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New Fire Chief John Quatieri being sworn in at City Hall last Friday.

COURTESY PHOTOS

NEW CHELSEA FIRE CHIEF SWORN IN

After eight years of service, Fire Chief Leonard Albanese announced his retirement last December. The new Fire Chief, John Quatieri, was sworn

in Friday morning in City Manager Fidel Maltez's office. Quatieri, has been with the Chelsea Fire Department for 32 years. Quatieri

has been a Deputy Chief since 2006, and for the last eight years has served as Deputy Chief of Operations, responsible for the day-to-day of the

Fire Department. There will be an official swearing-in ceremony before the City Council in the council chambers on Monday, April 1 at 7 p.m.



City Manager Fidel Maltez with new Chelsea Fire Chief John Quatieri.



Chelsea Fire Chief John Quatieri with firefighters and city officials.

EBNHC looking ahead with excitement and optimism

By Cary Shuman

After a major announcement last week that East Boston Neighborhood Health Center will rebrand its health system

as NeighborHealth, President and CEO Greg Wilmot said he is looking ahead with excitement and optimism about the future. EBNHC currently operates nearly a dozen

clinical sites throughout Greater Boston, including East Boston, Winthrop, Everett, Revere, and the South End. It serves approximately 120,000 people and has about 2,000

employees. EBNHC operates the fourth-busiest emergency department in the City of Boston, with more than 45,000 visits in 2023. "It's a very busy place," said Wilmot.



EBNHC President and CEO Greg Wilmot is pictured with Revere PACE Center Manager Marcy Nicholson during a visit to the center Monday.

Rebrand to NeighborHealth begins in June. "I think the rebrand does a few things," said Wilmot. "It unifies our organization which has really grown to a multi-site, multi-community organization and it allows us to reflect that to our patients during their care journey with us," said Wilmot. "It also works well for our staff, who may serve patients at one location or another, but we really wanted to make sure that everyone felt part of the same organization with the same values across our organization."

Wilmot added that when EBNHC joined forces with the South End Community Health Center

See EBNHC Page 2

Schools see positive trends with attendance

By Adam Swift

While not totally unexpected, there was good news on the school attendance front in February. At last week's school committee meeting, Deputy Superintendent of Schools Adam Deleidi presented the monthly indicators of success for the district, including attendance and the drop-out rate.

The district compares the prior month's attendance rates to the month previous to that, as well as the year-to-date attendance to the previous year at the same time, Deleidi said. "In the month of February in all grades, we beat

our attendance rates over January with the exception of grade two, which started exactly the same at 91.5 percent, and our post graduate," he said. "Everyone else actually improved their attendance rates." Compared to this time last school year, Deleidi said every grade is on pace to have a better attendance rate, with the exceptions of grades six and nine. "Now, before we get too excited, I will say ... last year we were dealing with the tripledemic of flu, Covid, and RSV," said Deleidi. "We talked about that last year, so we expected improvements, but we are glad that we are

See ATTENDANCE Page 2

Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy continues to grow

By Adam Swift

Chelsea's Virtual Learning Academy provides an educational opportunity for some of the city's most vulnerable public school students. At last week's school committee meeting, Chelsea VLA principal Meg Maccini and several of the virtual school's students highlighted some of their successes over the past three years.

"We are Chelsea Public Schools newest public school, and we were created in 2021 as a single district virtual school," said Maccini. "After the pandemic, (Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta) felt that the district needed another alternative to serve students who might

need to come to the school for medical, for personal, for other social emotional reasons." The school currently has an enrollment of 76 students, with 19 of those in middle school grades and the rest in high school. There are 50 female students and 26 male students, Maccini said. "We are part of the superintendent's plan to provide educational options for students," said Maccini. "The superintendent charged all schools with knowing students by their name, strength, and story. Central to what we do at the school is building positive and appropriate relationships as a foundation

See ACADEMY Page 2

ZBA gets positive feedback on Wesley Street church proposal

By Adam Swift

Pastor Jose Sanchez of Ministerio Internacional Cristo Vive Church is looking to establish a new church at 10 Wesley Street. Plans for the church have been in the works for several years, but there have been issues with making sure there is enough parking for the congregation.

Tuesday night, the church was before the Zoning Board of Appeals for an initial public hearing on a special permit for parking relief at an adjacent property the church purchased at 19 Clyde St. The church needs some relief at that site for setbacks for several of the 27 outside tandem parking spaces proposed for the property. In addition, the church will have 21 overflow tan-

dem parking spaces at an inside garage on the Wesley Street property. The proposal will go before the Planning Board later in March for a site plan review of the project, as well as a recommendation to the ZBA on the special permit. It will then come back to the ZBA in April for an anticipated vote on the special permit. "The project has changed over the past three years," said Tom Curran, representing the

See ZBA Page 3

DiDomenico hosts briefing with students to advocate for safe and supportive schools

Special to the Independent

Last week, Senator Sal DiDomenico hosted a briefing for students from across the state and welcomed them to the State House to discuss the importance of Safe and Supportive Schools. At the briefing, middle and high school students shared their perspectives on what they need in order to do well in school and why now is a critical moment to prioritize funding for Safe and Supportive Schools.

“I was moved by the passion and activism I saw in these students, and I am proud that our office has secured funding for Safe and Supportive Schools over the last several sessions and I will continue advocating for funding in this year’s budget,” said Sal DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate.

“Protecting and supporting our children should be our top priority, and properly funding this initiative will go a long way towards achieving that goal. I want to thank my State House Colleagues, Anne Eisner, Director of the Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative, and Michael Gregory for organizing this great event and for all their work supporting students throughout Massachusetts.

Senator DiDomenico co-hosted this event with the Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative of Harvard Law School and State Representative Ruth B. Balser, State Representative Denise Garlick, and Senator Jason Lewis. The Safe and Supportive Schools grant program and related resources help school districts and communities build safe and supportive learning environments for all students.



Senator DiDomenico and Representative Balser (front two left to right) standing alongside students and advocates on the Grand Staircase in the State House

Senator DiDomenico has been a longtime supporter of funding this initiative and will continue to do so in this year’s budget.

EBNHC // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in 2020, “it was important for us to have a unified brand to avoid confusion, but also to make sure everyone felt connected to the same institution.”

Becoming a national model and an award-winning health center

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center is the largest community-based primary care health system and community health center in Massachusetts and one of the largest in the United States.

“We find ourselves connecting with communities across the nation to talk about the work that we’ve done for many years,” said Wilmot.

Expanding life expectancies

On average today, people in the United States are living a lot longer.

“What’s really important is that people not just live longer, but that they live high quality lives as well,” said Wilmot. “We believe that families, especially our aging population, should have the opportunity to age in the community, which is important to improving quality of life, but also improving health outcomes ultimately. So, programs like PACE (Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) are one of the ways that we support seniors.”

active in many organizations and causes and attends numerous events.

“I’m active in the community as are many members of our staff,” said Wilmot. “What’s really interesting about our organization is that 50 percent of our employees are residents of the communities we serve. Our new name, NeighborHealth, was a little bit of a nod to that, because we are, in fact, serving our neighbors. We live in the communities that we serve. It’s important that we maintain that deep connection to our communities.”

Addition of behavioral health services at EBNHC

Last October, EBNHC introduced behavioral health urgent care services at its site at 10 Gove St. in East Boston where it shares a location with its emergency department.

“Those services are meant to allow patients who are having an urgent behavioral health issue to receive their care in an appropriate setting,” said Wilmot. “Often times, patients might go to an emergency department for that care, which isn’t a great place for behavioral health care services. So, we created this very unique access point to make sure that our patients could receive their care in a high-quality environment and receive treatment from behavioral health providers that are trained in emergency and urgent behavioral health care services. And then we connect those patients back to treatment in primary care.”

Future growth and expansion

EBHNC has become widely known for its excellence and being a national model in the healthcare industry. Many cities and towns in Massachusetts would welcome a health center as comprehensive and well established as the one founded in East Boston a half-century ago. For example, EBNHC opened a center for senior care in the City of Everett in 2023.

Wilmot said that EBNHC will “continue to grow to meet the needs of our communities.”

“If that means new services, new locations, we are here to serve, and based on our history, that has been something we have done, and I think it’s something we will continue to do,” said Wilmot. “I think our name change allows us to do that flexibly and engage with our new communities in an inclusive way.”

Asked about EBHNC’s record of success and accomplishments, Wilmot credited his staff. “We have 2,000 amazing staff members,” said Wilmot. “We have a great team of professionals that have a deep commitment to what we do, and that’s the thread that connects every person in this organization.”

Active in their communities

Greg Wilmot, who stands at a towering 6 feet, 6 inches, has become a highly visible and charismatic presence in the Greater Boston community. He is



Senator DiDomenico speaking alongside students and advocates in the State House.

Attendance // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

seeing them here.”

While the attendance rate has seen improvement, there has been a slight increase in the dropout rate for the current school year.

So far this year, there have been 95 drop outs, while at this time last year, there were 75, Deleidi said.

“We do have more students this year, so the percentage of students who had dropped out at this point last year was 4.25

percent, this year at this point it is 5.13 percent,” said the deputy superintendent.

The dropout rate was highest for multilingual students at 9.7 percent. The rate for students with disabilities was 3.63 percent, and for students who are both multilingual and have special needs was 6.95 percent. The drop out rate for students who are neither multilingual nor have special needs was 2.78 percent.

There was good news with the dropout rate, as Deleidi said only one student dropped out in February, and that student was redirected to an adult education program.

Overall in February, the district saw 59 new students while 37 left the district.

“We continue the pattern of more students enrolling than they are leaving,” said Deleidi.

Academy // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for our success with students at the school.”

The principal said the school serves students who among other things prefer virtual learning, want a small school setting, have social anxiety or have been bullied, have unstable housing, are pregnant or parenting, or who are struggling with mental health issues.

“Every student at our school has a different story,” Maccini said.

Since opening in 2021, the school has enrolled approximately 225 students, many of whom represent the district’s most vulnerable students and families.

“While these students are at every single school, they are overrepresented at our school,” said Maccini. “We graduate students who might not otherwise graduate.”

In 2022 and 2023, the school graduated a combined total of 27 seniors. This year, Maccini said there are 18 seniors at the VLA.

In addition to the virtual classes, Maccini said the school has partner-

ships with a number of local organizations, such as La Colaborativa, Junior Achievement, Bunker Hill Community College, the One Love Foundation, Bottom Line, and MassHire. Many of these partnerships help students with college and career readiness and assist graduates of the school, as well.

