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# THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, December 12, 2019

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Pictured at the home at 18 Jefferson St., Lynn are (left to right) Congressman Seth Moulton, tenant Adam Zielinski, Donald Werner of LHAND, Peggy Phelps of LHAND, LHAND Executive Director Charles Gaeta, State Rep. Peter Capano, LHAND Planning and Development Specialist Jeffrey Weeden, HUD Regional Administrator David Tille, State Rep. Daniel Cahill, Mayor Thomas McGee, and HUD Region 1 Director Martin Nee.

## City Council voices concerns about Waste Management

By Kate Anslinger

The City Council came face to face with Waste Management representative Ed Pacek on Tuesday evening, to address concerns of poor work quality on behalf of the residents. The meeting between the Council, Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, Andy Hall, and Pacek came as a result of numerous complaints from residents throughout the city.

Ward 2 Councilor Richard Starbard admitted that the inconsistent trash and yard waste pickup is like nothing he has ever seen before.

“Over the past several months, I’ve sent out 18 emails to Ward 2 residents, all related to pick-up delays,” said Starbard, who initially thought the delays were a result of the windstorms in October. “The problem has only gotten worse since then and leave bags have been sitting out in the rain and snow for weeks.”

According to Pacek, the initial

delay was a result of a miscommunication with the schedule. After a schedule had been published and sent out to residents based on the previous calendar year, the yard waste route was run the week of Thanksgiving instead of the following week when residents expected. In turn, residents waited until the week after Thanksgiving to put yard waste out, causing a light load the previous week, and a delayed pick-up the next.

“Unfortunately, we didn’t notice that there was a week that had changed from one year to the next and we built our schedule based off of what the year before was,” said Pacek. “We didn’t do our due diligence by looking at the calendar in advance and we will certainly do that in the future, instead of requesting a change midstream like we did.”

According to Councilor Starbard, Waste Management’s work

Please see WASTE Page 3

## HUD officials, Moulton, McGee tour lead remediation work at Lynn home

### HUD funding helps to protect Lynn children from dangers of lead

Special to The Journal

U.S. Housing and Urban Development Regional Administrator David Tille joined Congressman Seth Moulton, and Lynn Mayor Thomas M. McGee to tour a home at 18 Jefferson St. owned by Richard Gaivin, which recently completed lead remediation work utilizing HUD Lead-Based Paint Haz-

ard Control grant funding that the city received.

The City of Lynn was recently awarded \$9.3 million in HUD Lead-Based Hazard Control grant funding which includes \$600,000 in Healthy Homes Supplemental funding. The city will use this funding to continue their lead abatement program and address lead hazards in 400 housing units providing safer

homes for low and very low-income families with children.

The city, through its partner, Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Development, led by Executive Director Charles Gaeta, will work with Neighborhood Development Associates, Inc., Lynn Economic Opportunity, the Highlands Coalition, and

Please see HUD Page 12



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# EDITORIAL

## REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

*"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."*  
-- Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities.

With Christmas just two weeks away, most of us will be rushing about -- either to the stores and malls or on-line --- to do our last-minute holiday shopping in hopes of finding that "perfect" gift for our family members and loved ones.

Although the vast majority of Americans have much to be thankful for because of a strong economy and a record-low unemployment rate, there are many of our fellow citizens who have not shared in the general prosperity.

Statistics tell us that millions of Americans of all ages, including those in our own communities, are struggling financially, often through no fault of their own, thanks to a combination of low-wage jobs and a strong real estate market that ironically has made apartments (let alone buying a home) unaffordable.

Far too many of our fellow citizens, including children, live either in shelters or in similar temporary housing arrangements -- or on the streets -- because the reality of our economy has left them out in the cold -- literally -- thanks to high rents and soaring land values.

This dichotomy is most evident and acute in the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco. Despite the vast wealth in those metropolitan areas, thousands of homeless persons, including many who have full-time jobs, are living in tent and cardboard "neighborhoods" on city sidewalks.

The homeless always have been among us, but the scope and depth of the problem is far beyond anything that has been experienced in our lifetime. The vast discrepancy between the enormous wealth enjoyed by some Americans and the abject poverty being endured by others is similar to what we read about in major urban centers in South America and India -- but it now is happening right here in the U.S.A.

