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City Councillor Calvin Brown at the exhibit.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPACE ADVENTURE

## NASA comes to Chelsea

More than a half a century later, the first steps of man on the moon still inspire awe and wonder. Now, thanks to the Space Adventure exhibit currently running at 121 Webster Ave., visitors can experience the thrill of lunar exploration complete with more than 300 original NASA items.

Visitors will have the opportunity to experience the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo missions – responsible for bringing the first humans to the lunar surface – through a series of immersive rooms that include original artifacts that no one has ever seen or been given access to before. These include the control panel and counting clock of the Houston

Space Center, computers used in 1960, radios used for communication between spacecraft and Earth, astronaut suits, cameras used to capture the famous images of the lunar surface and astronauts, work tools and devices that filtered the air inside the modules, the Apollo mission food menu featuring items that could be stored for decades and

products developed especially for the personal hygiene of astronauts while they were in the space. The exhibition is divided into several stages. The first is a 180-degree immersive video that welcomes and transports visitors to the space environment they are about to immerse themselves

See NASA Page 5

## DiDomenico launches campaign to lift kids out of deep poverty

Senator Sal DiDomenico with his colleague Representative Marjorie Decker and the Lift Our Kids Coalition have accelerated the timetable for lifting kids out of Deep Poverty by filing Senate and House bills (SD 501, HD 507) at the start of the 2023-2024 legislative session. A campaign launch event was held last week to build support for this legislation and introduce it to members of the Legislature. The Act to Lift Kids Out of Deep Poverty, which Senator DiDomenico has led on for years, would raise the maximum cash assistance grant by



Rep. Marjorie Decker and Sen. Sal DiDomenico.

25% a year until it reaches half of the federal poverty level. Families living below half the poverty level are considered to be in Deep Poverty. Under the

bill, grants would increase each year and would keep pace with inflation as the poverty level goes up. After decades of frozen cash assistance levels,

Senator DiDomenico and Representative Decker led the charge in the Legislature to raise grants three times for a total increase of 32% beginning in January 2021. This was a huge step forward for families in our communities and they are looking to continue building on this momentum. “It is simply unacceptable that we have nearly 70,000 children in the Commonwealth living so far below the federal poverty level,” said Senator DiDomenico, the lead sponsor of the Senate bill and Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. “While the

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## Planning Board approves marijuana dispensary site plans

The Planning Board approved the site plans for two separate retail marijuana facilities at its meeting last week. Both facilities, one at 260-270 Second Street and one at 307 Broadway, were approved for special

permits by the Zoning Board earlier in January. “The space is zoned industrial, which allows this type of use,” said Sheila Grant, the attorney for DMS Trinity on Second Street. “It is currently utilized as office space and a flower wholesaler. We will utilize space on the first floor, which has its own separate entrance.”

There are also 14 parking spaces set aside for the business, which meets zoning requirements, Grant said. Trinity DMS is a social

equity applicant, as well as a minority owned business enterprise. “They are committed to outreach and hiring within the city, as well,” Grant said. Concrete Garden at 307 Broadway had its easiest night in front of a city board since the business was first proposed last year. Earlier in January, the ZBA granted a special permit for the business, despite some ongoing concerns about the owner of the 307 Broadway

property. Concrete Garden principal Vladimir Samuel has agreed to make upgrades to the building to bring it in compliance with city regulations. At last week’s Planning Board, Samuel quickly ran through the site plan and provided some information on lighting and security cameras before the board voted to approve the site plan. In other business, the board approved the site

See DISPENSARY Page 2

## Wynner’s Circle

Sports betting begins at Encore

By Cary Shuman

Encore Boston Harbor President Jenny Holaday said it all about the opening of the WynnBET Sportsbook Tuesday at the five-star resort/casino in Everett.

“It’s sports betting in the nation’s best sports town,” remarked Holaday. “Everyone is thrilled and excited it’s here.”

Holaday was joined by Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria, Speaker of the House Ron Mariano, State Reps. Joseph McGonagle and Dan Ryan and an array of professional athletes at the grand opening of the new sportsbook which is another step in Encore bringing a spectacular Las Vegas-style experience to Everett.

“This has been long overdue,” said DeMaria, who led the way for the Encore resort/casino to be built in the city. “People have been able to go to other states to wager on sports. We made the same argument when we were bringing the casino to Everett – why not keep the money here in the community? This sportsbook is a very nice facility.”

DeMaria said he had the opportunity to chat with Johnny Damon, one of the



**Longtime Chelsea School Committee member Rosemarie Carlisle greets former New England Patriots star receiver Julian Edelman at an event Tuesday at Encore Boston Harbor, celebrating the launch of legalized sports betting in Massachusetts.**

sports celebrities in attendance at Tuesday’s event. “I thanked him for breaking the Curse of the Bambino,” remarked DeMaria.

### An historic day for Massachusetts

Boston sports fans, who have enjoyed several championships by the New England Patriots, Boston Red Sox, Boston Celtics, and Boston Bruins in this century, can now legally wager on professional and college sports at Encore – and they’re excited about the opportunity.

Mike Capone of Malden was one of the first patrons to wager after Holaday personally led the countdown

See ENCORE Page 6

## Local fire service leaders complete program

More than three dozen fire service leaders from across Massachusetts, including Chelsea Deputy Chief Edward McGarry, graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy’s Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program. The four-month program for new chief officers and chief officer candidates is delivered jointly by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and the University of Massachusetts Edward J. Collins Jr. Center for Public

Management. Through classroom instruction and out-of-class assignments, the course delivers intensive training in the non-fire suppression aspects of managing a municipal fire department. “The Chief Fire Officer program is a tremendous opportunity for new chiefs and rising officers,” said State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey, who graduated from the program in 2002. “The rigorous instruction in such a wide variety of topics will help these graduates provide

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State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey (right), with Chelsea Deputy Chief Edward McGarry.

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# City planner Karl Allen earns national honors for digital equity work

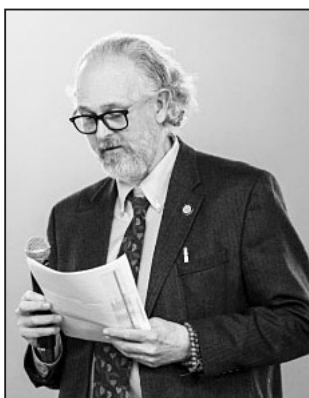
By Adam Swift

Karl Allen, Chelsea’s Economic Development Planner, was awarded the Transcending Barriers Award at the inaugural Transcend International Gala in Salt Lake City, Utah, late last year.

The award was created to honor leaders in the public sector who are working to create or further an initiative, intervention, or program focused on improving the quality of life for a particular group or community.

Allen was honored for his role in bringing accessible broadband internet access to the city through a digital equity program.

“As part of our work on digital equity here, we first applied in conjunction with Everett and Revere, and the regional planning agency, MAPC, to do a digital equity plan,” said Allen. “In the process of doing that, the three com-



COURTESY PHOTO

**Chelsea Economic Development Planner Karl Allen at the Transcend International Gala in Salt Lake City.**

munities applied for a national Build Better Broadband grant. We were one of six groups selected nationally, and that provided a couple of technical experts who wrote a digital action plan for us.”

The plan went through the process of figuring out what community needs were and doing preliminary design of what a municipal broadband net-

work would look like. One of those experts had been working with a foundation that was looking to do a video as part of their work and suggested Allen would be a good person for them to interview.

When Transcend International wanted to hold their initial gala, Allen was nominated for the work he was doing with Chelsea’s Housing and Community Development Department to further digital equity.

Transcend International is a data-driven 501(c)3 organization that looks to technologies, strategic investments, and partnerships with corporate, government, and community organizations to accelerate inclusion in the financial and educational sectors. Transcend International’s largest project is focused on minimizing the digital divide by utilizing public dollars for public infrastructure for public good.

During their Transcend International Charity Gala, the organization raised \$2 million dollars that will go directly toward research and creating resources for communities striving to implement digital equity plans just like the City of Chelsea.

“The pandemic really showed us how unequal access is,” said Allen. “The federal program to address digital equity tends to focus on geographic disparities. There are lots of people in rural America who have no access to the internet and that’s where most of the federal money to date has been going.”

But there is also an economic digital divide, Allen said, where companies provide subpar service because they can’t make enough money off of the community they are serving.

“This is the digital di-

vide in Chelsea we are trying to address, and we are hoping to address it aggressively over the next couple of years,” said Allen.

Addressing the digital divide is just one way the Housing and Economic Development Department and Chelsea’s planners have taken a bit of a different approach to urban planning.

“We are much more on the ground than planners traditionally were, and that has been a very rewarding experience,” said Allen. “We are serving the residents of Chelsea, and they need more help than the state or the federal government is providing, and we are trying very hard to be creative in filling as many of those gaps as we possibly can.”

For Allen, working in the public sector is something that came a little later in life.

Allen had a successful career in the software industry, then returned to graduate school when he was in his fifties to study resource economics and urban planning. He has used that degree as a springboard, devoting the latter part of his career to public service, starting in the Chelsea planning department at the end of 2016.

“This is by far the best job I’ve ever had,” said Allen. “You are actually helping people, as opposed to profit maximizing, so I am very happy that we can make a difference in people’s lives.”

One of the next steps in the city’s digital equity initiative will be the creation of a Broadband Resident Advisory Committee. Anyone interested in participating can contact the economic development department at (617) 466-4180.

## Planning Board rejects Forbes extension request

By Adam Swift

The Planning Board unanimously rejected a request for a one-year extension of the site plan for the massive Forbes Development project at its meeting last week.

A similar request to extend the special permits for a planned 590-unit project on the 17 acre site was rejected by the Zoning Board of Appeals earlier this year.

The rejections will likely lead to further legal ac-

tion according to Shawn McCormack, the attorney representing YIHE Forbes, LLC. The original special permits and site plan for the project were approved by the city in 2019.

McCormack noted that the site plan lapsed last December, but that there are legal precedents to extend lapsed approvals.

“This is a 700,000-square-foot, 590-unit project with housing units, restaurant space, and office space,” said

McCormack. “It’s a significant development on the waterfront and it has been sort of waylaid by Covid.”

According to McCormack, there have been several economic factors that have resulted in the project not moving forward for over three years, including supply chain issues and soaring labor and material costs, as well as instability in the capital markets that would finance such a large project.

“It’s really been stalled, and we are hoping in the next year that things will stabilize,” said McCormack. “Right now, getting investment is very difficult because there is a lot of uncertainty in the housing market. You have interest rates going up, which means there are fewer people in the market to buy new housing.”

McCormack was asked what would happen if the extension was denied. As a practical matter, he said there would likely be continued litigation.

“As a legal matter, it’s a little bit of a gray area,” he said. “There is no mechanism for an automatic revocation, probably what would happen if they went to pull a building permit, the building department would say no, sorry, your permits lapsed.”

Karl Allen, the city’s economic development planner, said the office of

housing and community development was opposed to granting the extension for the site plan review.

“Much has changed since this was first approved,” said Allen. “Our zoning has changed for this parcel. What was approved is no longer feasible under our current zoning.”

The zoning changes included a change in the definition of lot area, and in the case of the Forbes parcel, the buildable lot area dropped from more than 17 acres to under 12 acres of buildable land.

“The number of units that could be permitted on this site is now much lower,” Allen said.

