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CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

VOLUME 131, No. 28

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023

35 CENTS

CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION EXERCISES



Chelsea students and families filled the stadium last Saturday morning as students from Chelsea High School, Chelsea Opportunity Academy and Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy crossed the stage as part of the 2023 Chelsea High School graduation ceremony. See more photos and coverage of the event in our special section on pages 5-8.



City Council motion on FMLA request fails

By Adam Swift

A motion by a city councilor asking the interim manager to look into the possibility of providing all municipal employees the ability to use the Family Medical Leave Act turned into a discussion on the ability the council has to impact city employee negotiations.

The motion by District 6 Councilor Giovanni Recupero ultimately failed to pass muster with the full council.

“This is an order that only asks the city manager to look into it, we really can’t tell the city manager what to do,” said Recupero.

However, Recupero said he would like to see the city negotiate with unions and employees about the possibility of providing FMLA to all city employees.

“I intend to vote no, not on the substance of it at all,” said Councilor-at-Large Brian Hatleberg. “There is a lot of negotiation that happens

in the city with employee contracts and discussions of benefits, and I really don’t think we should have anything to do with this on the council floor. I don’t want to set a standard that we are going to enter into the conversation with dialogues with employees.”

Councilor-at-Large Damali Vidot said there are certain criteria one must meet to qualify for FMLA, adding that she believed Recupero’s motion interfered with the day-to-day operation of the city by the interim city

manager.

District 1 Councilor Todd Taylor said he understood the councilors’ point about not wanting to get involved in negotiations.

“I don’t think this is really getting us involved in that,” said Taylor. “This is merely us conveying to the city manager what our wishes are, and I think we need to cut our fellow councilors some slack when they want to get a message across to the city manager on a specific subject. That does not mean that the city manager must do exactly as the order

says, but to look into it and for them to respond.”

District 8 Councilor Calvin Brown agreed with Hatleberg that Recupero’s motion went too far.

“I think this shows that the city council is forcing or pushing in a direction we shouldn’t be pushing in,” said Brown.

District 3 Councilor Norieliz DeJesus said there should be a conversation about the FMLA in the city, but said she was unsure how Recupero’s motion would impact contracts or negotiations and voted against it.

Council requests more information on microgrid proposal

By Adam Swift

The City Council voted to hold a second subcommittee meeting on a proposed municipal microgrid project before taking a final vote on the energy management service agreement and the lease of equipment.

The project seeks to provide emergency power to ensure continuity of public services, while promoting energy resilience and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through new energy (battery) storage facilities at City Hall and the police station, coupled with solar panels on the DPW City Yard, according to Interim City Manager Ned Keefe.

Keefe requested that the council approve an energy services agreement (ESA) with Ameresco, Inc. in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws and authorize a lease purchase

finance agreement for the borrowing of funds in the amount of \$3,615,699 for the first phase of the microgrid project.

During a subcommittee meeting on the requests, several councilors raised concerns about the safety of the lithium batteries, as well as the financial feasibility of the project ultimately paying for itself.

Fire Chief Leonard Albanese addressed some of the concerns with the safety of the lithium batteries during the public speaking portion of Monday night’s regular council meeting.

“There were a couple of questions with the microgrid project with the battery energy storage systems,” said Albanese.

The chief said the fire department supports the project, and that the main issue with lithium battery storage is when they are

See MICROGRID Page 3

Council to consider CPC recommendations

By Adam Swift

The city’s Community Preservation Committee is recommending three applications for grants from the Community Preservation Fund.

At its May 24 meeting, the CPC recommended approval of \$40,000 for a Creekside Commons Skate Spot and planning for a larger skate park, \$400,000 for senior rental assistance, and \$350,000 for a Forsyth Pocket Park.

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) appropriations need to be approved by the City Council. Monday night, the council moved the funding requests to a second reading at the next meeting, at which time it

will be able to take an official vote on the funding.

The city, through the Housing and Community Development Department, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Public Works, and the Youth Commission is repurposing the outdoor skating rink in the Creekside Commons Park to be used for skateboarding. The grant will fund the purchase of equipment for the location, and provide resources for design and engineering studies of prospective spaces that could be acquired, leased, or repurposed for a larger skatepark.

The senior rental assistance funding will provide grants of up to \$10,000,

See CPC Page 2

CHELSEA FIREFIGHTERS ANNUAL MEMORIAL SPONSORED BY LOCAL 937



CFD Honor Guard: Sean Dunn, Galvin Marenko, Christian Avellaneda, John Coyne, Jonathan Morel, Carter Glass, and Carlos Carrasquillo. See more photos on Page 9.

Chelsea Research Festival draws several participants and an appreciative audience

By Cary Shuman

The Chelsea Research Festival proved to be an outstanding success, with several researchers, including Chelsea High students, presenting their projects at the educational event held May 18 in the Saul Nechtem Gymnasium.

Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Neville, who holds a PhD from Boston College, was the organizer of the Festival. Neville is the wife of Chelsea School Committee member Roberto Jimenez Rivera.

In her opening remarks, Neville thanked the many

local organizations “who met every week since the beginning of the school year to make this [Festival] happen.”

Neville credited the collaborative efforts of people from Chelsea City Hall, Chelsea Public Schools, La Colaborativa, GreenRoots, Mass General Hospital, Chelsea, Beth Israel Deaconess, Chelsea, for helping to execute the planning of the Festival.

“The reason we’re having this event today is because for a long time, researchers from universities and hospitals have

See RESEARCH FEST. Page 12

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News Briefs

GREENROOTS HOSTS EVENING ON THE CREEK FUNDRAISER

The 8th Annual Evening on the Creek fundraiser for GreenRoots will be held this Friday in lieu of the member's meeting! The Evening on the Creek event has always been our largest fundraiser of the year, providing the resources to help implement our community's vision of environmental justice, community power and improved public health outcomes for Chelsea and East Boston residents.

Expect a joyous night of community celebration, live music by Clave & Blues, dancing, and delicious local food as we reclaim access to our waterfront! If you are a community member in need of a discounted ticket, please do not hesitate to reach out to us by emailing our Donor Relations Specialist Jordan Llanas.

The event will be held at 99 Marginal Street, Chelsea from 6 to 10 p.m.

JUNE EVENTS AT BREAKHEART RESERVATION

Breakheart Reservation is located at 177 Forest St. in Saugus. All programs are free and open to the public. Reasonable accommodations upon request. Adults must accompany children. For outdoor events wear closed toe shoes, consider insect repellent and sunscreen. Bring water. In-

clement weather cancels outdoor events. For more information call (781)233-0834, send an email to: jessica.narog-hutton@mass.gov or visit the website. Please follow all current COVID guidelines. Visit [Mass.gov/COVID](https://www.mass.gov/covid).

Sunday June 4th
10am-12pm
Stories in Stone

Breakheart has been shaped by its stone and by the many people who have called it home. Join our park interpreter to uncover this history through the stone artifacts they left behind. This is a 2.5 mile moderate hike along rocky trails, with several stops. Best for adults and older children with a keen interest in history. Meet outside the Visitor Center. Rain cancels.

Sunday June 25th
10-11:30am
Easy Like a Sunday Morning

Join the Park Interpreter for this weekly guided hike! Each trip will highlight natural and historic features that make Breakheart unique. Hikes will be moderately paced and range from 2-3 miles over sometimes uneven and rocky terrain. Best for ages 8 years and up. Meet at the Visitor Center. Heavy rain cancels.

Thursday's June 8, 12, 25
10am-11am
Breakheart Birding Club

Help our park interpreter identify and count the many different birds that visit Breakheart! Take part in this world-wide project to document the distribution, abundance, and movements of thousands of species of birds. Binoculars encouraged but not necessary. First time birders welcome! Best for adults and older children. Meet outside the Visitor center. Rain cancels.

Friday's June 9, 23, 30
10:30am-11:30am
Hike N' Seek

Come join our park interpreter for a story time and nature walk! Complete a small craft and explore the woods! Walks are gently paced and approximately 1 mile, though not accessible for strollers. Appropriate for families with children 3-5 years old. Meet at the Visitor Center. Rain cancels.

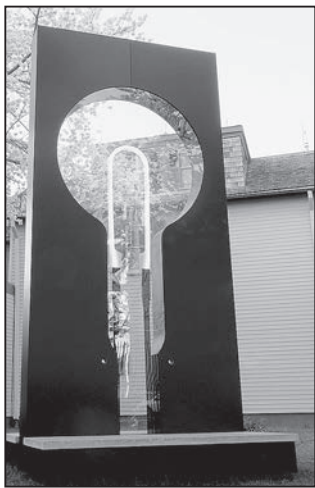
Saturday's June 10 and 24th
10am-11:30am
Family Fishing

Join our park interpreter for a drop-in fishing program! Learn how to fish, what fish live in our ponds, and how to catch and release responsibly. Bait and a handful of rods will be provided but feel free to bring your own gear and fish with us and share your tips! No license required if fishing in this program. Appropriate for families with children 5 years and older. Meet at the left side of Pearce Lake Beach. Rain cancels.

A public art installation in celebration of Lewis H. Latimer's legacy set for June 10

Chelsea Lewis H. Latimer Society and the City of Chelsea are pleased to welcome 'BEACON,' a 12-foot-tall steel, interactive LED public art sculpture inspired by the African American pioneer inventor and electrical engineer Lewis H. Latimer and his electric lamp. BEACON was made possible by the collaboration between artist Shervone Neckles, youth empowerment organization Beam Center, and the Lewis Latimer House Museum.

BEACON is designed as an intergenerational pedagogical tool bridging the humanities and STEAM disciplines. Before arriving in Chelsea, BEACON has traveled from the Lewis Latimer House Museum (Flushing, NY) to Albee Square Plaza (Downtown Brooklyn, NY), and the Museum of Science (Boston, MA). Until October, all Chelsea residents and visitors can visit this itinerant art installation for free at the Civil War Monument, across from City Hall. The Opening Ceremony will



'BEACON,' a 12-foot-tall steel, interactive LED public art sculpture can be visited at the Civil War Monument, across from City Hall.

um of Science (Boston, MA). Until October, all Chelsea residents and visitors can visit this itinerant art installation for free at the Civil War Monument, across from City Hall. The Opening Ceremony will

State grants helps city with tree plantings

By Adam Swift

The city's efforts to boost its tree canopy were helped by a recent \$30,000 state grant.

Last week, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced \$1.3 million in grants to support tree plantings in gateway cities across the state in an effort to increase resilience and mitigate the harm of the climate crisis.

Chelsea received \$30,000 to purchase and install two catch basin tree pits to intercept storm water runoff and support tree growth.

The money will help support ongoing tree planting efforts in Chelsea, according to Alex Train, the city's director of Housing and Community Development.

"The city secured this \$30,000 grant through the urban forestry grant in order to install new street trees and stormwater tree pits in some of the city's hottest neighborhoods," said Train. "Presently, the city is targeting the Addison and Orange neighborhood, including large-scale planting on Addison

and Eden streets, as well as the Shurtleff-Bellingham neighborhood, with large efforts underway on Shawmut, Chester, and surrounding neighborhoods."

Train said those are two of the hottest neighborhoods in the city according to the heat mapping that the city, in partnership with GreenRoots and the BU School of Public Health, has undertaken.

"This \$30,000 will be utilized to purchase additional stormwater tree pits," said Train. "The benefit of stormwater tree pits includes improvements to water quality, as well as mitigation of heat. The tree pits are designed so they will absorb rainfall and stormwater, so instead of all that rainfall going into our storm drain system untreated, there's oil and different pollutants in it, the storm water treatment pits capture that runoff, they filter it ... before the water is routed into the drain or the groundwater."

