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CHELSEA RECORD

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35 CENTS



Sokolowski School teacher Joel Fagerberg with some of his students at the Everyone is Welcome Exhibit at City Hall

Young artists with welcoming messages

Special to the Record

A new art exhibit is now on display at Chelsea City Hall, open to the public during regular building hours.

Titled “Everyone is Welcome,” the gallery features welcome signs created by third-grade students from the Frank M. Sokolowski School under the guidance of teacher Joel Fagerberg.

This heartwarming project transformed a school assignment into a powerful message of kindness, solidarity, and inclusion. Students, ages 8 and 9, designed signs to welcome and support immigrants in the Chelsea community, a topic that matters deeply to them.

Each colorful sign reflects a student’s unique voice and a shared message: everyone deserves to feel seen, safe, and welcome. The exhibit serves as a beautiful reminder that empathy and community-building can start at any age.

An opening ceremony was held on Saturday, June 28, where students and families gathered to celebrate these little artists.

All are welcome to visit and experience this moving display.

ZBA opens hearing on Winnisimmet Street condo project

By Adam Swift

Nearby residents raised traffic and health concerns regarding a proposed 34-unit residential condominium development on Winnisimmet and Pembroke streets during a public hearing before the zoning board of appeals last week.

Project attorney Anthony Rossi said he would be requesting the upcoming planning board meeting on the project this month and next month’s continued ZBA hearing on the project be tabled so that the developer would have time to hold a neighborhood meeting.

“I’d like to hear (the residents’) comments, and then we’re going to schedule a neighborhood meeting, so I want to be clear on the record on that,” said Rossi.

The plans call for the existing structure on the Pembroke Street side of the project to be demolished and used as green space, Rossi said. The plan currently shows 31 parking spaces for the 34 units, but he noted that there will be stackable parking spaces, which should increase the count to 59, with the parking going through the building.

“Of course, that may change when we speak to the neighbors,” Rossi said. “It currently shows a four-story structure, which would (require) a variance.”

Rossi said he has spoken with some abutters who are concerned about the height of the building, and that he will continue to talk to them.

“Current zoning allows three stories, and we are proposing four stories, so we certainly would listen to the abutters regarding that concern.

The proposed unit mix includes 28 two-bedroom units, three three-bedrooms, and two one-bedrooms. Five of the units will be inclusionary affordable housing units.

See ZBA Page 2

APPRECIATION

Community mourns the loss of candlepin bowling great Richie “Hawk” Halas


By Cary Shuman

It was a title he never sought or pursued, but everyone in Chelsea knows that Richie “Hawk” Halas will always reign as the greatest candlepin bowler in the history of the city.

“Max Valentin was tremendous,” as Halas would deflect the praise and speak humbly about the Yellow Pages champion who like, Richie, became a legend in the sport.

Bowling was a very popular pastime in Chelsea in the early 1970s as Broadway Lanes (atop Slaton’s), owned by George Michelson, and Chelsea Square Alleys, owned by Chet Pawlak, were the safe and welcoming centers for bowlers young and old.

By the time he was 19,



Richie “Hawk” Halas

“Hawk” Halas had already made his first of several television bowling appearances. His career skyrocketed from there, and eventually he reached the mountaintop as an inductee into the International Candlepin Bowling Hall of Fame.

On Monday, members of the bowling community, family, friends, and former basketball, baseball, and softball teammates paid their respects to “Richie “Hawk” Halas at a visitation and service at the Bisbee-Porcella Funeral Home. Halas died July 9 from complications after suffering a stroke. He was 73.

Charlie Anderson delivered a beautiful eulogy about his sister Linda Anderson Halas’ husband, “Hawk” Halas. Linda and Richie’s two beautiful daughters, Colby and Courtney (who became known for her cheer, “Come on, Dad” at TV bowling shows) sat alongside their mother in the front row. Carl Anderson, Linda’s younger brother, concluded the ceremony with a thoughtful poem. Borrowing from bowling terminology, the Andersons’ eloquence and thoughts were a “double strike” of excellence.

“Sometimes, if we are lucky, someone comes into our lives who gently reminds us what life is really about,” began Charlie Anderson. “For me, and so many others that person was Richie Halas, also known as “Hawk.”

See HALAS Page 10

ZBA approves Park Street project

By Adam Swift

The zoning board of appeals approved the variances for a mixed-use development with 100 residential units and seven commercial spaces on Park Street at its regular meeting last week.

The developers presented a scaled back version of the plan to the planning board last month, which earned a positive recommendation from that body.

Initially, the proposal for 105-115 Park St. included 120 residential units.

But project attorney Anthony Rossi said that after hearing from residents and neighbors about the size and unit mix of the project, it was cut back to 100 units to include more two- and three-bedroom units. There are 50 proposed parking spaces for the project, with 10 of them which will be set aside for the commercial properties in the development.

Because the project does not meet the city’s zoning requirements for parking, residents will not be able to apply for the resident on-street sticker parking program.

“As far as the area (of the project), it didn’t change, it is more the layout inside, we reduced the amount (of units) to accommodate the multiple bedroom units (the abutters, the neighbors, and the planning board) said they wanted to see,” said Rossi.

Rossi also stated that the current laundry business

See PARK STREET Page 2

Chelsea nonprofits awarded grants from Blue Cross Blue Shield foundation

By Adam Swift

Two Chelsea-based nonprofits, La Colaborativa and GreenRoots, recently received grants from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation.

La Colaborativa and GreenRoots each received \$60,000 to continue the Racial Justice in Health program that supports statewide and local efforts to advance and defend policies and practices that promote racial justice and equity in health care. A three-year grant program had concluded at the end of 2024.

The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, a nonprofit grantmaking and research organization, recently announced that its Board of Directors has approved nearly \$1 million in grants to 14 organizations working to expand access to care and reduce inequities in health care.

“We strengthened our investment in the Racial Justice in Health program to ensure that grassroots organizations serving marginalized communities can continue to be an essential part of health advocacy in Massachusetts at this critical time,” said Jacquie Anderson, the Foundation’s Senior Director of Grant-

See Grants Page 3

ENJOYING THE ALL CHELSEA AWARDS GALA



Roseann Bongiovanni, executive director of GreenRoots, Saritin Rizzuto, vice president of Metro Credit Union, and Matt Frank, director of operations at the Chelsea Housing Authority, are pictured at the All Chelsea Awards Gala July 10 at SpringHill Suites Hotel in Revere. More coverage of the gala will be in the next edition of the Chelsea Record.

INDEPENDENT

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For the latest news in Chelsea that you need to know, check chelsearecord.com

Chelsea selected to participate in MassCEC Program to expand EV charging solutions across the city

The three-time All-America City of Chelsea Massachusetts – a city of champions, a city of hope – has been selected to participate in the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center’s (MassCEC) On-Street Charging Solutions Program, a state-funded initiative to expand access to electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and reduce barriers to EV adoption for communities typically underserved in the transition to clean energy.

Through this program, Chelsea will receive free technical support and installation for up to 10 “Level 2” curbside EV charging stations intended for residents who do not have access to off-street parking. To ensure the charging stations are placed in the best possible locations, the City and its partners at MassCEC are surveying the community. The survey can be accessed by visiting www.chelseama.gov.

“This partnership is a major step toward ensuring our residents without access to driveways or garages can participate in the transition to clean energy,” said Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez. “We’re excited to collaborate with MassCEC, as well as our community members, whose input will be instrumental in identifying the best locations for these new charging stations.”

This opportunity is made possible through the Implementation Pathway branch of the MassCEC program, in partnership with Commonwealth Electric Technologies (CET) and Leidos Engineering, which provides selected municipalities with funding, planning resources, and public outreach support to install EV chargers in convenient, publicly accessible locations. The goal is to address equity gaps in EV infrastructure and reduce barriers to EV adoption in densely populated neighborhoods and environmental justice communities.

Chelsea’s selection reflects its proactive efforts to enhance sustainability, promote environmental justice, and support the Commonwealth’s climate goals. By participating in this program, the city will help expand EV access to renters and others without access to private charging.

The On-Street Charging Solutions Program is funded by MassCEC with support from the Healey-Driscoll Administration’s Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council (EVICC) through the American Rescue Plan Act. With over 50 municipalities submitting applications, Chelsea is among a select group of communities chosen to move forward with on-the-ground implementation.

More than a dozen other communities in Massachusetts were selected to expand their EV Charging Stations Solutions through MassCEC’s program and include: Brockton, Brookline, Cambridge, Fitchburg, Framingham, Holyoke, Lynn, Medford, New Bedford, Norwood, Revere, Somerville, Springfield, and Worcester.

For more information about the program and updates on EV charging infrastructure in Chelsea, visit www.chelseama.gov.



An EV charging station installed in another community. Photo credit: MassCEC.

DiDomenico supports girls’ physical, mental health with \$50,000 for Girls on the Run Greater Boston

Special to the Record

Girls on the Run (GOTR) Greater Boston is thanking State Senator Sal DiDomenico of Everett, who secured \$50,000 in the state’s Fiscal Year 2026 budget to support social-emotional learning and empowerment programming for girls in grades 3-8 in his Middlesex and Suffolk Senate district.

The funding will support expansion of GOTR programming throughout parts of Cambridge, Charlestown, Chelsea and Everett and will provide scholarships for participants, coach training and program materials.

“Senator DiDomenico continues to be a champion for girls in his district, ensuring they can discover and activate their limitless potential. Through this program, participants grow more confident, become more physically active, and gain a new perspective on what is possible,” said Cyn-

di Roy Gonzalez, GOTR Greater Boston’s Executive Director. “We’re incredibly grateful for the Senator’s ongoing commitment at a critical time for girls today.”

