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VOLUME 136, No. 28

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026

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NEW POLICE OFFICERS SWORN IN



PHOTO COURTESY CHELSEA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Monday night, the City of Chelsea held an official swearing-in Ceremony at City Hall for the Chelsea Police Department's four new officers. The officers were sworn in by Assistant City Clerk Gabriela Solis, witnessed by City Manager Fidel Maltez, Chief Keith Houghton, city councilors, fellow officers, family members, and members of the community. The official pinning of the badges these officers will be donning was done by the officers' loved ones. Left to right are Officer Marcos De Brito, Officer Gustavo Azevedo, Chief Keith Houghton, Officer Andre Leon, and Officer Justin Puppato.

School district highlights positive progress in MCAS results

Special to the Record

Chelsea Public Schools made "substantial progress toward targets" from the 2026 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) based on recent data released by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

DESE classified the Chelsea public schools as "not requiring assistance or intervention" after the district increased its annual attainment by six percentage points from 46 percent (2025) to 52 percent (2026). Across Massachusetts,

math proficiency (grades 3-8) remained flat, but in Chelsea, this was an area of noteworthy growth, according to Chelsea school administrators. The district-wide math scaled score increased by nearly two full points and essentially reached the state-established target score. Several high-needs groups

improved their math scores as well, including students with disabilities (2.3 points) and English learners/former English learners (2.0 points).

Additionally, the lowest performing group of students increased its average

scaled score in math by nearly seven points to exceed its state improvement target.

School administrators said that this signifies that the district's intervention strategies and core instructional work is reaching district students who have the furthest to go.

In English Language Arts (ELA), there was a decline of two percentage points across the Commonwealth for students in grades 3-8. In Chelsea, the district's ELA performance was flat, which school officials said show that the Chelsea public schools avoided the

statewide decline, but that there is still the need to improve in this area.

There were schools in the district, however, that demonstrated strong ELA performance. The Hooks Elementary School reached 32 percent of students meeting/exceeding expectations while the Berkowitz Elementary School recorded 27 percent and the Wright Science &

Technology Academy 26 percent. The data showcased encouraging growth at the Wright, Kelly Elementary

See MCAS Page 3

Chelsea Firefighters undergo 4-day emergency vehicle operations training for urban environments

Special to the Record

Chelsea firefighters completed a four-day Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) from September 1 to September 4, equipping them to operate fire apparatus safely throughout the city's congested, urban streets and unpredictable traffic. The course was taught by Saugus-based Northeast EVOC, which has trained 30 public safety departments across New England.

Now EVOC-certified, Chelsea firefighters possess a foundational skill set in safe emergency driving

shared by top-tier firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, police officers, and specialized organ transport drivers.

"Operating a fire apparatus in Chelsea is extremely challenging, with firefighters routinely operating on

congested streets and in unpredictable traffic," said Fire Chief John Quatieri. "This training gives our firefighters with the tools to make safe, informed decisions when responding to emergencies."



The Chelsea Fire Department training on the training course.

The course included instruction on defensive driving techniques, hazard recognition, vehicle positioning, and safe maneuvering. It reinforced the importance of making sound decisions and maintaining total vehicle control under challenging conditions.

The EVOC training is part of a larger initiative by the department's Training and Safety Division to strengthen driver safety, reduce preventable accidents, and ensure Chelsea's firefighters are prepared to operate safely and effectively during emergency responses.

Chief Quatieri added, "Thank you to Northeast EVOC for offering this critical four-day training course to our Chelsea firefighters, as well as first responders across New England."

Chelsea City Manager looks to streamline inclusionary zoning application process

By Adam Swift

The City of Chelsea is looking to simplify and improve the administration of its inclusionary zoning program through a centralized process, according to the city manager.

"We are partnering with the Chelsea Housing Authority to manage the waitlist, certification, and advertising processes associated with projects that include Inclusionary Zoning units," Maltez said. "This spring we heard feedback from developers about the administrative burden associated with the current Inclusion-

ary Zoning process."

Currently, each project is required to develop a marketing plan, accept and process applications, conduct an equitable lottery, and establish and administer a waitlist for its affordable units.

"While these requirements are intended to ensure a fair and transparent process, it creates a complicated and costly administrative process, especially for smaller projects," stated Maltez. "This also requires significant City staff time to ensure that each individual

See ZONING Page 2

Chelsea City Manager provides update on Market Basket, MBTA quiet zone

By Adam Swift

Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez provided an update on two ongoing requests from the city council this week.

In response to a council query, Maltez provided a brief update on the potential development plans for the Market Basket property in the area of the Market Basket plaza near the commuter rail stop and the Silver Line bus route.

"I am excited to report that a meeting has now been scheduled between the City of Chelsea and the Chief Executive Officer of Market Basket to discuss the

company's plans for the property, the anticipated development process, and opportunities for continued collaboration with the City," Maltez stated. "I look forward to having a direct conversation with Market Basket's leadership about the future of this important property and how the City can work collaboratively with the company as these plans move forward."

Market Basket is also in the process of finalizing a master plan for the development of the property, according to the city manager.

See UPDATES Page 2

Chelsea City buildings closed October 12 in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day

Special to the Record

The following Chelsea municipal buildings will be closed on Monday, October 12, in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day: City Hall, the Public Library, the Senior Center, and the City Yard.

Chelsea's public safety buildings will remain operational, and online services will continue to be available 24/7. For a complete list of online ser-

vices, visit www.chelseama.gov/online-services.

Trash and recycling will not be collected on Monday, resulting in a one-day delay for the remainder of the week (Monday's route will be collected Tuesday; Tuesday's route will be collected Wednesday, etc.).

Enforcement of the City's residential parking

See CLOSED Page 2

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NOTICE**

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Monday, Oct. 12, 2026
Ad deadline **Friday Oct. 9th**

Chelsea

RECORD

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley
EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

MAKE THE MOST
OF THE LONG WEEKEND

The arrival of the long holiday weekend means that the fall season is squarely upon us, the time of year that has special meaning for all of us in New England.

With the weatherman (as of this writing) forecasting a near-perfect weekend weather-wise, we urge as many of our readers as possible to partake of the simple pleasure of getting outdoors to enjoy the crisp, clean air and the autumn colors before the colder temperatures arrive.

A nice hike, whether along the shore of the Cape, or in the Berkshires or the mountains of northern New England, or even as nearby as the Blue Hills in Milton, provides an opportunity to enjoy the natural world, far away from the noise of our daily lives, that will do wonders for our emotional and physical well-being.

One of our favorite things to do with our kids when they were young was to go apple-picking, which is in prime season at many farms that are a short drive from the city.

We’ve always viewed the Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples’ Day weekend as the last chance to take a mental and physical break ahead of the freneticism of the upcoming holiday season -- which will be here before we know it.

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

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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. The Chelsea Record assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements, but will reprint that part of the advertisement in which the error occurs. Advertisers will please notify the management immediately of any errors that may occur. Chelsea Record, 101-680, at 385 Broadway, the Citizens Bank Building, Suite 105, Revere, MA 02151, is a weekly publication. Periodicals postage paid at Boston, MA 02110. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Independent Newspaper Group, 385 Broadway, Suite 105, Revere, MA 02151. USPS NO. 101-680

CHELSEA

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ESTABLISHED 1890

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Forum

BHCC awarded \$1.375 million TRIO Talent Search grant

Special to the Record

Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) has been awarded a \$1.375 million federal grant to help hundreds of Chelsea Public Schools students prepare for and pursue postsecondary education and career opportunities.

