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CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

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35 CENTS

OFF TO CAMP ROTARY



COURTESY PHOTO

Chelsea children are shown on their way to Camp Rotary for a week of fun and just being a kid. The Rotary Club of Chelsea is happy to have sponsored more than 420 Chelsea kids at camp since 1998. Thanks to the Chelsea Police Department for helping to transport the children to camp.

Alpert is Tops in Her Field

Chelsea High athletic director centers Renegades' run to national title game

By Cary Shuman

As director of athletics at Chelsea High School, Amanda Alpert has been busy interviewing candidates for the vacant Chelsea High School football head coaching position.

As for her other high-profile position - starting center for the Boston Renegades women's professional football team - Alpert is enjoying another immensely successful season.

With Alpert and company controlling the line of scrimmage, the Boston Renegades rolled to a 58-6 victory over the Alabama Fire in the Women's Football Alliance (WFA) semifinals Saturday night at Harry Della Russo Stadium

in Revere.

That means Alpert and the Renegades will be boarding a plane bound next Thursday for Canton, Ohio where they will play the St. Louis Slam with the hope of winning the organization's fifth consecutive national title. Chelsea High students will be able to watch their amazing AD in action July 22 live on ESPN2.

The Renegades (8-0) put on a 60-minute football clinic against Alabama, excelling in all phases of the game: offense, defense, special teams, and coaching strategy. Led by their legendary 42-year-old quarterback Alison Cahill competing in her 20th season, the Renegades scored



ROBERT MARRA PHOTO

Boston Renegades center Amanda Alpert, (50) the athletic director at Chelsea High School, sets herself to block on-rushing Alabama Fire defender Kerrie Isom.

eight touchdowns in their well-balanced, hurry-up offense.

"Alison puts in a lot of hard work," credited Alpert. "She's smart. She's strong. She's just the ultimate athlete. She's who you want in

there on every play."

Playing against the undefeated Alabama contingent for the first time, Alpert teamed up with starting tackles Hillary Crook and Ashley Beckham, guards

See ALPERT Page 7

City hosting childhood vaccination clinics

By Adam Swift

The city's health department is launching a free childhood vaccine clinic on the second Thursday of the month over the summer.

The first clinic is scheduled for Thursday, July 13 from noon to 4 p.m. by appointment only. The clinics are for children ages 5 to 18, regardless of immigration status, and all vaccines needed for school enrollment will be available.

The clinics will be held at the Chelsea Public Health Department in room 100 of City Hall at 500 Broadway. To make an appointment, call (617) 947-6481 or email resourcesteam@mapc.org.

The childhood vaccine clinic aims to address the falling rates of childhood immunization since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic in a convenient

location.

"The idea came up through essentially hearing from providers that there were delays in getting children fully immunized," said Flor Amaya, the city's public health director.

Public Health Nurse Paula McHatton said there are two groups the city is looking to serve through the vaccine clinic.

There is the adolescent and pediatric population that has been in the country for a long time, and fell behind on the vaccination schedule because of the pandemic.

There are also families who are newly arrived in the country who find it difficult to establish a medical home, and in order to begin school, they need at least one series of their vaccinations.

"In recognizing that

See CLINIC Page 2

ZBA denies Warren Ave. two-family proposal

By Adam Swift

Tuesday night, the Zoning Board of Appeals voted to deny a special permit for the construction of a four-story, two-family building at 122 Warren Ave.

The proposal would have subdivided the current parcel, allowing an existing three-story residential building to remain on the property.

The project was met with opposition from abutters, including City Council President Leo Robinson, about the size of the project and the steep grade of the property, among other issues.

Robinson has stated that

the proposal was too large and would not fit the residential character of the neighborhood.

Last month, the Planning Board voted against recommending approval of the project.

"There are four conditions to the Variance and in making their findings relative to those conditions, the (Zoning) Board did not agree that the permit could be issued without a significant detriment to the public good," stated John DePriest, the city's Director of Permitting and Land Use Planning.

Richard Lynds, the attorney for the project, had

See ZBA Page 2

Lithium-ion powered skateboard cited as cause of Washing Ave. fire

Staff Report

A lithium-ion powered skateboard that was being charged overnight caused a fire on Washington Avenue in the early morning hours of Saturday, July 8, according to Chelsea Fire Chief Leonard Albanese.

In the early morning hours of July 8, Chelsea Fire received a call for a building fire at 330 Washington Avenue. Companies arrived to find smoke coming from the first floor of a 2-1/2 story wood-frame occupied dwelling.

An interior attack ensued with handlines stretched to the first floor to extinguish the fire while other companies searched for occupants and fire spread, according to the chief.

The fire was contained to the first floor with no civilian injuries and one minor firefighter injury. Three occupants were

displaced. The cause of the fire was a lithium-ion powered skateboard that was actively being charged overnight.

"This incident highlights the dangers of lithium-ion powered devices that are becoming prevalent in society today," stated Albanese.

The fire chief said the Chelsea Fire Department wants to warn residents of the dangers of lithium-ion powered mobility devices. When these devices fail,

See FIRE Page 2

CITY OF JOY FAIR IS A CELEBRATION OF RESILIENCE AND STRENGTH



City of Joy Wellness Fair was held at Chelsea Square. Pastor Elaine Mendes of Revival Center Community Church (second from right) is shown with a dance group that performed traditional Brazilian dances during the fair. See Page 6 for more photos.

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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

LE NAMED TO DEAN’S LIST

Quynh Le of Chelsea was named to the College of the Holy Cross Spring 2023 Dean’s List.

A member of the Class of 2026, Le was named to the Dean’s List for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2022-23 academic year.

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

About Holy Cross
The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation’s leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional, and civic life.

SHANG EARNS DEAN’S LIST HONORS

Jonathan Shang of Chelsea, is majoring in Media Arts Production and is a member of Emerson College’s Class of 2025.

The requirement to make Dean’s List at Emerson College is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for that semester.

About Emerson College
Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city’s Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the

world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has approximately 4,161 undergraduates and 554 graduate students from across the United States and nearly 70 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs at Emerson Los Angeles, located in Hollywood, and at its 14th-century castle, in the Netherlands. Additionally, there are opportunities to study in Washington, DC, London, China, and the Czech Republic, Spain, Austria, Greece, France, Ireland, Mexico, Cuba, England, and South Africa. The College has an active network of 51,000+ alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts.

CHELSEA RESIDENT NAMED TO PRESIDENT’S LIST

Shania Velleca of Chelsea has earned a place on the President’s List for the Spring 2023 semester. Students named to the President’s List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residential college located in Franklin Massachusetts, 45 minutes from Boston, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island. Dean College offers baccalaureate degrees, associate degree programs, as well as a robust schedule of part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the calendar year.

Sidewalk work underway on Carroll Street

The city has begun a sidewalk reconstruction project on Carroll Street that is scheduled to run through the middle of August and will limit on-street parking in the area.

The work includes the demolition of the existing sidewalks and the installation of granite curb on Carroll Street from Eastern Avenue to Crescent Avenue and on Lisa Lane.

The work is scheduled to take place from 7 a.m.

to 5 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday until August 16.

On-street parking will be prohibited during the times and dates posted on the construction signage throughout the work zone. Violation of the parking prohibition will result in involuntary towing at the owner’s expense.

On-street parking is allowed once construction hours have finished. After work is completed and

construction signs are removed, residents are free to park in the available on-street parking spaces.

