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CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

VOLUME 132, No. 2

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

35 CENTS



Governor Maura Healey (center) is flanked by U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren and Dr. Jon Santiago, the Mass. Secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans' Services, as they cut the ribbon for the new long-term care facility for veterans at the Chelsea Soldiers Home last Friday. Among the other officials on hand for the ceremony were Chelsea City Council President Leo Robinson (far left), State Senator Sal DiDomenico (second from left), Acting Soldiers Home Supt. Robert Engell (third from left), Revere City Councilor Ira Novoselsky (who is to the left of Santiago), and Chelsea State Rep. Judith Garcia (who is to the left of Novoselsky).

Officials open new Veterans Housing in Chelsea

By Adam Swift

State and federal leaders cut the ribbon at new Veterans Home in Chelsea community care facility

By Adam Swift

There were big names on hand from the State House and Washington, DC last Friday for a ribbon cutting at the new Massachusetts Veterans Home in Chelsea, but the focus was on the services the new state-of-the-art facility will provide for those who have served and sacrificed for their country.

"The new Veterans Home in Chelsea is what our veterans earned and deserve, and it represents a new era of care and commitment to our veterans in Massachusetts," said Governor Healey. "It offers a sense of community living for our veterans, allows them to have dignity and autonomy in a home-like environment, and makes sure their physical, mental, and emotional needs are met."

Healey was joined at the event by U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough, Senator Elizabeth Warren, and Executive Office of Veterans Services Secretary Jon

Santiago.

The officials visited the home and toured the facility, exploring its features and amenities, including the rehabilitation room and environmentally sustainable elements. They also visited several of the veteran residents living in the building.

The Veterans Home is designed to foster community among residents, with 154 private resident rooms organized around shared community and green spaces. The home is also fossil-fuel free and features geothermal wells and a rooftop solar array.

"Cutting a ribbon on a new community living center really resonates because today's Department of Veterans Affairs traces its very roots to what were essentially community living centers for vets," said McDonough. "The first one was in Maine ... the second one was in Massachusetts."

McDonough said today's community living centers offer a full spectrum of care that includes skilled nursing, rehabilitative services, mental health services and integrate support services



Chelsea City Council President Leo Robinson (left) and Revere City Councilor and Soldiers Home Trustee Ira Novoselsky (right), both of whom are veterans of the Vietnam War era, greet U.S. Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough (center) at the ribbon-cutting ceremony last Friday for the new long-term care facility for veterans at the Chelsea Soldiers Home.

like physical therapy and recreational activities and social engagement pro-

grams.

"What hasn't changed in that time is the courage, the character, and the dignity of the veterans who call this, and will call this, home," he said.

Santiago said the mission of the new facility is to honor those who have selflessly served the nation.

"Although we can't change the past, we can shape the future," said Santiago. "The Veterans Home at Chelsea represents a pivotal juncture in our ongoing mission to honor our veterans through top-tier care and support."

Currently, 22 residents have moved into the new home, and all residents are expected to be fully moved into the new home by early 2024.

"This is a chance to show just how much we care about our veterans,"

See SOLDIERS HOME Page 6



Four long-time employees of the Chelsea Soldiers Home were recognized for their decades of service to the residents of the home at the ribbon-cutting of the home's new, long-term care facility last week. U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough presented each of the four employees a gift in appreciation of their years of service. Shown in the above photo are (l-r): Mass. Secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans' Services Dr. Jon Santiago, honored employee Jorge Lima, honored employee Michelle Taylor (front), honored employee Peter Laneleve (rear), U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, Mass. Governor Maura Healey, Secretary McDonough (rear), and honored employee Rosa Orrillo.

Chelsea deputy superintendent named to top job in Melrose

By Adam Swift

Deputy Superintendent of Schools Adam Deleidi has been selected to lead the Melrose public school department.

At last week's School Committee meeting, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta announced that Deleidi was leaving the Chelsea school district in June to take the superintendent's job in Melrose.

Deleidi was one of four finalists for the top school job in Melrose.

"We are all so proud of you and we are all going to miss you, this entire community," said Abeyta. "This is bittersweet for us, but we are very happy for you."

Before serving as Deputy Superintendent in Chelsea, Deleidi was the principal of the Berkowitz Elementary School and an assistant principal in Revere.

"As a product of Chelsea Public Schools and a resident for 30 years, this

community will always hold a special place in my heart," said Deleidi. "While I am looking forward to this new challenge, I am certainly saddened to be processing what my departure will mean. I have learned so much from so many and want to thank the community for allowing me the opportunity to serve Chelsea."

Deleidi also had kind words for the Chelsea School Committee at last week's meeting.

"I'd be remiss if I did not acknowledge the joy I've had working with all of you, but particularly, with the four of you who are leaving (the school committee)," he said. "As a prospective superintendent elsewhere, I can only hope that I can have the same kind of working relationship that I've been having as a deputy superintendent with you. It was really an important factor as I did my search to try to find a school committee that was as supportive and talented as you all."

Traffic Commission looking at issues on Pearl and Essex streets

By Adam Swift

The Traffic and Parking Commission voted against a request from District 6 City Councilor Giovanni Recupero to install a stop sign at the intersection of Pearl and Essex streets at last week's meeting.

However, commission members agreed that something should be done to address traffic issues at the intersection.

"We did put a 'Do Not Block Intersection' sign just prior to the intersection," said Traffic and Parking Commission member James Caron. He added that the city will also be striping the intersection in the spring.

Caron said a stop sign at Pearl and Essex would only lead to more backups over the McArdle Bridge.

"The whole intersection [which also intersects with Park Street] is very busy, and with the school a block away, there is always traffic," said Caron.

A yield sign or a traffic island at the intersection could possibly help with the traffic woes in the area, Caron stated.

"As someone who frequents the area and is in that area often ... that area is an absolute nightmare," said Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Hassell. "No matter how many signs or lanes you paint on the street, no one is adhering to any of it. I think

the best thing I heard you mention this evening is potentially putting an island in that area, because that is probably the only way you are going to get anyone to follow the lanes that are on the street."

Hassell said she understood that a stop sign could back up traffic to the bridge, but she said something needs to be done about the intersection.

While the Traffic and Parking Commission vetoed the stop sign request, they said they would like to see Recupero refile some kind of request that presents some different options for dealing with traffic at that intersection.

The commission also considered several requests from Recupero and District 4 Councilor Enio Lopez for several speed bumps throughout the city. The requests were made for Monarch and Library streets, where Lopez said there have been concerns about speeding.

