



DARREN P. CYR *for Mayor of Lynn*

★★★ I respectfully ask for your vote next Tuesday, Sept. 14 ★★★ Paid Political Advertisement

THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, September 9, 2021



Board members of the Flax Pond Association are pictured with the new barrels. From left, are Erica Baker, Lisa Nerich, Leslie Cole, Bill Donahue, Maria Frayler, and Paul Petrowski.

Flax Pond, DPW partner to keep playground clean

Special to the Journal

The Flax Pond Association has purchased and donated eight brand new, heavy-duty, steel drum trash barrels with lids for use at Flax Pond Park. Plans also are underway for a clean-up of the area.

“With the addition of the new barrels, we hope to help keep the playground clean for families and neighbors to enjoy,” said Katie Gallo of the Flax Pond Association.

The barrels were placed in their new home by the Lynn DPW, which has partnered with the Flax Pond Association on this project. The DPW will be maintaining the new barrels and emptying them as they become filled with trash at the busy playground.

“We thank Lisa Nerich and the DPW for partnering with us,” said Leslie Cole of the Flax Pond Association.

The barrels were stenciled by Full Color Signs & Graphics, a

local Lynn business, to include the names of the Flax Pond Association and Lynn DPW.

The Flax Pond Association is a community non-profit that focuses on cleaning up the Flax Pond area and making it a better place for everyone to enjoy. The Association collects membership dues and holds trivia night fundraisers to fund projects to better the pond and surrounding neighborhoods.

The officers of the Flax Pond Association include President Megan Gonzalez, Corresponding

Secretary and Treasurer Leslie Cole, and Recording Secretary Katie Gallo. Board members include Erica Baker, Kevin Cole, Bill Donahue, Maria Frayler, Charlie Gallo, Paul Petrowski, and Mo Richard.

For more information, find the Flax Pond Association on Facebook and Instagram or email flaxpondssociation@yahoo.com. The Association will hold a general meeting in the fall, with a date to be determined. New members are always welcome to join.

Preliminary election for mayor set for Tuesday

By Cary Shuman

Lynn voters will head to the polls on Tuesday, Sept. 14 to nominate two candidates for mayor for the final election in November.

Mayoral candidates Darren Cyr, Michael Satterwhite, and Jared Nicholson have been campaigning for the past several months, participating in candidates’ forum and going to door-to-door in hopes of bringing out the vote in Tuesday’s election. The top two finishers in Tuesday’s election will advance to the Nov. 2 election, while the third-place finisher will be eliminated from contention.

Mayor Thomas McGee announced in March that he would not be seeking re-election to a second term.

The Lynn city councillor and school committee contests will also be on the ballot, but all candidates for those positions will advance to the Nov. 2 ballot.

City Clerk Janet Rowe said the polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at eight citywide locations. A total of 56,000 voters are eligible to vote in the election.

Rowe is expecting a higher-than-usual turnout on Tuesday, due to the significant interest in the mayoral race.

“That is the big race, and the one people are talking about, so I’m hoping we see a good turnout,” said Rowe. “I say it all the time that people come out in droves for the [U.S.] presidential election, which is great, but your local officials – those are the peo-

Please see ELECTION Page 3

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EDITORIAL

RESTORE HAPPY HOURS? ARE THEY CRAZY?

There seems to be a move afoot to place a ballot question for the November, 2022, state election that would allow for the return of so-called Happy Hours (a/k/a, drink as much as you can, as fast as you can) to Massachusetts.

Happy Hours have been illegal in this state since 1984, after a young woman was killed in a Happy Hour-related drunk-driving accident. George R. McCarthy, the former mayor of Everett who back then was the chairman of the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission, which sponsored the ban, said, "I've heard all the horror stories I'm going to listen to," referring to the many fatal accidents at the time in which drivers and pedestrians tragically were killed as a result of excessive drinking at Happy Hours.

Those in support of restoring Happy Hours make two arguments. First, they say it will increase business for bars and restaurants, which need all the support they can get amidst a pandemic, and second, they point to the use of Uber and Lyft that will reduce drunk-driving incidents.

Neither argument is backed-up by any data and both lack common-sense.

We would like to make a number of points in response:

1) The majority of bar owners/restaurateurs reportedly are not in favor of restoring Happy Hours, which probably is why the Mass. Restaurant Assoc. has yet to take a position on the matter. Sales of alcoholic beverages are the main source of profit for most establishments -- so why would they want to discount them? Admittedly, there probably would be a few bars that would do so in an effort to increase business, but that only would create a race to the bottom, so to speak -- all establishments would feel the need to compete with the place down the street that is offering "all-you-can-drink for \$5.00" or \$1.00 pitchers of beer (which were typical of Happy Hours back in the 1980s). We are not aware of any study that shows how much, if at all, Happy Hours might add to an establishment's bottom line.

Moreover, we can't imagine that for any reputable establishment, the increase in business would outweigh the headaches of having to deal with the increase of inebriates on their premises, with the need to greatly-enhance their self-policing, and with absorbing higher insurance liability premiums.

