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# CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

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35 CENTS

## Beacham Street corridor overhaul to begin in early April

By Seth Daniel

The City saw a plethora of bidders on the complete overhaul of the Beacham Street corridor in the New England Produce Center, and thus were able to choose a bidder that came in under budget.

The low-bidder on the project was awarded this week, and they were able to choose from eight companies that put in bids for the work. That was a surprise, and City Planner Alex Train said that allowed the project to start off on a good note – it being under budget.

He said they anticipated an April groundbreaking, likely the second week.

Next week, however, they will begin pre-construction abutters meetings, with one on March 27 at 11 a.m., and another on March 29 at 11 a.m.

A major piece of the project early on will be adding capacity to the drainage system.

“We’re going to completely reconstruct the area’s drainage and in some cases will double the capacity of the system,” he said. “We’re trying to add capacity as the instances of flooding there have been well-documented.”

Beyond that, they will be introducing sidewalks on the north side where there are none, a shared bike and pedestrian path on the south side, and upgrade the intersection at Spruce/Williams with intelligent signals. There will also be new landscaping and a full reconstruction of the roadway as well. The project goes to the Everett line, but the City of Everett is working in tandem with Chelsea to pick up the same design and continue it on their side all the way to Lower Broadway.

The Chelsea part of the project is expected to take two years from groundbreaking.

## HELPING THE SALVATION ARMY



The Chelsea Salvation Army was pleased to accept a donation from Javier Bellini, vice president of Cambridge Savings Bank, on March 3 at the Chestnut Street facility. Accepting it is the Salvation Army’s Isael Gonzalez. “We are so grateful for the support of community partners like Cambridge Savings Bank that support the work we do for our community,” said Gonzalez. “Because of partners like them The Salvation Army of Chelsea/East Boston have served 5.9 million meals since March 2020, and The Salvation Army distributed 14.5 million meals across Massachusetts.”

## Councillor’s actions could trigger City investigation

By Seth Daniel

City Councillor Giovanni Recupero could be investigated for alleged Civil Rights violations by City Solicitor Cheryl Fisher Watson after complaints lodged with the Council were forwarded to her Monday night – with the charges stemming from an incident where Recupero allegedly verbally harassed a 17-year-old member of the Youth Commission in the City Hall parking lot Feb. 23 following a controversial vote on removing the Christopher Columbus Statue.

Complaints came in quickly after the Feb. 23 meeting in regards to the tenor of comments from Recupero and Councillor Toddy Taylor – both of whom voted against taking down the statue in Chelsea Square – when Youth Commission members Brandon Garcia and Richard Flores gave testimony as part of their high school class and Youth Commission advocacy. Students and Chelsea High Teacher Ilana Ascher said they felt dismissed and disrespected. However, for Recupero, the allegations became more serious as he is alleged to have followed the students outside to the City Hall Parking Lot and confronted them in a heated discussion. He allegedly would not stop when asked to and the students reported feeling harassed and that their rights had been infringed upon.

In a letter to the Council on Monday night, Ascher asked for an investigation by the City – as did a number of other members of the public in communications sent to the body.

“During the Council discussion before the vote, some of the Council comments did not address the matter itself, but were personal attacks on the presenters,” wrote Ascher. “I can only imagine they were designed to humiliate my students and to silence future discourse. More disgraceful were the words of Councillor Recupero after the presentation. To be frank, I and the rest of Chelsea expect more from Mr. Recupero.”

She said her students were on the verge of tears as he pressed them in the parking lot for answers to his questions, and even allegedly suggested they give up their names because they were forfeiting their heritage.

“If one launches personal attacks at a 17-year-old who voiced his opinion

“We should be finishing within the next two or three weeks on that and everyone will have signed loan agreements by the end of the month,” she said.

The program gives out up to \$5,000 for a single-family, \$8,000 for a two-family, and \$10,000 for a three-family. It is meant to pay three months of mortgage, utilities, taxes, insurance and tenant costs. The loan is forgiven after two years if one doesn’t sell the home and doesn’t move out. Those accepting would have to pay half back if they sell within the year, and all of it back if they sell immediately.

The larger Phase 2, she said, should open up in a couple of weeks for applications.

City Planner Alex Train said they are also working with Chelsea Restoration Corporation to make loan modifications to those homeowners who do not have a favorable mortgage, such as a high adjustable rate.

See HOMEOWNER Page 3

## Second phase of Homeowner Stabilization to begin soon

By Seth Daniel

The Chelsea Homeowner Stabilization Program has nearly completed its first round of assistance, and will begin the larger Phase 2 program – which has money in it to help those whose property taxes have gone up significantly – will begin in the next two weeks.

Housing Specialist Desirae Valentin told the Affordable Housing Trust Fund on Tuesday that the first phase was successful, with 25 people selected for help and the loan documents now being wrapped up.

She said 41 had been put in the lottery, with others on the waiting list. However, only 25 were selected and qualified, and some money was left over because of that. That money will be rolled into Phase 2.

Of the 25, some 15 have signed agreements and the City is moving to get payment to them. The others are still finalizing paperwork and loan documents.

“We should be finishing

## RFPs are out on Salvation Army building opportunity

By Seth Daniel

The long-vacant storefront on Broadway that used to house the Salvation Army store has gone out to bid this week and will soon have some movement on choosing a developer to build-out the City-owned, and key, downtown property.

City Planner Alex Train said the City has put out the RFP on the property at 440 Broadway and had a site walk with potential respondents Tuesday morning. Bids on the property are due April 29, and Train said he expects to get some very good proposals to choose from.

“We’re engaging in a pretty robust promotional and advertising campaign to elevate the regional knowledge of the opportunity,” he said. “We’re hoping to get a lot of good information out there and we’re optimistic it will yield a number of high-quality proposals.”

He said they have begun to form an Evaluation Committee on the matter, and predicted by the end of May they will have the developer selected. Then they will forward it to the City Council for review and approvals.

The development is seen by the City as a way to really get momentum

going for development in downtown Chelsea. In a key location in busy Bellingham Square, the property has already gone through the approval process – thus saving lots of time and money for any developer that wins the bid.

What has been approved is a 16-unit, five story new building with podium parking for eight spots. There is also to be 5,000 sq. ft. of retail on the ground floor. If a developer were to come in and want to propose a different project, they would have to go through the approval process again.

“We did all the approvals before the RFP and got the development ready in hopes it would translate into more affordable housing and a higher-quality product,” Train said.

The City will be looking for an all-affordable, or a majority-affordable, project with ground floor retail and community uses. For the retail, he said they are looking for something creative, maybe even a continuation of the gallery that is there now, but certainly not a chain store.

“We don’t want something that could just be in any downtown in America,” Train said.



Giovanni Recupero Jr. spoke to defend his father, saying, “Do I look like the creation of a white supremacist?”

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# Senator DiDomenico will not hold annual St. Patrick’s Day Roast

By Seth Daniel

This week, Senator Sal DiDomenico sat at his home reviewing the video of last year’s DiDomenico Foundation annual St. Patrick’s Day Roast – a yearly tradition bringing most everyone from the state and regional political and civic circles together for one night of good-hearted joking and fun just prior to the overall fun of St. Patrick’s Day in Greater Boston.

“It’s crazy,” he said. “No one is wearing masks. It was the last big event in the state to happen before the pandemic and you can look at it and say, ‘That’s when it all started.’ You look at everyone and see them at the tables eating and laughing at each other and you just get nervous seeing it now. It looks so unusual. Depending on the day, it seems so far away and also like it was just yesterday...No one knew what was coming, and no one could have predicted we’d be in the same situation one year later.”

That is exactly where society stands right now as one year has passed on the calendar and COVID-19 remains, and while there have been some needed victories lately, the mystery remains as to how long it could last or whether it could become a permanent part of our lives. In that spirit, DiDomenico said this week he would be cancelling the annual event, which would have taken place normally this Friday – just prior to the March 17 St. Patrick’s Day celebration. The event is a who’s-who of state and local politics, bringing U.S. Senators,

Gov. Charlie Baker, Mayor Martin Walsh shoulder to shoulder with elected officials and community leaders from Everett, Charlestown, Chelsea, Cambridge and other locales. It all has been done to have a fun time, but also to raise money for the DiDomenico Foundation.

“We thought about doing it virtually, but just decided it wasn’t appropriate,” he said. “The notion of the event being a fundraiser and an event with jabs and jokes didn’t seem appropriate with the pandemic still raging. The Foundation does suffer because we can’t raise needed funds for the community, but we felt it just wasn’t the right thing to do this year.”

Last year’s event took place on March 6, and it was really the only St. Patrick’s event that took place. The South Boston Parade was quickly cancelled afterward, and most of the bars and special events went on lockdown shortly after DiDomenico’s event. By St. Patrick’s Day, most people were thinking about the dark times of the first COVID surge rather than toasting a Guinness to the old sod.

For now, the memories of that March 6 event seem very surreal to DiDomenico. The pandemic was knocking at the door, very literally, but no one knew – no one thought it would be serious. So it was they were enjoying themselves in a familiar environment for what would be the last traditional function for more than a year.

DiDomenico recalled that attendance was not hindered by the mentions

of COVID-19, and there were a couple of jokes at the time that are now cringe-worthy given the luxury of hindsight.

“The BioGen people did make it a little more serious for us as it happened that day, meaning earlier that day we heard they were going to the hospital,” he said. “The governor and the mayor had to cancel, but we were told the BioGen issue was contained and we’d be fine. It was an isolated incident. So, the attendance at my event wasn’t impacted at all. We had a full room. All the elected officials were there minus the governor and Mayor Walsh. So, we thought that was an isolated event and everything was fine. Little did we know what lied ahead for all of us in only a few days.”

DiDomenico said he looks at the tapes from last year’s event, seeing friends like Mayor Carlo DeMaria, Everett City Councilors, Chelsea Collaborative’s (now La Colaborativa) Gladys Vega, Chelsea Supt. Almi Abeyta, Charlestown State Rep. Dan Ryan, and Charlestown Councilor Lydia Edwards – in addition to then-Congressman Joe Kennedy and AG Maura Healey, to name but a few. He said it hurts to watch it, as it recalls one of the last times he can remember having fun with others and not worrying about protocols and sickness.

“Looking back at it, we didn’t know,” he said. “It was one of the last community events and we’ll look back on it and say it was the end of how we lived for awhile.”

# City to begin new program to develop affordable housing on vacant property

By Seth Daniel

City’s Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) is taking a novel step this month in entering into the development game – a new initiative championed by City Manager Tom Ambrosino and recently advanced by the AHTF for a property on Orange Street.

To create more density and to improve the affordable housing stock, Ambrosino proposed the new program in his State of the City Address last month. On Monday, AHTF Chair Gary DeYoung, of Winisimmet Street, was on hand to explain the program and ask for a Committee meeting to get the ball rolling.

“We need more affordable housing, and this is likely the most direct and quick ways to develop af-



AHTF Chair Gary DeYoung.

fordable housing – that being to allow us to develop it on our (City) property and allow us to do so if we have the opportunity,” he said. “We also understand at this time we’re proposing to do something new.”

The proposal would be to take the vacant, City-owned land at 41-43 Orange St. and develop it into an all-affordable building using funds from

the AHTF.

In anticipation of the new idea, the AHTF has decided after a number of meetings on the matter to have a robust community outreach process. That will start at the Council, DeYoung said, but will fan out to the community as well. If they are successful, he said they would like to repeat the effort again and again.

“We understand this will be our first development of property if you were to transfer this property to us and we want it to go well and last a long time in the community,” he said. “The best way to do that is in partnership with you.”

The matter was referred to Committee, and there is a meeting now scheduled on the matter for March 18.

## MCU OPENS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Metro Credit Union (MCU), Massachusetts’ largest state-chartered credit union, today announced that it will provide scholarship opportunities for the 2021-2022 academic year. To be eligible, the applicant and/or their parent or guardian must be a member of Metro Credit Union.

“Metro is committed to providing opportunities to further the education of our members and their families,” said Robert Cashman, CEO and president. “We look forward to seeing what’s in store for high school students in the communities we serve, and we are happy to help guide them toward rich futures filled with possibilities.”

Metro Credit Union Scholarship Program

Thirteen scholarships, for \$1,000 each, will be awarded to graduating high school seniors who have been accepted to an accredited undergraduate program.

The application deadline is April 15, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. To be considered for the scholarship awards, all applicants must apply online. Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic record, demonstrated leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, statement of goals and aspirations.

Cooperative Credit Union Association’s Massachusetts College Scholarship Program

Metro Credit Union is a sponsoring credit union in the Cooperative Credit Union Association’s Massachusetts College Scholarship Program. The Association will award six (6) \$1,500 scholarships to high school seniors who will be enrolled in an undergraduate college degree program during the 2021-2022 academic year.

The application deadline is Friday, April 9, 2021. Applications will be evaluated based on essay, grades and extracurricular/community activities.