Caron said there were concerns with snow plows

See COMMISSION Page 6

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SENATOR SAL DIDOMENICO HOLDS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

Photos by Katy Rogers

The annual DiDomenico Toy Drive at Kowloon in Saugus was the largest yet with thousands of toys. The event was held on December 7.



The DiDomenico family: Matthew, Sal, Tricia, Sal



Patricia Rogers, Senator Sal DiDomenico, Councilor Elect Katy Rogers



Senator Sal DiDomenico and Al Carrier



State Rep. Jessica Giannino, Senator Sal DiDomenico



Senator Sal DiDomenico and School Committee member Cynthia Sarnie



School Committee member Mike Mangan helping with toys



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Tricia DiDomenico, Bill Berardino, Senator Sal DiDomenico



Senator Sal DiDomenico and volunteers

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Councillor Al Lattanzi, Sen. DiDomenico and Brendan Mangan.



Councillor Elect Holly Garcia and Senator Sal DiDomenico

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Padierna, Santiago C	Burgos, Carlos	56 Franklin Ave #7	\$320,000
Jimenez, Chirinos J	Avelar, Pastor	59 Winthrop Rd	\$790,000
Erazo, Victor M	Lunaesca LLC	60 Franklin Ave	\$725,000
Ke, Xiaobo	84 Blossom Street LLC	84-86 Blossom St #3	\$665,000
Hejib, Aditya	Makonnen, Tafari	91 Chester Ave	\$1,025,000
Mackenzie, Walker H	Sylvester, Mark A	155 Franklin Ave #3	\$555,000
Wong, Quinn	Murphy, Samantha	932 Broadway #313	\$355,900

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3	\$106,650
4	\$118,450
5	\$127,950

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- Transporte

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2	\$94,800
3	\$106,650
4	\$118,450
5	\$127,950

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Las solicitudes se procesarán en el orden en que se reciban y los fondos estarán disponibles hasta que se agoten.

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Questions? Call (617) 466-4187 or email awang@chelseama.gov.



SIXTH ANNUAL CHELSEA HOLIDAY PARTY AT HILTON GARDEN INN

Chelsea city employees and guests enjoyed the Sixth Annual Chelsea Holiday Dec. 8 at the Hilton Garden Inn, East Boston.

Odelisa Macedo, chairperson of the planning committee, welcomed the guests to the festive event that featured dinner and dancing. Newly appointed City Manager Fidel Maltez also delivered brief remarks at the party.



Paula McHatton, Rosemary Carlisle, and Supt. of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta.



Seated are Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Neville and Damali Vidot. Standing are Roberto Jimenez Rivera, Len Albanese, Fidel Maltez, Keith Houghton, and Dan Cortez.



Seated are Laurie Taraskiewicz, Linda Stiles, Sharon Maronski, and Karen Buckley. Standing are Steve Haley, Leo Robinson, Bruce Black, and Christopher Buckley.



Bruce Black, Fidel Maltez, Damali Vidot, and Dan Cortez.



Seated are Lisa Mucciarone, Millie Gonzalez, Denia Romero, and Diane Carey. Standing are Amber Aguilera, Andy Monzalves, Keith Houghton, Ledia Koco, Manjola Koco, and Odelisa Macedo.



Seated are Paulette Velastegui and Paula McHatton. Standing are Francisco Toro, Jim Sullivan, and Andrew Martel.

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Seated are Rosemarie Carlisle, Dr. Almi Abeyta, and Monica Lamboy. Back row are Tom Ambrosino, Adam Deleidi, Cate Fox-Lent, Leo Robinson, Laurie Giardella, and Odelisa Macedo.

SIXTH ANNUAL CHELSEA HOLIDAY PARTY AT HILTON GARDEN INN



Lourdes Garcia and Dave Morency.



Emergency Management Director Steve Staffier, newly named City Manager Fidel Maltez, Fire Chief Len Albanese, and DPW Commissioner Cate Fox-Lent.



Peter Christopher and City Council President Leo Robinson.



Odelisa Macedo, Millie Gonzalez, Denia Romero, and Diane Carey.



Among those seated are Lourdes Garcia, Ingrid Colon, Aura Reyes, and Stephani Romero. Back row, from left, are Hector Gonzalez, Dave Morency, Odelisa Macedo, and Hector Prieto.



Police Chief Keith Houghton and City Council President Leo Robinson.



Councilor-at-Large Elect Ricardo Jimenez Rivera and his wife, School Committeewoman-Elect Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Neville.



Hector Prieto (right) and his mother, Aura Reyes.



Karen Montefusco Buckey and her husband, Christopher Buckley.



Enjoying the evening were these workers.



Ledia Koco (right) and her mother, Manjola Koco.



Hector Prieto, Stephani Romero, and Richard Zullo.

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Hilton Garden Inn Sales Manager Steve Haley welcomes Holiday Party Chair Odelisa Macedo to the event at the hotel.

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Sunday, December 24	CLOSED	8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Monday, December 25	CLOSED	CLOSED
NEW YEARS		
Saturday, December 30	8:30 am – 12:00 pm	8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sunday, December 31	CLOSED	8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Monday, January 1	CLOSED	8:00 am – 4:00 pm

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Domingo 24 de diciembre	CERRADO	8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Lunes 25 de diciembre	CERRADO	CERRADO
AÑO NUEVO		
Sábado 30 de diciembre	8:30 am – 12:00 pm	8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Domingo 31 de diciembre	CERRADO	8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Lunes 1 de enero de 2024	CERRADO	8:00 am – 4:00 pm

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NATAL	CONSULTÓRIOS	CUIDADOS DE URGÊNCIA
Sábado, 23 de dezembro	8h30 às 12h00	8h00 às 16h00
Domingo, 24 de dezembro	FECHADO	8h00 às 16h00
Segunda-feira, 25 de dezembro	FECHADO	FECHADO
ANO NOVO		
Sábado, 30 de dezembro	8h30 às 12h00	8h00 às 16h00
Domingo, 31 de dezembro	FECHADO	8h00 às 16h00
Segunda-feira, 1 de janeiro de 2024	FECHADO	8h00 às 16h00

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Chelsea

R E C O R D

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Forum

THANK YOU, GOV. HEALEY, SEN. WARREN, AND SEC. SANTIAGO

We wish to offer a sincere “Thank you” to Governor Maura Healey, U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, and Dr. Jon Santiago (Massachusetts’ first-ever Secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans’ Services) for affirming their commitment to veterans at last week’s ribbon-cutting for the new, state-of-the-art residential facility at the Chelsea Soldiers Home.

