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HELPING CHELSEA RESIDENTS WITH RENTAL ASSISTANCE



The staff of La Colaborativa, The Neighborhood Developers (TND), and Metro Housing|Boston recently kicked off a new partnership (pictured above) that will assist more Chelsea residents apply for assistance to help with rent and utility arrears. In the last year, Metro Housing helped distribute \$15 million in assistance to Chelsea residents with the help of the two organizations, representing nine percent of the total distributed in Greater Boston. Metro Housing and TND have long partnered to assist residents of Chelsea and the expansion of the partnership with La Colaborativa will mean more households in Chelsea will be able to get the assistance they need to stay in their homes. Residents who need to apply for assistance can do so by stopping by the La Colaborativa office at 318 Broadway in Chelsea or calling 617-889-6080. Residents can also reach The Neighborhood Developers by calling their housing hotline at 617-712-3487, X703 for English and X709 for Spanish.

Sportswoman of the Year

Chelsea High AD Amanda Alpert is a champion on and off the field

By Cary Shuman

Amanda Alpert is one of the winningest, most-decorated, and most admired players in the history of the WFA (Women’s Football Alliance). As a 12-time All-American center, Alpert helped lead her Boston Renegades team to the 2022 Super Bowl title in a game that was televised nationally on ESPN2. Her teams, the Boston Renegades and the Boton Militia, have

won seven Super Bowl titles. Alpert, 39, will begin her 19th season in March for the Renegades, who play their home games at Della Russo Stadium in Revere. Alpert has certainly stood out among the nation’s best football players and athletes. She has had teammates from across the country, while there have also been many Bay Staters, and even one pro football teammate from



Amanda Alpert

Chelsea, Lucia Robinson-Griggs, the current MIT women’s basketball coach. “Lucia and I won a Super Bowl title together,” recalled Alpert. But as spectacular as her professional football

career has been, Alpert is also earning much acclaim as the director of athletics at Chelsea High School. In recognition of her outstanding accomplishments in professional football, her excellent leadership of the Red Devils’ sports programs, her important guidance and advisership to student-athletes such as former CHS track superstar and current Division 1 performer Stephanie Simons, her innovations and decisions such as launching a middle school sports program

See ALPERT Page 11

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

DIDOMENICO, SWORN IN AS STATE SENATOR

Special to the Record

On January 4, Sal DiDomenico was sworn in for his 7th term as Massachusetts State Senator for the Middlesex and Suffolk district. DiDomenico’s district now includes all of Charlestown, Chelsea, and Everett, and half of Cambridge. Sen. DiDomenico has passed a wide range of legislation since being first sworn in over 12 years ago. These laws have provided funding for community organizations, school programs, and public projects in the district, expanded access to nutritious foods, supported working families by increasing cash benefits, fought back against the climate crisis, spurred economic development, protected our environ-

ment, and so much more. “It is an incredible honor to be sworn in for another term as a Massachusetts State Senator,” said Sen. DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. “I want to thank the residents of Cambridge, Charlestown, Chelsea, and Everett for your confidence and trust in me once again. We have accomplished so much together, but there is still a lot of work to do, and I can’t wait to continue fighting for everyone in my district and across our Commonwealth.” Sen. DiDomenico later joined his colleagues in unanimously voting to re-elect Karen Spilka as Senate President for the upcoming legislative session. “I was proud to vote for my friend, Karen Spilka, to continue leading the body as our Senate President. Senate President Spilka has been an incredible leader and I look forward to my continued partnership with her in the upcoming session.”



Shown at the swearing in ceremony are, Sal DiDomenico (son), Senator Sal DiDomenico, Senate President Karen Spilka, Tricia DiDomenico and Matthew DiDomenico.



Shown are Senator Jamie Eldridge, Senator Sal DiDomenico (son), Senator Jo Comerford, Senator Julian Cyr, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, and Governor Maura Healey.

Council begins process to hire new City Manager

By Adam Swift

Several city councilors have commented on the big shoes the next city manager will have to fill with Tom Ambrosino moving onto a new position in the state court system. Monday night, the council began the process of actually filling those shoes. Ambrosino submitted an official resignation letter to the council, specifying his last date on the job as Friday, Jan. 13. With that letter in hand, the council set up a subcommittee on conference meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 17 to consider the process for hiring a replacement for Ambrosino. “What we have to do, our city manager has in-

formed us that he is leaving, we have to begin the process of replacing him,” said Councilor-at-Large Brian Hatleberg. “That’s a complex undertaking.” The subcommittee will also look at the process for the appointment of an interim city manager. Monday night, the council agreed to discuss the terms and conditions for Deputy City Manager Ned Keefe to take over as the interim city manager at that Jan. 17 subcommittee meeting. Council President Leo Robinson said Keefe stated he will accept the interim position as the search process gets underway. “We need to have an interim city manager be-

See CITY MANAGER Page 4

Garcia remains as School Committee Chair

By Adam Swift

Kelly Garcia will remain the School Committee Chair for 2023. Garcia was nominated by committee member Shawn O’Regan and received six votes to retain the chair at last week’s committee reorganization meeting. Committee members Roberto Jimenez Rivera and Jeannette Velez voted present, and Ana Hernandez was absent from the meeting due to illness. “Thank you for voting me as chair, and for those who didn’t, I equally respect you and want you to push me to be a better leader, you’re leader, and the leader for our students,” said Garcia. The vote for vice chair was a close one, with Jimenez Rivera nominating Katherine Cabral and Claryangeliz Covas Caraballo nominating 2022 vice chair Hernandez.

See GARCIA Page 5

Mask mandate reinstated in Chelsea public schools

By Adam Swift

With an uptick in Covid-19 cases in Suffolk County, Chelsea students will once again mask up at school. Last Friday, Jan. 6, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta announced that a mask mandate was back in effect for students and staff in the public schools as of Monday, Jan. 9. On Jan. 6, the CDC designated Suffolk County as high risk for Covid transmission, leading to the reinstatement of the mask policy in schools. “As a result of this designation, Chelsea Public Schools will implement a mask mandate, effective on Monday, January 9,” stated Abeyta. “Masks must be worn in school buildings at all times except when eating or drinking. Mask wearing will continue to remain mandatory for any person

See MASKS Page 4

TRASH NOTICE

Trash will be delayed by one day due to Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Monday, Jan. 16, 2023

INDEPENDENT Newspaper Group

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The Independent Newspaper Group

Offices will be **closed** on **MONDAY, JANUARY 16** in observation of **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**

The office will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 17

Deadlines for ads & copy is Friday, Jan. 13.

Council honors outgoing City Manager

By Adam Swift

Outgoing City Manager Thomas Ambrosino took part in his last City Council meeting as head of the municipal government Monday night.

Council President Leo Robinson and all the members of the council introduced a resolution thanking Ambrosino for his more than seven years of service to Chelsea. Ambrosino’s last day as city manager is Friday, Jan. 13, and he begins his new position as the Court Administrator of the Trial Court in Massachusetts at the end of the month.

Ambrosino was honored for his leadership, dedication to the city, and humility by the council.

“I’ve had the honor of working with Mr. Ambrosino my entire tenure here on the City Council,” said Councilor-at-Large Damali Vidot. “It’s night and day if we look at where we were before he started. We didn’t have any holiday decorations downtown, there weren’t any murals, there weren’t any arts and the community just wasn’t as vibrant as it is under Tom’s administration.”

Vidot said Ambrosino played an important role in helping councilors understand the workings of

municipal government that the councilors could then convey back to the public.

“His ability to break things down in layman’s terms really made it so that we as new councilors were able to participate,” she said.

As a city manager, Ambrosino had an open-door policy and looked at municipal government through a lens of equity.

“Tom, it was an honor and a privilege working with you,” said Precinct 8 Councilor Calvin Brown. “We did a lot of great things here and your leadership here was A number one. Not only did you have an open-door policy for elected officials, but you had an open-door policy for the whole city.”

District 6 Councilor Giovanni Recupero said Ambrosino’s greatest quality is that he was always working for the people of Chelsea.

“He was a great leader because he is not a selfish person,” said Recupero. “He doesn’t have any ambition for himself, his greatest ambition is to help the people he works for.”

District 3 Councilor Norieliz DeJesus said she worked with Ambrosino before she was on the City Council and when

Ambrosino was new as a city manager, and was impressed in how he responded to a room full of tenants working for better living conditions.

“He said, if you have bad conditions and the landlord is not fixing them, and the landlord is not obeying the laws for code violations, lawyer up and rent strike,” said DeJesus. “I was in shock, for our city manager to just take off his city manager hat and say, I used to be an attorney and I’m going to tell you right now you have the right to hold your rent if you are not living in decent housing, I felt it was so good for a city manager to be able to guide our tenants and be so transparent.”

District 5 Councilor Judith Garcia said what she has taken the most from Ambrosino’s leadership style is his humility.

“Not only are you humble, but you have a very strong moral compass in every decision you make, and we have seen that for the past seven years,” said Garcia.

District 1 Councilor Todd Taylor thanked Ambrosino for his financial oversight of the city, and his responsiveness to concerns raised by councilors and constituents alike.

NFPA ENCOURAGES PROMPT REMOVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES

One-third (33 percent) of U.S. home fires involving Christmas trees occur in January. With this post-holiday fire hazard in mind, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) strongly encourages everyone to keep the festive memories and remove the hazards by disposing of Christmas trees promptly after the holiday season.

“As much as we all enjoy the look and feel of Christmas trees in our homes, they’re large combustible items that have the potential to result in serious fires,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at. “The longer Christmas trees remain in homes, the longer they present a risk.”

Carli notes that fresh Christmas trees, which continue to dry out and become more flammable over time, are involved in a much larger share of reported Christmas tree fires than artificial trees.

According to the latest Christmas Tree Fires report from NFPA, 160 home structure fires began with Christmas trees, resulting in two civilian deaths, 11 civilian injuries, and \$12 million in direct property damage, on average each year between 2016 and 2020. Overall, fires that begin with Christmas trees represent a very small but notable part of the U.S. fire problem, considering that they are generally in use for a short time each year.

To safely dispose of

NEWS IN BRIEF

a Christmas tree, NFPA recommends using the local community’s recycling program, if possible; trees should not be put in the garage or left outside. NFPA also offers these tips for safely removing lighting and decorations to ensure that they remain in good condition:

- Use the gripping area on the plug when unplugging electrical decorations. Never pull the cord to unplug any device from an electrical outlet, as this can harm the wire and insulation of the cord, increasing the risk for shock or electrical fire.
- As you pack up light strings, inspect each line for damage, throwing out any sets that have loose connections, broken sockets or cracked or bare wires.
- Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags or wrap them around a piece of cardboard.
- Store electrical decorations in a dry place away from children and pets where they will not be damaged by water or dampness.