Allen also noted that while the capital markets may currently be in flux, that has not been the case for the entire 31/2 years that the Chinese-based YIHE, Forbes has held the permits.

“Anyone who has driven around Boston and has seen all of the cranes knows that all through the pandemic, construction kept going and didn’t really slow at all,” said Allen. “We understand that the current owner sees value in the permits and wants to sell the property to someone who can exploit that value.”

However, Allen said the city would like to see anyone who purchases the property to propose a new project.

“We don’t think this is the correct project for that site at this time,” said Allen.

Last year, a group of local and regional nonprofits, along with affordable housing developers and the city were working on plans to attempt to purchase the dormant 17.7-acre Forbes waterfront site to create affordable housing and a public, environmentally resilient waterfront area for residents.

GreenRoots, The Neighborhood Developers, Mystic River Watershed Association, and the Mass Audubon Society were among the groups working together when it appeared the site might go up for auction late last year.

## Dispensary / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

plan for Enterprise Rent-A-Car to operate the airport-related parking and storage of vehicles in an open parking lot at 245-257 Marginal St. The company previously operated a similar lot several years ago, but did not renew the lease with the property owner, Eastern Mineral, for several years during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The main business operations for Enterprise are across the street at 324 Marginal St.

In addition to the reopening of the Marginal Street lot, there are planned improvements for the waterfront area of the property which will tie into the city’s development of the public access area adjacent to the Chelsea Street Bridge.

## McGarry / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the leadership that their departments and communities deserve. Completing the program is a major accomplishment and I want to congratulate them on their initiative and dedication to professional development.”

The Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program covers a spectrum of topics considered essential for effective public sector management. It includes human resource management, ethics, executive leadership, governmental and organization structures, information management, customer-focused strategic planning, legal issues, budgets and public finance, community awareness, and labor relations. The curriculum helps fire officers improve their ability to lead and manage personnel, understand employees’ needs and problems, communicate

effectively to a variety of audiences, and leverage inter-agency cooperation. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program tuition-free.

The 2022-2023 graduating class was drawn the fire departments of Acushnet, Barnstable, Belmont, Billerica, Bridgewater, Chelsea, Easthampton, Everett, Fitchburg, Framingham, Grafton, Granby, Hali-fax, Hanover, Holyoke, Hyannis, Ipswich, Lakeville, Maynard, Medway, Methuen, New Bedford, Newton, North Andover, North Attleboro, Oakham, Palmer, Pelham, Russell, Seekonk, Sturbridge, Tewksbury, Three Rivers, Truro, West Brookfield, Westport, and Worcester, where its members serve as chiefs, deputy chiefs, and captains.

## Applications for Chelsea Heritage Celebrations Grant now available

Applications are now open for the Chelsea Heritage Celebrations Grant! The deadline to apply is Wednesday, March 15.

Supports a broad range of cultural events, street fairs, art shows, festivals, and related activities such as murals, sculptures, and film series that promote Chelsea’s heritage, quality of life, recreation, and cultural activities. The grant range is \$5,000 - \$20,000.

Online application and guidelines are available at [https://www.chelseama.gov/government/boards\\_\\_\\_commission/cultural\\_council/chelsea\\_heritage\\_celebrations\\_grant.php](https://www.chelseama.gov/government/boards___commission/cultural_council/chelsea_heritage_celebrations_grant.php)

Paper application and guidelines can be picked up at Chelsea City Hall, Room 100.

For additional information call (617) 466-4070 or email [culturalcouncil@chelseama.gov](mailto:culturalcouncil@chelseama.gov)

¡Ya están abiertas las solicitudes para la Subvención

Chelsea Heritage Celebrations! La fecha límite para aplicar es el miércoles 15 de marzo.

Apoya una amplia gama de eventos culturales, ferias callejeras, exposiciones de arte, festivales y actividades relacionadas, como murales, esculturas y series de películas que promueven el patrimonio, la calidad de vida, la recreación y las actividades culturales de Chelsea. El rango de la subvención es de \$5,000 - \$20,000.

La solicitud y las pautas están disponibles en [https://www.chelseama.gov/government/boards\\_\\_\\_commission/cultural\\_council/chelsea\\_heritage\\_celebrations\\_grant.php](https://www.chelseama.gov/government/boards___commission/cultural_council/chelsea_heritage_celebrations_grant.php)

Solicitud y pautas en papel también están disponibles en Chelsea City Hall, Oficina 100.

Para obtener información adicional, llame al (617) 466-4070 o envíe un correo electrónico a [culturalcouncil@chelseama.gov](mailto:culturalcouncil@chelseama.gov)



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Associate Degree or Higher, or equivalent years of work experience and education. Minimum of 3 years related experience in public sector and municipal environments preferred. Working knowledge of Roberts Rules of Order and or Parliamentary Procedure required. Chelsea resident preferred.

To apply, email your cover letter and resume to [jcarmenatty@chelseama.gov](mailto:jcarmenatty@chelseama.gov) or send to City Council, 500 Broadway, Room 306, Chelsea, Ma 02150. All cover letters and resumes must be in by February 24th, 2023 by 12n.

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# DiDomenico, Project Bread, launch campaign to pass universal school meals

Last week, Senator Sal DiDomenico teamed up with Project Bread, a nationally recognized anti-hunger organization, to launch a statewide campaign to pass his Universal School Meals bill, An Act relative to universal school meals. This legislation, sponsored by DiDomenico, would provide free breakfast and lunch to every child in a Massachusetts school. Senator DiDomenico was also joined by Representative Andy Vargas, who sponsors the bill in the House, dozens of elected officials, anti-hunger advocates, educators, and a video message from Congressman Jim McGovern.

Thankfully, schools across the state have been providing Universal School Meals throughout the pandemic because costs and paperwork for this program were temporarily footed by the federal government. In 2022, federal support for the program was cut off,



Sal DiDomenico speaking at Project Bread Event.

but Senator DiDomenico secured enough funding in last year’s state budget to continue funding free school meals throughout the Commonwealth for the current school year. The Senate and House must pass the Universal School Meal bills (SD1013 and HD766) in order to continue providing free breakfast and lunch at our schools indefinitely.

“We have heard time and again from educators,



At the table, Michael Baldassarre, the superintendent of schools in Uxbridge and a former educator and administrator in Everett and Woburn, Sarah Coughlin, legislative chair of the School Nutrition Association and the nutrition director at Braintree Public Schools, Dr. Awab Ali Ibrahim (sepeaking), a pediatrician at Mass General Brigham, Erin McAleer, executive director of Project Bread, Sen. Sal DiDomenico and Rep. Andy Vargas.

advocates, and parents, that kids cannot learn when they are hungry,” said Senator DiDomenico, the lead sponsor of the Senate bill and Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. “Providing free breakfast and lunch in schools will

empower all our students to study, focus, and live up to their full potential. It is past time, in the year 2023, that we finally pass my commonsense bill into law and ensure no child will ever go hungry in a Massachusetts school again.”

This program has been a massive success in Massachusetts over the past two school years. Over 50,000 more students were eating lunch daily when costs were lifted, which allowed them to focus on class and relieved a financial burden from their parents. This is

a crucial program especially as costs for housing, transportation, healthcare, and more have been rising. Passing this legislation into law is critical for the wellbeing of our children and working families throughout the Commonwealth.

## Schools, City announce collaborative effort to enhance youth mental health services in Schools

Chelsea Public Schools and the City of Chelsea’s Office Housing and Community Development jointly announced today (January 30, 2023) a plan to enhance and bolster youth mental health services available to CPS students.

The plan will be funded through the City’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) community recovery program. It includes four initiatives that will support the needs of Chelsea kids. These initiatives are the expansion of free telehealth services for mental and behavioral health currently in place at CPS, a therapeutic after school program, a new full-time mental health

clinician at CPS and the addition of paid student instructors who will support existing after school wellness programs, while gaining work experience and developing valuable skills.

This collaboration of City and CPS resources stems from the work of the Chelsea Children’s Cabinet and the Chelsea Cares campaign. The Children’s Cabinet is an all-encompassing group of Chelsea constituents who work collaboratively to support Chelsea’s youth. Individuals on the Children’s Cabinet who held important roles in developing this plan include Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi G. Abeyta, for-

mer Chelsea City Manager Tom Ambrosino, CPS Equity, Diversity and Excellence Officer Dr. Aaron Jennings and Chelsea Director of Housing and Community Development Alex Train.

“I am grateful for the collaboration of the Chelsea Children’s Cabinet. As a Cabinet, youth mental health was a concern for us. Thus, we prioritized this area city-wide. I am thankful for everyone working together to meet the needs of our community,” Dr. Abeyta commented.

Ambrosino added, “These initiatives will directly help the youth in Chelsea. Our community engagement process

informed us that access to mental health services was a priority for residents, specifically Chelsea youth. I look forward to seeing this plan implemented at CPS.”

“Fostering social connections, eliminating stigma, and deliberately expanding the availability of free, accessible mental health services youth are comfortable accessing are crucial to supporting the wellbeing of all students,” announced Train.” “We’re grateful to the Chelsea City Council, Chelsea School Committee, and CPS for leading these critical investments to support students enduring trauma related to racism, economic injustice, and

the lasting impact of the pandemic.”

Mental and Behavioral Health was one of six spending priority areas identified by the ARPA Community Advisory Committee. As announced last March, over \$2.5 million of the \$15 million in available ARPA funding will be allocated to Mental and Behavioral Health needs of Chelsea residents. This priority was identified after a robust community engagement process that collected input from all residents about how best to utilize ARPA funds.

This work is rooted in the priority areas of the CPS Strategic Plan for Improving Teaching and

Learning for Every Student, Every Day: Bridge to Success 2.0. The influx of ARPA-supported initiatives will build on existing systems implemented by CPS this school year to support the mental health needs of students. CPS established partnerships with Cartwheel Care and Gaggles in 2022-23 to bring their respective resources into Chelsea schools. The former provides mental health support for all students as well as telehealth services specifically for high school students. The latter provides telehealth services at the middle school level.

## Council calls special meeting set or February 13

By Adam Swift

The City Council has called for a special meeting on Monday, Feb. 13 to recognize some special members of the community.

The council is set to honor the Chelsea Public Schools chorus students who are part of the inau-

gural CPS-Boston Children’s Chorus group who sang at the annual BCC MLK Tribute Concert at Boston Symphony Hall on Monday, Jan. 16. The 41 Chelsea Public Schools chorus students represent all four elementary schools in the city.

“We wanted to do it on a night when there was

not a regular City Council meeting so we could just focus on recognizing the kids and the police and firefighters,” said Council President Leo Robinson. “Normally, we’ll do it at a regular council meeting and we are rushing to get everyone in and out to do the meeting.”

The special meeting

will also see the swearing in of three new firefighters and four new police officers, as well as the promotion of two new sergeants, two lieutenants, and two captains for the police department.

The meeting takes place on Monday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. in the City Council chambers at City Hall.

## DiDomenico / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

recent increases in cash assistance were an important step towards helping our families, I am committed to continuing our work and pushing for further bold action to ensure that no child lives in Deep Poverty, suffering with-

out nutritious food, winter clothing or basic needs such as diapers. We live in one of the wealthiest states in the nation and there is no excuse for children living in poverty. Now more than ever, we must make this bill one of the highest

priorities for the legislative session.”