Full details for both opportunities can be found at [metrocu.org/scholarships](http://metrocu.org/scholarships).

For more information about Metro Credit Union, please visit [metrocu.org](http://metrocu.org), or connect with us on LinkedIn.

## MVES TO HOLD FREE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SERIES

Mystic Valley Elder Services will present a free virtual workshop series—A Matter of Balance—on Wednesdays, beginning April 7 to May 26, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

A Matter of Balance is a free, award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. You’ll learn how to see falls as something you can control; set goals for increasing your physical activities; make modifications to your home to reduce fall risks; and practice exercises that will increase your strength and balance. This workshop is designed for anyone—whether you are concerned about falls, have



**BLUEBIKES HAVE ARRIVED:** The City of Chelsea has successfully installed new stations of Bluebikes around the City. The project will pilot this year with different stations around the City. How it works : Join - Buy a pass from any Bluebikes station kiosk or through the mobile app, or become a member online. Unlock - Find an available bike nearby, get a ride code or use your member to unlock it. Ride: Take as many short rides as you want while your pass or membership is active. Return: Return your bike to any station, and wait for the green light on the dock to make sure it’s locked.

a history of falling, or are interested in improving balance, flexibility, and strength.

Learn how to connect virtually thru this Zoom platform and take the class from the comfort of your own home! Registration is free, but required. To register please call Donna

Covelle at 781-388-4867 or e-mail her at [dcovelle@mves.org](mailto:dcovelle@mves.org).

## OUTDOOR SPRING EASTER EGG HUNT

Bring your own basket and hop on over to our annual Egg Hunt! Children search for brightly decorated eggs. Public health guidelines will be strictly followed. Free!

AGES 2-6 from 10-10:30am

AGES 7-10 from 11-11:30am

Location: Mary C. Burke Complex, 300 Crescent Avenue  
Registration is required!  
Deadline Wednesday, March 24

## STREET SWEEPING BEGINS THIS MONTH!

Please pay close attention to posted street signs detailing the scheduled sweeping days on each street. Failure to comply will result in a parking fine.

We strongly encourage residents to move their cars on street sweeping days to allow for cleaning.

It is impossible to keep our streets clean if cars are not moved. Failure to move your car will result in a \$25.00 ticket.

Find out when the sweeping occurs on your street on [www.chelseama.gov/StreetSweeping](http://www.chelseama.gov/StreetSweeping)

## SCHEDULE A VACCINE APPOINTMENT

COVID-19 Vaccination Update: Adults 75 and over can receive the COVID-19 vaccine starting on February 1 using the statewide website. Find more details on the vaccination eligibility, vaccination locations and information for booking appointments at [mass.gov/covidvaccine](http://mass.gov/covidvaccine)

Did you recently test positive for COVID-19 and have to quarantine? If so, you are eligible to receive food delivered right to your home. The City of Chelsea will deliver a box of assorted veggies, fruit and other healthy groceries.

To sign up, Chelsea residents

idents can dial 3-1-1 and request information regarding the City of Chelsea’s Emergency Food program. (And thank you for staying home and taking precautions to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 to others!)

## RESIDENTIAL PARKING STICKER EXTENDED

The residential parking sticker has been extended until February 2022 in order to stop the spread of COVID-19. The current sticker expiring on February 28, 2021 will be valid until February 28, 2022.

All other permits/stickers will expire on February 28, 2021.

## HOMEOWNERS STABILIZATION PROGRAM

•Phase 1  
The Department of Housing and Community Development, in conjunction with its contractor, Chelsea Restoration Corporation, is overseeing Phase 1 of the Homeowners Stabilization Program. Funded by the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board, Phase 1 of this program offers direct financial assistance to income-eligible homeowners that can be used for mortgage, insurance, utility, and property taxes. The application period for Phase I is now closed.

•Phase 2  
The City will soon be accepting applications for Phase 2 of the program. Phase 2 was funded with \$750.00 from the Chelsea City Council. Phase 2 eligibility is broader than Phase 1. You may apply if you make up to 100% of AMI. Information about Phase 2 will be coming soon.

## BEACHAM/ WILLIAMS CORRIDOR RECONSTRUCTION

In December, the Department of Housing and Community Development released the Beacham/Williams Corridor Reconstruction Project for bidding. Construction bids were opened on January 11, and low bids came in under budget. Over the next two months, the Department will oversee contracting and preconstruction activities, followed by a public meeting, prior to the commencement of construction. Construction is slated to begin in April of 2021.

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# Driver’s License bill relaunched at multiplatform, multilingual event

On Tuesday, February 23, a press conference hosted by the Driving Families Forward coalition showed how the Work and Family Mobility Act, which would allow immigrants without status to qualify for a Massachusetts Standard Drivers’ License, is now positioned to pass and finally become law, not despite Covid, but in part, because of it.

“The Work and Family Mobility Act,” the bill advanced further in the State House last year than ever before. Unfortunately, after it passed the Transportation Committee for the first time, Covid put the brakes on the legislation, along with just about everything else. Now, the recently reintroduced bill has already garnered over 60 cosponsors, and the coalition behind it, Driving Families Forward, has grown to include almost 250 civic leaders and organizations.

By size alone, Tuesday’s gathering demonstrated the wide support that exists across Massachusetts for permitting driving privileges regardless of immigration status. Broadcast live on multiple Facebook pages in three languages, the Zoom press conference drew thousands of commonwealth residents to listen to a range of immigrants, experts and elected officials, each explaining the benefits of the bill from a different public health, road safety, law enforcement, economic, or immigrant rights perspective.

The first expert speaker stressed one of the most urgent reasons for the bill’s passage. “We need every tool to help us prevent further spread of Covid-19,” said Jeneczka Roman, Public Policy Specialist at the Massachusetts Public Health Association.

A study by the Center for American Progress concluded that nearly three-quarters of the undocumented immigrant workforce is classified as essential, and essential workers are far more susceptible than the general population to coronavirus infection (55% more susceptible in Philadelphia, a recent study found). The current law further worsens the odds by forcing over 200,000 immigrants in Massachusetts to carpool or use public transportation – if they can. Outside Greater Boston, “public transit operations are far too limited to enable much of the essential immigrant workforce to get to work, buy groceries, or access reliable healthcare. This includes accessing Covid-19 testing, treatment, and vaccination,” Roman noted. “Drive-thru operations and remote locations require that residents have a car to get tested or get vaccinated.”

State Representative Christine Barber, one of the bill’s four lead sponsors, added that public transportation is also operating on reduced schedules during the pandemic, increasing the problem of overcrowding.

“More directly, it’s imperative that families can access care, particularly people who are most at risk of getting Covid,” the Somerville and Medford representative continued. “All parents should be able to take their children to the doctor, safely and without fear of being pulled over for driving without a license.”

The health risk of denying driving privileges is particularly critical to the state’s 25,000 farmworkers, explained Phil Korman, Executive Director of the Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture. “To get to a farm job, many immigrant farmworkers need to commute over 20 miles. Public transportation is not an option in rural Western Massachusetts, so people crowd into a shared vehicle or a minivan. Then, after getting to the farm job, people need to commute from one part of the farm to the other, and the farmland is not together -- it’s in another town.”

Korman also pinpointed further problems with the vaccination program. “Thankfully, the Baker administration does consider farmworkers to be essential. But, again, when you take a look at a lot of the vaccine appointment sites, they’re requiring ‘state I.D.’ whatever that might be, though we all think of it as driver’s licenses. So all I can say is, as a commonwealth, we can’t keep telling ourselves that people who work on farms are essential because

we depend on them to feed our families, and at the same time, deny them the right to legally drive, which puts them at a higher risk to get deathly sick in the middle of a pandemic.”

To stress the urgency of this health threat, the bill has now been officially renamed “An Act Relative to Work and Family Mobility During and Subsequent to the COVID-19 Emergency” (HD.448 and SD.273). Indeed, some of the myriad other reasons for passing the legislation have also grown more pressing since March 2020.

Other speakers stressed the economic benefits of the bill for all state residents. “Mass Budget estimates that the commonwealth would receive about \$4.5 million in fees from new applicants,” said the bill’s newest lead sponsor, State Senator Adam Gomez, of Hampden. “Fewer uninsured motorists and more drivers in insurance pools could also lower everyone’s insurance rates. In states like New Jersey, which recently passed this law, it’s estimated that insurance companies would bring in about \$233 million in additional premiums each year, and the state of New Jersey would take in a whopping \$11.7 million in license fees.”

Other speakers noted that, even without Covid, the safety benefits of the bill are irrefutable. States from Connecticut to California have enjoyed decreases of up to

ten percent in hit-and-run accidents since passing similar laws, said another of the bill’s lead sponsors, Senator Brendan Crighton, of Lynn and environs. “If we want to have the safest possible roads in Massachusetts, we must have an equal system in place that allows every resident of age to have the ability to earn a drivers’ license – to take a driver’s education course, to take a road test, to take a vision test, and to get insurance. One’s citizenship status has nothing to do with their ability to safely operate a vehicle.”

According to the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, between 41,000 and 78,000 drivers in Massachusetts would obtain licenses within the first three years of the bill’s implementation.

Throughout the press conference, immigrants attested to the human cost of linking driving privileges to federal immigration enforcement, regardless of the administration in Washington.

Irma Lemus, Community Leader at Movimiento Co-secha, shared the story of Nelson, who was stopped for driving without a license on route to care for his three-day-old daughter. As a result, he was detained for a year and then deported to Guatemala. “We have a lot of members of our community who have not even been able to know their own children,” Lemus said.

Everett Hospital security officer David Andrade spoke of the problem he faced

when he suffered a temporary break in his DACA status. “Just one little hiccup. I lost my job, I lost my driver’s license. You can’t live a normal life without that one simple I.D.”

Katherine Yessenia Lopez spoke about having to drive to two jobs while she and her two children were trapped in a life with her abuser. “When I left home every morning, I did not know if I was going to see my kids again because I knew if the police stopped me, they could call immigration,” she said. Once, while a friend drove her to get diapers, the police stopped them outside Framingham and impounded the car, leaving Lopez, her friend, and Lopez’s two toddlers stranded on the street. “I remember it was cold. My kids were scared, and my daughter asked, ‘Why did they take the car? I want to go home, mommy.’”

Eventually Lopez managed to leave her abuser, and with the help of REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, she obtained the protections of a U Visa that have allowed her to gain permanent residency and become a medical assistant. But she knows she was lucky. “I was not sure which was worse, being arrested or being afraid of him,” Lopez said. “Maybe if I’d had a license, it could have felt safer to escape.”

## BRUINS Beat by Bob Morello

### Bruins to put fans in the stands

The Bruins tonight (Thursday, 7pm) will take on the New York Rangers, and then again on Saturday at 1pm, to begin a 20-day schedule in which they will play 11 games. During that stretch, they will play two back-to-back games, and have only one two-day break. The compressed schedule is due to COVID-19, and following the New York series, the locals will face a back-to-back matchup with the Pittsburgh Penguins, including games on Monday (15th) and Tuesday (16th), both with a puck drop of 7pm. The Bs will finish out the week with a two-game set versus the Buffalo Sabres on Thursday (18th) at 7pm, and again via a Saturday (20th) matinee beginning at 1pm.

More good news, Bruins hockey fans can stop holding their breath, as the ticket information for the reopening of TD Garden to put fans in the stands, has been released. Fan attendance will begin Tuesday, March 23rd, the Bruins opponents for the first two games on Tuesday (23rd) and Thursday (25th), will be the New York Islanders.

With the strict 12% capacity limit imposed by Governor Baker, that will likely amount to around 2,000 tickets allowed for each game. Priority to purchase tickets based on availability will be given to Bruins Season Ticket Holders, Game Plan Holders and Boston Garden Society Members. There is a ‘wait list’ fans can join for 2021-22 season tickets at: <https://www.nhl.com/b Bruins/tickets/season-ticket-waiting-list>

The following TD Garden Policies will be in place: BAG POLICY - To uphold health and safety protocols, minimize contact and ensure a swifter entry process, TD Garden has a ‘no bag policy.’

If a bag is necessary for medical reasons or childcare, bags may not exceed 14”x14”x6”. All bags (including clear bags and ProShop powered by ‘47 bags) are subject to x-ray screening and inspection. Patrons with prohibited items will not be permitted entry to the arena. TD Garden does not provide on-site storage. Guests are asked to plan accordingly and allow for extra time when arriving to TD Garden.

MASK POLICY - In addition to TD Garden associates, all guests are always required to wear masks at TD Garden except while actively eating or drinking in your seat as permitted. Masks must completely and tightly cover the wearer’s nose and mouth. Neck gaiters, bandanas, masks with valves or vents, and any covering with only a single layer of cloth are not permitted. Face shields may not be worn in place of a facemask, though may be worn in addition to a facemask. A two-strike policy will be strictly enforced for all guests who attend events at TD Garden in relation to mask wearing. Guests failing to adhere to this policy will be subject to disciplinary measures including ejection.