“One of the charges of the superintendent is to graduate students who are college and career ready, so we have tried to build partnerships that have our students college and career ready,” said Macini.

Of the 10 seniors who have applied to college this year, nine have already been accepted to at least one college of their choice, and a number of those students have been accepted into multiple colleges.

The school also focuses on building meaningful staff and student relationships, and while classes are virtual, the school has held a number of in-person gatherings over the years.

“We also serve as a lo-

cal model, and three Massachusetts communities have reached out to CVLA in the past two months to learn about our model and operations and success,” said Maccini.

Several of the students who addressed the school committee spoke about the welcoming and comfortable atmosphere they have experienced at the academy, with teachers who seem to care about both their educational and mental wellbeing.

“I am really proud of the work that they are doing,” said Abeyta. “Ms. Maccini, she was charged with basically starting this school from the concept.”

Abeyta said Maccini was able to take that concept and vision and make it a reality.

“So now in the district, we have the Chelsea Opportunity Academy, Chelsea High School, and now we have the Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy,” said Abeyta. “For a small district of 11 schools, we are trying to meet our students and our families where they are.”

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PATTY CLARK LAMARRE ENJOYS LUNCH WITH FRIENDS AT THE BROWN JUG



Patty Clark Lamarre, a popular and personable member of the Chelsea High Class of 1976, recently returned to Chelsea and reunited with classmates, friends, and relatives for lunch at The Brown Jug. In the photo above (front row) are Charlene Salie Higgins, Barbara Cahill, Patty Clark Lamarre, and Eileen Gurska Ells. Back row are Edward Ells, Paul Sweeney Thorne, Kim Pulsifer Taylor, Tommy Bullock, and Mike Hudson. In the photo (right), Patty Clark Lamare (center) enjoys lunch with CHS classmates Tommy Bullock and Kim Pulsifer Taylor.



CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

Chelsea man pleads guilty to possessing child porn

A Chelsea man pleaded guilty last week to possessing child sexual abuse material (CSAM). Lasall Johnson, 55, pleaded guilty to one count of possession of child pornography before U.S. District Court Judge Leo T. Sorokin, who scheduled a sentencing for June 5. Johnson was charged by criminal complaint in March 2023 and subsequently indicted by a federal grand jury in April 2023. Johnson was identified as a user in an online peer to peer file sharing net-

work exchanging CSAM. During a search of Johnson’s residence, six electronic devices were seized from his bedroom. Forensic examination of the devices recovered hundreds of CSAM images and video files. In 1989, Johnson was convicted in Norfolk County Superior Court of two counts of assault on rape, for which he received a 20-year state prison sentence with two years committed and the balance suspended for 18 years. As a result of those convictions, Johnson is a

Level-2 registered sex offender. Due to Johnson’s prior convictions, the charge of possession of child pornography provides for a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years and up to 20 years in prison, at least five years and up to a lifetime of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

Former Chelsea man indicted for identity theft

A former Chelsea man was indicted last week by a federal grand jury in Boston for misuse of a Social Security number and making false statements in a passport application. Jose Ezequiel Reyes-Acosta, 48, was indicted for misuse of a Social Security number and making a false statement in an application for a United States passport, according to the U.S. Attorney’s office. Reyes-Acosta will appear in federal court in

Boston at a later date. According to the charging documents, Reyes-Acosta, a citizen of El Salvador, applied for a United States passport and a Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles Real ID using the name and other biographical information of another individual. The charge of misuse of a Social Security number provides for a sentence of up to five years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine

of \$250,000. The charge of making a false statement in an application for a United States passport provides for a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

Vintage Vibes



By Tracy Nowicki
Director of Elder Services

Hospice Choices

For those not well aware with the concept of Hospice, I’d like to share a story that sheds light on its significance. Hospice is a specialized form of care designed for individuals grappling with a terminal illness and a life prognosis of six months or less. The primary goal of hospice care is to enhance the quality of life for patients and their families by providing comprehensive support, pain management, emotional and spiritual assistance. Unlike aggressive medical treatments focused on curing the illness, hospice care emphasizes comfort, dignity, and overall well-being during the final stages of life. While commonly delivered in the patient’s home, it can also be provided in hospice facilities or nursing homes. The decision to opt for hospice involves personal discussions among the patient, their

family, and healthcare professionals. One member of our senior center opted for a hospice home for her mother. Throughout the decision-making process, we engaged in heartfelt conversations addressing the emotional struggle of not being able to care for her mother at home. Many of us share the sincere desire for our loved ones to find peace in their final moments within the comforts of their own home. Unfortunately, realizing these wishes is not always feasible. Like many others, her family attempted to honor her beloved mother’s wish to experience her final moments at home. Despite her mother’s heartfelt desires, circumstances dictated otherwise. Our senior friend faced the challenging decision of transitioning her mother to a hospice home. Unfamiliar with the concept, she approached the situation with apprehension, feeling as though there were no other viable options. Her mother had expressed a clear preference not to pass away in a hospital setting, and taking her home was impractical due to the demanding level of care she required, including round-the-clock attention and frequent administration of pain medication. The overwhelming task of meeting such intensive care needs at home left

her frightened and overwhelmed, prompting the senior center to explore alternative solutions. Little did she know that hospice homes existed, providing a supportive environment for individuals facing circumstances similar to hers. Despite harboring fear and guilt for not fulfilling her mother’s initial wish, she discovered a newfound appreciation for the compassionate care offered in the hospice home setting. The degree of personal, compassionate attention exceeded her expectations. The hospice home fulfilled her mother’s needs with care, compassion, comfort, round-the-clock personal attention, private room accommodations, and living arrangements for her and her five siblings. It turned out to be a picturesque backdrop for her mother to pass away peacefully, maintaining her dignity with the assistance of the remarkable angels we fondly refer to as nurses. If you or a loved one is facing the challenging task of making decisions for a family member with a terminal illness, the Chelsea Senior Center and/or Mystic Valley Elders Services are here to assist you in navigating through the available hospice care options. Feel free to contact us at Tnowicki@chelseama.gov or 617-466-4377.

ZBA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

church. “The project was originally designed for just this parcel (on Wesley Street).” However, there was an issue with the city determining that the parking on that parcel would not be sufficient for the anticipated building load from the proposed use, so the church bought the adjacent property for additional parking. Sanchez said he plans on services on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and possibly a smaller music program for young people on Tuesdays. Curran noted that although the plan is for tandem parking, there will be three parking valets on duty at all times during services. He added that the interior garage will only be used for parking if all the outside spaces are filled. John DePriest, the city’s land use permitting director, noted that the fire department is requiring the interior parking garage to be sprinklered. Sanchez said his vision for the church is based on the time he has spent in the United States, as well as the help he received from people during a two-year battle with cancer and his desire to help others. He said there will be a large focus on helping young people and immigrants in the community.

“My vision is to help with the young kids and draw the community together,” he said. A number of Sanchez’s congregation and neighbors spoke in favor of what the pastor is attempting to accomplish in Chelsea and in support of the application before the ZBA. District 1 City Councilor Todd Taylor said he does not have any opposition to the project. “If I had people calling me up and saying we don’t want this in our neighborhood, I would come here and say that just like I came before you on a previous project and spoke against it,” said Taylor. “I think a lot of people didn’t want to see a church go in here because we wouldn’t get a lot of tax revenue ... but let me tell you, you all heard these people tonight, you heard how this church has impacted their lives. I got into public service because I wanted to give back to people and make people’s lives better, you heard what it is.” Taylor said the church would bring value to the community. “We could use an injection of goodness, of positivity into the community,” he said. “I live in this neighborhood; there is stuff that goes on in this neighborhood that shouldn’t. I think the police do a very good job,

but they are always working hard at it; but it’s not just the supply side, it’s the demand side, too that I think these guys could help with.” District 7 Councilor Manuel Teshe also spoke in favor of the application, noting that he began attending Sanchez’s church in 2014. “I would ride my bicycle from Chelsea all the way to Everett, his church,” said Teshe. “His impact was so great that now, I am able to serve as a city councilor in Chelsea. Those are years of work that all sprouted out of having conversations with him. “Let’s not forget that we are talking about the fact of something so simple like parking, parking that has already been met in terms of numbers, the only issues that we are facing now are the little practicalities with it.” ZBA Chair Janice Tarkata thanked everyone who appeared to speak during Tuesday night’s public hearing, and noted that they would also have the opportunity to speak before the Planning Board on March 26 and again when it comes back to the ZBA on April 9. “It was moving, it was orderly, more orderly than I have ever seen with a group this large,” she said.

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THE VERDICT IS IN: WE ARE EATING OURSELVES TO DEATH

Most Americans by now are aware that we are among the most overweight people on earth: 40 percent of us are obese and another 32 percent are overweight, which means that a total of 72 percent of Americans -- that’s almost 3 of every 4 among us -- have an unhealthy body weight.

That’s bad enough, but scientists say that if current trends continue, by 2030 that number will increase to 80%, so in a few more years, about 4 out of 5 Americans will range from overweight to obese.

Although the new weight loss drugs -- which originally were formulated to combat diabetes (Ozempic/Wegovy by Novo Nordisk and Mounjaro/Zepbound by Eli Lilly) and then were shown to have the “side effect” of bringing about substantial weight-loss in those who take the drugs -- hold the promise of solving our national excess weight problem, a host of hurdles stands in the way of helping every American who might benefit from them.

The high cost of those drugs (which presently are not covered by health insurance companies for weight loss), the potential for side-effects (they clearly are not for everyone), and the fact that they have to be taken for life, may leave many Americans who struggle with their weight on their own without the benefit of these medications.

But there may be another solution. A recent study has concluded that the true culprit for our obesity epidemic may lie in the kind of food we eat -- the so-called ultra-processed foods.

It is estimated that 70% of the food supply in the U.S. consists of ultra-processed foods. Two-thirds of the calories children consume in the US are ultra-processed, while about 60% of adult diets come from ultra-processed foods.

What constitutes an ultra-processed food is not always easy to figure out. There’s a wide range of food items between fresh fruits and vegetables (which are not processed at all) and, say, Twinkies, which perhaps are emblematic of the ultimate ultra-processed “food.” On the other hand, a shorthand way to think about ultra-processed foods is whether they are found in nature: Twinkies don’t grow on trees.