But even if there might be some small financial benefit for some establishments, is it worth the cost to society for the inevitable increase in drunk driving, assaults, and other accidents that unquestionably will flow from a policy that encourages patrons to drink heavily and irresponsibly?

2) While it may be true that many people plan ahead to use Uber and Lyft -- typically for special occasions -- that does not mean that folks who decide to hit the Happy Hour at a nearby bar after work will do so on a regular basis.

The use of Uber and Lyft has not led to a decrease in drunk-driving deaths. In 1984, there were 411 drunk-driving fatalities in Mass., constituting about 62% of the total of all fatal auto crashes.

But by 2009 -- before Uber and Lyft were around -- drunk-driving fatalities in Mass. had plummeted precipitously to 130 and accounted for just 39% of all traffic-related deaths. The numbers have remained about the same both in Mass. (and nationally) for the past 12 years -- even with Uber and Lyft available. Our strict drunk-driving laws, including the ban on Happy Hours -- not the ride-sharing services -- are responsible for the sharp decline in drunk-driving deaths in Mass. over the past 37 years.

3) Proponents of lifting the ban point out that other states -- primarily in the South and West -- allow for Happy Hours. But what they don't say is that the states with the 10 highest-rates of drunk driving fatalities per capita are -- take a wild guess! -- Montana, Wyoming, So. Carolina, Mississippi, New Mexico, South Dakota, Alabama, Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

Massachusetts ranks 4th LEAST in drunk-driving deaths per capita and by a wide margin. So why would we want to emulate those states -- don't we want to continue to be safer (and smarter)?

4) Finally, beyond the issue of drunk-driving, we know so much more about the damage that alcohol wreaks both individually (to every organ in our bodies) and collectively (to our families and society), than we did in 1984. Alcohol has been labeled a Class 1 carcinogen and plays a huge role in domestic abuse, non-auto accidents, date rape, and other assaults (i.e., the proverbial bar-room brawls). Happy Hours encourage binge-drinking, which will exacerbate every one of these issues. Human nature and the devastating effects of alcohol abuse are the same today as they were in 1984.

To those young people for whom reinstating Happy Hours is a driving (no pun intended) force in their lives, we simply would say this: Please wait until you grow up. You'll realize there is a lot more to life than getting hammered at a Happy Hour every week and endangering the safety of yourself and others.



GUEST OP-ED

What life seems to be

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Life is short. The best we can do, is the best we can do. If we are doing our best, then what more can we expect from ourselves and others? Most people are doing the best they can with the information and abilities they have.

There are some things we can change and some things we can't. Learning to adjust or adapt with what we have and who we are often takes some time and effort. We are all born some place to someone. Some of us are raised with less than others and some of us are raised with more than others. Many have a lot to overcome to merely survive in life while others seem to have it easy.

Academics appear to come easier for some people while others have to study diligently just to make a passing grade. Some are lucky in life while others don't seem so lucky.

One of my dear friends is a multi-millionaire. He has a great house, wife and business galore. Over the last few years a young son was killed in a car wreck. A daughter was killed in a wreck and another died from natural causes. Many who don't know the tragedies and heartache that he has experienced assume that his life is great and free from pain. I know he would trade everything he has to have his children back with him. He continues to get up in the morning. He is still involved in his business, cares for his wife and cherishes his one remaining daughter. However, life is not as it may seem to some.

Another dear friend has prospered with a large family and a successful business. His life looks good until you get to know him better. One of his sons committed suicide in front of him a couple of years ago. Another son recently died in an accident. Within weeks of his son's accident, a grandson was killed in a car wreck. His pain is great. He goes through the motions day by day trusting God with his life and remaining children. It is difficult to understand why his family has suffered so much in recent days. Tears flow when he begins to talk

about what his family has suffered.

Life is not so easy to figure out. We think we have the answers and then later in life realize we don't know much at all. We thought we had life all figured out when we were very young but throughout the years life throws things at us that we can't possibly see coming.

Today, let's all consider others. Be kind to our neighbors, acquaintances and people we meet along the way. A lot of people are hurting from disease, death, unemployment, life's tragedies and more. Don't judge people by their appearances or their mistakes. Life is not only filled with good, but often pain that most never see.

What life seems to be and what life actually is are rarely the same.

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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Celtics PA announcer Eddie Palladino lends his voice to new NBA video game

By John Lynds

Diehard Boston Celtics fans are sure to recognize the new voice that will serve as the announcer for Visual Concepts' upcoming NBA 2K22 video game that will be released around Christmas.

East Boston native, Saugus resident and "Voice of the Celtics" Eddie Palladino, who has served as TD Garden's public address announcer since the early 2000s, has lent his voice to the upcoming video game.

Instead of hearing a generic PA announcer, players of NBA 2K22 that chose to play as the Celtics at the Garden will hear Palladino's voice and give the basketball simulation game the real feel of a home game in Boston. Developers of the game decided to tap each NBA team's actual PA announcer to make the in-game audio experience more realistic.