“I am proud to support this organization that is helping young girls build confidence, stay active, and most importantly, have fun with their friends,” said Senator DiDomenico. “I know additional funding can make a huge difference for organizations like Girls on the Run and it is a privilege to help ensure girls from across my district will now be able to benefit from these empowering programs.”

GOTR inspires girls in 3rd through 8th grade to be joyful, healthy, and confident, using a research-backed curriculum that develops critical life skills and increases physical activity through dynamic discussions, games, and movement-based activities. GOTR Greater Bos-

ton serves more than 4,000 3rd-8th graders throughout Eastern Massachusetts each year.

Each GOTR season ends with a celebratory 5K event that illustrates the goal-setting tools girls learn throughout the program. At this past spring’s GOTR 5K celebration held on Boston Common, more than 320 girls from 15 teams throughout Senator DiDomenico’s district participated, joining nearly 7,500 other GOTR participants, their 5K buddies, event volunteers and spectators.

Girls on the Run’s fall season will start the week of September 21, 2025. Those interested in registering their girl or coaching the program should reach out to the local GOTR Greater Boston staff for more information. Registration can be found on the Girls on the Run Greater Boston website at girlsontherunboston.org.

Grants // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

making. “These grants will strengthen the recipients’ capacity to continue advancing state and local efforts against the erosion of advancements we have made in health coverage and equity.”

GreenRoots is an organization that bridges environmental justice and public health by engaging the most impacted residents in the highly industrial communities of Chelsea and East Boston.

La Colaborativa empowers Latinx immigrants in the Chelsea area to enhance the social and economic health of the community and to hold institutional decision-makers accountable to the community.

“We are deeply hon-

ored and grateful to the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation for this generous support during such a pivotal moment for our community,” said La Colaboarativa CEO and President Gladys Vega. “As federal cuts escalate and immigrant families, many of whom are essential workers, face increasing uncertainty and hardship, this grant reaffirms our mission and the strength of our people. For over 30 years, La Colaborativa has been a trusted anchor for Chelsea and our neighboring cities, meeting urgent needs while advancing long-term, systemic change.

“Through our preventive health programs, culturally responsive care, and wraparound services, we are not only uplifting individuals, we are building a healthier, more resilient, and more just community,” Vega continued. “This Racial Justice in Health grant strengthens our ability to elevate community leadership and ensures that those most impacted can continue to shape a more inclusive and equitable health system for all.”

The Foundation’s Board of Directors approved approximately \$709,000 for Strengthening the Voice for Access, a program that supports statewide advocacy organizations that are working to expand access to health care and promote the interests of people who are marginalized.

Park Street // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and convenience store on the site have expressed an interest in returning to the new building.

Traffic engineer Scott Thornton of Vannase and Associates presented a brief overview of the traffic study for the project.

“We did a standard traffic assessment where we look at crash data, we look at site distances, we look at the traffic volumes, we look at transit systems in the area,” he said. “We project seven years in the future, we add the project traffic estimating those trips based on standard industry data. What we found when we added the project traffic ... it winds up giving us about 20 trips in the morning and 30 trips in the evening.”

Thornton also noted that the developer will likely go before the traffic and parking commission at some point to request that Ellsworth Street behind the building be converted to a one-way road because of its narrow width.

Some ZBA members did say that they still had some concerns about the size of the project and associated traffic.

“I live in the district, and I know how bad traffic is there in the morning; I have been affected by the construction on Broadway and I see it every day,” said ZBA member Marilyn Vega Torres. “When the school is open, there is a lot of traffic in all the different directions.”

Vega Torres said she understands that the property is currently an eyesore and that something needs to be done there, but that she wished the proposal was smaller.

“This is unique, because it is not really one parcel, it is really three parcels,” said Rossi.

Rossi also noted that 15 of the 100 units will be inclusionary zoning affordable units, making it harder for the developer to be able to afford the project if the unit count faced any additional cuts.

It's that time of year again!

24th Annual Beach Baby Pages

Share your fav. Beach Babel! Adults, Children, Pets All are welcome!

Photos should be at a beach or swimming pool setting. Please include your child's name.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT **Aug. 15th**

Aug. 21st SEE IT IN THE PAPER!

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Barajas, Richard E	Smith, Noah	171 Winnisimmet St #31	\$373,000
Maple Grove Rt	Oconnor, Jed	27 Breakwater Dr #27	\$730,000
Zhu, Yunti	Roizman, Svetlana	37 Winnisimmet St #6	\$599,000
Cea, Victor H	Hercules, Mauricio A	592 Washington Ave	\$645,000
Marshall, Jamie L	Regan, Mark	67 Broadway #1	\$415,000

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Chelsea

RECORD

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley
EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

“LOOK AT THEM GO, 10 IN A ROW!”

A few weeks back, we basically wrote off the Red Sox, who appeared destined for yet another last-place finish in the American League East.

At the time, we paraphrased a line from the 1967 Im-possible Dream record:

“When April’s high aspirations
“Turned to September’s tears.”

However, in light of the Sox’ 10-game winning streak to enter the all-star break, another line from that record comes to mind:

“Look at them go,
“10 in a row!”

Even though six of the 10 wins came against two of the worst teams in baseball (Washington and Colorado), it still has been a fun two-week stretch for even casual fans such as ourselves.

Though this young Sox squad bears a lot of resem- blance to that ‘67 team, we’re not ready to jump on the bandwagon just yet. Boston had been in playoff position at the all-star break for the past three years -- they were 10 games over .500 at the break in 2024 -- only to end up in last place in the AL East in both 2022 and 2023 and in third place last year.

Only time will tell whether the Sox will continue their magical run after the all-star break -- and if they do, we will be more than happy to have been proven wrong.

RICHIE “HAWK” HALAS

Chelsea lost one of its all-time best with the recent pass- ing of Richie “Hawk” Halas, who died last week at the age of 73.

Richie attended the Shurtleff School and was a mem- ber of the Chelsea High Class of 1971 where he played basketball and baseball. He also excelled as a youth in the Pony League as a pitcher for Larry Notkin’s champion- ship Red Sox teams.

As a young adult, he played for many years in the Wild Animal Basketball League at the Chelsea YMHA and in the Chelsea Municipal Fast Pitch Softball League where he was known as a fierce competitor.

Richie was best-known as Chelsea’s greatest candle- pin bowler. He began his career at the Broadway Lanes atop Slaton’s Furniture Store and became an inductee in the Candlepin Bowling Hall of Fame after numerous ap- pearances on the Channel 5 and Channel 27 bowling TV shows.

Richie was beloved by his fellow bowlers and compet- itors. He continued to bowl at the Central Park Lanes in East Boston before retiring from the sport at the age of 70.

He was the husband of the former Linda Anderson and the father of two beautiful daughters, Colby and Courtney.

Richie Halas was a member of the fabled Halas fam- ily, who were a part of the fabric of our community in the 1950s-80s, and he too, was a stalwart member of our city for many years. We know we join with all of our fel- low long-time residents in offering our condolences to his family.

May he rest in peace.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE REVERE BEACH SAND SCULPTING FESTIVAL JULY 25-27

We are writing to give our readers the advance heads-up that this year’s Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival runs from Friday, July 25 through Sunday, July 27.

The annual Sand Sculpting Festival, now in its 21st year under the auspices of the non-profit Revere Beach Partnership, is the premiere, post-4th of July event of the summer season in the Boston area This year’s festival once again will sport an international flavor with sand sculptors coming from the Netherlands, Poland, and Canada, and from across the U.S., including Hawaii.

The participants will be competing for cash prizes, as well as an award for People’s Choice. The theme of this year’s festival is, “The Revolution Starts Here!” in recog- nition of the 250th anniversary iof the start of the Ameri- can Revolution, which included the first naval engagement of the war on nearby Chelsea Creek on May 27-28, 1775.

In addition to the sand sculptures, the festival will fea- ture over 75 food vendors, food trucks and exhibitors, in- teractive activities, amusement rides, and fireworks.

With an expected attendance of more than 500,00 per- sons, traffic obviously will be congested, so it is high- ly-recommended that anyone planning to attend should take public transportation. The Blue Line has two stops at Revere Beach (Wonderland and Revere Beach stations) and is by far the best choice for festival-goers.

The Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festi- val truly is an event for the entire family. We guarantee that the amazing creations of these incredibly-talented artists will create memories for everyone that will last a lifetime.

Forum

LOCAL STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

DMACC GRADUATION

More than 2,000 students graduated from the Spring Semester from Des Moines Area Community Col- lege’s (DMACC’s) Ankeny, Boone, Carroll, Newton, Urban and West Campuses. Those recognized includ- ed:

--David Palencia, Home- land Security, Chelsea

DMACC (Des Moines Area Community College) is one of America’s top-rat- ed two-year institutions of higher learning. DMACC is dedicated to changing lives by offering an accessible, affordable and outstanding educational experience to students from across Iowa and the nation. Situated in one of the country’s most vibrant regions, DMACC is proud to welcome students of all ages, backgrounds and beliefs to a welcoming and friendly College com- munity. DMACC offers 10 career pathways, which encompass more than 220 credit and non-credit pro- grams, degrees and certi- ficates available to students. Each year, DMACC serves more than 55,000 students, annually across the Col- lege’s six campuses and seven learning centers and through DMACC Online. Students from every state in the nation and 41 coun- tries now attend DMACC. DMACC’s talented gradu- ates excel in the workforce and in life.