The Lift Our Kids Coalition (liftourkidsma.org), comprised of 155 organizations, formed in late 2016 to advocate for repeal of the welfare family cap, the law that barred

benefits for children conceived while the family received assistance. DiDomenico and Decker led the repeal of the family cap in 2019, and the Legislature overrode the Governor’s veto of repeal by an almost unanimous vote.



Among the attendees are (front row left to right) Rep. Shirley Arriaga, Rep. Rita Mendes, Sen. Sal DiDomenico, Rep. Judith Garcia and Sen. Robyn Kennedy.

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# Chelsea RECORD

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## THE CHELSEA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS -- STILL GOING STRONG!

We were so pleased to have been invited to the recent holiday celebration of the Chelsea Knights of Columbus and to have come across many of our old friends who continue to make the Knights a vibrant part of the Chelsea community.

Although many of our local organizations have been struggling in recent years to retain membership, the Knights remain an integral part of our city thanks to the efforts of long-time members such as Bill Mahoney, who has been the Knights’ treasurer for 45 years, and David Morency, who has been the Grand Knight for 25 years. Both Bill and Dave were honored with awards for their many years of dedicated service at the holiday party.

It was great to run into old friends such as Brian Sullivan, Myles Johnson, and Jay Ferri (who organized the party), and others such as Richard Szarythe and his lovely wife, the former Jane Zaremba.

The Knights do some very good charitable work in the city. Most recently, they helped out the Our Lady of Grace Church with a big donation for a new retaining wall behind the church.

With many Chelsea institutions having fallen by the wayside, we are happy to report that the Knights continue to make their mark in our city.

## GET READY FOR THE COLD!

We may have just finished what reportedly ranks as the fifth-warmest January on record, but by the end of this week, we’ll be experiencing our coldest weather in seven years when an Arctic blast dips into the United States and delivers temperatures that will start to plummet during the day on Friday and extend through Sunday morning.

The weatherman is telling us that the temp will be at six below zero in the Boston area when we wake up Saturday morning and will reach no higher than 15 throughout the entire day.

In addition, the Arctic blast will be riding a northwest wind of 20-30 miles per hour, bringing the dreaded wind chill factor into the range of -20 or lower.

For those of us who live along the coastline, we will be treated to the eerie spectre of “sea smoke,” the water vapor that forms when really cold air moves over the relatively warmer water (which presently is at a temperature of about 40 degrees in Boston Harbor).

Fortunately, this cold snap will be gone in a snap -- less than 48 hours -- with the temperatures getting back to more-seasonable levels by Sunday when the wind direction shifts from the northwest to the southwest.

Needless to say, outdoor activity of just about any kind will be impossible during the day on Saturday. While that may be a minor inconvenience for most of us, for those who are homeless, the extreme cold will be deadly, particularly for the recently-homeless who have not experienced weather this cold.

We trust that local officials and charitable organizations will do their best to get the homeless off the streets and into warming shelters during this life-threatening period.

As for the rest of us (who can turn our TV onto some golf tournament in California or Hawaii for a vicarious experience), we should make sure that all windows and storm windows are shut tight throughout our homes to ensure that cold air does not infiltrate, with the potential to cause freezing pipes. It also is smart to make sure that our thermostats are kept high enough to ensure that outside walls that have water or heating lines (and that may not be fully-insulated) are kept warm enough to prevent freeze-ups. We realize that this will increase our heating bills -- but that will be far cheaper than repairing the damage from a frozen pipe that bursts.

Ol’ Man Winter has been kind to us up to now -- but this weekend he’ll be letting us know that we should not take him for granted.

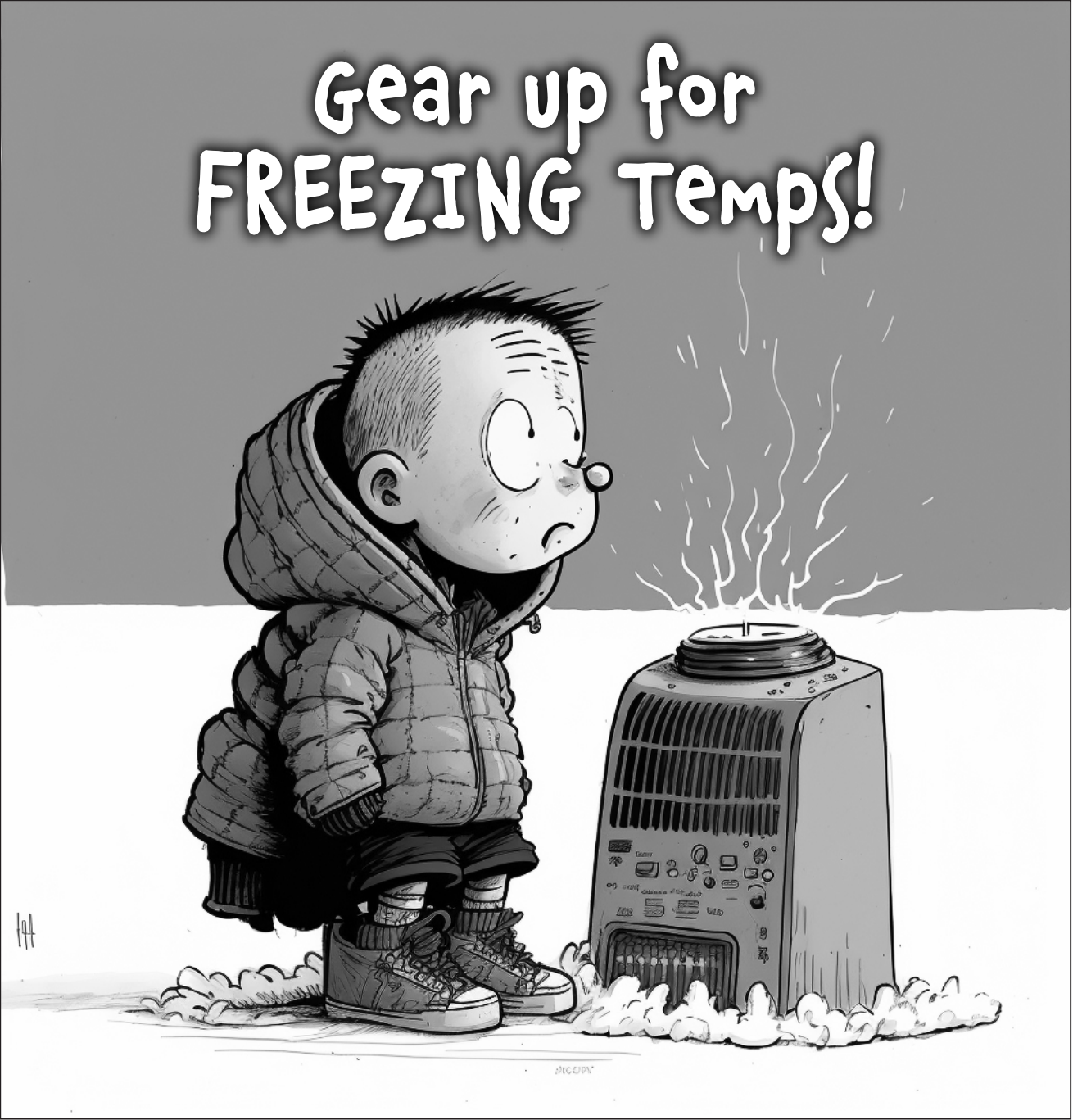
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# Forum



## GUEST OP-ED

### Classified document stink piles

Dr. Glenn Mollette

An Old Testament story records an overwhelming infestation of frogs throughout Egypt. There was no place in Egypt where frogs were not present in large numbers. The plague was sent in response to Pharaoh’s attitude toward the Israelite people who lived in slavery under his rule. When God ended the plague there were piles of dead frogs all over Egypt. In the streets, bedrooms, bathrooms, closets, storage facilities, and places we can only imagine. It became a very stinky situation as they raked up the dead frogs and piled them up all over Egypt.

The Classified Document saga seems to be growing in similar fashion to the dead frogs of Egypt. They appear to be everywhere and they stink. The odor has to be particularly bad for Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden as well as Vice President Mike Pence.

First came the big raid of Trump’s home in Florida. Late at night, FBI agents went through his home and personal items and carried out boxes of documents. Next, we

hear that Biden has had classified documents in his home for years. They seem to be scattered everywhere throughout his house. Then, Mike Pence in Indiana has more classified documents. What are these men doing with these documents? They are scattered out like the dead frogs of Egypt.

Again, what are these individuals doing with classified documents? I used to keep a big box of comic books when I was a kid. I would read a comic and then put it in the box. Sometimes I would read them again. I definitely knew that I had them. Why would past administrations hold on to classified documents? How did they get to the locations where they were found?

The National Archives has asked all the former Presidents to check for classified documents. Jimmy Carter? Where would he have them? In his family Bible? Mixed in with old Sunday school lessons that he has taught at the local Baptist Church? I don’t think so but you never know who might have picked them up, packed them in a box, and

placed them on a shelf in his garage. What about George W. Bush? Could documents be under the seat of his old truck? Bill Clinton has emphatically stated he does not have any classified documents but he has made emphatic statements before. These former Presidents have said they do not have such documents.

Did Trump carry these documents out of the White House when he and his family climbed aboard the Presidential helicopter? I’ve never seen Trump or Biden carry anything. Which aid picked up some boxes and tossed them into the moving van? Where is White House security when it comes to classified documents?

Only time will tell and we may never know for sure about the plethora of classified documents. We hope they aren’t reading

some of them in China or Russia. Who can say for sure where they are not being read? We do not know for sure whether or not someone else has them. Could another family member have a box or two somewhere? How much money would China, Russia or others pay for classified documents?

Democrats and Republicans will point fingers and scream about all this in the next election. Both sides will try to make the other side look worse but it appears there is plenty of stink everywhere.

*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.*

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# Sports

## CHELSEA GIRLS IN HOOP ACTION AGAINST MALDEN

ROBERT MARRA PHOTOS

The feisty, hustling Chelsea girls gave Malden a battle before falling 51-31 in Greater Boston League basketball action Tuesday at Chelsea High School.



Monica Cespedes-Cruz (1) fights off a crowd to nab a rebound.



Edissa Ndayikeza (3) looks toward the basket as she escapes a defender.



Karla Anzora Amaya (22) fights to get off a shot in front of Malden's (21).



Keara Chevez Trejo (12) races a Malden forward for chase a loose ball.



Edissa Ndayikeza keeps an eye on the ball.



Keara Chevez Trejo (12) stretches to keep a ball in play.



Joselinne Moran Palma (25) protects a rebound from a pair of Malden forwards.



Melize Siliro (0) looks for a way past a Malden defender.



Keara Chevez Trejo (12) reaches to knock the ball away from a Malden forward.

## CHS ROUNDUP

### CHS GIRLS BASKETBALL CONTINUES TO IMPROVE

The Chelsea High girls basketball team continues to show strong improvement as the Lady Red Devils progress through the 2023 season.

In a 58-32 loss to Greater Boston League rival Everett last Thursday, freshmen Monica Cespedes and Melize Siliro both sank a trio of three-pointers to lead Chelsea with nine points each.

Also making contributions in the scoring column were junior Keara Chevez and senior Maria Gracias with four points apiece and senior captain Joselinne Moran with three points.