According to the authors of a recent meta-analysis (they examined 45 studies involving almost 10 million human subjects), eating high intakes of ultra-processed foods substantially raises the risk of developing dozens of diseases and health conditions that are related to excess weight, with diabetes, heart disease, and cancer being chief among them.

That’s because what goes into an ultra-processed food product is not real “food” at all. If you look at the ingredients on the label of a typical packaged-food product, they consist of chemically-manipulated ingredients such as modified starches, sugars, oils, fats, and protein isolates, with little if any whole food added.

But it is not just our physical health that is at risk from diets high in ultra-processed foods. Many of these fake foods, which are loaded with sugar, sodium, and are low in fiber and high in fat, also are thought to have negative effects upon our mental health, including anxiety, sleep disorders, and depression.

Moreover, given the addictive nature of these foods (the sugar rush to the brain and the lack of fiber that leaves you never feeling full), they create a feedback loop (no pun intended), so that the more we eat of these products, the more we want to eat.

Convenience is the driving force behind the ever-increasing use of ultra-processed foods by Americans. Frozen pizzas and dinners are a quick-and-easy meal solution for harried parents. Fast-food restaurants, with their triple-bacon cheeseburgers, chicken nuggets, fries, and super-size soft drinks, are everywhere.

By contrast, it should be noted that local restaurants typically do NOT serve the ultra-processed foods of the fast-food chains and that frozen meals prepared in-house in local grocery stores do not rely heavily on ultra-processed products.

For example, the list of ingredients for french fries at one famous national restaurant chain is this: Potatoes, Vegetable Oil (canola Oil, Corn Oil, Soybean Oil, Hydrogenated Soybean Oil, Natural Beef Flavor [wheat And Milk Derivatives]*), Dextrose, Sodium Acid Pyrophosphate (maintain Color), Salt. *natural Beef Flavor Contains Hydrolyzed Wheat And Hydrolyzed Milk As Starting Ingredients.

(Yuk! After reading that list of ingredients, who would want to put that in their body?)

On the other hand, if you order a baked potato with your dinner at a local restaurant, you get the whole potato and nothing but the potato.

We realize that eating fewer ultra-processed foods is easier said than done. On the other hand, some of the solutions to avoiding ultra-processed foods are quite straightforward: Buy real food and cook it at home; read and compare product labels and try to choose less processed alternatives (for example, swap flavored-yogurt for plain yogurt with added fruit); add fresh, frozen, or canned fruits, vegetables, beans, and legumes to your diet; avoid sugar-sweetened beverages that have no nutritional value and instead drink water; and, when eating out, go to local restaurants instead of fast-food chains.

If we can significantly reduce ultra-processed foods from our diets, we can go a long way to solving the national epidemic of obesity that literally is killing us.

Forum

GUEST OP-ED

State legislature must help schools with inflation costs

By Sarah Elizabeth Neville

The Student Opportunity Act, passed in 2019, is a groundbreaking law that has provided Chelsea with millions of dollars in sorely-overdue funding, allowing Chelsea Public Schools to make incredible investments in staffing, curriculum, and building repairs over the past few years.

Among the most important components of the Student Opportunity Act is an inflation adjustment to ensure the funding keeps up with yearly inflation. And inflation has been hitting Chelsea Public Schools hard. Inflation was sky high the previous two years, causing a sharp increase to the costs of transportation, insurance, and other critical services

that our district provides.

The problem is the Student Opportunity Act has an “inflation cap” that limits the adjustment to a 4.5% increase per year, regardless of what the actual inflation rate is. In 2023, the actual inflation rate in MA was 7%, but the state could only give us a 4.5% inflation increase. In 2024, we had an actual inflation rate of 8%, but again our inflation increase was capped at 4.5%! This means Chelsea Public Schools has lost out on millions of dollars due to this arbitrary cap, and the effect compounds each year.

Due to federal COVID relief funds, we have been able to soften this blow, but that relief money ends this year. Now Chelsea Public Schools is facing

budget cuts for the first time in several years, forcing us to cut several important teaching positions.

There is a solution, though. This year, the actual inflation rate is only 1.35%---and if the state gave us a full 4.5% increase, it could help make up for the previous year’s losses! Unfortunately though, the governor’s budget proposal only contains a 1.3% inflation increase. As the Governor’s proposal goes to the Legislature for revision, we need to call on our state senators and representatives to fight for a 4.5% inflation increase to help us serve our students.

Since the state’s proposal is lacking, City Manager Fidel Maltez has come to the rescue, voluntarily offering an extra \$1.1

million from city funds to help out Chelsea Public Schools. This is amazing and generous, but I don’t think it’s the right solution. The City of Chelsea already has so much less tax revenue to put into our roads and parks than our wealthy neighbors. It’s the state’s constitutional responsibility to give us the resources we need to educate our students.

Massachusetts State Legislature, please fix the inflation glitch!

Sarah Elizabeth Neville is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Brown University, as well as a member of Chelsea School Committee. She received her PhD from Boston College School of Social Work and specializes in the research global child welfare.

City Councillor Manuel Teshe unveils 2024 legislative agenda

Special to the Record

Chelsea City Councillor Manuel Teshe, representing District 7, has announced a comprehensive legislative agenda for 2024, highlighting key priorities aimed at investing in and building a future that Chelsea residents can be proud of. The agenda includes initiatives focused on housing, transparency, accessibility, partnerships with faith leaders, support for local businesses and youth, parking solutions, and transportation improvements. These priorities underscore Councillor Teshe's commitment to serving the community and addressing the needs of all Chelsea residents. The following is his agenda:

As the elected councillor for District 7 of Chelsea, I hereby announce legislative priorities that will be brought before the council in the year 2024. The following priorities are focused investing and building a future Chelsea can be proud of.

HOUSING AND ELDERLY

1. Strengthen outreach for program to assist homeowners/renters:

a. Expand methods of releasing information that ARPA funds are currently

available and used to assist homeowners/renters.

2. Program to increase homeownership opportunities:

- a. Increasing awareness regarding current homeownership opportunities and advocating for the creation of more.
- b. Reviewing the success of current programs to seek improvement.
3. Water and Energy Assistance Program:
- a. The total sum of the program shall be \$50,000.00.
- b. This program will be aimed at supporting homeowners/renters in Chelsea who struggle to afford utilities.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESSIBILITY

4. Increase the awareness of the Public Service (know your council):

a. Install a profile board where all city councillors are displayed at City Hall for the public to get to know them.

b. This profile board will also include all councillors’ contact information to be reached at all times.

PARTNERING WITH FAITH LEADERS

5. Increased cooperation with benevolent churches and the city:

a. Coordinate meetings with Pastors with Fidel Maltez, the City Manager to revise opportunities for expanding the cooperation between the city and the church to assist the most vulnerable.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND YOUTH

6. Support for a Local Youth Center:

a. Support and push efforts to establish a youth center for the people of Chelsea.

7. Increase awareness of current and upcoming support provided to local businesses:

a. Inform local businesses to reach out for assistance during the upcoming Downtown Broadway Project.

8. Assistance for new entrepreneurs:

a. The total sum of the program shall be \$50,000.00.

b. To be managed by the Chamber of Commerce.

c. Requirement to attend workshops of how to grow your business already implemented by the city.

d. Applicants who successfully meet the requirements will receive a stipend of \$5,000.00 to fund their initial business operations such as registering the business with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts among others activities.

PARKING

9. Explore Parking Solutions:

a. Increase our focus on tackling the problems of parking throughout our city.

b. Review and consider alternative solutions.

TRANSPORTATION

10. Increase quality of our roads:

a. Prioritize fixing roads, filling potholes, and sidewalks.

The above priorities reveal a strong focus on our community such as the youth, elderly, long time residents, newcomers, local businesses, local entrepreneurs, workers, and all who call Chelsea home. I release this so that I may be held accountable and measured in effectiveness while in office. After all, I was elected to serve.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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THE JETBLUE SHAMROCK SPLASH ON CONSTITUTION BEACH

Special to the Record

On Sunday, March 10th the clouds parted and the sun shone brightly on over 200 Splashers, Dashers and Spectators at the 14th Annual JetBlue Shamrock Splash on East Boston’s Constitution Beach. All together, the event raised \$55,000 to support Save the Harbor/Save the Bay’s Better Beaches Program partnership with the Department of Conservation & Recreation, including at least \$5,405 for South Boston events and programs.

“On behalf of my colleagues at the State including our MBC Co-Chairs Senator Brendan Crighton and Rep. Adrian Madaro, I want to thank all of the splashers and fundraisers for your effort to support our beaches and community,” said Rep. Jessica Giannino, who was also participating in her fourth consecutive cold water plunge with Save the Harbor. “We might have to sacrifice a bit of our comfort jumping into the 39 degree water, but it’s well worth it to have amazing programming on our beaches for our youth, seniors, families and everyone to enjoy all summer long.”

Kennedy Elsey from “Karson and Kennedy” on Mix 104.1 was the event MC for the 14th year in a row. She and JetBlue’s Donnie Todd

judged the always popular costume contest, with winners Josette Williams from Dorchester (as a “Sea Goddess”) and Ohana New England Dragon Boat Team (in “Dragon Boat” team costume) each taking home a coveted round trip JetBlue flight as their prize. In total, six JetBlue flights were up for grabs for biggest fundraiser and biggest team as well as a raffle for anyone who raised over \$100.

“This event would simply not be possible or as fun without our friends and title sponsors at JetBlue, or our event sponsors at Tito’s Handmade Vodka, Dorchester Brewing Company, Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel, and FMC Ice Sports,” said Save the Harbor Executive Director, Chris Mancini. “I’m so grateful to the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Healey/Driscoll administration for their important annual investment in the Better Beaches Grant Program and free beach events all summer long.”

Mancini also thanked Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, the Blue Sky Collaborative, Boston Consulting Group, Calamari Fisheries, Coast Cannabis, Comcast, David Nardella, EveryDejaVu, Harpoon Brewery, NamaStay Sober, Voloo Sports, Income Research + Management, Izotope, Jeff Reagan, John Mur-

phy, Kennedy Elsey, Mix 104.1, National Grid, P&G Gillette, the Richard Saltonstall Charitable Foundation, Topo Chico, and Vertex Pharmaceuticals, the Boston Centers for Youth & Families, the YMCA of Greater Boston, Youth Enrichment Services (YES) and the hundreds of people who

took part in the JetBlue Shamrock Splash for their support.