In accordance with CDC guidelines, children under 2 are exempt from the mandatory mask policy. If you have a medical condition that prevents you from wearing a facemask, you can notify TD Garden customer service (617-624-1331) at least 2 business days prior to your ticketed event to make accommodations. Entry will be denied if advance notice is not provided. Day of event exemptions will not be permitted. Fans who are unable to wear a facemask will be required to wear a face shield. MAINTAIN PHYSICAL

DISTANCE - Guests are required to practice physical distancing inside and outside of TD Garden, including parking garage, North Station, entry gates and seating. Physical distancing (6 feet apart) messaging will be present in all high traffic areas. There will be six feet of social distancing between seating pods. Please remain six feet apart from other parties while in lines at entry, concessions and restrooms. The arena has been divided into two neighborhoods, East and West, to minimize contact and crossover with other guests. Guests will be given a specific entry gate and asked to enter the arena only through assigned entrances based on seating location. ‘Know Before You Go’ emails will be distributed to guests prior to each event to advise on the most efficient path of travel to their respective gate. These designated gates will help minimize contact and crossover with other guests. Guests are asked to stay within their designated neighborhood throughout the event. TOUCH FREE AMENITIES – Allows using the TD Garden Hub app to pre-order food and drink for pickup at one of the many mobile pickup concession stands on the concourse. All food and beverage will be pre-packaged with individual condiments. New mobile concession amenity is available to all fans. Guests can skip the lines and order food and beverage online and through the TD Garden Hub app and pick it up at a designated concession stand. PHYSICALLY DISTANCED EXIT - At the end of the event, TD Garden staff and arena digital signage will assist in executing physically distanced exit strategy, similar to airline exit strategy, to ensure spacing between guests.

### Homeowner / Continued from page 1

Additionally, he said there have not yet been a lot of foreclosures on homeowners in the city as of now, but many experts expect that in the near future.

“We haven’t seen a large number of foreclosures yet and that’s because lenders are being flexible,” he said. “Forecasters do

predict there will be increases in foreclosures if the market doesn’t pick up for hospitality and service sectors.”

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# Chelsea

R E C O R D

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

## WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?

Patrick Henry, the fiery American patriot and orator during the American Revolution, famously said, “Give me liberty, or give me death!”

However, Republican governors in some of our Southern and Midwestern states have, under the guise of “freedom,” given that phrase during the current pandemic a 21st century twist:

“Give us liberty AND give us death!”

Ever since COVID-19 first was discovered, there have been a lot of unknowns about the disease and how it is transmitted. Scientists and medical professionals still are discovering new things about this bug and no doubt will continue to do so for years to come.

However, there is ONE thing about which there is now universal acceptance: Masking is THE most effective means we have for stopping the spread of this terrible disease.

Some Republican governors have refused to order public mask mandates for reasons that clearly are about politics and have nothing to do with the health and safety of their citizens.

They make the argument that they want to reopen their states because the economic benefits outweigh the potential negative health consequences. That, at least, is a debatable point.

However, the need to wear masks during a pandemic that features a virus that is spread by airborne particles from our noses and mouths is not debatable. More to the point, requiring citizens to wear masks is not inconsistent with “reopening” states’ economies. A state can still allow all of its businesses to operate fully AND also require that everyone wear masks at all times.

President Joe Biden remarked that these governors, mostly notably Bill Abbott of Texas and Kristi Noem of South Dakota, are “neanderthal” in their thinking. Although the pundits quickly joked that Biden gave the Neanderthals (who became extinct, by the way) a bad name, it is no laughing matter that their dangerous policies will lead to entirely preventable deaths in their states, exposing front-line workers, first-responders, and healthcare providers to unnecessary risk of harm.

Ms. Noem’s state of South Dakota for example, has the fifth-highest COVID death rate and second-highest infection rate among the 50 states.

Every state has speed limits, stop signs, and red lights on its highways. Every state requires every citizen to wear pants in public at all times. The suggestion that a mask mandate during a public health crisis represents an impingement on personal freedom is absurd on its face (no pun intended).

We are fortunate that in Massachusetts and surrounding states, masking at all times has been widely-accepted since the beginning of the pandemic. We have a governor and a public health infrastructure that have left no doubt about the need for everyone to wear masks while among others.

There may be a lot of unknowns about COVID-19, but the efficacy of wearing masks is not one of them.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 14  
SET CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR.

## GUEST OP-ED

### The State owes our students millions and we need it now!

By Roberto Jiménez Rivera

All students in Chelsea deserve a high-quality education regardless of our community’s income. Unfortunately, it seems that Governor Baker is unwilling to prioritize our kids over the wealthy people of Massachusetts. His latest budget once again falls way too short of the education funding our students have been promised. This has to stop now. Our kids can’t wait any longer.

In 2015, a state commission found that Massachusetts was underfunding education by \$1-2 billion each year, particularly in poor communities like Chelsea. That’s why in 2019 the Legislature passed the Student Opportunity Act (SOA), which

was supposed to increase education spending significantly over the next seven years. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Baker decided that funding our students was not a priority, so the millions we expected last year vanished. A year later, Baker’s current budget proposal includes less than what we expected for last year. It is year 2, and we are getting less than what we should have gotten in year 1.

This new education money is not charity that the state is handing out to our children. It is money that our students are legally and constitutionally entitled to. Our students have been suffering from underfunded schools for decades, while students

in wealthy suburbs have access to every resource imaginable. Our residents have suffered through this pandemic every way possible, while rich people and big corporations have made billions. The Governor has to fulfill his obligation to our students by any means possible. If current taxes are not enough, then those people who have made money off this pandemic should be asked to contribute more.

Last year, I led a group of over 150 local officials from across Massachusetts who called on the Legislature and Governor to raise taxes on the rich so that we could fund our schools. This year, I will continue fighting for that because our students need this now. The Massachu-

setts Education Justice Alliance has asked that instead of funding year 1 alone, that we should do everything possible to fund years 1 and 2 of the SOA this year, and I fully support this. That money can go to hiring more educators, as well as providing more mental health supports and offering more after-school activities for our students. Governor Baker does not get a pass on this just because it will be politically unpopular with his wealthy donors. We must ask our legislators to push the governor on this issue. Fund our schools and do it fast. Our kids are waiting.

*Roberto Jiménez Rivera is a School Committee Member At-Large.*

## GUEST OP-ED

### Rollins in Support of H.R. 1280 – George Floyd Justice in Policing Act

By DA Rachael Rollins

America as a whole is just beginning to recognize what Black and brown people have known for generations – that law enforcement and the criminal legal system do not treat all people equally. As leaders and elected prosecutors work to create more just and equitable systems at the local level, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021 is working at the national level to do the same. This legislation is an important step toward address-

ing systemic racism and abuses as a country while striving to build greater trust in our criminal legal system and helping acknowledge our nation’s painful origins and history of targeted harm and oppression. This bill improves the ability of individuals and communities to seek accountability for abuses of power and civil rights violations committed by members of law enforcement. It reinforces the core belief that those who serve in positions of authority should be held to a higher standard. The

majority of the police officers and law enforcement partners that my staff and I work with everyday meet this high expectation. They represent their agencies and their badge with honor, exhibiting cultural competence and restraint in all of their encounters with community. This federal legislation takes steps to address the actions of the outliers, those officers who display malice, hate, violence, and escalation in their encounters with poor, Black and brown communities. By acknowledging the sys-

temic racism built into the very fabric of our criminal legal system and the law enforcement agencies that are entrusted to serve and protect every community, but often have tensions within diverse communities across the country, we have begun walking the long path to reconciliation and healing. I want to thank the Massachusetts congressional delegation for unanimously supporting this bill, and I urge the Senate to take swift action and send it to President Biden’s desk.

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The Record encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to [stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com](mailto:stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com)



LETTERS to the Editor

AWE-INSPIRING COLLABORATION

To the Editor,  
On behalf of Chelsea Black Community (CBC), we want thank everyone for commemorating Black History Month 2021 with us. We appreciate every-one taking the time every week throughout the month of February to en-gage in discussion on top-ics that are of importance to all of us. We hope ev-eryone enjoyed the series of virtual events and de-parted more informed and

intrigued with a sense of fulfillment.

Our last event, “Trib-ute to Chelsea Trailblaz-ers” was the culminat-ing point of the month. We shared the evening as one community, wit-nessing an awe-inspiring collaboration in response to a Pandemic and Social Injustice. CBC was tru-ly privileged and honored to recognize so many as Black History Month 2021 “Chelsea Trailblazers”. We are looking forward to continued partnership and progress within our great

city.

Much appreciation to members of CBC, CYAA, guest speakers, perform-ers, and zoom for making it possible to successfully connect, share, and cele-brate as we did. We hope and pray Black History Month 2022 will be ob-served in person and in one location!

Remain blessed and safe.

Joan Cromwell  
President of Chel-sea Black Community

GUEST OP-ED

World Water Day 2021:  
Cleaner Rivers for Massachusetts

By Julia Blatt

As Massachusetts ob-serves World Water Day this year, our state’s com-munities have particular reason to celebrate. The Massachusetts legisla-ture recently enacted (and Governor Baker signed into law) a state sewage notification bill. This im-portant new law has been a long time coming.

World Water Day falls on March 22nd of each year. Since it first became a United Nations Obser-vance Day in 1993, World Water Day has served as a time to think about, and take action to address, the water crisis. In 2021, World Water Day focus-es on the environmental, social and cultural value people place on water. The day provides Massa-chusetts residents an op-portunity to consider the importance of clean water. Clean water is not some-thing to take for granted.

On this year’s World Water Day, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance, the Voice of Massachusetts Rivers, is celebrating a major step the state has taken toward ensuring safer rivers. For years, Mass Rivers led ad-vocacy efforts with many partners to pass a state law requiring sewer operators to establish a notification system. The goal was to let the public know when there is a sewage discharge into a public waterbody, so residents could avoid contaminated waters.

Fecal bacteria poses many public health threats, including ear and eye infections, skin rash-es, hepatitis, and inflam-

mation of the intestines. Emerging research also suggests that fecal bacte-ria can spread COVID-19.

Many cities in the Northeast combine sew-age and stormwater col-lection systems, a relic of long-ago urban engineer-ing. These systems are designed to bypass waste-water treatment facilities if the volume of water is too much for the facilities to handle. For these aging systems, heavy rain sends a mixture of untreated sewage and stormwater into local waterways. Un-til now, there was no way for the public to know when these discharges occurred, leaving peo-ple downstream at risk of contact with contaminated waters.

In 2018, an especially large volume of sewage pollution was discharged into the Merrimack River. As a downstream commu-nity, Newburyport bore the brunt of all this sewage winding up in their waters.

The problems experi-enced in Newburyport, however, are not unique. Sewage discharges regu-larly harm water quality in our state. In Massa-chusetts, there are 181 combined sewer over-flow (CSO) outfalls, and 24 CSO permittees. In a typical year, Massachu-setts’ waterways receive almost 3 billion gallons of untreated and partially treated sewage mixed with stormwater from CSOs. These outfalls are concen-trated in urban areas, like Fall River, Lawrence, and Lowell, making CSO pol-lution an environmental justice issue, as the closest

waterways to residents of urban neighborhoods may be contaminated without their knowing.

The Massachusetts sew-age notification bill was filed during five consec-utive legislative sessions. Finally, in the summer of 2020, the bill passed the Massachusetts House of Representatives unani-mously, and was sent to the Senate, where it sat until the final hours of the legislative session in Janu-ary 2021. In quick succes-sion that night, the Senate voted to pass it, and the House agreed to Senate modifications, sending the bill to the Governor’s desk. Governor Baker signed the bill on January 12, 2021.

Raw and partially treat-ed sewage should never be discharged into our waters. Public notifica-tion of sewage discharges is an important first step, and Mass Rivers hopes the new law will lead to a greater public willingness to invest in much needed water infrastructure, in-cluding separating these combined sewer systems. These are expensive proj-ects, but these investments are critical to protecting our environment, pub-lic health and safety, and ensuring environmental justice and climate resil-iency. On World Water Day 2021, Mass Rivers encourages all Massachu-setts residents to pledge themselves to the goal of clean, safe water for all.

Julia Blatt is the Exec-utive Director, Massachu-setts Rivers Alliance.

State awards Midas site grant for affordable housing development

Staff Report

Housing and Econom-ic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy and Hous-ing and Community De-velopment Undersecretary Jennifer Maddox joined local leaders for a virtual celebration of the Com-monwealth’s most recent affordable housing awards, including a large grant for the Midas site on upper Broadway.

In total, awards support-ing 12 projects in eight communities will bring 572 new housing units to Massachusetts, including 507 affordable units, with 108 reserved for extreme-ly low-income households. These awards will provide a combination of state and federal housing tax cred-its, state and federal rental vouchers, and direct funds to support new housing de-velopment.