For these millions of Americans, the holiday season brings no joy. Indeed, the announcement by the Trump administration last week that there will be a cutback in the Food Stamps program (known as SNAP) that threatens to leave millions of Americans (including many children) hungry is a real-life Grinch story, but without a happy ending.

Psychologists tell us that the Biblical directive, that we should give to those who are less fortunate, actually is the best gift that we can give to ourselves. Giving to others activates regions of the brain associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust, creating the so-called "warm glow" effect.

Whether it be donations to local food banks and toy programs, or even as simple as dropping a few dollars in the buckets of the Salvation Army Santas, there are multiple opportunities in the next two weeks for each and every one of us to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate.



SHOP LOCALLY AND OFTEN

GUEST OP-ED

## Who makes Christmas?

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

As we approach Christmas day let's take a moment to salute the grand women of Christmas.

My wife knocks herself out preparing for events like Thanksgiving and Christmas. She started preparing the Thanksgiving meal two weeks in advance and for sure we had a feast. For some time now she has been in charge of locating the right Christmas gift for children and grandchildren and most anyone else. She also wraps the gifts and has the wheels turning for our Christmas meal. Let me stop everything here and interject that I have presented myself front and center many times for helping wrap gifts and even preparing the meal. However, my wrapping and cooking do not "meet up to muster," as we used to say in the country.

My mom worked hard cooking and wrapping and decorating the Christmas tree. The mother of my two sons loved Christmas and always knocked herself out cooking, shopping and wrapping. I remember my grand-

mother Hinkle slaving over a stove and my hat is off to my two sisters and deceased mother's in law who did so much to make Christmas meaningful for family and friends. Trust me here I don't want to leave anyone out.

Hear me I am not slighting the men of Christmas. My dad, Joseph and Jesus all count big time. Many men cook, wrap gifts and shop. I've done all of that. For 12 years my now deceased first wife could do nothing because of multiple sclerosis. Whatever was done was on me. Looking back I know I was sorely lacking when it came to pulling it altogether. I simply had to do the best I could and my best wasn't all that great really.

I wonder how many moms and women feel this way. I wonder how women cook their brains out and wrap to exhaustion, clean house and try to make Christmas wonderful and then feel like nobody gives a dang or appreciates what they have done? I bet plenty do. Don't let this happen this year. Praise them! Thank the dear souls who knock themselves out to try to make Christmas happen - for you and your loved ones.

Mary the mother of Jesus went through a lot. When she became pregnant and still a virgin, who bought her story? Not many. Joseph did and he married her and took care of her and the new baby Jesus. However, starting out as a young mother with so many unknowns and the hardships that came with an unexpected pregnancy in that day were not easy. The Bible says, "But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." For most of her life before and after the birth of Jesus, she carried a heavy load.

Keep the love, kindness and praise flowing this Christmas - especially for those dear women who often carry a heavy load. Often they are the ones who really make Christmas.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist - American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

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**Waste/** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

looked more like missed streets and random missed houses, on dates when the residents expected their yard waste to be picked up. Starbard, along with his fellow councilors, compiled lists of missed houses to present to waste management and there were no improvements. One truck was seen picking up yard waste on the odd side of a two-way nar-

row street, and not returning to collect the even side of the street. "There is really no rhyme or reason to what is going on," said Starbard.

According to Pacek, one of the challenges with yard waste pickup is that it's difficult to gauge. Unlike trash and recycling, yard pickup is an add-on service with drivers who aren't always famil-

iar with the route. The volume varies and the assets remained fixed, so some weeks, the fixed two trucks are enough to get the job done, and other weeks the DPW needs to be notified so another truck can go back out the next day to collect the rest.

While the delay in yard waste pickup was what propelled the conversation, several other complaints arose over Waste Management's lack of service over previous months.

Council President Cyr said that this was the worst service he's seen it in his 16 years as councilor.

"In addition to missed trash and yard waste pickups, I don't like the condition of some of the vehicles that are coming into the city, leaving oil stains on the

roadways. In my neighborhood today, the truck was doing a decent job but there was oil all over the street. If it's on my street it's on other streets. Also, a few weeks ago, a driver drove over my trash barrel and just went on to the next house, without even stopping."

Cyr went on to present a video captured by a resident, which showed a driver whipping a barrel over a snowbank and breaking it, before promising the resident he would receive a new barrel, which never arrived.