Proceeds from this year’s Shamrock Splash will be invested in free Better Beaches events and programs on the metropolitan region’s public beaches in Nahant, Lynn, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston,

Dorchester, Quincy, and Hull. In 2023, this included over 200 free events including Diversity Matters Fest organized by the North Shore Juneteenth Association, the 19th Annual Endless Summer Waterfront Festival hosted by the Hull Nantasket Chamber of Commerce, yoga on Revere Beach hosted by

NamaStay Sober, Community Game Nights at the Beach hosted by South Boston en Accion, and more all over our region’s beautiful beaches.

More information is available on the Save the Harbor/Save the Bay website at www.savetheharbor.org.



COURTESY PHOTO

With temperatures hitting a balmy 50 degrees outside, hundreds of splashers cooled off in the 39 degree water of Boston Harbor to raise money for free children and family programs all summer long.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Costume contest finalists, judged by Mix 104.1’s Kennedy Elsey and JetBlue’s Donnie Todd included Quint from Jaws, a Moose on the Loose and audience applause winners Josette Williams as “Sea Goddess” and Captain Allen Huang with his “Ohana New England Dragon Boat.”



Shown (left to right) are Save the Harbor Executive Director Chris Mancini, Rep. Jessica Giannino, and JetBlue’s Donnie Todd hosted the JetBlue Shamrock Splash on behalf of the Better Beaches program and Metropolitan Beaches Commission on Constitution Beach.

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CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR SUCCESS ON MCAS EXAMS



Thirty-two Chelsea High School students were honored at the Chelsea School Committee meeting.

Thirty-two impressive Chelsea High School students were honored on Thursday night, March 7, at the Chelsea School Committee meeting for

their high performance on the 2023 MCAS and MCAS-Alt Math and ELA exams. These students earned recognition for scoring

"Exceeds Expectations" or "Progressing" on the 2023 MCAS and MCAS-Alt in English Language Arts (ELA) or Math. The students honored are cur-

rently in either ninth or 11th grade at CHS. They achieved these scores last school year when they were in eighth and 10th grade, respectively.

Superintendent Dr. Almi G. Abeyta introduced the ceremony and announced the names of each student honored. Almost all the students were in attendance in City Hall Chambers, alongside family and friends. The students received certificates from CHS Principal Obed

Morales. Footage of the ceremony is available on Chelsea Community Cable.

The following students were recognized: Mary-an Abdi, Briana Campos, Joao Cassim Leitao, Fredis Castellon Zelaya, Alex Chang, Devon Chhoeun, Isabela De Matos Lemos, Pearl Deras Aviles, Haiku Drankowski, Diego Garmendia Portillo, Nathan Hem, Iason Herasme, Catherine Hernandez, Alen Ibrahimovic,

Ivan Irias-Padilla, Keily Jimenez Arrollo, Amanda Kennedy, Timothy LaVoie, Adalyn Lopez Moreno, Cristian Martinez Rodriguez, Bryan Medina, Jeffriso Mercado, Carlos Perez Acosta, Carlos Perez Caceres, Bryan Pineda Perez, Ezekiel Sala Martinez, Diana Salinas Garcia, Jaleesa Santiago, Theresa Su, Royal Tun, Jennifer Vasquez Lemus, and Edilson Yanes Contreras.

Apollinaire Play Lab's spring musical is 'Annie Kids'

Special to the Record

If you know a young person who loves to sing, dance and act you should register today for Apollinaire Play Lab's Play Production class. Students in this class will rehearse and perform the classic story and unforgettable songs of the little orphan Annie. Performers ages 6-16 are welcome to register. Advanced rehearsals (ages 10-16) begin on March 19, and run 3:15 - 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. Beginner rehearsals (ages 6-9) begin on March 21, and run 3:15-5:30 p.m. on Thursdays. Performances are on June 1 and 2.

Apollinaire Play Lab is in search of young playwrights.

Do you have a student in your life who loves to tell stories? Apollinaire Play Lab is in search of new plays written by youth ages 9-12 and 13-18. Five plays from each age group will be read aloud at Apollinaire Play Lab's play festival in June. One to three plays from each age group will be produced as a fall production. This is a great chance to see your student's stories presented on stage.

Scripts must be be-



Apollinaire Play Lab's Play Production class students working on the set of 'Annie Kids.'

tween 5 and 45 pages, school appropriate for the playwright's age group and written in play format. Multi-lingual scripts are encouraged and collaborative scripts with multiple playwrights are welcomed. Please submit scripts to audrey@apollinairetheatre.com by April 24 2024. Email audrey@apollinairetheatre.com with any questions.

FREE events at the Riseman Family Theatre.

Join us for a Playwriting Workshop on March 18th from 3:30p-5:00p. Increase your storytelling skills, refine your ideas and walk away feeling

inspired. (Open to ages 9-18)

Take a break during Parent's Night Out on March 30, from 5-8 p.m. Students are invited to a spring themed night of games, crafts and snacks while parents enjoy a night out. (open to ages 6-16)

No pre-registration required. All events take place at The Riseman Family Theatre (187 Winnisimmet Street Chelsea, MA)

For more information and registration visit: www.aplaylab.com.

Don't forget to check us out on Facebook & Instagram.

Chelsea, Everett, Revere, Winthrop join regional homelessness program

Special to the Record

For the first time, eight communities north of Boston will launch a joint program to provide supportive services and outreach to those who are homeless, at-risk of becoming homeless, or fleeing domestic violence. The new program will serve Malden, Arlington, Chelsea, Everett, Medford, Melrose, Revere, and Winthrop and will respond to incidents of homelessness and provide basic necessities like food and water as well as dedicated case management, housing problem solving, and more to help get people transition from homelessness to stable housing.

The services will be available in the eight communities, which are funding the effort with approximately \$1.8 million over four years with federal HOME-ARP funds that the cities collectively receive. The program is being managed by the City of Malden through its Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, with service delivery from Housing Families and their partner The Neighborhood Developers.

"We look forward to expanding on the continued partnership that we have cultivated with Housing

Families in this new iteration of homelessness support," said Mayor Patrick Keefe of Revere. "We are confident that this program will mesh well into each community's existing infrastructure and fill in the gaps we know are still occurring. Homelessness and domestic violence don't recognize traditional city borders, and with this regional approach, we can tackle these issues more collaboratively."

Malden Mayor Gary Christenson of Malden announced the initiative during his annual State of the City address last week, noting that none of the communities would be able to provide these services on their own.

"Only together can we respond with the care, compassion, and capacity that these most vulnerable residents need," Christenson said. "I'm grateful to the mayors and managers of our partner cities for their continued commitment to this vital work."

Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez stated that vulnerable populations are experiencing unprecedented difficulties when it comes to accessing social services that help them overcome the hardships they are going through.

"Unfortunately, this reality exceeds city borders,

so I am proud of Chelsea for joining this collaborative effort to serve the most in need in our region," said Maltez.

Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria said that as government officials, it is the duty of the communities' leaders to respond to the needs of all residents.

"Far too often, it is those with the greatest need for support that are overlooked in the allocation of resources," said DeMaria. "I am proud to support this initiative to provide wrap-around services for our most-vulnerable populations and I greatly appreciate the collaboration and partnership between the participating municipalities, Housing Families, and The Neighborhood Developers to address such a critical need."

The program is scheduled to launch in April.

"Housing Families is very excited to broaden the scope of services we are able to offer in our communities for those who are experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness," said Housing Families, Inc. CEO Laura Rosi. "This program will complement the work we do with both our Homelessness Prevention and Individual Homelessness teams. The street outreach component fills an especially critical area of service in our region."

The Boston Globe

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Former San Juan Mayor C. Yulin Cruz visits GreenRoots headquarters in Chelsea

GreenRoots Board Member and climate activist John Valinch has been working with former San Juan Mayor C. Yulin Cruz to share lessons learned and replicable models for community action on climate and environmental justice.

Part of this work consisted of a visit with GreenRoots staff, members and partners to learn about their community microgrid. A microgrid is a local system that can generate, store and distribute electricity; and can disconnect from the larger grid network.

In cases of extreme weather and downed power, microgrids can continue to keep power on in neighborhoods. This is critically important for hospitals, homes for elderly and other vulnerable populations and simply to keep the lights on and refrigerators cool.

GreenRoots, together with the City of Chelsea and partners through the Resilient Urban Neighborhoods-Green Justice Coalition (RUN-GJC) coalition, is working to stand up a microgrid in Chelsea. Building out this microgrid will ensure Chelsea's energy resilience. In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico was without power for upwards of a year. Seeing the frequency and intensity of storms which have created havoc on the island of Puerto Rico, activists and leaders there are working to implement new solutions and proactive measures to ensure the health and well-being of the population are not put at risk.

As Puerto Rico considers new approaches, they too are looking to implement microgrids. Mayor Yulin Cruz was interested in learning about GreenRoots' approach and how the City of Chelsea is engaged in this initiative.

Community members,

City Leaders and GreenRoots staff and partners were thrilled to welcome the Mayor to Chelsea and to begin an exchange of ideas and inspiration.



Always a leading advocate on environmental concerns affecting Chelsea, State Undersecretary of Environmental Justice and Equity Maria Belen Power is pictured at the information session at GreenRoots headquarters.



Former San Juan Mayor C. Yulin Cruz, with David Dayton, Abigail Despre and Alex Vick of Clean Energy Solutions, a Chelsea microgrid partner.



C. Yulin Cruz, former mayor of San Juan, Puerto Rico, speaks at GreenRoots headquarters during a visit focusing on community microgrids.



GreenRoots Executive Director Roseann Bongiovanni welcomes City Councillors Kelly Garcia (left) and Tanairi Garcia (right) to the agency's headquarters in Chelsea.



Supt. of Building and Grounds Victor Tiernan and Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez are pictured at GreenRoots headquarters during former San Juan Mayor Yulin Cruz's visit and information session on community microgrids.



Greeting former San Juan Mayor Yulin Cruz on her visit to Chelsea (second from left) are John Valinch, City Councillors Kelly Garcia and Tanairi Garcia, City Council President Norieliz DeJesus, and GreenRoots Executive Director Roseann Bongiovanni.



Devin MacGoy, GreenRoots Energy Democracy Organizer, surprises Board Member John Valinch, with a cake in honor of his birthday.