If the weather permits, the city’s intention is to complete scheduled work as soon as possible during the week. City officials stated that they regret the inconvenience that this work may cause and ask for your cooperation as it moves forward with this project. They also acknowledged the impacts

the project will have on local businesses and residents, and stated they are committed to working to reduce disruptions in a quick and efficient manner.

For questions and concerns, residents should contact Joshua Johnson, construction manager, at (617) 293-1799 or jjohnson@chelseama.gov.

City, community organizations see influx of Haitian migrants

By Adam Swift

Over the past week, Chelsea has dealt with the impact of nearly 300 migrants, primarily from Haiti, who have been either dropped off or directed to the city for emergency services.

To deal with the influx, the state contracted with local non-profit La Colaborativa to serve as an immigrant welcome center after the newly opened welcome center in Allston was overwhelmed by arriving migrants.

“Over the last two days our triage department has provided wraparound services for 250 individuals, the majority of whom are Haitian immigrants,” stated an email from La Colaborativa that was sent out last week. “These services include: food, housing, health assessments and rapid reemployment.”

Since last week, La Colaborativa has continued to coordinate emergency services for the migrants. Temporary shelter housing has been set up, primarily at hotels in Saugus, Everett, and Revere.

Alex Train, Chelsea’s Director of Housing and Community Development, said the plan is to consolidate that temporary shelter housing at the enVision Hotel in Everett.

The Rev. Myrlande Desrosier, who heads the Everett Haitian Community Center, has also been assisting La Colaborativa

and local agencies with the migrant influx.

Chelsea is well versed in accepting and helping migrant populations, but the events of the past week have been at a different level.

“The influx of new arrivals, particularly from South and Central America, has been a longstanding trend in the community,” said Train. “Over the course of the last fall, we started to see new arrivals in very small numbers coming into the city, the majority of which had familial connections to the city of Chelsea.”

On Wednesday night, July 5, Train said the city was alerted to a large influx of new arrivals, predominantly from Haiti, that had arrived in Massachusetts to the Allston welcoming center and were redirected to Boston Medical Center as the welcoming center was overwhelmed.

“Because of a new policy at Boston Medical Center, where the hospital no longer allowed (the migrants) to stay overnight, they were directed to Logan Airport and ultimately to Chelsea,” said Train. “Since then, La Colaborativa has mobilized to coordinate the necessities – food assistance, healthcare, and shelter in coordination with the Commonwealth. Approximately 300 new arrivals have been temporarily housed in shelters by La Colaborativa under the

direction of the Commonwealth.”

Train noted that the migrants have been vetted by immigration and customs officials, and that a large number are children and pregnant women.

In a statement from Governor Maura Healey’s office, state officials said they have been working closely with La Colaborativa on an orderly process to transition the families to hotels, and that the governor’s office continues to work with local, federal, and community partners to expand the capacity of the emergency assistance program and find long-term solutions.

“It has been encouraging to witness how La Colaborativa stepped up to be a partner with the Healey Administration’s plan to welcome families to Massachusetts during this crucial time,” said State Representative Judith Garcia. “Working in coalition with the state government and Reverend Myrlande DesRosiers’s team at Everett Haitian Community Center, they’re helping our new neighbors settle in and navigate the resources available to them. My office is ready to support this effort in whatever way we can.”

While local, state, and community organizations have stepped in to help, Train said such unpredictable large influxes of migrants can put a strain on resources of the city and

its local partners.

“This recent infusion of migrants has seemingly overwhelmed the state’s resources, including systems that have been set up to accommodate new arrivals,” said Train. “Therefore, we are working closely with Governor Healey’s office and other Commonwealth agencies, along with La Colaborativa, to ensure that the necessary federal and state resources are allocated to support the new arrivals with basic necessities.”

Predicting when Chelsea or other area communities might be hit with a similar large stream of migrants is difficult, Train said.

“One of the major realizations over the past week has been that the influx of new migrants is extremely difficult to predict in the current political landscape,” said Train. “There are governors that are busying folks up to Massachusetts, California, and New York from the southern border states. But for other communities, making sure that there are local models that can be deployed in conjunction with the state temporarily to bring in support is important.

“In this instance, we are not sure what we would have done if it wasn’t for La Colaborativa, because it would have taken the state a number of weeks to get the necessary resources in place.”

Clinic / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

one, Covid put a barrier in accessing timely appointments, and also created a shortage of staff impacting the access of newly arrived families to appointments, we thought it was necessary to create a system where at least we could help and support our medical providers,” said Amaya.

With the recent influx

of Haitian migrants to the city, Amaya said the city is holding a separate immunization clinic to address the needs of those children next week.

“The intention is to do (the immunization clinic) one time a month, but we are flexible and open to re-assessing frequency based on need,” said Amaya.

ZBA / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

argued that a revised plan for the two-family building addressed previously raised issues with a parking plan and a stormwater management plan. The proposal included a new asphalt driveway between the existing building and the proposed building, with seven new parking spaces behind the two buildings, four for the two-family condo units and three for the existing three-family – which currently has no on-site parking.

Lynds had also stated that the opposition to the project, including Robinson, was going to stand in the way of the project no matter what adjustments were made to the plan.

In other business, the ZBA unanimously approved a special permit for Rivian electric vehicle company to store new vehicles at 305 Eastern Ave.

The approved project includes parking 142 electric vehicles on the

site, maintaining 45 parking spots for the existing building on the property, and limiting approval for the project to five years.

The building is currently occupied by Glyptal Paint. Anthony Rossi, the attorney for the applicant, said it is expected that Glyptal will vacate the building next year, and Rivian will likely use a small portion of it. He said it is likely that Rivian will renovate the building once it is vacated.

The remainder of the building could be opened for future development, Rossi said. In addition,

there will also be a new green space on the property which could add to the ability to develop the site in the future.

City officials had been concerned about the initial proposal for the project that did not include the five-year limit on the approval, citing it would limit development that would be more amenable to the city on a valuable piece of property.

The Eastern Avenue parcel is an airport-related overlay district, and the zoning does allow for the storage and repair of vehicles in that district.

Fire / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1


they catch fire very rapidly and give off toxic gasses.

To safely use these devices, residents should only use factory authorized compatible chargers, never charge overnight or when the unit is unattended, and never attempt to charge damaged batteries

If someone sees smoke

from a device, they should evacuate and call 911 immediately.


Visit chelseama.gov, click on the Fire Department page, and then the Summer Fire Safety Video link for more information on lithium-ion battery use and other home fire safety tips.



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Bob Hart pays tribute to Chelsea in his award acceptance speech

The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles honored the life and philanthropic legacy of Chelsea native Robert “Bob” Hart at the Real Estate and Construction Network Dinner at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California.

Hart grew up on Bellingham Street and attended the Shurtleff School and Chelsea High School, where he was an excellent student. He went to earn his undergraduate degree from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and his MBA from the Anderson School of Management at the University of California (UCLA). Hart is the founder, chief executive officer, and president of TruAmerica Multifamily.

According to The Real Deal Real Estate News, the REC Dinner is the premier gathering of real estate professionals in Los Angeles. The event focused on the power of philanthropy to uplift those in need in the Los Angeles community.

“Mr. Hart’s selfless contributions were integral to making the REC Dinner such a tremendous success,” wrote the Real Estate News in its coverage of the dinner. “The record-shattering sum (more than \$3.3 million) those in attendance donated was a testament to Mr. Hart’s long-reaching charitable influence.”