Train said the city is also working to secure additional grants that will help it improve the tree canopy and decrease the

be held this Saturday, June 10, from 1 pm to 3 pm.

Learn more about the project at <https://shervoneneckles.com/home.html>

Lewis Latimer was known as the first great African American inventor. Latimer was born in 1848 in Chelsea and helped to design and patent the telephone while working for Alexander Graham Bell, and also to perfect the incandescent light bulb, while working with Thomas Edison and Hiram Maxim. Latimer grew up in Chelsea and lied about his age to enlist in the Navy during the Civil War. There he honed his knack for inventions, and following the war became an invaluable partner to Edison due to Latimer's knowledge of electrical engineering and patents.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Project File No. 605959

A Public Informational Meeting will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Structural Cleaning & Painting, Steel & Concrete Repairs on Tobin Bridge project in Chelsea, MA.

**WHERE: Cafeteria, Williams Jr. High School
180 Walnut Street Chelsea, MA 02150**

This meeting will be recorded and available for viewing online at a later date at:

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

WHEN: Wednesday, June 28, at 6:30 p.m.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Structural Cleaning & Painting, Steel & Concrete Repairs on Tobin Bridge project. All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of location-specific cleaning and painting of the upper and lower section of the Maurice J. Tobin Bridge and the Beacon Street Ramp in Chelsea. The purpose is to clean, remove the existing paint system from the superstructure of the bridge, and repair steel and concrete as needed.

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368- 8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email

(MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In the event of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

CPC / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

covering up to 12 months of rent, to low-income seniors with income up to 60 percent of the Area Median Income. The program is designed as a pilot to serve 36 to 40 senior households and allow them to remain in the community. There will be an open application period and recipients will be selected based upon need.

The Forsyth Pocket Park funding will be used to convert an existing, city-owned parcel into a public park that will include a seating area, bike rack, shade trees, and green infrastructure. The triangular parcel is located uphill from Carter Heights

Apartments where Forsyth Street becomes Sturgis Street and extends to Lafayette Avenue.

In the 2016 general election, Chelsea voters voted to adopt the Community Preservation Act and impose a 1.5 percent surcharge on residential and commercial properties with exemptions for low- and moderate-income homeowners. Per the Preservation Plan, 25 percent of the fiscal year funds are allocated to both open space/recreation and historic preservation, while 40 percent is allocated to affordable housing. The remaining 10 percent is utilized as

administrative and undesignated funds.

"The CPA currently has approximately \$2.57 million in available funds for the 2023 fiscal year, as certified by the Department of Revenue," according to CPC Chair Juan Vega.

At Monday night's meeting, Councilor-at-Large Brian Hatleberg said he is excited about the proposed use of the funds, and would like to see the city take a more aggressive approach to using the CPA funds.

"I deeply respect the work that the Community Preservation Committee is doing, and I love seeing it and I'm thrilled to be funding these requests," he said. "I do have a personal wish I want to make public so maybe it can be discussed with the boards, and I hope to bring my colleagues into conversation once we have a new city manager later this year. As I look at the numbers here, we are not expending all of the money that has been generated."

Hatleberg said he would like to see the CPC, as well as the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, use more of the money it has available for pressing needs within the community.

I , THALWANTI OR THALWANTEE MAHARAJ-SINGH, HAVE STATUE MONUMENT AND MAKING MORE. WITH THREE MONUMENTAL JUDGES ONLY

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I , THALWANTI OR THALWANTEE MAHARAJ- SINGH, solemnly swear, upon oath, signed under the pains and penalties of perjury. THESE STATEMENTS HOLD FULL FORCE OF AFFIDAVIT.

DIDOMENICO SPONSORS
CHILDREN’S MENTAL HEALTH EVENT



Senator Sal DiDomenico (third from left) standing with Baker Center staff.

Senator Sal DiDomenico was the Legislative sponsor and spoke at The Baker Center for Children and Families legislative briefing on their new policy report, Mental Health and Schools: Best Practices to Support Our Students. The policy forum and report offered non-biased, evidence-based in-

formation to support policymaking and budgetary efforts. Senator DiDomenico is a longtime supporter of increasing funding for mental health services in our schools and for all Massachusetts residents. “Mental Health Awareness Month is a great time to identify actionable strategies to support

our students in the “new normal,” and discuss the important role of schools in addressing children’s mental health needs. I am proud to work with great organizations like the Baker Center to advocate for more mental health funding across our state,” said Senator Sal DiDomenico.

Microgrid / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stored inside. “These microgrid projects were brought to us early on by some representatives of GreenRoots when they were in the grant writing portion of this,” said Albanese. “We are trying the best we can to keep these types of storage systems outdoors, and they met the requirements that we asked. We wanted them outdoors, at least five feet away in line with the basic code for outdoor energy storage.” Councilor-at-Large Brian Hatleberg said he was one of the councilors who had concerns with the microgrid project and that he personally had some stress and angst over whether he would vote for it. However, he said the information from Albanese allayed his safety concerns and he would vote for the microgrid project. “If the fire chief is comfortable with the fire safety aspect of it, I don’t

have any reason to believe I know more than the fire chief,” said Hatleberg. “On the financials of it, I think it is fundamentally supported by the solar part of it for repaying of costs. I believe it pays for itself over time and gives more stable energy sources and backup.” District 1 Councilor Todd Taylor said he still had questions and concerns about the proposal and said he was under the impression there would be a second subcommittee meeting. “I got information today,” said Taylor. “I wanted to have a dialogue with the fire chief, rather than have him come up during public speaking when we can’t respond. I certainly don’t think I know more than the fire chief or more than anyone else, but I do have some substantial reservations about this project.” District 8 Councilor

Calvin Brown said he agreed that he also had some questions he would like answered in subcommittee. Councilor-at-Large Damali Vidot said she would likely vote to move the project forward, but said she didn’t believe it was appropriate to take a final vote on Monday night when a number of councilors did not attend the first subcommittee meeting, and when there was still information the council had requested and were yet to receive from Ameresco. The council voted to hold a second subcommittee meeting on the microgrid project next Monday evening. “Faced with the call of whether to support or not support, I’m going to support,” Hatleberg said, but added he would support an additional meeting with more information.

CEREMONIA DE APERTURA DE LA
EXHIBICIÓN DE ARTE PÚBLICO

BEACON

Sábado 10 de junio
1:00PM a 3:00PM

Frente a City Hall, en el Monumento a la Guerra Civil, Chelsea



Lewis H. Latimer

Escultura BEACON

Artista, Shervone Neckles

Chelsea Lewis H. Latimer Society & Museum y la Ciudad de Chelsea se complacen en dar la bienvenida a 'BEACON', una escultura de arte público LED interactiva de 12 pies de altura que celebra el legado de Lewis H. Latimer, inventor pionero afroamericano e ingeniero eléctrico nacido en Chelsea en 1848.

En cooperación con Lewis Latimer House Museum, Beam Center, Museum of Science, Representante Daniel J. Ryan y Senador Sal N. DiDomenico.



READY
TO FLY THIS
SUMMER?

KNOW THE RULES AND
KEEP THE SKIES SAFE



Before you fly a drone, learn the rules to keep everyone safe. Those who break the law could be fined.

- Register your drone
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- Flying near airports is prohibited without prior FAA approval
- Never fly near any aircraft
- Keep your drones in sight below 400 feet at all times
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Visit [FAA.gov/UAS](https://www.faa.gov/uas) for more information



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Chelsea

RECORD

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley
EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

Forum

JUNE IS A MONTH OF FREEDOM

June marks the first month of the summer season, the period on the calendar when we take vacations from school and work to travel and enjoy the company of our friends and family members. It’s our personal time, that sweet spot each year when we break free from the humdrum of our daily schedules and we have the freedom to do whatever we want,

But June also uniquely celebrates a number of events that brought true freedom to Americans who had been unable to experience the promise of America -- “all men are created equal” -- that we take for granted today.

June 12 is known as Loving Day. It was on that day in 1967 that the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Virginia law that forbade interracial marriage and made it a criminal offense to do so. The Lovings, an interracial couple, were convicted under that Virginia law and, to avoid jail, they agreed to leave the state. Similar laws existed throughout all of the Southern states until the Supreme Court’s ruling.

June is observed as Pride Month by the LGBTQIA+ community to mark the date of June 28, 1969, when gays prtoested the arrests at the Stonewall Inn (a gay bar in New York City’s Greenwich Village) at a time when police routinely made arrests of gay men on phony morals charges.

The riots, that lasted for a number of days, are widely-recognized as the beginning of the modern gay rights movement that culminated more than 50 years later with the Supreme Court decision of Obergefell v. Hodges in 2015 that struck down state laws forbidding same-sex marriage.

Juneteenth, which is now a national holiday, marks the day when the Union army entered the city of Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865, and freed the slaves in Texas -- the last state to be occupied by Union forces and where slavery still existed -- pursuant to President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, which had gone into effect more than two years earlier on January 1, 1863.

Finally, June 14 is Flag Day, marking the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day and on August 3, 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress.

Although it undeniably is true that America has fallen far short of the ideal that “all men are created equal,” it also is undeniably true that the flag of the United States has been the world’s greatest symbol of freedom since our nation’s founding.

Nations, like people, are far from perfect. But hopefully, the many holidays of freedom we observe in June attest to the truth of the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice,” that ultimately will fulfill the promise of America.

HAPPY NOT TO BE A BOSTON SPORTS FAN

When we were younger, we lived and died by our Boston sports teams. Yes, the late Bill Russell and the Celtics provided more than a decade of joy and, for a short time, so too did Bobby Orr and the Bruins. But overall, being a Boston sports fan meant that there was more agony of defeat than thrill of victory.

Those big, bad Bruins are remembered as much for their 1971 loss to the hated and heavily-underdog Canadiens in Game Seven in the Garden as they are for Bobby Orr’s joyous Superman flight after his goal that won the Stanley Cup in 1970.

The Impossible Dream Red Sox of 1967 raised our spirits, only to break our hearts with a Game 7 World Series loss (yes, we were in Fenway), which was repeated in 1975 (we were in Fenway for that one too), and again in 1986.

As for the Patriots, we suffered through more than 40 years of frustration -- at the old Braves Field, Fenway Park, Harvard Stadium, and then Schaefer Stadium -- until Tom Brady came along and began a magnificent and magical run of almost 20 years of excellence. And yes, the Sox finally did come through for us in 2004, ‘07, ‘13, and ‘18, literally bringing tears to our eyes.

But despite those successes in the 21st century, all of those earlier years of heartbreak and defeat during our youth created their own form of post-traumatic stress (and for the record, the last Pats’ game we’ve watched in its entirety was the 2008 Super Bowl game).

For those of us who have followed Boston sports for six decades, the early exit from the playoffs of the “best-team-ever” Bruins and the Celts’ collapse last week in Game 7 were all-too-predictable. As for the Red Sox and the Pats, it is clear that they are destined to be consigned to the realm of mediocrity for the foreseeable future.

So we’re happy that we’re no longer followers of Boston’s sports teams. To those who are, we can offer only this advice, “Be prepared for a lifetime of hurt.”

By Ana Tavares Leary
and Julie Conroy

Climate change is currently the most pressing environmental crisis of our time. However, there is a largely overlooked solution to this problem; carbon sequestration (storage) that is provided by wetlands.

Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, measured as a rate of carbon uptake per year. Carbon storage is the long-term confinement of carbon in plant materials and sediment, measured as a total weight of carbon stored.

