPLAY SYSTEM

The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Bids for "MOBILE OUTDOOR LED DISPLAY SYSTEM". Invitations for Bids will be available on or after March 19, 2026 by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php. Invitation for Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "MOBILE OUTDOOR LED DISPLAY SYSTEM" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 11:00 AM on Thursday, April 2, 2026. The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any proposal, to reject any or all proposals and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City. In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond. The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer. This Request for Proposals is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B. Ledia Koco Chief Procurement Officer 3/19/26 C

receive comments regarding a proposal to remove three (3) on-street parking spaces along Sturgis Street and its current parking conditions. Copies and filings may be viewed at the City Clerk's Office. Per Order Chief Keith E. Houghton Chairperson 3/19/26, 4/2/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING In accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 40A, Section 5, the Chelsea City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 6th, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150, to discuss a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinances of the City of Chelsea, which would create a new Section 34-157 "Accessory Dwelling Units" allowing for the development of Accessory Dwelling Units in the City of Chelsea. Copies of the proposed amendment are available for inspection in the City Clerk's office during normal City Hall business hours. Councilor Roberto Jimenez-Rivera President, Chelsea City Council 3/12/26, 3/19/26 C

management procedures, whereby costs incurred in FY23, FY24 and FY25 were not paid and are owed to the vendors, and to meet this obligation funds are required from the current year FY26 budgets as noted, the Chelsea City Council authorizes the following expenditures to satisfy the unpaid balances that total \$32,828.48 from prior years. Copies of the orders are available at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 500 Broadway, Room 209, Chelsea, MA 02150. Jeannette Cintron White City Clerk 3/19/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB 2026-372 WILLIAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL - OFFICE RENOVATION PROJECT The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Bids for marked "WILLIAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL - OFFICE RENOVATION PROJECT". Invitation for Bids will be available on or after March 19, 2026 by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php. Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "WILLIAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL - OFFICE RENOVATION PROJECT" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, City Hall, 500 Broadway Room 204, Chelsea, Massachusetts no later than 10:30AM on April 02, 2026. General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) -General Building Construction 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. The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer. This Invitation for Bids is in accordance with M.G.L. 149. Ledia Koco Chief Procurement Officer 3/19/26 C

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE OF HEARING Case No. 2026-01 Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A that a Regular Meeting of the Chelsea Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 Chelsea Senior Center, 10 Riley Way, 6:00 p.m. With reference to the application of: 320 Revere Beach Realty, LLC. For Special Permit and Variance approval for the construction of a sixty-seven (67) residential dwelling unit structures which does not meet the requirements for minimum lot size, off-street parking spaces, minimum side yard setback, maximum density, maximum height, maximum rear yard setback, minimum usable open space, minimum lot size per unit and minimum access aisle width at the premises known as: 320 Revere Beach Realty A copy of the application and petition is available for review at: City Clerk's Office during normal business hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. - Friday, 8 a.m. to noon 3/19/26, 3/26/26 C

Case No. 2026-01 Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A that a Regular Meeting of the Chelsea Planning Board will be held on: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 Council Chambers. 3rd Floor, 500 Broadway 6:00 p.m. With reference to the application of: 320 Revere Beach Realty For Major Site Plan Approval for the construction of a sixty-seven (67) residential dwelling units structures which does not meet the requirements for minimum lot size, off-street parking spaces, minimum side yard setback, maximum density, maximum height, maximum number of stories, minimum rear yard setback, minimum usable open space, minimum lot size per unit and minimum access aisle width at the premises known as: 320 Revere Beach Parkway A copy of the application and petition is available for review at: City Clerk's Office during normal business hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. - Friday, 8 a.m. to noon 3/19/26, 3/26/26 C

eligible projects/activities in the categories, including but not limited to, housing rehabilitation, community economic development, public facilities/infrastructure, planning, and/or public/social services. For the FY2026 application, we are proposing renovation to Voke Park Ball Field, Housing Rehabilitation Program, Small Business Grant Program, and Public Social Services. The Project area is the City of Chelsea. The FY2025 grant was awarded for public social services and improvements the Voke Park Tot Lot. Public social services funding supports ESOL classes, a citizenship and immigration services program, senior food delivery, and the REACH program. The City of Chelsea is a Mini-entitlement community. The City of Chelsea's Department of Housing and Development staff will implement the CDBG program. Staff from the Chelsea Department of Housing and Community Development will be present to hear any and all recommendations. All persons or organizations wishing to comment will be given an opportunity to be heard. You may also submit comments in writing by April 13, 2026 to the Chelsea Department of Housing and Community Development, 500 Broadway, Room 101, Chelsea, MA 02150. Attn: CDBG Program, or via email to bcare@chelseama.gov Benjamin Cares Director, Housing and Community Development City of Chelsea 3/19/26, 3/26/26 C