"This is very concerning to me and it's not the values that we encourage," said Pacek. "I advise everyone to let us know when something like this comes up because we can't address it if we don't know."

In response to the complaints, Pacek is offering an additional week of yard waste pickup, which started on Monday, December 9, and will be completed on Saturday, December 14. The bonus week will require the company to pick up yard waste on every single street in the city.

"We realize the frustration that everyone here, as well as the residents, have experienced. This week will be of considerable cost to us, but we value the relationship we have with the city and would like to keep it."

To receive real-time calendar and city updates, including trash, recycle and yard waste schedules, please sign up for the Lynn City Rave Mobile Safety App.

**LETTER to the Editor**

**VAPING IS HARMFUL**

Dear Editor,

Vaping by youth has become what the U.S. Surgeon General calls an epidemic and many people are working to find solutions. I'm asked frequently what can be done to turn the tide, and now new resources are available to educate youth and help those who want to quit vaping.

Sadly, many youth are unaware of the facts about and the dangers of vaping. To help, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health developed a campaign designed for youth found at [mass.gov/vaping](http://mass.gov/vaping). It provides facts and materials for young people that compare vapes and cigarettes: both put nicotine and cancer-causing chemicals in their body and both are highly addictive and dangerous for young people.

The vaping epidemic has led parents, schools and youth-serving organizations to struggle with how to help youth who are addicted to nicotine and want to quit. Now, two new free programs, This is Quitting powered by truth and My Life, My Quit, are available to help Massachusetts youth become nicotine- and tobacco-free.

Quitting vapes or other tobacco products can be hard. Here are some ways you can help young

people get the support they need:

- This is Quitting powered by truth is a free and confidential texting program for young people who vape. Text "Vape-FreeMass" to 88709. In partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

- My Life, My Quit has youth coach specialists trained to help young people by phone or text. Young people can call or text "Start My Quit" to 855-891-9989 for free and confidential help, or sign up online at [mylifemyquit.com](http://mylifemyquit.com).

- Visit [teen.smokefree.gov](http://teen.smokefree.gov) for tools and tips.

- Encourage young people to ask their school nurse or counselor, athletic coach, doctor, parent or other trusted adult for help.

- For more information, young people can visit [mass.gov/vaping](http://mass.gov/vaping).

- More information for parents/adults is available at [GetOutraged.org](http://GetOutraged.org).

Talking with young people about vaping is essential—youth need to know that vaping is harmful and that help is available for those who want to quit. Visit [GetOutraged.org](http://GetOutraged.org) to learn more or contact me at [eduran@hria.org](mailto:eduran@hria.org).

**Edgar Duran Elmudesi**  
Metro Boston Tobacco-Free Community Partnership

**Corporal Peter J. Pennucci**

Born: December 13, 1949  
Killed in Action  
May 20, 1970, Vietnam



Please join us on  
**Friday, December 13, 2019 at 1:30PM**  
for the

**REDEDICATION OF  
CPL PETER J. PENNUCCI SQUARE**  
Intersection of Alley and Blossom Street, Lynn

This occasion marks the 70th birthday of CPL Pennucci of Lynn, Massachusetts. May we never forget his service and sacrifice to our Nation.



Following the rededication, there be a reception at the Italian American Citizen's Club at 93-95 Harbor Street, Lynn, MA. For more information please contact: David Solimine, Sr. at (781) 953-4831 or the City Lynn Veterans' Services (781) 586-6911

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# LUNCHEON TRADITION AHEAD OF THANKSGIVING GAME CAPTAINS TABLES



Coaches and captains.



Lynn Public School band and cheerleaders.



Lynn Tech Tigers – AD Adolph Graciale, Director Carissa Karekaedos, Cheerleader Coach Lisa Bellamah, Haidar Blawiwi, Coach James Runner, Victor Bellamah, Kenny Perez, Arthur Herrasa, and Devin Lewis.



City officials laud players – State Sen. Brendan Crighton, Lynn Superintendent of Schools Patrick Tutwidler PhD, and Mayor Thomas McGee.



Football Banquet Sponsors – Brotherhood Credit Union Adam Sherman, St. Jean's Credit Union David Surface, and River Works Credit Union Peter Kopoulos.