Fresh and saltwater wetlands hold a disproportionate amount of the earth’s total carbon emissions within their soil; approximately 20 to 30% of the estimated 1,500 petagrams of global soil carbon (one “pg” is equal to one billion tons), despite occupying only 5% to 8% of the Earth’s land surfaces. Wetlands in the conterminous United States store a total of 11.52pg.

Salt marshes are coastal ecosystems that are flood-

Blue Carbon and Belle Isle Marsh

ed and drained by salt water brought in by the tides and are dominated by salt-tolerant plants. Belle Isle Marsh is one of the last remaining salt marshes within Boston Harbor. It provides a myriad of benefits including reducing the impact of storms to developed areas, filtering pollutants from water and air, supporting healthy fisheries, providing habitat for over 271 species of birds, improving public health and well-being, and mitigating climate change impacts by storing significant amounts of carbon emissions. Salt marshes also play a critical role in protecting development investments and the regional economies. According to a study conducted by the University of California, San Diego in 2020, salt marshes provide storm protection services averaging \$36 million per km2 over a 30-year period.

Salt marshes have been found to be one of the most effective carbon sinks on the planet, able to sequester carbon up to 10 times faster than tropical

rainforests. This carbon storage is known as “blue carbon.” Globally, it is estimated that coastal ecosystems—salt marshes, mangroves, and seagrass meadows—are responsible for sequestering up to 1.4 billion tons of carbon per year. This is equivalent to the annual emissions of 553 million cars. Salt marshes can sequester about 1,940 pounds of carbon per acre per year. Belle Isle Marsh, therefore, sequesters approximately 350 tons of carbon per year, or the equivalent of emissions from 319,000 miles of air travel.

Despite the many benefits that salt marshes provide, they face many threats including their elimination and degradation by development and polluted waterways from stormwater runoff and industrial waste. The destruction of salt marshes also releases stored carbon back into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change (instead of fighting it).

The most important way to protect these critical ecosystems, and all

the benefits they offer, is to implement policies that protect these ecosystems from destruction by adjacent development. Additionally, if wetlands are degraded, it is important to restore them by whatever method is needed. There are also several market-based approaches that can be used to incentivize the protection and preservation of salt marsh ecosystems, such as carbon credits and payments for wetland protection and restoration.

The protection and restoration of all wetlands should be an essential part of any comprehensive climate change mitigation strategy. By recognizing the value of wetlands and promoting their protection and restoration, we can work towards a healthier and more sustainable future for ourselves and future generations. For further information, please visit our website: www.friendsofbelleislemarsh.com.

Ana Tavares Leary and Julie Conroy are with the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh

MICHAEL G’S RESTAURANT FEATURED ON PHANTOM GOURMET



Michael Giannasca and his well-known Chelsea restaurant, Michael’s G’s, were featured on the Phantom Gourmet Show. Giannasca is pictured above in the television studio with his son, Matt Giannasca (left), and Phantom Gourmet host Dan Andelman (center). In the photo (right) Michael Giannasca talks about his delicious Italian specialties with Dan Andelman during the broadcast.



Your opinions, please

The Chelsea Record welcomes letters to the editor.

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Letters may also be e-mailed to

editor@chelsearecord.com.

Letters must be signed.

We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

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CLASS OF 2023



CONGRATS!



The CHS Cantare, directed by Michael Bednarsky.



Music Director Shannon Chick readies the CHS Concert Band.



CHS Class Officers, President Jasmine Varela, Vice President Rileigh Connors, Secretary Karla Lopez, Treasurer Alison Bermuda, Historian Rachel Feliz.



Nelson Amaya from the COA receives his diploma.



CHS Graduate Walter Flores receives his diploma from Chelsea Superintendent of Public Schools Dr. Almudena Abeyta.





CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2023 GRADUATION



Last Saturday morning the students of CHS Graduating Class of 2023 took to the field to receive their diplomas. Despite a cold, rainy and windy morning, family, and friends wrapped in plastic ponchos sat patiently waiting to hear their loved one's name called to walk the stage and receive their recognition as a graduate. Some are the first in their family to do so. This day 306 students graduated from Chelsea High, 43 students from Chelsea Opportunity Academy, and 21 from Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy. The total scholarship money given to the Class of 2023 was \$5.5 million, 92 different colleges and other schools will be attended by the graduates. The total of 53 percent of the students graduating this day will be attending colleges or schools of higher learning.

A wide look at the commencement of the Class of 2023.



State Representative Judith Garcia, and Council President Leo Robinson both addressed the gradates Saturday morning.



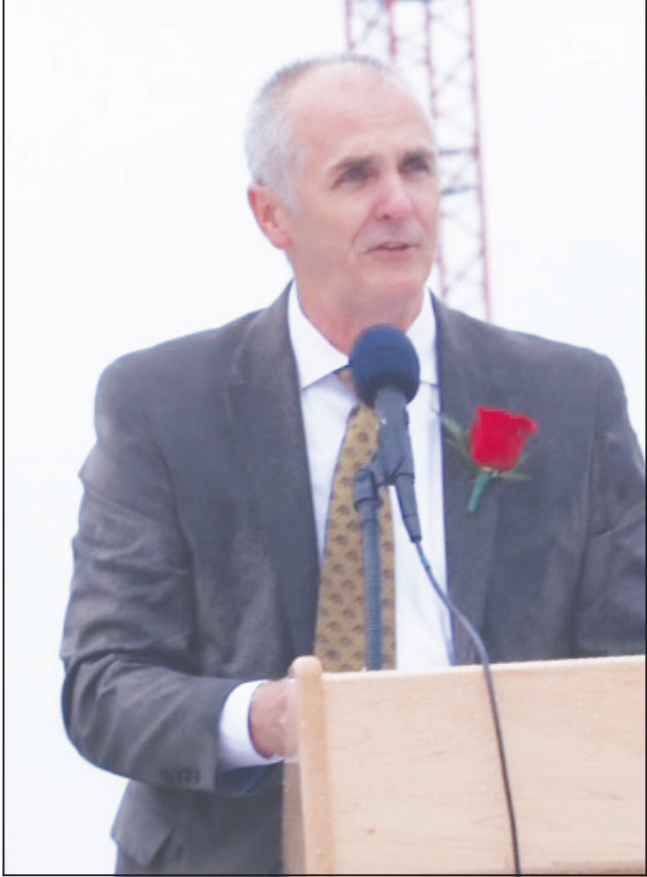
Students got creative with the decorations on their caps.



Valedictorian Erica Mendoza and Salutatorian Karina Ramirez.



Chelsea School Committee Chair, Kelly Garcia with her remarks to the graduates.



Principal of Chelsea Opportunity Academy, Ronald Schmidt, with his address to the graduates.



Principal of CVLA Margaret Maccini addresses the graduating Class of 2023.



Dilan Lopez Martinez sang the National Anthem.

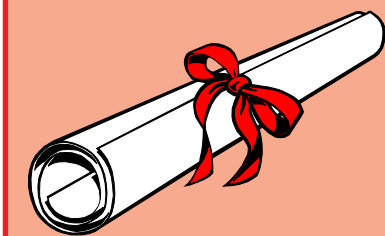


Ariza Morales graduates.



CHS Principal Obed Morales calls the Class of 2023 to order.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023...MAY YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE!



THE EASTERN SALT COMPANY
37 Marginal St., Chelsea (617) 884-5201

Congratulations to the Class of 2023!
Trans Del Corp.





CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2023 GRADUATION

ERICA MENDOZA
CLASS VALEDICTORIAN

Good morning everyone, my name is Erica Mendoza Martinez. I am proud to say I am the valedictorian of the class of 2023 at CHS and graduating with a 4.8 GPA.

Firstly, I want to thank my parents and family for their overwhelming support and efforts throughout my life. I was fortunate enough to have a supportive family, a roof over my head, food on the table, and many other necessities I know not everyone here today has. Without them, I wouldn't be able to give this speech to you all today. I hope you are proud of me mom and dad.

I never imagined myself here. I struggled with sleepless nights and pulling all-nighters. I met with teachers and got help from my older sister constantly. There were times where I wanted to give up because I thought I couldn't do it. However, I always remembered that all my hard work would be worth it and it is. I feel very accomplished standing up here.

I want to congratulate the class of 2023. I want to congratulate you all for your efforts, sacrifices, and accomplishments you have all made to be here today. I understand many of you had to fight your way to be here today. I want everyone to recognize that everyone here has a story to tell and it isn't fair that everyone here gets to hear just one voice. Many of you are



first-generation students and are the first ones to get a high school diploma in your family. You all should be very proud of yourself for breaking a generational cycle.

Coming from a family of Salvadoran immigrants, this is the first big step and the beginning of pursuing higher education. To be able to pave a path for future generations to come.

I want to thank all of the teachers that I ever had who helped me get through the Chelsea public school system. I wouldn't have made it through high school without my teachers' support and efforts.

These past 4 years weren't a normal high school experience for us. Our freshman was cut short and we spent sophomore year on computers. Then in junior year, we transitioned back to in-person schooling wearing face masks all year around. It seemed like time went by so fast, that all of a sudden many of us became adults, started to apply to college, and

had to think about what our plans were after high school. Despite all the obstacles and challenges we faced throughout high school, I want to recognize that it was perseverance and strength that got us here today.

Whatever your plans may be after high school, I want to wish the best of luck to all the seniors. Today is about celebrating our accomplishments and sacrifices. Congratulations to the class of 2023!

Thank you for your time!

CHS's valedictorian for the graduating class of 2023 is Erica Mendoza. Erica is a kind and determined academic star who has excelled at CHS, and will be greatly missed. She is a first generation student, who will be attending the University of Massachusetts Amherst in the honors program to become a Genetic Counselor. Throughout her time at Chelsea High School, she has maintained a rigorous course load full of honors, advanced placement and Bunker Hill Community College courses while achieving high honor roll and graduating with a weighted GPA of 4.80. Additionally, Erica has been a soccer player for four years and a member of NHS. Erica expresses deep gratitude for her family's support, and will be greatly missed as a member of the CHS community.

In my four years of high school, all I really focused on was getting good grades. I definitely never imagined myself here. I didn't fully realize the community I was a part of, the individuality in this group, but I do now, and I know that there is so much that will be accomplished. I truly look forward to seeing it.

So, congratulations to each and every single one of you, and congratulations to the class of 2023.

I also want to say thank you to my parents of course, who have done so much to allow me to be here. I've always strived to make you guys proud, because my gratitude and appreciation goes so far, beyond words. I also want to thank my little brother, Adrian, who I hope I can



be a role model for. I can't wait to see you graduate fourth grade next week. I'm so proud of you. My grandparents, and my family, even those who couldn't make it here today. I love you guys. Lastly, thank you to all my teachers from pre-k to senior year and my counselor, you all helped me be a better student and a better

me. I wish this class nothing but the best in their future journeys Thank you

CHS's salutatorian for the graduating class of 2023 is Karina Ramirez Villatoro. While at CHS, Karina maintained High Honor Roll all four years of High School. She earned praise and respect from all her teachers, who all spoke highly of her and her work ethic. Karina was personally asked to mentor a class of freshmen participating in the AVID program, which she loved. Karina received the John and Abigail Adams scholarship for excelling at MCAS. She will use the scholarship this fall at UMASS Boston. Go Beacons!

DR. ALMUDENA ABEYTA
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



Friends, families and distinguished guests, welcome to the Class of 2023's day! Congratulations class of 2023! What a journey this has been for you. Your freshman year was interrupted by Covid-19 in March of 2020 and your sophomore year you spent in remote learning! But, here you are now - in person, and you did not let the pandemic steal your joy!