That means when Jayson Tatum hits a 3-pointer in the game, you'll hear Palladino announce, "Jaaaaayson Taaatum, for threeeeeee!!!"

In the game, Palladino's voice will also announce the Celtics' starting lineup as he's done at the Garden for two decades.

Palladino told the Lynn Journal he spent time out on the West Coast recently laying down his voice for the video game but couldn't tell friends and family of his work until the new game was announced.

"It was a pretty great experience. I really had to bite my tongue every time I wanted to tell somebody, but then I thought about my contract that I signed and the confidentiality agreement, so I did not want to blow the check that I already spent," joked Palladino.

Palladino said when he got out to the West Coast and started working on the voiceovers the



Eastie Native and Voice of the Celtics Eddie Palladino is lending his voice to new NBA video game

response was great from the video game developers.

"They loved it," he said. "I may have to go out there two more times over the next two years if players change and update some of the roster."

Palladino said he had to record over 3,760 voice segments to cover all aspects of what might happen during game play.

"I had to do the monotone voice, the announcements, the excited voice when a player scored," said Palladino. "It was a very interesting and painstaking process, and I was out there recording for four days from nine o'clock in the morning to four o'clock every day with an hour lunch break. The graphics in the game are unbelievable and it's almost like you're watching a live video of a Celtics game."

The Celtics tweeted the release of the new video game that highlighted Palladino's work for the Garden and his involvement in NBA 2K22.

"To be in that (PA) chair, and as everyone calls it the best seat in the house, no one gets to know how much pressure there is being that close," said Palladino. "I've got to be constantly alert for any call or any play on the court that happens because it's my respon-

PA announcer for the Celtics he said it was a dream come true for a kid from Eastie that was a lifelong Celtics fan.

"This was always the dream as a kid going back to when I used to be sort of sequestered up in my bedroom," said Palladino. Palladino said he used to watch the Celtics' games on TV in his room with the volume off and make his own calls as if he were the PA announcer. "This was a legacy of responsibility that I was going to be a part of, and I felt responsible to give back not only to the team, but to the fanbase," said Palladino. "Everywhere I go, I'm the Voice of the Celtics, but I'm not really seen, and I love it that way. I always consider myself the man behind the curtain because I'm really not on any of

the jumbotrons at all and it's just my voice that you hear."

For over two decades as the Garden's PA announcer Palladino has had a front row seat to the local passion for the Celtics from fans.

"Celtics fans are the most dedicated fans in sports," he said. "They eat, sleep, and drink Celtics basketball."

What Celtics fans might not know about Eddie Palladino is that he was an exceptional athlete himself while growing up in East Boston. Among his many athletic talents, Palladino was a terrific candlepin bowler and superb bombardment (a version of dodgeball) player at the Chelsea YMCA sports summer camp, Camp Robie.

sibility to keep the game moving and make sure that the crowd is informed as it goes along."

When Palladino became the

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Election CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ple that can really do something for you. You can get an appoint with the mayor, but not with the president. I think local issues are really important, especially in a big city like Lynn. With everything that is going on, I don't understand why people don't come out and vote. My father always said that you can't complain if you don't vote."

Many residents requested mail-in ballots from the Election Department.

"We've sent out 1,200 mail-

in requests for ballots, and the ballots are coming in every day," said Rowe. "People can still come into the building [City Hall] and vote absentee ballot, but there's no early voting."

Rowe added that candidates and supporters can hold campaign signs outside the polling locations, but they must be at least 150 feet from the entrances to the polls. Lynn Police officers will be at the polling sites to enforce that policy, noted Rowe.

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Former postal worker from Lynn sentenced for stealing mail

A former U.S. Postal Service (USPS) employee was sentenced in federal court in Boston for stealing mail, including almost \$5,000 in stimulus payments, and making over \$16,000 in fraudulent purchases and ATM withdrawals.

Angela Gomez, 40, of Lynn, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Denise J. Casper to three months in prison and three years of supervised release. On May 11, 2021, Gomez pleaded guilty to one count of theft of mail by an employee. As part of the plea agreement, Gomez has agreed to pay \$21,387 in restitution to the victims.

In February 2020, investiga-

tors received information that customers in Lynn reported missing mail. For example, one USPS customer reported that an expected Lilly Pulitzer gift card never arrived in the mail. Further investigation revealed that USPS City Carrier Assistant Angela Gomez handled that particular customer's route. Records indicated that the expected gift card was used in January 2020 for purchases delivered to Gomez's then-home address and that the corresponding email address belonged to Gomez. Subsequent surveillance of Gomez during the performance of her duties revealed that she rifled through and stole mail on 21 separate oc-

casions.

An Eastern Bank fraud investigator, who was investigating multiple unauthorized ATM withdrawals and debit card purchases made using three separate Eastern Bank accounts, contacted federal investigators. The Eastern Bank accounts were owned by individuals who resided on the carrier route Gomez was assigned to prior to when the unauthorized transactions began. Eastern Bank records confirmed three compromised accounts. Security camera video footage related to several of the unauthorized debit card purchases (including at Walmart and Target shopping centers) showed

Gomez making unauthorized purchases using debit cards associated with the three compromised Eastern Bank accounts. In addition, ATM and bank security camera videos from Eastern Bank showed Gomez making unauthorized cash withdrawals from the three Eastern Bank accounts. In total, \$16,587 was stolen from the three Eastern Bank accounts.