LARSEN NAMED TO DEAN’S LIST

Brittany Larsen of Chel- sea was named to the Dean’s List for the spring 2025 term at University of Maryland Global Campus. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

University of Maryland Global Campus was found- ed more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and mili- tary servicemembers. To- day, UMGC is the largest provider of postsecondary

education in Maryland and continues its global tradi- tion with online and hybrid courses, more than 175 classroom and service loca- tions worldwide, and more than 135 degrees and cer- tificates backed by the rep- utation of a state university and the University System of Maryland. For more in- formation, visit umgc.edu.

LOCAL STUDENTS NAMED TO DEAN’S LIST

Stonehill College is pleased to recognize the students named to the Spring 2025 Dean’s List. To qualify for this recognition, students must achieve a se- mester grade point average of 3.50 or better. They must also have successfully com- pleted all courses for which they were registered during the term.

Yenifer Oseguera of Chelsea

Onilio Hinson of Chelsea

About Stonehill College

Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of high- er learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 387-acre cam- pus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachu- setts, it is a community of scholarship and faith, an- chored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, busi- ness and pre-professional field, Stonehill College pro- vides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free in- quiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 stu- dents.

Stonehill College edu- cates the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compas- sionate world.

EMMANUEL COLLEGE AWARDS DEGREES TO LOCAL STUDENTS

Emmanuel College awarded more than 450 de-

grees to the Class of 2025 at the College’s 103rd Com- mencement on May 10.

The following local stu- dents were awarded de- grees:

Dante Valverde of Chel- sea was awarded a BA in Criminology & Criminal Justice

Deanna Christmas of Chelsea was awarded a BA in Marketing

LOCAL STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM EMERSON

Emerson College award- ed approximately 1,000 un- dergraduate degrees to the Class of 2025 during the 145th Commencement at Agganis Arena in Boston..

Emmy and Golden Globe-winning actress and Performing Arts alum Jen- nifer Coolidge gave the commencement address. Both Coolidge and the Col- lege’s retiring vice presi- dent of government affairs and community relations, Margaret Ings, received honorary Doctor of Hu- mane Letters degrees.

“Emerson has ignited these seemingly unattain- able possibilities for you that now can be your real- ity,” said Jennifer Coolidge. “It is your ability to con- vince yourself you really can make it, because you have to be your own cham- pion.”

Additional photos are available upon request.

Luis Mena of Chelsea, received a BFA in Theatre.

Ana Victoria Justi- no-Isaac of Chelsea, re- ceived a BA in Media Arts Production.

Alexis Brown of Chel- sea, MA received a BS in Marketing Communication.

About Emerson College

Emerson College is uniquely dedicated to the arts and communication, educating and inspiring storytellers and artists to impact and advance cre- ative industries and media throughout the world. Dis- tinguished faculty spear- head a dynamic curriculum, and guide several thousand undergraduate students and more than 400 graduate stu- dents to exhibit an unyield- ing spirit of creativity, pro- fessionalism, and critical

thought, to transform lives, and make a profound im- pact on our community and beyond.

Based in the world-class city of Boston, Massachu- setts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city’s Theater District, the College offers experiential learning pro- grams in Boston and across the globe: at Emerson Los Angeles, located in Holly- wood, at its 14th-century castle, in the Netherlands, and at 28 global programs. Emersonians, including 51,000+ alumni, carry forth the College’s founding mot- to “Expression Necessary to Evolution” to shape in- dustries, inspire change, and amplify voices that re- define our culture.

LOCAL STUDENTS NAMED TO THE DEAN’S LIST

In recognition of their outstanding academic achievement, Emmanuel College has named more than 850 students to the Dean’s List for the Spring 2025 semester. To earn a spot on the Dean’s List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point av- erage of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester.

The following local stu- dents were named to the Dean’s List:

Meylin Molina of Chel- sea , who is majoring in Bi- ology - Health Sciences.

Deanna Christmas of Chelsea who is majoring in Marketing.

Jasmine Maradiaga Vare- la of Chelsea who is major- ing in Psychology - Devel- opmental Psychology.

With more than 80 ma- jors and areas of study, Em- manuel College combines outstanding classroom in- struction and real-world ex- perience to prepare students for lives of achievement, learning, and purpose. Vot- ed the #1 college location in America by Niche.com in 2023 and 2024, Emmanuel offers easy access to world- class medical, cultural, and business organizations from 400 The Fenway in Boston.

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Flood-ready pets: How to prepare for weather-related emergencies

Following the recent and devastating floods in Texas and in light of today’s flash flood warning across the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, Best Friends Animal Society, a leading national animal welfare organization working to end the killing of cats and dogs in America’s shelters, is urging people to take proactive steps to ensure the safety and well-being of their pets during weather-related emergencies. Flash flooding can happen quickly, so advanced preparations can mean the difference between life and death for pets. “Many pets become separated from their families during severe weather evacuations due to lack of preparation—don’t let yours be one of them,” said Sharon Hawa, Senior Manager of Emergency Services, Best Friends Animal Society. “For those living in flood-prone areas, now is the time to make plans for your pet to ensure their protection and care in the event you need to evacuate.”

From packing a pet emergency kit to identifying emergency shelters and caregivers, Best Friends is offering the below guidance, as well as five essential safety tips to ensure people and their pets are flood-ready:

- Prepare Your Pet:**
- Should separation occur during an evacuation or other emergency, safeguard your pet’s health and chance for a swift return by:
 - Microchipping your pet and making sure the registration is up to date with your current phone number and address.
 - Making sure your pet’s vaccines are up-to-date to protect them from illness and injury, as well as ensure they can be accepted into an evacuation shelter or boarding facility if needed.
 - Pack a Go Bag for You and Your Pet(s)
 - Evacuations can happen quickly, so it’s vital to be ready to leave at a moment’s notice. A pet emergency “go bag” should include:
 - Printed vaccination records and a week’s worth prescriptions, medications and a list of medical needs, dosages and vet contact info. It’s also a good idea to store this information in a secure cloud storage service or on a backup device to ensure access even if phones or paper documents are lost or damaged.
 - A 3-to-5-day supply of wet and/or dry pet food and water
 - Collapsible water bowl
 - Toys, treats, and a familiar item like a worn sweater of their humans to reduce stress
 - Leash, collar with ID tag/microchip, and a labeled crate
 - Waste bags, blanket, towels, and a small litter box with litter for cats
 - Bowl, can opener, and spoon
 - Create a Pet First Aid Kit
- Veterinary access may be limited during disasters.

Your pet’s first aid kit should include:

- Pet first-aid guidebook and emergency contact list
- Antiseptic wipes, gauze, and wraps
- Antibacterial ointment, tweezers, scissors, gloves, and cold packs
- Cotton swabs/balls, 3% hydrogen peroxide, and a sterile saline syringe
- Muzzle, emergency blanket, sling for larger dogs, and flashlight

Designate Pet Caregivers and Boarding Options

Pets should never be left alone at home or tied up outside during a storm. In the event people are displaced or unable to care for their pet, it’s important to:

- Identify trusted caregivers and provide them with your pet’s daily routine and emergency supplies
- Research pet-friendly lodging within a 5–50-mile radius.
- If caregivers are unavailable, know your nearest pet-friendly evacuation shelters and boarding facilities
- Take and Store Photos of Your Pets on Your Phone and Computer Hard Drive:
- Photos are key to reuniting with a lost pet:
- Take a clear photo of your pet alone, and one of you with your pet
- Store them on your phone and print copies in case of device failure or power loss
- “Pets are family, and they depend on us for their safety,” said Hawa. “Preparing now can prevent heartbreak later. Take the time to build an emergency kit, plan for care, and ensure your pet’s identification is up to date.”
- For more detailed information on preparing your pet for a weather-related emergency, visit <https://best-friends.org>.
- Best Friends Animal Society is a leading animal welfare organization dedicated to saving the lives of dogs and cats in America’s shelters and making the entire country no-kill. Founded in 1984, Best Friends runs lifesaving facilities and programs nationwide in partnership with more than 5,000 shelters and rescue organizations. From our headquarters in Kanab, Utah, we also operate the nation’s largest no-kill animal sanctuary — a destination that brings our mission to life for thousands of visitors each year.
- We maintain the most comprehensive animal sheltering data in the country and make it accessible to the public — empowering communities with critical insights into the needs of their local shelters and how they can help. We believe every dog and cat deserves a home. And we believe that, by working together, we can Save Them All®.
- Best Friends Animal Society has the most comprehensive, accurate data for sheltered dogs and cats in the United States, which is collected from over 7900 shelters and rescue groups.

James Cole, Sr. He will be forever cherished by all who loved him

James W. Cole Sr. passed away unexpectedly at his home in Tewksbury on Wednesday, July 9, 2025. He was 75 years of age.

Born and raised in Chelsea, James was the son of the late Edward and Marie (LePore) Cole. He attended Chelsea public schools and was well known for being an exceptional athlete, playing on all of the Chelsea sports teams. Jim was a US Army Veteran, serving at the end of the Vietnam era. He dedicated a number of years at the Chelsea DPW, before taking employment at the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, maintaining the tunnels.

Jim was a long time Chelsea resident before taking residence in Tewksbury for the last 10 years. He had a passion for cooking and took pride in knowing he served the best meatballs around. He loved cooking but not more than his grandchildren. His grandchildren were Jim’s prized possessions; he loved being a grandfather and being involved in their lives.

Jim was also very proud of his hard work in maintaining his sobriety and the dedication he put into AA. He took pride in being able to mentor and support those in need. He will be forever cherished by all who loved him.