As a class, your accomplishments are many!

The Class of 2023 includes 382 students. This includes 306 students from Chelsea High School, 43 Chelsea Opportunity Academy, 12 out of district students, and 21 students from Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy, our second class of graduates from Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy.

The plans for the class of 2023 are:

- 53% will attend either or four year or 2-year college
- 9% will attend other post-secondary (vocational/technical schools)
- 33% will go straight into the workforce
- .5% will go into the Military
- 4.5% are undecided or other

The class of 2023 were accepted to 92 total col-

leges and trade schools

Approximately \$5.5 million in scholarships has been offered to the Class of 2023. This includes

- Specific college grants and scholarships
- Tuition assistance grants and other scholarships
- Pell Grants
- John & Abigail Adams Scholarship
- Various community scholarships (the CHS Scholarship Committee oversees)
- Inversant Scholarships
- City of Chelsea Scholarship (for students planning to attend BHCC),
- Chelsea Resident & Community Scholarship Fund

Please stand as I call your name so your community of Chelsea may express our collective gratitude to you for your choice to serve our great country.

Carlos Alfaro Cornejo (CHS)(Marines)

Diego Rivera Martinez (CHS)(Marines)

Andy Damacio Tax

OBED MORALES
CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Parents, guardians, family members, graduates, friends, Superintendent of Chelsea Public Schools Dr. Abeyta, CPS executive team, Principal Ron Schmidt of COA, Meg Maccini, Principal of CVLA, school committee members, city council representatives, dignitaries, teachers, assistant principals, and staff members, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the graduation ceremony for Chelsea High School, Chelsea Opportunity Academy, and Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy.

At this time, I want all of us to give a round of applause to our graduates, the class of 2023.

At this time, I would like for all of us to recognize the parents, guardians, family members, educators, and all who contributed to the success of our graduates. Let's give them a round of applause for their dedication, hard work, and support of our graduates.

At this time, graduates please stand up. I want you to give your parents, guardians, family members, friends, educators, and staff members a great round of applause.

Next, I want to give a special thank you to Joe Cooney, Luis Diaz, Doug Pena, Anibal Santiago, and their teams for setting up this magnificent venue to celebrate the class of 2023.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the countless hours of coordination and preparation for this glorious event by Patricia Arevalo, Assistant Principal and Bianca Llanos, Principal Clerk. Thank you Bianca and Patricia.

We have much to celebrate and be thankful



for today as we honor our graduates for their commitment, perseverance, and resiliency during 13 years of formal education, especially the last four years which provided unprecedented circumstances. Graduates, we are proud of your collective resolve to forge ahead to learn and prepare towards college and career path and success. I am confident the entire City of Chelsea is delighted and filled with warm emotions by your accomplishments and commitment, the class of 2023.

I leave you with a few words on BELIEVE.

You should always believe in yourself. You are capable. You are unstoppable.

You should always believe in those who support you for they have been there for you and will always be there for you. Your parents, guardians, family members, friends, educators, and many others.

You should believe in the many challenges and opportunities presented to you. Believe these are in front of you to remind you of the hard work necessary to accomplish anything you set your mind to with the right dedication, planning, implementation, follow through, and support.

You should believe your choices have consequences. Great choices will yield great results. Likewise, un-

wise choices will yield undesirable outcomes.

In all, you should believe there are many different paths ahead of you. There is no right or wrong path except the path you select is the one you believe will allow you to thrive in our society in a civic and productive manner for your betterment and those around you.

Graduates, thank you for all you have done during your formative years in our schools, congratulations, and best wishes on graduating and commencing the next chapter of your lives. We are all excited for what's ahead for each of you. This is a new beginning to work on your dreams and goals beyond high school. We believe in your abilities, intellect, perseverance, and resolve to accomplish all of your aspirations and plans. Please note you will always have a home here at your alma mater.

Congratulations graduates, and congratulations to your parents and guardians, your families, your friends, our staff, your supporters, and the entire Chelsea community!

It was an honor and privilege to have led you as your principal this past year, your senior year of high school. As we all know, I did not do this alone, I was accompanied side by side by an amazing and supportive staff, caring and loving parents and guardians, and many generous contributors and supporters for your benefit, graduates of the class of 2023. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart, Obed Morales, Principal of Chelsea High School



Congratulations Graduates!



CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2023 GRADUATION



Some of the graduates from the Chelsea Virtual Academy.



Maria Barbosa from the Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy receives her diploma.



CHS faculty and school administrators stand as the graduates enter the stadium.



CHS graduate Anthony Allaro receives his diploma from CHS Principal Obed Morales.