The five-year grant, running from October 2026 through September 2031, will enable BHCC’s TRIO Talent Search Program to serve 550 students each year at Chelsea High School, Wright Science and Technology Academy, and Browne Middle School. The program provides academic, personal, and financial guidance to students who are potential first-generation college students and/or from low-income households, helping them graduate from high school and take the next step toward college, career training, and other postsecondary opportunities.

“Expanding access to higher education is at the core of BHCC’s mission, and for more than a decade, TRIO Talent Search has helped Chelsea students

see themselves as college students and build a pathway toward that future,” said BHCC President Pam Eddinger. “This new investment recognizes the impact of that work and allows BHCC to deepen it. We are proud to partner with Chelsea Public Schools to help more students graduate prepared for college, career and the opportunities that follow.”

This U.S. Department of Education grant, administered by the U.S. Department of Labor, builds on a partnership between BHCC and the Chelsea community that dates to 2012. Over the years, TRIO Talent Search has provided thousands of Chelsea students with academic advising, tutoring, career exploration, college visits, financial literacy, financial-aid counseling, and assistance with college applications. The program also engages families through events and activities designed to make post-secondary education more accessible.

“From its work in our middle schools through the impact it makes at Chelsea High School, TRIO Talent

Search has continued to be an invaluable partner for Chelsea Public Schools,” said Superintendent Dr. Almi G. Abeyta. “Bunker Hill’s work with our students directly contributes to the vision of our school district: that every student will graduate college and career ready. I am grateful that TRIO Talent Search will continue to serve the students of Chelsea for years to come.”

“Chelsea High School is proud to partner with TRIO Talent Search to expand opportunities and support our students as they plan for college and their future careers,” said Chelsea High School Principal Alan Beausoleil. “This continued federal investment recognizes the importance of programs that help students see what is possible, remove barriers, and provide the guidance and encouragement they need to reach their goals. We are grateful for this partnership and the difference it makes in the lives of our students and their families.”

Under the new grant, students will receive individualized advising and

case management addressing course selection, career exploration, financial planning, and college applications. The program will provide high-impact tutoring and financial literacy instruction, as well as college tours and other activities designed to expand students’ awareness of post-secondary and workforce opportunities.

About Bunker Hill Community College

With more than 50 years of academic excellence, Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) is one of Massachusetts’ most impactful institutions of higher education, serving over 20,000 students annually. With campuses in Charlestown and Chelsea, BHCC offers a broad range of educational opportunities throughout Greater Boston. BHCC fosters a welcoming and supportive learning environment for students by offering associate degrees and certificates, early college and dual enrollment, community education, corporate training, and industry-specific workforce programs.

Zoning // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

process is completed thoroughly and consistently.”

The city administration’s proposal is to establish a centralized process in partnership with the Chelsea Housing Authority. The Chelsea Housing Authority would conduct a citywide lottery and establish a centralized waitlist for inclusionary zoning units.

“Rather than requiring every individual development to create and administer its own lottery and waitlist, eligible residents would participate in a centralized process to be used as Inclusionary Zoning units become available throughout the City,” said Maltez. “This approach reduces

the administrative burden on developers, particularly smaller developments; creates a more consistent and transparent process for marketing, applications, lotteries, and waitlists; reduces duplicative administrative work for City staff; creates a centralized pool of qualified applicants that can be used as Inclusionary Zoning units become available; and improves the experience for residents with a clearer and centralized way to access available affordable housing opportunities.”

The most important part of the new process will be leveraging the expertise of the Chelsea Housing Authority, according to Maltez.

“The staff has extensive experience managing housing lotteries, maintaining waitlists, certifying applicants, and working directly with residents regarding their housing needs,” said Maltez. “As we continue to refine Chelsea’s Inclusionary Zoning program, our goal is to preserve the integrity and fairness of the program while making it as practical and effective as possible.”

The city council approved a new inclusionary zoning ordinance this summer.

The new ordinance calls for:

The revised inclusionary zoning ordinance calls for:

- 0-9 units, no affordable units
- 10-14 units, 1 unit at 80% AMI (area median income)
- 15-24 units, 2 units – 1 at 80% AMI and 1 at 50% AMI
- 25-34 units, 2 units at 80% AMI and 2 at 50% AMI
- 35-44 units, 2 units at 80% AMI, and 2 units at 50% AMI or one unit at 30% AMI
- 45-49 units, 3 units at 80% AMI, and 2 units at 50% AMI or 1 unit at 30% AMI
- 50 units-plus, 10% of units with rotating 50% AMI and 80% AMI (or 5% of units at 30% AMI)

Updates // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Maltez said the master plan has been developed by The Architectural Team (TAT) and will provide an important framework for the future development of the Mystic Mall site.

“Market Basket is actively engaged in conversations with several developers regarding potential development proposals for the property,” Maltez said. “West Chelsea is an important opportunity for Chelsea, and the City remains committed to maintaining an open and productive dialogue with Market Basket and potential development partners.”

City officials have also been working on overlay rezoning for the area near

the Market Basket property and plaza to allow for more mixed-use development. The overlay district area is generally bounded by the Chelsea-Everett border, Second Street, and the Route 1 Memorial Highway. For zoning purposes, Maltez and other planning officials have referred to the area of West Chelsea, but have also said they have listened to concerns about the history and naming of the property, particularly with its history before the Great Fire of 1973.

Maltez also provided an update on longtime council and resident concerns about reestablishing a quiet zone for MBTA trains in Chelsea.

“Our Department of Pub-

lic Works has been working with the MBTA and the Federal Railway Administration for several years on re-establishing the quiet zone, which will effectively stop the train horns in Chelsea,” Maltez stated. “Last year, the MBTA required a second review and revision to the originally approved plans for the Chelsea Quiet Zone. Chelsea DPW and our consultant, VHB, have pushed the MBTA and Keolis engineers to provide comments from their review so that we can address any concerns.”

After several rounds of back and forth over the summer, Maltez said the city and the MBTA have reached an agreement on

the technical approach and VHB is now implementing those changes in the plans and specifications for official sign off.

“At this time, we expect the MBTA to approve the revisions no later than November 2026,” Maltez said. “Once the MBTA approves the revisions, the Department of Public Works will resubmit the plans to the Federal Railway Administration for their final approval. Once the approval from the Federal Railway Administration is received, we will re-engage the contractor to begin work in early Spring 2027, sooner if weather permits.”

Closed // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

program will be suspended from Monday at 12 a.m. until Tuesday, October 13, at 12 a.m., Parking restrictions for street sweeping will also not be enforced on

Monday.

Indigenous Peoples’ Day is a Massachusetts state holiday that celebrates and honors Indigenous American peoples and commemo-

rates their histories and cultures. It is celebrated on the second Monday in October.

With questions, contact Chelsea 311 at 617-466-4209 during City Hall

business hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Friday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Please visit chelsearecord.com

CPS school-based clerks honored with name, strength and story awards

Special to the Record

The Chelsea Public Schools recognized school-based clerks from across the district with Name, Strength and Story Awards during the Chelsea School Committee meeting on Thursday, Oct. 1, at Chelsea City Hall.

The awards celebrated the dedicated clerks who provide essential support to students, families and educators each day. Often among the first people to welcome students and families into a school, clerks play an important role in creating welcoming school communities and ensuring students have what they need to learn and succeed.

Through their daily work, CPS school-based clerks build meaningful relationships with students and families, assist educators and school leaders, and help

schools respond to the needs of their communities. Their work reflects the district's commitment to knowing and honoring the name, strength and story of every student.