The Lynn Civic Clubs hosted the 99<sup>th</sup> Lynn High Annual Football Luncheon before the traditional Thanksgiving Day games. This was a good opportunity for players to meet their arch-rivals during a comfortable time before game day.

Addressing the audience, Mayor Thomas McGee said, “Thanksgiving Day football game is a great tradition. What is important in playing on that day, players are having a chance to be part of something special. This game means a lot to play for one’s school.”

As the Mayor continued, “This luncheon is a great tradition to bring all of the schools together and to reflect on the game which is great for the community. This is an important time in your life to have this experience. This tradition is real; everyone develops a special bond in the city by celebrating Thanksgiving Day and being thankful”.

Three Lynn Credit Unions - Brotherhood, Riverworks, and St. Jean’s – sponsored this annual high school football luncheon.



Lynn English Bulldogs – (L-R): Thomas Gaylord, AD Richard Newton, Coach Chris Carroll, Principal Thomas Strangie, Fenix Figueroa, and Mathias Fowler.



Lynn Classical Administrators and Coaches – AD Bill Devin Jr, Asst. AD Cathy Ellis, Coach Brian Vaughan, Principal Amy Dunn, and Cheerleader Coach Alicia Boisson.



KIPP Academy – AD Anthony Grimaldi, Jose Castillo, Taj King, Dan-yul Oluwasuyi, Mike Brice, Dave Filias, and Cocah Jim Rabbitt.

# LYNN JETS HOCKEY ALUMNI GAME RETURN FLIGHT



The Lynn Jets alumni.



Team White of the Lynn Jets Alumni Game.



Team Red of the Lynn Jets Alumni Game.



Former High School Hockey Official and Lynn Jets Coach Joseph Gunning with over 30 years of coaching experience.



The Lynn Jets Alumni Coaches – DJ Pinkham, JR Plourde, Brian Boisson, and Michael Roberts. Coach Joe Gunning absent.

Grace and smoothness continued on the ice with the Lynn Jet alumni hockey players. Former varsity players came together to support the Lynn Jets High School Hockey program. The locker room was buzzy with excitement and a reconnecting of friendships before going on the ice.

Mike Roberts organized this hockey event with former Lynn Classical, Lynn English, and Lynn Tech Jets players for a fundraiser.

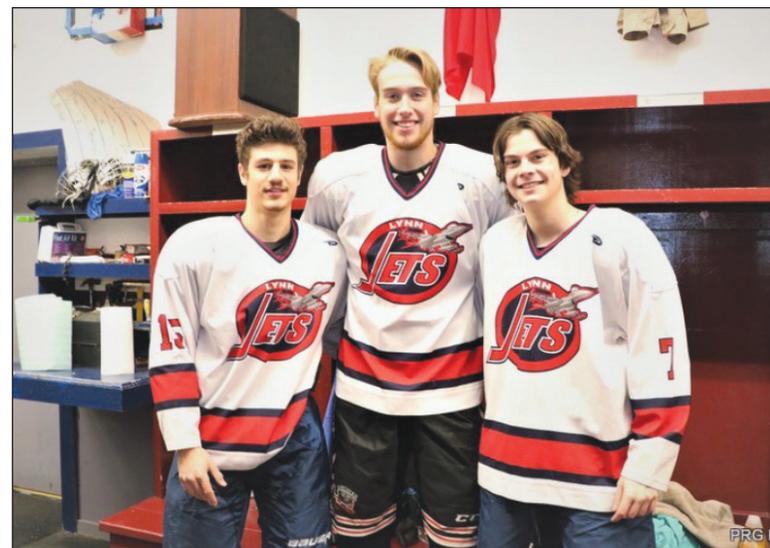
This is an opportunity for the players to come down to the rink, hang out, get a good skate in, and play a game. Each alumnus made a donation that goes to the high school program for supplies.



Former Lynn Tech Varsity Jets, Kerry Finnigan, shows his Lynn Tech hockey jersey.

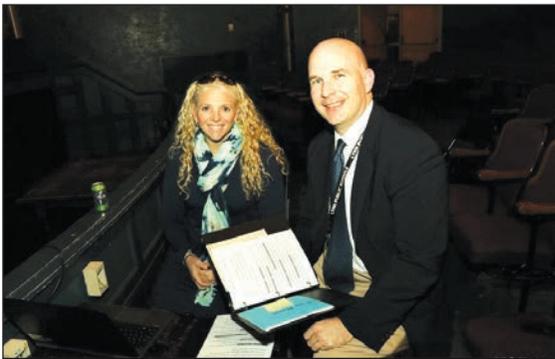


The 2007-2008 Inaugural Lynn Jets Team – Jack Carter, Erik Bransfield, Jeffrey Porter, Jack Erikson, Terri Finnigan, and Sean Crowley.