Gomez also stole four U.S. Treasury Economic Impact Payment (EIP) checks, more commonly known as stimulus checks, totaling \$4,800, which were intended for delivery to USPS customers who lived on Gomez's carrier route.

In total, Gomez stole \$21,387 in fraudulent debit card purchases, ATM withdrawals and stimulus checks.

Acting United States Attorney Nathaniel R. Mendell; Matthew Modafferi, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General, Northeast Area Field Office; and William Kalb, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration Office of Investigations, New York Field Office made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Eugenia M Carris, Deputy Chief of Mendell's Public Corruption & Special Prosecutions Unit, prosecuted the case.

Woman indicted in connection with trafficking multiple victims for sex

A Revere woman has been indicted for trafficking multiple victims for sex through Crystal's Day Spa in Revere, which she was allegedly operating as a front for human trafficking, Attorney General Maura Healey announced today. Two employees of the business have also been indicted for sexually assaulting clients seeking massages.

Geralda De Matos Garland, age 57, of Revere, was indicted on Thursday by a Suffolk County Grand Jury on the charges of

Trafficking of Persons for Sexual Servitude (2 counts), Keeping a House of Ill Fame, and Money Laundering.

Lucas Sobreira, age 29, of Everett, was indicted on one charge each of Indecent Assault & Battery on a Person over 14 and Assault & Battery. Giacomo Neto, age 41, of Lynn, was indicted on the charges of Indecent Assault & Battery on a Person over 14 (2 counts) and Assault & Battery (2 counts). All three defendants will be arraigned in Suffolk Superior

Court at a later date.

The AG's Office previously announced Garland's arrest in April 2021 by Massachusetts State Police assigned to the AG's Office, the Revere Police Department, and Department of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI).

These charges are the result of an investigation by Massachusetts State Police assigned to the AG's Office, with assistance from the Revere Police Department, the Division of Professional Licensure, and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office.

During the course of the investigation, authorities developed evidence indicating that Garland allegedly ran a profitable and organized criminal enterprise through Crystal's Day Spa, which she owned and set up as a front for human trafficking.

The AG's Office alleges that Garland knowingly facilitated commercial sexual activity by recruiting victims and offering sexual activity between victims and buyers in exchange for a fee. The AG's Office alleges that Garland also posted online advertisements offering commercial sex, arranged commercial sex appointments with sex buyers, collected money from sex buyers, and profited from this commercial sexual activity.

The AG's Office alleges that in 2018, Sobreira allegedly sexually assaulted an individual at Crystal's Day Spa. In 2021, Neto is alleged to have sexually assaulted two different individuals on separate occasions at the establishment. These victims were not aware Crystal's Day Spa of-

fered illegal commercial sex.

AG Healey's Victim Services Division is working with victim service organizations to ensure victims have the assistance and services they need.

These charges are allegations, and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

AG Healey has a dedicated Human Trafficking Division that focuses on policy, prevention and prosecution and includes a team of specialized prosecutors, victim advocates and Massachusetts State Police troopers who handle high impact, multi-jurisdictional human trafficking investigations and prosecutions across the state. Through the Human Trafficking Division, the AG's Office has charged more than 60 individuals in connection with human trafficking since the law was passed.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Nancy Rothstein of the AG's Human Trafficking Division, with assistance from Deputy Chief of the AG's Victim Services Division Rebecca Quigley, Financial Investigators Jill Petruzzello and Patrick Cooney, and the AG's Digital Evidence Lab. The investigation was handled by the Massachusetts State Police assigned to the AG's Office, with assistance from the Revere Police Department, the Division of Professional Licensure, the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, and Department of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI).

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BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR FOR EVERYONE

A collaborative effort from the Lynn Teachers Union Local 1037 and the Lynn's City Departments had a "Back to School Fair for Everyone" at McManus Field. School supplies were available for children as they prepare to return to school soon, along with an available vaccination clinic on site.

Before the fair, an educational conference was held at LVTI Media Studio. Participating in a national podcast was President of American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Randi Weingarten, Lynn Teachers Union

President Sheila O'Neil, Mayor Thomas McGee, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patrick Tutwiler, and President of MA AFT Beth Kondos, and Lynn Teacher/Parent Kendwy Valdez.

According to Beth Kondos, "We just concluded a podcast with the Superintendent, Mayor, and the Lynn Teachers Union as to how Lynn is offering a vaccines clinic, offering school supplies, and books for students when they return to school. We are all looking for a better school year which is soon upon us."

The Mass AFT along with the

Lynn Teachers Union sponsored this event. As Gina O'Toole explained, "We have back to school supplies for the children. We want to bring an awareness to the community that everyone wants to go back into a safe classroom. A vaccination clinic is here at the fair for parents and children who need to be vaccinated. We have many Lynn agencies here participating in this outreach program for the City of Lynn; I am very excited to see so many people attending and everyone is eager to get back to school."