From left, are Councilor-at-Large Kelly Garcia, Lourdes Alvarez, Ben Cares, GreenRoots Executive Director Roseann Bongiovanni, Grace Muwina, Brenda Rosa, John Valinch, Mayor Yulin Cruz, City Councilor Tanairi Garcia, and Omar Miranda.

Instant Impact

Lasell basketball star Che Hanks selected GNAC Rookie of the Year

By Cary Shuman

Picking a college is a very important decision in one’s life.

Chelsea resident and Busche Academy graduate Che Hanks had several schools correspond with him, and Che chose Lasell University in Newton as the school in which he would continue his academic and athletic career.

It’s been the perfect fit as Che Hanks, a standout player since his days in the Chelsea Youth Basketball League, has been named the Greater Northeast Athletic Conference’s Rookie of the Year for the 2023-24 season.

A 5-foot-8-inch guard, Hanks became a starter early in the season for the Lasers, and it’s a virtual certainty that he will be running the show in head coach Aaron Galletta’s surging program for the years to come. A quick and dynamic playmaker with long-shooting range, Hanks averaged 11.5 points and four assists per game and connected from three-point land at a 43.5 percent clip. He scored a season-high 28 points in a victory over Rivier College, including 4-of-4 from the free throw line where he shot 81 percent for the season.



Lasell University freshman Che Hanks of Chelsea, pictured at the free throw line, was the starting point for the Lasers this season.

More importantly, Hanks earned the respect and admiration of his teammates while helping to lead the team to a 16-10 record and the quarterfinals of the GNAC Tournament.

Coach Galletta lauds his freshman guard

Lasell head coach Aaron Galletta placed Che Hanks at the helm of the Lasers’ offense just a couple of games into the season.

“Being the point guard on the team is obviously extremely important and for Che to take on that responsibility and have the success that he did this year is really a testament to his work ethic, his character, and his ability to connect with teammates,” said Galletta. “Che has a really good feel for the game and his work ethic, he’s in the gym every day. [Being selected GNAC Rookie of the Year] was a well-deserved honor for him. He’s a great kid who works very hard.”

Hanks was also a huge contributor on defense, according to Galletta.

“He always wanted the assignment of defending the other team’s best player, so he covered the opponent’s best guard – Che was playing both ends of the court. “Che is a great kid who works very hard,” said Galletta. “It was good to see him get that award recognition this season.”

His hoop success began in the CYBL

Che Hanks credits his training in the Chelsea Youth Basketball League and his father’s early coaching and mentoring for setting a strong foundation in his academic pursuits and basketball career.

“I played in the CYBL from the time I was five years old to when I was 14,” said Hanks, who attended the Saint Rose School and Excel Academy Charter Middle School.

Che is grateful to his father, Mswati Hanks, for being his prized coach and mentor during his youth basketball career. “That’s where I learned how to play the game – in the CYBL and at the Jordan Boys and Girls Club in Chelsea. I feel I got my outside shooting touch from my dad. He definitely taught me the shooting technique. They used to call him “Curry Before Curry.”

“My father’s taught me a lot of stuff, to be mentally strong,” continued Che. “He taught me that if I wanted to go get something, I have to put in the work. I think my hard work helped me become GNAC Rookie of the Year.”

Hanks played high school sports at Excel Academy Charter School in East Boston and Bishop Fenwick in Peabody before matriculating at Busche Academy, a prep school in New Hampshire. He was a starting guard in each of his interscholastic basketball seasons.



Che Hanks is pictured with his father and CYBL coach, Mswati Hanks, and his mother Rosa Hanks, after the Syracuse Orangemen won the CYBL championship.

Future bright for the Lasers

Coach Galletta said that all five starters from this year’s team will be returning next season.

The goal is a berth in the NCAA Tournament. And the man leading the steps to the Big Dance will be Chelsea’s Che Hanks.

“That’s definitely the goal – to win the conference championship and make March Madness,” affirmed Hanks. “I feel we have a great group of guys and a great coach. I feel real positive and strong about what we can accomplish next year.”



Che Hanks holds a championship trophy after his AAU team, MYCW, claimed a tournament title.

BRUINS Beat by Bob Morello

Bruins looking to finish strong

Monday night’s loss to the St. Louis Blues was much more than just two points lost on the score sheet for the Bruins. The locals came into this game riding a win streak, the Blues came in riding a three-game losing streak, which normally means that Boston had momentum coming in. Not the case in the Monday stinker...the Blues scored at least one goal in each of the three periods – Boston was outshot 37-22 – their face-offs won ratio was a weak 59% to 41%...in the Blues’ favor – no goals scored by the Bruins on power play chances – Boston was on the short end of hits 27-23 – and the Bruins led in giveaways by a 16-13 edge – plus the Bs

allowed the Blues to lead in takeaways 9-7. On paper was the idea that a betting man would surely have picked the Bruins to win this one. The Bs are currently tied with Vancouver Canucks at 91 points, good for second place in the NHL standings, while St. Louis is sitting in the 19th spot with 69 points. But as it’s known, it doesn’t matter what it shows on your sheet of paper, the only sheet that counts is the sheet of ice they skate on, and what happens there. Fair to say at the end of Monday night’s game, luck was not on the side of the Bruins – proof was the first goal of the game, when the puck took an odd bounce following a dump into the

Boston end, and instead of going behind the net, it ended up in the slot on the Blues’ Kasperi Kapanen’s stick and into the net for a quick 1-0 lead halfway into the first period. Add to that the ‘no goal’ decision on Justin Brazeau’s strong effort in scoring a goal for the Bruins, only to have it called back due to an off-side call. That actually set the tone for the night and the game. Despite the 5-1 final score, Bruins coach Jim Montgomery held his head high after the game, commenting: “You have nights like this when the

puck doesn’t go your way, you don’t have ‘puck luck,’ it happens. But we have 91 points, we’re a good hockey team, we weren’t good tonight.”

With Monday night’s game (#67) in the rear-view mirror, it’s now time for the locals to focus on the 15 games remaining to be played before the start of the playoffs. Two of their next four games will be against teams under .500, an ingredient that can lead to the high energy needed to win a game when playing an under .500 opponent. The first under .500 team they will play tonight (Thursday 7:00pm) when the Montreal Canadiens (14th in Eastern Conference standings, 3-5-2 last ten) will host Boston. Saturday 7:00pm on TD Garden ice, the Bs will take on the Philadelphia Flyers (6th in Eastern Conference at 5-4-1), also on home ice, Boston will host the Ottawa Senators, they too under .500 (15th in Eastern Conference at 3-6-1) on Tuesday 7:00pm. The Bruins will be ending their brief home stand with a tough matchup versus the New York Rangers (3rd in Eastern Conference at 7-2-1), and they are presently riding a three-game win streak.

PAVEL ZACHA NAMED NHL SECOND STAR OF THE WEEK

The National Hockey League recently announced that Boston Bruins forward Pavel Zacha has been named the NHL Second Star of the Week for the week ending March 10. The Bruins went 3-0-1 during the week with Zacha leading the team in scoring, recording five goals and two assists for seven points in four games. The 6-foot-4, 207-pound center started the week with a two-goal game on Monday, March 4 during the team’s road win against the Toronto Maple Leafs. Zacha scored another goal on Tuesday, March 5 against the Edmonton Oilers and notched an assist in Boston’s home win against Toronto on Thursday, March 7. He finished the week with two goals and an assist in the team’s 5-1 victory against the Pittsburgh Penguins on Saturday, March 9. The Brno, Czech Republic native was originally drafted by New Jersey in the first round (6th overall) of the 2015 NHL Entry Draft.

BRUINS SIGN DREW BAVARO TO ONE-YEAR ENTRY-LEVEL CONTRACT

Boston Bruins General Manager Don Sweeney announced that the team has signed defenseman Drew Bavaro to a one-year en-

try-level contract with an NHL cap hit of \$867,500. Bavaro will report to the Providence Bruins on an ATO for the remainder of the 2023-24 season. Bavaro appeared in 35 games with the University of Notre Dame during the 2023-24 season, recording 10 goals and 10 assists for 20 points. Among the team’s blueliners, he ranked first in goals, third in assists and tied for first in points. In 2022-23, Bavaro skated in 37 games for the Fighting Irish, tallying six goals and 13 assists for 19 points. The 6-foot-3, 202-pound defenseman spent two seasons at Bentley University from 2020-22, totaling 11 goals and 28 assists for 39 points in 52 games.

TD Bank Celebrates 100 Years of The Boston Bruins with commemorative pin

TD Bank announced a special Boston Bruins commemorative pin giveaway celebrating 100 years of Boston Bruins hockey. Through March 24, fans can visit any TD store in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont to receive their complimentary pin while supplies last. At TD Garden, TD cardholders receive free access to the recently opened Boston Bruins Heritage Hall and The Sports Museum through August 2024, as well as 15% off at Pro-Shop powered by ‘47

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Harvard Travellers Club to host record-breaking transatlantic oarsman Bryan Fuller on April 9

The Harvard Travellers Club will feature Bryan Fuller, holder of the American record for the fastest transatlantic crossing by oar, achieved in 2012. Fuller is owner and founder of PowerRowing Studio in Brookline, a company he started after giving in to his passion for rowing and making it his full-time job. Interestingly, Fuller came to rowing relatively late, after a career in the military as a counterintelligence agent. Suffering from PTSD as he exited the service, Fuller managed to gain admission to the MBA program at Boston University’s Questrom School of Business and began a new career in auditing and accounting. But then he found rowing. After experiencing a rowing machine in 2011 he became obsessed with the sport, joining Commu-

nity Rowing and raising \$10,000 for veterans with his first record-breaking transatlantic crossing in 2012. Fuller is planning another transatlantic expedition for June 2024, when he and three others will try to raise \$50,000 for veterans and attempt to cover the 3,500 miles in 50 days or less. In Bryan’s presentation at the Harvard Club, he will describe the challenges faced by his first crossing and discuss “lessons learned” that will help make this second, more northerly (and thus more dangerous) crossing safe and successful. This April 9 presentation will mark the 913th consecutive meeting of the Harvard Travellers Club since its founding in 1902. The Club traces its roots to Harvard’s eminent geographer, Profes-

sor William Morris Davis who, in association with Copley Amory, Archibald Cary Coolidge, Roland B. Dixon, and Hames J. Kidder, invited Harvard colleagues to meet in an effort to promote and discuss “intelligent travel and exploration”. The Club continues to accept new applicants. While the Golden Age of geographical exploration during which the Club was founded has long since passed, the spirit behind the founding of the Club remains intact. Today, members continue to commit themselves to intelligent travel and con-

tinue to be curious about other landscapes, cultures and scientific discoveries. Definitely unchanged is members’ enjoyment in learning of one another’s travels. In 1913 the club began to meet at the Harvard Club on Commonwealth Avenue – a tradition which continues to this day. The Club currently meets eight times a year for cocktails, dinner, and a lecture. Among the speakers this season have been Behzad Larry, who spoke to the Club about snow leopard conservation in Ladakh, India; Polly Letofsky, who circled the

world on foot; and Dylan Wickrama who rode his motorcycle around the world including a stint atop a raft for part of the way. We also heard from two of our members about excavations in Ethiopia and dog-sledding on Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic. “Our members join together to share stories of distant places, rugged climbs, boating expeditions, foreign cultures and traditions”, says Council member and North Shore resident Peter Creighton. “Member presence and participation propels this club forward and I love

learning about other members’ adventures”. To that end the Club welcomes potential new members and interested parties to attend the dinner in April to meet the membership committee. Membership in the Harvard Travellers Club is open to persons who have a background or interest in world travel. Visit <http://www.harvardtravellersclub.org> for more information, and contact jenniferlenoxcraig@gmail.com if you are interested in attending the dinner and Bryan Fuller’s lecture.