Chelsea Public School Graduates



Walter Abrego Flores	CHS	Oscar Del Rosario Herrera	CHS	Jason Maldonado	CHS	Wilmar Portillo	CHS	Nathali Gonzalez Espinosa	OOD
Kevin Aguilar Reyes	CHS	Kimberly Diaz Hernandez	CHS	Jasmine Maradiaga Varela	CHS	Kenny Poz Cruz	CHS	John Grover	OOD
Roberto Aguilar	CHS	Jose Diaz Lopez	CHS	Emily Maradiaga	CHS	Kevin Poz	CHS	Ryan Halpin	OOD
Karrar Al issa	CHS	Stephany Diaz Portillo	CHS	Gabriela Marquez	CHS	Erika Quintanilla Umana	CHS	Thomas Johnson	OOD
Dayanare Alarcon Quintanilla	CHS	Keira Dinklang	CHS	Adriel Marquina Acosta	CHS	Maybelin Ramirez Cea	CHS	Analin Landaverde	OOD
Myrka Alarcon Quintanilla	CHS	Angel Erazo Alarcon	CHS	Daniel Marroquin	CHS	Jonathan Ramirez Vega	CHS	Djudley Ovide	OOD
Sergio Alarcon	CHS	Antony Erazo Molina	CHS	Javier Martinez Pineda	CHS	Karina Ramirez Villatoro	CHS	Kevin Rodriguez	OOD
Astrid Aleman Sanchez	CHS	Elias Erazo	CHS	Alexander Martinez	CHS	Malakai Reeves	CHS	Luis Rodriguez	OOD
Jackelene Alvarado	CHS	Oscar Escalante Morales	CHS	Ana Martinez	CHS	Sebastian Rendon	CHS	Anthony Rosales	OOD
Anthony Alfaro	CHS	Yeral Espinola Cepeda	CHS	Antoni Matias Coreas	CHS	Mannix Resto Jr	CHS	Jennifer Salguero-Lopez	OOD
Carlos Alfaro	CHS	Herman Esquivel-Mendez	CHS	Carlos Mayen Alonso	CHS	Cristian Reyes Ingles	CHS	Nelson Amaya	COA
Abdallah Alhazaimeh	CHS	Rachel Feliz	CHS	Jason Maysonet	CHS	Okely Rivera Gutierrez	CHS	Kenia Avalos Iraheta	COA
Maria Alvarez Gil	CHS	Wendy Figueroa Amaya	CHS	Lewis Mccaskill II	CHS	Diego Rivera Martinez	CHS	Christian Canas	COA
April Alvarez Yanes	CHS	Javier Figueroa Santos	CHS	Anthony Medrano	CHS	Adriana Rivera	CHS	Ailani Chang De Jesus	COA
Rodolfo Andino Lobo	CHS	Ada Figueroa	CHS	Bryan Medrano	CHS	Olivia Rivera	CHS	Andres Coche-Raxic	COA
Carlos Antunez Ocampo	CHS	Alexander Fino Guzman	CHS	Rudy Medrano	CHS	Franklin Rodas Mazariegos	CHS	Yeison Cordon Noriega	COA
Mauricio Arias Hernandez	CHS	Brandon Flores Maltez	CHS	Ervin Mejia Pacay	CHS	Yared Rodriguez La Santa	CHS	Joshua Dubon	COA
Katie Arias	CHS	Leydi Flores Perez	CHS	Stephanie Mejia Rosales	CHS	Alondra Rodriguez Rodriguez	CHS	Damaris Erazo Flores	COA
Joel Arroyo	CHS	Grichell Flores Sosa	CHS	Julissa Mejia	CHS	Alexis Rodriguez Tejada	CHS	Wilfredo Figueroa Jr.	COA
Brian Artica Santos	CHS	Karen Flores Sosa	CHS	Jose Melendez Perez	CHS	Alexander Rodriguez	CHS	Dylan Forti-Cedeno	COA
Ulises Artiga Ruiz	CHS	Carlos Flores	CHS	Jose Melgar Reyes	CHS	Antonio Rodriguez	CHS	Juana Fuentes Ferman	COA
Walter Astu Vicente	CHS	Bintou Fofana	CHS	Abraham Mendez Flores	CHS	Ariel Rodriguez	CHS	Carlos Fuentes Martinez	COA
Chris Avale	CHS	Dimas Galdamez Arriola	CHS	Olvan Mendez Ramos	CHS	Carlos Rodriguez	CHS	Paola Garcia Guerra	COA
David Ayala Hernandez	CHS	Daniel Galdamez-Lopez	CHS	Jose Mendez Vega	CHS	Jonaviel Rodriguez	CHS	Jenifer Henriquez Guillen	COA
Jeyssel Ayala Marroquin	CHS	Alba Galvez Estrada	CHS	Eilin Mendoza Delgado	CHS	Alejandro Romero Canelas	CHS	Jonathan Huezo	COA
Alhousseyni Bah	CHS	Ariel Garay Ruano	CHS	Sofia Mendoza Salgado	CHS	Lincoln Romero Martinez	CHS	Zeyad Kadhém	COA
Edwin Barahona Diaz	CHS	Christopher Garcia Alfaro	CHS	Yohana Mendoza Sanchez	CHS	Angely Romero	CHS	Jose Lemus Hernandez	COA
Chelsea Barnes	CHS	Maria Garcia Guerra	CHS	Erica Mendoza	CHS	Genecis Romero	CHS	Christian Lopez Urrutia	COA
Elany Barnes	CHS	Erik Garcia Nunez	CHS	Emily Menjivar	CHS	Alexy Romero-Arevalo	CHS	Anai Lopez	COA
Paola Barrera	CHS	Daniel Garcia	CHS	Jeffry Meza Osorio	CHS	Isabella Rosa	CHS	Oscar Lopez	COA
Jonathan Barrientos	CHS	Julian Garcia	CHS	Kevin Miguel-Umana	CHS	Cesia Rosales Lopez	CHS	Hector Maldonado Vasquez	COA
Yahannah Barrios-Lopez	CHS	Maria Garmendia Marroquin	CHS	Giovanna Minas-Castillo	CHS	Justin Rosales Mayen	CHS	Jancarlos Martinez	COA
Klaudett Batres Castillo	CHS	Yaneisy Garmendia Ruiz	CHS	Johanna Miranda Perez	CHS	Angel Rosales Rosales	CHS	Elsy Matute Villafranca	COA
Yosi Beltrand Canelas	CHS	David Gochez Jr	CHS	D'Marcos Mojica	CHS	Jefferson Ruiz	CHS	Ariza Morales Ramirez	COA
Milton Bermudez Hernandez	CHS	Juan Gomez Hernandez	CHS	Christian Molina	CHS	Mairanys Ruiz	CHS	Nelson Moran Hernandez	COA
Victor Bermudez Jr	CHS	Sindy Gomez Molina	CHS	Ramon Molina	CHS	Aracely Salgado Franco	CHS	Raymond Oneill Torres	COA
Alison Bermudez	CHS	Yuliana Gomez Molina	CHS	Dayana Montano Flores	CHS	Janitza Sanchez Rodriguez	CHS	Axel Ortiz Rodriguez	COA
Daniel Berrios Guerra	CHS	Yajaira Gonzalez	CHS	Fatima Morales Serrano	CHS	Daniel Santiago	CHS	Brenda Quijada Flores	COA
Anthony Bones	CHS	Maria Gracias Carcamo	CHS	Bryanna Morales	CHS	Rusby Santizo	CHS	Josue Ramirez Diaz	COA
Kenneth Bonilla	CHS	Jeffrey Guerra Monzon	CHS	Joselinne Moran Palma	CHS	Francis Santos Erazo	CHS	Jordy Ramos	COA
Paulino Brito Gomes	CHS	Erick Guevara Ayala	CHS	Maria Moran Robelo	CHS	Yesenia Santos Ramos	CHS	Elmer Ramos-Talsuy	COA
Anycea Burgos-Thomas	CHS	Andy Guzman Mauricio	CHS	Tiary Moran Robelo	CHS	Jonathan Segovia Alvarado	CHS	Michael Reyes Lainez	COA
Richard Calix Jimenez	CHS	Ilham Hamdi	CHS	Joselyn Moreira	CHS	Fabio Segovia	CHS	Richard Rivera-Guzman	COA
Cristian Campos Hernandez	CHS	Gary Hedgecock	CHS	Angie Murillo-Ayala	CHS	Emely Serpa Olivo	CHS	Jose Roldan De Blas	COA
Dalia Campos	CHS	Stephanie Henriquez Alfaro	CHS	Nathaniel Nadow	CHS	Jeylee Sevilla Teruel	CHS	Ever Rosales Alvares	COA
Mayki Canales Hernandez	CHS	Jose Hernandez Andrade	CHS	Heber Najarro Hernandez	CHS	Allau Eldin Sidik	CHS	Sherlin Rosales Alvarez	COA
Alexander Cano	CHS	Josue Hernandez Marroquin	CHS	Angel Natareno Perez	CHS	Ajay Singh	CHS	Brandon Ruiz Rivas	COA
Jose Caraballo Jr	CHS	Juan Hernandez Molina	CHS	Ashley Navarro Castro	CHS	Elder Suhum	CHS	Ariel Sanchez Osorio	COA
Gisela Carballo Villanueva	CHS	Feliciano Hernandez Pu	CHS	Gabriela Navarro	CHS	Joel Tejada	CHS	Miguel Soriano Carmona	COA
Anthony Carias	CHS	Jerry Hernandez	CHS	Edisa Ndaikeza	CHS	Miguel Tizol	CHS	Brian Trigueros	COA
Bryan Carrillo Cardona	CHS	Jose Hernandez-Matute	CHS	Ivona Niyonkinzo	CHS	Kesny Toussaint	CHS	Andrea Valle	COA
Angie Castaneda Galindo	CHS	Nestor Herrera Aleman	CHS	Jemima Nkiambi Lwani	CHS	Dayana Turcios Flores	CHS	Carlos Velasquez	COA
Guidaysis Castro Santiago	CHS	Amy Herrera Castillo	CHS	Stephanie Ochoa Quejnay	CHS	Teyvon Tyrance-Williams	CHS	Maria Barbosa	CVLA
Jareth Casula Maldonado	CHS	Jaysen Hightower	CHS	Jose Olivar Arevalo	CHS	Ubaid Ullah	CHS	Rodrigo Calleja Pineda	CVLA
Naomi Centeno Yax	CHS	Mohamed Iman	CHS	Xavier Orellana Orellana	CHS	Abis Valladares	CHS	Daisy Davis	CVLA
Luis Ceron Reyes	CHS	Christopher Interiano	CHS	Manuela Orrego Orrego	CHS	Caterin Valle Serrano	CHS	Alexandra Erazo Dubon	CVLA
Jerenis Chavez Bautista	CHS	Juman Ismael	CHS	Joshua Ortega Santos	CHS	Alexa Vargas	CHS	Gabriela Flores Lopez	CVLA
Marilyn Choguary Hernandez	CHS	Federico Jimenez Gonzalez	CHS	Jorge Ortiz Andino	CHS	Cristina Vasquez Sucuqui	CHS	Gianna Macdonald	CVLA
Dhalia Christmas	CHS	Adriana Juarez	CHS	Valeria Osorio Licona	CHS	Douglas Vasquez Zarate	CHS	Josephine Miranda	CVLA
Steven Claros	CHS	Amelia Kim My	CHS	Dania Pacas	CHS	Henry Vasquez	CHS	Martha Novoa Ortiz	CVLA
Mario Climaco Flores	CHS	Darlyn Lainez Palacios	CHS	Genesis Padilla Bonilla	CHS	Angel Vega Jr	CHS	Aldo Palencia	CVLA
Rileigh Connors	CHS	Gilberto Landaverde Martinez	CHS	Danaylin Paguada Ramos	CHS	Adrian Vega	CHS	Paola Perea Arriaga	CVLA
Yuliza Constanacia-Perez	CHS	Amy Landaverde Soriano	CHS	David Palencia Morales	CHS	Emily Velasquez Rodriguez	CHS	Angelise Prieto	CVLA
Janessa Constantino	CHS	Elizabeth Le	CHS	Floralma Pascual Nunez	CHS	Marlayna Velasquez-Matrone	CHS	Walter Ramirez Esturban	CVLA
Roberto Contreras Cortes	CHS	Jared Lizardo Maldonado	CHS	Jose Pedroza Gonzalez	CHS	Bryan Vicente Galicia	CHS	Jennifer Ramos Sanchez	CVLA
Nelson Contreras Feliz	CHS	Julia Lopes	CHS	Angel Peraza	CHS	Virginia Viera Alvarez	CHS	Dennis Sanchez Gomez	CVLA
Glendy Cortez Leiva	CHS	Samuel Lopez Ascencio	CHS	Kevin Peraza	CHS	Christina Villatoro	CHS	Milagros Torres Adams	CVLA
Gustavo Coto	CHS	Karla Lopez Cornejo	CHS	Mariana Perez Flores	CHS	Ali Warsame	CHS	Gerson Villegas Ramirez	CVLA
Jose Cruz Jr	CHS	Dilan Lopez Martinez	CHS	Dayana Perez Gonzalez	CHS	Adriana Willess	CHS	Kati Welch	CVLA
Karen Cunha da Costa	CHS	Kevin Lopez Membreno	CHS	Vanesa Perez Gonzalez	CHS	Jhon Xiquin Chacon	CHS	Christian Zavaleta	CVLA
Sheila Da Rosa	CHS	Carlos Lopez Velasquez	CHS	David Perez Vasquez	CHS	Messiah Yarde	CHS	Kris Zelaya	CVLA
Andy Damacio-Tax	CHS	Dario Lopez	CHS	Jose Perez-Garcia	CHS	Katie Zacarias	CHS		
Annelia Daniel-Rivera	CHS	Jada Lopez	CHS	Jelany Peters	CHS	Erick Zavala-Villalta	CHS	CHS: Chelsea High School	
Briana Davila Morales	CHS	Justin Lopez	CHS	Rood-Jerry Pierre	CHS	Raul Zelaya	CHS	OOD: Out of District	
Jose De Paz-Mancias	CHS	Brenda Lopez-Lobo	CHS	Fernando Pineda Yanes	CHS	Santiago Zuniga Rua	CHS	COA: Chelsea Opportunity Acadamy	
Olivia Degraffenreid	CHS	Diana Madrid Herrera	CHS	Alysia Ponce	CHS	Carlos Aguilar	OOD	CLVA: Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy	
		Ashley Malaquias	CHS	Denis Portillo Valle	CHS	Abigail Beaupre	OOD		

CHELSEA FIREFIGHTERS ANNUAL MEMORIAL SPONSORED BY LOCAL 937

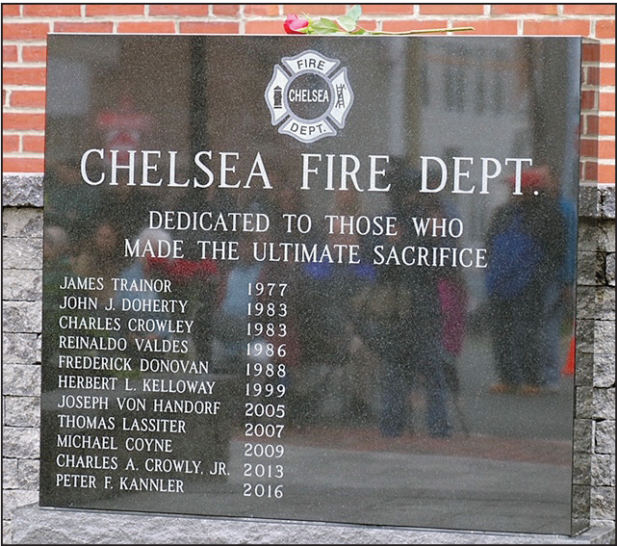
Sunday morning the Chelsea Fire Department gathered at the Fire Fighters Memorial at the 911 call center to pay tribute to those brother and sister fire fighters lost in the line of duty or recently passed. The newly constructed memorial has 11 names inscribed on it, for the 11 line of duty fire fighters that lost their lives to save others. James Trainor, John J. Doherty, Charles Crowley, Reinaldo Valdes, Frederick Donovan, Herbert L. Kelloway, Joseph Von Handorf, Thomas Lassiter, Michael Coyne, Charles A. Crowley Jr., Peter Kannler. This memorial will stand in memory of all those, so that they will remain in our hearts forever. This year, Fire Fighter Frank E. Crowley passed away. Crowley appointed 6/8/70-retired 5/15/92-passed 3/29/2023.



Deputy Chief Michael Maccuci brings the ceremony to attention.



State Representative Judith Garcia reaffirms her commitment to the Chelsea fire fighters and the department and expressed her sympathies to the families of the lost fire fighters.



The new Fire Fighters Memorial that bears the names of the 11 Chelsea Fire Fighters that lost their lives in the line of duty.



Chelsea Fire Fighters, Carlos Carrasquillo and Jonathan Morel tend to the Colors of Our Nation prior to the ceremony.



Fire Fighter Nick Bridge plays taps at the conclusion of the memorial service.



CFD Chief Leonard A. Albanese addresses the crowd Sunday morning. Also in attendance was Interim Chelsea City Manager Ned Keefe.



Fire Fighter Andrew Colon with his family, Joselene and Ayden.



Fire Fighter Adam and Nicole Giancola.



State Representative Judith Garcia and Councillor Calvin T. Brown.



Council President Leo Robinson with residents, Paul Cameron and Chris Kaminski.



Piper Kevin O'Keefe closed the service with Amazing Grace.

Attention MassHealth Members



You need to
renew your
coverage
this year.

If you have MassHealth, you need to take steps now to keep your health coverage this year. MassHealth wants to help you and your family stay covered.

To get help, call 800-841-2900, visit www.masshealthrenew.org or scan the code.

Take three steps to
renew your coverage:

1. Update your info

2. Check your mail

3. Respond to MassHealth

Act now. Stay covered.

ROBERTO JIMENEZ RIVERA CAMPAIGN RECEPTION FOR COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE

Chelsea School Committee member Roberto Jimenez Rivera hosted a reception Tuesday at Chelsea Station kicking off his campaign for a councilor-at-large seat on the Chelsea City Council.

Jimenez Rivera delivered the following remarks at the event:

Thank you all so much
for joining us tonight!