Three former Lynn Classical Varsity Jets combined for 180 Points Scored in four years of hockey play – John DiFilippo, Brian Clougherty, and Andrew Patrie.

# LYNN ENGLISH SHOWCASES ITS SCHOOL TO PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES AN OPEN BOOK



Lynn English Guidance Counselors, Nicole Passanisi and Matt Wilkins, coordinated the successful Open House.



Kelly Delferro with her son, Cooper from Pickering Middle School, attended Open House.

The Open House showcased many programs offered at Lynn English High School. A Presentation and Extracurricular Fair was arranged for prospective students to learn about the academic curriculum, club activities, athletics, community service, student government, and the ROTC.

Guidance Counselor Matt Wilkins said to the audience, "Our goal at Lynn English is to give students a personal and professional education to achieve during the four years at the school. Our facility was updated and our faculty is dedicated for student success; students who attend Lynn English are friendly, involved, and spirited".

During the Open House current students and faculty members shared their experiences to possible soon to be students and their parents about the academics and extracurricular activities.



Lynn English MC JR ROTC displayed Championship Awards - Dawreong Souvannarath, Javon Norris, Danielle Gutierrez, Dayris Cleto, Kai Larson, Bryan Chinchilla, Selena Flores, Jeremaih Pena, and Jaily Auiles.



TRIO Program Talent Search Advisor Peter Toeung with Luis DeLeon, Kenny Coronado, and Arryanna Chan.



The Ormier family — Tyler, Emma, Brian — visited LEHS Open House.



LEHS softball players – Janessa Lopez and Kelsey McNeil.



Show time with the Drama Club – Felix Kiene, Emily LeBrasseur, Damianny Garrido, Nancy McManus, and Jandery Nova.



Lynn English baseball players – Anthony Mateo, Luis Pena, Yordy Contreras, Christopher Figueroa, and Ray Contreras.



Family members enjoyed LEHS Open House – English Graduate Maria Osenjo, Brooklyn Barros, Atty. Peri Beltre, Siobhan and Ernie Panias.



LEHS Football Bulldogs – Mathias Fowler, Brendan Falasca, Tahj Purter, and Fenix Figueroa.

# The Foundation Trust announces 2019 grant recipients

The Foundation Trust, a private foundation serving the Greater Boston area, is pleased to announce its 2019 grant recipients. This was the inaugural year of grants from the Foundation Trust, and over \$20,000 was awarded to nonprofit organizations serving the community of Lynn.

Dr. Joseph Spinazzola, Executive Director and Trustee of the Foundation Trust, emphasized "in Lynn, we were fortunate to have strong applications from organizations doing great work in the Foundation Trust's priority tracks. These organizations bring a depth of knowledge and diversity to the issues they address, and we are excited to see the impacts they will have on local culture, youth development, and resources to overcome trauma

and adversity." Recipients were chosen from nonprofits and municipal programs operating in the Foundation Trust's program areas, including overcoming trauma and adversity, empowering high-risk youth and communities, restoring dignity and quality of care for adults living with chronic conditions, and advancing inclusivity in the arts.

A grant to the Family and Children's Service of Greater Lynn, Inc. will support Teen Scene, a violence prevention and academic enrichment program. "This grant from the Foundation Trust could not have come at a better time," said Marolí Licardié, Executive Director of the Lynn Family and Children's Service. "In addition to giving us the capacity to offer field trips

during the school year, the funds also enable us to transport youth safely back home. This is hugely significant since there have been some recent incidences of gun violence in our surrounding neighborhood which have prompted us to provide youth with transportation as they leave the program. One of the goals of Teen Scene is to ensure a safe place for youth to receive academic enrichment after school. Without the funds from Foundation Trust, this would not have been possible."