For more information on home fire safety all winter long, visit “Put a Freeze on Winter Fires,” a winter safety campaign NFPA promotes annually with the U.S. Fire Administration.

For this release and other announcements about NFPA initiatives, research, and resources, please visit the NFPA press room.

NFPA: 125 Years of Protecting People and Property

The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) is a global

self-funded nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical, and related hazards. The association began its work to solve the fire problem in a young, industrialized nation in 1896 and has since become a global force known for advancing safety worldwide. NFPA delivers information and knowledge through more than 325 consensus codes and standards, research training, education, outreach, and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. In celebration of its 125th Anniversary, NFPA is hosting a Conference Series and other initiatives that reflect the association’s steadfast commitment to advancing fire and life safety for the next 125 years and beyond. For more information or to view NFPA codes and standards for free, visit www.nfpa.org.

POSTAL EMPLOYEES WILL CELEBRATE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Post Offices across the commonwealth will be closed on Monday, January 16, as our employees pause to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Street delivery on Monday will be limited to guaranteed overnight parcels and there will be no collection of mail.

Full retail and delivery operations will resume on Tuesday, January 17.

Cambridge Health Alliance opens new community behavioral health center

Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA), a community health system serving Cambridge, Somerville, and Boston’s metro-north communities, has opened a new Community Behavioral Health Center at CHA Cambridge Hospital (1493 Cambridge Street, Cambridge). CHA is now one of 25 designated Community Behavioral Health Centers that will be operating in Massachusetts.

The Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC) is a new model of behavioral health care designed to expand access to routine, urgent, and crisis treatment for mental health conditions and substance use disorders. At CHA, key CBHC services include a 24-hour Access and Crisis Line (833-222-2030) and a Behavioral Health Urgent Care, open daily. CHA will also provide 24/7 mobile crisis services in individuals’ homes, schools, or other community locations.

With the new services in place, people will be able to get connected to behavioral health treatment more quickly -- with same-day evaluations, referrals, and evidence-based treatments.

Patients will also have access to additional support as needed, including specialty care, case management, recovery coaches, and new peer support group programs.

“CHA is proud to be part of this exciting initiative to help people of all ages,” said Carl Fulwiler, MD, PhD, interim chair and chief of psychiatry at CHA. “We expect these services will make a real difference in the lives of local individuals and families.”

The Cambridge Health Alliance CBHC serves the communities of Cambridge, Everett, Malden, Medford, and Somerville. There are other designated CBHC sites for people in adjacent communities. CHA plans to open a second CBHC site in Malden later this year.

“The Community Behavioral Health Center will be essential in improving the health of our communities,” said CHA CEO Assaad Sayah, MD. “The past few years have been difficult for everyone, leading to extraordinary demand for behavioral health care. By expanding access to evaluation and treatment, we will be able

to decompress hospital emergency departments and provide more timely and more effective care. Most importantly, it gives us the ability to help people who might otherwise slip through the cracks of the healthcare system, allowing greater health equity.”

Cambridge Health Alliance is an academic community health system committed to providing high-quality care in Cambridge, Somerville and Boston’s metro-north communities. CHA has expertise in primary care, specialty care and mental health/substance use services, as well as caring for diverse and complex populations. It includes two hospital campuses, a network of primary care and specialty practices and the Cambridge Public Health Dept. CHA patients have seamless access to advanced care through the system’s affiliation with Beth Israel Lahey Health. CHA is a Harvard Medical School teaching affiliate and is also affiliated with Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard School of Dental Medicine and Tufts University School of Medicine.

Jimmy Merino ‘24 to represent Chelsea High School at United States Senate Youth Program in Washington D.C.

Chelsea High School student Jimmy Merino ‘24 has been selected to represent Chelsea and the State of Massachusetts at the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) in Washington D.C. Merino is one of two Massachusetts delegates attending the program after being selected from a statewide pool of applicants. He is the first-ever student from Chelsea to participate in this prestigious program.

The USSYP is a week-long educational experience and scholarship sponsored by the United States Senate for outstanding high school students who are interested in pursuing careers in public service. Merino will travel to the Nation’s Capital in March for “Washington Week” to partake in the program alongside youth delegates from across the country.

During Washington Week, Merino will attend meetings with President Joe Biden, senators, a justice of the Supreme Court, cabinet members, federal agency leaders and senior members of the national media. Each student delegate will also be paired with a military officer and receive mentorship throughout the week. Merino is also awarded a \$10,000 undergraduate scholarship to the college or university of his choice for being selected to the



Jimmy Merino

program.

“It is such an honor to be representing my hometown, Chelsea Massachusetts, where I was raised to cherish my culture, my community, and environment. It is rare for someone from Chelsea to have the opportunity to represent our community in such high terms. I didn’t achieve this scholarship for me, but for the community, classmates, and the educators who have stood beside me through the struggles. Through my work at La Colaborativa, working for the past three years, I have been taught the value of what my voice brings. In my trip to Washington D.C in the upcoming year, I will bring the values and wisdom I have been taught by this sacred community, advocate for the needs of us Chelsea youth and give the rest of the nation a glimpse of wonderful Chelsea. Chelsea’s future lies upon empowering the

youth.”

“We are so proud of Jimmy. He is a student leader at CHS and a student who is most deserving of this recognition. I know that Jimmy will represent Chelsea well because he has such a love for our community and the people. Congratulations, Jimmy!” commented Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi G. Abeyta.

Merino boasted an impressive candidacy for the program. He was elected as the CHS President for the Class of 2024. He served as the Field Organizing Director for Judith Garcia, who won her campaign this fall for Massachusetts State Representative (11th Suffolk District). He is active in the community through a variety of means, including his work at La Colaborativa as a Community Engagement Intern. Merino’s advocacy, leadership and voice at CHS resulted in the student body collaborating with school and district administration to improve the CHS attendance policy. In addition to his work at CHS and in the community, he is currently employed at the immigration law firm, Goss Associates, in Boston.

The Chelsea, Mass. native will join a list of distinguished USSYP alumni including Senator Susan Collins and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, among others.

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Police department expands mental health resources

By Adam Swift

In an effort to expand its care efforts and to reduce the stigmatization around mental health, the Chelsea Police Department now displays the three-digit 988 mental health crisis and suicide prevention number on its police cruisers.

This is the latest initiative from the department to address mental health issues in the city and the region, according to Police Chief Keith Houghton.

An estimated 703,000 take their life around the world yearly. For every one suicide, there are likely 20 other people making a suicide attempt and many more have serious thoughts of suicide. Several hundred of those are from the nation’s first responders and veterans.

The epidemic of suicide, as well as the stigma surrounding mental health continue to be barriers to those seeking help, leading suicide to be the 12th leading cause of death in the U.S. alone, Houghton stated.

Houghton continued that the city’s police department recognizes the need for a prompt adequate response to these crisis situations, as well as the need to utilize all available resources if someone experiencing a crisis is better served by other trained personnel who through collective efforts can assist those in need during these critical seconds.

School Committee approves changes to high school attendance policy

By Adam Swift

The School Committee approved an updated attendance policy for Chelsea High School at its first meeting of the new year last week.

Commonly referred to as the e-policy, over the past year, students have campaigned for changes in the attendance policy to make it fairer for students. Under the policy, students receive a grade of 60 percent, or an E, for a class where they have three or more unexcused absences during a quarter.

Students have appeared before the School Committee in recent months reciting personal experiences of how the policy can seem arbitrary and unfair to students who need to work to help support their families or are undergoing mental health issues.

Over the past several months, students, staff, parents, and administration have been meeting to create an updated policy.

The updated policy creates easier mechanisms for parents and guardians to excuse a student’s absence, and it also creates a three-person review board where parents and students can appeal the E grades.

The composition of that review board – and whether one of the high school’s two family liaisons should be on it – was the major point of debate with the School Committee last week. The committee ultimately voted to approve

“As a police department, we are affected by suicide, losing Officers as well as the loss of our own family members,” Houghton stated. “In 2022, the U.S. lost over 150 law enforcement personnel to suicide.”

In the past few months, the Chelsea Police Department responded to several of these tragic calls for our citizens, according to Houghton.

“Fortunately, we were able to intervene early enough in several of the calls that had a positive ending but the potential loss of just one life is one too many,” he continued. “As one of the most visible public resources to our community, often the first to be called in moments of need or despair; we want the public to know that we are here for them rather than being seen as a barrier to prevent receiving the right services.”

As the result of recent change in policing along with an already overburdened mental health care system, the City of Chelsea Police Department established a Mobile Crisis Response Team comprised of mental health professionals who work in conjunction with the police department. The team works closely with police, crisis services, and our community based programs to support individuals as well as their families in working through crisis along with “postvention.”

In the co-responder

model, the police officers work together with behavioral health workers to respond to crisis calls and ensure that appropriate services and resources are provided. The goals of the co-responder model are to deescalate the crisis, prevent injuries, provide appropriate services, and reduce the number of arrests.

“We believe that we are at the forefront of leading this initiative across the Commonwealth. To expand on our efforts of care, as well as to reduce the stigmatization surrounding mental health, we are now going to include the 3-digit numbers 988 on our visible patrol fleet,” the chief stated. “988 is the nationwide three-digit number for mental health crisis and suicide prevention services across the United States. It does not replace the current 911 system, you can call either number in a time of emergency to get the assistance needed.”

Houghton said it is the department’s intent to provide the community the use of care continuum and resources they need for both prevention and post-vention programs, be it the city’s first responders or the support staff in place through the HUB and newly formed Mobile Crisis Response Team.

“By letting people know that they matter and that there is hope, we all can do our part to help end this cycle,” he stated.

Es that are given at the end of the school year or for the second quarter of a semester-long class.

“Lastly, our school administration and central office must appropriately roll out this new policy,” stated Merino. “We would also like a chance at the end of the year to review the effectiveness of the policy and work on making amendments to the policy if needed for the next school term.”

School Committee member Roberto Jimenez Rivera initially made a successful motion to amend the policy and add the family liaison to the absence review board.