All three of our state officials -- who were joined by Denis McDonough, the U.S. Veterans Affairs Secretary in the Cabinet of President Joe Biden -- spoke eloquently and movingly about the renewed dedication to the welfare of our state’s veterans, who all-too-often have been neglected at the national level and, during the pandemic, were neglected at our state’s veterans homes.

Senator Warren spoke emotionally about how her brother, who served 248 combat missions in Vietnam, succumbed to COVID-19, as did so many other veterans, because of the lack of care that they were afforded.

However, last Friday’s ribbon-cutting in Chelsea writes a new chapter for veterans in our state. We have no doubt that under the leadership of Governor Healey and Secretary Santiago, and with the support of Senator Warren and Secretary McDonough at the national level, our veterans will be treated with the respect and dignity that they rightly deserve for the sacrifices they have made for our country.

YES, THOSE COLLEGE PRESIDENTS WERE WRONG

We never thought that we would find ourselves agreeing on anything with Elise Stefanik, the obnoxious Congresswoman from New York. But, as the saying goes, “Even a broken clock is right twice a day,” and we concur with the call by Stefanik (who appeared to be auditioning for the role of running mate with Donald Trump) for the presidents of Penn (who has resigned), Harvard, and MIT to step down after their widely-publicized testimony last week in Washington.

Stefanik tossed each of them what should have been a softball question:

“Does calling for the genocide of Jews violate your school’s rules or code of conduct, yes or no?”

The obvious answer was an unequivocal “Yes!” for the simple reason that calling for the genocide of any group should constitute a violation of their schools’ rules of conduct against intimidation or harassment of their students.

But all three presidents prevaricated, answering with a variation of, “It is a context-dependent decision, congresswoman.”

We wish to make two points:

First, there is no stronger advocate of free speech than this newspaper. However, that does not mean that if we received a letter to the editor from say, the Ku Klux Klan, the American Nazi Party, or a similar group, that we would print it on the pages of our newspaper. If someone wants to stand on a soapbox in their town square and give a hate speech, they are free to do so -- good luck with that. Hate speech is protected from government interference per the First Amendment (unless it incites violence), but it does not require private individuals or media organizations to allow the use of their platforms by someone who espouses hate. Similarly, universities have a right -- and an obligation -- to ensure that hate speech does not find an outlet on their campuses.

Secondly, universities such as Penn, Harvard, and MIT typically enforce rules against hate speech when it comes to statements against other groups. For example, every one of those schools would never give permission for students to organize a KKK group or allow the KKK to hold a rally on their campus. But there seems to be a double-standard when it comes to Israel and the Jews. If a student group wants to protest Israel’s bombing of civilians in Gaza, that’s a perfectly-appropriate discussion. On the other hand, demonstrations “caring for the genocide of Jews” (or any other group) never should be allowed under any circumstances.

In the “context” of the current situation in the Middle East, two things can be true at the same time: It is appropriate to acknowledge that Israel has a right to eliminate the threat posed by the Iran-backed Hamas terrorists and also fair to criticize the Israeli government for its seeming indifference to the ongoing humanitarian disaster facing the people of Gaza.

But when opposition to the policies of the Israeli government veers into obvious anti-Semitism, good people on all sides of the issue must take a stand on behalf of basic moral principles. Those college presidents, who relied on the notes from their attorneys to parse what was a simple and straightforward question, flunked their oral exam. Their subsequent “apologies” have been feckless and meaningless -- and they should step down from their position as the heads of universities where moral leadership is as important as academic credentials.

FROM THE PHOTO ARCHIVES OF ARNIE JARMAK



For many decades, the Metropolitan Oil Co., originally known as the Metropolitan Coal and Ice Co., served the people of Chelsea and other communities throughout the Greater Boston area from its terminal on Lower Broadway. This Arnie Jarmak photo from the middle of the winter in the late 1970s shows the Metropolitan oil trucks lined up along Lower Broadway as they await their turn to fill up their tanks. Shown in the upper left corner is a Budweiser sign for the Beacon Cafe, which was a landmark bar in the city for more than 70 years until it closed in the early 1990s. An interesting fact about the Metropolitan Oil Co. is that its chief executive in the 1950s was New England Patriots founder Billy Sullivan, who was a familiar figure in Chelsea as a member of the local Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce before he became the full-time owner of the Patriots after he started the club in 1960. Metropolitan Oil sold its business in the 1980s and the terminal now is operated by Global Partners, LP.

Soldiers Home / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said Warren. “This is not just about words, this is about putting those words into action.”

Warren thanked the Healey-Driscoll administration and Santiago for

ensuring that the Veterans Home in Chelsea provides first-rate care to all veterans. She also thanked McDonough for coming up to the ribbon cutting to help celebrate the progress that

is being made for veterans in Massachusetts.

“A very special thank you to Senator (Sal) DiDomenico and Representative (Judith) Garcia who are champions for their community every day and helped get the funding so we could do this,” said Warren.

The Healey-Driscoll administration utilized federal funding in its Capital Improvement Plan to construct new veterans homes in Chelsea and Holyoke. The federal government is offering up to 65 percent reimbursement for the projects, with the state contributing a 35 percent match, resulting in a total five-year state investment of \$280.1 million. The cost of the Chelsea Home is approximately \$200 million, with a significant portion covered by the federal investment.

Representing the families of the veterans families, Mary Bender spoke about the experience of her family and her brother, who lives at the home.

“My brother Jim, a proud Army veteran, has been a resident here since

April of 2022,” said Bender. “Jim had a long career as an ATF investigator when he first began having strokes. He soon became disabled.”

When her brother was first accepted into the Chelsea home, Bender said she and her four sisters were on hand to make sure he was well taken care of.

“When we first got here, this building was standing, but not yet open,” she said. “We were not impressed by the (old) building at all, but it did not take us long to realize that Jim had a host of dedicated caregivers. So we would look longingly at this building, waiting for the day when the building would be as wonderful as his staff.

“On Oct. 18, that day arrived, Jim moved into a clean, bright room with breathtaking views and a new TV,” said Bender. “As family members, we were also glad to see all the safety features ... but most importantly to us, this place is so welcoming and open.”

Commission / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

going over the larger, permanent speed bumps, but suggested smaller, temporary speed bumps at both locations on a six-month trial basis.

Councilors Lopez, Recupero, and Damali Vidot also requested the commission look into the issue of illegally parked hitch trailers in the city.