The following school-based clerks received Name, Strength and Story Awards:

- Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy (CVLA): Lizet Vasquez
- Chelsea Opportunity Academy (COA): Angela Barrientos
- Chelsea High School: Bianca Llanos, Jacquelyn Bernal, Katy Matos, Tania Amaya, Melisa Aguilar and Doris Romano
- John Silber Early Learning Center (ELC): Cristal Urquiza, Keila Velez, Wilma Ramos and Carmen Negron
- Berkowitz School: Pamela Rivera and Roberto Soto

- Kelly School: Ada Berrios and Jose Mojica
- Hooks School: Bryan Pinales and Kiaralis Sandoval
- Sokolowski School: Jose Ortiz and Brianna Boland
- Wright Science & Technology Academy: Glorianis Asia-Vega and Wanda Vega
- Browne Middle School: Marelyn Arevalo and Ariana Escalante

- Clark Avenue Middle School: Stacy Ceren, Jacqueline Fuentes and Jessica Buenrostro
 - Out of District Programs: Jalinette Jimenez
- Chelsea Public Schools



School-based clerks were honored with Name, Strength and Story Awards at the October School Committee meeting at City Hall last week.



Berkowitz Elementary School clerks Pamela Rivera (left) and Roberto Soto (right) pictured with School Committee member Claryangeliz Covas Caraballo (middle).



Morris H. Seigal Clark Avenue Middle School clerks Jacqueline Fuentes (left) and Stacy Ceren (right) with School Committee member Dr. Sarah Neville.



Sokolowski Elementary School clerks Jose Ortiz (left) and Brianna Boland (middle) with Chelsea School Committee member Lucia Henriquez.



Early Learning Center clerks Wilma Ramos (second from left), Cristal Urquiza (second from right) and Keila Velez (far right) pictured with School Committee member JAKE Small (far left).



Kelly Elementary School clerk Ada Berrios (left) pictured with School Committee member Katherine Cabral.



Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy clerk Lizet Vasquez (left) pictured with School Committee member Mayra Balderas (right).



Chelsea High School clerks Tania Amaya (left) and Jacquelyn Bernal (right) with School Committee member Jonathan Gomez-Pereira.



Hooks Elementary School Clerk Bryan Pinales (left) pictured with School Committee member Claryangeliz Covas Caraballo.



Browne Middle School clerk Marelyn Arevalo (left) with Chelsea School Committee member Dr. Sarah Neville.

NEWS IN BRIEF

CHELSEA FIRE DEPT. INVITES PUBLIC TO OBSERVE “JAWS OF LIFE” VEHICLE EXTRACTION, OTHER DEMOS AT OPEN-HOUSE

As part of a statewide observation of Fire Prevention Week, the Chelsea Fire Department invites the community to an Open House on Saturday, October 17, that will feature live demonstrations, including a “Jaws of Life” vehicle extraction and hands-on learning activities for all ages. The Open House will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Central Fire Station, located at 307 Chestnut St. Pizza will be served at this free, public event.

The theme of this year’s Fire Prevention Week, “Charge into Fire Safety; Safe Charging is a Superpower,” is timely, as several of the 194 reports of fire in Chelsea in the past year involved lithium-ion batteries or EVs, said Chelsea Fire Chief John Quatieri.

“We’ll be demoing how to use EV blankets that smother an electric vehicle fire, and a product that seals lithium-ion batteries to prevent fires caused by overheating,” said Quatieri, a 34-year Chelsea Fire veteran. “Our hope is that these demos, and our other open house activities, will help our community members be safe when charging devices with lithium-ion batteries, like phones, laptops, e-bikes, and scooters.”

This year’s open house will also include a chance to operate a fire hose alongside firefighters, experience a

smokehouse simulator, and other hands-on activities for all ages.

For more information, please contact the Chelsea Fire Department Fire Prevention Division at 617-466-4620 or by email at FirePreventionDivision@chelseama.gov.

MCAS // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

School and Browne Middle School, too.

“We know there is still important work ahead, particularly in literacy and at the secondary level, but this year’s results demonstrate that our strategies are gaining traction and that Chelsea is moving in the right direction,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta. “We are proud of this progress, proud of our educators,

and most importantly, proud of our students. Their potential is unlimited, and we will continue working together to ensure every Chelsea student is known by name, strength, and story and has every opportunity to succeed.”

Abeyta added that the Chelsea Public Schools are incredibly proud of the progress reflected in the 2026 MCAS results and of

the district-wide effort that made it possible, adding that the gains are especially meaningful given all that the district’s students, staff, and families have navigated over the past several years - - from the lasting impact of the pandemic and significant enrollment shifts to budget reductions and the many challenges facing the community.

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SHELDON YOUNG FETED AT 97TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

Chelsea resident Sheldon Young was honored by family members at his 97th birthday celebration Sunday, Oct. 4 at Floramo’s in Revere.

The son of Norman and Sarah Young, Sheldon grew up in the Arlington Street neighborhood and attended Williams School and Chelsea High School. He was the oldest of nine children.

Sheldon is known widely as a prolific songwriter.

“My uncle wrote original songs for all of the family weddings, including my mother’s wedding,” said his niece, Karen Padulsky Poverman. “One of his songs about the Red Sox was played many times on the radio.”

It was Karen’s idea to hold a celebration for her uncle, Sheldon, and relatives came from as far away as North Carolina, Connecticut, and New Hampshire to be present on his birthday, 97 years to the day (Oct. 4, 1929) that he was born.

According to Karen, it’s her sister, Lynda Diamond, that deserves the credit for planning and organizing such “a wonderful celebration” in honor of their uncle, who was the oldest brother to their mother, Sandra Young Padulsky.

Sheldon is a popular resident of the Cohen Florence Levine Estates on Admiral’s Hill.



Karen Padulsky Poverman and her husband, Steve Poverman enjoying Sheldon Young’s birthday party Sunday at Floramo’s.



Sheldon Young, pictured with his nieces, party creator and professional dance instructor Karen Padulsky Poverman, and party planner extraordinaire, Lynda Padulsky Diamond.



Sheldon Young and relatives who enjoyed the 97th birthday celebration at Floramo’s on Revere Beach Boulevard.



Guest of honor Sheldon Young, pictured with friends, Ed Medros, Minna Karas-Marino, and Nick Marino.



Sheldon Young, pictured with Anthony Alicata and Linda Sullivan.



Sheldon Young, pictured at his 97th birthday party with Karen Poverman, Steve Poverman, Lynda Diamond, Sarah Diamond, and John Diamond.



Debbie Sheridan, Nancy Dyer, Carl Young, Sheldon Young, Barbara Nair, and Philip Nair.



Jason Luszc, David Young, Eveline Martin, Lauren Luszc, Sheldon Young, Carl Young, Nancy Dyer, and Briana Rossi.



The many guests are pictured with guest of honor Sheldon Young at his 97th birthday celebration at Floramo’s in Revere.

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CHELSEA, EVERETT, MALDEN, REVERE

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CHELSEA DELEGATION ATTENDS RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY FOR NEW NORTHEAST REGIONAL VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez, Northeast Regional School Committee member Blanca Gacharna, and City Councilor Calvin T. Brown attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the spectacular new school building and campus in Wakefield.

Northeast Supt. David DiBarri welcomed the many guests to the celebration of the completion of the \$317 million project.

State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, Chair of the Massachusetts School Building Authority, Mass. Commis-

sioner of Education Pedro Martinez, and Sen. Jason Lewis were the guest speakers at the event.

Chelsea residents remember the outstanding service of former Northeast Regional School Committee member Michael Wall, who helped thousands of Chelsea students receive excellent vocational training at the school.

Northeast Regional has 12 communities in its school district, including Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, and Saugus.



State Treasurer Deb Goldberg cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of the new Northeast Regional Vocational School building and campus in Wakefield.