In Chelsea, 1005 Broad-way is a 38-unit new con-struction project located next to the Chelsea Creek. The sponsor is Traggorth Companies. DHCD will

support the project with federal and state low-in-come housing tax credits and subsidy funds. The city of Chelsea also will support the project with funds of its own. When completed, all 38 units at 1005 Broadway will be reserved for families earning less than 60 percent of AMI, with eight units further reserved for families earning less than 30 percent of AMI, including families making the transition from homelessness. The sponsor intends to build the project to Passive House standards.

“Affordable housing has been a priority for our ad-ministration since day one, and the impact of the pan-demic has made the need for additional investment even more clear,” said Gov-ernor Charlie Baker. “We are proud to have invest-ed more than \$1.4 billion since 2015 in our affordable housing ecosystem, and are thankful to the Legislature for passing our Housing Choice legislation to pro-mote the production and preservation of additional units across the Common-

wealth.”

Said City Manager Tom Ambrosino, “Thank you to the Baker-Polito Admin-istration for continuing to make affordable housing a priority,” said Chelsea City Manager Tom Ambrosi-no. “We are thrilled to see 1005 Broadway, a collab-oration with Traggorth and The Neighborhood Devel-opers, move forward with the support of DHCD and local funding to build 38 new affordable units for our families.”

Added Dave Traggorth, “1005 Broadway will turn a brownfield lot that has been vacant for decades into a vibrant home for Chelsea’s families at a crit-ical time. The project will also open up access for all Chelsea residents to the Mill Creek, and be the first Passive House building in the City of Chelsea,” said Dave Traggorth, Principal, Traggorth Companies. “We couldn’t be more thrilled to be at this milestone today and look forward to start-ing construction later this spring.”

LOCAL STUDENTS  
EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

EMMANUEL COLLEGE ANNOUNCES FALL 2020 DEAN’S LIST

In honor of their outstanding academic achievement, Emmanu-el College in Boston has named more than 900 stu-dents to the Dean’s List for the Fall 2020 semester. To earn a spot on the Dean’s List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester. Local students receiving the honor include:

Marjorie Portillo of Chelsea  
Rebecca Connors of Chelsea

Emmanuel College is a co-educational, resi-dential institution with a 17-acre campus in the heart of Boston’s educa-tional, scientific, cultural and medical communities. Enrolling more than 2,000 undergraduate and gradu-ate students, the College provides boundless op-portunities for students to expand their worldview through rigorous course-work, significant intern-

ship and career opportuni-ties throughout the Boston area and beyond, collabo-rations with distinguished and dedicated faculty, and participation in a dynamic campus community. Em-manuel’s more than 70 programs in the sciences, liberal arts, business, nurs-ing, and education foster spirited discourse and substantive learning expe-riences that honor the Col-lege’s Catholic education al mission to educate the whole person and provide an ethical and relevant 21st-century education.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES 2021

Massport is currently accepting applications for the following Scholarships:



• Deborah Hadden Gray Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to a high school senior who resides and is involved in community service or employment in the City of Boston, Chelsea, Revere or Winthrop with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

• Lowell L. Richards III Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to a high school senior who resides and is involved in community service in the City of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, or Winthrop, with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

• Diversity STEM Scholarship

Awarded to high school seniors of color who reside or attend school in the City of Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop, Revere, Worcester, Bedford, Concord, Lexington, or Lincoln, and are involved in community service with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Scholarship applications must be received by Massport no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 30, 2021.

For more information on these scholarships, including application checklist and criteria please visit [www.massport.com](http://www.massport.com)

WynnBET awarded online sports betting permit in Virginia

WynnBET, the premier casino and sports betting app from the global leader in luxury hospitality, Wynn Resorts, announces today that it has been issued a permit for the op-eration of online sports betting in the Common-wealth of Virginia. The WynnBET mobile app will soon be made avail-able to sports betting en-thusiasts for registration and use throughout the state. This marks the tenth state to be added to the growing list of jurisdic-tions where WynnBET plans to launch.

In addition, WynnBET is an Authorized Gaming Operator of NASCAR and the Official Online Sportsbook of Martins-ville Speedway and Rich-mond Raceway, and will

soon be launching its sports betting applications in the Commonwealth. “We appreciate the confi-dence the Virginia Lottery has in our ability to deliv-er a world-class, online betting experience for the people of the Common-wealth of Virginia,” said Craig Billings, President of Wynn Resorts. “We value our close relation-ship with NASCAR and look forward to creating a new and exciting online betting offering for NA-SCAR fans.”

Inspired by Wynn Re-sorts sophisticated brand experience, the WynnBET app offers an ultra-intu-itive and highly respon-sive interface that deliv-ers hundreds of sports betting options to delight both aficionados and be-

ginners alike. In conjunc-tion with Wynn Resorts acquisition of BetBull in 2020, WynnBET provides highly social sports-bet-ting technology and one-of-a-kind experiences, so that wagering and win-ning can be a celebrated and shared experience.

WynnBET is currently available in New Jersey, Colorado, and Michi-gan. In addition, Wynn-BET has market access opportunities1 in Indi-ana\*, Iowa\*, Massachu-setts\*, Nevada\*, Ohio\*, Tennessee, and now Vir-ginia. Such market access and licensure are subject to legalization and re-quired approvals by reg-ulatory authorities in each jurisdiction.

For more information, visit WynnBET.com.



SCHOOL UPDATES

EARLY LEARNING CENTER UPDATES

•Diane Loycano’s Grade 1 class was named a MVP classroom in the: 3rd Annual Imagine Literacy Bowl contest. Her classroom averaged 240+ minutes working on Imagine Language & Literacy during the competition and Imagine Learning awarded her class a \$50 gift card to celebrate this awesome accomplishment. This is actually the second time Mrs. Loycano’s class was recognized by Imagine Learning. The first time was early in December when the class won the National Imagine Learning Ready, Set ... READ! Contest. They earned a \$50 Amazon Card for that contest as well.

•Ms. Anna and Ms. Marilyn’s Kindergarten class drew a picture of the Cat in the Hat to celebrate Dr. Seuss this week. •Room 345 celebrated Dr. Seuss Week by taking their picture and turning them into their favorite character. •Mrs. Faiella and Miss Maria’s class have been learning about colors. The class made its favorite ice cream with different colored paper scoops of ice cream. The class also made a rainbow out of fruit loops, a pipe cleaner and marshmallows.

HOOK SCHOOL UPDATES  
•First graders in Ms. Johnson’s class are learning about opinion writing.



REACH-ING OUT: Chelsea REACH Program has started up in-person days on the Chelsea High School Field again. Students were so excited to get in a nice day last week so that they could meet in-person for some fresh air and physical education. For more information and days follow us on Instagram @chelseareach\_

ing. They have entered the planning stage and are working very hard to come up with their strong reasons to support their opinion. •Second grade students at Hooks built some amazing robots last week as part of their off-screen work. Students read a poem called “Robots vs. Humans”. After reading and searching for all the words with long vowels, students got to work designing and creating a robot made from materials they found at home.

KELLY SCHOOL UPDATES  
•About 20 4th and 5th grade scholars from all

four schools in the MCB Complex have been taking ACCESS tests this week. Their focus, hard work, and great job following all the safety and testing protocols have made them ACCESS Stars. Their names -- and those of all the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders who will be taking ACCESS in the next two weeks -- will be honored on an ACCESS Stars board just off the Community Entrance. Big ACCESS shout-out to Alma Pezo, Jody, Klein, Camilo Machado, Yolanda Valles, Johnny Giraldo, Donna Arsenault, and all the other administrators and teachers who are serving as test organizers and administrators to give kids

a warm in-person experience so they can show how their English skills have grown. •Kelly the Dolphin has been among the guest readers helping Kelly students celebrate Read Across America week. Sra. Cusick’s students were surprised and excited to learn that Kelly can read -- even in Spanish.

SOKOLOWSKI SCHOOL UPDATES

•The Hooks School vs Sokolowski School Olympic Games are officially underway. Olympic Games Committee organizers, Hooks and Sokolowski PE teachers, Ms. Drake and Ms. Stewart, have sportsmanship and school pride. The first event is the Coin Flip 200 Meter Dash. Go Sharks, Go!  
•This week, many of our 4th grade ELs showed up - literally - to take the ACCESS test. For the first time, in what feels like forever, students entered the building and interacted with teachers in person. There was a lot of excitement when some of our 4th grade newcomers set foot in their school for the first time. HUGE shout-out to all coordinators, volunteers, and liaisons involved for making this happen in a safe and organized manner.

MORRIS H. SEIGAL CLARK AVE. UPDATES  
Congratulations! Some



SHARE WITH THE SHARK: In room 211, students earn class dojo points for being respectful. Gerson earned 400 points this year, and cashed it in to get pizza delivered by the Sokolowski school mascot, Finn Sharkolowski. Gerson has been working SO hard all year on Zoom by raising his hand, helping other students, completing his work, and always being on time. Great job Gerson!

95% of eligible fifth graders at the Clark Ave completed the ACCESS testing this week. The school was excited to welcome some of the fifth grade students to CAMS to complete tests in Reading and Listening. Thank you to Berenice Mace-Diaz, Stacy Ceren, Marlene Garcia and everyone else who helped the process run smoothly and safely. ¡Felicidades! El 95% de nuestros estudiantes de quinto grado elegibles completaron las pruebas

ACCESS esta semana. Estamos entusiasmados de dar la bienvenida a algunos de nuestros estudiantes de quinto grado a CAMS para completar las pruebas de lectura y comprensión auditiva. ¡Estamos muy orgullosos de nuestros estudiantes y sus esfuerzos hoy! Gracias a Berenice Mace-Diaz, Stacy Ceren, Marlene García y a todos los que ayudaron a que las pruebas se desarrollaran sin problemas y de forma segura.

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Recupero / Continued from page 1

ion, I question whether they should be a city councillor,” wrote Ascher. “I hope City Councillor Recupero wants to do better and does not want to stop youth participation at future City Council meetings. Regardless of his attempt, his actions made a few feel it isn’t safe to express their opinion. This is why I want an investigation into the conduct of City Councillor Recupero on his conduct and actions at the meeting.”

The meeting on Monday was as heated as they come – and just when one thought COVID-19 had stretched City government to the limit, then came a very hard situation for members of the community and the City Council membership.

It was made all the more serious later in the meeting when City Solicitor Watson was called on to give her assessment of the situation. She said the matter was far more serious as it seemed there were Civil Rights violations, and it came between two appointed members of City government – as Brandon Garcia was appointed and confirmed to be the Youth Commission.

“What is before you is potential Civil Rights violations, councillors,” said Watson. “Regardless of what you can and cannot do, that is what has been presented to you in these communications. As the City Solicitor, I am looking at a Board member who saying that potentially a City Councillor has harassed a Board member, multiple Board members, from the City of Chelsea...He’s just not a regular resident; he’s one of us...There is not an investigation open, but I may or may not open one without going to a City Council Conference.”

‘I’M NOT A WHITE SUPREMACIST’

Surprising more than a few people at the outset of the meeting on Monday night, Councillor Recupero went on the offensive to pre-emptively explain that he is not a white supremacist. He reiterated that he only had an opinion about the statue, and he did not condone the things that Columbus did.

He also indicated he is married to an Afro-Latina woman who is of Puerto Rican heritage, and has 13 kids who are both Italian and Puerto Rican – and 39 grandchildren that were from all parts of the western hemisphere.

Speaking without a script, he said the notion of him being a white supremacist was ludicrous and he didn’t appreciate the students and their allies slander he and his family.

“You’re going to hear tonight that I’m a white supremacist and I’m not a white supremacist,” he said.

“It is wrong to slander me as a white supremacist,” he continued. “Number one I am a Latin man. Number two you’re judging me by what I look like, not for what I am or because I had a statement. My personal belief, my personal opinion is my own. We all have an opinion in this world. If we don’t have an opinion then we might as well don’t exist.

“People that slander me and say I’m a white supremacist are the ones that are more prejudiced,” he continued. “I’m sorry, and maybe that’s not their intent and I didn’t intend

to say anything bad about a person. What I said is what I belief and if I speak loud, I’m sorry. I’m deaf so I speak loud. My intention was not to hurt or attack anybody or do anything.”

Recupero has been on the Council for many years and his style is described as abrasive at times, and he is often loud and passionate on the issues. Most of his colleagues, and a number of his constituents, however, would not describe him as a racist or white supremacist.

During the debate Monday, Councilor Damali Vidot said she understood that it probably went too far, but she knows his heart.

“He knows when he said take your last name and remove it; he knows that was wrong and could be interpreted the wrong way,” she said. “I know Councillor Recupero’s heart. Does he say horrible things sometimes? Absolutely yes, 1000 percent and I’ll tell him that...”

Likewise, in January, Council President Roy Avellaneda alluded to Recupero’s nature in his Council President speech, praising him for being determined and serving all of his constituents.