In a 49-31 loss to non-league rival Mt. Alvernia on Monday, Cespedes struck for 15 points and dished out an assist. Senior capt. Edissa Ndayikeza, who was returning to action after being sidelined for six weeks with an injury, turned in

a strong effort with eight points, two rebounds, and two steals.

Moran was a force on the boards, snaring 14 rebounds, while also making three steals and earning an assist. Chevez had a nice stat line with four points, seven rebounds, three steals, and a blocked shot. Gracias chipped in four points, pulled down 12 rebounds, and made two steals. Siliro added a steal and two rebounds.

This past Tuesday the Lady Red Devils came out on the short end of a 51-32 decision to Malden.

Cespedes once again was a dynamo for Chelsea. The freshman struck for 19 points to go with five rebounds and four steals.

Chevez grabbed nine rebounds and dished five assists and made two steals. Ndayikeza hit for five points with two rebounds and two steals; Siliro contributed six points, four rebounds, and a steal; Moran snared six caroms and made two steals; and

See ROUNDUP Page 12

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# Girls sports programs expanding as interest grows at Northeast Metro Tech

Special to the Journal

Superintendent David DiBarri is pleased to share that growing interest among students has led to an expansion of girls sports programs at Northeast Metro Tech, and that there are also two girls wrestling this year.

This year Northeast Metro Tech added a girls ice hockey program in collaboration with Wakefield Public Schools, offering Northeast Metro Tech girls a chance to play ice hockey with students from Wakefield. So far six girls have signed up to play hockey on the cooperative team, with several racking up points as the team has a 6 and 8 record.

Sisters Celeste Scoppettuolo and Gianna Scoppettuolo, of Revere, are among team leaders with five goals and nine assists and three goals and six assists respectively.

The cooperative ice hockey program enables Northeast girls to play against other girls, whereas they previously played with the boys ice hockey team.

Meanwhile, two girls are wrestling against boys with the Northeast Metro Tech varsity wrestling team, and both are performing well so far this year.

Northeast wrestlers Shelby Galex, of Woburn, and Francesca Casolli, of Revere, have both contributed to the Northeast Varsity Wrestling team this year, with Casolli starting in the 120 pound spot.

"Shelby is an outstanding leader in our program and she has a great work ethic," said wrestling coach Bruce Rich. "She competes on the coed team and has won several matches, and she also finished second at the Senator All-Girl Wrestling Tournament on Jan. 16 as she faced 20 very competitive girls in her weight class."

"I would like to congratulate Francescia on her many accomplishments. She's one of the few female wrestlers to be part of what was once an all male varsity team, and she is also on the National Honor Society, and an impeccable student all around," said Northeast Metro Tech School Committee Member Anthony L. Caggiano of Revere. "Francescia is kind and full of determination. Francescia's parents attend all of her academic and sporting events. They should be proud of the exceptional daughter they've raised. This is what Northeast Metro Tech is all about — the success and

persistence of students and growing our programs to their fullest potential."

Additionally, three years ago the school also added a girls Field Hockey program, which began as a club sport but which has already grown to become a full varsity team with 20 players this year.

Existing girls sports programs have grown as well, with 265 girls taking part in programs this year, and another 81 girls taking part in coed sports such as Cross Country, Indoor Track, and Swimming and Diving.

Expanding interest in girls sports also led the school to add freshman teams for volleyball, basketball and softball, in addition to the existing varsity and junior varsity teams for those sports.

"We want to add as many programs as we can, because we try to be a no cut school," said Athletic Director Donald Heres. "More and more students are coming from the communities and they're looking forward to playing sports, so we try to do whatever we can to provide programs so we don't have to cut anybody or deny anyone an opportunity to compete."

Athletic Director Heres said the school uses surveys of students to de-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NORTHEAST METRO TECH

Sisters Celeste Scoppettuolo and Gianna Scoppettuolo, of Revere, are among team leaders with five goals and nine assists and three goals and six assists respectively for the Wakefield and Northeast Metro Tech cooperative girls hockey team.

termine interest in new sporting programs, which is how the cooperative ice hockey program came to be created this year. Such surveys are conducted on an ongoing basis, as the school seeks to identify areas where student interest justifies adding a club or varsity team.

"Sports offer our students opportunities to learn about teamwork, competition, setting goals and achieving goals with hard work and dedication, all while students are able to improve their physical health," said Superintendent DiBarri. "I'm pleased



Northeast Metro Tech's Olivia Skillings, of Wakefield, puts a shot on goal for the Wakefield and Northeast Metro Tech cooperative girls hockey team.

to see interest in our sporting programs increase among girls, and I look forward to adding even more programs to provide an avenue for those who are interested in competing."



Northeast wrestler Shelby Galex placed 2nd at the Senators All-Girl High School wrestling tournament on January 16.

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## Roundup / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Gracias grabbed seven rebounds, scored two points, and blocked a shot.

"We aren't losing -- we are learning," said first-year CHS head coach Leslie Santiago. "These girls work very hard and we have a young team. We're building -- one game and one practice at a time. We are very proud of our girls and their great attitudes."

Santiago and her crew host Revere today (Thursday) and will travel to Medford next Tuesday.

### CHS TRACK TEAMS TO COMPETE IN GBL MEET FRIDAY

The Chelsea High girls and boys indoor track and field teams will complete their Greater Boston League (GBL) schedule this week when coach Cesar Hernandez's squads compete in the GBL championship meet that is scheduled for tomorrow (Friday) afternoon at the Reggie Lewis Athletic Center in Roxbury.

Last Friday, the girls dropped a 53-33 decision to GBL foe Medford.

Gizelle Rodriguez took first place in the 600 dash with a clocking of 1:53.4 and scored a point with a third place finish in the high jump with a leap of

4'-2".

Chelsea swept the shot-put led by Lamari Davis, who took first place with a toss of 29'-2.5", Dhalia Christmas, who grabbed second with a toss of 28'-1.5", and Kiara Ramirez, who took third with a distance of 25'-7.5".

In the 50 yard dash, Chelsea went 1-2 behind Thania Simon with a sprint of 8.2 and Marcaylla Louis-Jean with a dash of 8.5.

Lauren Nadow added three points with a second-place effort in the 50 yard hurdles with a clocking of 11.1 seconds. Rosalinda Rojas finished second in the mile with a time of 6:57.2.

Darily Sanchez took third in the 300 in a clocking of 50.6, Giselle Olivar grabbed third in the 1000 in 3:55.6, and Reina Moreira finished third in the two-mile in 15:54.2.

The Chelsea girls won the 4 x 400 relay with a time of 4:56.8, edging their Medford counterparts by 1.4 seconds.

On the boys' side, the Red Devils won the 4 x 400 relay with a clocking of 4:13.3, which was 5.1 seconds faster than their Mustang rivals.

Second-place finishers for Chelsea were: Nate

Nadow, who scored three points with a second-place performance in the 600 dash in a time of 1:34.5; Ali Warsame, who added three points with a second place in the 300 dash in 43.8; Alex Flores, who took second in the mile in 5:34.3 for three points; Emerson Melga, who finished second in the shot-put with a toss of 34'-11; and Alexander Cano, who grabbed second place in the 50 yard hurdles in 10.6.

Greandoll Oliva added a point with a third place in the shot with his throw of 34'-1.5".

### CHS BOYS AT REVERE TONIGHT

Round 2 of the Battle of Broadway between the Chelsea and Revere High boys basketball teams is set for this evening (Thursday) when CHS head coach Cesar Castro and his Red Devils make the short trek under the Parkway overpass to take on their archrival Patriot foes.

The opening tip is set for 7:00.

Castro and crew will return home next Tuesday to host Medford for a 6:00 tip-off.

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# Bruins return to Earth

As the saying goes, everything that goes up eventually comes back down...correct? Bruins fans can readily agree with that statement after seeing their team lose their last three games to Tampa, Florida and Carolina. Two of those games were lost by a single goal (one in overtime versus Florida), but nonetheless they now have lost three consecutive games, leading up to their meeting yesterday (Wednesday), when they took on the Toronto Maple Leafs. Toronto will be without the services of Auston Matthews who has been diagnosed as having a sprained knee, and not due back in the lineup for at least a couple of weeks. As of press time, the Leafs held the second spot in the Atlantic Division, and the third spot in the Eastern Conference standing, trailing the Bruins by eleven points (81-70) in both instances. The schedule likely plays some part in this occurrence, as was obvious in the lackluster play of the locals during their 4-1 loss to the Carolina Hurricanes, in another back-to-back game, albeit the Canes came in to that game riding a four-game win streak. In the Eastern Conference standings, Carolina has been at the top of their game of late, coasting to a record of

8-1-1 for their last ten games, and riding a six game winning streak. The Hurricanes are, and will continue to be, a team to be reckoned with by the Bruins, who led them by seven points in the conference standings at Wednesday's press time.

With fatigue possibly being one of the factors in Boston's suddenly not so good performances, they will need to suck it up and summon that drive from deep within and show the resilience their fans have come to enjoy during their drive to the top and a stunning record of 38-7-5. One of the more noticeable deficiencies lately, was the team's suddenly powerless power play. A glaring example being their power outage that existed in their recent games with both Tampa and Carolina that saw the Bruins make no connections on 12 extra-man chances. Needing only 19 points to reach the century mark (100 points), their priority will be on nailing down the top spot in order to have home ice advantage for every round of the playoffs. Following the All-Star Game weekend, Friday, February 3 – Skills Contest, and



Saturday, February 4 – the All-Star Game, the Bruins will begin the All-Star break, with no regular season games scheduled for nine days. The Atlantic Division will have David Pastrnak representing the Bruins, and head coach Jim Montgomery behind the bench. Boston will return to TD Garden ice to face the Washington Capitals on Saturday, February 11 at 3:30pm. If fatigue was a factor, this lengthy break may be just what the Bruins needed to get their game back up to speed. On the plus side is the likely return following the break, of Bruins forward Jake DeBrusk.

During the NHL break, the 70th Annual Beanpot, now hosted for the first time by Dunkin', will occupy the Garden ice on Monday, February 6 and 13. Boston College will face Harvard in the first game starting at 5:00pm, with Boston University opposing Northeastern in a scheduled 8:00pm start for the second game. The following week will feature the Consolation Game at 4:30pm, and the Championship Game at 7:30. In a very classy move, the Beanpot Committee

announced that Boston Bruins defenseman Matt Grzelcyk has been selected as the 2023 Beanpot Hall of Fame inductee. In a first for the Beanpot Hall of Fame, Grzelcyk's father, John Grzelcyk, will also be inducted into the Hall of Fame for 2023. John has been a member of TD Garden's bullgang, for 55 years. He has seen many talented hockey players on and off the ice, but watching his son score the game-winning goal in 2015 during the Beanpot is easily one of his top three favorite moments, along with Grzelcyk joining the Boston Bruins. Matt played four seasons with Boston University from 2012-16. In that time he made three appearances in the Beanpot Tournament, most notably, as mentioned above, in 2015 when he was named the Beanpot MVP after scoring the game-winning goal of the championship game. The goal, his second of the game against Northeastern, captured Boston University's 30th Beanpot Championship title and first since 2009. The Charlestown, Massachusetts natives will be presented their awards during a ceremony in between semifinal games on Monday, February 6, at TD Garden.