Donna Belanger Sandford, pictured with her husband, former professional hockey player Michael Sandford (right), and her son, Louis DelGaudio (left), who is an Academic Department Head at Northeast Regional.



Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez, State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, and City Councilor Calvin T. Brown.



City Councilor Calvin T. Brown, Revere Mayor Patrick Keefe, and Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez.



Chelsea City Councilor Calvin T. Brown, Robert McCarthy, and Northeast Regional School Committee Member Blanca Gacharna of Chelsea.



Chelsea's representative on the Northeast Regional School Committee, Blanca Gacharna (center), pictured with Northeast alumni, Juliana Arevalo, who is a student at Boston University, and Steven Romero Hernandez, who is a student at Franklin Cummings Tech.



Northeast School Supt. David DiBarri, pictured with guest speakers at the program, Mass. Commissioner of Education Pedro Martinez, State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, and State Sen. Jason Lewis.



Johanna LaFauci, Dental Assisting Department Head, Erin Selvitella, Vocational Dean, Joseph Papagni, Academic Vocational Coordinator, Jarrod Richards, Vocational Dean, and Kristen Picozzi, Event Coordinator.



Rep. Donald Wong, City Councilor Calvin T. Brown, Northeast Regional School Committee Member Blanca Gacharna, Northeast graduates Juliana Arevalo and Steven Romero Hernandez, and Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez.

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FOUR STRAIGHT SHUTOUTS FOR CHS BOYS SOCCER, NOW RANKED 20TH IN D-2

The Chelsea High boys soccer team earned two wins and two ties this past week, posting clean sheets in all four contests.

The Red Devils defeated Greater Boston League (GBL) rival Somerville and non-league opponent Brighton by scores of 3-0, and duelled non-league foes Peabody and Northeast Regional to a pair of 0-0 standoffs.

Coach Mick Milutinovic and his crew, who now stand at 4-3-4 on the season and are ranked 20th in the MIAA Division 2 power rankings, were scheduled to host GBL rival Malden this past Tuesday. They will entertain non-league Pioneer Charter today (Thursday) and travel to GBL adversary Medford next Tuesday.

CHS VOLLEYBALL HOSTS PIONEER FRIDAY EVENING

The Chelsea High girls volleyball team will host Pioneer Charter Academy tomorrow (Friday) evening at the CHS gym. The opening serve is set for 5:30.

The Lady Red Devils earned their second victory of the season last Friday with a 3-1 triumph over Excel Academy.

CHS GIRLS SOCCER DEFEATS ENGLISH, 5-1

The Chelsea High girls soccer team split their two contests last week with Greater Boston League (GBL) rivals Somerville and Lynn English.

Last Tuesday the Lady Red Devils faced a challenging matchup against Somerville, which is undefeated in the GBL, dropping a 6-0 decision.

Somerville came out aggressively from the opening whistle and put Chelsea under pressure throughout the first half. The Lady Highlanders scored five goals before halftime, sending the Lady Red Devils into the break trailing 5-0.

Chelsea made adjustments during the intermission and came out with a stronger defensive effort in the second half. The Lady Red Devils were able to limit Somerville to just one additional goal after the break, showing greater organization and determination despite the difficult circumstances.

“Although we were unable to find the back of the net, the team continued to compete and work hard throughout the match,” said CHS head coach Randy Grajal. “Difficult games like this provide valuable opportunities to identify areas for improvement, and we will use the lessons from this match to continue growing stronger as the season progresses.”

Two days later the Lady Red Devils faced Lynn English in a rematch of Chelsea’s 1-0 victory the week before, but this time came away with a convincing 5-1 triumph.

Chelsea controlled the game well and played with confidence from the opening whistle. Kim Contreras and Yahira Jovel each scored a brace (two goals), while Edlyn Hernandez Enriquez added another goal from the penalty spot. Yahira also converted one of her goals on a PK, helping the Lady Red Devils build a strong lead.

Lynn English scored its only goal on a PK with three minutes remaining in

the match. Chelsea keeper Aria Green initially appeared to have made an excellent save on the shot, but the ball slipped through her hands at the last moment and found the back of the net.

“Overall, it was a very strong performance,” said Grajal. “We competed hard, worked together, and did what we needed to do to secure the victory. It was especially exciting to see Kim Contreras score her first goals of the season, contributing two goals to the team’s win. Wendy Zuniga also played an important role by recording an assist.”

“The team learned a great deal from this week’s games and will now turn its attention to another busy stretch, with three games scheduled next week,” Grajal added. “We will look to carry the confidence and teamwork from Thursday’s victory into the challenging week ahead.”

Grajal and his crew, who stand at 4-2-2 overall and 3-1-1 in the GBL, were scheduled to host non-league foe Northeast Regional this past Monday and travel to GBL rival Malden this past Tuesday. They will entertain non-league opponent Lynn Tech today (Thursday) and GBL adversary Medford next Tuesday. The Lady Red Devils will make the long trek to non-league Gloucester next Wednesday.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY CRUISES TO WIN OVER EVERETT, NOW AT 3-1

The Chelsea High boys cross country posted its third victory of the season with a 22-37 triumph over Everett on the Red Devils’ home course at Admiral’s Hill last Wednesday.

Although Everett had the top finisher, Chelsea took the next four spots with Xavier Guzman (18:49), Zakaria Moubtassim (19:04), Carlos Perez (19:09), and Jefriso Mercado (19:25) coming across the line in places 2-through-5.

Sebastian Molina-Regil completed the Chelsea scoring with an eighth-place finish in 20:27. Jadiel Robles (ninth) and Steven Artica (10th) also finished ahead of Everett’s fourth and fifth runners.

On the girls’ side, Hazel Hatleberg finished first overall for the third time this season in a clocking of 23:46.

“Overall, it was our strongest meet of the season, considering almost everyone set either a personal record or a season-best time,” said CHS head coach Cesar Hernandez.

The Red Devils were scheduled to travel to Lynn Classical yesterday (Wednesday) and then will head to Cape Cod to compete in the Bob Glennon Twilight Invitational at the Falmouth Fairgrounds on Saturday. They will host Medford at Admiral’s Hill next Wednesday.

CHS FOOTBALL HOSTS MALDEN FRIDAY NIGHT

The Chelsea High football team will be seeking their first victory of the season when the Red Devils host Greater Boston League (GBL) rival Malden tomorrow (Friday) evening at Chelsea Stadium.

The opening kick-off for the Friday Night Lights encounter is set for 6:00.

Coach David Roque and his crew are coming off a 33-0 loss to GBL foe Revere last Friday.

BRUINS Beat by Bob Morello

BRUINS NEED TO REV UP THE OFFENSE

Four games into the 2026-27 regular season, and the Bruins went from an exciting two game victories, right down to two weak games versus Minnesota Wild and the Ottawa Senators. Their latest effort on Monday night was a mish-mash of mistakes, and poor efforts. The two consecutive losses displayed yet another shallow offensive attack... shallow in the sense that where the offense should be coming from is Boston’s top guns – namely, David Pastrnak, Pavel Zacha, Morgan Geekie and Elias Lindholm. The Bruins stats to date reveal the poor offense, as Mark Kastelic is the team’s points leader with three, and



JJ Peterka and James Hagen are the top goal scorers with a pair apiece. While the offense has been sputtering the last couple of games, so had the defense been susceptible to many mistakes. Pair that up with not the best of goaltending, and you miss out on a winning

formula... Jeremy Swayman only faced 19 shots in the 4-1 loss to Ottawa, allowing four goals, and Michael DiPietro did not have a solid showing in his lone start versus the Minnesota Wild. Tonight (Thursday) the Bruins host the Utah Mammoths on TD Garden ice, and will host the Philadelphia Flyers in a Saturday Matinee (1:00pm). The Bruins will leave on Monday to begin a four-game road trip, beginning with a stop in San Jose to take on the Sharks in late (11:00pm) start, followed by visits to Anaheim to face the Ducks on Friday, and the Los Angeles Kings on Saturday.