However, the committee then unanimously voted to return to the updated policy as originally submitted after several administrators said including the family liaison officers to the board would place an unfair burden and workload on those employees.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Tamara Blake-Canty also noted that having the family liaisons rule on the attendance policy could damage the relationship between the liaisons and the families and students they work with.

“The relationship between our family liaisons and our families is of the utmost importance,” she said.

The updated policy is scheduled to go into effect on the first day of the third quarter on Jan. 30.



Juan Gonzales (left) and Kevin Gomez.

Local Firefighters graduate from Firefighting Academy

State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey and Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, acting director of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA), announced the graduation of 24 firefighters from the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program.

“First responders are on the frontlines protecting their communities, and these newest firefighters are needed now more than ever,” said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. “The rigorous professional training they’ve received provides them with the physical, mental, and technical skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely.”

The graduating firefighters of Class #307 will represent the fire departments of Boxborough, Chelsea, Douglas, Eastham, Hingham, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynnfield, Medford, Nantucket, Natick, North Attleboro, Northborough, Reading, Walpole, Watertown, and Winthrop.

Basic Firefighter Skills Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then

during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Recruit Program all students have met the national standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001 and are certified to the level of Firefighter I and II, and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operational Level by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

Today’s Firefighters Do Far More than Fight Fires Today’s firefighters do far more than fight fires. They train to respond to all types of hazards and emergencies. They are the first ones called to respond to chemical and environmental emergencies, ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to fentanyl overdoses or a gas leak. They may be called to rescue a child who has fallen

through the ice or who has locked himself in a bathroom. They rescue people from stalled elevators and those who are trapped in vehicle crashes. They test and maintain their equipment including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), hydrants, hoses, power tools, and apparatus.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, they learn all these skills and more, including the latest science of fire behavior and suppression tactics, from certified fire instructors. They also receive training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management, and self-rescue techniques. The intensive, 10-week program for municipal firefighters involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training, and live firefighting practice.

The MFA provides recruit and in-service training for Massachusetts firefighters at campuses in Stow, Springfield, and Bridgewater. To date, about 14,000 firefighters have graduated in more than 450 classes.

Federal funds will help enhance urban forests in Chelsea

By Adam Swift

The Mystic River Watershed Association recently secured \$400,000 in federal funds to enhance urban forests in Greater Boston’s Mystic River Watershed.

This funding will help mitigate the dangers of climate-driven extreme heat in vulnerable environmental justice communities including Everett, Chelsea and East Boston. The program will support the implementation of local urban forestry plans (including the planting of 750 trees), while training youth, reentry citizens and others to perform the horticulture activities needed to establish and maintain urban trees.

The funding is part of nearly \$13 million in federal community project grants for nine resilience projects in the Mystic Watershed.

“This funding allows us to partner with communities to cool off some of the hottest neighborhoods in our watershed that currently have very few parks, trees, or other cooling,” said David Queeley, deputy director for projects at the Mystic River Watershed Association. “These same neighborhoods are where many low-income BIPOC residents live due to past redlining practices and crushingly high housing prices elsewhere. Helping vulnerable residents stay

safe lowers hospitalization rates and medical costs. If we can help cool off the hottest streets, or even whole neighborhoods, why wouldn’t we?”

When President Biden signed the FY2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act into law on December 29, 2022, the \$1.7 trillion spending bill included nine grants for Resilient Mystic Collaborative (RMC) cities and towns totaling almost \$13 million.

These earmarks bring the total grant funding for RMC community projects to \$30.4 million since its founding in 2018.

For each of the last two federal budgets, Congresswomen Katherine Clark and Ayanna Pressley and Congressman Seth Moulton were able to secure multiple Community Project Funding for projects

with demonstrated local support that fit within specific existing federal grant programs. These grants included four for RMC communities in FY2022, and nine in FY2023.

“We couldn’t be more grateful to Congresswomen Katherine Clark and Ayanna Pressley and Congressman Seth Moulton and their staff for securing such robust funding for our communities,” said Patrick Herron, executive director of the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA), which staffs the RMC. “These investments will make our cities and towns safer, more equitable, and more beautiful.” Since its beginnings, the Resilient Mystic Collaborative has been focused on

See FUNDS Page 5

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WE MUST NEVER FORGET THE LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

For those of us of a certain age, it is hard to imagine that 2023 will mark 55 years since the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis while he was standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel on April 4, 1968. Recalling how we felt when he first heard the news of Dr. King’s murder still brings chills and a deep sense of sadness that never has subsided.

For those who are too young to have been alive in that era of American history, there are a few things that everyone should know about Dr. King that should provide inspiration to all of us.

First, Dr. King was fearless. He knew from the inception of his rise to prominence of the civil rights movement that he would become a target for those who opposed change. Yet, even though he often told others that he believed his death would be imminent, he did not relent in his fight to continue his work in the civil rights movement.

Second, Dr. King stood for the rights of all Americans, not merely those of color. Indeed, he was in Memphis working with striking sanitation workers whose pay and working conditions he was seeking to help improve. He was an outspoken critic of the Vietnam War because he knew it to be an unjust war, not only for poor Americans who could not get a college deferment for the draft, but also for the people of Vietnam, whose homeland was being bombed into oblivion at great profit for the American military-industrial complex.

To be sure, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was not perfect. No person is or ever has been. Dr. King was just like any of us; he had his strengths and he had his weaknesses.

If Dr. King were alive in the present era, there is no doubt that he would have been in the forefront of the Black Lives Matter movement that highlighted the ongoing racism and economic inequality that oppresses Americans of all races today.

By any measure, Dr. Martin Luther King was a great man. His speeches ring as true today as they did two generations ago; indeed, his “I Have A Dream” and “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” speeches are among the most powerful not only in American history, but in all of Western civilization.

All of us should realize from the example set by Dr. King that in each of us is the power to change the world. We may not be as gifted as Dr. King was with his oratory, but each of us has the capacity to inspire others, whether through our words or deeds, whether on a small or large scale, to make the world a better place.

Many of our fellow citizens have followed the path set by Dr. King and many more will do so in the years ahead. So as we celebrate Martin Luther King Day, let us recall not only his memory and the many things he accomplished, but the great things that his legacy is continuing to bring about more than two generations after his death.

“THAT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN HERE....” “OH WAIT -- IT DID!”

For those of us who have been around for a while, the spectacle that unfolded this past weekend in Brazil, where thousands of the fascist followers of former President Jair Bolsonaro stormed that nation’s capitol buildings in a violent attempt to overthrow the government of the recently-elected President, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, was the sort of news that we regularly watched with indifference.

“Well, that’s just one of those countries,” we would think to ourselves self-assuredly, secure in the belief that something like that NEVER could happen in the United States. To be sure, we had Watergate, but that never never approximated the realm of a military junta or some other group forcibly seizing power from a democratically-elected government -- though we should note, the U.S. government often was behind that sort of thing.

But as all of us know all too well, the violence that took place in Brazil was virtually a replay of exactly what happened at our Capitol two years ago on January 6, 2021, when a few thousand of our fellow Americans, urged on by an American president who similarly had just lost an election, stormed our Capitol building in an effort to thwart the counting of the Electoral College and the peaceful transfer of the Office of President.

The political pundits continue to debate whether what happened on 1/6 was an anomaly or whether it will be the new normal. We can only hope that the democratic principles upon which our nation was founded will make it through what promises to be more turbulent days ahead.

THE CHELSEA RECORD

Forum

GUEST OP-ED

Kevin McCarthy, President Joe Biden and Congress must work to solve problems

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Recently, in a Mexican restaurant in Houston, Texas, a patron shot and killed a man who was robbing other patrons. The robber was masked and brandishing what appeared to be a pistol. If the man who shot the robber is charged with murder for protecting himself and others from a potentially lethal threat, then we have a serious problem.

We have another problem. Millions of undocumented people have crossed our border from El Paso to San Diego and in between. America is being invaded. We do not have enough free housing, welfare and food stamps to support all these people.

Biden wants to mobilize 85,000 IRS agents who will find every dollar they can to support the millions of undocumented people roaming our nation. How many more dollars can the IRS squeeze out of your pocket? Do you have property that they can seize and sell for a few dollars? 85,000 agents will need to find something to do and most likely they will be checking up on everyone.

Arizona has been patching holes in their border with containers which has

been working. Biden ordered that the containers be removed. Over one million undocumented people have crossed into America through Arizona during Biden’s Presidency.

Can you imagine being a farmer or just living on the Southern Border? This is 24-hour a day nightmare for these landowners. Do you think anyone wants to buy their property? These same people are coming to your community. They are looking for jobs and housing. They need money and food. Do you have plenty of affordable housing in your community? Do you have big free food banks to feed these people? If you need a reasonably priced apartment, I would suggest you snatch it fast because people are coming who need that apartment and they may have more help from the government than you do to underwrite the costs.

McCarthy, Biden, and Congress must bring back every job we have outsourced to China. We can no longer do business with China. The people who have been living in America the last few years need jobs and millions of new undocumented workers need jobs. By the way, do you remember when the United States Census

was a once every ten-year job? Now, Census workers have to work year-round chasing down people who will not complete U.S. Government Census information. How many full-time census workers will it take to chase down all of these undocumented people?

If Biden, McCarthy, and Congress do not protect Social Security your town will probably have to close up. Over 70 million Americans count on Social Security income. Social Security is all or over half of all this number receives each month. As the buying power of the retired population suffers, each community suffers. The government collects social security taxes from people to subsidize us in our old age. Americans will be back into abject poverty if they don’t keep Social Security strong.

Affordable housing, medical insurance and jobs that pay over \$15 an hour must also be McCarthy and Biden commitments. We must be able to buy health insurance across state lines. State governments need to make it easier for working poor to have health insurance. We need real people to answer the telephones in the state and local gov-

ernments. Websites need to be simple and seamless. Working poor Americans feel like their local states aren’t that interested in helping them.

Making medical care more affordable will solve problems for everyone including the insurance companies. Publicly listing the cost of services and surgeries was a good idea that most medical providers don’t seem to be following. Making pharmacy purchases from Canada easier is imperative for struggling Americans.

We have some problems in America. Biden, McCarthy and Congress have a lot to do. Name calling, and aggressive behavior in the House only makes for a few seconds of television stupidity. America has some problems. We need for McCarthy and Biden and Congress to step up and help us solve them.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

City Manager / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cause someone needs to fill the shoes when (the position) is vacated, so we need to discuss that and get everyone on the same page,” said Hatleberg.