After receiving a standing ovation from the

guests in attendance in appreciation of his many philanthropic endeavors, Hart delivered a humble and heartfelt award acceptance speech.

“I am truly honored to be standing before you as your 2023 dinner honoree,” began Hart.

“First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Cynthia, my beautiful wife, who has inspired me for 35 years ---and to my brilliant daughter, Mia, who will be moving east in the fall to attend Boston College and who has brought so much happiness to our lives ---together they motivate and support me at every turn, never without hesitation. Thank you both. I love you very much.”

Hart then spoke of his upbringing in Chelsea, where he learned about the importance of community service and philanthropy.

“Now — I want to tell you a little bit about my personal journey and what seeded my roots in Jewish life, philanthropy, and business,” said Hart. “Trust me, it didn’t begin from this stage here at the Hilton. ... My Jewish life began 65 years ago in the hard scrabble city of Chelsea, Massachusetts. Despite its gritty image — Chelsea’s spirit remained unbroken.

“Despite the challenges and tougher living conditions — there was a thriving Jewish com-



2023 REC Dinner honoree Bob Hart (fifth from left) with RPO members Jonathan Klein, Steve Gozini, Howard Schwimmer, Sandy Sigal, Brian Fagan, Mark Weinstein, Ken Kahan, Jesse Sharf, and Federation President CEO Rabbi Noah Farkas.

munity there with many congregations. The center of Jewish life was the local YMHA — where we played basketball and tag football and went on field trips to the Boston Garden to see the Celtics play (who more often than not --- beat the Lakers!). The “Y” opened a larger world outside of Chelsea to me.

“We learned about the importance of community service and philanthropy. When I was 14, I joined the B’nai B’rith youth organization called AZA — I think it was my first real experience navigating the politics of organizational governance, which seeded my negotiating skills. I was elected president in my junior year and learned how to reconcile differences of opinion, developed a social outlet, and first learned about the importance of charitable giving. ... A few of us went to local shopping malls on Saturdays to collect coins for kiddie camp. I learned how to ask people for donations and to backpedal with them as they nearly wheeled their large shopping carts over me rushing out of Stop & Shop. They would attempt to detour, but I never gave up. They couldn’t escape my earnest pitch — “giving only hurts for a minute!” ... They would smile and try to get out of reach from my outstretched arm while I was pleading for

just a small donation to help less privileged kids go to kiddie camp. Now, I have changed my fundraising tactics — I just use the phone, internet, and text messaging — it’s a lot safer — and I don’t have to ask for donations while dodging shopping carts filled with groceries.

“So, it was through those early formative years that I became imbued with the mindset that working hard and doing well in school was just not enough to succeed and feel satisfied in life — you had to find a way to give back. ... Today, that philosophy is embodied in a credo we have adopted at TruAmerica and BCE. It goes like this — “you can do good — while you’re doing well.” ... We make corporate philanthropy a mission, it’s part of our DNA and our culture to be charitable whether it’s for the Federation, the City of Hope, Chrysalis, numerous universities, supporting the families of U.S. and Israeli Navy Seals — your generosity makes it possible. You make it all possible. I may be the honoree here tonight, but all of you are the real honorees. You made tonight important — you showed up in droves with your time and treasure — thank you.”

Hart also recalled his humble beginnings in Chelsea, where the

hard-working and proud son of Alfred and Sylvia Hart operated an ice cream truck to help pay for his college education.

“Part of my simple message to you here tonight is — success in life does not occur overnight,” said Hart. “It begins with taking small baby steps and continues with the life experiences and relationships we cultivate that build up on each other. ... My first job wasn’t as CEO of the 25th largest multifamily owner in the nation — it was driving a leased ice cream truck through Boston’s inner city housing projects in the dog days of summer to earn money to help pay for my education. ... It was the intensity of this hard work and long days that seeded my strong work ethic that guides my path today. This is why we need to appreciate the journey — so when we land at a good place, where we can do something bigger than ourselves for a group like the Federation, it is so rewarding. Take time to remember where you came from — to appreciate the journey. In my case, it began in Chelsea, Massachusetts, the son of a postal worker and a housewife growing up in a tidy tenement set on a hill overlooking Logan Airport, and the Mystic River Bridge in the distance. ... It was from that perch, not

this one, where I dreamed what it might be like to elevate myself out of Chelsea without ever forgetting my humble roots and all the kind people there who gave me their friendship, shared their wisdom, and offered kindness when I needed it most.

“In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to my colleagues at TruAmerica and BCE who work very hard and never say “no” to my constant requests for raising money.

— To my cousins who traveled here today from Noston — the Pilavins and the Mitchells — who are always there for my family.

— To the entire Jewish Federation’s Real estate and construction network.

— And of course, to Cynthia and Mia —

I can’t thank all of you enough for your support. Thanks to each and every one of you for all you do and your dedication to the Jewish community. ... Your generosity and commitment to this cause and to tonight’s dinner have made a tremendous positive impact on the lives of Jews around the world. Thank you again for this wonderful honor, and for all that you do.”

(Information and excerpts from The Real Deal Real Estate News were used in the compilation of this story).



Robert “Bob” Hart, is pictured at the podium at the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles Dinner in Beverly Hills where he was honored for his lifelong commitment to community service and philanthropy.

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Oh, Juhyeon	Mitchell, Bridgette	175 Cottage St #415	\$440,000
Mandrachia, Lisania C	Shaw, Jenny D	212 Washington Ave #3	\$325,000
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A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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Chelsea

RECORD

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley
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PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS NEED TO GET REAL

The opposition by some progressive Democrats to President Joe Biden’s decision to send cluster bombs to Ukraine is yet another indication of how out-of-touch with reality they can be on certain issues.

To be sure, the use of cluster bombs can have many drawbacks, the most significant being that a certain percentage of the bomblets remain unexploded on the battlefield, thereby creating a hazard that remains long after the fighting is over. However, when compared to the horrors being wrought upon the Ukrainian people by the Russian invaders, the potential negative impacts of cluster munitions by the Ukrainian military are miniscule. Moreover, let’s not forget that the Ukrainians are using these weapons in their own country and will be targeting Russian troops at the front lines, thereby limiting the effect of these weapons upon their own civilian population, unlike the Russians, who indiscriminately have been dropping cluster bombs on Ukrainian civilians from the day they invaded.

In an ideal world, no nation would use cluster bombs -- though in an ideal world, there wouldn’t be any war. The simple fact is that the Ukrainians will be using these weapons in their own defense on their own land and they should be the ones to decide what are the acceptable risks. The knee-jerk reaction of some Democratic politicians ignores the reality of what is happening in Ukraine each and every day.

Moreover, these Democrats who oppose the White House on this issue offer no solution to the imminent problem of the Ukrainians running out of artillery shells in their effort to dislodge the Russian invaders. In addition, these Democrats are playing into the hands of Putin, giving him some hope that American politicians will hamstring the Ukrainians in the defense of their country.

While it may be generally true that two wrongs do not make a right, that is not the case in Ukraine. If these cluster bombs help drive out the Russians, they will have been well worth it.

And to use another metaphor, we can’t allow the Ukrainians to bring a knife to a gunfight.

WHERE IS THAT RUSSIAN “REBEL” ARMY?