SPOOKY SEASON JAMBOREE SERVES UP COMMUNITY SPIRIT AT REVERE BEACH

Who says you can’t play beach volleyball in October? Certainly not the dedicated athletes who gathered at Revere Beach for the “Spooky Season Jamboree.” Serving as the grand finale of “Emma’s 2026 Beach Volleyball Tournament Series,” the autumn event brought together competitors from all over the Boston area for a day of tough competition, plenty of playtime, and neighborhood pride.

What began just two years ago as a small gathering of friends has blossomed into a passion project powered entirely by the local volleyball community. Spearheaded by Emma Kuczkowski, the tournament series operates on a free and pay-what-you-can model. It provides a welcoming environment that accepts both pre-made teams and free agents looking for partners, making it an ideal setting for players of all skill levels to learn the ropes of 2v2 beach volleyball.

The grassroots charm



4v4 Net winners team, IT, featuring Gabriel, Ronald, Jhonatas, and Wagner.

of the jamboree is undeniable; the tournaments thrive largely through word of mouth. It is a true collective effort: players donate their own nets, referee their own matches, and brave the elements to make the magic happen. Kuczkowski gave a huge thank you to the dedicated crew who showed up at 8 a.m. to set up nets in the brisk autumn wind.

Leaning fully into the seasonal theme, the competition featured 4v4 teams named after Stephen King books, while the 2v2 squads adopted various spooky terms for their monikers. As for the stakes? The champi-

ons walked away with bragging rights, bright teal tournament T-shirts, and highly coveted trophies courtesy of the Dollar Tree.

“We’re far from an official organization, but we’re building something wonderful, and I can’t wait to see what happens next,” Kuczkowski shared. She extended her deep gratitude to the entire community, giving special thanks to Thiago, Emily, Brittney, Alex, Karli, Ryan, Jeremy P., and Jeremy G. for their invaluable support in making the series a resounding success.



Cody and Diego of the 2v2 Mens Net winning team, Skull.



2v2 Coed Net winning team, Star, Bernardo and Veronica.

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THE CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL RED DEVILS HOST THE REVERE HIGH PATRIOTS AT HOME

Last Friday evening the Red Devils of Chelsea High School were defeated by the Revere Patriots by a score of 33-0. This loss puts the Red Devils at 0-4 for the season.



Steven Posada heads up field with a kick return.



Captain David Ponce with enough yardage for a first down.



The CHS Game Captains head out for the coin toss, Omar Iman, AJ Calles, Igor Oliveira, and Andrews Santana.



QB Irvin Reyes hands off the ball with some great blocking from Jason Melendez.



Alberson Saint George makes a great play against the Patriots.



Joan Escobar breaks up a Patriot pass play.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHOWS STEADY RESULTS ON STATE ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

EAST BOSTON - The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released the accountability data and Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) results for the 2025-2026 school year.

Overall, per the state accountability framework, the district remains classified as making Moderate Progress Toward Targets. Additionally, the district is not identified as requiring assistance or intervention and continues to reduce the number of schools receiving such designations. This past school year, eight more schools were rated as making substantial progress towards their targets.

“Boston is home to the first public schools in the country, and we’re determined to make them the first choice for all our families,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “Public education always reflects what our families are facing at home and in the community, and in this challenging moment BPS is doubling down on creating the pathways and opportunities to set the standard for learning that extends far beyond the school building. The district’s steady progress across critical measures such as attendance, middle-grade math and science, graduation, and advanced coursework completion reflects the dedicated focus and close partnerships between students, families, and BPS over recent years. We look to continue creating opportunities for academic rigor, enrichment, and support in and out of the classroom.”

“These results reflect steady progress across Boston Public Schools, while also reinforcing the importance of our continued focus on improving student academic performance and accelerating learning for specific student groups,” said Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper. “We are proud to meet our target for four-year cohort graduation rate and chronic absenteeism, while exceeding our target for students completing advanced coursework before graduation. At the same time, we recognize the need to improve proficiency levels across the district and ensure each student is prepared for success beyond the classroom. We will continue to invest in resources that support instructional improve-

ments, expanding access to advanced and rigorous academic programs, and creating more learning opportunities to move this work forward.”

Four Boston Public Schools, including two in-district Horace Mann Charter Schools, were named School of Recognition: Grew Elementary School, Boston Latin School, Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School, and Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers. DESE identifies schools of recognition as schools that met or exceeded their targets and also had both high achievement and high growth.

“This recognition is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our students, educators, and staff, as well as the high expectations we maintain for every student at EMK,” said Dr. Caren S. Walker Gregory, Head of School at Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers. “We are incredibly proud of the academic growth our students have achieved. As we celebrate this accomplishment, we remain focused on building upon this momentum and providing rigorous, meaningful learning experiences that prepare every student for success in college, careers, and life.”

Region 1 School Superintendent Claire Carney said, “I am proud of the progress our East Boston students are making across our schools. We are seeing meaningful gains in both ELA and math, along with strong academic growth in many of our schools. These results reflect the hard work of our students and the commitment of our educators, families, and school communities. It is exciting to see this progress, and we will continue to build on this momentum to ensure our students have the support and instruction they need to thrive.”

Chronic Absenteeism

The district continued to show great progress in reducing chronic absenteeism and exceeded its targets for reducing chronic absenteeism for non-high school grades and met its targets for reducing chronic absenteeism in high school grades, for all students. Non-high schools experienced a reduction of 2.1 percentage points and high schools saw a reduction of 1.7 percentage points.

MCAS & Academic Performance: Grades 3-8 Grades 3-8 & Non-High School

In grades 3-8, across both ELA and Math performance, there were increases in the percent of students meeting

and exceeding standards, where performance was either stagnant or declined at the state level. Students across BPS also demonstrated typical growth, or academic progress, as compared to their peers across the state.

The percent of students meeting and exceeding standards for 3-8 Math was more notable, increasing by 1.4 percentage points. Students in grades 6 and 8 also demonstrated significant year-over-year increases in proficiency by 3.9 and 4.8 percentage points, respectively, a bright spot for the district.

Science performance in grades 5 and 8 saw an increase of 2.9 percentage points of students meeting or exceeding expectations. Grade 8 was a particular bright spot experiencing a 6 percentage point increase.

Students in grade 8 participated in the Civics MCAS test for the second year in a row. There was a notable increase in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations by 3.3 percentage points from the first test-taking year in 2025.

Grades 10 & High School

The district either met or exceeded the target for the following measures on the accountability framework: four-year cohort graduation rate (met), dropout rate (exceeded), and advanced coursework completion (exceeded). For each of these measures, BPS increased points earned from 2025 to 2026.

“We are encouraged by the areas where we are seeing stronger results, including continued progress in reducing chronic absenteeism and expanding access to advanced coursework for our students,” said Boston School Committee Chairperson Jeri Robinson. “These results reinforce the importance of continuing to raise the bar for student achievement across the district. The School Committee will remain focused on understanding where additional improvement is needed, while building on the practices and investments that are helping our schools succeed.”

Students also demonstrated moderate growth, indicating solid academic progress, as compared to their peers across the state, in Grades 10 ELA and Math. Boston experienced a decrease in the percentage of students who met and exceeded expectations for Grade 10 ELA and Math by 7 and 4.3 percentage points, respectively, similar to the state.