City manager isn’t the only position the council

will need to discuss filling at the Jan. 17 meeting. The council has yet to fill the position of clerk to the council.

Long-time clerk Paul Casino officially retired effective at the end

of 2022, but he will be working with the council on a part-time basis as it searches for a replacement.

Monday night, the council unanimously agreed to hire Casino as

a part-time consultant and clerk for the council. The position is temporary until a new clerk is hired, and is set at a rate of \$50 per hour with no benefits and not to exceed 20 hours per week.

Masks / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

visiting our school health offices, and anyone returning to school from a five-day quarantine following a positive COVID-19 diagnosis.”

In April of last year, the School Committee voted to lift the mask requirement in schools provided CDC recommendations did not change based on the Suffolk County risk level. With the risk level changing, Abeyta said the public schools will follow its established protocols and reinstitute its mask mandate.

“We will continue to regularly monitor data and follow CDC recommendations in the event the risk level changes,” stated Abeyta. “The safety of our community is our highest priority.”

Following the winter break, Boston Public Schools asked students and staff to voluntarily wear masks, but did not mandate it.

While this is not a mandate, we’re really leaning on everyone to work together to follow our temporary protocol to ensure we are collectively doing our part to mitigate the risk of exposure for our students and staff in an effort to keep everyone safe as best we can,” Boston Superintendent of Schools Mary Skipper said in a statement.

Skipper also noted that masks can also help slow the spread of the flu and other respiratory illnesses.

As of December 29, the viral concentration in local wastewater sam-

ples is 1,947 copies per mL, representing a 42% increase over the past seven days and a 116% increase over the past 14 days, according to a press release from the Boston Public Health Commission. BPHC’s COVID-19 testing sites are reporting 18 new COVID-19 cases per day, marking a 22%

increase over the past seven days (data as of Jan. 2). Through Jan. 4, Boston’s hospitals reported 306 new COVID-19 related hospitalizations.

The latest testing data from Chelsea, for the week from Dec. 24 to Dec. 30, showed 88 confirmed new Covid cases in the city.

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Hayden sworn in as the Suffolk County District Attorney

Special to the Times-Free Press

Kevin R. Hayden was sworn in as the Suffolk County District Attorney on Monday, January 9, at Roxbury Community College.

Hayden was appointed by Governor Charles Baker to the fill the unexpired term of Rachael Rollins who was appointed United States District Attorney for Boston by President Joseph Biden. The following is Hayden’s Inaugural Address:

Good evening. It’s so wonderful to see everyone gathered here. I’m truly honored and humbled to stand before you for my inauguration and swearing in as the elected District Attorney for Suffolk County.

There are some thank you’s I need to offer up at the outset. First, thank you to all my supporters. Whether you volunteered on my campaign, made a contribution, put a sign on your lawn, or simply voted for me and encouraged others to do so, I thank you. I thank you for believing in me and for believing in a vision of what’s possible in Suffolk County.

Thank you to my Transition and Community Advisory Committee for your support. I look forward to the important foundational work we’ll do together.

Thank you, Ralph Martin for hiring me way back in 1997 and for your many years of mentorship, support and friendship.

Thank you, Governor Baker for the confidence you had in me to appoint me as the interim D.A. and for your guidance and leadership.

Thank you, Senator Collins and Representative Tyler for your incredible support.

Thank you, Chief Justice Budd for doing the honor of swearing me in this evening.

Thank you, all our police officers in Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop, and at the MBTA and State Police, for your selfless service.

Thank you to all of my staff at the District Attorney’s Office for your tireless commitment to justice, public safety and the welfare of our Suffolk



From left: Kevin Hayden, Carson Hayden, Michelle Hayden, Jordan Hayden and Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Kimberly Budd.

County residents. You are the greatest group of public servants working for the best D.A.’s Office in the Commonwealth, and perhaps even one of the best in the nation. For all my A.D.A.’s here I look forward to the honor of swearing you in at the conclusion of this program.

Thank you to all of the elected officials here today, my partners in government. I look forward to continuing to partner with all of you as we work to make Suffolk County even greater.

Thank you to all the residents of Suffolk County and your commitment to what is right...good...fair...and just...and your concern for public safety and the support of those impacted by crime.

Thank you to my mom, Charlene Roberts-Hayden, for your unconditional love and constant prayer. All my life you’ve been faithful, all my life you’ve been so so good.

Thank you to my wife Michelle and my sons Jordan and Carson. I love you more than words can express. To my beloved Michelle, I am nothing without you, and to my 2 sons you make me so proud every day.

I want to start by sharing a story of a chance meeting I had with a young man just before Christmas, and a card I received on the first day back in the office in 2023.

[Tell story of meeting young man from Power Corps Boston on the steps of West Roxbury District Court – Career development program paying and preparing young adults in

need of support for a career in the green industry].

[Read card from survivor.] Over the years I’ve witnessed many testimonies like this and I’ll touch upon them again later in my address.

When I returned to the office about a year ago it was exciting and surreal. The honor of returning to where my career began...

to an office and county that has always had my heart...to a calling to serve as leader of this great office...was extraordinary and is still somewhat difficult to even put into words.

But I CAN put into words some of the things we’ve done already.

We created the Boston First Program to focus on firearm violence, gun trafficking and unsolved shootings.

We created a new Civil Rights Unit with prosecutors in the district and superior courts.

We established a community engagement team to create neighborhood partnership, collaboration and trust that will achieve a level of community-based prosecution never

seen before.

We launched our Services Over Sentences Program to provide true assistance and real alternatives to prosecution for those battling with substance use disorder at Mass and Cass and even beyond.

And while I believe we’re off to a great start, there’s much left to do. The statistics for last year showed a continuing drop in serious crime in Boston, but an increase in gun arrests involving youth and an alarming spat of violence this fall. I believe we must deal with crime comprehensively and collaboratively to get to the root of the problem.

We will create the Suffolk County D.A. Youth Engagement Council, made up of young people from throughout Suffolk County, to gain a deeper and better understanding of the factors at play in youth violence, and how to create effective prevention strategies.

We will also create the Emerging Adult Alternative Resolution Program in collaboration with the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior at M.G.H. and Harvard Medical School. This program will offer real, comprehensive alternatives to prosecution for Suffolk County’s young adult population.

We’ll be seeking additional funding to expand our Services Over Sentences program to tackle the opioid epidemic. We’ve already seen great outcomes since we launched last summer, and we want to help even more people in their paths to recovery.

Our Transition and Community Advisory Committee will assist in the development of our

strategies to address crime intervention and prevention, and enhance community trust and operational transparency and accountability.

The Suffolk County District Attorney’s office has been nationally recognized for decades now thanks in large part to the incredible work of my predecessors. Ralph Martin gained country-wide recognition for bringing the office out of the courts and into the neighborhoods. Dan Conley built on that while creating the Juvenile Alternative Resolution program and establishing specialty courts to help veterans and others with sentencing alternatives. Rachael Rollins added data-driven outcomes and historic accountability with the Crime Strategies and the Integrity Review Bureaus.

And I declare here today that our best and brightest days of community safety...and neighborhood security...and systemic reform still lay ahead. When we unite in faith and hope... when we work together in faith and hope... we can achieve amazing results.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Even when we can’t see it we must know that our hope is never mere nor meager. When all other senses sleep our eye of hope is the first to awaken and the last to shut. Today more than ever, we must hold unswervingly to hope. But hope for what? Well one main hope for me is the multiplication of overcomers.

If you’ve heard me speak at all recently you already have a flavor of what I’m about to say.

But I’m determined to speak this message into existence. An overcomer is defined as someone who prevails over opposition, difficulties, conflict, or attack. An overcomer is someone who knows weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning. An overcomer is someone with a spirit who won’t allow themselves or others to be defeated by tragedy or adversity...and thus ultimately triumphs.

An overcomer won’t suffer alone and seeks to find refuge, solace and peace in the sharing of fellowship with others. Whether you’re a homicide survivor who has lost a loved one to violence, or a survivor of rape, human trafficking or sexual assault who now ministers to others, someone who’s gotten sober and triumphed over substance use disorder who now mentors or sponsors another, or are a returning citizen who has turned your life around and is now helping others do the same, YOU ARE AN OVERCOMER! You will help transform Suffolk County. It is by and through the spirit of overcomers the curse of violence in Suffolk County will be broken. I believe when the power at work in restored overcomers is poured out and multiplied, miracles will happen, deliverance from the clutches of crime and violence will become manifest. The mission of this office will be to always fight for you and stand with you each and every day.

I thank all of you, I am humbled by the opportunity you have given me, and I stand ready to lead this wonderful office. Thank you.

Garcia / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Cabral prevailed 5-3, earning the votes of Naomi Zabot, Rivera, Garcia, and Yessenia Alfaro in addition to her own. O’Regan, Caraballo, and Velez supported Hernandez.

There was some hesitation for a nomination to be the committee’s representative to the City Council before Alfaro nominated Zabot, noting that Zabot had previously served on the council. Garcia nominated Jimenez Rivera, who garnered the votes

of all eight members who were present.

Jimenez Rivera in turn nominated Zabot as the representative to the Shore Collaborative, and she earned the eight votes for that position.

The committee also adopted the School Committee rules of 2020 for the current year, and committee members signed up for the subcommittees they would wish to serve on for the current year.

Funds / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3


projects that make a difference for the people most affected by climate change, according to John Walkey, Director of Waterfront & Climate Justice Initiatives at local non-profit GreenRoots.

“It’s why GreenRoots is so excited to support and partner with the RMC and its members to help secure almost \$14 million in federal grants to fund these projects.”

Each of the municipalities that championed these climate resilient projects is

a founding member of the Resilient Mystic Collaborative, a watershed-wide voluntary partnership focused on regional climate resilience. Convened by MyRWA in September 2018 and led by senior staff

from 20 cities and towns and non-governmental partners, the RMC focuses on managing flooding and extreme heat on a regional scale and increasing the resilience of vulnerable residents and workers to extreme weather.



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KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS OF MASSACHUSETTS DONATE TO CHELSEA PUBLIC LIBRARY



One of the highlights of 2022 was the Chelsea Public Library’s Summer Reading Program and Awards Ceremony. The Knights of Pythias of Massachusetts were generous donors to the program, coming to the library to present tablets, medals, and gift bags to the children who participated in library programs the most during the summer. Pictured at the Summer Reading Ceremony are award recipients (front row, from left) Elias Santiago, Kory Leong, David Benavides, Sarai Chaavez, John Aguilar, and Stephany Aguilar. Back row, from left, are Harvey Slobodkin and Alan Zamansky from the Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias of Massachusetts, and Children’s Librarian Katherine Palencia.