“There are a lot of commercial vehicles that bring trailers and they take up three parking spots on our streets,” said Lopez.

Caron noted that the city already has an ordinance on the books regarding the parking of the trailers, and that the police are looking to enforce that ordinance.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Record encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151.

We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com

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Chelsea Record is published every Thursday by the Revere-based Independent Newspaper Group.

Periodical postage rates paid at Boston, MA. Subscription rates are \$30 per year in Chelsea, and \$60 per year outside the city. The Chelsea Record assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements, but will reprint that part of the advertisement in which the error occurs. Advertisers will please notify the management immediately of any errors that may occur. Chelsea Record, 101-680, at 385 Broadway, the Citizens Bank Building, Suite 105, Revere, MA 02151, is a weekly publication. Periodicals postage paid at Boston, MA 02110. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Independent Newspaper Group, 385 Broadway, Suite 105, Revere, MA 02151.

Subscription price in-town is \$26 and out of town is \$50.

USPS NO. 101-680

CHELSEA RECORD

ESTABLISHED 1890

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Keeping the dream of a new soccer stadium alive

By Cary Shuman

He didn't use any notes in front of him. He simply spoke with clarity and from the heart, emphatically telling Everett residents and Greater Boston sports fans that hopes for a new state-of-the-art soccer stadium and waterfront park are still very much a realistic goal despite the recent setback.

Sen. Sal DiDomenico, who like so many others in the city was disappointed that the advancement of a potential \$600 million Kraft-family built, professional soccer stadium and waterfront park in Everett was denied by leaders in the House of Representatives, came to the Everett City Council meeting Monday night to explain exactly what happened to the proposal and what the next steps are on the journey to make Everett the future home of the New England Revolution.

Ward 2 Councilor Stephanie Martins asked her colleagues to suspend the meeting's rules to invite DiDomenico to talk to the Council about "this important matter" before his scheduled appearance at the Chelsea City Council meeting. "I thought it was important that we got the information first," said Martins, whose motion was approved unanimously.

Dressed professionally in a matching suit and tie, DiDomenico was all business as he took his seat in the Council Chambers to address the Council and the audience watching the meeting on Everett TV.

"It's important that we clear up some misconceptions, clear up how this happened, what the process was, and what is actually happening with the legislation at the State House," DiDomenico began.

The senator said the process began several months ago when there was talk about a soccer stadium development on a decommissioned power plant site in Everett.

"Now we have the opportunity to turn the page on an industrial site and bring something to this community that will include open space, use of a stadium for our youth groups, opening up the waterfront for the first time in decades to

the residents of Everett, who deserve better than having an industrial site on our waterfront for decades – we deserve better than that in this community," said DiDomenico.

He said there had been an "exacerbation of inaccuracies" about the proposal. "I deal with facts, and the facts are the matter are that the legislation we proposed in the state Senate did one thing, lifting the DPA (Designated Port Area) from that site only," said DiDomenico. "It's maritime use only, and I think at this point that there won't be maritime use on that site any longer, unless it's industrial use, and we don't want industrial use on our waterfront."

DiDomenico made it a point to publicly squash inaccurate reports that there was "some sort of deal between the Krafts and the mayor."

"That is so far from the truth," DiDomenico affirmed. "Because when the environmental groups were brought to the table, they initiated talks with the Kraft Group, and they drove the negotiations on an MOA (Memorandum Of Agreement) that they wanted to see in place prior to any legislative action being taken at the State House. Let's clear that up once and for all: the MOA was initiated and negotiated by the environmental group. The mayor's chance to have a host agreement comes at the second stage."

DiDomenico said in action of community outreach, he then spoke with several Everett-based community groups, "as small as 10 [people], as large as 200."

"I can tell you that everybody was ecstatic about the possibility of having this happen," said DiDomenico. "Everyone was asking how they could voice their support for this [soccer stadium/waterfront park] project."

DiDomenico also brought to the table a firsthand knowledge of the Kraft family's immense generosity to Chelsea, with Mr. Kraft's son, Josh Kraft, leading a fundraising effort that built an \$11 million Boys and Girls Club facility in the city. (Josh Kraft was the founder and executive director of the Jordan Boys and Girls Club.

See Stadium Page 8



Music Director Robert Lehmann and the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra will perform the annual Robert A. Marra Memorial "Sounds of Christmas" concert at St. Anthony's Church Sunday, December 17 at 4 p.m. Free admission in exchange for a generous donation of non-perishable food for the Revere Food Pantry.

The "Sounds of Christmas" play Sunday at St. Anthony's Church

Special to the Record

The North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra will make its annual appearance in Revere when Music Director Robert Lehmann conducts the Robert A. Marra Memorial "Sounds of Christmas" Concert Sunday, December 17 at 4:00 p.m.

Admission to the concert is free and everyone attending is requested to bring a generous donation of non-perishable food to benefit The Revere Food Pantry.

The concert is sponsored by Bocchino Insurance, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, Massport, Comcast, Astound/RCN, and Action Emergency Services.

"The concert really has become a hallowed Christmas tradition in Revere," said concert co-chair Robert Marra Jr., president of the Orchestra and son of the late NSPO violinist/concertmaster after whom the concert is named. "It's almost 50 years since the first one in 1976, and so many people who attend bring a lifetime of memories. The Food Drive has been part of the event since 1990, and every year we witness people's generosity and sense of community. It is really something special."

Dom Bocchino, President of Bocchino Insurance, has been co-chair and a sponsor of the concert since 2006, when one of the previous sponsors was unable to take part. "Dom stepped right up when he heard the concert might not happen that year," said

Marra. "And he's been part of it ever since."

Bocchino said that the Food Drive was too important to let the event falter. "When I first got involved as a sponsor," he said, "I knew that this was an event that was important to our community, not only to celebrate the Christmas season, but to help the Food Pantry carry on its mission in helping those in need. Over the years, we've seen the Food Drive grow and become part of the tradition. It is an event that brings the community together in so many ways. I'm grateful to be able to help carry on this tradition."

The Orchestra will be joined by soprano Katie Oberholtzer, who will be making her first appearance in Revere. Katie is a jazz vocalist and recently was runner-up place in the 2023 International Ella Fitzgerald Jazz Vocal Competition.

Revere High School senior Maya Merino will write and narrate an original essay as part of the concert program. "We started this a few years ago," Marra said. "It's a chance to have a student's voice deliver a meaningful message."