The husband of Denise (Countie) Cole of North Reading, he was the devoted father of Dawn M. Collins



and her husband, Kerry of Rowley, James W. Cole, Jr. and his wife Rosa of Tewksbury and Krista M. Cole, also of Tewksbury; dear brother of Edward Cole, Jr. and his wife, Janet of Chelsea, Thomas “Bucky” Cole and his wife, Carol of Saugus and Patsy Pistone of Revere; the cherished grandfather of Kyle, Kayla, James, Jordyn, Joseph, Julianna and Sophia. He was also lovingly survived by many nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends attended visiting hours at the Carafa Family Funeral Home, 389 Washington Ave., Chelsea, on Wednesday July 16. Funeral Services will begin in the Funeral Home today, Thursday, July 17 at 9 a.m. followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Grace Church, 59 Nichols St. Chelsea, at 10 a.m. Interment will be at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett.

We encourage family and friends to visit www.carafafuneralhome.com to offer condolences at this time by means of the online guest book or to send a personalized sympathy card.

Jeanette “Jeanie” M. Ames Daughter, Partner, Mother, Grandmother

Jeanette “Jeanie” M. Ames of Chelsea, MA, passed peacefully on July 12, 2025 at the Kaplan Family Hospice House in Danvers, lovingly surrounded by her son, Josh Ames, and grandson, Adam Ames. Born to John T. Ames Sr.—a lifelong Chelsea police officer and Jacqueline Calabro, Jeanie was embraced and guided by Carol Ames, whose unwavering love and support shaped her life. She shared a profound bond with her brothers, each a cherished pillar in her world.

Until Jeanie’s passing, her home was filled with love and companionship from her loving partner, Joe Giordano, and her beloved cat, Misty. Her fierce Boston character—straight-talking, joyful, and bold—was reflected in her passion for cheering on the Red Sox and Patriots as well as her delight in all cuisines Boston - lobster, steamers, and Kelly’s Roast Beef.

A familiar presence at the Revere Lodge of Elks, she found community in its camaraderie and its spirit of service. Through every illness and hospital stay, Jeanie’s resilience astonished her family and caretakers alike. Her tenacity revealed a woman who never backed down—a testament to the strength she carried from



her humble beginnings into every aspect of her life.

Jeanie’s legacy is one of grit, family devotion, and relentless love. She is survived by Carol, Joe, son Josh and his wife Rebecca, grandchildren Adam and Edith, and brothers Gary and his wife Allison and Jim and his partner Leeann. She is predeceased by brother John Jr. Even Misty feels her absence.

A private family memorial will be held at Woodlawn Cemetery (Everett). In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to Kaplan Family Hospice House or a local animal shelter, honoring Jeanie’s love for animals and the care she received at the end of her journey.

To send online condolences, please visit www.vertucciosmithvazza.com.

Marvin Hooker Of Chelsea

Marvin Hooker of Chelsea died July 1, 2025, at the Mass General Hospital in Boston.

The loving son of the late Reuben and Rhoda (Dye) Hooker. He was born, raised, and educated in Chelsea and was the loving brother to the late Lawrence Hooker and Frances Hooker of Chelsea. Marvin is survived by his sister Ryna Veneziano of Peabody and niece and nephew Kim Kaner of Manchester, MA and Todd Veneziano of Los Angeles, CA.

Marvin leaves behind many friends and acquaintances, particularly his friends from Revere Beach, where he enjoyed spending his weekends chatting and having lunch at Kelly’s. Marvin always had quick wit and was willing to lend a helping hand to his friends when called upon. He will be deeply missed.

The family has chosen to have a private ceremony. Contributions in Marvin’s memory may be made to the charity of your choice.

Timothy J. Lush Dedicated Family Man

Timothy passed away, Thursday morning, July 10, 2025 at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. He was 87 years of age.

Born in Boston, he was the son of the late William H. and Mary B. (Scannell) Lush. Tim was a lifelong resident of Chelsea, attending Chelsea public schools and graduating from Chelsea High Vocational School. A US Army Veteran, Tim enlisted into the US Army on March 4, 1957 and he was honorably discharged on March 3, 1960. He was a dedicated family man, supporting his family by working two jobs for over twenty years. He was a taxi driver for Chelsea Cab as well as working as a bus driver at the MBTA. During retirement Tim enjoyed playing poker and his morning coffee at McDonald’s, catching up with friends. He will be cherished by all who loved him.

Tim was the devoted husband for 58 years to Donna L. (Hanlon) Lush of Chelsea, beloved father of Paul J. Lush and his wife, Robin of Florida, dear brother of Anna Berntsen of Ken-



tucky and the late William Lush, Albert Lush and Helen Stoker. Tim was also lovingly survived by three granddaughters, Deanna Buchner and her husband, Matthew, Andrea Lush and her wife, Shannon and Sara Day and her husband, Roderrick and three great grandchildren, Lillian, Lucas and Lincoln Day.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Carafa Family Funeral Home in Chelsea. Funeral Services and Committal will be held at a later date.

We encourage family and friends to visit www.carafafuneralhome.com to offer condolences at this time by means of the online guest book or to send a personalized sympathy card.

Boston CASA seeks volunteers to advocate for foster youth in Suffolk and Middlesex Counties

Boston CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is issuing an urgent call for volunteers to advocate on behalf of children in the foster care system. Currently, only 15% of eligible foster youth in Suffolk and Middlesex Counties have access to a CASA — a trained, court-appointed

volunteer who provides consistent, one-on-one support and helps shape critical legal and life decisions. “Foster youth navigate a world of court dates, caseworkers, and constant change — often without a single consistent adult,” said Nicole Stewart, Executive Director of Boston

CASA and a former foster youth. “A CASA can be that person. We’re looking for volunteers who are ready to show up, speak up, and stand by a child when it matters most.”

With virtual information sessions beginning July 24, Boston CASA encourages compassionate adults

across the region to attend an upcoming session to learn how they can make a life-changing difference for a child.

What CASAs Do

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See CASA Page 10

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SUPPORTERS PACK THE KOWLOON FOR DIDOMENICO’S ANNUAL BIRTHDAY FUNDRAISER

Sen. Sal DiDomenico jested in his opening greeting that 21 years ago as he made his first run for Everett City Council, “No one knew how to say my name at all.”

To borrow a phrase from the famous TV show, “Cheers,” now, “everybody knows his name.”

Today, Sal DiDomenico is not only one of the most prominent officials in Everett but also across the Middlesex and Suffolk District (Everett, Chelsea, Charlestown, and Cambridge) that he proudly represents in the Massachusetts Senate. A highly regarded statewide leader who is known for “getting things done” on Beacon Hill such as his widely acclaimed Universal School Meals law, DiDomenico also serves with distinction as Assistant Majority Leader of the esteemed 40-member Senate.

DiDomenico, 54, introduced a “long list” of officials and candidates for office in attendance, including the chief executives of Everett (Mayor Carlo DeMaria) and Chelsea (City Manager Fidel Maltez), Rep. Dan Ryan, members of the Everett City Council, led by President Stephanie Martins, and the School Committee, led by Chairperson Samantha Hurley, School Superintendents William Hart (Everett) and Dr. Almi Abeyta (Chelsea), Everett Teachers Association President Kim Auger, and “someone who has been a long-time, good friend of my family, Mayor of Cambridge E. Denise Simmons.”

DiDomenico, 54, told the large gathering, “I want to thank all of you for always being with us, beside us, working very hard to make sure that we stay in office.”

DiDomenico credited “my great team” in his office at the State House “who work very, very hard,” while also thanking “my family – Tricia and Matthew and Sal – we’re all in it together.”

DiDomenico’s remarks were well received by the audience, who responded with enthusiastic applause at various junctures in his speech.

Concluding a positive speech, DiDomenico, whose immense popularity has been affirmed vigorously by the electorate biennially (he has been unopposed in his bids for re-election), said, “It’s been my pleasure and my honor to serve as

your state senator, and it’s been a pleasure and honor being your friend. And I am just happy that tonight we can celebrate together, celebrate all the good things that we’ve done together, and celebrate with our elected officials who I know are all doing the best that they can and always pushing in the right direction. At the State House, we’ve made tremendous progress in 15 years. We’re getting a lot done to help a lot of people in need. We are on their side. That is what we try to do every single day. I appreciate your help, I appreciate you a lot, and I love you all. Thank you for always being there for me, and I will always be there for all of you as well.”



Sen. Sal DiDomenico, with City Councilor Calvin T. Brown and his wife, Sandra Valentin-Brown.



Newly installed Chelsea Rotary Club President, Dr. Aaron Jennings, CPS Chief of Staff and Wellness, and Sen. Sal DiDomenico.



City Councilor Lisa Santagate and Sen Sal DiDomenico.



Councilor-at-Large Leo Robinson, former School Committeewoman Rosemarie Carlie, Sen. Sal DiDomenico, School Committeewoman Ana Hernandez, Supt. of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta, and Lewis Latimer Society Co-Director Ronald Robinson.



Jeanette Velez of the Everett Public Schools and Sen. Sal DiDomenico.



Sen. Sal DiDomenico congratulates City Manager Fidel Maltez on Chelsea's selection as an All-America City.



Sen Sal DiDomenico, with School Committeewoman Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Neville and her husband, Councilor-at-Large Roberto Jimenez-Rivera.

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TEMPLE EMMANUEL HONORS ITS BELOVED SPIRITUAL LEADER, RABBI OKSANA CHAPMAN

Temple Emmanuel honored Rabbi Oksana Chapman for her 18 years of outstanding spiritual leadership at a reception at the Elaine and Larry Smith Social Hall.