Registration underway for new youth spring football team in Chelsea

By Adam Swift

Former Chelsea High and Pop Warner football standout Michaelangelo Recupero wants to help make Chelsea a titan of youth football once again. Recupero is currently recruiting players and looking for sponsorships for the Chelsea Bears, a spring youth football team for players from 13 to 15 years old. The season is scheduled to kick off in March, and is part of the New England Youth Tackle Football team. The spring league also includes teams from Boston, Lynn, Lawrence,

Rhode Island, and Revere, where Recupero was recently coaching. Recupero said youth football numbers have been dwindling in Chelsea, and that the spring league would not compete with any youth leagues in the fall. He said he is hoping to return Chelsea to being a hub of youth football, something he knows about. “I was part of the 2001 Pop Warner National Championship team, the only team from New England to win a national championship at that time,” said Recupero. He said it is still the only Massachusetts team to win a Pop Warner championship, competing against the youth football giants of Texas, Florida, and the south, and a team that doesn’t necessarily get the due it deserves in the history of its home city. Recupero said one of the reasons it’s harder for youth football teams from the Northeast to compete is because of the relative lack of year-round football in the region compared to the rest of the country. The spring league is part of an effort to bring a greater level of competition to the region, and more importantly, put football back on the map

in Chelsea. Recupero said he has the cooperation of the athletic department at the high school, where the team will be able to play its games. Even the name of the team, the Bears, speaks to Chelsea football history, according to Recupero. The team is named after former youth football coach James “Bear” Burke, Recupero said. “He meant a lot to me and a lot of other kids,” said Recupero. “To me, he was like John Madden, but he’s been forgotten. I want to give back like he gave a lot to the kids of that era.” Recupero said his hope is to expand the spring youth football in Chelsea to include younger age groups, but for now, he is hustling to get the 15U team up and running. He said he is hoping to field a team with about 30 to 35 players. Unfortunately, Recupero said running and outfitting a youth football team isn’t cheap. He said he’s used his own money to buy 30 pairs of shoulder pads, and he said helmets cost up to \$300 each. Recupero said he has been in touch with local businesses to talk about sponsorship opportunities to help defray some of the costs of running the Chelsea Bears team and

is looking for more potential contributions from the community. Recupero is currently holding registrations at the Browne Middle School on Mondays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Registration is \$200, and a birth certificate and current physical and report card are required. For more information, anyone interested in registering a player, or helping to sponsor the team, can contact Recupero at ChelseaBearsFootball@gmail.com, check out the Bears Instagram page at ChelseaBearsYouthFootball, or call Recupero at (617) 952-9971.

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Sports

CHS GIRLS IN HOOP ACTION AGAINST MALDEN

ROBERT MARRA PHOTOS

The Chelsea girls made a spirited run in the second half but fell to Malden, 49-28 in Greater Boston League girls basketball on Thursday, January 5.



FLOOR GAME: Joselinne Moran Palma (25) and a Malden defender go low to gain control of a loose ball.



SIDELINE CHASE: Monica Cespedes-Cruz (1) and a Malden defender chase a loose ball.



ARMS LENGTH: Karla Anzora Maya (22) spreads her arms and gets in position to prevent a Malden drive.



TOEING THE LINE: Keara Chevez Trejo (12) is inbounds by an inch as she looks for an outlet pass.



PLAYING KEEPAWAY: Monica Cespedes-Cruz (1) holds be ball way back to keep it away from a Malden defender.



DETERMINED EFFORT: Keara Chevez Trejo (12) gets a pass away as she is sandwiched between a pair



CLEAR SHOT: Melize Siliro (0) gets past a Malden defender and makes her way toward the basket.



WHERE TO GO?: Katerin Landaverde (35) maintains control of the ball as she faces defenders front and rear.

CHS ROUNDUP

CHS GIRLS EARN FIRST WIN, 24-23

The Chelsea High girls basketball team welcomed the New Year in the best possible fashion for new head coach Leslie Santiago with a 24-23 triumph over Excel Academy last Friday, giving Santiago the first victory of her head-coaching career.

Senior point guard Keara Chevez Trejo and freshman guard Monica Cespedes-Cruz paced the Chelsea offense with nine points apiece, with Cespedes-Cruz draining a pair of three-pointers.

In addition, a number of their Lady Red Devil teammates made key contributions.

Senior captain Joselinne Moran hit for four points and was a key part of the CHS defense with her speed and quick feet. Freshman center Katrina Landaverde chipped in two key points and senior Maria Gracias Carmao pulled down some clutch rebounds, including a pair of caroms in the waning moments that prevent-

ed Excel from getting a chance to pull ahead.

Freshman guard Meliza Siliro turned in a nice defensive effort with some key steals.

Santiago and her crew host Medford today (Thursday) at 4:00 and will travel to Lynn English next Tuesday.

CHS BOYS TRACK FALLS TO EVERETT

The Chelsea High boys indoor track and field team dropped a 67-19 decision to Everett last Wednesday.

Nate Nadow and Kevin Flores were the first-place finishers for the Red Devils. Nate captured the 600 dash with a clocking of 1:40 and Kevin topped the field in the mile with a time of 5:24.8.

Adding three points to the CHS side of the score-sheet with second-place performances were: Ali Warsame in the 300 dash (42.5) and Josue Hernandez in the two-mile run (12:41.5).

Scoring single points with third place performances were:

formances were Jason Rodrigues in the mile (6:00.9), Ivan Irias-Padilla in the 1000 (3:43.2), and Greeandoll Oliva in the shot-put (33'-10.25").

CHS head coach Cesar Hernandez and his crew were set to take on Malden yesterday (Wednesday) and will meet Revere next Wednesday.

CHS GIRLS WIN SIX EVENTS VS. EVERETT

The Chelsea High girls indoor track and field team put up a strong battle in their meet with Greater Boston League rival Everett last Wednesday, but fell short by a score of 47-34.

The Lady Red Devils took first place in five of the nine individual events and also won the x 400 relay.

The five Chelsea first-place finishers were: Darily Sanchez in the mile, whose clocking of 6:32 was 23 seconds faster than her closest Lady Crimson Tide rival; Gizelle Rodriguez in the 300 dash in

47.3; Rosalinda Rojas in the 600 dash in 2:11.3; Giselle Olivar in the 1000 in 4:00.2; and Reina Moreira in the two-mile run in 16:20.9.

The victorious CHS quartet in the 4 x 400 consisted of Rodriguez, Sanchez, Rojas, and Farrah Henderson, who defeated their Everett counterparts by 14 seconds, 4:49.3-5:13.5.

Adding single points for Chelsea with third-place performances were Dhalia Christmas in the shot-put (28'-4.5"), Ashley Mejia in the 1000 (4:29.1), Reina Martino in the 600 (2:36), and Hazel Hatleburg in the mile (7:06.7).

"We knew this one would be close, but even with winning more events, we couldn't overcome getting no points in the dash, hurdles, and high jump," noted CHS head coach Cesar Hernandez.

The CHS girls were scheduled to take on Malden yesterday (Wednesday) and Revere next Wednesday.

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OBITUARIES

Rosemarie Fondini

Of Peabody, formerly of Chelsea

Rosemarie ‘Rosie’ (Lovati) Fondini, 69, of Peabody, formerly of Chelsea, died on December 31 after losing her long battle with multiple sclerosis. She leaves behind her husband, Leonard (Lenny) of Peabody, her sister, Bella Targee and her husband, Fred of Tavares, Florida; nephews, Ryan

Targee and his daughter, Avery of Sorrento, Florida and Andrew Targee of Shrewsbury, MA. She was pre-deceased by her mother, Florence (DeRosa) Alterio of Chelsea. Services will be private. If you desire, contributions can be made in her name to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Robert Bayne

Owner of Bayne TV in Chelsea

Robert “Bob” Bayne of Peabody passed away on January 5 surrounded by his family. Bob was the owner of Bayne TV in Chelsea for over 50 years. The beloved husband of 62 years to Roberta Bayne, he was the devoted father of Alan Bayne and his wife, Suzanne and loving “GP” of Samantha Bayne and Lauren Bayne. Services were held at the Torf Funeral Chapel, 151 Washington Ave., Chelsea, on Sunday, January 8 at 11 a.m. and interment was in Everett. Contributions in Bob’s



memory may be made to a charity of your choice. For online guestbook and directions, please visit the funeral home website: www.torffuneralservice.com.

John Carron

MWRA retiree, always available to lend a helping hand



John A. “Sonny” Carron, a lifelong resident of Chelsea, passed away on Wednesday, December 28 in the peaceful surroundings of his lifelong home with his loving daughters at his side. He was 86 years of age.

Born and raised in Chelsea, he was one of five children of the late George and Christina (Zipps) Carron. He attended local schools and enlisted in the US Army serving in the 101st Airborne Division. He married Janet L. (Braid) and together they shared nearly 60 years of love and devotion to each other and raised five daughters. Sonny was passionately devoted to home and family. He worked for several years at the Charlestown Navy Yard. After the yard closed, he held various jobs in different fields. He completed his career at the MWRA, retiring in 2003.

In his lifetime, Sonny enjoyed getting together with family and friends to celebrate any occasion, especially when he had the opportunity to show off his dancing and singing talents. He spent many years camping with his extended family. He was especially fond of visiting state parks. Upon retiring, he enjoyed many road trips and cruises with his sweetheart, Janet (Mama Bear). Most recently, he cherished a trip to Hawaii with his daughters. Sonny was always available to lend a helping hand with a ride, home repairs or assisting a neighbor when needed. He had a great compassion for animals, this was exemplified by his many rescue efforts bringing injured and stray animals into his home and caring for them. He was



a member of the former French Naturalization Club and was actively involved at the Chelsea Senior Center.

Sonny was predeceased by his wife, Janet L. Carron and his siblings: Mary Carron, Theresa Alden, George Carron and Rita Rossetti. He is survived by his loving daughters and their spouses: Donna Moscatelli and her husband, Tom, Linda Ballard and her husband, Roy, Tricia Seigal and her husband, Jay, Kelly Carron, and Corrie Carron. He was the cherished grandfather of Tommy Moscatelli and his wife, Kelly, Christopher Moscatelli and his wife, Corey, Aaron Seigal, Anthony Moscatelli, Lindsey Ballard, Jason Seigal, Matthew Carron, Jillian Ballard, and Kelsey Ballard and the adored great-grandfather of A.J. Zayas, Kyla, Cameron, and Isabella Moscatelli. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews, extended family members and his two feline buddies Oliver and Sophia.