“I know he doesn’t always say things the right way, but be sure he’s a gentleman that fights – absolutely,” he said in January.

DEFENDING AND OFFENDING

At Monday’s meeting, Brandon Garcia and a number of student activists from Boston were in attendance to voice strong words on the matter. On the other side of the coin, two of Recupero’s sons were in attendance to defend the accusations against their father.

There was little middle ground.

Garcia was one of the first to recount the situation and say that it wasn’t acceptable how he was treated, calling for both councillors to resign.

“In a city where the majority of our parents are undocumented, we (youth) are the ones who stand up for our families and yet both councillors chose to crudely disregard youth voices in a taunting and unprofessional way,” he said. “To disagree is one thing, to disregard is a whole other thing. To claim they don’t know their history to someone who is Latino, especially a POC youth is not only an act of ageism but also an act of racism.”

He said coming out to the parking lot for a confrontation should not be accepted, and he questioned why other members of the Council had not called Recupero’s past behavior into question before now.

“He took it upon himself to come up to me and another youth and told us not to forget to change our last names,” he said. “That is harassment. It is racially insensitive considering a majority of POC Latinos are stuck with their last name – an emblazoned symbolism we are forced to drag with us...I got my last name Garcia through rape, colonialism and genocide and slavery – period. That should not be tolerated.”

Both Michelangelo Recupero, 33, and Giovanni Recupero Jr., who is in his 40s, also spoke publicly on the matter, defending

their father and saying people are not familiar with who he really is.

“Defamation of character is a real thing in America,” Michelangelo said. “You can sit behind a screen or send a letter and point out someone’s history and not know them and you can ruin a reputation. That’s why I stand here and try to defend my dad. There’s teams like the Cleveland Indians who agreed to change their name because they felt it was insensitive, so there’s good and bad with cancel culture. But sometimes in that momentum and power to point the finger at someone, there’s also backlash that they themselves never get to feel. Only the one accused gets to feel that. They just sit back and disappear into history while the person accused has to defend themselves.”

Said Giovanni Jr., “It’s hard to describe the pain and disappointment I feel that my father has to go through this. He’s never taught that to me or anyone in my family... Do I look like the creation of a man who is a white supremacist? Do I look like a man who is a creation of a racist? Do I look like that? I’ve been treated just as badly as you have in my life.”

Yet some students from Boston in the crowd, including former Boston School Committee Student Rep. Khymani James, felt Recupero’s children had no basis to speak because they were raised by their father.

“White people can’t speak about cancel culture,” said James, who attends Boston Latin Academy exam school. “Just because a man raised you a certain way doesn’t mean they can’t be racist. What is going on? What is going on?...I need these two city councilors to resign.”

Meanwhile, a student from Dorchester only identified as Ajernee, said Recupero’s children had no right to speak.

“Giovanni, you need to apologize for teaching your children to hate themselves,” she said. “Second, no one with an Italian name from their prejudiced father should be talking...Your statements at the last meeting are unacceptable and warrant a resignation...You need to get more educated after you resign.”

Joan Cromwell, president of the Chelsea Black Community, said she didn’t believe either councillor was a white supremacist, but they needed to be careful about their words.

“This should not be a conversation here and now,” she said. “I do want to say that slave owners had black babies, but were still white supremacists. So know that. Not that I believe Mr. Recupero or Mr. Taylor are white supremacists. I don’t believe that...What you say is very impressionable. What you both say is impressionable, especially to our youth.”

COUNCIL CROSSROADS

The intensity of the evening carried over to deliberations between the councillors as well, especially when it came to taking a vote on forwarding Ascher’s letter for a potential investigation.

Councillor Judith Garcia (no relation to Brandon Garcia) put forward a motion immediately to send the letter to Watson for an investigation. How-



Councillor Giovanni Recupero pre-emptively spoke Monday night to say he was going to be accused of being a white supremacist, and took offense that he was being slandered. He also apologized to some high school students for arguing with them in the City Hall Parking Lot Feb. 23.

ever, the Council defeated her motion with a vote of 2-9 – with only Garcia and Councillor Naomi Zabot voting to forward the letter to Watson.

That’s when Garcia fired off an impassioned speech lighting her colleagues on fire for voting against a potential investigation. She said there were three other similar letters, and she was going to make a similar motion to see if her colleagues would stand up for what she said was right.

“You fought so much and walked the streets to march,” she said. “But several of your constituents have taken the time to come here and say, ‘Hey, I felt harassed by one of your colleagues.’ And none of you takes the moment to say, ‘Hey how about we send this to our City Solicitor to have a greater understanding of what happened and to potentially open an investigation.’ Two minutes ago you voted no to do that. I’m giving you the opportunity to vote yes... Stand by what you speak for. The fact that only two of us voted in favor of that is disheartening. Don’t claim you’re supporting the larger conversation going on in the USA and not take a stand right now locally because you’re afraid you’ll hurt a colleague’s feelings. That’s shameful.”

Council President Roy Avellaneda said he really did not appreciate the comments by Councillor Garcia and that she had not done her homework. He said the Council lacked the authority to do anything to Recupero, and that the City Solicitor already had the materials and could open up an investigation without the Council asking.

He also said it was wrong for Recupero to approach the youth and say what he is accused of saying, noting that Brandon Garcia should take the matter up with the police.

“To the young man - this is serious,” he said.



Councillor Judith Garcia said her colleagues should be ashamed of their conduct on Monday in not forwarding complaints to the City Solicitor.



Youth Commission member Brandon Garcia said Councillor Recupero’s actions on Feb. 23 towards him were dismissive and racist.



Boston student activist Khymani James, a former Boston School Committee student rep, said both Recupero and Councillor Todd Taylor should resign.



Council President Roy Avellaneda was very upset with comments from Councillor Judith Garcia, who said her colleagues were not showing courage.

she had not started an investigation, but identified some serious potential Civil Rights violations on an appointed Board member. She also said, as is her custom, that she was waiting on the City Council to ask her to start an investigation. So, indeed, it seemed like the Council did have jurisdiction to start the ball rolling.

So it was that Councillor Garcia got the last laugh on that matter, and took her victory lap appropriately.

“Again colleagues, I get it, you guys all have changed your mind after I had clearly not done my homework, but I clearly did (my homework),” she said.

Game, set, match – if anyone were keeping score on the matter.

In the end, no vote was taking, and under Council procedure, all of the letters of complaint sent to the Council were quickly forwarded to the Solicitor. Watson said she would begin an investigation into the matter shortly, and would report back to the Council.

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## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### DEMARIA SEEKS RE-ELECTION

EVERETT - Mayor Carlo DeMaria officially announced that he would be seeking re-election as mayor of Everett in 2021.

The mayor's Campaign Committee had indicated previously in the Independent that he was going to run and he has informally said over the last several months that he would, indeed, seek another four-year term.

In his official announcement, he said he still has big goals and big plans, and hopes to continue them in 2022.

"I have big goals, aggressive goals, but I'm confident they can be accomplished if given the opportunity to continue to serve as your Mayor," he wrote in an op-ed to the paper. "I am excited to get back on the campaign trail this year and hope to have the opportunity to discuss our past accomplishments as well as bold plans for the future with you directly. Your early support and encouragement will fuel this campaign."

The mayor relayed many of the actions and accomplishments from 2020, in the midst of the pandemic, and said he's ready to move past last year and re-claim the City's momentum.

"I am committed to continuing to move our City forward – together," he said.

"As Mayor, I promise to continue to make strides towards bettering our community in all aspects, including, but not limited to, transportation, capital improvements, and infrastructure. The pandemic required the City to shift gears and adapt to a global crisis; however, we are ready to pick up where we left off and continue to move Everett forward."

He said a lot of what will be done the remaining part of his current

term, through 2021, will be helping residents and businesses get on their feet and ready for the plans he has in 2022.

"Since then, our City has truly come together to support one another," he said of the actions after schools and City Hall were closed on March 14, 2020. "We have distributed 1.4 Million pounds of food, delivered 130,000 meals to the elderly, and provided financial assistance to residents and local businesses alike. In 2021 my Administration will be focused on getting our children back into the classroom, providing all residents an opportunity to get vaccinated, and distributing additional financial assistance to residents and businesses."

He also mentioned that in 2020, Everett was name one of the top places to live North of Boston by the Boston Globe, noting that Everett was a "winning bet" with the recent increases in property values. He added that even with those increases, Everett has the one of the lowest single-family tax bills in Greater Boston.

DeMaria said serving as mayor has been an honor, and he hopes to be able to do so for another four-year term.

"Serving as Mayor has truly been an honor and a privilege," he said. "It is something that I have never and will never take for granted. The trust and encouragement provided by the residents over the years continues to inspire my family and me. I look forward to continuing this journey with you, the great people of Everett."

### DARREN PIERRE PAINTS HIS WAY

EVERETT - In front of a two shades of blue and on top of a red floor sits a lonely and isolated young man - empty and seemingly without hope.

It is the stark picture of how the pandemic started for Everett High star artist Darren Pierre, who won a Silver Key art award late last month for the painting – which he titled 'Isolated' and for which so many students and staff have come to relate to as how they also felt.

Pierre, 18, said he has won Silver Keys in the past – one of the district's most consistent winning artists – but this one was a little more personal because the painting (dubbed 'Isolated') bore more raw emotion than he usually lets into his work.

"At the beginning of the Quarantine I was in a really bad spot and wasn't really trying to come out of it," he said. "I stayed in my room 24/7 and never went out even if my mom let me go out. I would only go out if she sent me to the market. I didn't want to associate with anyone for a while. I was depressed. This painting described how I felt. I did that painting when I felt exactly like that – isolated."

Like many young people, Pierre struggled though many months, but has emerged and figured out how to remain creative and not fall into the depths of where he was when he painted isolated – though he said he values the painting because it's an honest representation of how he felt.

Art Teacher Evan DeMarzo said so many students and staff have had strong feelings about relating to the painting, but a remarkable think for Pierre – DeMarzo said – is that after that painting his work began to show his growth within the situation.

"He had a drawing later on that showed him in the same corner, except this time he's laying down on the floor and there's a guitar by him, plants growing around

### CITY OFFICIALS, NEIGHBORHOOD HONOR WORLD WAR II VET ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY



City of Boston's Veterans Affairs Commissioner Robert Santiago presents East Boston resident and World War II veteran Salvatore Murano with a special citation on his 100th birthday during a parade past his Leyden Street home Sunday.

him and he's smiling," said DeMarzo. "You see through his art that he's kind of figured this thing out. It's such a great contrast."

Pierre is the rare artist that has as much interest in what he calls his "weird art" as he has in a more commercialized form of art – which he practices in his own home-based business that has been humming with orders and projects over the last several months. Meanwhile, he has also kept his artistic flair alive painting from home while taking remote classes and beginning the transition to go to Monserrat College next fall.

Pierre said his business is what has kept him going with art, kept him interested and able to perform at the level that would earn him another Silver Key award.

"Me being able to do this business has kept things going," he said. "If it wasn't for the business, I would have stopped doing art by now. It's keeping me extremely busy and getting orders left and right. I'm just really excited to see it come to life now. That's exciting and it keeps me going."

The business is based in fashion, where he customizes clothing or objects for customers. That's something he hopes to continue doing when he moves on to Monserrat, as the teachers there have told him they like his fashion portfolio and it's something he could investigate in his artistic journey there.

That said, Pierre's art career didn't begin on a pair of designer jeans or on a canvas even.

When he was very young, he said his dad was studying to become an architect and would always be doing architectural drawings at his work desk.

"He would always be drawing buildings for his school and I was intrigued," said Pierre. "Then, every time I got a book I would draw the characters in the book on the back pages of the book. I also drew on the walls, but my mom did not like that."

Pierre started his schooling at the Keve-rian School and then moved up to Everett High, where he is a senior. At Everett High he

has taken a number of classes including Studio Art, Advanced Art and Illustration – among so many others.

Yet, it was a contest sponsored by the MWRA that truly pushed him to begin thinking about art.

"My very first time really trying to do serious art was in the fifth grade for the MWRA Poster Contest," he said. "That was crazy. I had always wanted to win that and hear my name called over the speaker at school. As it happened the day I actually won was one of the few days I was late to school. When I got there my friends were telling me I won the award. The one day I was late to school, and I missed my moment."

But other moments would come and are yet to come.

Art Director Amanda Gil said the teachers at EHS expect big things out of Pierre, but not just on the canvas. He is also a talented singer, and certainly has a mind for business too. Plus, she said, he is a kind and caring young man.

"It's not because Darren is super successful in his talent and his art, but his character is one of a kind," she said. "He's humble and kind and it speaks a lot about who he is as a person and an artist."

In addition to Gil and DeMarzo, Pierre said he had been greatly influenced by teachers Annette LeRay and Brianna Pierce.

He is the son of Jean and Darlene Pierre.