City Manager Fidel Maltez, City Councilors Leo Robinson and Calvin T. Brown, CBC President Joan Cromwell, and community leader Peter Zaksheski joined members of the Temple and friends in recognizing Chapman for her excellent work at the Temple and her collaboration with other clergy in the city.

Ronald Waxman served as the master of ceremonies, praising Chapman for all the goodwill and spirit that she has brought to all members of the congregation.

Temple President Sara Lee Callahan welcomed the many guests to reception, recalling her first meeting with Rabbi Chapman and how she knew right away that Chapman would be a perfect addition to Temple Emmanuel.

President Callahan was right. It's been a tremendous 18 years [Chai] with Rabbi Oksana Chapman as Temple Emmanuel's spiritual leader – and a great friend to all.

(Devra Sari Zabot of Clark Ave Productions was the producer of the event.)



Rabbi Oksana Chapman has been at Temple Emmanuel for 18 years; Rabbi Chapman is shown with her parents Alex and Larisa Mirvoda.



Temple Emmanuel President Sara Lee Callahan welcomes Assistant Schools Supt. Dr. Tamara Blake-Canty (left) and CBC President Joan Cromwell (right) to the reception honoring Rabbi Oksana Chapman.



Congratulating Rabbi Oksana Chapman at the reception at Temple Emmanuel, Dina Goldman and Elliot Lach.



Janice Doherty, Esther Berkowitz and Sue Huberman at the reception at Temple Emmanuel for Rabbi Chapman.



Chelsea Councillor Calvin T. Brown signs the guest book.



Donna and Peter Zaksheski were guests at Temple Emmanuel.



Jack Glassman with Sarah and Lynda Diamond and dance instructor Karen Poverman.



Rabbi Chapman and guests, Esther Berkowitz, Elaine Abrams, Minna Karas-Marino, and Sue Huberman.



Misti Covitz and Edythe Shuman are shown with the guest of honor Rabbi Oksana Chapman. Rabbi Chapman was recognized for her dedication and leadership at Temple Emmanuel for the past 18 years.



Chelsea City Councillor Leo Robinson presents Rabbi Oksana Chapman flowers.



Hinda Sterling and Herb Selesnick were on hand to wish Rabbi Oksana Chapman well.



Pictured at the Temple Emmanuel reception honoring Rabbi Oksana Chapman are, from left, Peter Zaksheski, Donna Zaksheski, City Councillor Lisa Santagate, CBC President Joan Cromwell, Rep. Judith Garcia, City Manager Fidel Maltez, City Councilor Calvin T. Brown, and Councilor-at-Large Leo Robinson.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

EVERETT TO RECEIVE MASS SAVE MUNICIPAL ENERGY MANAGER GRANT

EVERETT - Mayor Carlo DeMaria is pleased to announce that the City of Everett will receive funding for the inaugural Mass Save Municipal Energy Manager Grant program from The Sponsors of Mass Save to hire an energy manager who will lead efforts to reduce the City’s energy use and carbon emissions in municipal buildings. As part of a concerted effort to become more energy efficient, the energy manager will help the City of Everett utilize Mass Save programs and incentives for energy efficiency and building decarbonization projects in municipal buildings, with a focus on K-12 schools.

“Everett has gladly played its part in fostering a greener and more energy-efficient community through our public buildings and thanks to this grant we can continue to expand our efforts to our schools,” said Mayor Carlo DeMaria. “I’d like to thank The Sponsors of Mass Save for helping fund a crucial role that will help further our commitment to projects focused on ensuring our municipal buildings and schools will be more energy efficient and sustainable for the future.”

The funding that the City of Everett receives is part of a statewide program which will help 63 municipalities across Massachusetts become more energy efficient through the hiring of 24 energy managers. These managers will help cities and towns complete energy efficiency projects that impact communities, with a particular focus on K-12 school buildings.

“This grant is an incredible opportunity for cities and towns from Hampden to Barnstable Counties to invest in their communities while simultaneously advancing Massachusetts to a more energy-efficient future,” said Christopher Porter, Director of Customer Energy Management at National Grid. “The work of these energy managers will provide resources to create healthier and more sustainable schools and municipal buildings across the state.”

By helping their communities to take advantage of Mass Save programs, the energy manager will drive participation in energy efficiency and building decarbonization projects that will create healthier and more sustainable schools and public buildings and bolster the municipality’s role in achieving the Commonwealth’s climate goals. To learn more about the Mass

Save Municipal Energy Manager Grant and other ways the Sponsors of Mass Save are creating a clean energy future for all, please visit www.masssave.com/community.

Mass Save® is a collaborative of Massachusetts’ electric and natural gas utilities and energy efficiency service providers including Berkshire Gas, Cape Light Compact, Eversource, Liberty, National Grid, and Unitil. We empower residents, businesses, and communities to make energy efficient upgrades by offering a wide range of services, rebates, incentives, trainings, and information.

We respectfully ask that Mass Save is referred to as “the Sponsors of Mass Save,” or “the Mass Save Sponsors,” to reflect the participation of all utility and energy efficiency service providers within the collaborative. For more information, please visit <https://www.masssave.com/>.

COLETTA ZAPATA HOLDING HEARING TO IMPLEMENT A FIRE VICTIM FUND

EAST BOSTON - Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata convened a hearing on Thursday, July 10 at 11:30 a.m. in the Iannella Chamber at Boston City Hall to discuss the creation of an emergency relief fund for fire victims and explore long-term solutions to fire prevention and emergency response.

The hearing stems from a docket filed by Coletta Zapata earlier this year, and is a continuation of work beginning in earnest in 2022, following a wave of residential fires that have displaced families across Boston and left many without stable housing, food, or financial resources.

“Recent fire emergencies have shown just how devastating these events are for our residents,” said Councilor Coletta Zapata. “Too many are forced to rely on inconsistent support with some depending on GoFundMe pages or donations from strangers to get back on their feet. It’s time for the City to step up with a standardized, citywide response that ensures no one is left behind.”

Currently, emergency support for fire victims is coordinated by several City departments including the Office of Neighborhood Services, Emergency Management, and the Office of Housing Stability—working in collaboration with the Red Cross. Community organizations often fill the remaining gaps, raising money and collecting clothing or other necessities.

However, Coletta Zapata believes that relying on patchwork efforts is insufficient, and is necessary to establish a dedicated Fire Victim Fund. The fund would offer immediate assistance to individuals affected by emergencies, covering urgent needs such as housing, food, and clothing. The Councilor has proposed exploring philanthropic and strategic partnerships to sustainably fund the initiative.

“A Fire Victim Fund with clear eligibility criteria and equitable distribution can serve as a lifeline during someone’s worst moment,” she added. “We must also review underlying issues like overcrowding, outdated electrical systems, and building code enforcement—to prevent fires in the first place.”

The hearing will also examine these long-term preventative issues and how they intersect with housing affordability, infrastructure, and tenant safety.

Councilor Coletta Zapata expressed gratitude to Boston’s first responders—including the Boston Fire Department, EMS, and Boston Police—for their continued courage and swift action in protecting residents during emergencies.

This hearing order is co-sponsored by Councilor At-Large Ruthzee Louijeune and District 4 Councilor Brian Worrell.

DISABILITIES COMM. ANNOUNCES AUGUST 9, AS DATE FOR ALL-ABILITIES DAY AT REVERE BEACH

REVERE - The Revere Commission on Disabilities (COD) held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 10, via Zoom. On hand for the session were chair Ralph DeCicco, vice-chair Pauline Perno, Jason Barone-Cichocki, Mario Grimanis, and Annmarie Fiore.

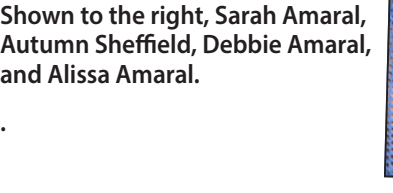
The highlight of the meeting was the confirmation by DeCicco that the Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has issued the permit for the Second Annual All-Abilities Day at Revere Beach for Saturday, August 9, from 10-2 at the Oak Island Bathhouse, 462 Revere Beach Blvd., Entrance No. 36.

The first 100 people to register will receive a free lunch. Registration is available online through August 5 via community pass on Revererec.org.

Accessible sand mats and swim chairs will be available. There will be music with a DJ. The event is being made possible by a grant from Save the Harbors/Save



PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZ
Shown above, Winthrop Horribles Parade Grand Marshal Richard Honan and Peter Gill make their way along the route on Shirley Street.



Shown to the right, Sarah Amaral, Autumn Sheffield, Debbie Amaral, and Alissa Amaral.

the Bay for which DeCicco submitted an application last winter. Revere Park and Rec. will be an active participant in the festivities.

“We’re looking forward to this being a great event for the City of Revere and we’re looking to expand it every year,” said DeCicco.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Robert Dunn, a Revere native who grew up in the Shirley Ave. neighborhood, who is the Program Coordinator and Equipment Manager for Waypoint Adventure. Dunn, a former special education teacher, noted that he is the nephew of noted local Attorney Harry Pass and grandson of the legendary attorney Lenny Pass, who was instrumental in having the elevator placed into Revere City Hall to make the building accessible.

Dunn said that Waypoint Adventure seeks to make the outdoors accessible to individuals of all abilities, through a variety of programs in partnership with the DCR and others. These programs include both outdoor and indoor kayaking with a fleet of adaptive boats; hiking and backpacking throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire, including overnight camping; cross-country skiing and snowshoeing; outdoor and indoor rock climbing; tandem and recumbent cycling, including adaptive mountain biking; ropes courses in trees; and team building activities.