Everyone here knows that education has always been at the core of my work. I was an admissions officer, now I work for a teachers' union, and I'm on the School Committee. One thing they don't tell you about running for School Committee is that oftentimes you have to convince people who aren't parents why it's important to vote for School Committee.

However, last year I learned what it's like to run on every other issue when

I ran for State Representative. People really open up when you can talk to them about the issues affecting them, like the cost of healthcare or rising rents. So, it becomes much more about how we can use our position to help people.

As a City Councilor, I can help tackle the issues facing all of our residents: a housing crisis, a severely underfunded transit system, and environmental injustice, just to name a few. Last year we continued building a movement that has been growing for years, on the shoulders of people who have been in this city for decades. I felt a sense of urgency then that is driving me now to run for City Council, to make sure our City Council is fighting for everyone in our city.

Let's make sure the people of Chelsea can continue to live here. Let's make sure



From left, Sara Arman, Fernando Mazzoni, Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Neville, Roberto Jimenez Rivera, Irma Mazzoni, Eve Harmon, and Mitikei Chengerei.

our air is clean and that we don't have lead raining down on our kids. Let's

find a way to grow more opportunities for everyone in our city. That's why I'm

running for Chelsea City Council and that's why I hope you'll keep support-

ing this campaign. Thank
you!



Chelsea School Committee member and candidate for councilor-at-large Roberto Jimenez Rivera, with his wife, Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Neville, and their son, Robi.



Roberto Jimenez Rivera with supporters (seated) Tyler Was-
son and Eddie Kim, and Kari-Elle Brown (standing, right).



Roberto Jimenez Rivera, with his father, Roberto Jimenez Davila (left), his mother, Maribel Rivera (right), his wife, Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Neville, and their son, Robi.



Front row are District 5 School Committee member Kati Cabral and Jimmy Merino. Back row are Marisol Santiago, Jonathan Recincoy, Jonathan Gomez-Pereira, and School Committee member and candidate for councilor-at-large Roberto Jimenez Rivera.



Zach Hollopeter, Roberto Jimenez Rivera, Vicki DiLorenzo, and Jonathan Cohn.

Annual Deer Island Stroll Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma walk set

Special to the Record

Individuals living with and affected by scleroderma will join together at 9:00 a.m., on June 10, at Deer Island, 190 Taft Avenue, Winthrop, MA, to take part in the annual Deer Island Stroll - Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma walk. Scleroderma is a rare rheumatic disease that affects connective tissue and the vascular system, producing excessive collagen that causes fibrosis in the skin (localized) or in internal organs

(systemic sclerosis). The disease can cause disfigurement and disability. For some, it's life-threatening. There is no known cause or cure. More than 300,000 Americans live with the disease.

This year marks a special occasion for the organization. The National Scleroderma Foundation is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Founded in 1998, the Foundation has been advancing medical research, promoting disease awareness, and providing support to people with scleroderma. Their

families and support networks for 25 years. For the last 20 of those years, walks have taken place across the country to bring awareness to the disease and raise funds to support the National Scleroderma Foundation's mission.

"The scope of our work is nationwide," said Mary Wheatley, CEO of the National Scleroderma Foundation. "And we are grateful to our supporters across the country who are leading the fight against this disease. Our Deer Island Stroll is a special one with walkers, organizers, and volunteers who are incredibly committed and passionate."

Our local New England Chapter makes a difference in the lives of those living with and affected by scleroderma. The work to help individuals find their best path is happening nationwide and right here in the Boston community. Our walk is an opportunity to celebrate our scleroderma warriors.

Learn more about
scleroderma and available
resources at scleroderma.org.



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FRESH AND LOCAL

Kitchen tips

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

People once learned to cook by watching family members and helping with kitchen tasks. The older generation shared their tips, and how-to advice in person, or suggestions were found on old recipe cards or handwritten notes in inherited cookbooks. In this column, we'll share some of our favorite kitchen tips.

Total Time Counts

The next time you pull out your food processor to make something like salsa, time how long it takes to gather the ingredients, set up a cutting board and knife to chop them to the right size for the machine, transfer the salad to a serving bowl, clean up and put everything away.

The next time you make salsa, make it with a cutting board, sharp knife, and bowl and compare the results and the time it takes. With simpler tools,

we get faster results and a more exciting texture to our salsa.

Prepping Vegetables

If you watch prep cooks in a restaurant prepare vegetables, you'll notice that they often use an assembly line system. Let's say you're chopping carrots and celery for soup. The pro will wash and scrub all the vegetables. Next, everything gets peeled, and then the chopping is done step-by-step on each ingredient.

Avoiding steps entirely is even more efficient. Peeling is often optional. Consider replacing it with a good scrub with a firm brush. We tend to cook potatoes, squash, sweet potatoes, and carrots with their skin in place. Not only to save time but also to increase nutrition. Or, use a frozen vegetable if it will work in the recipe.

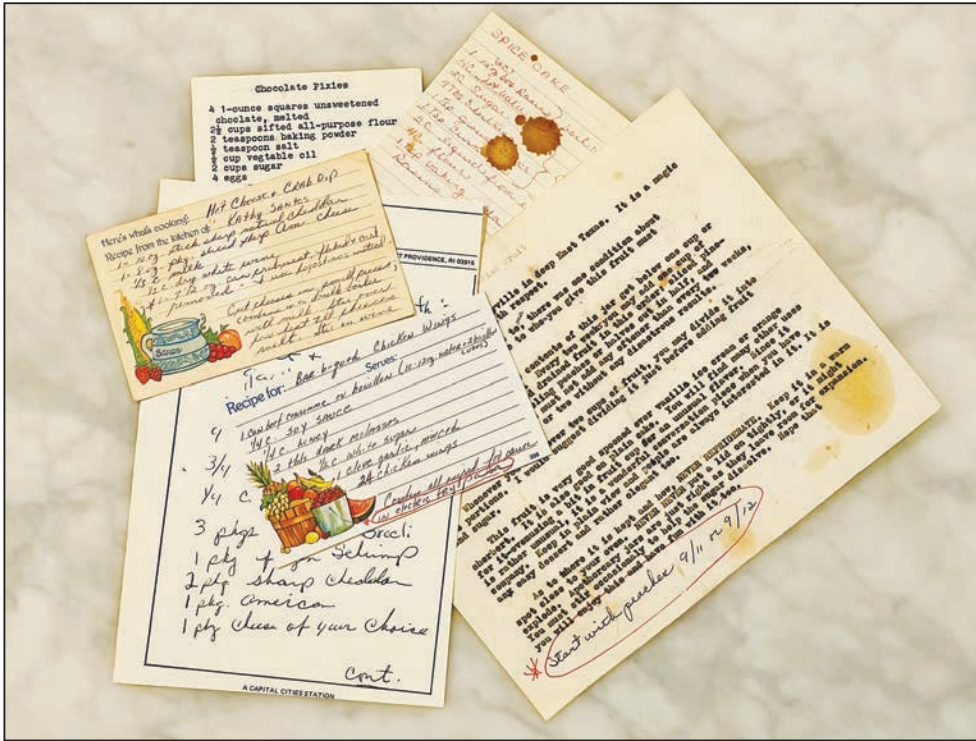
As frequent avocado eaters and people who avoid the emergency

room, we are thankful for Sara Moulton's tip on cutting avocados. The Washington Post described her method, "... place the avocado on its side on a cutting board. With the knife parallel to the board, make a horizontal cut through to the pit as you rotate the fruit. With the knife perpendicular to the board, cut the top side of the avocado from stem to bottom, then turn it and repeat on the far side."

You end up with four sections that are easy to peel, and the pit pops right out.

Work Safe

Sharp knives are essential, as are safe knife skills. We nearly always use a cutting board with non-slip feet or a damp towel under it. We wash and dry our knives by hand and return them to their spot on our magnetic wall rack. Knives lying on the counter or in a sink full of sudsy water are dangerous.



Once upon a time, tips were found on recipe cards or handwritten notes in inherited cookbooks.

Penny hones her knives before she begins working. Newly sharpened knives have a blue tape tag on the handle to remind everyone that the blade is razor-like.

Blue Tape

Our final tips are about that blue tape. We keep a dispenser of blue painter's tape on our counter. We use it to write the iden-

tity and date of any item we put into the freezer. Every bowl of leftovers is marked with the day it was made.

A small tape tag on a bowl of tomatoes tells us which to use first. A piece on the refrigerator door tells the person putting out the trash that something inside needs to be included.

If an item has a tiny ex-

piration date, we put a big use-by date on it with blue tape. We use it to label our glass jars of pantry items. We don't call it blue painter's tape. We call it blue cook's tape!

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

TEMPLE EMMANUEL OF CHELSEA TO HOLD SILENT ART AUCTION AND SALE JUNE 11

Temple Emmanuel of Chelsea will hold a silent auction and sale of Judaica art on Sunday, June 11, from 4 to 7 p.m. There will be hundreds of Judaica art items, limited edition art, and collectibles for sale. The event is part of "Templefest," a celebration of this year's achievements

as the Temple Emmanuel community looks forward to the upcoming year. Pictured above are members of the event planning committee, from left, Stephen Vider, Esther Berkowitz, Elizabeth Hopkinson, Jim Howard, and Carol Brown.



Pictured above is one of the Judaica art items created by Chelsea artist Sandra Maddeford.



Dotty Novak and Murray Novak are pictured in front of some of the hundreds of Judaica art items that will be on sale at the silent auction on Sunday, June 11 at Temple Emmanuel.



Temple Emmanuel board members Barry Kirshon and Darleen Nelson and Temple President Sara Lee Callahan are looking forward to Templefest, which will feature a silent art auction and art sale Sunday, June 11 at the Temple.



Pictured above are members of the event planning committee, from left, Stephen Vider, Esther Berkowitz, Elizabeth Hopkinson, Jim Howard, and Carol Brown.



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Cambridge, MA 02139-1732
617-349-4396

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

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

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


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180 Westminster Street, 3rd floor
Providence, RI 02903-3768
401-222-2661/62

VERMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
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Montpelier, VT 05633-6301
802-828-2480

NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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Concord, NH 03301-9053
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Research Festival / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

been coming to Chelsea to do research here because Chelsea is really unique in the number of immigrants who live here, the high rates of COVID at the beginning of the pandemic, and the high rates of inequality,” said Neville. “So, researchers

always come to Chelsea to study it. But today we want to make sure that the researchers are here to share their results with the community. And the Chelsea students and community members are here doing their own projects, so we want to give you

the opportunity to share as well.”

Two locally based projects, Stacey Smith’s brilliant, well-researched presentation on the history of the People A.M.E. Church in Chelsea, and Chelsea High junior Jimmy Merino’s comprehensive research on the Boston University takeover of the Chelsea public schools, definitely caught the attention and praise of long-time Chelsea residents.

At her research station that include visuals, Smith related to attendees that “the Great Chelsea fire 1908 burned the People’s A.M.E. Church to the ground.”

“Mayor Beck declared that ‘the city would rise again from the ashes, built on broader lines’, but that just didn’t happen for the People’s A.M.E. Church,” related Smith.