The Foundation Trust grant to the Lynn Home for Women will help build capacity at their residential facility. Lisa Connelly, Executive Director of Lynn Home for Women, remarked "the Washington Square Residence/ Lynn Home for Women is so

very grateful to the Foundation Trust for the additional funds which will enable us to provide more services and opportunities to our residents. Community partners, like the Foundation Trust, are the life blood of small nonprofits such as WSR/LHW. Our programs and services are designed to build community within the walls of WSR but more importantly, to help build or rebuild wholesome lives, we cannot do this work alone."

Additionally, a grant to Portal to Hope will support Erin's Project, which helps provide safe haven to youth who have fled violent circumstances. "This new partnership has already provided aid to two homeless children who were displaced due to domestic violence crime," shared Deborah Fallon, Founder of Por-

tal to Hope. "We are grateful to the Foundation Trust for offering such terrific support."

In addition to these grants, the Foundation Trust also made a gift to the Downtown Lynn Cultural District which will contribute to the CityHALL initiative, making art and culture more accessible to the community.

Lynn was one of several communities reached with in this year's grant cycle. In total, more than \$300,000 was distributed as scholarships and grants to over 35 small and medium-sized nonprofit organizations in the Greater Boston area.

To view the full list of 2019 grant recipients or to learn more about the Foundation Trust, visit [www.foundationtrust.org](http://www.foundationtrust.org).

## Student highlight: A natural born leader gears up for promising career

By Kate Anslinger

As Senior Class President at Lynn Classical High School, 18-year-old Bolaji Odusanya is on his way to doing great things with his many talents and positive mindset. In addition to his role as class president, Odusanya is captain of the football team, a student rep, and he's immersed himself in AP classes since his freshman year, maintaining a consistent spot on the honor roll.

Known as a natural leader to his fellow classmates, Odusanya also tutors other students in his free time. In the interview below, Odusanya shares a bit about his busy life, his career goals, and how he has always considered school his second home.

**What is your favorite subject?**

Math. I'm a numbers guy and I've always been good at memorizing problems involving numbers. However, if entrepreneur-

ship was a subject, I'd major in it.

**Any college or career plans?**

I applied early action for a prestigious school, where I want to study business and finance and I'd like to use my leadership skills and entrepreneur know-how to run a business someday.

**What do you do in the little spare time that you have?**

I work in the mobile department at Best Buy and I tutor kids in third and fourth grade, as well

as kids in study hall who need help in math. School has always been my second home, I've received a lot of support from the teachers, the students and Superintendent Tutwiler.

**Who is your role model?**

My older brother was always my role model. Before he passed away earlier this year, he would always check in with me and make sure I was on the right path and doing well. He took the time to text and call me and if it weren't for him, I wouldn't be the person I am today. Barack Obama is also a role model of mine, because he was the first African American president and he basically influenced my mind-



Bolaji Odusanya.

set that people who come from where I came from can overcome adversity and overcome the system that was built against us to begin with.

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# CLASS OF '20 EDGES PAST JUNIOR CLASS IN POWDERPUFF CLASSIC SENIORS MOMENT

The Seniors won the annual St. Mary's Powder Puff game 14-9 on Monday, Nov. 25 at Manning Field. The Seniors had a late game defensive stand to hold off the Juniors for the 5-point victory. Quarterback Christina Nowicki threw two touchdowns, one to Kelsey Sullivan and the other to Zoe Solomons to lead the Class of 2020 to victory.



St. Mary's Senior Class of 2020 Girls Powder Puff Team.



Senior Powderpuff players Riley Lynch, Emily Egan, Sofia Del Sonno, Isabella Moretti, and Olivia Matela.



Zoe Solomons on the reception bringing her team closer to the end-zone.



Eva Fainga'a running the ball.



Senior Quarterback Christina Nowicki throws a touchdown pass to Kelsey Sullivan.



Senior girls celebrating a touchdown by Kelsey Sullivan.



Susannah Cornell kicking a field goal for the extra point.



Christina Nowicki, Megan Parthum, Zoe Solomons, Athletic Director Jeff Newhall, Abby O'Connor, Marina DiBiasio, and Makayla McGrath before the coin toss.

# THANKSGIVING ROAD RACE NAMED IN HONOR OF LYNNE O'CONNELL MAKING STRIDES FOR KIDS

Lynne's Kids 3.1 Road Race had many turkey trotters running throughout the streets of Lynn on Thanksgiving Day morning from Rolly's Tavern in Wyoma Square. A slight chill in the air with pending rain clouds hovering failed to deter the runners. This race is named after the late Attorney Lynne O'Connell who worked with children involved in the Essex County Juvenile system.