“Learning through experience is a big part of what we do,” said Dunn, who noted that the program’s goal is to bring individuals out of their “comfort zone” into a “challenge zone” in order to accomplish new and difficult things. He added that thanks to partners and sponsors, the cost of most programs is in the range of \$20.

Wayfair utilizes DCR properties, properties managed by the Trustees of Reservations, federal lands, and local government properties (such as Lynn Woods) among the outdoor places for its programs. Dunn also noted that volunteers are a big part of the program.

Waypoint will be assisting the DCR at the COD’s upcoming All-Abilities Day at Revere Beach that is scheduled for Saturday, August 9, which will include specialized equipment, including chairs for accessing the beach over the sand and into the water.

“Your assistance will be of tremendous benefit to

making this day a success,” said DeCicco.

“Thank you for joining us and thank you for the work you do,” added Fiore.

Fiore briefly provided an update regarding the Music Therapy Program that will be a joint collaboration with the Revere Parks and Recreation Department. She reported that the program should be underway shortly.

DeCicco reported on the monthly meeting of the Commissions on Disabilities Alliance (CODA) which he attended on June 4:

-- The Disability Policy Consortium (DPC) mentioned that their research department is working on two projects for which they are looking for participants. They are looking for people in the Springfield area with disabilities who are Spanish-speaking for the first project. For the second project, they are seeking disabled participants who have a PCA for a task force. For more information, please contact DPC directly at DPC (617) 307-7775.

-- DPC also mentioned that they would be having a legislative briefing in person at the State House regarding the wheelchair reform bills on Tuesday morning, June 11th.

-- Newburyport COD mentioned that they are trying to purchase two adaptive 3-wheel bikes for the Ride Share Bike program run by their municipality.

-- Boston COD mentioned that they will be having an ADA 35 Celebration on Wednesday, July 23. This will be a march and rally. For more information be go to: www.boston.gov/ADA35

The Revere COD was notified by the Mass. Architectural Access Board (MAAB) regarding an application for a variance from Washington Sherman LLC, for its project at West One, 810 Washington Avenue. This project is a new construction, 4-story, 30-unit residential rental building that includes a residential lobby, bike parking, residential storage, and a parking garage on the ground floor for 36 vehicles.

According to the developer’s application, “We are requesting a variance from the requirements of 521 CMR Section 44.6.1(a), which requires the rim of a bathtub in Group 2 dwelling units to be between 16 and 18 inches above the finish floor. In (2) of our Group 2 units, the installed bathtub rim measures 18.75 inches above the finished floor, ex-

ceeding the upper limit by 3/4 inch. While this does not meet the strict dimensional criteria of 521 CMR, the deviation is minimal and does not present a measurable barrier to use or access.”

“This notification to us from the MAAB has to do with code violations for access for disabilities for which the developer will be going before the Architectural Access Board,” said DeCicco. “I don’t see any reason why we would want to be against this. It’s a minimal difference of just 3/4 of an inch.”

DeCicco also brought up another variance request that pertained to the proposed new building at 141-143 Endicott Ave, which will be a 6-unit residential condo building with parking underneath. The conflict with the access law pertains to the developer’s proposal to install a platform lift, as opposed to an elevator, from the garage to the two first-floor units, which are designated as Group 1 units. DeCicco noted that lifts are not as reliable as elevators and will require a 24-hour service to be on-call in the event the lift gets stuck.

DeCicco also took the opportunity to give a shout-out to the Parks and Rec. Dept. for its two recent events, an all-abilities softball game and a Sensory Adventures event, both of which were highly-successful.

Perno read the monthly reminder:

“The Commission on Disabilities office number is 781-286-8267. Residents can also call Revere 311 directly and speak to their staff Monday through Friday. They will answer most questions, but if they are unable to assist you or if you prefer to talk with the Commission directly, please ask to be transferred to the Disability Office. Please leave a detailed message, and we will respond to you shortly.

“As always, please don’t hesitate to contact us if you would like something discussed or added to our monthly meeting agenda. You can also let us know if you want to discuss any concerns. The Commission is here to help and assist all disabled residents and their families in Revere.”

Per the COD’s usual practice, there will be no July meeting. The next meeting (via Zoom) will be held on Tuesday, August 12, at 6 p.m.

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Northeast Metro Tech students bring teacher’s coming-of-age novel to life in heartfelt performance

Special to the record

A Northeast Metro Tech freshmen English class read a novel written by their teacher and then turned the book into a heartfelt short play that they performed earlier this year, using the opportunity to show off their literary skills, dramatic talents, and deep understanding of the story’s themes.

Teacher Ryan Standley wrote the coming-of-age novel “To The Top of Greenfield Street”, which was published in 2020. The book, which is now available from booksellers nationwide, tells the story of a teenage boy growing up in the 1990s in a small town in northern Illinois.

English Teacher Laurie Leone learned about the book while discussing it with Superintendent David DiBarri, who proposed incorporating the book into the curriculum.

“Superintendent DiBarri was interested in the idea that we had an actual author in our midst, and he saw it as a unique scenario and opportunity,” Leone said.

Leone and Standley collaborated to create a curriculum around the book and had 19 students in a freshman English class read and

analyze the book. Students then crafted a play through character analysis, scene development, and creative interpretation, selecting favorite chapters, adapting scripts, and crafting engaging performances that captured the essence of Standley’s work.

The students immersed the audience in the struggles and triumphs of teenage life by incorporating props, sound effects, and dramatic techniques.

The event culminated in a touching moment as students presented Standley with flowers, followed by an insightful author Q&A, where audience members were able to explore his inspiration and writing journey. A true celebration of literature, storytelling, and student creativity, the performance was met with enthusiasm and admiration, marking a memorable day in the classroom.

Students participating in the play were Giselle Benitez Valdivieso, of Chelsea; George Berry, of Revere; Donald Cahill, of Reading; Alexis Caraballo, of Wakefield; Sofia DeCarvalho, of Woburn; Thomas Forestier, of Revere; Michael Fronduto, of Saugus; Ashley Gutierrez Calix, of Chelsea; Jacqueline Hernandez San-

tos, of Chelsea; Christian Hernandez, of Saugus; Gabrielle Jason, of Wakefield; Jack Johnson, of Woburn; Isabella Mezikofsky, of Wakefield; Dominic Pineda, of Revere; Ava Quiles, of Saugus; Peyton Reynolds, of Stoneham; Luke Rhuda, of Melrose; Amanda Rocha, of Woburn, and Ava Viola, of Wakefield.

“A big theme in ‘To the Top of Greenfield Street’ is that personal growth comes from empathy and facing challenges, having self-awareness, and stepping outside your comfort zone,” said Dominic Pineda, of Revere. “This message has impacted me be-

cause it made me realize the importance of being more aware of others’ feelings and perspectives. It taught me that maturity comes not just from overcoming challenges, but also from listening, reflecting on past experiences, and growing through difficult situations.”

“‘To the Top of Greenfield Street’ teaches the reader about learning to take care of yourself and just be yourself when making friends. Eric also learns to defend himself, and although he’s insecure about his body, he always seems to carry self-respect,” said Giselle Benitez Valdivieso, of Chelsea. “These are defi-

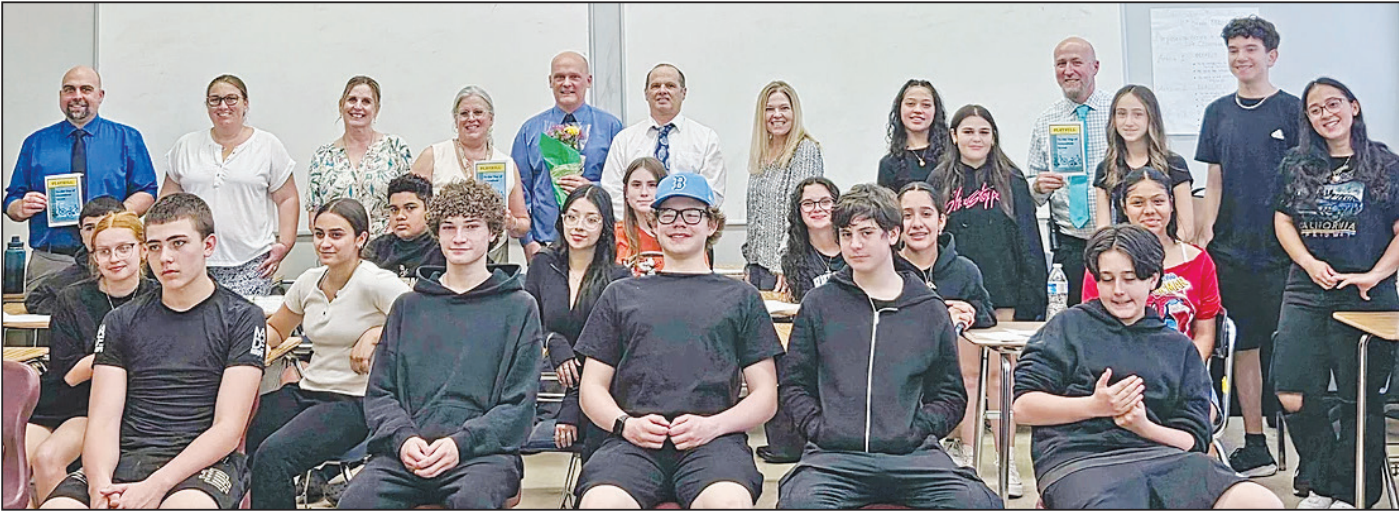
nately lessons that I can relate to in life and in school. It’s good to meet new people but always have boundaries and respect yourself.”