Representing Girls Inc. of Lynn - Ariana Contreras and Ariel Garfinkel.



Attending the Fair - Sharika Morgan with Matthew Middleton and Bebe.



Slush Lemonade Stand - Robin Bradley, Beth Kondos, Marie Kasle, Randi Weingarten, Linda Marzeotti, and Doreen Bucklin.



Barbara Williams, Sarah Cokley, and Michelle Nelson assisting at the Literacy Table.



Lynn Police Department Youth Service Unit - Det. Jenn Cash, School Security Liaison Det. Owen Wright, Mother and Children (Niruka, Aleshka, and Dianelys), SRO Jeff Trahan, and Lt. Tim Donovan.

Advertisement for the 9th Annual Resource & Volunteer Fair. Includes logo, date (September 11th 2021), location (DEMAKES FAMILY YMCA 40 Neptune Blvd, Lynn, MA 01902), and activities (Magic show, Rain Forest Reptile, Food, Resource Organizations from Boston and North Shore). Also includes parking information and contact details.

LYNN'S BRICKYARD BOCCE LEAGUE

Summertime in the Brickyard is Bocce at the Italian American Citizens Club on Harbor Street. Twenty-eight teams compete in the league. The age group varies while older players show their competitive experience and skill.

The Bocce courts were professionally constructed by the membership. Two courts side by side are each 91 feet by 13 feet with study side boards. A fine dust sand bed on each court is smoothly brushed before each game. Outside lighting is installed for evening play. The object of the game is to be closest to the little white Pallino ball. A coin toss decides which team begins the game and the first team reaching 12 points is declared the winner.

The Bocce games have been played in Lynn for over a century from the former Italian Club on Center Street and later re-located to Harbor Street. Program Director Piero Procopio organizes scheduling while Commissioners Mike Schena and Gerry Raffaele decide any appeal during the games. This is a 16-week league with 3 weeks of playoffs as Piero says, "We have a championship trophy like the NHL Stanley Cup. The winning team has bragging rights, but it is all in fun as they receive recognition during the banquet."

The Bocce league is a hidden jewel in the heart of the Brickyard. Teams return each year enjoying the competition. The club has an outside Canteen serving fresh delicious food and beverage for players and friends in addition having a large TV screen to watch. The big seller is the famous Bocce Burger and the Italian Sausage Pepper Onion sandwich. People of all walks of life come to the Italian Club. After the Bocce season ends, the Christopher Columbus weekend in October celebrates its heritage at Italian American Citizens Club.



Eric Little begins his toss toward the Pallino.



Scott Brogan intently concentrates for his Bocce roll.



Friends after the Bocce game – Bill and Eric Little, Keith Sullivan, Scott Dolan, Mike Conti, Matt Kusch, and Piero Procopio.



Keith Sullivan rolls his Bocce Green Ball toward the Pallino.

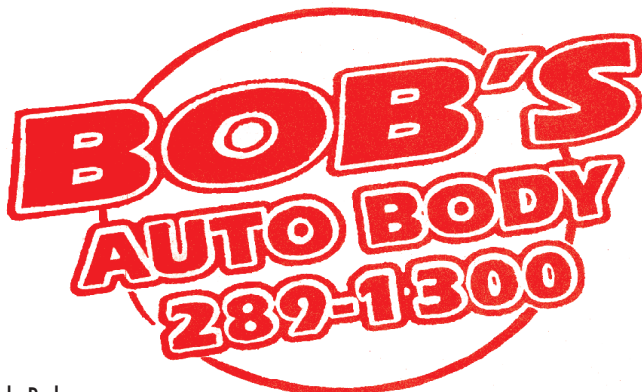


Italian Bocce Committee – Senior Advisor Sostene Procopio, Bocce Official Gerry Raffaele, Commissioner Mike Schena. Program Director Piero Procopio, and Fausto Ricciardi of Team Tutta Forza.



Enjoy time at the Italian Canteen – Frank Madden, Frank Valeri, Richard Madden, and David Good.

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Tom Dill of Team Lazy Dawg with teammate, Steven Dusalon, with Markie Mark Paradise.

10TH ANNUAL LITERACY DAY

A wonderful evening recognized outstanding individuals who are dedicated to community and school Literacy programs. Saritin Rizzuto, founder of Celebrate Literacy Day, said, "For ten years our group of volunteers has come together to celebrate heroes and non-profit organizations for their contributions to this community."

Chairperson Saritin continued to say, "The organization realized the most vulnerable population is surrounded with immediate concerns

such as, poverty, mental illness, addiction, homelessness, lack of affordable housing, and job security." Tonight's recipients try to create a stronger foundation for our future population as she stated, "The most important issue and focus is education and literacy"

2021 Excellence in Literacy Leadership Award recipients were:

- Donna Crotty of Girls Inc organization who said, "Girls Inc is so thrilled to receive this award. We work tirelessly with the girls to

create a safe space, and literacy is one of the cornerstones of our early childhood program."