Beginning with the Class of 2026, Massachusetts has changed its graduation criteria, eliminating the need for students to earn a required MCAS score to graduate high school. While MCAS continues to be required in Grade 10, MCAS performance no longer determines whether students earn the Competency Determina-

EVERETT MAYOR ROBERT VAN CAMPEN HOSTS RECEPTION AT THE VILLAGE BAR & GRILL.



PHOTOS COURTESY THE CITY OF EVERETT

Everett Mayor Robert Campen and First Lady Lisa Van Campen with Everett’s elected officials and special guests at a reception at the Village Bar & Grill.

tion (CD). Grade 10 MCAS trends should therefore be interpreted with this change in context in mind and examined alongside other evidence of student learning.

BPS continues to work in close partnership with DESE and the Governor’s Office to ensure all graduates demonstrate mastery of the state’s academic standards through rigorous and meaningful coursework.

For more information, please visit <https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/results.html>.

The Boston Public Schools (BPS), the birthplace of public education in the United

States, serves approximately 46,000 pre-kindergarten through grade 12 students in 104 schools. BPS is committed to transforming the lives of all children through exemplary teaching in a world-class system of innovative, welcoming schools. We partner with the community, families, and students to develop in every learner the knowledge, skill, and character to excel in college, career, and life.

EVERETT LEADERS URGE DRIVERS TO PUT SAFETY FIRST AS STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL

EVERETT - As Everett students settle into the new school year, City and state leaders are reminding everyone traveling through Everett to slow down, stay alert and help keep students safe.

The City of Everett, Everett Public Schools, AAA Northeast and MassDOT are partnering on the “School’s Open, Drive Carefully” initiative, which encourages extra caution around schools, crosswalks and residential neighborhoods as students return to walking, biking and taking public transportation to and from school.

The reminder is especially important in Everett, where preliminary data from the Massachusetts IMPACT Crash Data Portal shows traffic crashes increased from 319 in 2024 to 506 in 2025. Between 2020 and 2025, Everett also recorded 80 pedestrian crashes, 61 of which resulted in injuries. Twenty percent of pedestrians struck during that period were children, teens or young adults.

“As a City, we are constantly looking at our streets, intersections and the areas around our schools and asking where we can do better,” said Mayor Robert J. Van Campen. “The ‘School’s Open, Drive Carefully’ initiative is an important reminder for all of us to slow down, stay alert and do our

part to make sure everyone gets home safely.”

“As we welcome students back to school, the ‘School’s Open, Drive Carefully’ initiative is a reminder that safety is a shared responsibility,” said Interim Secretary of Transportation and MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng. “Under the Healey-Driscoll Administration, we have made investments in safe infrastructure, supporting safer roads and crossings and working with our communities to create transportation systems that protect our most vulnerable road users, especially our children. We urge every driver to slow down, stay alert and put safety first.”

“This school year, the RMV is reminding drivers to slow down and stay alert for school buses, and to watch for children in the roadway,” said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. “Drivers are required by law to stop when a school bus has its red lights flashing, and we ask that drivers use extra caution to help keep our students safe.”

“The Everett Police Department and our crossing guards, principals, faculty and parents do their part to make sure students get to and from school safely every day,” said Everett Public Schools Superintendent William D. Hart. “But we must also rely on drivers to be cautious, follow posted signs and obey speed limits. Safe conditions depend on safe drivers. We owe it to each other and, most of all, our students.”

“The switch from summer to school routines can be a major adjustment for everyone on the road,” said Mark Schieldrop, senior spokesperson for AAA Northeast. “Reducing speeds and taking extra care around school buses, pedestrians and cyclists takes extra time, but it could save a life.”

Drivers should expect more traffic during school arrival and dismissal times and allow extra time for their commute. The City and its partners are asking drivers to:

- Slow down and follow posted school-zone speed limits.
 - Stay alert for students, crossing guards, bicyclists and e-bike and e-scooter riders.
 - Put phones and other distractions away while driving.
 - Stop for school buses as required and never attempt to pass a stopped bus.
 - Check carefully for pedestrians and cyclists before turning or entering an intersection.
- Pedestrians and cyclists should use designated

crossings whenever possible, limit distractions and never assume a driver can see them before entering the roadway.

COUNCILLORS LOOK TO REVISE PROPOSED TREE ORDINANCE

REVERE - Revere City Councillors Joanne McKenna and Jim Mercurio are looking to revise a proposed city-wide tree ordinance they recently introduced to the council before bringing it back to the council.

Monday night, the council held a public hearing on the tree preservation ordinance, which McKenna and Mercurio said seeks to protect the tree cover in Revere.

However, the councillors said there were some questions about the oversight and fees associated with the ordinance and were willing to rework it to get wider support from the full council.

“Recognizing that unnecessary tree removal contributes to the loss of the City’s tree canopy, this chapter establishes a permit process to protect healthy trees from removal for reasons of convenience, including routine leaf, seed, branch, or other yard cleanup, while allowing removal when there is a reasonable need to do so,” stated the original proposed ordinance.

During the public hearing, several residents spoke in favor of the ordinance. However, some residents did express concerns about issues related to government oversight of the ordinance, and the permitting fees and potential fees associated with payments in lieu of replacing trees that are removed on private property.

“I have four mature trees in my yard that were already there and growing when my parents bought the house 67 years ago, so I am in support of having a tree preservation ordinance because we really need it in this city right now,” said Revere resident Stephanie Desisto.

Desisto noted that there are a number of newer homeowners in Revere who move to the city and will try to remove the trees from their properties to create more parking.

“I can understand why this is happening, however, it is out of control,” said Desisto.

When she first heard about the ordinance, Desisto said she was skeptical about the city being able to tell homeowners what they can do on private property. However, she pointed to re-

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BHCC celebrates third year of Liberty Mutual Insurance grant for DISH Food Pantry

Special to the Record

Bunker Hill Community College’s (BHCC) is marking the third year of a \$150,000 grant from Liberty Mutual Foundation supporting its DISH Food Pantry, which provides food and other essential resources to students and their families.

Since opening in 2019, DISH has grown significantly in both the number of people it serves and the resources it provides. In 2025, the pantry distributed more than 131,000 pounds of food — an increase of more than 300 percent over five years — and served more than 1,000 households. Today, students can access resources through grocery pickup and automated food lockers, as well as programs such as a monthly diaper lottery.

Liberty Mutual has been a supporter of DISH since BHCC opened the pantry. The current three-year grant has helped DISH fill gaps in resources that may not be available through other sources, including culturally relevant and gluten-free foods, hygiene products, diapers and infant care items.

“We are grateful to Liberty Mutual for its stalwart support of the DISH and our students,” said BHCC President Pam Eddinger. “It has always been important to me that we address our students’ basic needs, because you can’t learn if you are hungry. We also know that our students are parents and caregivers, and it’s important that we feed their families, too. We are proud to have helped lead this movement to address campus hunger in America, and we could not do it without committed partners like Liberty Mutual.”

BHCC’s work on basic needs support has helped foster a national movement to recognize food insecurity as a significant barrier to student success. For two decades, the College has been an advocate for addressing

student hunger not only through direct services, but also through broader policy and institutional change. The College’s approach emphasizes dignity, flexibility and access to foods and necessities that reflect the lives of the students and families it serves.

“The DISH team is so grateful for the long-term support of Liberty Mutual,” said Chelsea Alexander, DISH Food Pantry Coordinator. “This three-year grant provided significant funding that we could rely on year-over-year, supplementing our purchasing budget in a substantial way. Liberty Mutual’s support has given us the flexibility to fill the gaps and make DISH responsive to the real lives of our students.”