### NOT FOOLING AROUND WITH RESTAURANT GUIDELINES

EAST BOSTON - Earlier this month when Mayor Martin Walsh said the City is taking swift action when establishments do not meet safety protocols he wasn't kidding.

Since restaurants were able to reopen with capacity restrictions during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the Boston Licensing Board has instituted a weekly standing emergency hearing on Mondays to address any violations. Those hearings have resulted in immediate closures, when necessary.

Last week the Licens-

ing Board issued a one-day suspension to La Hacienda Restaurant on Meridian Street for exceeding 40 percent of the restaurant's normal seating capacity.

La Hacienda's suspension was served on Monday of this week just as the city announced it was lifting seating capacity at area restaurants.

Throughout the winter the Inspectional Services Department worked with Boston Police, Boston Fire, the Licensing Board, and Boston Public Health Commission on enforcement. They had been in constant contact with business owners to make sure they understood the regulations.

However, some, like La Hacienda and several other Boston restaurants were unfortunately found to be in violation and issued suspensions by the Licensing Board last week.

On Monday, Walsh announced that the Governor announced that the State is moving forward in reopening.

"Starting today with Phase 3, Step 2; and starting on March 22 with Phase 4, Step 1," Walsh said at a press briefing Monday. "Boston is also moving forward, but we have some important exceptions to the changes going into effect today. This is consistent with the City's cautious approach throughout the crisis. We are moving up to 50 percent maximum capacity at many indoor businesses including gyms, museums, offices, movie theaters, hotels, and stores. We are moving forward to allow the use of fitting rooms in retail stores."

The city is lifting the capacity limit at restaurants but requiring six feet of space between tables, six people maximum per table, and 90-minute limits on seating. This, like the seating capacity restrictions, will be strictly enforced by the city.

"We are not moving forward with live music in restaurants until at least March 22," said Walsh. "We are not opening indoor performance venues like concert halls and theaters until at least March 22. And we are not opening higher-contact indoor recreation

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Region / Continued from page 8

like roller skating, laser tag, or trampolines until at least March 22. On those steps, as well as Phase 4, the City of Boston will move forward on March 22, if our case data and public health guidance supports it.”

The Mayor emphasized that the City of Boston is committed to economic recovery and at the same time, keeping people safe and continuing to slow the spread.

“This must be our first priority,” said Walsh. “Our economic recovery depends on our public health progress.”

CANNABIS DISPENSARY IS ONE STEP CLOSER

EAST BOSTON - The adult-use cannabis dispensary proposed for Orient Heights Square is one step closer to becoming a reality after it was approved by the Boston Cannabis Commission (BCC).

Following a hearing last month with the owners of Local Roots, the BCC voted to greenlight the proposal. Local Roots will now enter into a Host Community Agreement with the city and seek final approval from the Boston Zoning Board of Appeals.

Local Roots ownership team consists of current Tufts Tobacco owner Jimmy Sheena, former City Councilors Michael Ross and Sal LaMattina, as well as Nicole Modica, (the daughter of Carla Santarpio of Santarpio’s Pizza Dave Modica, who owned Ecco for many years), Lorraine Curry, Jane England and Tracy Glissman.

“Everyone on the team lives in the neighborhood so we all got together and are attempting to do this Local Roots business,” said Ross. “Over half of the ownership are East Boston residents or have had roots here or done business here for decades and that’s why we decided to name the company Local Roots.”

Local Roots plans to

take over Tufts Tobacco on Bennington Street in Orient Heights Square--a business owned by Sheena for over 25 years.

At the hearing Ross said Sheena has experience running a successful and highly regulated business in the community. Like Tufts Tobacco, no one under the age of 21 would be able to step foot into the adult use facility once it is operational, so Ross said it made sense to have Sheena on the Local Roots ownership team.

At the hearing representatives from the offices of City Councilors Lydia Edwards and Anissa Essaibi George, Rep. Adrian Madaro and Sen. Joseph Boncore, as well as the Mayor’s Office, all went on record to support the proposal.

The proposal also received backing by well known local residents and community leaders like Joe Mario, Mary Berninger and Nancy LoConte--who all testified in favor of the proposal at the BCC hearing.

Other residents, like Orient Heights Neighborhood Council President Toni Noble, used to live above Tufts Tobacco and said Sheena was a great neighbor and the Modicas, who owns the building, were a responsive landlord.

“I am here to voice my personal support for this proposed recreational marijuana facility,” said Noble. “I actually used to live directly above Tufts Tobacco and the Modicas were always very responsive landlords--not just to my own concerns as a tenant--but if I had any questions about the community at all. I also grew to know Jimmy (Sheena) and in my time living there he, as owner of Tufts Tobacco, was always very responsive, kind and cared not only for the building but his neighbors and the entire Orient Heights community.”

Berninger testified while she wasn’t initially thrilled about having an

adult-use cannabis facility in her neighborhood she has grown to support the proposal.

“I’m a member of the Orient Heights Neighborhood Council and I’ve observed a great deal of community outreach from the applicants,” said Berninger. “I didn’t vote for the law but it has since been settled in Massachusetts. It’s time to bring these businesses online to bring job opportunities in the community. The pandemic only heightened the need for more economic development and good paying job opportunities in East Boston.”

Only one resident spoke in opposition to the project because she felt the propoent’s plan for parking was not adequate enough and feared customers to the dispensary would double park on Bennington Street. However, according to officials, this has not been a problem with the first dispensary that opened in Eastie on Meridian Street.

A WINNING CAREER FOR NGUYEN

LYNN - Van Nguyen was an ideal student-athlete in the St. Mary’s High School girls basketball program. She began her career as a freshman, worked hard on her game in the off-season, and became an important contributor to the team’s success. Nguyen said she has immensely enjoyed her four-year athletic and academic experience at St. Mary’s.

Nguyen, who lives in Lynn, played her last high school basketball game for the Spartans and it ended in a 46-40 victory over Bishop Fenwick in the Catholic Central League Cup final.

Nguyen was a key part of a terrific senior class that helped St. Mary’s win a state title in 2020 and claim more than 80 victories overall. The 2018-19 team also won in the Garden and

played in the state final in Worcester.

Nguyen spoke about her career after joining the team in accepting the first Catholic Central League Cup Feb. 20 at the Tony Conigliaro Gymnasium.

“I just want to say thank you to Coach Newhall and Mr. Ridley for everything that he has done - he helped me out through all four years and it’s been a long run, but I finally made it,” said Nguyen.

Nguyen said the key to her improving her basketball skills was playing basketball all year round. “I worked hard in the off season and I made sure to stay close and around and kept playing and did whatever Coach Newhall said,” related Nguyen.

Among the highlights was playing (and excelling and winning) at the Boston Garden.

Nguyen played basketball for the Breed Middle School team and traveled to various parks in Lynn for games. Often times, she was the only girl competing on the court.

With the encouragement and support of her mentor, Jim Ridley, Nguyen enrolled at St. Mary’s High School.

St. Mary’s Coach Jeff Newhall lauded Nguyen for her contributions to the program over the past four years.

“Van is just a great kid who worked hard and was admired and respected by all of her teammates,” said Newhall. “Our senior class really stepped up this year during a challenging year and Van set a great example for the underclassmen with her dedication, positive attitude, and team spirit.”

Nguyen said she is considering Emmanuel and Salem State for college in the fall.

REVERE HIGH TO PARTNER WITH NSMHA

REVERE - Through a state grant, Revere High School will partner with

North Suffolk Mental Health (NSMHA) to deliver mental health and substance abuse services to students.

The Baker-Polito Administration made the announcement this week and the partnership between Revere High and North Suffolk is part of \$4.9 million in grants awarded to six agencies in the state.

The state funding to treatment and behavioral health centers like North Suffolk will create evidence-based and data-driven substance use disorder/mental health response teams at Revere High.

These teams will be embedded in the high school in Revere and nine other communities to offer intervention and treatment services, and provide alternatives to school suspension for substance use.

“Disruptions to in-school learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic have taken a social and emotional toll on many students, and especially those most at risk for substance use and mental health issues,” said Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders. “This grant will allow much-needed resources to reach students remotely and offer a mental health-driven alternative to suspensions.”

The program at Revere High will respond to students’ and their families’ needs, increase collaboration with schools, and provide support to students in crisis.

“We are very excited to partner with North Suffolk on this grant program,” said Revere Public School Superintendent Dr. Dianne Kelly. “It will allow us to increase access to mental health professionals for all of our students; which is a district priority. Because this grant is specific to high school students and based on the needs and there, the program plan will focus on students with substance use issues

and students with risk factors that typically lead to substance use. The deeper layer of individual intervention available through this grant will complement our existing support group program for students with substance use disorders and those who are at risk of substance use disorders.”

The grant at Revere High will be distributed over the course of six years with a total of \$136,864 spent per year to support the partnership between Revere High and North Suffolk.

The state program is funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response grant. The grant will serve to support the Commonwealth-wide adolescent addiction workforce that is specifically trained and certified to provide targeted substance use interventions and treatment to at-risk students, reducing their risk of developing an opioid or substance use disorder.

The grant in Revere will support Massachusetts schools’ efforts to effectively respond to student substance use and mental health concerns, as access to high-potency marijuana products increases, rates of on-campus vaping surge, and the overall perception of harm associated with adolescent substance use decreases.

“Massachusetts is taking action to reinforce protections for children affected by substance use and mental health issues in these unprecedented times,” said Deirdre Calvert, Director of the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services at the Department of Public Health. “This grant program will ensure that at-risk youth receive the services they need to prevent substance use, help combat the opioid epidemic, and support families during the COVID-19 state of emergency.”

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE



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· Fax: 617.466.4195 ·  
Email: [jdepriest@chelsea.gov](mailto:jdepriest@chelsea.gov)  
John DePriest  
Director  
NOTICE OF HEARING  
Case No. 2018-02  
In accordance with the  
Massachusetts Zoning  
Act, Chapter 40A, a  
meeting of the Chelsea  
Planning  
Board will be held by  
way of video conference  
on  
Tuesday, March 23, 2021  
6:00 p.m.  
With reference to the  
application of:  
The Neighborhood Developers  
For the determination of  
minor or major change  
and review of a previously  
approved Major Site  
Plan to  
reduce the size of the  
building and number of  
off-street parking spaces,  
and to increase the  
amount of  
useable open space at  
the premises known as:  
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wishing to provide a  
public comment or to

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meeting  
must communicate with  
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3/4/21, 3/11/21

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE OF HEARING  
Case No. 2021-02  
In accordance with the  
Massachusetts Zoning  
Act, Chapter 40A, a  
meeting of the Chelsea  
Planning Board will be  
held by way of video  
conference on  
Tuesday, March 23, 2021  
6:00 p.m.  
With reference to the  
application of:  
Enterprise Rent-A-Car of  
Boston, LLC  
For Major Site Plan Review  
to establish vehicle  
parking for the storage  
of vehicles for hire or  
return from hire at the  
premises known as:  
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of work listed below  
and for no less than the  
bid price plus all add  
alternates of this project,  
if applicable.  
The Category of Work  
is: General  
Building Construction  
Mass. State Project No.  
DCP2045  
Massachusetts Information  
Technology Center - Elevator Controls  
Replacement  
Chelsea, MA  
And the following Filed  
Sub-Bids: Elevators;  
Electrical.  
E.C.C: \$867,390  
This project is scheduled  
for 260 calendar days to  
substantial completion.  
Scope:  
Partial and selective  
modernization of six  
(6) hydraulic passenger  
elevators. Installation  
of new

elevator controls and  
electrical connections for  
new elevator controls,  
including testing.  
A Pre-Bid meeting will be  
held on March 17, 2021  
@ 10:00 AM at the Massachusetts  
Information Technology Center, 200  
Arlington Street, Chelsea,  
MA. Meet in the Main  
Atrium Lobby (Security  
Desk). Bring valid ID.  
Minimum rates of wages  
to be paid on the project  
have been determined  
by the Commissioner of  
the Department of Labor  
Standards. These rates  
are incorporated into the  
bid documents.  
Bid documents for this  
project may be accessed  
or downloaded at no  
cost to potential bidders  
exclusively through  
DCAMM’s E-Bid Room  
<https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/10279/>  
home One hard copy set  
is also available for viewing  
by appointment only  
in DCAMM’s Bid Room  
located at One Ashburton  
Place, 1st Floor, Room  
107, Boston, MA during  
normal business hours.  
Please contact DCAMM’s  
Bid Room at (617)  
727-4003 or [bidroom.dcammm@mass.gov](mailto:bidroom.dcammm@mass.gov)  
for an appointment.  
In order to access bid  
documents and submit  
bids through DCAMM’s  
E-Bid Room potential  
bidders must first be  
verified by DCAMM’s Bid  
Room and then register  
with the E-Bid Room ven-

дор. Instructions on the  
processes can be found  
on DCAMM’s website  
[www.mass.gov/dcammm/](http://www.mass.gov/dcammm/)  
bids or contact DCAMM’s  
Bid Room at the phone  
number or email listed  
above.  
Carol W. Gladstone  
COMMISSIONER  
3/10/21