- Nicole McClain founder of Juneteenth and owner of an Early Childhood business said her career in early education speaks for this Literacy award as she continued, "I have been working with children for over ten years. I am excited to receive this award."

- A special recognition was to Lynn Museum Director Doneeca Thurston; her comment was, "This is the first of its kind award about "Untold Stories" portrayed at the museum about Lynn."

- Coco Alinsug, member of the Youth Lynn Cultural Council, explained how he is so proud of his literacy work with overseas children and people in Lynn to be recognized.

This Literacy committee works diligently each year to support organizations and to recognize individuals who make a difference to improve literacy skills. Keynote speaker was State Senator of Boston Sonia Chang-Diaz who spoke about the value of education and literacy.



2019 Excellence in Literacy Leadership Organization Award recipient Skills USA Lynn Vocational Technical Institute Jason McCuish and Claire Price present a book "Tech Goes to Tiger Town - An Adventure in Vocation Education" to Donna Crotty of Girls Inc 2021 recipient.



2021 Excellence in Literacy Leadership Award winners - Coco Alinsug, Nicole McClain, Doneeca Thurston, and Donna Crotty with Keynote Speaker State Senator of Boston Sonia Chang-Diaz.




2021 Literacy Day Planning Committee - Esther Summersett, Diana Moreno, Natasha Megie-Maddrey, Wendy Joseph, Chairperson Saritin Rizzuto, Mikki Wilson, Danielle Sonia, and Gina O'Toole.



Nicole McClain with her mother, Larnell Lane, and her niece, Saray, and nephew, Shakour.



Valerie Deland with her daughter, Lynn Museum Director Doneeca Thurston.



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NATASHA-MEGIE MADDREY KICKOFF CAMPAIGN FOR WARD 4

A large crowd of supporters attended Natasha-Megie Maddrey's kickoff campaign for Councilor of Ward 4. She is a licensed Attorney practicing law in Lynn. Natasha is the wife of Tarik and they have four children.

"I have a vested interest in Lynn and raising my family here" she said. Natasha is running to bring the Ward 4 voices to city hall. She continued, "I want to advocate for affordable housing, safer neighborhoods, equitable schools, and a transparent government that works for all"

Natasha brings to Ward 4 is her ability to be accessible. She will advocate for regular neighborhood meetings, programs for young adults to become homeowners, and has a deep concern for Lynn seniors. Another important aspect of her campaign will involve the Lynn youth having a community center for gatherings.

Natasha Megie Maddrey respectfully asks Ward 4 to support her campaign by voting for her on Primary Day September 14th.



Natasha with Bob Goldman.



Former Lynn Firefighter Darrell Murkison meets Natasha.



Natasha greets Patrick and Eileen McGivney.



Wendy Joseph and her husband with Natasha for Ward 4.



Pauline Leslie and Natasha.



Local Candidates for Office – Sandra Lopez, Elizabeth Figueroa, Jared Nicholson, Nicole McClain, Brian Field, Natasha Megie Maddrey, Donna Coppola, Lennin Pena, Eric Dugan, Dan Richard, and Michael Satterwhite.



Marissa Pike and School Committee Candidate Tiffany Magnolia support Natasha Megie Maddrey for Ward 4



Natasha Megie Maddrey Family support her Ward 4 candidacy

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Lynn receives part of \$21m grant for MVP Program

Building on its commitment to creating a more climate change resilient Commonwealth, the Baker-Polito Administration last week announced \$21 million in grants to cities and towns including one grant for Lynn through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program. The Lynn grant was for Barry Park Green Infrastructure Project for \$147,367. To date, this brings total awards through the MVP program to over \$65 million. The grant program, which was created in 2017 as part of Governor Charlie Baker's Executive Order 569, provides communities with funding and technical support to identify climate hazards, develop strategies to improve resilience, and implement priority actions to adapt to climate change. The grants are in addition to the Administration's proposal to invest \$900 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into key energy and environmental initiatives, including \$300 million to support climate resilient infrastructure.

"With the ongoing success of the MVP program, we are pleased to double the program's funding this year to support local climate change resilience projects throughout the Commonwealth," said Governor Charlie Baker. "Massachusetts communities

are implementing important, nation-leading efforts to adapt to climate change. Our Administration is committed to working with municipalities across the Commonwealth to tackle these urgent challenges, which is why we have proposed a significant increase in funding for climate adaptation projects through our federal ARPA spending plan."

"The MVP program is a vital tool in our efforts to prepare and strengthen our coastal and inland communities to address the impacts of climate change," said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. "We are thrilled to welcome 16 new towns to the program as they take important steps in planning for the future, and to award funding to 66 priority implementation projects that range from upgrading or removing high-risk dams and culverts to investing in Environmental Justice communities."