The Concert is named in memory of violinist Robert A. Marra, a lifelong Revere resident and teacher at Revere High School who was concertmaster of the Orchestra for over 50 years before his death in 2002. "The concert is a wonderful tribute to my father. He was one of the

people who brought the concert to Revere in 1976, and it is played in his beloved St. Anthony's," said Marra Jr. "And now, the concert features a connection to Revere High School, where he taught from 1950 to 1990, that makes it even more significant."

Another connection to Revere High: members of the RHS football team will lend their muscle to help load the donated food into a truck for delivery to the Food Pantry. "Dad was an ardent RHS football fan, so he'd appreciate this."

Other contributors to the concert include members of the St. Anthony's Holy Name Society, who collect and box the food as patrons arrive, and the St. Anthony's Youth Group, who haul up the chairs and set up the altar area for the concert. Mike Zaccaria of Action Emergency Services provides a truck to load and transport the food. "It's a joint effort by a lot of hands for a wonderful event," said Marra. "We know the people will enjoy the concert and we ask them to be generous with their food donations."

The Robert A. Marra Memorial "Sounds of Christmas" Concert Program

North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra
Robert Lehmann, Music Director
Katie Oberholtzer, guest vocalist

Clare Grundman, (1913-1996) Three Noels

Adolphe Adam, (1803-1856) O Holy Night
Katie Oberholtzer, soprano

arr. Bill Holcome, (1924-2010) Festive Sounds of Hanukah

A Special Holiday Message
Written and narrated by Maya Merino,
Revere High School Class of 2024

Franz Schubert, (1797-1828) Ave Maria (arr. Lux)
Katie Oberholtzer, soprano

Pytor Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893) Nutcracker Selections
Marche and Waltz of the Flowers

Lucas Richman, (1964 --) Reindeer Variations

Mel Torme, (1925 – 1999) The Christmas Song (arr. Loudon)
Katie Oberholtzer, soprano

Ralph Blane (1914- 1995) Have Yourself A Merry Little
Katie Oberholtzer, soprano

arr. Bruce Chase, (1912 – 2001) Around the World at
Christmas Time

arr. John Finnegan, (1926 – 2007) Christmas Singalong

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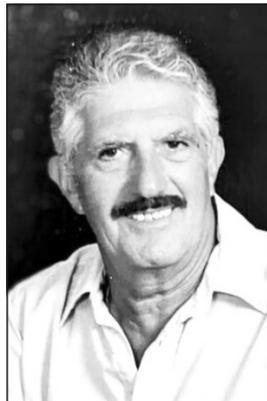
Mario Di Vasta

A man of strong community ties, a social butterfly with a great sense of humor and the life of the party

Mario Di Vasta of Peabody, formerly of Chelsea, Jacksonville, Florida and Gaeta, Italy passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Thursday, December 7.

The loving son of the late Nicola and Concetta (DeVellis) Di Vasta, he was the beloved husband of the late Maria (Colaruotolo) Di Vasta, devoted father of Lynda Di Vasta and Sylvia DiVasta, both of Chelsea, Anna Tejada of Maryland, and Mario V. DiVasta of Dedham; fond brother of Libera DeVellis and the late Benedetto and Vincenzo Di Vasta, Maria Teresa Solari and Anna Newell; adored grandfather of Anthony V. and Malcolm A. Norman, Yameli and Cristian Tejada, Ava Jeannette DiVasta and the late Savannah-Maria O'Neill and precious great grandfather of Alexander James Norman. He is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mario was a man of strong community ties as an active member of the Italian American Club, the Sons of Italy in Jacksonville, and the U.A.W. He spent most of his working career at General Motors and retired in 2008. Mario liked playing golf and tennis, Boston sports, Italian soccer, loved the beach, swimming, hiking, walk-



ing and the outdoors. He was a social butterfly with a great sense of humor and the life of the party. A game of tombola will never be the same without him!

Family and friends are respectfully invited to visiting hours in the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home ~ North Shore Chapel, 10 Chestnut Street, Peabody on Friday, December 15th from 5 to 8 p.m. and again on Saturday morning from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. before leaving in procession to St. John the Baptist Parish, 17 Church Street, Peabody for a Funeral Mass honoring Mario's life at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with Mario being laid to rest with his wife at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. May they rest in peace.

To leave an online condolence, please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

John L. Schultz, Jr.

June 28, 1946 - November 28, 2023

John L. Schultz, Jr. "Tikijon" passed away unexpectedly on November 28th in his home in St. Petersburg FL. He was 77 years of age. Born and raised in Scituate, he was the beloved son of the late John L., Sr. and Irene J. (Zaksheski) Schultz.

John attended schools in Scituate and graduated from Scituate High School in 1964. He also attended the University of Georgia and Curry College.

He was a longtime resident of St. Petersburg, FL and worked for many years as a Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer with the City of St. Petersburg. He retired 12 years ago. During the late 70's, known as "Tikijon," he worked as a bartender at the "Kapok Tree Inn" in Madeira Beach, FL.

In addition to his parents, John L. Sr. and Irene J., he was also predeceased by his brother, Paul A. Schultz, his aunts, and uncles: Bertha (Schultz) and Ronald P. Keswick, Helen (Zaksheski) and William Wilson, Chester and Charlotte Zaksheski and his cousin, Ronald P. Keswick.

John is survived by his son, Matthew Schultz of Oregon and his former wife, Donna, along with his cousins: Joan Wo-



jciewski, Thomas Wilson, Steve Wilson, Linda Wood, William Wilson, Jr., Peter Zaksheski, Andrea Jackowski, Patricia O'Donnell, Gregory Keswick and Matthew Keswick. John is also survived by his dear friends, Gregory and Fran Clarke of St. Petersburg.

John will be placed to rest together with his parents and brother in the spring at St. Mary's Cemetery in Scituate. A Funeral Mass in St. Mary's Church, Scituate will be celebrated for John on that date followed by his inurnment.

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



Donna M. Czerwinski

April 15, 1950 - December 11, 2023

Relatives and friends are most kindly invited to attend visiting hours for Donna M. (Ostler) Czerwinski in the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea today, Thursday, December 14th from 4 to 8 p.m. Her funeral will begin at the funeral home on Friday, December 15th at 9:30 a.m. immediately followed by a Funeral Mass in Our Lady of Grace Church, 59 Nichols St., Chelsea at 10:30 a.m.

Donna passed away on Monday, December 11th after a long illness in the peaceful surroundings of home with her loving and caring family at her side. She was 73 years of age and lived courageously with rheumatoid arthritis for many years.