Two weeks ago, the news headlines were all about the supposed attempted coup by Yevgheny Prigozhin, the head of the Wagner group, who reportedly was marching his 8000 man army to Moscow. But since then, both he and his army have all but disappeared.

Well, maybe we’ve been watching too many of those mini-series shows on Netflix and the other streaming channels, but we hope that U.S. intelligence agencies are tracking this guy and his army -- because it wouldn’t surprise us if Putin and he have planned some sort of subterfuge, a ruse, by which they will launch a surprise attack on Ukraine from Belarus or somewhere else in the north of Ukraine.

And if they do, the U.S. and NATO will need to be ready to send in our air support to bomb the Wagner advance (technically, they’ll be bombing the private Wagner group, not the Russian army), because if the Ukrainians are caught flat-footed, Prigozhin could be in Kyiv within hours.

Beach Commission addresses coastal climate change impact

By Adam Swift

State and local leaders discussed the impact of climate change on beaches from Hull to Lynn as part of the state’s Metropolitan Beaches Commission’s initial public hearing on Tuesday morning.

The meeting was expected to be the first of many to address flooding, sea level rise, and erosion along the metropolitan coastline.

“Our goal is to start the conversation from the goal of the Metropolitan Beaches Commission to prioritize the resilience and protection of metropolitan beaches from Nahant to Nantasket,” said Chris Mancini, the Executive Director of Save the Harbor, Save the Bay.

Mancini said there are three main questions that are the focus for the communities during the initial stages of the beach commission hearings. Those include actions that are working now in the communities to address climate issues at the beaches, what are the gaps that need to be addressed, and what the communities would most like to see preserved along their beach and waterfronts.

State Senator Brendan Crighton, who co-chairs the Metropolitan Beaches Commission, said that when he first came to the State House, climate change and climate resiliency was an issue but not one that was necessarily at the top of everyone’s agenda.

“But climate resiliency certainly is now, particularly for those of us who represent communities along the coast,” said Crighton.

Over the past weekend, Crighton said he went to the beach in Nahant and his son asked him if he could imagine the whole world covered in water, and Crighton said the idea wasn’t that far-fetched.

“This is a serious issue, one that affects us not only now, but thinking about future generations and what exactly the beaches will look like,” said Crighton. “Imagine Massachusetts with no beaches, it is certainly a troubling notion for all of us.”

Julia Knisel from the state’s office of Coastal Zone Management said there needs to be a collaborative effort among state and local agencies and organizations to address the coastal impacts of climate change.

Knisel noted that concrete seawalls line the Massachusetts coast, but that many of them are a

century old.

“We need to look at the condition and height of the structures relative to current storm surge and conditions, and we need to look to the future, as well,” said Knisel.

There also needs to be a closer look at the lowering of beaches in addition to beach erosion, as well, Knisel said.

Over the past decade, Knisel said the office of Coastal Zone Management has awarded over \$34 million in grants to local communities for coastal climate resiliency projects to retrofit current infrastructure and put in place shoreline and dune restoration projects.

Nick Connors of the DCR addressed how that department has pivoted in the past several years to address climate change issues.

“DCR’s mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our natural, cultural, and recreational resources,” said Connors.

Chief among those natural resources are 27 salt-water beaches, many of which are in the Greater Boston area.

“Climate change is already exacerbating natural hazards and extreme weather events leading to new impacts that will affect the Commonwealth,” said Connors. “This is such a critical issue that DCR recognized this and established a new office in early 2021 to develop and implement an agency framework that climate change considerations are included into the agency’s initiatives and agency projects,” said Connors.

The office works across the spectrum of federal, state, regional, and municipal partners to ensure that the DCR is implementing its core values and sustainable practices and resiliency across its infrastructure, assets, and resources, Connors said.

Catherine McCandless of the Boston Environment Department and Delaney Morris of the Boston Planning and Development Agency highlighted the recent planning efforts and proposed climate resiliency projects for Boston’s beaches.

Those efforts include a project at Constitution Beach in East Boston, where officials are looking at a system of berms and dunes with a reinforced core that would reinforce the sandy beach and protect the Blue Line from flooding.

In discussing the Town of Hull’s coastline resiliency efforts, town Con-

servation Director Christian Kahforst said it is important to listen to and understand local history.

“It really matters to get what locals understand and witnessed in the past,” said Krahforst.

Mancini said the beach commission will begin to zero in on more specifics as it continues to meet in the coming months.

“This is really the first conversation, the first meeting,” said Mancini.

Future meetings will take a deeper dive into individual communities and beaches, although he added that all of the communities and beaches will benefit from the more region-wide discussions.

Revere State Representative Jessica Giannino said the issues with flooding and resiliency in Revere stretch back to at least the Blizzard of ‘78. She also noted that as a city councilor, she would tour beach communities with the public works department as neighborhoods were flooded by storm surges.

In addition to maintaining the beaches for everyone to enjoy, Giannino said it’s important to maintain infrastructure for those who live close to the coast.

“It is also really important that people don’t lose their homes and that we invest in infrastructure that ensures that their homes are still there in 100 years,” said Giannino.

She also said that there needs to be an investment in vegetative berms and other natural solutions to rising sea levels, and not just concrete seawalls which don’t always last.

First Suffolk State Senator Nick Collins praised the advocacy work Save the Harbor, Save the Bay has done over the decades, and said he was looking forward to working with new DCR Director Brian Arrigo on resiliency efforts in the coming years. Collins did suggest that an increased investment from the DCR in providing more beach sand could provide some short-term relief for beach erosion.

HIGH BACTERIA LEVELS LEAD TO LOCAL BEACH CLOSINGS

It hasn’t been the best summer so far for local beachgoers.

Following a rainy June and Fourth of July holiday, many popular local beaches, including Constitution Beach in East Boston and Revere Beach, were closed to swimming due

to high bacteria levels.

As of Tuesday, July 11, Swim at Your Own Risk signs because of the high bacteria levels were posted at Kings Beach and Lynn Beach in Lynn, and Donovan’s Beach in Winthrop.

The 53 beaches closed statewide early this week were actually an improvement over last week, when the heavy holiday weekend rains led to over 70 closures. Revere Beach and Short Beach in Revere and Constitution Beach in East Boston were closed to swimming for a time last week, but were reopened to swimming this week.

“The Town of Winthrop conducts weekly tests of the water quality of 5 beaches in Winthrop for levels of Enterococci which is an indicator of fecal pollution and possible enteric pathogens,” Winthrop health officials stated. “When the level exceeds 104 MPN (most probable number)/100 mL, the Town of Winthrop closes the beach. High levels are usually due to heavy rainfall and usually return to normal levels after a retest.”

In Revere, DCR and Revere DPW test the water quality weekly during the summer for a specific type of bacteria; when bacteria levels get too high, the water can become unsafe for swimming or ingestion.

The high bacteria levels typically happen due to high rain events or circumstances that lead to substantial run-off discharging into waterways.

The water will continue to be tested weekly.

Swimming or ingesting contaminated water could result in symptoms like nausea, diarrhea, stomach cramps, chills or fever.

Revere officials stated that if anyone is concerned about their potential exposure to contaminated water when signage is posted to contact their healthcare provider.

To minimize illness and injury associated with swimming, and to notify the public about the quality of beach water, the state’s Department of Public Health collects beach water quality data from local health departments and the DCR. All public and semi-public bathing beaches in Massachusetts are monitored for fecal indicator bacteria (FIB), and on occasion, harmful algae.