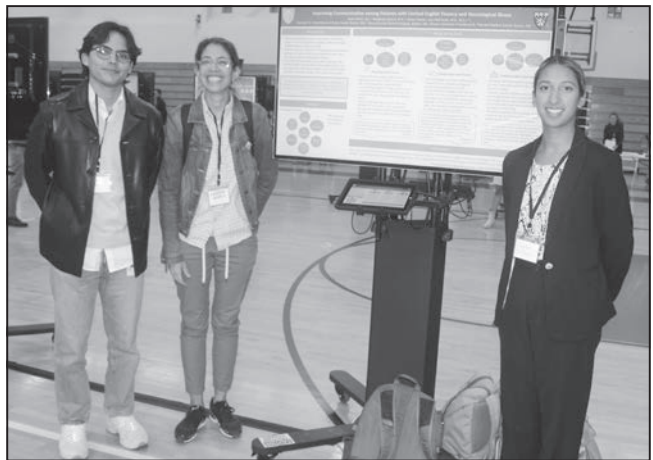
“We have several churches that have rebuilt, and I feel that Chelsea People’s A.M.E. should also have that by now – we’re talking well over 100 years.”

Smith said part of the goal of her research project was “to revitalize the People’s A.M.E. Church.”

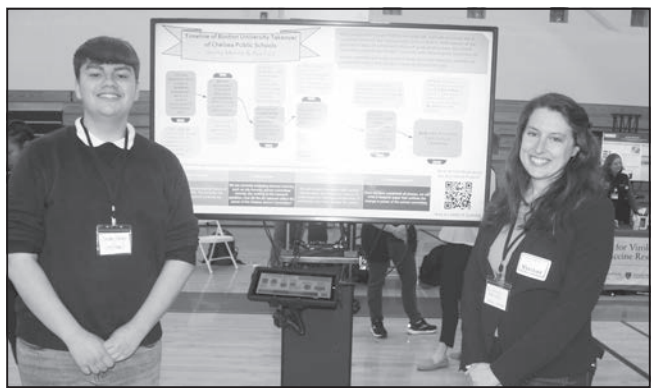
“We are still here. We go to church every Sunday, but we have to rent out space,” said Smith. “My hope is that the information for this research project will be used for future generations to further advance the topic of the People’s A.M.E. Church and for our local government to assist with the revitalization of the church and put more policies in place that prevent racial disparities such as this, that still unfortunately plague Chelsea to this day.”



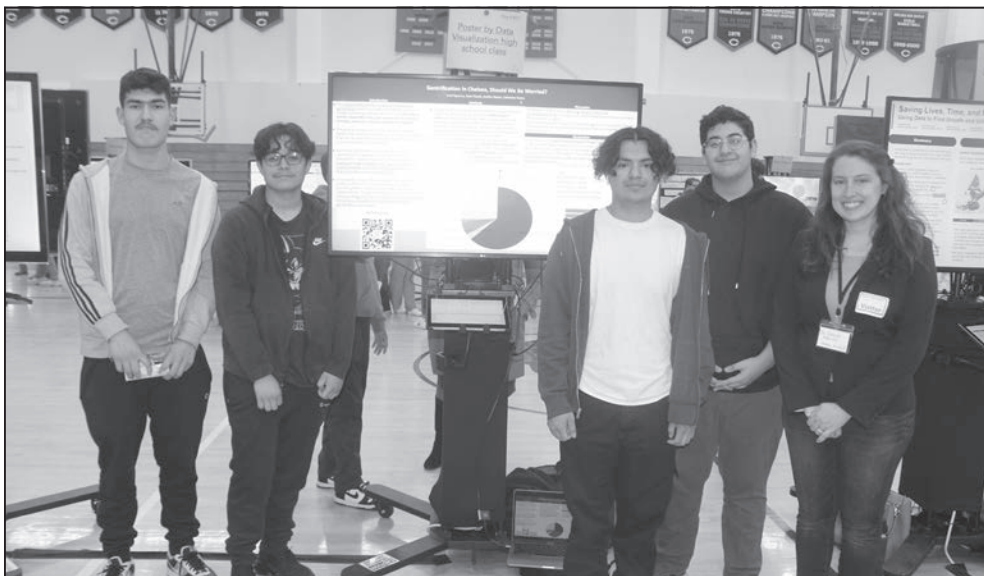
Angela Magardino, project coordinator at Boston University, and Alina McIntyre, PhD candidate at Boston University.



Rodrigo Nadal, Margarita Velasco, Clinical Research Coordinator, and Harvard graduate student Sarika Baril.



Chelsea High School student Jimmy Merino presented an interesting research project on the Boston University takeover of the management of the Chelsea Public Schools. Also pictured is Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Neville.



Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Neville (right) with Chelsea High School juniors and research presenters for their project, Gentrification In Chelsea, from left, Christian Mazariegos, Nelson Diaz, Italo Pineda, and Ariel Figueroa.



Wright Academy student presenters at the Chelsea Research Festival, pictured with their seventh grade teacher, Mr. John Ruggiero (back row).

Merino researched the history of the Boston University takeover of the management of the Chelsea public schools, an idea that was proposed by then-Chelsea School Committee member Andrew P. Quigley Sr., who was also publisher of the Chelsea Record. As a result of Mr. Quigley’s vision and foresight and that of his colleagues on the School Committee, BU became the first university in the nation to oversee an entire school district.

Merino said the agreement worked out very well for the city’s schools and its teachers.

“Boston University set various policy changes within the Chelsea school district, investing millions of dollars into the schools,” said Merino. “They increased teacher wages, they established a music and arts department for Chelsea High School. Their policies decreased dropout rates, increased graduation rates, and increased AP enrollment.”

An outstanding student, Merino has begun his college admissions process and considers Yale University as one of his top choices.

The son of Eligio Merino and Delmy Guerra, Jimmy Merino said he has



Shinelle Kirk, research assistant, Healthy Neighborhoods Study, Dr. Patrice Williams, research scientist, Healthy Neighborhoods Study, and Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Neville, founder and coordinator of the Chelsea Research Festival.



La Colaborativa Youth Leaders Taneya Freeman, Allahdra Mattocks, and Amaya Jones presented an interesting project on Black Voices: Exploring Racial Identity Through Youth Interviews at La Colaborativa.

an interest in political science, and his terrific, research presentation at the Chelsea Research Festival was Ivy-League caliber and could be the foundation-setter to a future career in law or politics.

Merino can thank Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Neville for giving him the forum

to display his analytical capabilities.

Also excelling with their presentation were Chelsea High juniors Christian Mazariegos, Nelson Diaz, Italo Pineda, and Ariel Figueroa, who compiled a project on gentrification in Chelsea.



Former Bunker Hill Community College Associate Dean Sharon Caulfield, Douglas Medvetz of Verdnyt, City Council President Leo Robinson, School Committee member Naomi Zabet, Michele Peruch, School Committee member Roberto Jimenez Medina, holding his son, Robi.

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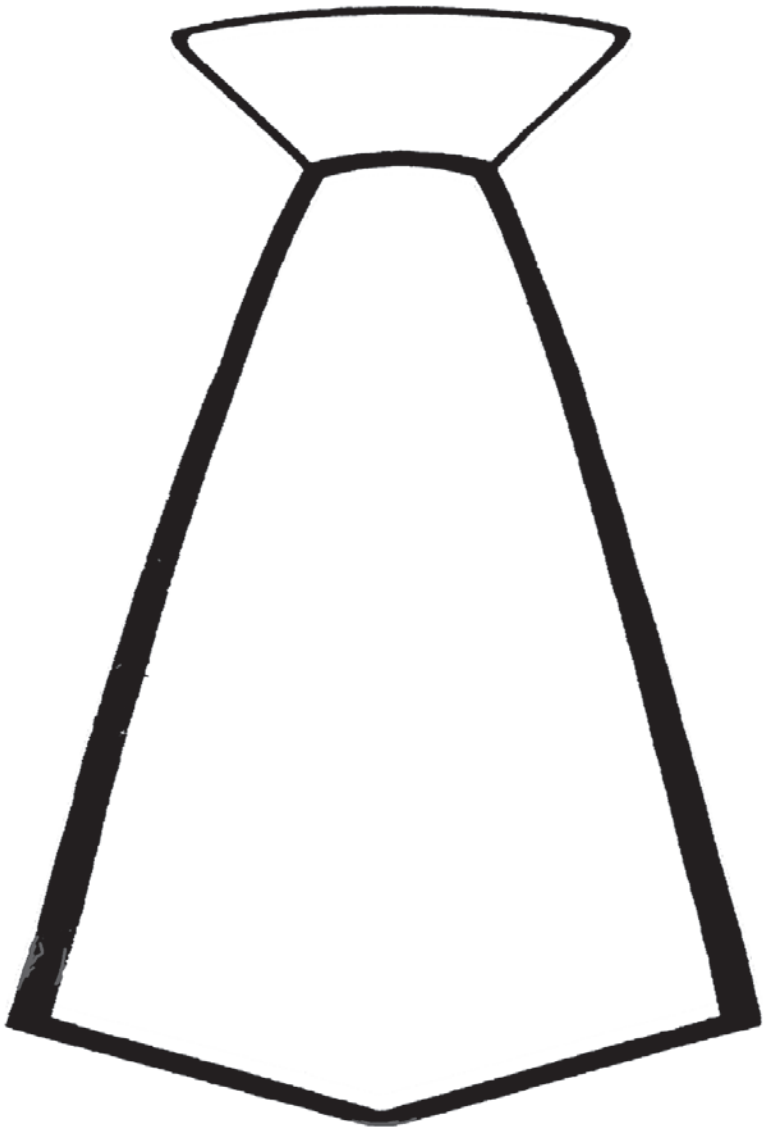
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Resource guide for small businesses available through City Hall

By Adam Swift

City officials are taking steps to help ensure that small businesses thrive in Chelsea.

“As you know, improving the accessibility of resources for small businesses is a key goal in advancing equity and economic growth,” said Alex Train, the city’s director of Housing and Community Development. “We’re pleased to present our recently published small business resource guide,

entitled Doing Business in Chelsea, an effort that strives to make it easier for small businesses to prosper in the community.”

The resource guide is designed to offer clear, predictable information to small businesses, and the guide illustrates the necessary processes to establish, operate, and grow a small business in Chelsea.

It’s broken down by specific industries, capturing the local and state certification, licensing, and permitting required for

different business types, along with a wealth of resources to support small businesses.

There are Spanish and English versions of the guide that can be accessed at City Hall, or by contacting Omar Miranda, Chelsea’s Small Business Development Specialist, at omiranda@chelseama.gov or by calling 617-466-4198.

Additional assistance for small businesses that are either open or looking to open in Chelsea

can be found on the city’s website, under the small businesses section of the Housing and Community Development department. There is access to information from the Small Business Administration, applications for a business certificate and to the licensing commission, and a link to the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce.

There is also a resource guide, small business technical assistance, and tips for saving energy and electricity.

OBITUARIES

Michael J. “Mike” Henry

June 29, 1951 - May 15, 2023



On Saturday, June 3, close to 100 family and friends of Michael J “Mike” Henry gathered at the Brown Jug in Chelsea to say goodbye to our uncle, father, husband, friend and “Papa.” Michael J Henry Sr, recently a resident of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, but formerly of Revere and Charlestown, who entered into eternal life suddenly on Monday, May 15, 2023.

He was 71 years of age. Mike was born in Everett on June 29, 1951, a son of the late John W and Josephine (Frances) Henry. He grew up in Charlestown and graduated from Charlestown High School where he was a member of the Majestic Knights Marching Band.

Following his graduation, he served in the United States Army before starting his career with US Airways where he worked for 35 years before his retirement.

Mike was the beloved husband of 34 years to Beverly (Bishop) Henry and the devoted father of Michael J. Henry, Jr and his companion Lynsey

Gowens. He was also a proud “papa” to Michael J Henry III, Ezra Cantin, Chase and Ethan Gowens.

In life Mike was a generous and friendly man who was always willing to do anything to help a friend or family member in need. He will be remembered and missed by his loved ones.