OBITUARIES

Rosa Elizabeth Salgado Soto

March 17, 1965 - March 9, 2024

Relatives and friends attended visiting hours for Rosa Elizabeth Salgado Soto on Wednesday, March 13th in the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea. Services will conclude with Rosa being placed to rest next week at Cementerio Parcelamiento Monterrey, Santo Domingo, Guatemala. As a tribute to Rosa the family asked visitors to wear something red or black.

Rosa passed away on Saturday, March 9th at the Kaplan Family Hospice House in Danvers with her family at her side. She was 58 years of age. Born and raised in Rio Bravo, Guatemala, she was the beloved daughter of the late Trinidad Salgado and Consuelo Soto. She received her formal education in Guatemala. She was married to Miguel Angel Estrada and raised her son, Angel, and daughter, Johanna and was passionately devoted to home and family.

She came to the US with her family as a young lady and first settled in Chelsea before moving to Revere 23 years ago. Rosa worked as a commercial housekeeper for many years and retired for health reasons two years ago.



She is remembered as a person who loved home cooking, preparing traditional Guatemalan dishes, and she ventured into home catering, preparing individual meals for family and friends. In her lifetime, she enjoyed traveling cross country with her family, playing Bingo and she was passionate about “Red Roses.”

She is survived by her beloved husband of 28 years, Miguel Angel Estrada, her loving children, Johanna Estrada and Angel Estrada, all at home in Revere. She was the dear sister of Wilson Bosque and Juana Soto. She is also survived by several nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

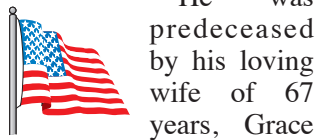
To send expressions of sympathy, please visit www.WelshFH.com.



Larry Louis Lombard

Mass Port Authority retiree and accomplished musician who led the Larry L. Trio

Larry Louis Lombard, 93, of Pelham, NH, known as “Lou” to most, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Thursday morning, March 7, at the Lowell General Hospital.



He was predeceased by his loving wife of 67 years, Grace (Iantosca) Lombard and is survived by his children: Lou Lombard and his wife, Patricia of Londonderry, NH, Mike Lombard and his wife, Suzanne of Pelham, NH, and John Lombard and his wife, Christine of Myrtle Beach, SC; his grandchildren; Christopher, Jonathan, Shannon and Michael; his great-grandchildren, Ayden, Abygail and Aryanna; and his sister, Janet Manuel of Groveland, MA.

Lou was born in Boston on January 29, 1931 to Edgar and May Carpenter (Boucher) Lombard. He was one of nine children raised in Chelsea, where he attended local schools before enlisting in the United States Army, serving in the Korean War. Upon the completion of his service, he returned to his hometown and started his family.

His post service years began working for a Chelsea based shoe manufacturing company before starting his career with the Mass Port Authority.

When not working, he was a big follower of the Boston sports teams, especially the Red Sox, an avid boxing fan and a well-versed wrestling enthusiast. Lou was also an accomplished musician and will be remembered for his voice and talent playing the guitar with his band, The Larry L. Trio. His band performed at



area social clubs, function halls, and entertainment venues. He even filled in as a backup musician for traveling celebrity entertainers. Unable to play the guitar in his later years, he was self-taught on the keyboards singing and playing the organ daily. Throughout the years, he played both at home while Grace crocheted making song requests.

Upon their retirement, Lou and Grace moved to Florida. They enjoyed their snowbird time living at Crystal Bay in Lake Suzy making many new friends from across the country. He and Grace loved organizing the bingo games, scavenger hunts, group dinners, shopping, and holiday decorating with their neighbors.

But beyond all else, he most cherished the time spent with Grace, his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Honoring his request, a private service and burial will take place today, Thursday, March 14th at 1 p.m. at the NH Veteran’s Cemetery, 110 DW Highway, Boscawen, NH 03303. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, 1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW Ste. 840, Washington, DC 20036.

To leave a message of condolence, please visit www.carrierfuneral-home.com.

OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper. Includes photo.No word Limit. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

Mariana Figueroa

She was passionately devoted to home and family

Relatives and friends are most kindly invited to attend visiting hours for Mariana Figueroa today, Thursday, March 14th from 4 to 8 p.m. in the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea, her funeral will be conducted from the funeral home on Friday, March 15th at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with Mariana being placed to rest in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

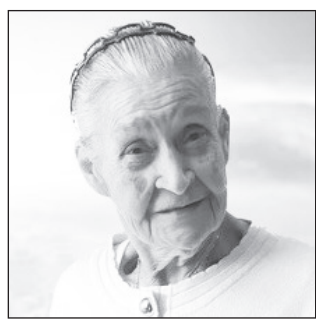
At 88 years of age, Mariana passed away on Friday, March 8th at the Whidden Memorial Hospital.

Born and raised in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, Mariana was one of three children of the late Gregorio Lugo and Carmen Nazario. She settled for a time in New York City where she married Felix Figueroa and together they raised ten children.

Mariana was passionately devoted to home and family. She has been a resident of Chelsea for the past 45 years.

In her lifetime Mariana enjoyed time spent at the Revere Senior Center, and playing games of chance at local casinos.

Mariana was widowed by her beloved husband Felix in 1999 and was



also predeceased by a son Raymond Gonzalez, and daughter Alicia Figueroa. She is lovingly survived by her children: Rosa Gonzalez, Leonor Figueroa, Jose Figueroa, Felix Figueroa, Wilfredo Figueroa, Jimmy Figueroa, Gregorio, and Maria Figueroa; 32 adoring grandchildren, 25+ great-grandchildren and her feline companion Chi-Chi. She was the dear sister of Gregory Lugo and Betsy Lugo.

For directions or to send expressions of sympathy, please visit www.WelshFH.com.

Arrangements were given to the care and direction of the Welsh Funeral Home, Chelsea.

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



She’s Only Gone On

*At last her gallant soul ‘Took Flight’
Into the Land Where There is no Night,
But her name is carved in Our hearts to stay
As we think of things that
She used to say.
So she is not dead, she’s only ‘Gone On Into a
Brighter, More Wonderful Dawn For people
like her were not born to die, But like the
Sun that shines in the Sky, She warms the
earth and the hearts of all, And in happy
Remembrance she lives again.
So while she sleeps and her voice is still, Her
spirit goes on, and always will.*



*Forever in our hearts
NUNNY BABE
Happy Heavenly St. Patrick’s Day!
* wink * wink **

To place a memoriam in the Chelsea Record please call 781-485-0588

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Spring lawn care tips to keep your grass healthy this year

Special to the Journal

With the first day of spring approaching, warmer weather signals plants to come out of dormancy and start flourishing again. The time for spring lawn care tips is right around the corner! Even if your lawn and garden never went fully dormant, you can still expect your home landscape to begin thriving with warmer temperatures.

Pretty soon, your lawn and garden will be full of color and activity again! If you have a warm season lawn, your turfgrass will come out of dormancy and if you have a cool season lawn, snow in your area will start to melt and you'll enjoy a greener environment.

Youtube video link: <https://youtu.be/ErmLOT-MpNys>

1. Begin Mowing Your Lawn at the Proper Height Again

The timing for which the first mow of the spring for your mature, established turfgrass widely varies depending on the area you live in. Grasses come out of dormancy differently depending on the environment and temperatures your area encounters.

For example, if you live in South Florida, your grass may have never entered dormancy at all during the winter. Many homeowners who live in South Florida will mow their lawn every other week during the winter—oftentimes starting in September and resuming a regular, weekly mowing schedule again in mid-March.

Generally speaking, however, mid-March is about the time for you to begin your regimen for spring green-up and mowing. It's important to note that the first mow of the spring shouldn't take



PHOTO COURTESY SOD SOLUTIONS CONTENT STRATEGIST, VALERIE SMITH.

place while warm season grass is dormant.

Mowing heights vary for each grass type, but you should never remove more than a third of the leaf blade from any grass type. If you mow less than this, you may risk scalping the grass.

Lastly, a good tip for spring is to make sure your lawn mower blades are sharpened so that the mower blades neatly slice through the grass in place of ripping them. If the grass blades aren't cut neatly, the mower is ripping them and opens the grass up to the possibility of disease.

Performing regular maintenance on your mower is good practice for the end of the mowing season or before spring takes place.

2. Start Your Lawn Off Right with the Appropriate Spring Fertilizer This Year

Spring is one of the most important times of the year to use fertilizer. Warm season grasses are coming out of dormancy, so you will want to promote healthy roots and the return of green leaf blades.

Be careful when making your first fertilizer application of the year though—a lot of homeowners see their grass

green up and immediately pull out the fertilizer and lawn mower.

We advise that you typically wait until the last frost has hit.

If you fertilize your lawn and another frost hits, your grass will go right back into dormancy, and you'll have a harder time getting it to green up again. This does more harm than good.

With that being said, the date of the last frost varies from location to location. In the Florida Panhandle, for example, grass doesn't ever go truly dormant and reaches its full green-up in early February (depending on how cold the winter was).

Even then, you won't want to apply fertilizer until after Easter once the last frost has passed.