Should friends desire, contributions in his memory may be made to the Northeast Animal Shelter, 347 Highland Ave, Salem, MA 01970. Arrangements were given to the care and direction of the Welsh Funeral Home. For online guest book or to send expressions of sympathy, please visit; www.WelshFH.com.



Ada Torres

Strongly devoted to home and revered as a neighborhood mother

Ada L. Torres passed away on Friday, December 30 with her loving family at her side in the peaceful surroundings of her home. She was 79 years of age and lived courageously for the past years with various health issues.

She was the loving spouse of 50 years to the late Ernesto Muniz. Born and raised in Aguada, Puerto Rico where she was one of eight children of the late Jose Torres and Hipolita Ruiz de Torres, as a young lady in Puerto Rico, Ada worked with young children as a special needs teacher.

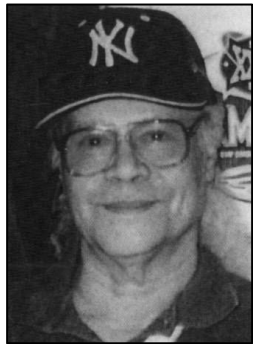
She moved to Chelsea with her family in 1978 and has resided here for most of her life. She was strongly devoted to home raising five children of her own and was revered as a neighborhood mother to many young men and women. She could always be counted on by new arrivals to Chelsea assisting them with basic needs and she was a longtime member of the St. Rose of Lima Parish in Chelsea. In addition to her parents



and her husband, Ernesto, she was also predeceased by three siblings. She is survived by three sisters and one brother in Puerto Rico and her children; Edwin Echevarria, Orlando Echevarria, Ada Niede Echevarria, Jose Echevarria and Ernesto Muniz. She is also survived by numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. Private services were held by her family. Arrangements were given to the care and direction of the Welsh Funeral Home. For online guest book or to send expressions of sympathy, please visit; www.WelshFH.com.



Fifth Anniversary Remembrance



ISMAEL AGOSTINI

2018 January 13 2023

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE OF HEARING
Case No. 2023-01

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A that a Regular Meeting of the Chelsea Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on: Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Chelsea City Hall – 500 Broadway – City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor 6:00 p.m.

With reference to the application of: James D'Amico Jr. Trustee For Special Permit seeking approval to convert the first floor recreation into five (5) residential units which does not meet the minimum requirement for off street parking as well as a Special Permit authorizing the extension, alteration or change to a non-conforming structure at the

premises known as: 207 Shurtleff Street A copy of the application and petition is available for review at: City Clerk's Office during normal business hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Tuesday, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. – Friday, 8 a.m. to noon 1/12/23, 1/19/23

LEGAL NOTICE



LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF CHELSEA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Department of Public Works will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 6pm at City Hall 3rd Floor in the chambers room Purposes: Verizon: Eastern Avenue: Place two (2) JO poles, P.14S and P.15S on the

easterly side of Eastern Avenue. Pole, P.14S to be placed ±53' southeasterly from existing Pole, P.14. Said pole being located on the westerly side of Eastern Avenue. Pole, P.15S to be placed ±52' southeasterly from existing Pole, P.15. Said pole being located on the westerly side of Eastern Avenue. City of Chelsea DPW: The Department proposes to offer mattress and box spring pick up and recycling services, for a fee, for residents who do not receive City trash services. The public is invited to attend. Cate Fox Lent Commissioner 1/12/23

LEGAL NOTICE



AVISO LEGAL CIUDAD DE CHELSEA DEPARTAMENTO DE OBRAS PUBLICAS

AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PUBLICA

El Departamento de Obras Públicas llevará a cabo una Audiencia Pública el martes 24 de enero de 2023 a las 6:00 p. m. en el tercer piso del Ayuntamiento en la sala de cámaras. Propósitos: Verizon: Avenida Este: Coloque dos (2) postes JO, P.14S y P.15S en el lado este de Eastern Avenue. Polo, P.14S a colocarse ±53' al sureste del poste existente, P.14. Dicho polo estando ubicado en el oeste Costado de Avenida Oriente. El poste, P.15S se colocará a ±52' al sureste del poste existente, P.15. Dicho poste está ubicado en el lado oeste de Eastern Avenue. DPW de la ciudad de Chelsea: El Departamento propone ofrecer servicios de recolección y reciclaje de colchones y somieres, por una tarifa, para los residentes que no reciben servicios de basura de la Ciudad.

El público está invitado a asistir. Cate Fox Lent Comisionada 1/12/23

LEGAL NOTICE



LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF CHELSEA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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Commissioner 1/12/23

LEGAL NOTICE



AVISO LEGAL CIUDAD DE CHELSEA DEPARTAMENTO DE OBRAS PUBLICAS AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PUBLICA

El Departamento de Obras Públicas llevará a cabo una Audiencia Pública el martes 24 de Enero de 2023 a las 6:00 p. m. en el tercer piso del Ayuntamiento en la sala de conferencias El Departamento propone ofrecer servicios de recolección y reciclaje de colchones y somieres, por una tarifa, para los residentes que no reciben servicios de basura de la Ciudad. El público está invitado a asistir. Cate Fox Lent Comisionada 1/12/23

DIDOMENICO JOINS FAMILY AND FRIENDS AT HEALEY/DRISCOLL INAUGURATION

On January 5th Senator Sal DiDomenico, accompanied by family and friends, attended Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll’s inauguration at the State House and celebration at the TD Garden. The momentous Garden celebration included performances by musical groups from throughout Massachusetts including the Everett High School Marching Band.

“I want to congratulate my friends, Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, on their historic inauguration,” said Senator DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. “It was great to see so many friends joining the celebration and witnessing the musical talents of Grammy Award winner Brandi Carlile, our very own Everett High School Marching Band, and so many other wonderful performances. I cannot wait to partner with the Healey/Driscoll team to accomplish great things for the residents of the Commonwealth.”



Senator Sal DiDomenico and Governor Maura Healey.



Senator Sal DiDomenico (left) with Representative Judith Garcia and Rep. Garcia's Aide Manuel Teshe.



Senator Sal DiDomenico (center) with his son, Matthew DiDomenico and wife, Tricia DiDomenico.



Governor Healey (right) and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll.

CHelsea HOUSING AUTHORITY

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The Director of Finance and Administration reports to the Executive Director, and s/he is responsible for fiscal functions relating to the Conventional Public Housing, Rental Assistance and Resident Services programs. The Director of Finance and Administration is responsible for delegating tasks, monitoring work, and overseeing compliance with established procedures and practices in the following areas: accounts payable, rent collections, cash management, investment, insurance, payroll, personnel, rental assistance receivable and payables. They will supervise employees in the finance department, also assist in the oversight and operation of the data processing functions of the agency.

Responsibilities:

1. Prepares monthly expense statements.
2. Reviews CHA programs and significant financial outlays.
3. Oversees cash management, consisting of the Authority’s cash flow and investment activities.
4. Reconciles bank statements.
5. Reviews and oversees all accounts receivable and payable, including Leased Housing owner payments.
6. Monitors and reports on the Section 8 Mobility Program.
7. Prepares biweekly payroll on computerized payroll system.
8. Performs daily functions of financial department including accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll and leased housing payables and receivables.
9. Responsible for budget preparation and monitoring (Federal and State Conventional, Leased Housing, Modernization, and development budgets to ensure expenditures fall within budget guidelines.
10. Works closely with Fee Accountant to produce financial statements.
11. Maintains the inventory records.
12. Maintains all CHA Modernization financial records.
13. Maintains personnel records, computes employee benefits.
14. Acts as liaison with employee benefit providers- Group Insurance Commission, Chelsea Retirement Board, Credit Union, and Dental Plan providers.
15. Coordinates all new hire procedures (advertising, scheduling, interviewing)
16. Prepares written evaluations of financial staff.
17. Monitors all Administrative contracts (Auditors, Fee Accountant, Insurance, Utilities)
18. Performs other related duties as required.

Minimum Qualifications and Experience:

Excellent financial and organizational skills. Thorough knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Supervisory and management skills, ability to delegate responsibility and monitor tasks. Strong math, writing and computer skills including, but not limited to, MS Office and QuickBooks. Knowledge of PHA-WEB is preferred. Ability to work with numbers in an accurate manner. Knowledge of GAAP and bookkeeping practices. Effective communication (written and oral) skills, must be well-organized and accurate in making mathematical calculations and data-entry, must be able to work well with persons of diverse backgrounds. Must exercise good judgement in maintaining the confidentiality and integrity of CHA's financial information. Good organizational and office skills

A minimum of five years of related financial experience including supervisory responsibility. Previous experience in a housing authority environment is preferred. Bachelor’s Degree in Finance, Accounting or related field is required.

Starting Salary Range: \$100,000 to \$110,000 based on experience

Interested candidates may submit resumes by email at employment@chelseaha.com, (subject line FD2023) or mail (address below) by January 17, 2023, or until position is filled.
Chelsea Housing Authority Human Resource Department (FD2023)
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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

BOOK CHALLENGE AT LIBRARY

EVERETT - Learn about the history of emojis, explore the importance of emotions, and discover fun activities to express yourself fully — all while earning badges on a virtual bingo card! Through January 31, the Everett Public Libraries are participating in “All the Feels,” a winter reading challenge sponsored by Beanstack.

We challenge our community to read and log at least 120 minutes during the challenge. Earn fun emoji-themed badges for logging your reading, completing activities, submitting book reviews, and filling out your bingo card.

Adults, teens, and children are all invited to participate. Register to get a free book from the library, and win a prize by completing five challenges in a row or diagonally on the virtual bingo card!

Visit everett.beanstack.com to get started, or call 617-394-2300 with any questions. Happy reading!

MASSPORT HOLDS KIDS COAT DRIVE

EAST BOSTON - The Massachusetts Port Authority’s (Massport) annual Winter Coat Drive benefitted nearly 140 children in East Boston and South Boston this year, doubling the number of donations made in 2021. Over 150 employees contributed their time and money to purchase winter coats and accessories for children ages two to 17 years old at Crossroads Family Center and Salesian Boys & Girls Club in East Boston, and Michael J. Perkins Elementary School and The Tierney Learning Center in South Boston.