All proceeds from the race will assist juveniles involved in the court system who need educational assistance, clothing, and health care.

The race committee consisted of members working within the Essex County Court system. Winning the male division was Dennis Floyd of Lynn with a time of 18:26 and Kelly Pzenny won the women's division with a time of 22:38.



**Lynne's Kids Race Committee – Kristine Trecartin, Judy Brennan, Colleen O'Donnel, Kathy Wilson, Tara Sullivan, Susan Cronin, Rolly Hayes of Rolly's Tavern, DonnaLee Leonardo, Beth Moody, Deb DeLeo, and Karen Gallagher.**



**Running for Lynne's Kids -Teacher Jacqueline Trayers with North Shore Bank personnel Nicole Maribito.**



**The best for last – Pilgrim Jon Thibault and Turkey Josh Hilton.**



**Father and Daughter, Meghan and Daniel King, eager to run with Judy Brennan from the Essex County Juvenile Court system.**



**Lynn Runners congratulates Dennis Floyd – Ken Noyes, James Pawlicki, Jason Euzukonis, and Nakri Dao.**



**Top female finishers: Kelly Pzenny with a time of 22:38 and Lynn Classical Asst. Spring Track Coach Colleen Peterson coming in at 23:30.**



**Former Lynn Classical All-Star Baseball player, Jack Carroll, and his wife, Sue, congratulate their son, Michael, on his race.**



**The Ekstrom family of Lynn participated in the race for the ninth year – Kelly, Justin and Bill.**



**Rolly's Servers – Ryan Hayes, Amy Barbour, and Abby Shove.**



**First place finish Dennis Floyd of Lynn, with a time of 18:26.**

# Sounds of Christmas Concert returns to Revere Sunday, Dec. 15

The music of the holiday season will fill the air Sunday when the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra returns to Revere for the annual Robert A. Marra Memorial "Sounds of Christmas" Concert at St. Anthony's Church beginning at 4 p.m.

Admission to the concert is free in exchange for a generous donation of non-perishable food to benefit the Revere Food Pantry. Private sponsorship by Bocchino Insurance, Global Partners, Arbella Insurance, Comcast, RCN, and Action Emergency Services underwrites the concert.

Music Director Robert Lehmann promises another wonderful show. "We are always excited to come to Revere and play in the beautiful surroundings of St. Anthony's Church," said Lehmann. "The people of Revere make the Orchestra feel like family celebrating the holidays together."

Accompanying the Orchestra again this year is vocalist Susie Pepper. "Susie played with us last year and people will remember that she sings just magnifi-

cantly. We are so fortunate that her schedule allowed her to be part of the Revere concert again this year."

Revere High School senior class president Jason Acosta will narrate an original essay that he wrote for the occasion. "This is a part of the concert we began five years ago," said concert co-chair and Orchestra president Robert Marra Jr. "We wanted to create a connection between the high school, where my father taught for 40 years, and the concert."

Working with RHS Writing Center co-ordinator Allison Casper, an RHS senior has written an essay that expresses the writer's individual perception of Christmas in a modern world. The writer then narrates the piece at the concert. "The essays have been varied in their tone and content," said Marra. "Because the essay is the writer's personal reflection, has been a very moving experience for the audience."

Concert co-chair Domenic Bocchino, president of Bocchino Insurance, has been a princi-

pal sponsor of the concert since 2006. "Every year it is such a fulfilling experience to be part of this concert and Food Drive," he said. "It is unfortunate that there is such a demand for food assistance in this day and age. Everyone who can come and enjoy the concert is fortunate to have all that they have, and so it really reflects the meaning of the holidays when people show their generosity and charity through the food drive."

Marra commented how the concert started in conjunction with Revere's celebration of the United States Bicentennial year in 1976. "The first concert was held at Revere High School, and the following year it was moved to St. Anthony's Church" he said.

"It was a perfect setting to celebrate the holidays."

The concert has been held at St. Anthony's every year except for a three-year period in the mid-1980s. The current format of free admission and the associated Food Drive began in 1991. "Thanks to the sponsors, the concert became a free event with the Food Drive as the 'cost' of admission. The food drive was a huge success right from the start. We hope people will express their appreciation for the concert and the holiday season with a generous donation," said Marra.