Sod University recommends two different options for spring fertilization: Lawnifi® Foundation, a slow-release granular option that comes in 25 lb. bags and lasts for three months, and our Lawnifi Spring Fertilizer Box, a liquid fertilizer program that includes three bottles of liquid fertilizer that can be applied monthly with a hose-end sprayer.

Each option covers 5,000 sq. ft. Our patented nano-fertilizers with Catalyst Technology™ give

your lawn the jump-start it needs to emerge from dormancy, green up fast and thrive throughout the spring months.

Check out Why Use Lawnifi Fertilizer? for more information about Lawnifi.

Next, it is important to mention that if you have a warm season lawn, you may start to notice spots of brown or straw-like grass while the rest of your lawn comes out of dormancy. This is usually a sign of disease.

You do not want to apply fertilizer to a lawn with disease as the nitrogen in the fertilizer will feed the disease and promote its growth.

Apply a systemic fungicide first and then wait several weeks before following with a fertilizer application.

3. Set Up a Spring Irrigation Schedule

Dormant, warm season turfgrass doesn't need much water until the active growing season kicks in and your grass starts to green up. If you have a dormant, warm season lawn, it is not dead—it's just "sleeping".

Although dormant grass requires much less water than it would while it is actively growing, it will still need water. Once your grass starts to green up from winter dormancy, you should resume watering your lawn with about 1 inch of water per week including rainfall.

If you aren't sure how to measure how much water your lawn is receiving, an irrigation audit may be beneficial to you. Irrigation audits provide measurable information about how much water each area of your lawn is receiving within a given amount of time.

If you're a homeowner who lives far enough

south and your warm season grass doesn't go dormant during the winter, you may continue to regularly water your lawn in the winter.

However, if you live in South Florida, for example, you may turn your irrigation off completely during the winter and during the months of June–August when it rains a lot.

The atmosphere in South Florida isn't usually evaporating much water and the grass isn't using it much during the winter, so frequent irrigation isn't needed.

The next few tips in this article discuss spring lawn treatment with fungicides, herbicides or insecticides. If any of these control products or fertilizers are granular, you will need to water the product in so that your lawn absorbs it.

When watering granular products in, you will already be watering your lawn with the appropriate amount of water during the week of application.

The same can be said with any liquid products as they are either products that attach to the end of your garden hose or require tank mixing with water.

Above all, read and follow label instructions thoroughly before watering any products in.

4. Control Weeds with a Pre- or Post-Emergent Herbicide

Pre-emergents should be applied during the spring when ground temperatures reach about 55 degrees Fahrenheit. A pre-emergent herbicide functions to prevent weeds from emerging from the surface of the soil, as its name suggests.

The exact dates for these applications differ depending on the area you live in, but generally

speaking, pre-emergents should be applied between the beginning and middle of March in the spring.

Apply post-emergent herbicides throughout the spring as needed to control summer annual and perennial broadleaf weeds like crabgrass, goosegrass, sandspurs, dallisgrass, dandelion, chickweed, white clover, knotweed, spurge, dollarweed, dove-weed and lespedeza.

5. Watch Out for Insects That May Begin Coming Out

If your lawn has suffered from insect damage around this time in the past, it is a good idea to apply a broad spectrum insecticide at this time to prevent them from coming back again.

If the insecticide is a granular product, be sure to water it in so that it soaks into your soil. On the other hand, if it's a liquid product, you will either need to attach it to the end of your garden hose or tank mix it.

Some of the most common of insects in the springtime are white grub worms, chinch bugs, sod webworms and billbugs. White grub worms can be found in most turfgrasses at this time while chinch bugs are more likely to be spotted in St. Augustine grass, sod webworms in bermuda grass and billbugs in zoysia grass.

Sod webworms are typically more of a summer or fall pest, however, they can still cause a significant and costly nuisance to lawns located throughout the Southern regions of the U.S. during the spring season.

6. Prevent Disease as Temperatures Begin to Warm Up

As previously mentioned, if you have a warm

See LAWN CARE Page 11

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE OF HEARING

Case No. 2023-04

In accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A, a public hearing of the Chelsea Planning Board will be held at Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 Broadway Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 6:00 PM for Major Site Plan Review seeking to establish a church at the address below and to create and establish additional parking at the premises known as: 10 Wesley Street and 19 Clyde Street All interested parties are encouraged to attend. A copy of the application and petition is available for review at: City Clerk's Office during normal business hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Tuesday, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. – Friday, 8 a.m. to noon 3/7/24, 3/14/24 C

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Division 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P0302EA Estate of: James Vincent Power Also known as: James V. Power

Date of Death: 10/13/2023 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Linda L. Berry of Rochester, NH requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Linda L. Berry of Rochester, NH be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/11/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the ad-

ministration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 07, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate 03/14/24 C

LEGAL NOTICE



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 71, Section 38N, the Chelsea School Committee will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at Chelsea City Hall for the purpose of receiving comments on: 1. School Choice for the 2024-2025 school year. 2. The proposed 2024-2025 school budget. Copies of the budget proposal will be available for inspection no later than 2 days prior to the hearing on the Chelsea Public Schools website at <https://www.chelseaschools.com/Page/2433>, at the Chelsea Public Library, and the Office of the Superintendent. Please call 617-466-4456 to request a hard copy or to have a copy emailed to you. If you are unable to attend in person, but wish to submit public comment, you may send it to: publichearing@chelseaschools.com or call 617-466-4456. The meeting will be live streamed for the public at: Chelsea Cable TV and

<https://www.facebook.com/ChelseaPublicSchools/> 3/7/24, 3/14/24 C

LEGAL NOTICE



REUNION PUBLICA

De acuerdo con el Capítulo 71, Sección 38N, el Comité Escolar de Chelsea llevará a cabo una audiencia pública el jueves, 14 de marzo del 2024 a las 6:30 p.m. en la Sala del Consejo Municipal en la Alcaldía de Chelsea con el propósito de recibir comentarios sobre: 1. La Elección de las Escuelas para el año escolar 2024-2025. 2. El presupuesto escolar propuesto para el año 2024-2025. Las copias de la propuesta del presupuesto estarán disponibles para su inspección a más tarde 2 días antes de la audiencia en el sitio de web de Las Escuelas Públicas de Chelsea <https://www.chelseaschools.com/Page/2433>, en la Biblioteca Pública de Chelsea y la Oficina de la Superintendente de las Escuelas. Llame al 617-466-4456 para solicitar una copia impresa o para que le enviemos una copia por correo electrónico. Si no puede presentarse en persona para los comentarios públicos, pueden enviar sus comentarios por correo electrónico o por teléfono a los siguientes: publichearing@chelseaschools.com o 617-466-4456 La reunión se transmitirá en vivo para el público en: Chelsea Cable TV <https://www.facebook.com/ChelseaPublicSchools/>

Schools/ 3/7/24, 3/14/24 C

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA INVITATION FOR BIDS

Purchase & Delivery Of Eleven (11) Compost Bins at Mary C. Burke Complex and Clark Ave Middle School Cafeterias The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking sealed bids for "Purchase and Delivery of Eleven (11) Compost Bins at Mary C. Burke Complex and Clark Ave Middle School Cafeterias". Invitation for Bids will be available on or after March 14, 2024 by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php. Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "Purchase and Delivery of Eleven (11) Compost Bins at Mary C. Burke Complex and Clark Ave Middle School Cafeterias" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 10:00AM on Thursday, March 28, 2024. 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 30B. Dragica Ivanis Chief Procurement Officer 03/14/24 C

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA INVITATION FOR BIDS

Removal and Installation of the Chelsea High School Red Gym Bleachers The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Bids for marked "Removal and Installation of the Chelsea High School Red Gym Bleachers". Invitation for Bids will be available on or after March 14, 2024 by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php. Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "Removal and Installation of the Chelsea High School Red Gym Bleachers" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 10:00AM on Thursday, April 04, 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.

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LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF CHELSEA INVITATION FOR BIDS

ELC Water Source Heat Pump Upgrade (HVAC Phase 2) The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Bids for marked "ELC Water Source Heat Pump Upgrade (HVAC Phase 2)". Invitation for Bids will be available on or after March 14, 2024 by visiting the City's website at https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php. Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "ELC Water Source Heat Pump Upgrade (HVAC Phase 2)" and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, City Hall, 500 Broadway Room 204, Chelsea, Massachusetts. A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at ELC School on Monday, March 18, 2024 from 8:00am to 10:00am; located at 99 Hawthorne St., Chelsea, MA 02150.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime Update Statement. GENERAL BIDS will be received no later than 11:00 AM on April 04, 2024 and publicly opened. Filed sub-bidders must be DCAMM certified for the trades listed below and bidders must include a current DCAMM Sub-Bidder Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Sub-Bidder's Update Statement. Filed sub-bids will be received no later than on March 28, 2024 and publicly opened. Filed sub-bids categories: Acoustical Panel Ceilings, HVAC, Electrical 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 149. Dragica Ivanis Chief Procurement Officer

LEGAL NOTICE

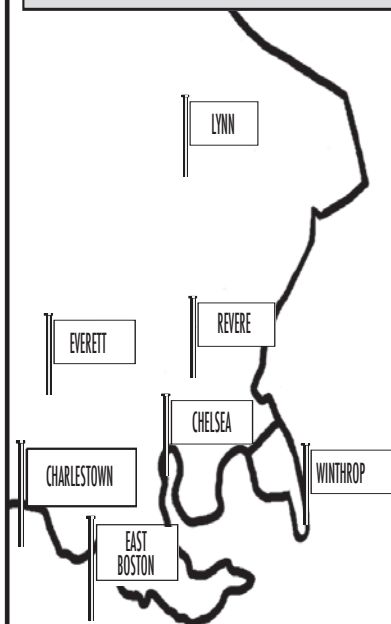


CITY OF CHELSEA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Landscaping and Maintenance of City Owned Parks and Squares The City of Chelsea Massachusetts through its Chief Procurement Officer is seeking sealed bids to furnish all services to provide "Landscaping and Maintenance of City Owned Parks and Squares" for the City of Chelsea. Invitation for Bid documents are available on or after March 14, 2024 by visiting the City's website https://www.chelseama.gov/departments/purchasing/current_bids_solicitations.php. Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "Landscaping and Maintenance of City Owned Parks and Squares and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 1:00 PM on Thursday, April 04, 2024. The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any bid, to reject and/or all bids and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City. In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond. This invitation for bid is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B. Dragica Ivanis Chief Procurement Officer 03/14/24 C

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CHELSEA HOUSING AUTHORITY OFFICE COORDINATOR

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Performs the function of a receptionist along with performing general clerical duties for the housing authority departments and staff. Working under the direct supervision of the Occupancy Manager and Admissions.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Answers incoming calls and takes messages for the department staff.
- Receives and directs visitors and notifies the appropriate staff.
- Sorts and distributes department mail and Authority notices.
- Receive and process all public housing and section 8 applications.
- Responsible for ordering office supplies and coordinating services for office equipment.
- Responsible for distributing temporary parking pass
- Performs other routine and clerical assignments including filing, copying, faxing, and typing correspondence.
- Responsible for coordinating conference room schedule and upkeep.
- Assists in maintaining Leased Housing department Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) databases and application input.
- Responsible for the updating and distributing employee directory.
- Performs other related duties as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE: A High School Diploma or GED required. Previous work experience in an office setting, preferably a public agency. Should be familiar with general office work and the more common office terminology and office machines. Applicant must also exercise ethical judgment in maintaining the confidentiality and integrity of sensitive information. Strong technology skills with experience with word processing applications is required, spreadsheet program experience is preferred. Strong oral and written communication skills with bilingual (Spanish) preferred.