“This year, we were

able to make the season a little brighter for our vulnerable neighbors in East Boston and South Boston,” said Massport Director of Community Relations & Government Affairs Alaina Coppola. “Thanks to the generosity of our Massport employees, this year was our largest-ever annual coat drive. As many families may be struggling to provide basic necessities during this time, this gift will enable them to focus their resources toward other areas of need.”

“We are grateful that Massport was able to provide warm coats, hats and gloves to 30 of our members most in need this winter,” said Program Director at Salesian Boys & Girls Club Dwayne Simmons. “We value all your generosity, time and support year after year into making this a meaningful and impactful partnership.”

ZBA TURNS DOWN REQUEST FOR TWO-FAMILY

REVERE - The Revere Zoning Board of Appeals held its regular monthly meeting last Wednesday in the City Councillor Joseph A. DelGrosso City Council Chamber. Chairman Robert Tucker and fellow members Aklog Limeneh, John Lopes, Arthur Pelton, and James O’Brien were on hand for the meeting.

The first matter the board took up was an application by Evergreen Property Solutions, LLC, 80 Piers Park Lane, Boston, requesting a variance of RRO Section 17.28.020, minimum parking requirements, to enable Evergreen to convert the existing single-family dwelling to a two-family dwelling

on Lots 433 and 434 at 57 Stevens Street

Evergreen was seeking the variance because four parking spots are required for a two-family property, but it’s proposal called for only three spaces.

The matter had been continued from the board’s November meeting. A number of neighbors had spoken against granting the variance at that time because they objected to the additional parking -- a two-family home requires four parking spaces per the ordinance -- being placed in the rear of the building.

Evergreen returned in December with a revised plan, eliminating the rear-yard parking, but only providing for three parking spaces, one short of the four that are needed. Atty. Joseph Catoggio represented the applicant. He outlined for the board that there already are two parking spaces on the lot and the applicant intends to add a third spot in the front yard to the right of the home.

Catoggio also noted that “although the applicant is an LLC, this will be an owner-occupied property.”

He told the board that his client intends to convert the existing four-bedroom, single-family home into two units consisting of a three-bedroom unit and a one-bedroom unit, and therefore will neither be increasing the number of bedrooms on the property nor expanding the structure’s existing footprint.

He also added that there are a number of two-family homes in the area.

Ward 6 Councillor Richard Serino filed a letter supporting the application in view of the revised plan for the project.

WINTHROP ODD FELLOWS HOST BLOOD DRIVE



Noble Grand of Zenith Lodge 42 in Winthrop Geri Gatchell, was the first to offer her life giving blood, aided by Red Cross volunteer Alyssa Rowland.

However, Ronald Champoux of 88 Stevens St., who spoke against the variance request at the November meeting, still opposed the application on the basis that it will add to the parking congestion in the neighborhood.

“The rules say four spots are needed and that’s the only way we realistically can support this proposal,” said Champoux, who added that the lack of parking is a city-wide problem.

Boston attorney Richard Joyce, representing Richard and Christine Joyce of 178 Grover St., presented opposition to the application from a legal perspective.

“Look at the full picture,” said Joyce. “Your own regulations state that the applicant must demonstrate that there is a specific shape, topography or other land or structures affecting this property. They must show that there is a

substantial hardship, financial or otherwise. But there has been zero evidence of financial hardship.”

He also cited the lack of parking in the neighborhood.

“This potentially will devalue other properties in the neighborhood,” Joyce continued. “This is a substantial detriment to other homeowners in the area. There is just no need to grant this. There is plenty of parking for a one-family home and that’s how it should remain.”

The board voted 3-2 to reject the application, with Limeneh and Tucker voting yes and Lopes, O’Brien, and Pelton voting no.

However, two other applicants that evening had better luck.

Robert Mahoney, of 2 Paul Street, came before the board requesting a variance of RRO Sec-

tion 17.24.010, minimum lot frontage of 80 feet, to enable him to construct a single-family dwelling on Lots 142 & 144 Morris Street and a single-family dwelling on Lots 146 and 148 Morris Street.

Mr. Mahoney presented the application, which also had been continued from the November meeting. He pointed out that though the frontage for the proposed house lots is only 71 feet, the other requirements for coverage area and setbacks are far exceeded.

“This will not be a detriment for this to happen in this neighborhood,” said Mahoney.

Councillor Serino submitted a letter in opposition, noting the flooding in the neighborhood, and suggested that the drainage issue should be resolved before moving forward with the construction of new homes.

Serino’s letter echoed opposition from residents in the neighborhood who had been present at the November meeting. Their homes had been built by Mahoney and the parties presently are in litigation in Suffolk Superior Court regarding the flooding issue.

However, the ZBA received a letter from Frank Stringi, the Revere City Planner, informing the board that the city’s engineering department has approved a plan that will resolve the flooding problems in the area. He also noted that building homes on these two lots, which are at the bottom of the street, will not contribute to the drainage problems in the area.

Other than the letter from Serino, there was no further opposition presented at the meeting. The board voted 4-1 to approve the application with only chairman Tucker objecting.

The third and final matter, both for the evening and for 2022, was an application by Ana Betancourt, 200 Broad Sound Avenue, who was requesting a special permit from the ZBA in accordance with RRO Section 17.40.040 to enable her to modify and extend a nonconforming single family structure by constructing a 255 sq. ft. addition (14’ x 18.2’) at 200 Broad Sound Avenue.

Ms. Betancourt presented the application to the board. She noted that the project will resolve a water problem in the existing structure and will prevent water from getting into her basement.

Ward 1 Councillor Jo-

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TALENTED VOCALIST ANNIE CHEEVERS PERFORMS IN CAMBRIDGE

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

Talented Boston singer and songwriter Annie Cheevers and her band electrified an audience with their performance Saturday night at Atwood’s Tavern in Cambridge.

Annie is the daughter of well-known Chelsea native Maria Schneiderman Cheevers and Joseph Cheevers.

Annie is pursuing a Master’s degree and performing in Ireland.



Annie Cheevers and cellist Megan Tavani, in a pre-show photograph on stage.



Annie Cheevers and lead guitarist Bobby Borenstein, pictured before the band's performance Saturday in Atwood's Tavern in Cambridge.



From left, are Carolyn MacNeil, Maria Schneiderman Cheevers, guitarist Brendan Little, lead vocalist Annie Cheevers, bass guitarist Francis Hickey, and Deb Cronin.



Pictured at Annie Cheevers' show Saturday in Cambridge are, Dave O'Connor, Carolyn MacNeil and friend, Kathleen Schneiderman Dobbyn, Maria Schneiderman Cheevers, Joe Cheevers, and Joanne Kenney.

Alpert / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and having Chelsea High return to the Greater Boston League, and for being a role model to athletes while balancing the demands of her career and family, Amanda Alpert is Chelsea’s Sportswoman of the Year for 2022.

Dr. Abeyta commends administrator

Supt. of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta praised Alpert for her work in the schools and congratulated her on The Chelsea Record’s designation of Alpert as Sportswoman of the Year for 2022.

“Amanda’s work in helping grow participation at CHS in addition to implementing middle school sports has created more opportunities for our students across a variety of grade levels,” said Dr.

Abeyta. “Participation in extracurricular and out-of-school time activities such as athletics are important to student well-being, decreasing dropout rates, and increasing academic success. Additionally, our teams create a sense of belonging for our students. Congratulations, Amanda!

In her seventh year as athletic director

Amamda Alpert is in her seventh year at the helm of the CHS athletic program. Chelsea High left the Commonwealth Athletic Conference in 2020 and became a member of the Greater Boston League in the fall of 2021.

“This is our second full year in the GBL,” said Alpert. “In football, we’re an independent and play our own schedule.”

Alpert is pleased with the response to the move to the GBL, where Chelsea was a member through the 1980s.

“It’s great geographically and I love being a member of the GBL,” said Alpert. “Our teams are really young and they’re growing, so I’m excited for the future.”

Alpert oversees a program that has teams competing in football, basketball, baseball, softball, girls’ volleyball, cross country, and indoor and outdoor track. A boys volleyball team will be added this spring, giving Chelsea High 15 varsity teams and close to 300 students in competition.

“Our participation level has definitely been helped by having middle school

teams,” said Alpert. “We started middle school sports with cross country in 2018 and we now have baseball, softball, basketball, outdoor track, and flag football.”

Alpert has made it a point to recruit Chelsea High alumni as candidates for coaching positions. Boys basketball head coach Cesar Castro was a 1,000-point scorer at Chelsea High, while his assistant, Armani Cheek, is also a basketball alumnus. CHS alumna Leslie Santiago is the girls basketball head coach while Joseph Saez, Christian Velasquez, David Roque are assistant football coaches.

A supportive family

Amanda Alpert competed in youth sports in Saugus and was a stand-

out for the Saugus High track team. She continued her track and field career at Springfield College, before entering the ranks of women’s professional football.

Amanda is the daughter of Allan Alpert, a long-time community leader known for his superb hosting skills at local events, and Laraine Alpert.

“They’ve been supportive all the way and were encouraging in getting me involved in different ac-

tivities as a youth,” credited Amanda.

Amanda is also a proud parent of two children, Owen, 8, and Finleigh, 4.

“Owen does karate and he’s grown to liking soccer and basketball,” said Amanda. “Finleigh hasn’t started in sports yet, but she’s doing dancing.”

May the children enjoy the awesome success that Amanda Alpert has achieved in her still flourishing career.

Region / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

anne McKenna sent in a letter to the board stating that she has no problem with the application. There were no opponents.

The board voted 5-0 to approve the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPEN ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF RUNWAY 27 SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

WINTHROP - The public comment period on Massport’s Draft Environmental Assessment/Final Environmental Impact Report on the Runway 27 safety improvements project runs through Jan. 23.

The document responds to all requirements of the Draft Environmental Impact Report Certificate issued by the Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs on August 29 of last year, and was prepared in accordance with the Federal Aviation Authority’s National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, according to Massport officials.

An electronic copy of the document is available on the Massachusetts Port Authority’s website at <https://www.massport.com/logan-airport/about-logan/environmental-reports/> and printed copies are available for viewing at the Winthrop Public library.