# OBITUARIES

## Laura Kwiatkowski

September 15, 1926 – January 25, 2023

Laura Kwiatkowski passed away on Wednesday January 25 at the Katzman Family Center for Living where she had been receiving supportive care for the past few years. She was 96 years of age.

Born, raised and a lifelong resident of Chelsea, she was one of eight children of the late Waclaw and Maryann (Godlewski) Uminski.

Laura attended St. Stanislaus Parochial School and was a graduate of Chelsea High School. She was married to Chester C. Kwiatkowski and raised her own family of two daughters and one son, making her home on Shawmut St. in Chelsea for most of her life.

Her preeminent devotion was to home and family. Later in life she returned to work at Chelsea Clock as an assembler, a job she held years ago as a young single lady.

She held membership for many years with the demised PAV Ladies Aux. and was a lifelong parishioner of the former St. Stanislaus Church. She enjoyed playing cards in the homes and kitchens of her family, in-laws, and friends. Recently she was an active member of the Chelsea Senior Center, participating in many events and enjoyed playing the three "B's," Bowling, Bocce, and Bingo.

She is fondly remembered for her quiet unassuming demeanor, her strength in adversity, her delightful smile and loving nature.

Laura was preceded in death by her parents, her former husband, Chester C. Kwiatkowski and siblings; Stella Lombardozi, Jessie Covino, Helen Parsons, Joseph, Charles, and Edward Uminski. Laura was also predeceased



by her daughter, Diane Kwiatkowski in March of 2007.

She is lovingly survived by her children and their spouses, Carol Danner and her husband, Robert of Wakefield, Kenneth C. Kwiatkowski, Sr. and his wife, Joanne of Chelsea. She was the dear sister of Alfred Uminski of Revere, cherished grandmother, "Babci" of Sean Conlon and his wife, Leanne, Brian Conlon, Sr., Heidi Chichester and her husband, Bryan, Ashley Kwiatkowski, Melissa Kwiatkowski and her fiancée, Jimmy Aguilar, Kenneth Kwiatkowski, Jr. and Mary Swanson and her husband, Mike; the adoring great-grandmother of Brian Conlon, Jr., Kylie and Kaytlin Chichester, MelinaRae Swanson, Mason Aguilar, Alexis and Anthony Spagnuolo. She is also survived many loving nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

Funeral arrangements were by the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea. Following a Funeral Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Church on January 30, interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

For online guest book or to send expressions of sympathy, please visit: [www.WelshFH.com](http://www.WelshFH.com).



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## Public health warning issued related to recent sewage discharge

The following is a public health warning related to a recent sewage discharge, also known as a combined sewer overflow (CSO). State regulations require local public health departments to provide notice to the public when these discharges may create a risk to public health, including when a discharge lasts for more than two hours.

The following outflow locations experienced discharge events:

- Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Outflow MWR203, located in the Upper Inner Harbor, upstream of North Washington St. Bridge, experienced a treated discharge or overflow starting on January 26 at 3:05am, creating a potential public health risk. This overflow ended at 6:29am. This data is preliminary and may be revised. Check the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority website here for current updates about this discharge. This event may potentially affect waters in Boston Inner Harbor.

- Boston Water and Sewer Commission Outfall 070, located on the Fort Point Channel at Albany Street, experienced a discharge or overflow

on January 26 starting at 4:05am and lasting until 6:25am, creating a potential public health risk. This data is preliminary and may be revised. Check the Boston Water and Sewer Commission website here for current updates about this discharge. This event may potentially affect waters in Boston Inner Harbor and the Chelsea Creek/Mystic River confluence.

- Boston Water and Sewer Commission Outfall 013, located at the confluence of the Mystic River and Chelsea Creek at the Condor Street Bridge in East Boston, experienced a discharge or overflow on January 26 starting at 2:40am and lasting until 6:50am, creating a potential public health risk. This data is preliminary and may be revised. Check the Boston Water and Sewer Commission website here for current updates about this discharge. This event may potentially affect waters in Boston Inner Harbor and the Chelsea Creek/Mystic River confluence.

This advisory expired 48 hours after the overflow has ended at each location.

The public is advised to avoid contact with affected water bodies for at

least 48 hours after a sewage discharge or overflow, during rainstorms, and for 48 hours after rainstorms end, due to increased health risks from bacteria or other pollutants associated with urban stormwater runoff and discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater.

A combined sewer overflow occurs when a

large storm overwhelms the combined sewerage system causing rainwater to mix with wastewater and discharge to a nearby water body. This prevents sewage backups into homes and businesses.

More information about CSOs and public health is available at [www.boston.gov/cso](http://www.boston.gov/cso).

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135 State Street, Drawer 33  
Montpelier, VT 05633-6301  
802-828-2480  
**NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**  
2 Cheneil Drive  
Concord, NH 03301-9053  
603-271-2767  
**NEW HAVEN COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**  
200 Orange Street, Room 402  
New Haven, CT 06510  
203-946-8160/8165



FRESH AND LOCAL

Beans & Greens so many ways

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

For a long time, “beans & greens” was one of our favorite farmers’ market suppers. When we spotted excellent fresh greens on a farm stand, we’d grab a bunch, pull a few staples from our pantry, and toss together a hearty, healthy pan full of delicious. Lately, we’ve been reading about many different approaches with various cooking methods for these ingredients. We suspect that “beans & greens” may be trending in 2023.

Our Old Method

The preparation we’ve used for years takes a few minutes of tearing and chopping but then cooks up fast. The quantities are not that important, and you can add a flourish of this, and a dabble of that if inspiration hits you. This dish is gorgeous with ruby or tri-color chard, but you can use other greens, with or without the stems, as your taste and market

availability suggests.

First, wash the chard and tear or cut the leaves into bite-size pieces. Chop a small onion, slice some garlic and dice the chard stems. Sauté those items in olive oil in a large skillet or a wok over medium-high heat. Drain a can of beans (we like cannellini) and add to the mixture. Finally, add the chard leaves with any water clinging to them. Toss and cook until wilted. If the mixture looks too dry or sticks, add a bit of water or wine. Serve with a squirt of lemon juice and a good grating of Parmesan cheese.

Roasted or Braised

Our research into alternate approaches to this meal began with Rachel Roddy’s recipe for pumpkin, beans, greens, and cheese in The Guardian. She describes it as, “Like classic cassoulet, the beauty of this dish is the soft, almost fudge-like beans with a slight crust on top.”

We love that she added squash’s visual appeal, flavor, and nutrition to the meal.

Over at the New York Times, we found Lid-ey Heuck’s recipe for “Braised White Beans and Greens With Parmesan.” She calls it “...a satisfying vegetarian main course or a hearty side dish for roast chicken or sausages.”

In winter, we love the idea of a dish roasting in the oven, slowly braising on a burner, or simmering in a slow cooker. As the aroma fills our home, we can anticipate a warming meal on the way.

Added In or Served Alongside

Roddy added pumpkin to her version. Heuck suggested that her “beans & greens” could be a side dish. One of the beauties of this concept is that you can pick your cooking method and then add or subtract what you want to make a perfect meal for your favorite omnivore,



This batch of “beans & greens” was seasoned with a dice of smoky ham that was stowed in our freezer from another meal.

vegetarian, or vegan.

The batch Penny made and photographed below was seasoned with a dice of smoky ham she had stowed in our freezer from another meal. You can also decide what balance of ingredients you want for your creation.

This one was lemon-forward. Penny also used the end of a bottle of wine to make it a bit sauc-

ier. Sometimes she makes it with lots of garlic. This time the garlic was a background hum, not a shout.

If someone extra shows up for dinner, you can use the “beans & greens” to sauce a pan of pasta. You’ll also see it served on thick slices of country bread as a sort of bruschetta. Italian sausage makes a great addition, or you can serve the sausage as a side

option. And by changing the protein, cheese, greens, condiments, and type of beans, you can present your family with a Tex-Mex, Asian, Spanish or Polish version.

*Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.*

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

BENITEZ PROVIDES UPDATES ON MATTRESSES, NEWSLETTERS, AND MORE

EAST BOSTON - During the Gove Street Citizens Association’s monthly meeting on Monday, Jan. 23, East Boston’s Liaison Nathalia Benitez shared some updates residents should be aware of as 2023 rolls on.

One of Benitez’s most important updates came as a reminder regarding the City of Boston’s newest way to dispose of mattresses.

“Starting in January, the City of Boston requires an appointment for collection of all mattresses and box springs,” said Benitez.

The city accepts memory foam, box springs, innerspring, hybrid, latex, and air beds. However, the city is not accepting futons as part of the new disposal appointments.

To set up a mattress pick-up, residents can call 311. Currently, the 311 app does not have the capability to make these appointments; however, it is something the city is working on.

“Because we just launched it, we are only doing phone calls for now. The way the mattresses are picked up are by a recycling team, so if you were to just do a trash pick-up ticket on the 311 app, it would take them to public works, and public works will pick it up as trash, and that’s not what we want,” said Benitez.

“So we are trying to troubleshoot the data to make sure that it’s going through the proper channels so it can actually get recycled.”

The new disposal system ensures that some of the mattresses and box springs will be donated for reuse or recycled for materials such as insulation, carpet padding, and more.

For more information on mattress disposal, residents can visit <https://content.boston.gov/departments/public-works/mattress-recycling>.

“We are very excited to be launching this service starting this year,” said

Benitez.

Along with mattresses having a new disposal system, so do clothing and textiles. Accepted clothing and textiles can be left at designated drop-off boxes – East Boston’s is at 166 London Street – or an appointment can be made for curbside pick-up.

To make an appointment and for more information on this disposal system, residents can visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/recycling-clothing-and-textiles>.

“We are really, really encouraging people to recycle textiles, so they don’t end up in landfills,” said Benitez.

As for other updates, the East Boston neighborhood newsletter is returning after a brief hiatus due to the lack of a communications person in office.

With a new Communication Chief Officer, the newsletter is slated to return this week; Benitez indicated the release would probably happen by Friday.

Not only will the newsletter make a return with both an English and Spanish version, but it will also include a new section called “Spotlights,” which, according to Benitez, will probably start in the next two weeks.

“It’s [Spotlights] going to be a forum where residents in the community can basically nominate businesses and neighbors for a special spotlight. We want to have people involved in letting us know what they like about the residents and the many, many amazing businesses we have in the area,” said Benitez.

To subscribe to the newsletter, visit <https://newsletters.boston.gov/subscribe>.

Finally, as winter continues and with the recent snow, Benitez reminded residents to use 311 for non-emergency issues during storms and to report things like fire hydrants or handicap ramps covered in snow.

“The city is also requesting that residents wait for three hours after the snowfall before you call 311. As you can imag-

ine, our lines often get tied up with the increase of calls from residents,” said Benitez.

“So if you have any trouble getting in contact with one of our live team members, we encourage you to download the 311 app on your smartphone.”

Upon completing her updates, Benitez mentioned ways to get in touch with her in person to speak about issues or concerns, such as her coffee Fridays. “If you want to meet up in person and have a coffee and talk about issues, I am more than happy to do so,” said Benitez.

Benitez can also be reached via email at [nathalia.benitezperez@boston.gov](mailto:nathalia.benitezperez@boston.gov).

RESIDENT SEES MORE TO BE DONE

EVERETT - Maryann Cocca-Leffler has reached the top of her dual professions. She is an award-winning author and illustrator of 70 children’s books.