The continued support of partners such as Liberty Mutual has helped BHCC build on this foundation and strengthen the College’s capacity to ensure students have the resources they need to succeed.

With more than 50 years of academic excellence, Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) is one of Massachusetts’ most impactful institutions of higher education, serving over 20,000 students annually. With campuses in Charlestown and Chelsea, BHCC offers a broad range of educational opportunities throughout Greater Boston. BHCC fosters a welcoming and supportive learning environment for students by offering associate degrees and certificates, early college and dual enrollment, community education, corporate training, and industry-specific programs.

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At the DISH Food Pantry ribbon-cutting in 2019, Liberty Mutual Foundation Senior Program Manager Kalina Philalom (third from right) celebrated with members of the Bunker Hill community.



DISH Food Pantry shelves stocked with hygiene products, baby food, and infant care items.



DISH Food Pantry Coordinator Chelsea Alexander and Student Staff Member Javkhan “Jay” Batsaikhan with a basket of pantry items.

FRESH AND LOCAL

Takeout orders that work

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Many of the foods we love at our favorite restaurants when we dine there, we’d never order for takeout. In some cases, we have two menus in mind: items we always order in person and items we order to go. For example, at our favorite pub, we enjoy fish and chips in person but pick up their shepherd’s pie or chicken pie for takeout. Their great chef delivers a perfectly fried, non-greasy, crispy order of any fried food every time. We also know from experience that certain menu items, like the pies, reheat well.

Best for Takeout

As we reviewed a list of the most popular takeout

foods, some were obvious, and others made us question if the person ordering was oblivious to food quality. We understand why pizza tops the list. We’ve all learned how to reheat pizza in a toaster oven or air fryer, and some of us even eat it cold for breakfast.

We love picking up a pizza to take home, and we often order more than we plan to eat when dining at our favorite places. What’s more, we love several pizza styles and try to give various places all a bit of our business.

Asian cuisines also offer many options for stewed, stir-fried, or braised dishes that reheat well. We opt for Mexican plates vs. tacos but understand that others will

See TAKEOUT Page 10



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Rabbi Benjamin Rodwogin was a revered spiritual leader in our city who served for decades at Temple Emmanuel from 1946 until his death in 1999. Rabbi Rodwogin was deeply-respected both among his congregants and by the Chelsea community at-large, whom he served in many civic capacities. Rabbi Rodwogin is shown in the above photo with Archbishop Humberto Cardinal Medeiros at an event in 1980 at the Cardinal Cushing Center for Special Education in Hanover at which Chelsea’s Lenny Florence was honored for his philanthropy to the center.

Region// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

cent activity in Beachmont where a number of trees were cut down leaving a blight on the neighborhood, as well as a closer reading of the ordinance, as a reason why she is supporting it.

“The reality is, the city can and does tell property owners what they can and can’t do,” Desisto said. “We have zoning, we have building, we have health and safety, we have noise ordinances of every kind that regulate what property owners can and can’t do.”

However, not all residents were supportive of the government oversight.

Ward 5 Councillor Angela Guarino-Sawaya read a letter in opposition to the ordinance from local attorney Christine Carey that she wrote on behalf of her family.

“While we support responsible environmental stewardship and efforts to preserve the Revere tree canopy, this ordinance places additional government regulations, fees, and financial burdens on homeowners, while providing broad authority to the city over decisions involving private property,” Carey wrote. “The proposal would require homeowners to obtain permits before removing certain trees on their own property, pay permit application fees, replace removed trees, or make payments into a city fund.”

Carey also stated that the

tree warden or city engineer may not have the necessary background to oversee the effects of trees on private property.

“I talked to a couple of councillors tonight, and I know many councillors are getting pushback with this ordinance, they feel compelled to vote it down,” said McKenna. “The conflict, I believe, is that the residents feel that the tree warden coming onto their property or getting a permit to have a tree cut down is an invasion of privacy.”

McKenna did note that the city does have the right to fine property owners if there are issues with garbage or other matters. She also said that the proposed tree ordinance is similar to ones that are in place and are effective in other cities.

McKenna said she and Mercurio will take the time to revise the ordinance and take additional input so that it is more palatable for residents.

“We brought this ordinance forward because we believe that protecting Revere’s tree canopy is important,” said Mercurio. “I still believe that we need a reasonable tree preservation ordinance in our city, however I have listened to the concerns raised by my colleagues and by residents, (and) I understand the concern about government telling homeowners what they can and cannot do with trees

on their own property. I also believe that we need to take another look at the mandatory replacement provisions, the fees, the penalties, and make sure that we are not placing any unreasonable financial or administrative burden on our residents.”

COUNCILOR ROMANO PROPOSES INCREASED NOTICE FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS

WINTHROP -Precinct 3 Councilor Joseph Romano proposed an ordinance change at last week’s Winthrop Town Council meeting that he said would increase transparency and provide more information to the public.

The ordinance change would “allow posting of every proposed ordinance, appropriation order or loan authorization, except emergency ordinances as provided in section 2-9(a), to be posted either once in full in a local newspaper or posted on the town’s website at least seven days before its final passage.”

The motion filed by Romano stated that posting in both the newspaper and on the town’s website is preferred but not mandatory.

During last week’s town council meeting, Romano clarified that the ordinance change is not meant to replace the newspaper postings with the online post-

ings, but to give the town the option to post the relevant information in more locations.

“I just want another option for people to be able to find it,” said Romano. “I understand that people might be confused when I said post it both in the newspaper and on the town website is preferred but not mandatory. I would like that we did both, but you only need the newspaper, that is the only thing that state law requires.”

“I’m just trying to prevent a situation where it doesn’t get on the website in time, we have the legal rights to vote.”

Romano said he does not want to make it more strict to vote on a notice, but that he also wants to make it easier for the public to have another place to easily go and read the notices.

The motion was sent to the council’s rules and ordinance subcommittee where Romano said the language could be amended slightly for clarity.

There will also be a public hearing scheduled for the ordinance change prior to a council vote.

“I just want to agree with Councilor Romano, I think it would be a great benefit to everybody to have those notices posted to the town website as timely as possible,” said Councilor-at-Large Max Tassinari.

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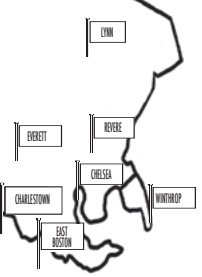
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‘Chelsea Then And Now’ was a tremendous event

By Cary Shuman

It was a spectacular forum worthy of Chelsea’s four City Managers – Guy Santagate, Jay Ash, and Tom Ambrosino, and Fidel Maltez – who served Chelsea with so much distinction during the past 35 years - and in Mr. Maltez’s case, continues to serve the community.

The panel event, titled Chelsea Then & Now, 35 Years Since Receivership, held Sept. 16 at the Chelsea High School Auditorium, provided a view of an unprecedented time in the city’s history and its change to a new form of government. Each manager’s descriptions of his experiences in Chelsea’s most prestigious position of leadership were thorough and informative, and offered an inside look at some of the tough decisions that each had to make during his tenure.

Stephen McGoldrick, who joined the state’s Chelsea receivership team in October, 1991, opened the forum with a look at the events leading up to receivership.

Adam Chapdelaine, executive director and CEO of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, did a superb job as the moderator of the forum.

Santagate brought his sense of humor to the forum, at one point standing up next to the 6-foot-7-inch Clark basketball star Ash, highlighting the more-than-a-foot difference in their height.

Ash, known for his keen ability to light up a room, had a great exchange with the other managers when he said it took him 13 roll-call votes by the City Council to be selected as manager while Maltez and Ambrosino responded that they were elected in a single roll-call vote.