“Mr. Standley and I are very proud of our students for turning this event into a memorable grand finale to both our unit of study and the academic year,” said Laurie Leone.

“I’m thankful for this opportunity and so proud of how the students responded. They really came together during both the performance and the reading of the book. It was fun to see which scenes of the book resonated with them,” said Ryan Standley. “Hopefully

this assignment will be a lasting memory. I’ll never forget the shocked looks on their faces on the day Ms. Leone and I handed out the books. One student said, ‘Mr Standley, this writer has the same name as you!’”

“I was excited to learn we have a nationally published author right here in our midst at Northeast Metro Tech, and I knew our talented faculty could turn that opportunity into something really special for students,” said Superintendent DiBarri. “I want to thank Laurie Leone and Ryan Standley for creating this truly outstanding learning opportunity for students.”



Student actors and staff from Northeast Metro Tech joined together after students in Laurie Leone and Ryan Standley’s English class performed a play that was based on a book written by Standley.



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Tips to help Massachusetts residents navigate health care more easily and save more money

By Dr. Ana Stankovic at
UnitedHealthcare of Massachusetts

In the past, an imperfect and often complicated health care system, along with rising costs, impacted consumers’ ability to easily access care.

In fact, nearly 11% of adults nationally and over 7% in Massachusetts avoided care due to the expense in the previous year, according to the America’s Health Rankings 2024 Annual Report.

As technology continues to reshape many aspects of our lives, employers and health plans are increasingly offering new digital tools, benefits, and programs that aim to make the health care experience simpler, more affordable, and better.

Here are three tips to

more easily connect with quality care and potentially save more money.

Take advantage of digital tools that help you compare care options: Many people like to research products before making a purchase, and the same is often true when it comes to health care. In fact, a recent study found that nearly half of people research doctors before scheduling an appointment.¹

Comparing care options ahead of time and making more informed decisions may result in better access to care and lower costs. Some employers and health plans now offer innovative solutions that aim to do just that. Talk to your employer and health plan about what’s available to you.

Understand what wellness programs are avail-

able. About 80% of U.S. businesses with more than 50 employees now offer wellness programs, according to a recent survey, but many people don’t fully take advantage of all that’s available to support their health and well-being.²

Some employer wellness programs can help people stay focused on their health goals, manage chronic conditions like type 2 diabetes and obesity, and even save more money, in part by utilizing technology.

You may be eligible for incentive-based wellness programs available through some employers designed to reward healthier choices. With these programs, eligible members can earn rewards for completing tasks like taking a health survey, getting an annual checkup,

walking a certain number of steps, tracking hours slept and more.

You may be able to earn rewards through your health plan for activities like your annual wellness visit, getting certain preventive screenings. Talk to your health plan and employer to understand what’s available.

Make your mental health a priority. Taking care of your mental health is important to your overall well-being as your emotional frame of mind may impact your physical health. If you’re struggling, treatment may help you feel better and live a healthier life.

Mental health challenges continue to grow and can have a significant impact on working age adults and many others. To focus on

just one condition, 40 million American adults suffer from anxiety disorders that can impact quality of life and well-being,³ and anxiety is now the No. 1 mental health issue among American workers.⁴

To address these challenges, many employers offer accessible and flexible mental health offerings — such as therapy apps and virtual counseling, which can provide convenient, confidential support.⁵

Some health plans also offer behavioral health care programs to help with substance use, stress, anxiety, depression and more. Some health insurers also have specially trained advocates available to help members find the right type of behavioral health care or resources.

Make virtual care a starting point. Virtual care, also called telehealth, has expanded from helping people who are already sick to detecting and preventing illnesses and more effectively managing chronic conditions.

Many people enjoy the flexibility offered by virtual care, and some plans are now built around it. Virtual care offers 24/7 access to urgent care, in addition to access to medical and behavioral health and other care via a smartphone, tablet or computer — and transitions to in-person support, when necessary.

Other options may include virtual primary care for regular health visits or virtual therapy for care from a behavioral health professional.

Art as Resistance: ‘Everyone is Welcome Here’ opens in East Boston

Special to the Times-Free Press

Atlantic Works Gallery is proud to present its 2025 summer group exhibition, Everyone is Welcome Here—a collective statement of solidarity, compassion, and inclusion in response to the increasing marginalization of vulnerable communities across the United States.

The title and theme of the show were inspired by a recent story out of Idaho,

where an elementary school teacher was ordered to remove a classroom sign that read “Everyone is Welcome Here.” The sign, which simply depicted raised cartoon hands of different skin tones, was deemed “political” by the school administration, who argued it presented a divisive opinion. The teacher refused to remove the sign, risking her job in order to stand firm in her belief that every child deserves to feel safe, ac-

cepted, and valued.

Moved by this act of quiet resistance and conviction, the artists of Atlantic Works Gallery have come together to use their art to echo this message and amplify it. Everyone is Welcome Here is more than an exhibition—it’s a call to action and an invitation to community. It’s a statement against the rising tide of intolerance, and a reminder that creative spaces have the power to unite, heal, and speak truth.

Through diverse mediums and perspectives, participating artists explore themes of belonging, visibility, cultural identity, and advocacy. The show affirms that Atlantic Works Gallery remains a space where everyone—regardless of race, gender, religion, immigration status, or sexual orientation—is not only welcomed but celebrated.

Community Day — Saturday, July 19 from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

As part of the exhibition, Atlantic Works Gallery will host a Community Day on July 19 to honor and celebrate the vibrant, diverse East Boston neighborhood we call home. This family-friendly event will feature artist-led interactive mural painting, light refreshments, artist talks (translation available), live music and more. All are welcome to attend!

Now in its twenty-second year, Atlantic Works Gallery

is an artist-run collaborative space for art and ideas, located in East Boston. The gallery is open to the public every Friday and Saturday from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m and is wheelchair accessible. For private appointments and press inquiries, please email, contact@atlanticworks.org. Learn more at <https://atlanticworks.org>.

Halas // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Richie leaves behind an unforgettable legacy of humility kindness, and unwavering devotion to the people he loved,” continued Anderson.

“His legacy lives on in the hearts he touched, the joy he brought to everyday moments, and the unforgettable memories he etched into our hearts.”

Speaking about Richie’s more than 30 years of employment at FedEx (one of the customers on his route was Tom Brady), Charlie noted that Richie “remarkably never took a single

sick day, a quiet testament to his dedication and sense of responsibility.”

In a moment that drew smiles throughout the room, Charlie held up a pair of Richie’s old and often-worn bowling shows and asked, “Can you imagine a Hall of Fame bowl wearing these bowling shoes?”

Charlie Anderson said of the 43 years of marriage shared by Richie and Linda Halas, “Richie adored his wife. He poured his heart into being a great father to Colby and Courtney. He was a Dad they could al-

ways count on. His grandchildren, Evan and Hannah, meant the world to him. They were the light in his eyes and the joy in his heart.”

Referring to his brother-in-law’s nickname of “Hawk” (“Many people really didn’t know his first name,” jested Charlie), he told the gathering, “We called him “Hawk,” and it’s a name that now carries even deeper meaning. Like the hawk, Richie has a quiet strength, a steady presence, and a watchful spirit that touched everyone around

him. He soared through life not with noise or spectacle, but with grace, purpose and love. And though he may no longer walk beside us, he will forever be in our memories.”

Concluding his remarks, Charlie Anderson stated, “Richie did not just pass through life. He soared! He embedded himself into the fabric of our hearts. And though he flies higher now, his spirit and memory live on, in us, and with us forever. We will forever love you, Hawk.”



Richie “Hawk” Halas (left) also excelled in the Chelsea Municipal Fast Pitch Softball for the Durant Paint team. Above, Richie is pictured at the old Carter Park with his cousins and teammates, Bobby Halas (center) and Paul Halas (right).

Friends express their fondness for “Hawk” Halas

As friends and family waited for the service to begin, many expressed their admiration for “Hawk” Halas and the amazing connection they shared on the bowling lanes and in life.

Chucky Vozzella, proprietor of Central Park Lanes which became Hawk’s home alleys, said everyone felt his presence when he was in the East Boston bowling establishment.

“Hawk was a sportsman who was always cheering on everyone,” said Vozzella. “He was a true legend, a Hall of Famer, and just a great guy. We would hang out together at Dunkin’ in the morning. We were together quite a bit. His pass-

ing is hard to believe. It’s been tough for all of us. We will always remember Hawk fondly.”

Central Park Lanes teammates Joe Stella and Eddie Woodside recalled their first meeting with ‘Hawk’ in the 1980s.

“We recruited ‘Hawk’ for our pro team and my brother [John] set it up, and then we met Hawk on a Friday night in 1988, and he joined our pro team, and the rest is history – we bowled together for the next 30 years,” said Stella.

“Richie was the best, he was awesome,” said Woodside. “He was about six years older than I was and about seven years older than

Joey, so Joey and I looked up to him as our mentor. He taught us how to act on the alleys, be a gentleman, be courteous, but to be competitive, that you wanted to win. He had a very unique style where he lined up on the approach and threw a curve. But he was so accurate.”

“Richie was a great teammate, and it was fun going to watch him bowl on television,” said Stella, who is also a Channel 5 alumnus. “Jonathan [Boudreau] told me about a bowling show on YouTube when Hawk threw a triple strike against Charlie Jutras. I was going to talk with him about it the next day, but I never got to

tell him.”