Now the Everett native’s distinguished career has taken “a little turn” as she has redirected her focus on her disability rights advocacy with the publishing of two nonfiction picture books on the topic: “We Want to Go to School! The Fight for Disability Rights” (2021), co-authored by her daughter, Janine Leffler and illustrated by Maryann, is the true story about the people behind the 1972 landmark case which ensured a public-school education for all.

“Fighting For Yes! The Story of Disability Rights Activist Judith Heumann” (2022), is a biography of one of America’s greatest living activists who was instrumental in leading the famous 1977 504 Sit-in which paved the way for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This book, illustrated by Vivien Mildenberger, just received the 2023 Orbis Pictus Award Honor by the NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English).

Cocca-Leffler brings a distinctly personal touch to her fervent advocacy for disability rights. Her daughter, Janine Leffler, a graduate of New England

College, now in her 30s, was born with cerebral palsy.

“I’ve been her advocate since day 1,” said Cocca-Leffler, “Though I am not a person with disabilities nor have I suffered discrimination myself, I have seen the injustices and exclusion up-close as I helped navigate life for my daughter. Because of her, we were able to spread the word about the history of disability rights through these books.”

Janine was also the inspiration for the picture book, “Janine”, about a differently abled character who loves who she is and inspires others. It was based on a bullying experience Janine had as a child.

Cocca-Leffler lectures widely, in-person or virtually, at schools, educators’ professional development programs and community events. Janine joins her at school visits when she can. Maryann was recently called upon to do several corporate diversity training programs for international companies.

“Through my books, I teach about the history of disability rights and the struggles that people with disabilities have encountered to be included in society. I truly believe that we need to learn about the past in order to build a better future, a future which embraces inclusion in all walks of life, including schools and the workplace. Many people with disabilities are unemployed or under-employed, despite the fact that they are willing and able to work. There is a lot of work to be done.”

Remembering her roots in Everett

Maryann Cocca-Leffler grew up in an Italian family in the Woodlawn section of Everett, attended Saint Anthony’s Elementary School, and graduated from Everett High School in 1976.

“In fourth grade, one particular teacher, a nun at Saint Anthony’s, happened to instill this idea that I could actually make a career in art,” recalled Cocca-Leffler. “She saw that I had some talent and gave me my first little art

kit. I remember asking her, ‘Do you mean people will pay you to make art?’ And she said, ‘Yes!’”

Her Everett High School art teacher was also supportive of her career dreams.

“Ms. Elaine Sapochetti was a new art teacher and had a lot of vibrancy,” recalled Cocca-Leffler. “She inspired me to go on to art school.”

Studying at the Mass. College of Art Determined to focus on a career in art, Cocca-Leffler enrolled in the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, majoring in illustration.

“When you begin art school, you don’t really know what area to focus on, so I took every single art course possible, including: pottery, architecture, graphic design, drawing and painting, before I landed on illustration,” said Cocca-Leffler. “It seemed like a natural choice, since I loved children’s book art and already had acquired quite a collection of children’s books.”

By the time Cocca-Leffler was a senior at Mass Art, she began to show her portfolio to Boston-based publishers such as Houghton Mifflin, Little Brown, and Addison Wesley.

“So, before I graduated, I was hired to do the illustrations for my very first book, “Thanksgiving at the Tappletons,” which was written by Eileen Spinelli and published by Addison Wesley in 1982,” said Cocca-Leffler.

Interestingly, the book just celebrated its 40th anniversary in print. Cocca-Leffler had re-illustrated the book in 1992.

Making her transition from illustrator to writer

Cocca-Leffler began traveling to New York City publishers to showcase her portfolio to art directors and editors. Up to that point, Cocca-Leffler had been illustrating other people’s stories, but had not yet written her own. That soon changed. She explains, “As I began meeting editors and art directors, they were very encouraging just like the teachers way back in

Everett. During one visit with an editor, she pointed to a cat in my portfolio, and said, ‘Write a story about this cat.’ I did. That became, “Wednesday is Spaghetti Day,” which was the first book I wrote and illustrated, publishing in 1990.”

An amazing career was born. Maryann Cocca-Leffler has written and illustrated about 45 books and illustrated another 25 books. “My career has come full circle,” said Cocca-Leffler. “I began my career illustrating other people’s work, but now I’m open to collaborating with illustrators on some books.”

Having illustrated her first book in 1982, Cocca-Leffler she just celebrated her 40th anniversary in the business. She has no plans to stop, and is currently illustrating her next book, “Don’t Ask Cat!” (2024).

Her Everett roots live on. Her favorite book is “Bus Route to Boston” (2020) which is about her family growing up on Woodlawn Avenue, taking Bus 111 into Boston, and going into the North End to buy vegetables and cannoli, and then shopping in Filene’s Basement.

“I still get letters from people who take that same bus into Boston with their children,” related Cocca-Leffler.

Continuing her advocacy

Maryann Cocca-Leffler is setting the standard in the authoring of books about people with disabilities. Her message of inclusion is striking a positive chord with publishers.

“With calls for equity and inclusion there has been a shift in the industry and publishers have finally begun publishing diverse books of under-represented groups, including disabilities,” noted Cocca-Leffler.

Cocca-Leffler said she loves the new direction of her book-writing career. She is inspiring people in the field of disability rights.

“My goal is for the history of disability rights to be taught in the class-



# ‘The Comedy of Errors’ to be staged by Theatre Company of Saugus

The Theatre Company of Saugus presents The Comedy of Errors, one of William Shakespeare’s most popular plays. Performances are the first two weekends of March 2023.

The Comedy of Errors is a farce about two sets of identical twins who were separated in a shipwreck shortly after birth. Now adults, Antipholus of Syracuse and his servant, Dromio of Syracuse, arrive in the town of Ephesus, which happens to be where their long-lost twins, Antipholus of Ephesus and Dromio of Ephesus, live. When the Syracusan twins encounter the friends and families of their siblings, a series of mishaps based on mistaken identity result in wrongful beatings, a near-seduction, the arrest of the Ephesian twins, and false accusations of infidelity, theft, madness,



PHOTO BY LARRY SEGEL

**Bryan Deroo as Antipholus of Syracuse and Olga Karasik-Updike as the Foreign Merchant practice their sword fighting, in rehearsal for William Shakespeare’s The Comedy of Errors. Presented by the Theatre Company of Saugus, March 3-4-5 & 10-11-12, 2023, at the American Legion in Saugus, Massachusetts. See: TCSaugus.org.**

and demonic possession. Eventually it all gets sorted out!

The Theatre Company of Saugus (TCS) is

pleased to have Waltham resident Francine Davis as the director of the show, and a troupe of talented actors from all over the

North Shore of Massachusetts.

TCS welcomes some performers new to the group: Reading resi-

## Region / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

room, right along with civil rights. That’s what I would love to see, and I’m getting a really good response from teachers,” said Cocca-Leffler.

Maryann Cocca-Leffler and her husband, Eric Leffler, also a 1976 Everett High graduate, now live in Maine. In addition to their daughter, Janine, they have a daughter, Kristin, a middle grade social studies teacher and writer.

To find out more about Maryann’s books and visits, check out: [www.maryanncoccaleffler.com](http://www.maryanncoccaleffler.com)

To buy autographed books and support her local independent bookstore, ‘Print’ in Portland, ME, visit:

<https://www.printbookstore.com/maryann-cocca-leffler>

## LICENSING COMMISSION TOLD OF PLANS FOR QUALITY INN TO REOPEN

REVERE - The Revere License Commission held its regular meeting last Wednesday, January 18, in the Council Chamber. Chairman Robert Selevitch and member Daniel Occena were on hand for the meeting.

The meeting was routine in nature with the exception of a hearing into the future plans of the Quality Inn at 100 Morris St., which has been closed for almost the past three years since the beginning of the pandemic.

The specific agenda item stated as follows: “Sudguru Hotel, LLC d/b/a Quality Inn, 100 Morris Street, Beth Scherer, Manager, Renewal Hearing: Hearing into business reopening plans and status of building and safety violations.”

Jamin Patel, a principal with Sudguru, and Ms. Scherer appeared before the commission.

“The reason you’re here basically is for us to find out what your intent is with this license,” said Selevitch, who noted that Mr. Patel had appeared before the commission a year ago and said that he would reopen the hotel.

“We have been trying to reopen,” said Patel. However, he said that he has had difficulty finding staff, but now he has found sufficient staff to reopen. He also noted that

he has reached out to the various city departments to obtain the necessary permits for reopening.

“We’ve had two walkthroughs with the Fire Dept., Building Dept., and the Board of Health,” said Patel.

However, Occena pointed out, “You’re a-ways away from getting signed off, there are a host of issues and safety concerns that came out of these inspections, and you’ve done nothing since the walkthroughs to address them.”

“We’ve addressed a number of them,” said Patel.

Scherer stated that “95 percent of the work has been done.

“I know the list is extensive, but everything has been done,” Scherer added, noting that burst pipes that had damaged the electrical systems while the hotel was closed during the pandemic had been the source of the problems. “We’re ready to open.”

In response to a question from Selevitch, the pair pointed out that Sudguru operates a large number of hotels in the area and in Florida.

Selevitch read a letter from Ward 6 City Councillor Richard Serino that Serino had sent to the commission.

“I am concerned with the prospect of renewing Quality Inn’s licenses,” said Serino. “For nearly three years it has not been operating as a hotel while other hotels have resumed their operations post-pandemic and has continued to act in a way that would seem to have no regard for the people of No.Revere.”

Serino further noted that there is “trepidation about the Quality Inn’s long-term goals.” He also noted that during this past summer, an unauthorized Park and Fly business operated on the premises.

“There are rumors swirling about the hotel’s management goals and speculation that they have opted to move up their renewal for means other than as a hotel,” Serino said.

Scherer responded that finding staff, particularly a qualified property manager, has been difficult.

She also briefly addressed the issue of the City of Boston’s request to use the hotel as hous-

ing for that city’s homeless back in 2021 by former Boston Mayor Kim Janey. The hotel had been at the center of controversy when Janey had suggested that the hotel be used to provide temporary housing as a solution for the homeless population in the encampment at the so-called Mass. and Cass intersection.

That prospect blew up in the Boston media and drew the ire of Revere officials, including Mayor Brian Arrigo.

“This is the ‘elephant in the room’, but that is not happening. Our intention is not to do anything behind anyone’s back,” Scherer said, thereby essentially putting the issue and the rumors to rest.

Although the commissioners were satisfied with the management’s avowed intention to reopen as a hotel, Selevitch said that the commission is unable to grant a license at this time until all of the permits and department sign-offs are completed. He made a motion to table the application until the next meeting, which is February 15, and Occena voted in favor.

Prior to that hearing, the commission addressed two routine matters, both of which they unanimously approved with little discussion.

The first item was an application by Atlantic Auto Body, Inc. for transfer of ownership of a Class 2 Motor Vehicle Dealer license to Ana and Cleison Sarnaglia from Jeffrey Castaldo. The number of cars for sale is to remain at 60.

This matter had been continued from the commission’s December meeting.

Mr. Sarnaglia presented his application to the commission. He said he recently bought both the business operation and the building. He further said the present auto body repair and auto sales shop will remain unchanged.

After Selevitch questioned whether 60 cars can fit on the lot, Sarnaglia pointed out a parking area on the lot. There were no opponents and the commissioners approved the application unanimously.