Monitoring occurs during the beach season, which begins when the school year finishes in mid-June and ends during the weekend of Labor Day.

Your opinions, please

The Chelsea Record welcomes letters to the editor.

Our mailing address is

385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151.

Letters may also be e-mailed to

editor@chelsearecord.com.

Letters must be signed.

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Sumner Tunnel Closure: You've Got Options

This summer, MassDOT's Sumner Tunnel Restoration Project will close the tunnel from 7/5 to 8/31. The MBTA offers simple ways to get to Boston. Park the car and hop on the Blue Line, Commuter Rail, or Ferry.



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Take the Ferries Between Boston and East Boston, Lynn, or Winthrop

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- Free East Boston Ferry between Lewis Wharf and Long Wharf (North)
- No parking available

Lynn

- \$2.40 for a one-way trip with new ferry service between Blossom Street Pier and Long Wharf (South), weekdays only, 10 trips per day
- Free parking at Blossom Street Pier parking lot

Winthrop

- MBTA will operate Winthrop Ferry Service for \$2.40 per trip
- Service between Winthrop, Quincy, Logan Airport, Aquarium, and Seaport



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Effective July 5 to August 31, Bus routes 111, 112, 114, 116, and 117 are free. SL3 will offer free service from the airport, Bellingham Square, Box District, Chelsea, and Eastern Ave.

Learn more at
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CITY OF JOY FAIR IS A CELEBRATION OF RESILIENCE AND STRENGTH

This year’s Wellness Fair was called City of Joy. The goal of the Fair was to bring Wellness and Joy to the community to celebrate Resilience and Strength following the

pandemic. The fair was held at Chelsea Square.

We are very thankful for all attendees: Community Car Van, Healthy Chelsea, Project Bread, United Healthy Care, East

Boston Neighborhood Health Center, Foster Child and Adult Care, and all visitors that all together with happiness celebrated wellness and experience pure joy .



Many tea selections were available at the fair.



The smoothie station was popular. As shown (above and below) customers rode a bicycle to power the blender to make their smoothie.



Traditional Brazilian Capoeira style martial arts demonstrations were performed.



There was also a manicure station.



The Community Care Van was stationed at City Square for the fair.

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A logo for the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, featuring a stylized blue and white design.

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The AmeriCorps logo, which consists of a stylized 'A' inside a circle.

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A logo for the Massachusetts Service Alliance, featuring a colorful geometric pattern.

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Chelsea resident Michelle McDonough has a leadership role with the Renegades

By Cary Shuman

Michelle McDonough has a key role with the reigning five-time WFA champion Boston Renegades women’s professional football team.

McDonough, who lived in Chelsea, is the team’s chief growth officer. She has been an executive with the team during the team’s amazing run.

McDonough was asked what the crucial factors were in building such a successful organization that has won 39 consecutive football games and five consecutive national championships.

“Dedication, effort, commitment, and great coaching,” replied McDonough. “It’s been a team effort all around, from the players to the coaches, to the front office. We’re celebrating Allison Cahill’s 20th season

at quarterback. Amanda Alpert is in her 19th season playing women’s professional football. John Johnson is in his eighth season as head coach, and the majority of our coaches have been with the Renegades for the bulk of our history as an organization.”

McDonough said Alpert, the Chelsea High athletic director, “has been a great, consistent asset to the Renegades organization.”

McDonough also hailed the special teams of which Alpert, the starting center, is the long snapper. Vanessa Baer is the team’s phenomenal placekicker while Ashley Beckham is the highly dependable holder.

“We have great talent in our special teams on the field, and in our special teams’ coach Cliff Ashley,

which is a luxury to have someone that committed to that facet of game. He’s very committed to training the kickers, but also to making sure that they’re prepared for the situations they may be in for every opponent.”

McDonough was a top-tier athlete herself at Belmont High School, having excelled in soccer, basketball, and softball for the Marauders.

McDonough will be traveling to Canton, Ohio, next week for the Renegades’ national championship game against the St. Louis Slam. Both teams have 8-0 records.

“There’s tons of excitement built up,” said McDonough. “Our players enjoyed their Sunday after the [semifinal victory], but we’re back to work with practices and team meetings.”



Brianna Gallo (24) and Solina Pascual (15) team up to put an end to a Fire run by Bleu McFarland (25).



Carolyn Glynn fights for yardage dragging carries Fire's Unicka Brown after Glynn intercepted a Fire pass. Teammates Solina Pascual (15) and Deanna Walsh (53) move in to help.

Alpert / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Samantha McKay and Jessica Hayden, and reserve Molly Winsten to furnish the awesome blocking that helped running backs Tytti Kuusinen and Ruth Matta account for close to 250 yards rushing and three touchdowns. Meanwhile, Cahill was extraordinary while completing 14 passes for 175 yards and five touchdowns. Stephanie Pasqual had six receptions for 31 yards, scoring two touchdowns. Chante Bonds, who was honored with the Tradition’s prestigious Football Legacy Award in December, used her speed and elusiveness to turn a screen pass into a 46-yard touchdown, one of two scores for the Renegades’ all-time great.

Alpert, 39, takes pride in

the O-line’s performance and her individual contribution to the team’s success this season.

“I like to think this has been my most consistent year,” said Alpert.

Alpert said her team works hard on game preparations on and off the practice field. That extra effort has certainly showed up on the scoreboard as head coach John Johnson’s Renegades have won an astounding 39 games in a row and built a WFA football dynasty.

“I think what we do day in and day out, people underestimate the work that they we put it in on and off the field to be better and be the best, honestly,” said Alpert.

Part of that dedicated preparation extends to the Renegades’ kicking game. Alpert is the team’s long snapper on extra points for placekicker Vanessa Baer, who was a perfect 8-of-8 on PATs in the semifinals. Ashley Beckham is the holder on extra points.

Asked if the 2023 season has been satisfying, Alpert said, “Up to this point it has. But I won’t be completely satisfied until the final whistle of the championship game when we have more points than the St. Louis Slam.”

Alpert will look to complete another perfect season next Saturday as football fans across the continent watch the excitement unfold on national television.

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SENATOR DIDOMENICO HOSTS BRAZILIAN ELECTED OFFICIAL AT THE STATE HOUSE

Last week, Senator Sal DiDomenico hosted his friend Sam Amado and Sao Paulo, Brazil City Councilor Eliel Fox, along with his wife, Danny, for a State House tour. DiDomenico showed them his office, the Senate Chamber, and officially welcomed them during a Senate Session. The Senator and Fox discussed a wide range of topics including their work, backgrounds, family history, and so much more.

Senator DiDomenico said “it was a pleasure to host Eliel and Danny, and it was great learning about the many similarities and differences between our jobs and our country’s governments. I have many constituents who are from Brazil or have family there, so it was fascinating to learn even more about this beautiful country and the daily life of an elected official working there. I want to thank my friend Sam for introducing us and for his support and friendship throughout the years.”



Senator Sal DiDomenico speaking with Brazil City Councilor Eliel Fox and Sam Amado on the Senate Balcony.



Senator DiDomenico in the Senate Chamber with Brazil City Councilor Eliel Fox and his wife, Danny Fox.