“As was outlined in the June 30, 2022 Draft EIR, Massport has a continuing program of enhancing airfield safety at all its airports, including enhancing the Runway Safety Area (RSA) at the Runway 27 End at Boston Logan International Airport (Logan Airport),” stated Stewart Dalzell, Deputy Director Environmental Planning & Permitting Strategic & Business Planning Department for Massport. “Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) policy requires that Massport enhance the RSA, to the extent feasible, to be consistent with the current FAA airport design criteria for RSAs and to improve rescue access in the event of an emergency. This Project would not extend the usable length of the runway nor have any effect on normal runway operations, runway capac-

ity, or types of aircraft that use the runway.”

To minimize environmental impacts to Boston Harbor, in 2019, FAA determined the preferred option to enhance the Runway 27 End RSA is an approximately 650-foot-long by 306-foot-wide RSA on a pile-supported deck with an Engineered Materials Arresting System (EMAS) installed on the deck, Dalzell stated in the cover letter to the nearly 500 page report.

“Because of the unique environmental setting and the extraordinary cost of the type of structure proposed, FAA approved the narrowing of the pile-supported deck from the required 500-foot-wide deck to a 300-foot-wide deck (the actual width of the deck would be 306 feet to allow for safety rails) as past FAA projects have shown that this would provide an equivalent level of safety as a full-dimensional RSA,” he continued. “An EMAS is constructed of collapsible concrete blocks with predictable deceleration forces. In an emergency, if an aircraft rolls into an EMAS, the tires of the aircraft collapse the lightweight con-

crete, and the aircraft is slowed down in a way that minimizes damage to the aircraft.”

Because of the irregular shoreline in this area, it is expected that the 306-foot-wide deck would extend approximately 450 feet over Boston Harbor.

“Through use of EMAS and the narrowing of the deck, the Project would minimize coastal impacts while enhancing safety for Logan Airport’s air passengers,” Dalzell stated. “Since the Project, once completed, would not change how Logan Airport operates, this Draft EA/Final EIR focuses on measures to avoid and minimize construction-period impacts and associated mitigation.”

Comments must be submitted by close of business on Jan. 23 through MEPA’s Public Comment Portal (<https://eeasonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicComment/Landing/>) or by emailing MEPA analyst, Jennifer Hughes, at jennifer.hughes@state.ma.us; and for NEPA public comments by emailing FAA’s Environmental Protection Specialist , Cheryl Quaine, at cheryl.j.quaine@faa.gov.

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CITY PAWS

Extrasensory Dogs

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Do you ever suspect that your dog has some form of extrasensory or telepathic powers? When one of us is out, our Westie Poppy races to the door long before the sound of footsteps in the hall or a key in the lock should alert her to an arrival.

This “power” is so common that scientist Rupert Sheldrake wrote a book about it, “Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home: And Other Unexplained Powers of Animals.”

Penny read it years ago and reread it recently in light of all the current research on this topic. Sheldrake quickly explained when the information about dogs’ special powers was anecdotal stories vs. evidence and controlled studies.

In addition to knowing when you are coming home, Sheldrake also discussed emotional support and therapy dogs’ abilities to comfort people. He

noted service dogs’ ability to alert people to seizures or drops in blood sugar. And discussed how sensitive animals might predict earthquakes and other disasters.

Better Senses!

Writing in Psychology Today, Jessica Pierce, Ph.D., explained, “The sensory world of dogs overlaps with ours, but also extends well beyond ours in some areas. Smell is the most obvious sensory modality in which dogs excel, having a far more powerful nose and a much larger area of the brain dedicated to processing olfactory information than humans. Dogs can also hear sounds that we cannot hear and will pick up on different visual information than we do.”

This keen sense of smell enables service dogs to alert their humans to an oncoming seizure, change in blood sugar level, or an anxiety attack. They learn to differentiate between a person’s familiar scent

and the change that precedes an episode.

Animal-Human Bond

Both scientists agree that some of what seems extrasensory is due to the strong bond between dogs and people. Dogs evolved to depend on and please people. They have special skills (and even a particular section of their brain) dedicated to reading our intentions, moods, and needs. Pierce writes, “...dogs are not psychic, but they might as well be. They have incredible skills when it comes to reading, predicting, and intuiting the feelings and intentions of their human companions.”

Sensing Disaster!

Dogs seem to sense the approach of thunderstorms and earthquakes. Scientists speculate that this may be due to a heightened sensitivity to changes in barometric pressure as a storm approaches. You may notice your dog’s agitation long



A keen sense of smell enables some service dogs to alert to an oncoming seizure, change in blood sugar level, or an anxiety attack. (Photo by: Ralph Kayden)

before you hear thunder. As for earthquakes, most dog alerts have happened a short time before humans. This, again, might be more sensitive proprioceptors or sensory receptors in their joints.

Dogs Pay Attention!

Dogs have the advantage of having less on their minds than we do, with fewer distractions and responsibilities. Their approach to the world is

more mindful. Mindfulness lets them use their senses better and react to what they perceive as a danger or a way to get what they need.

If you’ve ever watched a dog focus on a squirrel or a treat in someone’s hand, you have seen examples of single-minded attention to one thing.

When was the last time you saw your dog try to multitask? Dogs can teach us to pay better attention

to what our senses tell us. Perhaps we can repay our canines by learning to read their signals, communications, and, therefore, their needs and wants by paying the kind of attention to them that they do to us.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

BRUINS Beat by Bob Morello

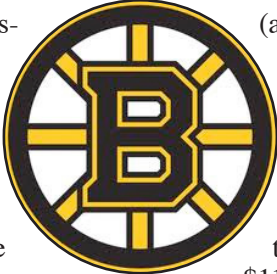
Bruins continue to amaze

It might be difficult to admit, but I don’t think there were very many of us who expected, the Boston Bruins, to be headed to the halfway mark of the season with an unbelievable record of 32-4-4. But, the numbers (like the hips) – don’t lie. Check this out; at press time on Wednesday, the Bruins were first in the Atlantic Division, leading the Toronto Maple Leafs by 11 points. First in the Eastern Conference, leading both Carolina Hurricanes and the Leafs by 11 points. First in the National Hockey League, again with an 11-point lead maintained

over the Hurricanes and the Leafs. Wow, can I get some background music please, with a rendition of “Everything’s Coming Up Roses?”

David Pastrnak continues to prove he is worth a long-term deal from the Bruins, as he plays out the final year of his 6-year deal signed in 2017-18, paying him \$40,000,000, which breaks down to about \$6,666,667 per year. To date, he has earned every penny of that contract with his scoring and exciting play. His 32 goals scored to date, has him trailing only Edmonton’s Connor McDavid’s 34 for

the top spot. Pasta’s 58 points puts him in the third spot, behind the Oilers’ McDavid and Leon Draisaitl. The NHL on January 9, named Pastrnak the First Star of the Week, following the Bruins’ 4-0 streak in which he put up seven goals and one assist for eight points in four games. Pasta has become a mirror-like image of Washington’s Alexander Ovechkin, with his almost unstoppable one-timer shot. Perhaps the locals will reward Pasta’s talents



(at the age of 26), with an 8-year deal that will exceed Ovechkin’s \$10,000,000 2022-23 contract with an \$11,000,000 rate (\$88,000,000 total), which seems fair! The question is not if Boston will sign him, but rather – how soon will they sign him? Also, not to be overlooked is the stellar play of Bs goaltender Linus Ullmark, playing with swagger, notching 22 wins to date, with a goals-against-average of 1.87, and a stunning save

percentage of .938, leading the NHL in all three categories.

One has to wonder if coach Jim Montgomery has a magic wand that he waves, that he has this team playing with such flair and success. In either case, Montgomery’s name has to be on the list of contenders for the Jack Adams Coach of the Year Award. It’s impressive to see how much energy and enthusiasm he has been able to get out of these players, young and old alike, seemingly making all the right moves and line changes for just about every situation that arises.

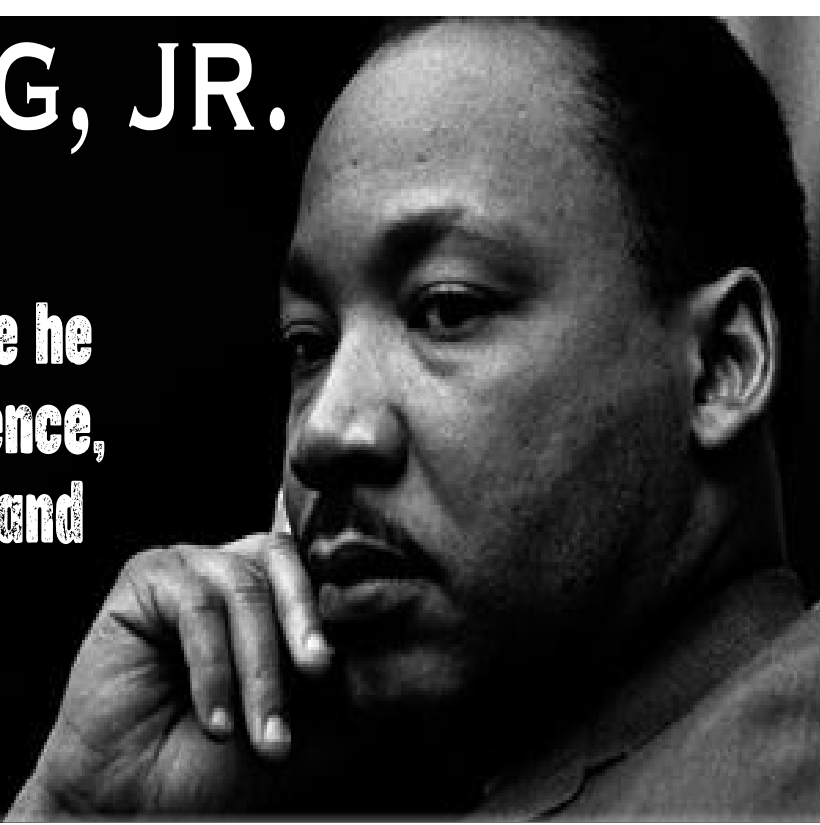
The Bruins return to TD Garden and home ice tonight (Thursday, 7:00pm) to take on the Seattle Kraken, and open a brief three-game home stand that will see the locals also hosting the Toronto Maple Leafs (Saturday, 7:00pm), and the Philadelphia Flyers on Monday, 1:00pm. All three of these teams have been playing well of late, the Kraken are the hottest, currently on a six-game win streak (7-2-1 last ten games), the Leafs are on a two-game win streak (6-3-1 last ten games), and the Flyers are 6-4-0 for their last ten games.

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Martin Luther King Jr.



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