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND  
FAMILY COURT  
Suffolk Division  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION  
NOTICE  
Docket No.  
SU20P2108EA  
Estate of:  
Peter B.  
Hubbard  
Date of Death:  
October 6, 2020  
To all persons interested  
in the above captioned  
estate by Petition of Petitioner  
Charles A. Cheever of Boston, MA.  
A Will has been admitted  
to informal probate.  
Charles A. Cheever of Boston, MA  
has been informally appointed as  
the Personal Representative of the  
estate to serve without surety on  
the bond.  
The estate is being administered  
under informal procedure by the  
Personal Representative under the  
Massachusetts

than Thursday, March 25, 2021.  
All nominees and attendees  
must be members of Metro Credit  
Union.  
Respectfully submitted,  
nomin  
Arthur M. Cohan  
Clerk  
3/11/21

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND  
FAMILY COURT  
Suffolk Division  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION  
NOTICE  
Docket No.  
SU20P1390EA  
Estate of:  
Phyllis Rose  
Varricchio  
Date of Death:  
4/8/2020

Uniform Probate Code  
without supervision by  
the Court. Inventory  
and accounts are not  
required to be filed with  
the Court, but interested  
parties are entitled to  
notice regarding the  
administration from the  
Personal Representative  
and can petition the  
Court in any matter  
relating to the estate,  
including distribution of  
assets and expenses of  
administration. Interested  
parties are entitled to  
petition the Court to  
institute formal proceedings  
and to obtain orders  
terminating or restricting  
the powers of Personal  
Representatives appointed  
under informal procedure.  
A copy of the Petition  
and Will, if any, can be  
obtained from the  
Petitioner.  
3/11/21

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND  
FAMILY COURT  
Suffolk Division  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION  
NOTICE  
Docket No.  
SU20P1390EA  
Estate of:  
Phyllis Rose  
Varricchio  
Date of Death:  
4/8/2020

To all persons interested  
in the above captioned  
estate, by Petition of  
Petitioner JoAnn Chiarello  
of Chelsea, MA. A will  
has been admitted to  
informal probate.  
JoAnn Chiarello of Chelsea, MA  
has been informally appointed as  
the Personal Representative of the  
estate to serve without surety on  
the bond.  
The estate is being administered  
under informal procedure by the  
Personal Representative under the  
Massachusetts Uniform Probate  
Code without supervision by  
the Court. Inventory and  
accounts are not required to be  
filed with the Court, but interested  
parties are entitled to notice  
regarding the administration from  
the Personal Representative and  
can petition the Court in any  
matter relating to the estate,  
including distribution of assets  
and expenses of administration.  
Interested parties are entitled to  
petition the Court to institute  
formal proceedings and to obtain  
orders terminating or restricting  
the powers of Personal  
Representatives appointed under  
informal procedure. A copy of the  
Petition and Will, if any, can be  
obtained from the Petitioner.  
3/11/21



OBITUARIES

Charles Mandracchia  
New Bridge Café Proprietor

A Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Anthony of Padua Church in Revere on Tuesday, March 9 for Charles S. Mandracchia who passed away on March 3 at the Leonard Florence Center for Living in Chelsea. He was 91 years old.

“Charlie” was the founder and operator of the New Bridge Café on the Chelsea/Revere line, for 46 years before retiring.

The beloved husband of 64 years to Marie A. (Luciano) and the cherished father to Charles S. Mandracchia, Jr. of Salem and John D. Mandracchia and his wife, Michelle of Ogunquit, ME, he was the proud grandfather to Alicia Hurley and her husband, Dennis of Danvers, Micayla Peppe and her husband, Danny of West Newbury, Charles S. Mandracchia, III and Samuel C. Mandracchia and his wife, Olivia, all of Salem, William J. Mandracchia of Somerville and Jack H. Mandracchia of Ogunquit, ME; dear brother of Ann O’Brien and her husband, Dennis of Lynnfield and the late John S. Mandracchia and



his surviving wife, Gloria J. Mandracchia of Stoneham and the late Josephine Saraceno and her late husband, Joseph and the late Fred Mandracchia. He is also lovingly survived by six great grandchildren: Lorenzo, Francesco, Adamo, Arianna, Savannah, Jaxson and Joey. Many caring nieces and nephews also survive Charles.

Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Remembrances may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9959. Funeral Arrangements entrusted to the care and direction of the Vertuccio & Smith, Home for Funerals.

To send online condolences, please visit [www.vertuccioandsmith.com](http://www.vertuccioandsmith.com).

Dorothy Elizabeth  
Malvarosa

Of Chelsea, formerly of Revere

Together again with her beloved husband of 67 years and her children, Dorothy entered into eternal rest Friday evening, March 5 at her home in Chelsea. She was 90 years old.

Born in Chelsea, the daughter of the late Viola (Capodilupo) Trabucco and Charles Hersh, Dorothy grew up in Revere and attended Revere Public Schools. Over the course of her working career, Dorothy was employed at the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston and later in the tax department at the Saltonstall building in Government Center. She also worked as an office manager at her husband’s beauty parlor in Charlestown and the North End, Eddie’s Beauty Shop.

She and her husband lived in Chelsea for over 20 years. Dorothy enjoyed bowling with her husband Ed. She was a late member of the Chelsea Senior Center and enjoyed taking exercise classes there. She will be greatly missed by all who loved her.

Dorothy was prede-



ceased by her husband, Edward J. Malvarosa and her two children, Thomas E. Malvarosa and Lisa Ann Malvarosa and was the dear aunt to Janet Santaniello of Winchester and several other nieces and nephews.

A private graveside service was conducted at the family lot in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett on Wednesday, March 10. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Carafa Family Funeral Home in Chelsea. We encourage family and friends to visit [www.carafafuneralhome.com](http://www.carafafuneralhome.com) to offer condolences at this time by means of the online guest book or to send a personalized sympathy card.

AG’s office charges five individuals in  
connection with crimes at Encore casino

Staff Report

Five individuals were charged last week in two separate incidents at Encore Boston Harbor, including a cheating scheme and a stabbing at the casino, Attorney General Maura Healey announced.

In one incident, an Encore casino dealer, a former casino dealer from Maryland, and a third individual from Philadelphia were indicted in connection with a cheating scheme that netted the group a total of \$23,500 over two nights. In the other incident, a Framingham man and a Natick man were indicted in connection with an unrelated assault and battery at the casino.

•Cheating Scheme

Jianming Li, 53, of Delaware, and Jun Zhang, 41, of New York, were indicted last week by a Middlesex County Grand Jury on the charges of Cheating Under the Gaming Act (two counts each), Conspiracy (two counts each), and Larceny by a Single Scheme (one count each). Li was also charged with Making False Statements to the Gaming Commission (one count).

De Lin, 46, of Philadel-

phia, was indicted on the charge of Cheating Under the Gaming Act (one count), and Conspiracy (one count). All of the defendants will be arraigned on the charges in Middlesex Superior Court at a later date.

Authorities allege that Li, an Encore Boston Harbor casino dealer, colluded with Zhang, a former Maryland casino dealer, and Lin in a cheating scheme in the game of Baccarat that netted them a total of \$23,500 over two nights. It is alleged that while he was dealing the cards, Li exposed a series of playing cards, memorized them, marked them with a ‘bookmark’ card, then used his cell phone to communicate the cards and their order to Zhang, when both excused themselves to use separate bathrooms.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Kevin P. McCarthy and Canan Yesilcimen, of AG Healey’s Gaming Enforcement Division. The case was investigated by the Massachusetts State Police Gaming Enforcement Unit at Encore Boston Harbor with assistance from the Massachusetts Gaming

Commission, the AG’s Gaming Enforcement Division, and Everett Police, and with the cooperation of Encore Boston Harbor.

•Assault and Battery Incident

David Guante, 30, of Natick, was indicted last week by a Middlesex County Grand Jury on the charge of Assault and Battery Dangerous with a Dangerous Weapon (one count). James Johnson, 30, of Framingham, was also indicted on the charge of Assault and Battery (one count). Both will be arraigned in Middlesex Superior Court at a later date.

According to an investigation by the Massachusetts State Police Gaming Enforcement Unit at Encore Boston Harbor, Guante and Johnson became involved in a dispute with another casino patron by the casino cashier. This dispute resulted in Johnson striking the alleged victim in the face. Guante and the victim, then engaged in a fight, during which Guante allegedly stabbed the victim once in his abdomen.

All of these charges are allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Emil A. Ata, of AG Healey’s Gaming Enforcement Division with assistance from Victim Witness Advocate Ceara Tavares, of AG Healey’s Victim/Witness Services Division. The case was investigated by the Massachusetts State Police Gaming Enforcement Unit at Encore Boston Harbor with assistance from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, the AG’s Gaming Enforcement Division, Everett Police Department, Framingham Police Department, Natick Police Department, Middlesex District Attorney’s Office and the cooperation of Encore Boston Harbor.

AG Healey’s Gaming Enforcement Division has a dedicated group of prosecutors and investigators who enforce the state’s Expanded Gaming Act of 2011 and investigate and prosecute illegal activity such as gaming-related financial crime, organized crime, corruption and money laundering, including the majority of criminal activity occurring at the state’s casinos.

Chelsea resident raising funds for friend  
who died in Downtown construction accident

By John Lynds

A Chelsea man is raising funds for his friend that was killed during a construction accident last week on High Street in Downtown Boston.

Timothy Brady, of Chelsea, has created an online fundraising campaign for Juan Carlos Gutierrez Figueroa who died on Wednesday, February 24th after being fatally struck by a vehicle while working on a construction site in downtown Boston.

“We are completely devastated by the tragic loss of our beloved friend, brother, son and father Carlos was loved by so many,” wrote Brady in the online fundraising campaign’s webpage. “Carlos was a loving and caring father to his two children, Alex and Milady, and a doting husband to his wife Rosa. I will al-



Timothy Brady, of Chelsea, has created an online fundraising campaign for Juan Carlos Gutierrez Figueroa (pictured) who died in a tragic construction accident on Wednesday, February 24.

ways remember him as a generous, humble, funny, hard-working, loyal friend who enjoyed music and dance. I know many others will have memories of Carlos’ contagious smile and ability to make anyone laugh.”

Brady is trying to raise \$10,000 for Figueroa’s family at [www.gofundme.com/f/for-the-family-of-juan-carlos-gutierrez-figueroa](http://www.gofundme.com/f/for-the-family-of-juan-carlos-gutierrez-figueroa).

me.com/f/for-the-family-of-juan-carlos-gutierrez-figueroa. The online fundraising campaign has already raised over \$2,000 towards its goal.

“There are no words to express how much we are going to miss Carlos,” said Brady. “However, we must be gracious for the lives of his daughter Milady and his son Alex who must go on with the rest of their lives without their father, and for his wife Rosa, who must continue without her husband. We have created this goFund so that all of us in some way can help his family. We ask for prayers and that God gives his family and his spouse strength to cope with this terrible loss of life.”

Brady said all proceeds will go to his Figueroa’s wife, Rosa, and their two children to help during their difficult time.

“We will greatly ap-

preciate donations in any amount and we are grateful to anyone who is able to contribute at this time,” said Brady.

Figueroa was killed instantly alongside his co-worker, Jordan Romero, of Lynn, after a construction truck accidentally knocked the two into a trench that was 20 feet deep. Both Figueroa and Romero were part of the construction crew doing work on High Street in Downtown Boston. They worked for Atlantic Coast Utilities. The company was hired to make an emergency repair on a sewer line.

The Boston Police Department’s Homicide Unit and Fatal Collision Investigation Team are actively reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident along with OSHA, the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office and Boston’s ISD.

Care Dimensions’ free virtual workshops and support groups

•Spanish Speakers Grief Support Group, free via Zoom: ¿Ha Perdido Un Ser Amado? / Are You Grieving a Loved One? Sábado / Saturdays: Mar. 13 and 27, April/Abril 10 and 24, May 8 and 22, 10-

11:30 a.m. Email [bourgaue@ebnhc.org](mailto:bourgaue@ebnhc.org) or call 857-248-5728.

•Loss Due to COVID19 drop-in support group, free via Zoom: Thursdays, April 15, May 20, noon to 1:30 p.m. This

drop-in support group is designed for people who have had a loved one die from the COVID-19 virus. Led by a bereavement counselor, it is a safe space to process your grief, learn coping techniques, and make connections with others who are on a similar grief journey. Space is limited; reserve by Tuesday before each session. Email [MGrimm@CareDimensions.org](mailto:MGrimm@CareDimensions.org) or call 781-373-6645.