Commonwealth Shakespeare Company announces the cast and creative team of Macbeth

Commonwealth Shakespeare Company (CSC) and Steven Maler, Artistic Director, announce the complete cast and creative team for this summer’s production of Shakespeare’s tragedy Macbeth on the Boston Common. Performances begin on July 19 and run through Sunday, August 6 at the Parkman Bandstand. The production will be available for press viewing from Wednesday, July 26 and is presented in partnership with the City of Boston, Mayor Michelle Wu, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Ryan Woods, and Boston Chief of Arts and Culture, Kara Elliott-Ortega.

In Shakespeare’s classic tragedy, an unexpected prophecy sends Macbeth on a quest to become King of Scotland. Consumed by ambition and prompted to action by his wife, Macbeth’s desire for power unleashes his unbridled hunger for power. This murderous tale explores the consequences of our choices when we lose our moral compass.

Actor, writer, director, and producer Faran Tahir* returns to CSC to play the title role. He received enthusiastic media and audi-



The set design of Shakespeare’s tragedy Macbeth on the Boston Common.

ence reception in the title role of Richard III on the CSC stage in 2019 and has recently completed the much-acclaimed run of The Kite Runner on Broadway.

The role of Lady Macbeth will be performed by stage, TV, and film actor Joanne Kelly* in her CSC debut, previously seen in Boston as Inge Morath in Fall at the Huntington Theatre. She recently starred in the Matt Damon/Ben Affleck set-in-Boston television show City on a Hill and was a cast member playing Ju-

liet in the famed Canadian series Slings and Arrows.

The complete cast includes Marianna Bassham* as Malcolm, Jesse Hinson* as First Witch, Nael Nacer* as Macduff, Omar Robinson* as Banquo, Joe Penczak* as Duncan/Siward, Daniel Rios, Jr.* as Ross, Fred Sullivan Jr.* as Sergeant/Porter/Doctor, and Eviva Rose as Young Macduff. The ensemble roles are played by Lily Ayotte, Nick Baum, John Blair, Elijah Brown, Annika Burley, Alexa Cadete, Jack Greenberg, Jessica Golden, Bella Grace

Harris, Cleveland Nicoll, and Xander Viera.

The creative team includes Direction by Steven Maler^, Scenic Design by Riw Rakkulchon**, Costume Design by Nancy Leary**, Lighting Design by Eric Southern** and Maximo Grano De Oro, Sound Design by Dewey Dellay** and David Remedios**, Fight Direction by Robert Walsh, Intimacy Consultation by Jessica Scout Malone, Assistant Director Nikta Sabouri, Production Management by Jenna Worden, Stage Management by Brian Ro-

billard*.

Performances of Macbeth will take place at the Parkman Bandstand on the Boston Common and are FREE of charge. Audience members can bring blankets or chairs or can rent chairs in advance or on-site for \$10 and are permitted to bring modest food items to consume at the show. Seats in the CSC Friends section will be available for reservation in late May along with your donation. Dinner-and-a-Show Packages will be available in partnership with Boston Chops Downtown Crossing.

CSC provides a range of accessibility services, including open captioning, assistive listening devices, and large print programs at every performance, and ASL interpretation and audio description at selected performances.

All performances will be Open Captioned as part of our new Access Infrastructure Initiative, made possible through the generous support of the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation.

Audio Description and ASL Interpretation will be offered Saturday, July 29, 2023, at 8:00 p.m. and ASL Interpretation on Friday, August 4, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., with a Rain Date for Audio Description and ASL Interpretation at Sunday, August 6, 2023 at 8:00 p.m.

Macbeth is supported by our generous sponsors and partners: Boston Chops, The Liberty Mutual Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, the Klarman Family Foundation, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Ovation TV, Xfinity, Boston Cultural Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, GBH, EDGE Media Network, Meet-Boston, Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, Downtown Boston BID, the Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, City of Boston Parks and Recreation, The Boston Globe, Suffolk University, DIG, The Newbury Boston, Vantage Graphics, MIX 104.1, Democracy Brewing, and Ben and Jerry’s.

*Denotes member of Actors’ Equity Association

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Resilient Mystic Collaborative receives \$2.25 million from Barr Foundation

The Mystic River Watershed Association is celebrating a \$2.25 million, three-year grant from the Barr Foundation for continued support of the Resilient Mystic Collaborative (RMC) and regional climate work. Convened by MyRWA and 10 watershed communities in September 2018 and now led by senior staff from 20 cities and towns and non-governmental partners, the RMC focuses on managing flooding and extreme heat on a regional scale and increasing the resilience of our most vulnerable residents and workers to extreme weather.

Collectively, RMC communities have secured nearly \$57 million for climate resilient projects in the Mystic Watershed, with the goal of securing an additional \$100 million in public funding over the next three years.

“The Mystic River watershed needs to take collective and significant action to prepare for a stormier, hotter, and less predictable climate future,” says Patrick Herron, Executive Director of the Mystic River Watershed Association. “This funding enables our communities to achieve outsized public benefits and make progress on our goals of climate equity in the watershed.”

“We are pleased to be able to make this investment in the work of the RMC,” said Barr Foundation Senior Program Officer Kalila Barnett. “Their focus on closing climate equity gaps across especially race and income, and commitment to centering the needs and aspirations of people most affected by their efforts really align with our values.”

“Because of COVID, many more people now understand what GreenRoots has been fighting for since its founding, to ensure that people in historically disinvested communities have the same ability to deal with challenges like climate change as people in wealthy communities,” said John Walkey, Director of Waterfront and Climate Justice Initiatives at Green-



Roots. “As a co-founder of the RMC, I’m glad to see us work to effectively focus scarce public resources on the people who need them most.”

“We’re proud to be a founding community of the Resilient Mystic Collaborative,” said Woburn Mayor Scott Galvin. “Being part of this group has enabled us to secure resources and funding for important community climate change projects, including design work for the 11.3 acre climate resilient Hurd Park, the Shaker Glen wetland stream/trail restoration project and the Horn Pond fish ladder. Over the years, this partnership has been invaluable.”

“Communities along the Mystic River are already feeling the impact of climate change and it is imperative that we meet these challenges with swift, decisive action. The new Barr grant for the RMC will help us do exactly that,” said Somerville Mayor Katjana Balantyne. “Together we can reduce risks, adapt to changing climate patterns, and foster more resilient and equitable communities. I want to thank our colleagues in the Resilient Mystic Collaborative for their hard work and unwavering dedication to fighting climate change.”

“Several of Arlington’s landmark climate projects in recent years relied on data and partnerships—as well as funding—secured by the Resilient Mystic Collaborative,” said Town Manager Sandy Pooler. “This award from the Barr Foundation strengthens our ability to accomplish

our climate planning goals collaboratively, such as preventing flooding and reducing extreme heat.”

“We’ve been working to strengthen our climate resiliency and extend needed resources to our more impact communities,” Medford Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn said. “The Resilient Mystic Collaborative is critical to our climate action work and will directly lead to increased protections for our residents.”

“The Town of Reading is committed to addressing climate change by implementing robust solutions that center the most vulnerable members of our community,” said Town Manager Fidel Maltez. “This work takes a collaborative approach and resources beyond what our Town can provide on its own. The RMC provides our Town with technical support and proven community engagement processes that will affect lasting impact for our residents.”

“The RMC is creating regional collaboration across municipalities to develop long-term resiliency solutions to climate change which knows no boundaries,” said Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria. “Individual communities cannot do this critical work on their own. By sharing information and resources, our environmental work benefits exponentially.”