The second item was an application of Primos Partners, LLC d/b/a Fajita’s Sports Bar & Restaurant, 46 Revere St., Nico-

las Portillo, manager, for a change of closing hours to 2 a.m. from 12 a.m.

Mr. Portillo presented the application. He noted that other establishments in the area remain open until 2:00 and said that a lot of his customers have requested that he remain open until 2:00.

Selevitch noted that a neighbor had contacted the commission and stated, “The business has been a very good neighbor.”

There were no opponents and the commissioners unanimously approved the change in hours.

The commission approved the following license renewals for 2023:

Common Victualler: China Crystal, LLC d/b/a China Crystal, 750 Washington Avenue

Bell Circle Assoc. d/b/a Comfort Inn & Suites, 85 American Legion Highway

Casablanca House of Pastry, Inc. 151 VFW Parkway, Suite 60

Diya, LLC d/b/a Subway, 339 Squire Road

G.F. Enterprise, LLC d/b/a Taco Bell, 339 Squire Road

Hasbegu, Inc. d/b/a Glen’s Roast Beef, 325 Bennett Highway

Ly Roun & Sereypanha Chhoeurng d/b/a 4 Season Boba Tea, 196 Shirley Avenue

Mass. Trips, Inc. d/b/a Esquite, 194 Shirley Avenue

Mass. Trips, Inc. d/b/a Esquite Taqueria, 1148-1150 North Shore Road

Mehrun Islam d/b/a 7-Eleven #34393, 127 Broadway

N. Pizza, Inc. d/b/a Nonni’s Pizza, 750 Washington Avenue

Revere Pancakes, Inc. d/b/a IHOP 4732, 105 Squire Road

Sainte Corp. d/b/a Nick’s Deli, 750 Washington Avenue

Café Montecristo, Inc. d/b/a Montecristo Mexican Grill, 364 Broadway Entertainment:

Café Montecristo, Inc. d/b/a Montecristo Mexican Grill, 364 Broadway

Innholder Hotel:

Bell Circle Assoc. d/b/a Comfort Inn & Suites, 85 American Legion Highway

Parking Lot:

Bell Circle Assoc. d/b/a Comfort Inn & Suites, 85 American Legion Highway Park N Co d/b/a Park N, 44 Railroad Street

dent Bryan Deroo as Antipholus of Syracuse, Ryan Marchant from Arlington as Antipholus of Ephesus, Amanda Flicop of Malden as Adriana, David Lee Vincent of Newburyport as the Duke, Roland “Boot” Boutwell of Winchester as Egeon, Shelove Duperior of Malden as the Courtesan, and Olga Karasik-Updike of Newbury as the Foreign Merchant.

TCS welcomes some returning veterans of its stage to the show: Billy Jenkins of Stoneham as Dromio of Ephesus, Vi Patch of Wakefield as Dromio of Syracuse, John Leonard of Andover as the Map Seller, Kaycee Renee Wilson of Brighton as Luciana, Kathy Rapino of Saugus as the Abbess, Larry Segel of Winthrop as Angelo, and Sherri Wilcauskas of Middleton as Nell. Lauren Lyon of

Natick is the stage manager.

Performances of The Comedy of Errors are on March 3-4-5 and 10-11-12, 2023, on Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 PM, and at Sunday matinees at 2:00 PM.

Tickets purchased at the door are \$22-\$24. Tickets purchased in advance are \$19-\$21, online at [TCSaugus.org/tickets](http://TCSaugus.org/tickets).

The venue is the American Legion Post 210 / 44 Taylor Street / Saugus, Massachusetts 01906. The performance space is not wheelchair accessible, but it does feature a bar serving alcoholic and soft drinks. Snacks and raffle tickets are available for purchase before the show and during intermission.

For more information, see the Theatre Company of Saugus website at [TC-Saugus.org](http://TC-Saugus.org).

Class 1 Motor Vehicle Dealer:

The Bikers Outfitter, Inc., 1039 Broadway

Class 2 Motor Vehicle Dealer;

N.L.R. Corp. d/b/a Nick’s Auto Sales, 141 Lee Burbank Highway

Motorcycles of Manchester, Inc., 184 Broadway

Secondhand Dealer:

AC’s Cards & Games, Inc., 348 Revere Street

The next meeting of the commission is set for February 15.

The commission received one communication, which was as follows:

Notification from the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) of the approval of an application for the transfer of a Malt/Wine Package Store license to Santa Fe Super Market Corp. from Shayona Management, Inc.

## COUNCIL EXPECTED TO VOTE ON CHARTER CHANGES

WINTHROP - The Town Council will take its most significant step yet when it takes up whether to bring proposed town charter changes..

The Ordinance Review Committee met for the better part of last year, coming up with 13 proposed changes to the town charter or town-wide ordinances.

The four proposed ordinance changes can be approved by a vote of the Town Council, but the changes to the charter need to go to the State House before a potential vote by the public during the municipal election in November.

Those proposed charter changes include several that have generated a good deal of discussion among the council and in town, including one that would change the composition of the council itself, and another that would set a recall provision for elected officials.

A number of those recommendations were made by the Ordinance Review Committee to increase participation in town government and entice more potential candidates to run for office.

The recommendations include decreasing the size of the council from

nine to seven members and making all the council seats at-large with one president. Currently, there are six precinct seats, two at-large, and the council president.

The committee also recommended reversing the term lengths for the councilors, with two-year rather than four-year terms for all councilors except the president. The president, who currently serves a two-year term, would serve for four years.

Council President James Letterie noted that when the council takes up these recommendations next week, councilors will have the opportunity to amend them before they go before voters. All charter changes will need a supermajority of six votes to continue along the path to make it before voters in November.

The proposed changes also include a mechanism where the council could vote on a pay raise, but there was no amount of that potential increase suggested by the Ordinance Review Committee.

“Many of these recommendations were done by the thought to try to get more energy, more enthusiasm, more competitive races,” said Letterie.

Letterie said the council will be able to make amendments, and expected that there could be amendments to the recommendations about the composition of the council as well as the recall provision.

“One of the recommendations was to go to all at-large,” he said. “Somebody could make a motion to put that on the table, there could be an amendment to say I think it is a good idea to reduce the number to seven ... but instead of six at-large and a council president, it could be six precinct and a council president.”

While several councilors have expressed support for a recall provision in the charter, they have mostly agreed that there should be a higher threshold for the recall than was included in the Ordinance Review Committee recommendation.

Letterie said he suspects when that recommendation is brought up, there will likely be an amendment to increase the number of signatures needed to enact a recall election.



# More than 1,400 households in Chelsea received \$15.2 million in emergency rental assistance in FY22

By Adam Swift

Chelsea has one of the highest rates of apartment renters in the state, at just over 70 percent of the city’s total housing stock, and with that comes the pressure on renters presented by rising rents, gentrification, and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The need for housing assistance for renters and homeowners in the Greater Boston area, and Chelsea specifically, is highlighted in the latest annual report on the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program. According to the homelessness prevention program funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development, the number of Chelsea residents receiving assistance from the program almost doubled from Fiscal Year 2021 to FY22.

In Chelsea, 1,472 households received more than \$15.2 million in emergency housing assistance, compared to the 833 Chelsea households that received \$5.9 million in emergency rental assistance in FY21.

Overall, RAFT provided assistance for 18,317 families totalling more than

\$162 million in FY22, compared to 10,251 households receiving \$63 million in FY21.

Metro Housing/Boston has documented the effectiveness of RAFT since 2013, and this year’s report continues the examination of the impact of the pandemic through the infusion of state and federal funds, the expansion of eligibility to access those funds, the streamlining of the application process, and quicker release of dollars.

These changes resulted in a complete shift in Metro Housing’s housing payment assistance programs, requiring greater flexibility and increased staff capacity, according to the latest report. In addition, partnerships with community-based organizations provided another valuable way to assist more families in Metro Housing’s region in FY22.

Metro Boston found that partnerships with the Action for Boston Community Development, Asian Community Development Corporation, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, The Neighborhood Developers (TND)/CONNECT, WATCH, and Viet-

namese American Initiative for Development (VietAID) provided not only venues for getting the word out about available assistance, but also provided places for people to complete applications and get assistance with language barrier issues.

“The pandemic hit TND’s communities of Chelsea and Revere hard,” says Rafael Mares, Executive Director of TND. “Our close, pre-existing partnership with Metro Housing became the bedrock of our response. With their support, our team took on the responsibility to assist tenants in filling out rental assistance applications, Metro Housing staff trained our team, and jointly we developed systems for working together.”

Alex Train, Chelsea’s Director of Housing and Community Development, said the rental and housing assistance is something that is desperately needed, given that over half of tenants in Chelsea are housing cost burdened.

“In partnership with The Neighborhood Developers, Metro Housing Boston, the Collaborative, the city has provided significant funding to create a local model

with our partners to boost the accessibility of rental assistance for residents of Chelsea, particularly vulnerable residents who face a lot of barriers to accessing these systems,” said Train. “Overall, that type of local partnership is really key for both this particular program but other avenues of rental and housing assistance given all the barriers that folks, specifically residents of Chelsea, face.”

Train said that the need that is highlighted in the report, as well as the high percentage of residents who are housing-cost burdened, signifies the immense importance of long-term rental assistance and economic mobility investment.

Train said that assistance could come “through the Massachusetts rental voucher program, which we are advocating for a sizeable increase in, as well as a set aside of rental assistance for residents of environmental justice communities, or other local initiatives that are a result of the sorts of partnerships that center the empowerment of their long term upward mobility as opposed to emergency, one-time solutions.”

In the coming months,

Train said the city will be unveiling some new initiatives in conjunction with local partners and local and state leaders to address longer-term housing assistance and economic mobility.

Some of the key findings from the RAFT report show that the average housing assistance benefit increased from \$6,167 in FY21 to \$8,870 in FY22, while mortgage assistance in FY22 totaled \$1.8 million, a decrease from the \$2.5 in FY21. Rental arrears remained the largest category for assistance. In FY22, \$80 million was awarded for arrears, the largest amount ever.

The total rental stipend assistance increased to 42 percent of all EHPA assistance, totaling more than \$67 million. In FY21, it represented only 22 percent of assistance.

The total number of Black/African American households helped in FY22 jumped to almost 8,000, a seven-fold increase over FY20. In FY22, 1,121 Asian households, or 6% of the total – received assistance. In FY20, 21 Asian households, or 1% of the total – were assisted. The number of Hispanic/Lati-

no households receiving assistance continues to see a sharp increase. In FY22, 6,548 households received assistance, compared to 3,289 in FY21 and 554 in FY20.

“COVID-19 has impacted all of us in so many ways, but none as severe as families with low incomes not being able to pay your rent or mortgage while facing eviction or foreclosure,” said Chris Norris, Executive Director of Metro Housing/Boston. “RAFT has been a lifeline for thousands of households over the years, and its importance during the pandemic cannot be overstated. However, until more permanent, viable solutions are identified and implemented, a safety net for those most at risk of homelessness needs to be dependably and heavily funded.”