•Loss Due to Substance Use, Tuesdays, April 6 to May 11, 3-4:30 p.m. Six-week virtual group discusses topics in Nikki MacCallum’s book, “Dry Run: A Memoir.” Must be willing to read the book on a weekly basis as chapters are assigned. If you need a copy, let us know at registration. Register by April 1 by emailing [Grief@CareDimensions.org](mailto:Grief@CareDimensions.org) or calling 978-774-5100.

•Grieving a Beloved

Pet workshop, free via Zoom, Saturday, April 10, noon to 3 p.m. Space is limited; reserve your space by April 5. Email [Grief@CareDimensions.org](mailto:Grief@CareDimensions.org) or call Kerianne O’Keefe at 855-774-5100.

•Caregiver Support Group free via Zoom, Monday, April 12, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. A safe and relaxed space to release some of the stress you carry, share mutual support, learn tools to help you along. RSVP by April 9 by emailing [Grief@CareDimensions.org](mailto:Grief@CareDimensions.org) or calling 855-774-5100.

•Grieving Mindfully, Wednesdays, April 28 to June 16, 3 – 4:30 p.m. This eight-week support group held via Zoom explores grief through experiential, mindful awareness. Space is limited; register by April 23. Email [Grief@CareDimensions.org](mailto:Grief@CareDimensions.org) or call Mary Beth Grimm at 978-380-4682.

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State announces \$2.5 Million in Urban Agenda grants

The state last week announced a total of \$2.5 million in Urban Agenda grants to support 30 projects in 23 communities, including Chelsea and Revere.

Launched by the Baker-Polito Administration in 2015, the Urban Agenda Grant Program promotes economic vitality in urban neighborhoods by fostering partnerships that capitalize on unique local assets and community-driven responses to specific challenges. Urban Agenda grants are competitive one-year awards that offer these partnerships flexible funding to implement programming and projects based on creative, collaborative work models to support economic progress in urban communities.

To address the unique challenges created by the unprecedented and far-reaching impact of the global pandemic, this year's program primarily sought proposals that intended to develop or implement COVID-19 economic recovery strategies.

"Directing these critical resources to support community-led partnerships in neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by the pandemic helps expand our fight against COVID-19," said Governor Charlie Baker. "We are proud to make these targeted investments in programs that address key needs of urban communities across our Commonwealth, providing vital support to fight the pandemic while also helping to strengthen these communities for the future."

This year's Urban Agenda grants represent the largest round of awards since the program started. Since 2015, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded \$8.5 million in grants through the Urban Agenda Grant Program, which is administered by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

The Urban Agenda Grant Program is now exclusively part of the Administration's Community One Stop for Growth, the recently established

single-application portal that provides access to a variety of competitive community and economic development grant programs.

The portal will streamline the experience for the applicant and better coordinate the process of engagement, application review, and grant making for programs and staff. It also redefines the Commonwealth's role as an active partner in economic development strategy, priorities, and investment. Learn more about the One Stop.

Local FY2021 Urban Agenda Grant Awards:

•East Boston – Maverick Landing Community Services: \$100,000 for the East Boston Resilience Project, for the creation of two to three new outdoor sustainable markets that will enable immigrant cooperatives to access recycled materials, gain English language skills, and raise family incomes.

•Jamaica Plain – Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation: \$80,000 for the

Constructing Wealth Project, which will provide technical assistance and training to minority- and women-owned business enterprises to build long-term financial stability and create jobs in communities of color.

•Chelsea – La Colaborativa: \$100,000 for the Good Jobs Coalition to support a rapid re-employment program that will provide job assessment, soft skills training, and job navigation counseling to 400 Chelsea Latino and immigrant residents to assist families affected by the pandemic.

•Revere – Neighborhood Developers: \$100,000 for Revere Works Workforce Development Continuum. Through this initiative, 300 participants affected by the Covid pandemic will receive training in ESOL, job training, and computer literacy and connect to other organizations for referrals and job placements.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Chelsea Curves construction look-ahead through March 20

This is a brief overview of construction operations and traffic impacts for the Tobin Bridge/Chelsea Curves Rehabilitation Project. MassDOT will provide additional notices as needed for high-impact work, temporary ramp and street closures, and changes to traffic configurations beyond those described below.

ROUTE 1 TRAFFIC IMPACTS

ROUTE 1 NORTH-BOUND:

•Approaching the Tobin Bridge from Boston, the work zone begins in the right lane. 2 of 3 travel lanes will be open during daytime hours (5 a.m.–10 p.m.).

ROUTE 1 SOUTH-BOUND:

Approaching the Chelsea Curves from the North Shore, the work zone is in the median. All 3 travel lanes are open during the daytime hours (5 a.m.–10 p.m.).

LOCAL STREET CLOSURES

•A R L I N G T O N STREET: On Wednesday, 3/10, Thursday, 3/11, and Friday, 3/12 Arlington Street closure will be closed during the daytime from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WORK HOURS

•Most work will occur during daytime working hours (7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) on weekdays. Some

work will take place on a 2nd shift (2 p.m. – 1 a.m.) and overnight hours (9 p.m. – 5 a.m.) and on Saturdays (7 a.m. – 7 p.m.).

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

•ROUTE 1 NORTH-BOUND: Installation of new bridge deck will continue through the Chelsea Curves.

•ROUTE 1 SOUTH-BOUND: Completion of new bridge deck and placement of bridge barrier will continue through the Chelsea Curves.

COMPLETED WORK

•All remaining work is within the Chelsea Viaduct portion of the job. Work has begun on the reconstruction of parking lots underneath the Chelsea Viaduct.

TRAVEL TIPS

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

The contractors are coordinating with local event organizers and police to provide awareness and manage traffic during events. For your awareness, there will be no events at the TD Garden during this look ahead schedule.

• Revere • Everett • Winthrop • Lynn • East Boston • Chelsea • Charlestown



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QUALIFICATIONS:  
• Must be physically able to stand for long periods of time in extremes of heat and cold  
• Must have good vision, hearing and mobility  
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• Sense of responsibility for the safety of students  
• Able to move to other locations when needed throughout the district  
• Communicate well with others  
• Successful results of Criminal Offender Record Information check.  
GENERAL DUTIES: Direct or Escort students across street, stopping traffic as necessary, guide or control vehicular or students traffic at such places as street and railroad crossings and construction sites; monitor traffic flow to locate safe gaps through which students can cross street.  
DEADLINE: March 25, 2021  
APPLICATION TO:  
Human Resources  
Chelsea School Department  
500 Broadway Room 221  
Chelsea, MA 02150  
personnel@chelseaschools.com applications sent to any other email address will not be accepted.  
The Chelsea Public Schools District is an equal opportunity employer committed to recruiting, appointing, assigning, training, evaluation and promoting personnel on the basis of merit and qualifications, without regard for race, color, national origin, sex, religious affiliation, age, ancestry, marital status, handicapping conditions, gender identity, sexual orientation or any other applicable unlawful discriminatory standards. (Title VI & Title VII of Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VII & Title VIII of the Public Health Services Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as well as other relevant federal and state laws).



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CAMBRIDGE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
51 Inman Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139-1732  
617-349-4396

CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES  
21 Grand Street, 4th Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106-1561  
860-541-3400

MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
51 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
207-624-6050

MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION  
One Ashburton Place, Room 601  
Boston, MA 02108-1599  
617-994-6000

RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
180 Westminster Street, 3rd floor  
Providence, RI 02903-3768  
401-222-2661/62

VERMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
135 State Street, Drawer 33  
Montpelier, VT 05633-6301  
802-828-2480

NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
2 Chenell Drive  
Concord, NH 03301-9053  
603-271-2767

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A CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER

CBC honors Chelsea's Trailblazers

The Chelsea Black Community (CBC), under the leadership of President Joan Cromwell, concluded its observance of Black History Month with an event that will be remembered for many years to come.

More than 100 residents attended the “Chelsea Trailblazers” virtual awards night that was emceed by School Committee member Henry Wilson.

Individuals and organizations that stepped up during the pandemic were honored as “Trailblazers,” an award that has become one of the city’s most prestigious.

Perhaps no moment was greater or more inspirational than the slide presentation recognizing the award recipients and highlighting the past year in which the pandemic hit Chelsea hard.

Guests were visibly touched by the presentation that showed some of the happy occasions in the city when people could gather in large numbers for celebrations. One slide in particular showed the packed house in attendance enjoying the annual Let it Fly Basketball Classic led by Co-Directors Kyle Umemba and Cesar Castro. The pandemic itself and the hardship that it brought to Chelsea residents in 2020 was touched upon in a heartwarming manner that showed people coming together to help those in need.

The outstanding work of La Colaborativa Executive Director Gladys Vega and CAPIC Executive Director Richelle Cromwell amidst the pandemic was featured prominently as were the heroic efforts of Chelsea’s first responders. The CBC also highlighted the excellent leadership of City Manager Tom Ambrosino and Council President Roy Avellaneda and other city officials.

Kyle Umemba, Jayde Umemba and Maria Montgomery of the Chelsea Young Adult Alliance and Joan Cromwell and Sharon Caulfield of the CBC produced the slide show.

Also very impactful during the awards celebration was Desayna Christmas’ reading of the poem, “I Care and I Am Willing to Serve,” which President Cromwell indicated was a national anthem for the Trailblazers.

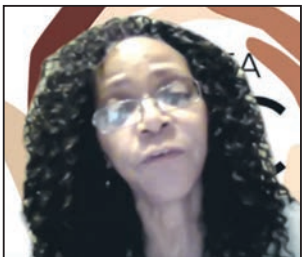
Chelsea Trailblazers 2021 coined the term, “Ubuntu,” an African term that means, “I am because you are.”

“It speaks to the fact that we are all connected and that one can only grow and progress through the growth and progression of others,” said Cromwell.

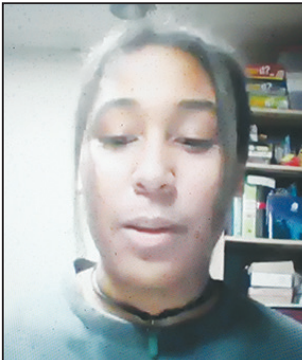
The CBC leader called the event “a great evening.” “The community really felt like one,” said Cromwell. “It just brought this city together. All of the organizations were there. And all of them realized the impact of what they did, and I just kept saying that because we moved through such a dark period, we sometimes forget that there is hope and strength in numbers.

“So it was this collaboration and these partnerships that got us through this pandemic, but what continues to get us through comes from the top – from the city manager to the organizations to the residents,” concluded Cromwell.

The CBC president hopes that Black History Month activities can be held indoors at local venues with many guests in attendance next year. “We’ll be filling everyone’s stomachs (with great food) next year,” said Cromwell. “CBC is looking forward to continued progress and partnerships within our community beyond Black History Month.”



CBC President Joan Cromwell.



Desayna Christmas delivered an inspiring poem.



Dakeya Christmas, one of the event coordinators, reacts proudly to his daughter's excellent recitation of a poem.



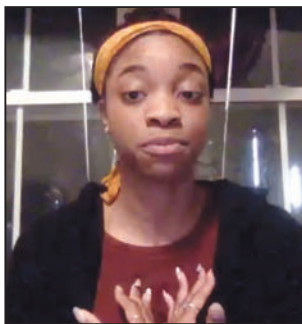
Tracy Nowicki, director of the Chelsea Senior Center.



Former Chelsea city official, Evangelist Deborah Washington.



Gladys Vega, executive director of La Colaborativa.



Jayde Umemba of the Chelsea Young Adult Alliance



Keynote speaker Khalil Saddiq.



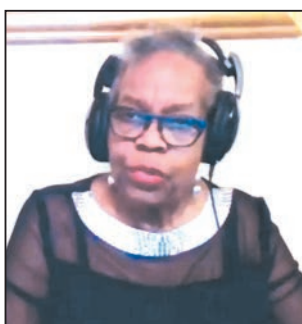
Emcee and School Committee member Henry Wilson.



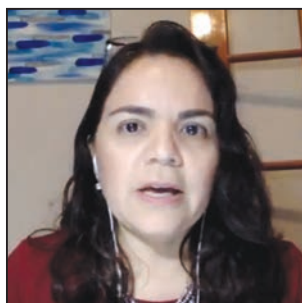
CBC Provost Beverly Martin-Ross



The Rev. Dr. Sandra Whitley



CBC Board member Sharon Caulfield, Associate Dean at BHCC.



The Rev. Keila Velez



Clockwise from top: Emcee Henry Wilson, State Rep. Dan Ryan, State Rep. Jessica Giannino, and State Sen. Sal DiDomenico.



One of the photos from the slide presentation, from left, Chelsea Housing Authority Executive Director Albert Ewing, Councilor-at-Large Leo Robinson, CBC President Joan Cromwell, School Committee member Henry Wilson, and Chelsea Community Schools Director Bea Cravatta.



City Manager Tom Ambrosino, with Let It Fly Basketball Classic Co-Director Kyle Umemba (left) and Cesar Castro (right).



Annie Cheevers (left) performs at the Chelsea Trailblazer virtual celebration.

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