2025, y actualizaciones sobre las adjudicaciones de los años fiscales 2024 y 2022/2023. También revisaremos la Estrategia de Desarrollo Comunitario propuesta para este año y solicitaremos la opinión del público. Esta Audiencia Pública es un requisito previo a la presentación de una solicitud CDBG ante el Departamento de Vivienda y Comunidades Habitables de Massachusetts. Los fondos CDBG pueden utilizarse para proyectos o actividades elegibles en las categorías que incluyen, pero no se limitan a, rehabilitación de viviendas, desarrollo económico comunitario, instalaciones/infraestructura públicas, planificación y/o servicios públicos o sociales. Para la solicitud del año fiscal 2026, proponemos la renovación del campo de béisbol de Voke Park, el Programa de Rehabilitación de Viviendas, el Programa de Subvenciones para Pequeñas Empresas y Servicios Sociales Públicos. El área del proyecto es la Ciudad de Chelsea. La subvención del año fiscal 2025 fue otorgada para servicios sociales públicos y mejoras en el área de juegos infantiles (Tot Lot) de Voke Park. Los fondos para servicios sociales públicos apoyan clases de ESOL, un programa de servicios de ciudadanía e inmigración, entrega de alimentos para personas mayores y el programa REACH. La Ciudad de Chelsea es una comunidad con mini-beneficios. El personal del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario de la Ciudad de Chelsea implementará el programa CDBG. Personal del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario de Chelsea estará presente para escuchar todas las recomendaciones. Todas las personas u organizaciones que deseen comentar tendrán la oportunidad de ser escuchadas. También puede enviar comentarios por escrito antes del 13 de abril de 2026 al Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario de Chelsea, 500 Broadway, Sala 101, Chelsea, MA 02150. Attn: Programa CDBG, o por correo electrónico a bcare@chelseama.gov. Benjamin Cares Director de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario Ciudad de Chelsea 3/19/26, 3/26/26 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, April 7, 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

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE In accordance with Section 2-7 (b) and (d) of the Chelsea City Charter notice is hereby given that at a regular meeting of the Chelsea City Council held on March 9, 2026, the City Council voted after a second reading to adopt the following order: Ordered, that, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §53A½ and Section 3-5 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Chelsea, the Chelsea City Council hereby accepts the donation of \$10,000 to the Department of Recreation & Cultural Affairs from The Boston Foundation, as detailed in the attached inventory. Ordered, that, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 44, Section 64, budget

LEGAL NOTICE

Aviso Legal Ciudad de Chelsea Audiencia Pública El Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario de la Ciudad de Chelsea llevará a cabo una Audiencia Pública en persona el lunes 6 de abril de 2026 a las 5:30 p.m. en el City Hall de Chelsea, en la Sala de Conferencias de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario ubicada en 500 Broadway, Sala 102, Chelsea, MA 02150. El propósito de esta reunión es discutir la propuesta de solicitud de la Subvención en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG) de la Ciudad para el año fiscal 2026, nuestra solicitud aprobada del año fiscal

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Healey-Driscoll administration awards more than \$28 million in second year of Cannabis Social Equity Grants

Special to the Record

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced 194 grants totaling \$28.8 million through the Cannabis Social Equity Grant Program, funded by the state's Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund and administered by the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED). The program supports Massachusetts cannabis entrepreneurs from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition and enforcement and is designed to expand equitable participation in the Commonwealth's regulated cannabis industry.

"The Cannabis Social Equity Grant Program is

about turning policy into real economic opportunity," said Economic Development Secretary Eric Paley. "These investments support small businesses at critical stages of growth while helping communities across the Commonwealth benefit from a rapidly evolving industry."

"EOED in partnership with the Cannabis Social Equity Advisory Board has put in a lot of effort to positively influence social equity in cannabis for Massachusetts," said Cannabis Social Equity Advisory Board Chair Keisha Brice. "As the industry continues to evolve, we look forward to continuing the work and staying true to our commit-

ment in helping minority operators and entrepreneurs."