“The intensifying impacts of climate change are unevenly burdening communities of color, new immigrants, and vulnerable populations in Chelsea,” stated Alex Train,

AICP, Director of Housing & Community Development. “The RMC has enabled us to work with long-standing community partners, like GreenRoots, by adding capacity for regional solutions to coastal flooding, urban heat, and air quality that will stem displacement, combat public health disparities, and allow residents to prosper in place.”

“The RMC is leading regional collaboration to address the impacts of climate change across municipal boundaries and Cambridge is proud to be a part of this amazing organization,” said Katherine Watkins, Cambridge Commissioner of Public Works. “A perfect example of this is the Amelia Earhart Dam, which provides critical protection from coastal flooding to numerous communities, but is owned and operated by the state. Through the RMC, the conversation about the dam has shifted from individual communities identifying the dam as being vulnerable to a coordinated effort with DCR to elevate the dam and other coastal flood pathways.”

“We designed our facilities in Assembly Row and Charlestown with climate change in mind,” said David Burson, Senior Project Manager for Mass General Brigham. “We knew this wouldn’t be enough, however, and understood the need for a regional strategy and coalition to address the larger climate vulnerabilities that we and the communities we serve will be facing. The Resilient Mystic Collaborative has provided an effective

forum for this regional conversation, and has been an incredibly effective catalyst for the funding and implementation of this essential work.”

“I have been part of quite a few partnerships,” said Lexington Town Engineer John Livsey. “The RMC really delivers. I am really proud to have been one of its founders and still involved five years later.”

“Winchester has been working to address increasing heat, flooding and water quality issues,” said Sustainability Director Ken Pruitt. “Through our participation with the RMC, we have access to resources and experts that are helping our community become more resilient to climate change. The RMC is a valuable partner, and we are grateful for its support and collaboration.”

“When we worked with Cambridge on flood mitigation planning for the Alewife neighborhood, it quickly became apparent that the city could not protect itself on its own,” said Barbara Landau, partner at Noble, Wickersham and Heart. “We understood that solutions had to be regional. That is when the RMC stepped in and provided its terrific and effective framework for collaboration and the ability to secure funding for critical projects that benefit the region.”

“People say that cities and towns in Massachusetts don’t like to work together, but the RMC is a great counterexample,” said Carri Hulet, Principal at CH Consulting. “For five years I’ve seen folks work across borders with tremendous good will and it’s paying off. The people who live and work in this region will benefit for decades because their leaders today are doing the hard work of regional collaboration.”

“Our success has been a blend of hard work, high trust, and very, very lucky timing,” said Julie Wormser, MyRWA Senior Policy Advisor. “Right now, the federal government is making a generational investment in equitable, climate-resilient, nature-based projects that

make our communities safer, more just, and more beautiful. Barr’s generous investment means that the RMC is ready and able to leverage this funding to bring more priority projects to fruition.”

Mystic River Watershed at a Glance.

The 76-square-mile Mystic River Watershed stretches from Reading through the northern shoreline of Boston Harbor to Revere. An Anglicized version of the Pequot word missi-tul (“large river with wind- and tide-driven waves”) it is now one of New England’s most densely populated, urbanized watersheds.

The seven-mile Mystic River and its tributaries represented an early economic engine for colonial Boston. Ten shipyards built more than 500 clipper ships in the 1800s before roads and railways replaced schooners and steamships. Tide-driven mills, brickyards and tanneries along both banks of the river brought both wealth and pollution.

In the 1960s, the Amelia Earhart Dam transformed much of the river into a freshwater impoundment, while construction of Interstate 93 filled in wetlands and dramatically changed the river’s course. Since then, many former industrial sites have been cleaned up and redeveloped into new commercial areas and residential communities.

The Mystic is facing growing climate-related challenges: coastal and stormwater flooding, extreme storms, heat, drought and unpredictable seasonal weather. The watershed is relatively low-lying and extensively developed, making it prone to both freshwater and coastal flooding. Its 21 municipalities are home to 600,000 residents, including many who are disproportionately vulnerable to extreme weather: environmental justice communities, new Americans, residents of color, elders, low-income residents and employees, people living with disabilities and English-language learners.

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Two Chelsea residents will cycle toward record-breaking \$70 million fundraising goal

On Aug. 5 and 6, more than 6,000 riders, from around the globe, including two residents from Chelsea, will pedal in the 44th Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC). These cyclists will come together with the common goal of raising a record-breaking \$70 million for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (Dana-Farber). If achieved, this would be the single-largest gift Dana-Farber has ever received, bringing the PMC’s total contribution in the fight against cancer to \$970 million since 1980.

As the nation’s single most successful athletic fundraiser, the fully supported bike-a-thon includes one and two-day routes, from 25 to 211 miles, designed to cater to all levels of cycling and fundraising ability. For the 17th consecutive year, 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar will be donated directly to Dana-Farber to support lifesaving cancer research and treatment. The PMC accounts for more than 60 percent of the Jimmy Fund’s annual revenue as Dana-Farber’s largest single contributor.

“The steadfast commitment of the PMC community year after year continues to inspire me,” said Billy Starr, founder and executive director of the PMC. “With our sights set on a record-breaking fundraising goal for PMC 2023, I’m grateful for the continued support from all PMC riders, volunteers, donors, and sponsors and I can’t wait to see everyone out on the road together this August.”

Riders and volunteers will travel from 43 states

and 8 countries to participate in PMC Ride Weekend festivities in Massachusetts. Most participants in honor of a family member or friend fighting cancer, and 950 riders and volunteers are cancer survivors or current patients, considered Living Proof® of the PMC mission. There are also 150 Dana-Farber employees committed to the cause as riders and volunteers, in some cases to fund their own cancer research.

Registration for PMC 2023 is open through July 6. Join riders from your community in the fight against cancer by registering for one of the following routes still available:

- 25 & 50-Mile Routes (1-Day, 25 or 50 Miles; Sunday, August 6):

Starting and finishing in either Wellesley or Foxboro, these Sunday routes are perfect one-day options for those passionate about giving back.

- Wellesley Century Ride (1-Day, 100 Miles; Sunday, August 6):

The Wellesley Century route is a popular option for riders looking to challenge their endurance in a one-day format while making an impact in the fight against cancer.

- Reimagined Ride (Rider’s Choice Mileage/Timing):

PMC Reimagined riders can ride wherever and whenever they want – except for the PMC routes on PMC weekend. This option is intended to provide flexibility for those that want to contribute to the fight against cancer without specific time or mileage constraints.

The PMC is co-presented by the Red Sox Foundation® and M&T Bank. To make a financial contri-

bution to a rider from your town or to register as a rider, visit www.pmc.org, or call (800) WE-CYCLE. Connect with #PMC2023 on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Thank you to the following riders from Chelsea:

- Wilfredo Pena
- Andrew Vassallo

The Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) is a bike-athon that today raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the world. The PMC was founded in 1980 by Billy Starr, who remains the event’s executive director, an annual cyclist and a fundraiser. The PMC has since raised \$900 million for adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through the Jimmy Fund. The event donates 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar directly to the cause, generating more than 60 percent of the Jimmy Fund’s annual revenue as Dana-Farber’s single largest contributor. The PMC has successfully melded support from committed cyclists, volunteers, corporate sponsors, and individual contributors, all of which are essential to the PMC’s goal and model: to attain maximum fundraising efficiency while increasing its annual gift. The PMC’s hope and aspiration is to provide Dana-Farber’s doctors and researchers with the necessary resources to discover cures for all cancers. For more information on the Pan-Mass Challenge, visit www.pmc.org.