But as everyone in Chelsea knows, Ash went on to bring Chelsea to new heights, with his incredible development along Everett Avenue, the construction of the former Wyndham Hotel (which spurred additional hotel chains to come to the city) and of course, getting the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to relocate

its headquarters from Boston to Chelsea.

The well-designed pamphlet at the event said it best about how exceptionally well Maltez has guided Chelsea since leaving his previous position as Reading town manager and taking over the corner office at Chelsea City Hall: “Fidel Maltez is Chelsea’s fourth and current city manager. Maltez has been praised for his high-energy leadership, strong budget management, and expanded community engagement. He brought home two All-America City titles and oversaw the development of the City’s first comprehensive plan in more than 50 years.”

And for the Chelsea residents and officials who traveled to Denver for the All-America City awards program, they witnessed the high level of esteem in which Maltez is held by his colleagues in government across the nation.

Ambrosino traveled a unique path to becoming city manager in Chelsea, physically relocating only 1.4 miles away from Revere

City Hall where he served 12 years as mayor. The audience found Ambrosino’s thoughts captivating on the differences between being a mayor in Revere where city councilors or other officials can run for mayor themselves and being city manager in Chelsea where he is the chief executive officer and top administrative official under a council-manager form of government.

During the question and answer session following the panel discussion, former Chelsea city official and current Chelsea District Court Assistant Clerk Magistrate James Dywer commended and thanked all four city managers for their outstanding leadership through the years, especially Guy Santagate, who served as Chelsea’s very first city manager under a new post-receivership charter from 1995 to 2000.

Finally, Maltez, thanked his team for its role in organizing and coordinating such an extraordinary event. That group included:

Bernabe Rodriguez, Director of Constituent Ser-



Pictured backstage moments before the Panel Event are former City Manager Jay Ash, former City Manager Guy Santagate, City Manager Fidel Maltez, and former City Manager Tom Ambrosino.

vices, Lillian Martin Communication and Community Engagement Manager,

Diana Hercules, Communication and Community Engagement Manager,

Grace Agosto, Executive Assistant, and event support staff, Devon Fields, Deputy City Manager, Delia Harrington, Manager of Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy and

Sal DiDomenico, Communications Intern.

Maltez also thanked Chelsea Community Cable Television Technical Director Ricky Velez for videotaping the event which can be seen on the channel that is led by Executive Director Paula Bradley Batchelor.

It’s a show you’ll want to see.

Harbor Towers cuts ribbon on \$20M flood barrier project

By Nicole Tobia

Mayor Michelle Wu joined residents of Harbor Towers Condominiums on Wednesday by cutting the ribbon on the downtown waterfront property’s \$20 million flood-resistance project that includes deployable barriers.

The ribbon-cutting was part of Deployables Day, a citywide gathering that highlights publicly and privately owned deployable flood barriers.

In recent years, the high-rise condominiums have experienced their share of damage because of flooding and severe storms. In 2018, floodwaters came within inches of the property, which prompted the condominium to act.

As concerns about rising tides have continued to grow, Harbor Towers decided to take the next step and install deployable flood barriers to protect the building’s infrastructure.



Mayor Michelle Wu.

“We have four of our largest and most impacted and important public spaces that have deployables in place and ready to go when the need is,” Wu said. “And since we started the program, 11 private properties as well, with this one being one of the most significant.”

As sea levels continue to rise and the threats of climate change become more apparent, Boston will continue its efforts to fight back and work to preserve the city, Wu said.

“The specifics are really real, and the benefit that



Norman Meisner.

Boston has is we already know what we need to do,” Wu said. “We were way ahead of many other cities in really doing the hard work of putting those maps against our real-life conditions.”

Norman Meisner, chairman of the Harbor Towers Board of Trustees, said residents of the 54-year-old towers received a “wake-up call” in the winter of 2018, when not one but two “one in a hundred-year storms” struck.

Meisner described the towers as likely the sec-

ond-lowest elevation on Boston’s waterfront, with Long Wharf being the lowest.

The trustees sought solutions to the threat of flooding and found that protecting the perimeter of the structures was the most feasible option. They brought on Weston & Sampson as their architect and engineer and Build Enclosure Science as their project manager. Commodore

The decision was made to protect the towers with a combination of permanent and deployable protections.

The \$20 million for the project came entirely from the condo owners, Meisner said. It is expected to protect the towers for the next 50 years.

Meisner said the project was completed “on time and within budget.”

This story is part of a partnership between The Chelsea Record and the Suffolk University Department of Journalism program.



Harbor Towers Condominiums.

What a 32-hour workweek means to Boston residents

By Anna Gohman, Miles Dakss and Keona Hayes

Boston residents seem enthusiastic about the idea of a national 32-hour workweek reintroduced by Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Rep. Mark Takano of California, but expressed concern about how it would be implemented.

Residents from Fenway, downtown and Jamaica Plain interviewed cited more opportunities for income, a better work-life balance and less stress as reasons for supporting the proposed bill. But they expressed skepticism about the economic impact it would have on supporting their families, workers and their communities.

“I think it would be great for us to push back against

this culture of being productive absolutely all the time, which I think ironically makes us less productive in the long run,” said Aaron Mueller, 30, a resident in downtown Boston.

Sanders and Takano recently reintroduced the “Thirty Two Hour Workweek Act,” something they had proposed going back as far as 2021. According to their proposal, which suggests gradually changing the typical 40-hour work week to 32 hours over four years, people would work reduced hours while still earning the same pay and benefits of a 40-hour work week. The proposal would also lower when employees could become eligible for overtime pay and double their wages after 12-hour shifts.

In introducing their pro-

posal, the two Democratic lawmakers cited success stories of a 32-hour work week from elsewhere in the world. A pilot study conducted in the United Kingdom in 2022 found that over 70 percent of the 3,000 workers included in the study reported being more satisfied with their time and less burnout, while the businesses that participated in the study saw an average increase in revenue of 35 percent.

When Sanders last introduced the bill, in 2024, Louisiana Senator Bill Cassidy — who lost his Senate seat in the primary earlier this year — slammed the idea, saying it would “will destroy employers, forcing them to either ship jobs overseas or dramatically increase prices to try and stay

afloat.”

Residents interviewed for this article cited more opportunities for income, a better work life balance and less stress as reasons for supporting the proposed bill, saying they hope its implementation will streamline productivity in the workplace and quality of life.

While some residents said a 32-hour workweek would help modernize outdated labor standards, others expressed concerns about changing traditional social norms.

“Throughout most of humankind, people worked far more than 40 hours a week. What are you going to do [for] that extra 8 hours?” said Beacon Hill resident Paul Cohon.

Meghan Napier, 37, a

Jamaica Plain resident, disagreed, calling the standard 40-hour work week “arbitrary” and “outdated.”

“During the workweek, you have to commute, come back, do all this stuff, so you don’t have time to do all the day-to-day things,” she said. “I think I would almost just need a day to do just like errands that I can’t get done during the week.”

Similarly, Kervins Boutin, 25, a Boston-area resident on a visit to Jamaica Pond, said the additional time could create more opportunity to pursue productive interests that could also benefit their communities.

“People with freed-up time usually like to put it towards something productive,” he said. “People are able to take on healthier sort of entrepreneurial roles and

schedules.”

Despite differing opinions about how a 32-hour workweek would affect workers and the economy, Boston residents largely agreed that more time outside of work could improve their quality of life.

For some, that extra day could mean more time with family, pursuing interests or catching up on responsibilities.

“It just gives you more time to catch up on life,” said Fenway resident Mary Clang.

This story is part of a partnership between The Chelsea Record and the Boston University Department of Journalism’s Newsroom program.

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