"The Social Equity Grant Program represents our continued commitment to building a cannabis industry in Massachusetts that is equitable, inclusive, and reflective of the communities most harmed by the war on drugs," said Senator Adam Gómez (D-Springfield), Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Cannabis Policy. "With these grants, we are not only supporting entrepreneurs at every stage of the licensing process—we are investing in economic opportunity, generational wealth creation, and fair participation in this growing industry. I am proud

to see the Commonwealth take meaningful action to ensure that equity is not just a promise, but a practice."

The Executive Office of Economic Development received 223 applications requesting more than \$32 million in grant funding. Grant awards are distributed across four tiers based on an applicant's licensure status with the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission (CCC):

Tier 1: Entry into the regulated cannabis industry – maximum award of \$25,000

Tier 2: Support for expenses essential to obtaining provisional licensure – maximum award of \$50,000

Tier 3: Support for final licensure and commence-

ment of operations – maximum award of \$200,000

Tier 4: Funds to continue, improve, or expand licensed operations – maximum award of \$300,000

In this round, EOED awarded:

Tier 1: 72 grants totaling \$1.8 million

Tier 2: 19 grants totaling \$950,000

Tier 3: 44 grants totaling \$8.75 million

Tier 4: 59 grants totaling \$17.31 million

A full list of FY26 grant award recipients is available on the EOED website.

The Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund was established by Section 14A of Chapter 94G of the General Laws to provide financial

assistance to eligible applicants and encourage full participation in the Commonwealth's regulated marijuana industry by entrepreneurs from communities disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition and enforcement.

In April 2024, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced \$2.3 million in grant funding from the Trust Fund to support eligible cannabis social equity license holders with urgent financial needs, followed by an additional \$26 million awarded in Fiscal Year 2025 through the Cannabis Social Equity Grant Program. For more information, visit the Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund website.

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CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND AND CANTARE PERFORM AT DISNEY WORLD

During the month of March, students and educators from the Chelsea High School Jazz Band and Cantare traveled to Walt Disney World, where they performed at the Disney Springs AdventHealth Waterside Stage. The two performance groups were selected for the opportunity after submitting an audition video in December and were invited to participate in Disney's Imagination Campus program.

As part of the program, students participated in educational workshops and worked directly with Imagination Campus staff. In preparation for the trip, students rehearsed diligently over the past few months, meeting after school, during February school vacation week and on weekends to prepare for their 20-minute performance at Disney Springs.

Among the pieces performed were new selections the students learned specifically for the event

such as Cantare singing "Dig a Little Deeper" from The Princess and the Frog and Jazz Band playing the theme from The Incredibles. Both ensembles jointly performed "You've Got a Friend in Me" from Toy Story. This is a really monumental challenge that students and their directors, CHS educators Shannon Chick and Dana Sheridan, were able to overcome, because it is very challenging to combine and direct two distinct ensembles simultaneously, due to the difficulties presented by acoustics and balance. At the conclusion of their performance, the students received a raucous standing ovation and cheers from the crowd.

The trip was generously supported by Senator Sal DiDomenico, who secured funding for it after seeing the students perform at events in the fall and encouraging them to submit an audition to Disney. Before traveling to Florida, students held a special "send-off" con-

cert for families, staff and friends at CHS. Senator DiDomenico attended and presented the group with special Disney and Chelsea branded t-shirts for the trip.

Beyond the performance and educational workshops, the trip gave students the chance to experience the Disney parks, many experiencing them for the first time. The group visited EPCOT, Magic Kingdom, Hollywood Studios, and Animal Kingdom, enjoying rides, attractions, and fireworks shows throughout their stay.

Both the CHS Jazz Band and Cantare were presented with a special trophy from the Disney Imagineering Campus staff to commemorate the performance. Students also received commemorative "Mouseketeer Pins" that are only bestowed to people that perform on the Disney stage.

The five-day trip created memories that will last a lifetime for the students and educators who participated.

COURTESY PHOTOS



A group photo at Magic Kingdom with Cinderella's Castle in the background. Everyone wore special "Chelsea High School Jazz Band and Cantare Disney Trip" t-shirts provided by Senator Sal DiDomenico, who is pictured here with the students and educators.



All smiles from the group of students as they boarded their bus in Florida!



Cantare sang "Dig a Little Deeper" from Disney's "The Princess and the Frog" as part of the 20-minute performance.



The CHS Cantare and Jazz Band finished their Disney performance with a standing ovation from the Imagination Campus crowd!



The Chelsea High School Cantare standing on the AdventHealth Waterside Stage at the Disney Imagination Campus.



As part of the experience, students interacted with Imagination Campus staff and participated in educational workshops.

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