Applicants must successfully pass a CORI test.

STARTING SALARY RANGE: \$50,000 to \$55,000 annually (Based on Experience)

Interested candidates may submit resumes by email at employment@chelseaha.com, (subject line OC2024) or mail (address below) by March 14, 2024, or until the position is filled.

The Chelsea Housing Authority is an equal opportunity employer.
Chelsea Housing Authority Human Resource Department (OC2024)
54 Locke Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

visit www.chelsearecord.com

CHELSEA HOUSING AUTHORITY DEPUTY DIRECTOR

About CHA and Deputy Director:

The Chelsea Housing Authority, an innovative housing authority on the cutting edge of housing in the Greater Boston region, is looking for a new Deputy Director to help guide us into a new era. Over the past several years our previous director level employees have gone on to leadership positions both internal and at other housing authorities. The CHA is in the midst of a major public private partnership development at Innes, launching a pilot wif program that is being replicated statewide and is in the planning stages for much larger and exciting projects. We pride ourselves on a work culture that leads to high staff retention rates while meeting and exceeding goals, most recently CHA was designated a High Performer in the latest round of announcements by HUD. Our team is looking for a Deputy Director that has the day-to-day aspects of housing down but is also able to adapt with us during these exciting times to help us achieve the ambitious goals of our board and community.

Job Summary:

This is a highly responsible managerial position charged with implementing and overseeing all aspects of the public housing, capital and leased housing programs at a large housing authority. The Deputy Director in this position consults with and advises the Executive Director on all aspects of Finance, public housing, leased housing and capital programs. Work is performed with considerable independence of judgment and decision within the constraints of regulations, finances and housing authority policies and procedures. Will also serve in the absence of the Executive Director as and if needed and act, always, in the best interest of the housing authority, to attain the same. Supervision is conducted in such a way as to provide leadership and to motivate staff properly.

Principal Duties:

- Establishes goals and objectives for the supervisors and managers under their supervision.
- Supervises, reviews, evaluates, and monitors the performance of work force to meet goals and objectives.
- Conducts periodic management staff meetings, designed to effectively communicate with others and to evaluate program progress.
- Reviews instructions and written procedures published by Federal/State governmental agencies and interpret same to the staff.
- Responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable state and federal activities undertaken by the housing authority.
- Determines and arranges appropriate training for department employees.
- Conducts on-going and annual performance evaluations of managers/supervisors for whom s/he bears direct responsibility.
- Interviews candidates for employment in responsible positions.
- May act for, and in the absence of, the Executive Director.
- Prepares long and short-range plans in consultation with the Executive Director.
- Reviews equipment requests and makes recommendations to Executive Director.
- Performs other related duties of the class, as required.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Knowledge of management theory and practices.
- Ability to supervise other managers and supervisors.
- Knowledge of community resources.
- Ability to recruit and obtain the cooperation of groups and individuals in furthering the goals of the programs.
- Ability to make independent decisions.
- Ability to communicate with others effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Ability to establish and maintain favorable business relationships.
- Ability to organize and plan work.
- Knowledge of the economics of housing.
- Knowledge and understanding of both federal and state procurement laws and regulations.
- Ability to motivate others toward common goals/objectives.
- Ability to analyze complex situations and problems, and to arrive at resolution of same.
- Ability to work effectively with top management personnel.

Required Qualifications:

- Pass CORI Background check
- Ideal candidate will possess a Bachelor's Degree in Business/Public Administration, human services, economics or related course of study
- Minimum of four (4) years of supervisory experience of a staff of no less than five
- Knowledge in areas of federal and state public housing and modernization/capital programs; landlord/tenant law; budgets; personnel development, leadership and law; Section 8 HCV and other leased housing programs
- Knowledge of property management practices.
- Current MCPPO certification a plus. Valid Massachusetts Driver's License and access to reliable transportation is required.

Supervision:

The Deputy Director works under the broad supervision of the Executive Director. A great deal of supervision is conducted through management meetings occurring periodically, and by the review of reports submitted by the Deputy Director. The Executive Director is consulted on unusual and sensitive situations, and on matters that require top management interpretation of policy.

Supervision Given:

The Deputy Director provides general supervision to Authority's Directors, Managers and Supervisors, and others working with them in the development of goals and objectives, and of the implementation of work programs designed.

Salary Range

\$130,000-\$145,000 based on education and experience.

How to Apply

Please send cover letter and resume with references to:
Executive Director Paul Nowicki at
pnowicki@chelseaha.com or Mail to
Chelsea Housing Authority Attention Paul Nowicki
54 Locke Street
Chelsea, MA, 02150

Lawn Care // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

season lawn, circular brown or yellow spots, also known as spring dead spot, may start to show up as it comes out of dormancy.

Other potential disease outbreaks include brown patch and gray leaf spot.

If you notice any disease outbreaks, you may need to make applications of a systemic fungicide. Even if you don't have disease in your lawn, it's still good practice to apply it preventively to keep disease from taking over—especially if you've had disease in the past around this time.

Systemic fungicide applications should take place before you apply any spring fertilizer. If you have fungus in your lawn, the nitrogen found in fertilizers oftentimes feeds it and helps it spread. Apply a systemic fungicide and wait a few weeks before applying any fertilizer.

Read product labels thoroughly.

There are a few other optional things that can be done to help your lawn thrive in the spring.

Before the onset of summer heat, lawn patchwork and light top dressing with a sand and topsoil mix is a great way to recover

any weak areas. Plugs can be purchased to fill in areas of the lawn with bare spots.

Aerating your lawn is also an ideal way to help deliver nutrients and really break up compacted soils. We typically recommend doing this once every couple of years. If you notice thatch that is thicker than 1/2 inch, dethatch in late May.

Spring maintenance tips somewhat differ from maintenance practices that take place during the rest of the year because the weather is starting to warm up and everything starts to turn green again.

Although cool season grass doesn't usually go dormant during the winters, snow in a lot of the areas up north starts to melt and your lawn will receive more sunlight. It is important to partake in spring maintenance so that you can set your lawn up for success for the rest of the year.

Want to learn more about achieving a great lawn? Check out more Sod University tips here and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

This article was written by Sod Solutions Content Strategist, Valerie Smith.

Chelsea's Professional Service Directory

ELECTRICIAN



**2 col. x 1 inch
\$120.00
For 3 Months
(\$10/wk)**

PAINTING

**Nick
D'Agostino
Professional
Painter**
Cell:
617-270-3178
Fully Insured
Free Estimates

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REAL ESTATE

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1 inch
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THE DIDOMENICO FOUNDATION HOLDS 11TH ANNUAL ST. PATRICK DAY’S DINNER

The DiDomenico Foundation’s 11th Annual St. Patrick Day’s Dinner held on March 8 drew a capacity crowd to the Knights of Columbus in Charlestown.

Sen. Sal DiDomenico led the speaking program during which leaders in state government delivered some humorous quips and jokes.

The many guests enjoyed a delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner.

Congratulations to Foundation President Trisha DiDomenico and Sen. Sal DiDomenico on host-

ing another outstanding celebration of St. Patrick’s Day.



Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez, pictured at the St. Patrick’s Day Celebration March 8 in Charlestown.



Sen. Sal DiDomenico, with City Councillors Leo Robinson and Calvin Brown.



Greeting Gov. Maura Healey at the St. Patrick’s Day Celebration are Chelsea Elder Affairs Director Tracy Nowicki, Chelsea Housing Authority Executive Director Paul Nowicki, (back row), State Rep. Dan Ryan and former city councillor Matt Frank.



Councillor-at-Large Roberto Jimenez Rivera and his wife, School Committee Member Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Neville.



State Rep. Judith Garcia and Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez.



Former Chelsea School Committeewoman Rosemarie Carlisle, with Minna Karas-Marino and her husband, Nick Marino.



La Colaborativa Executive Director Gladys Vega, City Councillor Melinda Vega, Councillor-at-Large Kelly Garcia, and Chelsea Police Det. Rosalba Medina.



School Committee Vice Chair Katherine Cabral, School Committee Member Lucia Henriquez, City Councillor Manuel Tesche, and School Committee Member Mayra Balderas.



Chelsea-based GreenRoots turned out to support Sen. Sal DiDomenico, an outstanding advocate for environmental justice and the issues affecting Chelsea. GreenRoots Executive Director Roseann Bongiovanni (seated, second from right) led a large contingent of GreenRoots personnel and friends at the St. Patrick’s Day Celebration.



The Chelsea Black Community (CBC) shows its support for Sen. Sal DiDomenico and the DiDomenico Foundation at the St. Patrick’s Day Celebration. Seated is Marcus Queen and Nicole McKoy.. Standing are Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, Beverly Martin Ross, CBC President Joan Cromwell, Sharon Caulfield, and Celeste Williams.



Minna Karas-Marino and Nick Marino, who are celebrating 60 years of marriage, are pictured at the St. Patrick’s Day Celebration.



Chelsea Director of Elder Affairs Tracy Nowicki and Chelsea Housing Authority Executive Director Paul Nowicki, pictured at the St. Patrick’s Day Celebration March 8 at the Knights of Columbus in Charlestown.

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HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

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HAPPY ST. PATRICK’S DAY, CHELSEA!

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