Senator Sal DiDomenico speaking with CAP fellows.

SENATOR DIDOMENICO SPEAKS WITH CIVIC ACTION PROJECT FELLOWS | PHOTO RELEASE

Last week, Senator Sal DiDomenico spoke with graduate students participating in the Civic Action Project (CAP) Fellowship at the State House. DiDomenico shared his journey of getting involved in politics and becoming a City Councilor in his hometown and State Senator for his district. The Senator also discussed his legislative priorities, how he advocates for the issues that

are important to him and his district, and how critical it is to be engaged in state government.

“One of the best parts of this job is talking with young people who are passionate about making positive changes in our world and are eager to learn,” said State Senator Sal DiDomenico. “I know we are facing a wide range of challenges, so it is inspiring to see so many stu-

dents dedicated to working on addressing these issues and making our communities and country a better place. I want to thank the Civic Action Project team for inviting me and for supporting so many young people interested in policymaking. My office has also benefited from this program by having CAP alum, Ayla Thornton, as our amazing Legislative Director.”

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# State public health officials announce season’s first West Nile virus-positive mosquito sample

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced that West Nile virus (WNV) has been detected in mosquitoes in Massachusetts for the first time this year. The presence of WNV was confirmed by the Massachusetts State Public Health Laboratory in a mosquito sample collected July 6 in the town of Brookline in Norfolk County. No human or animal cases of WNV or Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) have been detected so far this year.

“We often find the first evidence of WNV in mosquitoes at about this time every year,” said Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD. “We are asking people to start taking steps now to avoid mosquito bites. While WNV can cause serious illness, there are simple things that you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones.”

WNV is usually transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. There were 10 human cases of WNV in 2022. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50



Apply insect repellent when outdoors to avoid mosquito bites.

are at higher risk for severe disease. Most people infected with WNV will have no symptoms. When present, WNV symptoms tend to include fever and flu-like illness. In rare cases, more severe illness can occur.

“With the recent rain and the warmer weather, mosquito populations will increase and we will start to see more of them carrying WNV,” said Dr. Catherine M. Brown, State Epidemiologist. “Use a mosquito repellent with an EPA-registered ingre-

dient, wear clothing to reduce exposed skin, drain standing water and repair window screens. We also encourage everyone to make it a habit to visit DPH’s mosquito-borne disease web pages so you know when and where WNV activity is occurring.”

**Avoid Mosquito Bites**

Apply insect repellent when outdoors. Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient (DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluidide), permethrin, picar-

idin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-Menthane-3,8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535) according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many

mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning in areas of high risk.

**Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites.** Wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

**Mosquito-Proof Your Home**

Drain Standing Water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools and change the water in birdbaths frequently.

Install or repair screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

**Protect Your Animals**

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets,

tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent WNV and EEE. If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to the Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795, and to the Department of Public Health by calling 617-983-6800.

More information, including all WNV and EEE positive results, can be found on the Arbovirus Surveillance Information web page at Mosquito-borne Diseases | Mass.gov, which is updated daily, or by calling the DPH Division of Epidemiology at 617-983-6800.

# Healey proclaims Hurricane Preparedness Week in Massachusetts

Governor Maura Healey has declared July 9-15, to be “Hurricane Preparedness Week,” recognizing the importance of preparing for the impact of extreme weather. As part of the Administration’s commitment to strengthening community readiness and resiliency, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will highlight the Commonwealth’s ongoing hurricane mitigation efforts and offer resources for residents and municipalities to learn what they can do before, during, and after a powerful storm to stay safe and protect property from hurricane-related hazards.

“As climate change fuels extreme weather across the country, every Massachusetts community must

plan and prepare for the potential impact of tropical storms and hurricanes,” said Governor Healey. “During Hurricane Preparedness Week, I encourage residents of coastal and inland areas alike to visit MEMA’s website for preparedness information, make a plan, and stay informed about how to take care of yourself and your loved ones before, during and after a storm.”

“Severe tropical storms can have a devastating impact on communities. All Massachusetts residents are urged to learn about and prepare for the dangers of these storms,” said Lieutenant Governor Kimberley Driscoll. “Taking steps in advance to prepare and practice an emergency plan will help individuals and families to stay safe

during a storm and recover more quickly when it is over.”

“Hurricane Preparedness Week provides all of us with an opportunity to better prepare for the tropical storms that historically visit Massachusetts in August and September,” said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy. “The significant impact of these weather events – from storm surges on the coast to inland flooding in Western Massachusetts – pose a significant risk that requires thoughtful community planning. I commend MEMA Acting Director Brantley and her team for their commitment to delivering important resources to residents and the communities they call home.”

As part of MEMA’s whole-community approach to hurricane preparedness, the Agency has convened meetings to discuss logistics, operational plans, and capabilities; facilitated numerous local & state tabletop exercises; and will host a Statewide Hurricane Preparedness Symposium in late July to bring together over 250 lo-

cal, state, federal, private sector and voluntary agency emergency management partners to address topics related to hurricane preparedness, response and recovery.

“Inclusivity remains a top priority in everything we do at MEMA, especially when it comes to preparedness,” said MEMA Acting Director Dawn Brantley. “Whether it’s providing technical assistance to communities seeking to create evacuation or transportation plans for individuals with disabilities, or offering culturally appropriate tips in multiple languages on how individuals can be better prepared – our goal is to ensure that we are ready to support all individuals equally and equitably before, during, and after disasters.”

How Residents Can Prepare

Know Your Evacuation Zone – Visit [www.mass.gov/knowyourzone](http://www.mass.gov/knowyourzone) to learn if you live or work in a hurricane evacuation zone. If you live in an area that may flood and may need assistance evacuating, plan with fam-

ily, neighbors, and friends who may be able to assist, and contact your local public safety officials to make them aware of your needs.

Make an Emergency Plan – A plan should address how your family would communicate, evacuate, and shelter in place if needed. Be sure to account for the needs of all your family members, including seniors, children, individuals with disabilities, and pets: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/make-a-family-emergency-plan>. If you receive medical treatment or home health care services, work with your medical provider to determine how to maintain care and service if you are unable to leave your home or have to evacuate.

Build an Emergency Kit – Build an emergency kit that will sustain your household for three to five days without power. For tips on what to include, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/build-an-emergency-kit>

Stay Informed – Every family should have multiple methods for receiving

emergency alerts and is encouraged to reach out to their local officials for preparedness and emergency information specific to their community, including available local emergency notification systems. The Commonwealth’s 2-1-1 hotline is available 24x7 for non-emergency assistance and is available with translation in more than 150 languages and can be accessed via video relay services. To learn more about additional ways to receive alerts and information, including the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts, NOAA Weather Radio, and social and traditional news media, visit: [www.mass.gov/info-details/be-informed-and-receive-emergency-alerts](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/be-informed-and-receive-emergency-alerts)

MEMA will share preparedness and safety information throughout hurricane season. For more information, including interactive evacuation zone maps, multi-lingual social media toolkits and flyers, preparedness tips, videos, and more, visit MEMA’s Hurricane Season Preparedness webpage.

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