Michael was the beloved brother of John W Henry, Jr and his wife, Elizabeth Kurkjian, Eileen (Henry) Ward and her husband, John, Daniel F Henry and his wife, Linda Leach.

He was the proud uncle to Stephanie, Brian, Jake, Brittany, Daniel, Kayla and Conor on the Henry side of the family and to Joseph,

Lori, Thomas, Kerri, Amy, David and Kathleen on the Bishop side of his family. He is also survived by many loving cousins and friends.

For online guest book or to send expressions of sympathy, please visit: www.WelshFH.com.

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Andrea Gayle-Bennett appointed as the first Deputy Secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans’ Services

Secretary Jon Santiago announced the appointment of Dr. Andrea Gayle-Bennett as the first-ever Deputy Secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans’ Services (EOVS). Dr. Gayle-Bennett, a retired Brigadier General in the Massachusetts National Guard and a distinguished healthcare professional, brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this vital role. The Deputy Secretary will serve as a strategic partner to Secretary Santiago and lead important initiatives related to EOVS services and programming.

“We are delighted to welcome Dr. Andrea Gayle-Bennett to the Healey-Driscoll Administration as Deputy Secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans’ Services,” said Governor Maura Healey. “Dr. Gayle-Bennett’s distinguished career in medicine and military service make her uniquely qualified to take on this import-



Andrea Gayle-Bennett.

ant role and support Secretary Santiago and our entire administration in our efforts to advance the health and well-being of Massachusetts’ veterans.”

“Dr. Gayle-Bennett’s exceptional qualifications and remarkable dedication to both health care and military service make her the ideal candidate for the position of Deputy Secretary,” said Secretary Jon Santiago. “I have full confidence that she will enhance our efforts in serving the Massachusetts veteran community through her leadership

and passion for supporting veterans.”

“Sheryl Sandberg, the author of ‘Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead,’ wisely remarked, ‘If you’re offered a seat on a rocket ship...get on.’ Drawing inspiration from these words, I am embracing this opportunity with immense gratitude,” said Andrea Gayle-Bennett. “I am thrilled to have the chance to make a positive contribution on behalf of veterans in the Commonwealth and to collaborate with this esteemed team as part of the Healey-Driscoll administration.”

Dr. Gayle-Bennett holds a Doctor of Medical Science (DMSc) degree from the University of Lynchburg, a Master of Education degree from Lesley College, and a Bachelor of Science in allied health from Sophie Davies School of Medicine. She has a distinguished career spanning over three decades, including 37 years

as a Physician Assistant at Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates in Boston, where she demonstrated exceptional skills delivering comprehensive medical care.

Joining the Massachusetts National Guard in 1983, Dr. Gayle-Bennett rose through the ranks and held positions such as State Surgeon, Deputy Commander, and Chief Physician Assistant. In 2019, she earned the Brigadier General (MA) rank due to her dedication and leadership.

In 2022, the Massachusetts Legislature passed significant legislation reforming veterans’ governance, structure, and care at the two Massachusetts Veterans’ Homes in Holyoke and Chelsea. As part of these reforms, the Executive Office of Veterans’ Services was created, with the Deputy Secretary being appointed by the Secretary.

CHRISTIE GETTO YOUNG RECEIVES LEGISLATIVE STAFFER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Senator DiDomenico’s team left to right: Jim Henry, Senator Sal DiDomenico, Christie Getto Young, Ayla Thorntona, Eli Fenichel, Ellie Kim.



Left to right: Lizzi Weyant (Deputy Executive Director of Public Affairs and Advocacy at MAPC), Christie Getto Young, Senator Sal DiDomenico, Marc Draisen (Executive Director of MAPC), Adam Chapdelaine (former Arlington Town Manager and current Deputy Director at the Boston Green Ribbon Commission).

Christie Getto Young, Senator DiDomenico’s Chief of Staff, Receives Legislative Staffer of the Year Award | Photo Release

Last week, Senator Sal DiDomenico’s Chief of Staff, Christie Getto Young, was awarded Legislative Staffer of the Year by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). Christie has worked with DiDomenico and led his team for over 13 years. She has mentored many staffers in the



Christie with her husband Josh and their two children, Eli and Emma.

State House and dedicated her legislative efforts to helping children and families throughout the Senate district and the Commonwealth. People from inside and outside the State House have benefited from her leadership on so many issues that have positively impacted countless lives.

“I have relied on Christie throughout our time in the Senate and she is a trusted friend and confidante,” said Senator Sal DiDomenico. “I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award, and I want to thank MAPC for honoring Christie. She is respected and looked up to by so many people in the State House and in our communities. We are fortunate to have her on our team, and our district is lucky to have her working on their behalf. Her work has made life better for people across Massachusetts and we are so proud of her. Congratulations again, Christie!”

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error in this publication.
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THE EAST BOSTON NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CENTER’S LET’S GET MOVIN’ 5K RUN

The East Boston Neighborhood Health Center’s Let’s Get Movin’ New Balance Initiative is a program promoting healthy living for the people of East Boston. They held their annual 5K For Fitness, encouraging all to participate by running or walking the East Boston Greenway.



EBNHC worker Dorothy Chen runs with her sister Lillian.



Allyson and Angie Perez who are cheering their aunt Abi Martinez on.



East Boston Neighborhood Health Center President and CEO Greg Wilmot with his daughters Rowmina and Eva.



The Start Line is filled with participants of the Let’s Get Movin’ 5k.



Abi Martinez gets triumphant in her run as she passes by.



Ashley Doyle, Will Hunt, and Bradley Spence take a breather after crossing the Finish Line.



Beatriz Meza-Valencia runs with her teammate Lusa.



John Dunn Jr (center) ran with help from his parents John and Kristen.



East Boston Neighborhood Health Center Program Coordinator Cristina Weddle, Clerk of the Board Of Directors Jennifer Blanco and her husband Tony with Boston City Councillor Gabriela “Gigi” Coletta.



Ruth Hanno gets excited as she nears the Finish Line.



Beatriz Meza-Valencia runs with her teammate Lusa.



Dalton Caudill was the first to cross the finish line.



EBNHC Sports and Fitness Coordinator Kevin Sinatra gets everyone ready for the start of the 5K.



And they’re off...



East Boston Neighborhood Health Center Health Coordinator Isabela Portugal perches up on a lamppost at the Start Line.



Kailany, Aldany, and Anna Chavez finished the 5k together as a family.

Mass. Housing and Shelter Alliance honors three leaders working to end homelessness

Special to the Journal

Three leaders in the effort to end homelessness were recently honored by the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA) at its annual Home for Good fundraiser and award ceremony at WBUR’s CitySpace on Thursday, May 11. During the Home for Good 2023 event, MHSA recognized Representative Aaron Michlewitz, House Ways & Means Chair (Democrat – 3rd Suffolk District), real estate entrepreneur James V. D’Amico, Jr. of Century 21 North East and NewFed Mortgage, and Dr. Danna Mauch, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health (MAMH), for their efforts to end homelessness in the Commonwealth.

• House Ways & Means Chair Aaron Michlewitz was the recipient of the

Canon Brian S. Kelley Public Servant Award. Chair Michlewitz was born, raised and lives in Boston’s historic North End, part of the district he proudly represents today. A graduate of Northeastern University, Chair Michlewitz is widely recognized as an active and engaged ally of those experiencing homelessness and a strong partner of the nonprofit community organizations that serve this vulnerable population. Like Canon Kelley, Chair Michlewitz has worked tirelessly to create a more just and equitable Commonwealth.

• James V. D’Amico, Jr. received the Bob Ray Partnership Award which recognizes people who apply business principles to ending homelessness. D’Amico first joined forces with MHSA in 2008 with the launch of its permanent supportive housing program, Journey to

Success, which sought out landlords in Chelsea and Revere to lease apartments to MHSA for individuals with disabling conditions experiencing long-term homelessness. He recently has worked in partnership with MHSA and Bay Cove Human Services to renovate his property in Chelsea to provide expanded and improved permanent housing and supportive services.

• Danna Mauch, Ph.D., was presented with the Rep. Byron Rushing Commitment to Housing Award, which acknowledges people and organizations working to provide innovative alternatives to homelessness. Dr. Mauch is dedicated to the MAMH mission – eliminating stigma and discrimination to ensure full social, economic, and political inclusion for people at risk for or living with behavioral health conditions. Her advocacy

has resulted in housing resources and services for those coping with mental illness, resulting in fewer people falling into homelessness. By focusing on best practices in housing, she has helped create safe havens for those experi-

encing homelessness. “Our 2023 honorees have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the most vulnerable among us,” said Joyce Tavon, MHSA Chief Executive Officer. “Their commitment to social justice,

equity, and innovation in housing is unwavering. We value their persistence and their partnership and recognize Chair Aaron Michlewitz, Danna Mauch, and Jim D’Amico for their service.”



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Joyce Tavon, MHSA’s Chief Executive Officer, Jim D’Amico, recipient of the Bob Ray Partnership Award, Dr. Danna Mauch recipient of the Rep. Byron Rushing Commitment to Housing Award, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, House Ways & Means Chair (Democrat – 3rd Suffolk District), recipient of the Canon Brian S. Kelley Public Servant Award, and Ben Josephson, Chair of MHSA’s Board of Directors.

CHELSEA LGBTQ COALITION PRESENTS CHELSEA PRIDE 2023



The Pride flag is raised on the flagpole in Chelsea Square Park.

sea Pride 2023 on June 3 at Chelsea Square Park. Chelsea Police Sgt. Star Chung served as emcee of the event that has been held annually in June, which is National Pride Month.

Revere Councilor-at-Large Steven Morabito, who is a candidate for mayor, delivered the keynote address.

The assemblage enjoyed a spirited performance by Lakia Mondale, drag performer.

Despite the inclement weather, a sizable crowd attended Chelsea Pride 2023, which concluded with the raising of Pride flag in Chelsea Square.



Event Coordinator Matt Frank with his sister, Brigitte DeVeau, and her sons, Dylan, Ryan, and Aiden.



District 2 Councilor Melinda Vega Maldonado, School Committee Chair Kelly Garcia, and District 7 Councilor Tanairi Garcia.



Renee Pilotte and April Swartz.



District 7 Councilor Tanairi Garcia, Chelsea School Committee member Naomi Zabot, Deb Zabot (holding canine friend, Foxy), and School Committee Chair Kelly Garcia.



Sylvia Bortz, and Deputy Stacey Wood and Sgt. Holly Nelson of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department.



Pictured at the Chelseea LGBTQ Coalition's Chelsea Pride 2023 event last Saturday are, from left, Matt Frank, City Council President Leo Robinson, District 2 Councilor Melinda Vega Maldonado, School Committee Chair Kelly Garcia, District 7 Councilor Tanairi Garcia, and District 8 Councilor Calvin T. Brown.



Pictured at Chelsea Pride 2023 at Chelsea Square Park are (front row) Chelsea Police Sgt. Star Chung and event coordinator April Swartz. Back row, from left, are event coordinator Pepper Fee, keynote speaker Steven Morabito, event coordinator Matt Frank, District 8 Councilor Calvin T. Brown, and Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell.



Performers at Chelsea Pride 2023, Buffy Halliwell (left) and Lakia Mondale (right).



Event emcee Star Chung and event coordinator Matt Frank welcome keynote speaker Steven Morabito from neighboring Revere to Chelsea.



Richard Bosworth, Revere Councilor-at-Large Steven Morabito, Chelsea Pride 2023 Coordinator Matt Frank, State Rep. Judith Garcia, and Coordinator Pepper Fee.



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