Through this latest round of funding, 93% of Massachusetts cities and towns, or 328 municipalities, are now enrolled in the MVP program. The program pairs local leadership and knowledge with a significant investment of resources and funding from the Commonwealth to address ongoing climate change impacts, such as inland flood-

ing, storms, sea level rise, and extreme temperatures. Of these funds, \$20.6 million was awarded to 66 cities, towns, or regional partnerships to implement projects that build local resilience to climate change in the Commonwealth's fifth round of MVP Action Grant funding. Additionally, \$400,000 was awarded to 16 towns to pursue a community led planning process to identify vulnerabilities to climate change and priority actions. When complete, these municipalities will be eligible for the next round of implementation funding.

"The MVP program has been recognized as a national model for building climate resiliency through strong state and local partnerships, and we are proud to have enrolled 93% of the municipalities in Massachusetts in this critical effort," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. "Every region in Massachusetts experienced extreme weather throughout the summer, including excessive heat, record precipitation, and flooding, and the MVP program offers vital technical and financial assistance to help municipalities address vulnerabilities and create stronger, more liveable climate resilient communities."

The \$21 million announced will go towards MVP Planning Grants and Action Grants. Planning Grants support communities in working with a state-certified technical assistance provider to lead a community-wide planning workshop to identify key climate-related hazards, vulnerabilities and strengths, develop adaptation actions, and prioritize next steps. Results of the workshops and planning efforts inform existing local plans, grant applications, and policies. Communities are then eligible for competitive MVP Action Grant funding to implement priority on-the-ground projects. Projects are focused on proactive strategies to address climate change impacts and may include retrofitting and adapting infrastructure, actions to invest in and protect environmental justice communities and improve public health, detailed vulnerability assessments or design and engineering studies, stormwater upgrades, dam retrofits and removals, culvert upgrades, drought mitigation, energy resilience, and projects that focus on implementing nature-based solutions such as wetland restoration and floodplain protection.

OBITUARIES

Bob (Robert) Karakaedos

Lynn youth soccer coach, coach in East Lynn Little League, Basketball Coach with St. Pius V CYO, and player on many Pony League baseball, softball and basketball teams

Bob (Robert) Karakaedos of Lynn, 79, passed peacefully on Monday, August 30, in his own home with his loving wife at his side. Sadly, he lost his courageous fight with cancer, complicated by Covid 19. He was the beloved husband of Joanne (Healey) Karakaedos, with whom he shared 57 years of marriage.

Born in Peabody, the son of the late Lewis and Dorothy (Perry) Karakaedos, he grew up in Lynn, known as "Carrots" to his loved ones and friends. Bob led with a generous heart and was an open door to the Lynn community. He worked for forty years as a Foreman at United Dye Company in Lynn and Danvers and then at Metal Improvement in Wakefield. After he retired, he worked as a School Crossing Guard at the Lynn Woods School and as a bartender in Lynn.

He was a lover of sports his entire life, whether, playing, coaching, or watching. He never missed a game and was the #1 fan of his children and grandchildren. Bob followed many from little league to college ball. He was a youth soccer coach, a baseball coach in East Lynn Little League, Basketball Coach with St. Pius V CYO, and a player on many Pony League baseball, softball and basketball teams. He was always active playing cards and pool, a beloved member of Greek bowling league, sports club at the Senior Center in Lynn and the Peabody YMCA community.

Bob and Joanne together were truly blessed to have shared their marriage with each other and all those around them. His greatest joy came from time spent with his wife, children, and grandchildren, who were the center of his life.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two children; Robin Mannion Karakaedos of Swampscott and Joel Karakaedos and his wife, Carissa of



Florida; his beloved grandchildren: Lynn Firefighter, Jonathan Mannion, "Sweet Beauty" Meghan Mannion, Brendan "His Ballplayer" Mannion, "Strong Athletic Twins" Luke and Riley Mannion, who were in Papa's life daily bringing him love, laughter and ice cream sundaes, and with whom he shared a special bond,

"His Little Ones" "His Serious" Caleb "The Fisherman" Karakaedos, and his "Free Spirited" Kayla "The Entertainer" Karakaedos, his sister, Suzanne and her husband, Gordon Macintosh and his brothers: John Sharkey and his wife, Linda, and Bill Sharkey and his wife, Patricia and many loving nieces and nephews. He was a devoted big brother to his six siblings growing up and was preceded in death by the late Sevestos "Sam" Karakaedos, Helen "Elaine" Hunter, George Karakaedos, Andres Karakaedos, Anastasia Voyiagis, Agnes Marquis, Andrew Karakaedos and Katherine Giordani.

A Funeral Service will be held on Friday, Sept 10, at 4 p.m. in the Solimine Funeral Home, 426 Broadway (RTE129), Lynn. Visitation will be held following the Service from 4 to 7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the kind and loving staff at MGH Cancer Center in Danvers.

Directions and guestbook at www.solimine.com.

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Lynn comedian, actor Demi Woodz is a potential star in entertainment biz

By Cary Shuman

He is funny. He is talented. He is handsome.

And that combination is serving Lynn's Demetri Underwood well as he advances to new heights of popularity and recognition in the entertainment industry.

As he waits to hear about his status for a role in the Whitney Houston movie, "I Wanna Dance With Somebody," that is being filmed in Boston, Underwood, whose stage name is Demi Woodz, is building an audience with his comedy videos.