Born and raised in Chelsea, she was one of ten children of the late Donald W. and Gertrude "Trudy" (Foote) Ostler. A longtime resident of Chelsea, she attended St. Rose parochial school, graduated from Chelsea High School, and attended some college. She was married to Joseph Czerwinski and raised a son and daughter. A resident of Malden for the last 32 years, Donna was passionately devoted to home, family and five grandchildren.

She also worked in the banking industry as an Administrative Assistant with Bank of America in Boston and retired in 2012.

In her lifetime, she enjoyed being a doting "Mimi" to her grandchildren, working with her hands, making ceramic items and various arts and crafts.

In addition to her parents, Donna was also predeceased by her brothers; Warren, Kevin and Matthew Ostler, her only son-in-law, Donald Rubbico, and she was recently predeceased by her brother-in-law, Robert Nolan and sister-in-law, Lorena Livoli.



She is survived by her beloved husband of 52 years, Joseph Czerwinski; her loving children, Joseph Czerwinski, Jr. and his wife, Brenda of Everett and Linda Rubbico of Topsfield. She was the cherished "Mimi" of Justin Johnson, Ryan Czerwinski, Colton, Chase, and Hadley Rubbico and the dear sister of Patricia McCarthy and her husband, Vince of Nashua, NH, Charles Ostler and his wife, Karen of Providence Village, TX., Maureen Tamasiunas and her husband, Allan of Farmington, NH, Aileen Charles and her husband, Steven of Altoona, PA, Kathleen Nolan of New Smyrna Beach, FL, and Lauretta Russo and her husband, John of Winter Park, FL. She is also survived by several extended family members and friends.

Should friends desire, contributions in Donna's name may be made to the Arthritis Foundation, 29 Crafts St. #100, Newton, MA 02458 <https://www.arthritis.org/local-offices/ma> or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105-1905. www.StJude.org/Donate

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



Jorge Luis Zerquera

March 14, 1963 - November 17, 2023

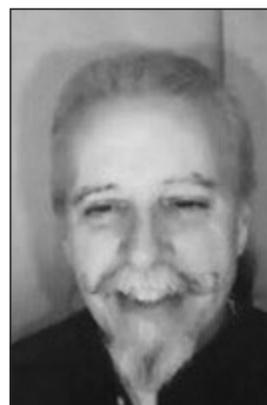
Relatives and friends are most kindly invited to attend graveside services for Jorge Luis

Zerquera on Friday, December 15th at 11 a.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery, 302 Elm St., Everett. Attendees are requested to meet at the cemetery chapel parking lot at 10:45 A.M.

Jorge passed away suddenly at the Milford Regional Medical Center on Friday, November 17th. He was 60 years of age.

Born in Malden and raised in Chelsea, he was the beloved son of the late Cipriano H. and Sahara (Novoa) Zerquera and he attended local Schools. As a young man, he enlisted in the US Navy and was honorably discharged. He returned to Chelsea and worked in various positions.

He settled in Miami in 1982 for several years and worked as an auto mechanic before returning to Massachusetts. He continued his college education and received a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a minor degree in language. He was proficient in four languages. He resided for the last



several years in Norfolk and worked as general facilities maintenance worker as a welder and boiler, HVAC repair man.

In his lifetime, Jorge was an ardent Bruins fan and devout Catholic, lay minister and youth mentor.

In addition to his parents, Jorge was predeceased by his brothers, Alexander and Cipriano Zerquera. He is lovingly survived by his sister, Romilda Cristina "Tina" Zerquera of Chelsea and several of his cousins in Florida.

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



Stadium / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

is the president of the New England Patriots Foundation).

"We have someone (the Kraft Group) who wanted to come in with private dollars, clean up the land at their own expense, and provide a development upwards of \$600 million in the City of Everett, with jobs, the use of the stadium for youth groups, open space, public utilities, public restrooms on the waterfront, a four-acre park for our residents to enjoy," said DiDomenico.

Local political observers are calling DiDomenico's speech one of the shining moments of his brilliant legislative career while compiling an impressive record that has propelled him to becoming one of the most powerful Democratic leaders in Massachusetts. He pledged that he will continue to work hard to

do what's best for all residents in his district.

"Our kids deserve better, we all deserve better, the next generations deserves better," said DiDomenico in concluding his remarks.

Martins adroitly asked the question on everyone's mind in Everett, "Is the project moving forward now as we speak, or what is the status?"

DiDomenico responded that he will file a stand-alone bill for the project, stating, "As the state senator for this community who strongly believes that we can do something special on that land, I'm going to file that bill and I'm going to make sure that we have all our ducks in a row to convince the people at the State House that the City of Everett doesn't want this industrial past to continue."

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We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA
INVITATION FOR BIDS
88 Clinton Street

The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking sealed bids for all labor, equipment and materials for "88 Clinton Street".

Invitation for Bids will be available on or after December 14, 2023, by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php.

Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "88 Clinton Street" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 10:00AM on Thursday, January 11, 2024.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check, issued by a responsible bank or trust company. Or a bid bond duly executed by the bidder as principal and having as surety thereon a surety company approved by the City, all in the amount of 5% of the bid payable to the "City of Chelsea."

The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any proposal, to reject any or all proposals and to waive minor irregularities and/

or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City. In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond. The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer. This Invitation for Bids is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30, 39M. Dragica Ivanis Chief Procurement Officer 12/14/23 C

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 40A, Section 5, the Chelsea City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, December 21st at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, Massachusetts, to discuss a proposed amendment to the Chelsea Zoning Ordinance, which would amend Section 34-241 by changing the definition of "Indoor commercial recreation,"; amend Section 34-262 to change "theater, concert halls and cinema"; to add "exhibition hall,"; and amend Section 34-241 to change the definition of "Health and fitness club."

A copy of the proposed amendment is available for inspection in the City Clerk's office, Chelsea City Hall, Chelsea, MA; during City Hall business hours. Leo Robinson City Council President 12/7/23, 12/14/23 C

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA
INVITATION FOR BIDS
Marginal St. Stabilization

The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking sealed bids for all labor, equipment and materials for "Marginal St. Stabilization".

Invitation for Bids will be available on or after December 14, 2023, by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php.

Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "Marginal St. Stabilization" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 10:00AM on Thursday, December 28, 2023. Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check, issued by a responsible bank or trust company. Or a bid bond duly executed by the bidder as principal

and having as surety thereon a surety company approved by the City, all in the amount of 5% of the bid payable to the "City of Chelsea." The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any proposal, to reject any or all proposals and to waive minor irregularities and/ or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City. In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond. The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer. This Invitation for Bids is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30, 39M. Dragica Ivanis Chief Procurement Officer 12/14/23 C

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CITY OF CHELSEA
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PUBLIC HEARING

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which would repeal Section 34-158(c)(2) which reads "Marijuana Retailers are prohibited from operating between the hours of 9 PM and 9 AM." A copy of the proposed amendment is available for inspection in the City Clerk's office, Chelsea City Hall, Chelsea, MA; during City Hall business hours. Leo Robinson City Council President 12/7/23, 12/14/23 C

LEGAL NOTICE



Public Hearing: Untimely Tobacco Permit Renewal The Chelsea Board of Health will hold an in-person public hearing at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at The Williams School Building located at 180 Walnut Street, Chelsea MA. The public hearing is on a request to renew an over a year late tobacco permit. To share comments please email famoya@chelseama.gov 12/7/23, 12/14/23 C

LEGAL NOTICE



LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF CHELSEA
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
In accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 40A, Section 5, the Chelsea City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, December 21st at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, Massachusetts to discuss proposed amendments to the Chelsea Zoning Ordinance, to create a new Transit Community Overlay District which would provide for multifamily development in the vicinity of the Commuter Rail Station by adding the overlay district to the list of districts in Section 34-28; create a new Section 34-188 Transit Community Overlay District which allows the development of housing at a density of up to forty units per acre by right and up to eighty-five units by special permit; changing the title of Section 34-216 to include Transit Community Overlay District; and by amending the official zoning map to include the Transit Community Overlay District. A copy of the proposed amendment is available for inspection in the City Clerk's office, Chelsea City Hall, Chelsea, MA; during City Hall business hours. Leo Robinson City Council President 12/7/23, 12/14/23 C

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

EVERETT STADIUM FAIL TO PROGRESS

EVERETT - The plans for a new professional soccer stadium being built across Route 99 from Encore Boston Harbor are on hold for the immediate future.

The state Senate had advanced the proposal by inserting special language in a supplemental budget bill that would have detached the 43 acres for the stadium and waterfront park from the Designated Port Area (DPA). However, leadership in the House of Representatives did not include the special language necessary for the proposal in its version of the spending bill.

And just like that, Everett's hopes for a state-of-the-art 25,000-seat professional soccer stadium (that was to be the likely home of Bob Kraft's New England Revolution franchise) are dashed.

Sen. Sal DiDomenico, who has championed the stadium proposal in the Senate, expressed his disappointment with the decision by the House of Representatives.

"I'm disappointed this language wasn't included in the final bill," said DiDomenico. "We have worked so hard on this issue because as an environmental justice community we deserve something better than a polluted power plant on our waterfront.

This is a transformational project and an economic catalyst for our area. I want to thank President Spilka and Chair Rodrigues for including it in the Senate version and I am hopeful that we can find a resolution in the very near future."

Mayor Carlo DeMaria, whose vision resulted in the five-star Encore Boston Hotel locating in Everett and bringing thousands of jobs to area residents, issued a statement, saying he was not pleased with the roadblocking of the stadium project.

"I continue to maintain the position that a privately-funded professional soccer stadium, which would invest millions into an historic remediation effort of a defunct power plant, provide economic mobility opportunities for our Everett residents, advance the region's multi-modal transit network, and create much-needed access to the Mystic River would be the best use of that portion of Everett's waterfront," said DeMaria. "As the leader of an Environmental Justice community, plagued for decades by the detrimental health impacts created by giant industrial polluters, I am disappointed that the legislation has not advanced. I am going to continue to advocate to State leaders that a lower income, minority-majority community like Everett deserves the chance to explore such a transformational economic development opportunity.

"While I have stated this before, I feel the need to reiterate: the removal of the parcel from the DPA, which was the focus of the legislative amendment, would not approve a stadium project on the site. It would simply allow a proposal to be put forward locally, at which point a robust public engagement process would commence," concluded DeMaria.

Lynds also spoke about the city inspectors relating to rodent control and said, "If they determine that the issue is broader than what's typically encountered for demolition, they will require further steps that will be taken before any demolition can commence."

Concerning the demolition, Lynds described it as "relatively simple," citing that the structure does not attach to anything on either side. He also indicated that existing site

condition surveys would be completed.

Other topics covered during the discussion included parking, stormwater management, the design, and more.

In the end, a majority of HVNA members were not supportive of the project, as a vote of 16 to 10 opposed it.

While the project on Bennington Street was opposed, the proposal at 41 Wordsworth Street received unanimous support from the HVNA in a vote of 23 to 0.

The project on Wordsworth Street, which Attorney Jeff Drago presented, proposes to add a roof deck and egress stairs to an existing three-unit building.

Drago explained that there is one pre-existing zoning violation for the sideyard and another violation for roof structure restriction due to the proposed roof deck.

Moreover, he explained that the roof deck is set more in the middle of the building, and its access is exclusive to the top floor unit.

During the presentation, Drago called the proposal "straightforward" and went through floor plans for the building, which is undergoing renovations.

Finally, he showed some photographs of the ongoing renovations to close out the presentation. In the end, there were no questions from those in attendance regarding the project, and as mentioned, it had overwhelming support. The HVNA is scheduled to meet again on January 8.

REVERE - The estimated costs of the options for building a new high school on the current site range from \$550 million to \$557 million.

However, due to a revised funding formula from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), the city could see a higher reimbursement rate for this project as opposed to the one that was proposed for the Wonderland site.

Also coming into play for the cost and schedule of the project are the replacement of a large culvert system that runs through the high school property, and the need to provide temporary parking at Ambrose Field for the duration of the construction.

Brian Dakin, the senior project manager from Leftfield, was before the City Council on Monday night to update it on those and other aspects of the high school building project.

After the council voted not to go forward with a new high school project at Wonderland early this year, the School Building Committee and Leftfield, the owner's project manager, regrouped to look at building on the current high school site.

Dakin said the project is currently in the preferred schematic report phase, with the goal of submitting a preferred option to the MSBA by Feb. 28 of next year. The three new options under consideration are for four-, five-, and six-story school buildings on the current high school site. The projects

would require building on Erricola Park fields at the high school site, and then rebuilding the fields when the project is completed.

Dakin said the costs and schedules he presented to the council Monday night are dependent on the city project to replace the large culvert system that runs through the high school property.