This year will mark the concert's 43rd anniversary. "There is great tradition and history to Revere's concert," said Music Director Lehmann. "Not only

for its longevity, but in its memorial of Robert Marra, who had such deep connection to the concert and to Revere."

The concert was named in memory of Robert Marra Sr. after he died in 2002. "He was one of the original members of the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra and concertmaster for 50 years," said Robert Jr. "Three of the most precious things in his life were the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra, St. Anthony's Church, and his beloved City of Revere. This concert brings all those together. It's a deeply emotional experience for our family that the tradition continues in music, at St. Anthony's, and with such a charitable benefit to the Revere community."

## LENDING A HELPING HAND



Members from the Zonta Club of Chelsea assisted in the Chelsea Community Center's First Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon held on Wednesday, November 27th at the center's 207 Shurtleff Street location. Shown plating the meals to be served are Mary Jane O'Neill and Barbara Lawlor. Missing from the photo is Zonta member Theresa DiPietro, Director of Housing Services for Bay Cove Human Services located at 207 Shurtleff Street.

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# HUD // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MAPC. Jeffrey Weeden, planning and development specialist at LHAND, said it was the fifth Lead Abatement grant in the past 10 years that Lynn has received from HUD. LHAND has used those grants to clear 600 housing units making them safe for more than 350 children.

“The success of that program is a large reason for our recent award,” said Weeden. “The City of Lynn is one of seven communities to receive a record amount of over \$9 million in the competitive high-impact neighborhood category. The other communities are notably larger – they are Houston, Detroit, Baltimore,

Cleveland, Lancaster (Penn.) and the state of Rhode Island.

“The home [at 18 Jefferson St.] was built in 1910 and contained numerous lead hazards,” said Weeden. “The de-leading contractor received a letter of compliance and the family only had to be out of the house for a few days while the program was able to fund their safe relocation. This is a typical success story that our program is happy to be a part of and hope to highlight in the future.”

Mayor McGee said, “It’s really exciting to have this \$9.3 million Lead Abatement Hazard Reduction for Healthy Homes funding being awarded to the City of Lynn. LHAND, Executive Director Charles Gaeta, and his team do great work for the city every day. LHAND administers the lead abatement program and as Jeff said, it’s been such a success for this community.”

McGee also credited Cong. Moulton for his efforts on behalf of the city.

“I think a lot of Americans don’t understand just how many kids are hurt for the rest of their lives because they ingest a little of bit of lead paint when they’re young – it’s a massive problem,” said Moulton. “Some studies have shown that there’s almost nothing better we can do for young kids in America than simply get lead paint out of homes. “And the fact that the City of



HUD Regional Administrator David Tille.



Congressman Seth Moulton.

Lynn is leading on this – competitive with the entire state of Rhode Island, with Baltimore, and Detroit - Charlie and Jeff and the whole Lynn team under the leadership of Mayor McGee, that is something to be proud of,” continued Moulton. “Because this is competitive, to say that Lynn is on the rise, it doesn’t happen on its own – you have to beat out other cities and communities for resources and it’s because you have a great team in Lynn that you’re able to do that. We’re just glad to help out on the federal level and be a part of it. Thank you very much for truly making a difference in the lives of kids.”

Tille thanked Cong. Moulton, Mayor McGee, the LHAND team, and the Lynn delegation

“for their outstanding work in using HUD funds to make Lynn homes safe.”

State Reps. Dan Cahill and Peter Capano thanked HUD and LHAND for their efforts in making homes safer in Lynn.

Lead poisoning is the No. 1 environmental threat to children and according to state statistics, the primary source of childhood lead poisoning in Massachusetts is from exposure to lead paint and dust in homes built before 1978. In Lynn, 88 percent of the housing stock was built before 1978, according to date from the 2010-2014 American Community Survey.

(Information from a HUD media advisory was used in the compilation of this story).



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Elisabeth's experience caused her to re-direct her own career aspirations. Inspired by the medical professionals who helped her reclaim her active lifestyle, she changed her major to study physical therapy—a profession where her own experience could help other patients prevail through difficult recoveries.

We tell Elisabeth Marra's story here to illustrate two of the most profound messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If reading it inspires just one more person to achieve something special, then its telling here has been well worth while.

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