Norris said the data in the report shows the need for a more sustainable solution, from additional rental assistance vouchers and the production of below-market-rate housing to the critical shortage of affordable housing in the Metro Boston area.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

Chelsea Housing Authority  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
SOLICITATION FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SERVICES  
2023-2024  
COMPREHENSIVE MODERNIZATION PROJECT  
The Chelsea Housing Authority (CHA) is currently accepting proposals from Architects/Engineers (A/E's) who are registered in Massachusetts for the preparation of plans and specifications for bidding, construction supervision and final inspection of a modernization program that will consist of:

Replacement of existing windows at the Scrivano Apartments (16-1), the Mace Apartments (16-2) and the Margolis Apartments (16-4).  
The 16-1 Scrivano Apartments consists of four 3-story buildings with a total of 108 family units and one 2-story administration building with an approximate window count of 825. The 16-2 Mace Apartments consists of four 3-story buildings with a total of 96 family units and an approximate window count of 725. The 16-4 Margolis Apartments for

the Elderly is a 13-story elderly high-rise consisting of 152 units with an approximate window count of 250. The Chelsea Housing Authority will receive Requests for Proposals for the following services no later than 12:00 pm (NOON), Wednesday, February 27, 2023, at its offices located at 54 Locke Street, Chelsea, MA 02150.  
For the Full RFQ email or call James Krasco / jkrasco@chelseaha.com / (617)-409-5348.

2/2/23 C

### LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING  
Case No. 2023-02  
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, March 14, 2023 Chelsea City Hall - 500 Broadway - City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor 6:00 p.m.  
With reference to the application of: Chasen Faila

2/2/23, 2/9/23 C

For Special Permit and Variance seeking approval for the conversion of an existing residential structure from one (1) family to a two (2) family structure which does not meet the minimum requirement for open space and off street parking at the premises known as: 80 Park 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  
2/2/23, 2/9/23 C

### LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING  
Case No. 2023-03  
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, March 14, 2023 Chelsea City Hall - 500 Broadway - City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor 6:00 p.m.  
to review the Notice

2/2/23, 2/9/23 C

With reference to the application of: 305 Eastern Avenue, LLC  
For Special Permit seeking approval for a parking lot for the storage of electric vehicles and storage of vehicles for hire or return from hire, which require a Special Permit at the premises known as: 305 Eastern Avenue  
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  
2/2/23, 2/9/23 C

### LEGAL NOTICE

CHELSEA CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, the Chelsea Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on: Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 6:00 PM via Zoom video conference  
to review the Notice

2/2/23 C

of Intent submitted by Chelsea Housing Authority for the renovation of an existing basketball court and the addition of a small plaza for passive recreation at 465 Crescent Avenue/112 Clinton Street.  
All interested parties wishing to provide a public comment or to join the meeting must communicate with John DePriest at jdepriest@chelseama.gov. Name and address must be included in order to be read during the Public Speaking section of the meeting and email address in order to join the meeting.  
A copy of the Notice is available for review in the Department of Permitting and Land Use Planning, Rm 106, City Hall, during City Hall business hours.  
Per Order Stephen Sarikas Chair  
2/2/23 C

BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING  
DOCKET NUMBER: ES22D0895DR  
Sameet Abedi  
Plaintiff  
VS.  
Mana Al Hammood  
Defendant  
To the above named Defendant:  
Then Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown  
The Complaint is on file at the Court.  
An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411. You are summoned and required to serve upon: Sameer Abedi 8 Joyce Street #12, Lynn, MA 01902, your answer, if any, on or before 02/23/2023. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the office of the Register of this Court.  
Witness, Hon. Frances M. Giordano, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 9, 2023

2/2/23 C

### LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Probate and Family Court  
Essex Probate And Family Court  
36 Federal Street  
Salem, MA 01970  
DIVORCE SUMMONS

2/2/23 C

Pamela Casey O'ÄöBrien  
Register of Probate  
2/2/23 C

### LEGAL NOTICE

(LEGAL NOTICE)  
CITY OF CHELSEA  
INVITATION FOR BIDS  
DPW Overhead Door and Siding Replacement @ City Yard  
The City of Chelsea Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking sealed bids to provide DPW Overhead Door and Siding Replacement @ City Yard.  
Invitation for Bid documents are available on or after February 2, 2023 by contacting Dragica Ivanis, Chief Procurement Officer at divanis@chelseama.gov or by visiting the City's website https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current\_bids\_\_\_\_solicitations.php.  
Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "DPW Overhead Door and Siding Replacement @ City Yard" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, City Hall, Room 204, Chelsea,

2/2/23 C

Massachusetts no later than 11:00AM, Thursday, February 16, 2023.  
The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any bid, to reject and/or all bids and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City.  
In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond.  
The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer.  
This invitation for bid is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapters 149 & 30, s. 39M.  
Dragica Ivanis  
Chief Procurement Officer  
2/2/23 C

### LEGAL NOTICE

(LEGAL NOTICE)  
CITY OF CHELSEA  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
Food Pantry Operations  
The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Request for Proposal for "Food Pantry Operations".

2/2/23 C

Request for Proposals will be available on or after February 2, 2023 by contacting Dragica Ivanis, Chief Procurement Officer at divanis@chelseama.gov or by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current\_bids\_\_\_\_solicitations.php.  
Proposals must be sealed and clearly marked "Food Pantry Operations" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 10:00AM on Thursday, February 16, 2023.  
The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any proposal, to reject any or all proposals and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City.  
In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond.  
The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer.  
This request for proposals is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B.  
Dragica Ivanis  
Chief Procurement Officer  
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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HOLIDAY PARTY

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

The Chelsea Knights of Columbus held their annual Holiday Party Jan. 28 at the Knights of Columbus in Nahant. Special awards were presented to Dave Morency

in recognition of his 25 years of service as Grand Knight, and Bill Mahoney, for his 45 years as treasurer. The guests thanked party organizers Brian Sullivan, Myles Johnson Jr., and Jay Ferri for planning the outstanding celebration. The organization also thanked Vincent Miller and staff at the Chelsea

Yacht Club for their graciousness. The Knights of Columbus meet every second Wednesday of the month at the Chelsea Yacht Club.



Longtime Knights of Columbus member Frank Pegnato and his wife, Dru Pegnato.



Chelsea candlepin bowling great Tom Hogan, with Frank Pegnato, a standout outfielder for the 1974 CYBL Orioles, the only undefeated team in league history, and star of his high school play, "Oliver," in the lead role of Oliver.



One of Chelsea High's greatest football players, Richard "Turk" Szarythe, with his wife, former Chelsea High School cheerleader Jane Zaremba Szarythe.



Bill Mahoney and Poncho Elder.



George Freese, who began playing basketball at Quigley Park and later excelled for the Chelsea High School basketball team under head coach Jack Niven, with Frank Pegnato, and former Ward 4 Alderman Dom Pegnato.



Russ Sanford, Suzanne Sanford, Joan Hogan, and Tom Hogan.



Knights of Columbus members Brian Sullivan, Myles Johnson, and Jay Ferri present a special award to Dave Morency (second from left) in recognition of his 25 years of outstanding leadership and dedication as the Grand Knight of the Chelsea Knights of Columbus.



Knights of Columbus members Brian Sullivan, Myles Johnson, and Jay Ferri present a special award to Bill Mahoney (second from left), in recognition of his 45 years of outstanding service as treasurer of the organization.



Front row, left to right are Stephanie Anderson-Pegnato, Dru Pegnato, Frank Pegnato, Dom Pegnato, and Pat Pegnato. Back row, left to right, are Mike Pegnato, Ann Rodriguez, Chuck Rodriguez and Joannellen Sullivan.



Front row, left to right, are Barbara Pitts, Judy Covino, Kim Kupczewski, and Donna Kupczewski. Back row, left to right, are Eddie Pitts, Jim Covino, Maureen Ferri, Jay Ferri, Richie Winters, and Dawn Griffin.



Front row, left to right are Myles Johnson Jr., Suzanne Sanford, Russ Sanford, Joe Johnson, and Gloria Johnson. Back row, left to right, are Joan Hogan, Trisha Johnson, and Tom Hogan.



Front row, left to right, are George Freese, Fred Ruiz, Donna Ruiz, and Patty Garcia. Back row, left to right, are Jody Hojlo, Frank Hojlo, and Grand Knight Dave Morency.



Front row, left to right, are Tom Campanella, Louise Campanella, Mary Byrnes, Paula Sullivan, Jerry Byrnes and Brian Sullivan. Back row are Richard Szarythe and Jane Szarythe.



Front row, left to right, are Bob Bishop, Ann Bishop, Dot D'India, and Bob Lanza. Back row, left to right, are Bill Mahoney, Poncho Elder, Vinnie Miller, and Mike Kupczewski.



# Chelsea Public Library hosts ‘Take Your Place’ artist reception

Story & Photos by Marianne Salza

Chelsea Public Library, in collaboration with Chelsea Recreation & Cultural Affairs, and the Harvard Museums of Science & Culture welcomed visitors to the “Take Your Place/ Toma Tu Lugar” artist reception on January 25 at the Chelsea Public Library. The presentation, on display through February, features collaborative artwork created by local, Latino teenagers.

“This exhibit is based on an installation at the museum that talked about the 1893 world’s fair in Chicago. Many cultures were represented; but it didn’t give voice to how they wanted to be represented,” explained Polly Hubbard, Education Program Manager, Peabody Museum of Archeology & Ethnology, Harvard Museums of Science & Culture. “Our teens responded strongly to this; and wanted to figure out a way to represent themselves in a way they would be proud of.”

“Take Your Place/ Toma Tu Lugar,” is a project funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. It is a two-sided piece in English and Spanish text. Decorated chairs depict how the young artists prefer to be defined; and on the opposite side, is an opportunity for Chelsea residents to list words or phrases that represent their cultural identity.

“They are responding to ways they have been treated as minorities in a majority culture. If you look closely, you can see themes of love, home, and traditions,” Hubbard described. “If I had to put my comments on there today, I might write: New Englander, feminist, French heritage. We hope that people will look at what the kids did, try to put themselves in their place, add comments to the exhibit, and have a conversation with family and friends.”

The project was created during Teen Saturdays at Harvard’s Peabody Museum, which offers monthly workshops for high-school age Latinos who are interested in culture and community. Bilingual



Polly Hubbard, Educational Program Manager, Peabody Museum of Archeology & Ethnology, Harvard Museums of Science & Culture, explaining the Take Your Place exhibit.



Artists: Yaira Mejia and Lindsay Pineda.



Nathalie Pacas, former Chelsea Library employee, admiring the Take Your Place exhibit.

sessions explore cultural identity through museum gallery visits. A series of activities also examine a sense of belonging, and how to contribute to the world in a positive way.

Teens from El Salvador, Mexico, Honduras, Brazil, and Peru spent three months building four exhibits, like the one on display at the Chelsea Public Library.

“The way I contributed is by showing how

religion is a huge topic in the Hispanic/Latino community. I am not religious. It becomes a heavy topic if you are not part of that group, which is nonsense,” revealed 10th grade Guatemalan-American, Toj Villagran. “I put lips as a microphone because most people perceive us as loud. I don’t agree with that. Personally I am not at all. I am an introvert.”



Artists, Toj Villagran, Lindsay Pineda, and Yaira Mejia, beside their collaborative art installation.



A decorative chair from the Take Your Place exhibition displays topics of home, love, and tradition.



Yaira Mejia and Toj Villagran listing aspects that define their cultural identity.

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**Charlotte & Oliver**

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**Lovelines!**

**Published**  
**Feb. 8 & 9**

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