If the high school construction and city culvert projects line up, Dakin said the three building options on the table would essentially have the same schedule, with the new school ready for occupancy by August of 2028 and the fields replaced by the summer of 2029.

"One of the challenges we have worked on last month, this month, and will be working on into next month is a topic we've talked about before, the culvert," said Dakin. "There is a big assumption baked into all these schedules that that process and project can get far enough along that whatever needs to happen underground between School Street and the American Legion Highway is designed and ready to be implemented in 2025 and 2026. That right now is not a sure thing."

Another variable is the need for parking at Ambrose Field. Dakin said the temporary parking at the field could accommodate either the construction parking, or the displaced teacher and student parking, and that there still is work to do to accommodate all parking needs while construction is ongoing.

The city will also have to determine if it wants to build a new school administration building on the property as part of the proposed project, or build it off site as part of a future project.

On the positive side, Dakin said the change in the MSBA formula means Revere will likely see a higher percentage of reimbursement for the project from the state. That real reimbursement rate for the project could jump from the high 30 percent range expected for the Wonderland project to the high 40 percent range.

"These ... result in a much better grant than we were seeing at any other part of this process," said Dakin.

The total estimated costs for the project range from \$550.2 million for the proposed four-story building to \$557 for a six-story building. With the expected reimbursement from the MSBA, Dakin said the cost to Revere for the project would range from \$310 million to \$317 million.

"We can't stand by these schedules and budgets, we really need to understand when that (culvert) project is going to be ready to go," said Dakin. "We do have designs for the options, we have schedules, we have budgets, and we are hoping that in advance of the Feb. 28 deadline that we will arrive at a new preferred option and proceed into a schematic design that will run through next July and August."

At that point, the design team would then present final schematic design costs and there would need to be a vote to authorize the borrowing of funds for the project.

Councillor-at-Large Marc Silvestri, who supported the proposal to build at Wonderland, noted that the costs for the

project continue to escalate, and now the city is looking to take another park offline with the need for temporary parking at the Ambrose fields.

"I think we opened up a can and this is looking disastrous," said Silvestri.

Ward 3 Councillor Anthony Cogliandro said he wanted to address "the elephant in the room," which is the discussion around the city about a possible push to move the project back to the Wonderland property.

"There's going to be a new council, and I can't speak for anybody, but if that ever did happen, my number one most important question is will the MSBA have our back if that happens?" Cogliandro asked.

Dakin said he couldn't speak for the MSBA, but expected that it would support the city, since it has been understanding and accommodating about the challenges Revere faces as an urban school district with a minimum of space for building.

Councillor-at-Large Anthony Zambuto, a staunch opponent of building on the Wonderland site, said he wanted to remind everyone that building on Wonderland could potentially take as much as \$1.2 billion off the city's tax rolls over the coming 50 years.

"Over my dead body it goes back to Wonderland," said Zambuto. "I think the taxpayers spoke very strongly about this in the last election."

Silvestri questioned the \$1.2 billion in revenue Zambuto has said the Wonderland site would bring in for the city, calling it an outlandish number.

"The 875 apartments that were just approved in Lynn are going to bring in \$125 million over the course of 30 years," said Silvestri. "So tell me how are we getting to \$1.2 billion? How many apartments is that going to be?"

Zambuto said his assumption was based on the amount of money the Suffolk Downs development is expected to bring into the city.

"I guarantee it's worth at least half as much as the Suffolk Downs property," said Zambuto. "That's \$23.5 million a year in revenue times 50 years for the life of a high school is \$1.2 billion."

ONLINE TROLL HURLS ANTISEMITIC SLUR AT COUNCIL MEETING

WINTHROP - It was a chaotic end to an already emotional Town Council meeting as a masked, online troll hurled vulgarity and an antisemitic slur during public speaking over Zoom at the end of the meeting.

Much of the meeting had been dominated by a discussion of the town's flag policy, specifically relating to the potential raising of the Israeli flag and a subsequent motion for the council to support a proclamation in solidarity with the Jewish people introduced by Councillor Rob DeMarco.

The council typically holds two public speaking portions of its meetings, one toward the beginning and another near the end.

While there were varying opinions expressed during both public speaking portions of the meeting and during debate among

the councilors, the discussion had largely remained within the bounds of public meeting decorum.

At about 8:40 p.m., resident Todd Sacco was addressing the council over Zoom, criticizing the council for approving an unwieldy flag policy earlier this year and then not moving forward with a vote on DeMarco's proclamation.

At that point, another participant watching the meeting through Zoom broke in and shouted "Say her name you _____," using a vulgarity and an antisemitic slur.

In the confusion, several councilors shouted to shut down the Zoom video while others tried to identify who made the comment, one noted that it was an online troll and that he was masked during the online outbreak.

Following the online attack, Rabbi Benjamin Flax of Temple Tifereth asked to address the council.

"I live in Beachmont and I realize I am not represented on this council," said Flax. "But as a religious leader in our community, I just want to make clear that it is situations like that that have made what Mr. DeMarco has brought up tonight as a necessity, to draw this attention and to make this statement that that is unacceptable dialogue and that the violence and vitriol that has been spewed continually, not just since Oct. 7, but continually. We liked the public statements people made of their experiences, but what about the student who got harassed in Harvard Square in 2016 and jumped getting a beer after school? That was me.

"Or the Jew who was on the train and getting yelled at about The Protocols of the Elders of Zion in 2017?" Flax continued. "That was me. This is not just an issue that we are saying is out there; what Mr. DeMarco is bringing up are issues that are facing us now, and having outbursts like that. I did not want to speak tonight, I recognize the order of how this goes, but hearing that, that is the reason why Mr. DeMarco needed to bring this up and why it needs to be a limited scope."

Earlier in the meeting, DeMarco had offered up a proclamation in support of the Jewish community in the wake of the Oct. 7 terror attack by Hamas in Israel.

After speaking to members of the community and other councilors, DeMarco said he was only going to offer the proclamation and not ask for the Israeli flag to be flown at the town's flagpole at the E.B. Newton Cultural Center.

Following DeMarco's motion, there was debate among the councilors, some requesting new motions to include the hardships of the Palestinian people within the motion.

Precinct 3 Councillor Hannah Belcher used her council privilege to postpone the motions, which will be back on the agenda for the next council meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 19.

Following the meeting, state Representative Jeff Turco issued a statement condemning the display of anti-semitism at the council meeting.

"Council President Jim Letterie said he believed there was a swastika on the screen, but that everything happened so fast that he couldn't be 100 percent sure.