Woodside remembered another show in which Hawk Halas rallied from a 60-pin deficit with five boxes left to beat fellow pro Joe Ashline. I think Joe retired right after and moved to Ohio and started bowling ten-pin,” added Woodside with a smile.

Steve Walsh, part of the younger generation of top bowlers at Central Park Lanes, said Hawk Halas inspired all and often offered advice on to how to improve your game.

“Hawk was someone we all looked up to,” said Walsh. “His style was so unique with the way he started his approach way

to the right of the lanes and threw a wicked curveball. It was a challenge to compete against him in rollofts and tournaments because he was so consistent. The game of bowling has lost one of its all-time greats, a goodwill ambassador for the sport and a chronicler of its history in New England.”

Ron Stockton, a fellow professional bowler, offered, “I bowled with Richie for many, many years in travel leagues and tournaments. I was so pleasantly surprised to see his bowling balls and bowling shoes and the wonderful stories about him in the Chelsea Record on display today – they brought back some great

remembrances of a great bowler. I miss him very much.”

Jonathan Boudreau, a current bowling star, said he grew up watching “Hawk” Halas competing on TV bowling shows. “I bowled against him a lot and I bowled doubles with him in a tournament. He was a fighter. He never gave up right down to the last box. He had great technique. He was one of the best for many years. Richie was a guy who inspired me and whom I looked up to a lot.”

CASA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

cus solely on the best interests of a child in foster care. Each CASA is matched with one child or sibling group and builds a consistent, trusted relationship by meeting with them regularly and staying involved for the duration of the case.

CASAs collaborate with teachers, doctors, foster parents, attorneys, and caseworkers to ensure the child’s needs are met—advocating for essential services, educational support, healthcare access, and permanent housing. They often become the one consistent

adult in a child’s life, helping navigate a complex and ever-changing system.

CASAs are asked to commit at least 18 months to the role. Initial training requires 30 hours, with 12 hours of ongoing education each year. Once assigned to a case, volunteers typically dedicate 10 to 15 hours per month to their CASA work.

Why It Matters
The need is urgent:

- Only 50% of foster youth graduate from high school
- Fewer than 4% earn a

four-year college degree

- Nearly half experience homelessness by age 26

According to a national study, 92% of judges say CASAs improve outcomes for children, and 83% say CASAs help ensure children receive essential services. But when a youth has a CASA, they are more likely to succeed in school, access vital services, and secure a stable, permanent home.

Eligibility Requirements

- Have a deep desire to make a difference in a

child’s life

- Be 21 years or older
- Commit to at least 18 months of service
- Ability to meet with youth 1-2 times a month at their home or in community
- Approach difficult situations with compassion and diplomacy
- Keep personal beliefs separate from their advocacy role

Children in foster care come from all backgrounds, and Boston CASA is committed to building a volunteer community that reflects that diversity. While all are

welcome to apply, we’re especially seeking volunteers who speak additional languages, identify as people of color, are men, or are part of the LGBTQ+ community. Your lived experience can make a powerful difference in a child’s life.

Upcoming Info Sessions
Attending an information session is required to apply for the organization’s next volunteer training cycle, which begins in the fall. These sessions will give you an overview of the organization and our work, the ap-

plication and interview process, as well as more details about the training required to become a CASA.

Sessions will be held virtually on Zoom from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

- Thursday July 24th, 2025
- Wednesday August 13th, 2025

Sign up for an upcoming information session [HERE](#). Research shows that just one consistent adult can change a child’s trajectory. For more information or to register for an info session, visit: <https://bostoncasa.org/>

Community health priorities unveiled at NeighborHealth's Gallery Walk in East Boston

Special to the Record

NeighborHealth and the Boston Community Health Collaborative (BCHC) gathered residents at the health center's Maverick Square location in East Boston on Tuesday, July 8 for a Community Gallery Walk to present and discuss key findings from the 2025 Boston Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The CHNA is a community health improvement plan developed by BCHC, which is facilitated by the Boston Public Health Commission and convenes City departments, public health, healthcare, community based organizations, and Boston residents. The interactive event centered discussions on the local health data and community-driven solutions to help inform NeighborHealth's health equity initiatives in 2026.

"Improving health across Boston requires a tremendous collaborative effort and, as the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, our partnership with the Boston Community Health Collaborative offers a data-driven roadmap for working together to address the root causes of health inequities," said Jamie Hazard, Interim CEO and Chief Financial Officer of Neigh-

borHealth.

The CHNA data identifies areas of strength and progress related to community health in Boston. It also provides community health centers with recommendations for improved outcomes based on data collected from surveys, focus groups and interviews with the local community.

Key insights from the assessment pertaining to NeighborHealth's patient population were presented by Tibrine da Fonseca, PhD, Project Director of BCHC at the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) and Maya Iona Nuñez, CHNA Project Coordinator at BPHC.

“The Boston Community Health Collaborative process identified key priorities to support the health and wellbeing of Boston residents – strengthening access to healthy foods, safe and affordable housing, creating more economic opportunities, and improving access to care,” said Tibrine da Fonseca, Project Director of BCHC at the Boston Public Health Commission.

The event provided a platform for collaboration as patients, community members, health professionals, and local leaders responded to the data. NeighborHealth's leadership emphasized the collective call to action, urging

stakeholders to build on partnerships and prioritize practical strategies, along with highlighting how the CHNA findings will inform their equity planning.

"We were heartened to see much alignment with the work we are doing and the needs brought forward in the assessment," said Mimi Gardner, Vice President and Chief Equity Officer at NeighborHealth. "Partnerships will be essential to advancing and expanding that work. Through NeighborHealth's Community Health Equity Council,

we look forward to bringing residents, local nonprofits, schools, healthcare providers, and elected leaders together to continue tackling food, housing, behavioral health, and economic stability.”

As the event concluded, participants heard youth performances from the EASTIE Coalition, enjoyed light refreshments and engaged in a gift card raffle.

For more information about NeighborHealth, visit www.neighborhealth.com. NeighborHealth, formerly East Boston NeighborHealth, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

borhood Health Center, is one of the nation's largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, serving over 130,000 people and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a National Quality Leader. For more than 50 years, NeighborHealth has offered access to comprehensive primary care, specialty care and emergency care for patients in the Commonwealth. In a first-of-its-kind



COURTESY PHOTOS

From left to right: Maya Iona Nunez, CHNA Project Coordinator at Boston Public Health Commission and Tibrine da Fonseca, PhD, Project Director of Boston Community Health Collaborative at Boston Public Health Commission share findings from the 2025 Boston Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA).



East Boston residents Pearl Lee (left) and Khanh Nguyen (right) take in the data overview from the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment.



EASTIE Coalition Music Instructor and Singer Nathaly Valencia Guapacha (with guitar) performs music for guests at NeighborHealth's Community Gallery Walk with local youth (from left) Christopher Cardona, Alejandra Sanchez, and Cristaly Cardon.

FRESH AND LOCAL

Bean Salads

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

In recent years, bean salads have expanded beyond the classic “Three Bean Salad” to colorful and delicious recipes where a wider variety of beans are welcome and more vegetables and grains play supporting roles.

All American Original

The website *Quaint Cooking* traces the origins of “Three Bean Salad” to the American South in the 1950s as a picnic and backyard cookout staple. This was also the era of using canned goods, making this a can opener dish.

Quaint Cooking described the recipe, “The three beans are kidney, waxed, and green beans mixed with finely chopped onion and bell pepper. They are then marinated in a simple dressing of oil, vinegar, and sugar. If they wanted to turn it into a four-bean salad, then chickpeas would be added.”

All Beans and Legumes Welcome

Today, you can still make a many-bean salad using canned or preferably jarred beans. Beans in glass jars have become a staple in our pantry. The flavor and texture are closer to what we like when we cook beans from scratch, and the aquafaba is much better for whipping.

If you eat a lot of beans, choose your favorite as the base for this dish and prepare a week's batch for other uses. Then feel free to combine these with any jarred or canned beans you'd like to use. Legumes, such as chickpeas or lentils, are welcome additions to the party and can add color and nutrition.

Next, think about some of your favorite hearty salads and use that combo as a base for your version of bean salad. We love tabouli and have always added



One reason bean salads have remained so popular is that they can be made ahead and served cold, but are at their best at room temperature.

chickpeas to it to complete the protein. But why stop at one addition? You can add a couple more beans and even switch up the grain from bulgur mixed into the salad to a layer of a different grain as a base, and top it with the bean mixture.

Added Vegetables

One colorful version of this type of dish is "Cowboy Caviar." It combines finely chopped tomatoes, red onion, avocado, bell peppers, jalapenos, and corn kernels with black beans and black-eyed peas. Here, the corn is the grain that completes the protein.

Three Sisters

You might think of corn as a vegetable, but it's a grain. The indigenous people of North America have traditionally planted corn, squash, and beans together, collectively known as the Three Sisters. This sustainable combination yields a healthy, symbiotic relationship in the garden.

That combination could be a delicious start to another bean salad as squash comes into season. Roast a batch of butternut squash and use some of it in your salad. Pick the beans you want to feature and add a generous dose of corn. Chop any vegetables you have on

hand and marinate in a tasty dressing. Go ahead and call it Three Sister Bean Salad, and you'll have a story to go with it when you bring it to your next potluck supper.

One reason bean salads have remained so popular is that they can be made ahead and served cold, but are at their best at room temperature. They will last a few days in the refrigerator and can be served as a side dish, stuffed in a pita, or wrapped in a lettuce leaf for a quick lunch or healthy snack.

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

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