Underwood, 29, son of Lynn resident Sabrina Underwood ("She's my No. 1 fan," he says), grew up in Lynn and attended the Robert L. Ford School before graduating from the St. Pius School. He attended St. John's Prep (Danvers), where he played four years of football and one season of basketball, graduating in 2010. He went on to play football at Anna Maria College where the 5-foot-10-inch athlete earned All-Conference honors as a cornerback for the Amcats. He received his degree in Human Resources and Development in 2015.

He currently works as a case manager for homeless seniors and in security at the TD Garden.

A move to the arts

"I started taking my comedy and acting seriously in 2019," related Underwood. "I just wrapped up an acting role as the lead in a short film, and I just received a copy, and I must say it came out pretty good. The film is going to be released soon and it will be in several film festivals all over the world, so that's pretty cool."

Underwood said most of his work is being done in comedy

skits that are featured on social media.

The COVID-19 pandemic did impede his professional progress in 2020.

"I was doing standup comedy nights locally and hosted a breast cancer fundraiser before the pandemic, but then everything slowed down. I am starting to get back into live performances and I continue to focus on social media."

Underwood said he is proud to call Lynn his home and is grateful for the support he is receiving from residents. "It's nice when people in your hometown come up to you and say how much they like your videos and your work," said Underwood.

He said his comedy is drawing fans of all ages. "My comedy is different in that leading up to the finish, it takes a detour and there is a circuitous road to the punchline – the end is never like what you'd expect, and that's what is always the joke at the end," said Underwood.

Favorites in the industry

Demetri Underwood said his favorite comedians are Martin Lawrence ("My all-time favorite," he said), Mike Epps, Jamie Foxx, Eddie Griffin, and John Witherspoon.

His inspirations in acting are Will Smith, Denzel Washington, and Jamie Foxx.

Underwood said it's full steam ahead for his professional aspirations in comedy and acting.

"I hope eventually one day I'll be able to focus on this full time and be able to generate some solid revenue so I can really focus on this," he said.

He is extremely confident in his abilities, as one must be in the performing arts or any field, for that matter.

"I know when I have the opportunity to focus entirely on my comedy and acting career, I could really see myself becoming something big in this industry," said Underwood, who is a member of Boston Casting. "I'm definitely seeing the results, and I just try to stay positive and keep going, because this is something that I always wanted to do. I'm just thankful that I just decided to go for it, and I thank God every day for the courage and strength to do it."

In addition to expressing his gratitude to his mother, Sabrina, who worked for the Mass Bay Transportation Authority, Demetri is thankful to his cousin, Brianna Burton for her support. "She's my cousin, but I call her my sister – she's helped me out with a lot my comedy videos," said Demetri. "My cousin, Andrew Burton, has helped me out with a lot of stuff, too."



Lynn comedian and actor Demetri Underwood.

RMV announces new customer service options

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is announcing on Monday, September 20, it will begin offering a new wider variety of statewide services to provide convenient service options and flexibility and to continue ongoing efforts that have been put in place to keep customers and staff safe. Beginning September 20, the RMV will be reopening the Attleboro Service Center for in-person services by appointment. In addition, 21 statewide Service Center locations will offer appointments for in-person vehicle and driver services, walk-in visits, and Business-to-Business (B2B) needs. The B2B locations process bulk transactions for auto dealers and insurance agents including new registration and titles, registration transfers and renewals, address changes, and cancellations.

The new and expanded customer service options will be as follows:

- Appointments for driver's license, identification and vehicle transactions, Business-to-Business Center bulk transactions, and walk-in services will be available as of September 20 at the following 21 Service Center locations: Braintree, Brockton, Danvers, Easthampton, Greenfield, Fall River, Haverhill, Haymarket, Lawrence, Leominster, Milford, New Bedford, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Revere, Springfield, South Yarmouth, Taunton, Watertown, Wilmington, and

Worcester.

- Customers are strongly encouraged to go online to schedule available in-person appointments at statewide Service Centers. Customers, if needed, are welcome to conduct walk-in transactions during early morning or late afternoon hours, but are advised they will be served after customers with prescheduled in-person appointments. Customers without appointments may have to either wait until assistance can be offered or return to a center on another date. A scheduled appointment will save time and provide flexibility and convenience.

- The Chicopee Service Center will offer only Business-to-Business services.

- Business-to-Business services will not be available at Service Center locations in Attleboro, Lowell, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Southbridge.

- Starting September 20, individual registration drop-off services which temporarily replaced Business-to-Business in-person services during the State of Emergency will no longer be available at RMV Service Centers.

RMV customers who are members of AAA are able to perform many RMV transactions by appointment at their local AAA office.

The RMV is also pleased to announce that during the month of September, senior citizen advocacy groups will be on-site

at select RMV locations to help provide information and support to seniors who are conducting in-person transactions during the scheduled senior hours that are held on Wednesday mornings. The RMV Service Center locations along with the advocacy groups staffing the informational tables are the following:

- Brockton and Plymouth Service Centers - Old Colony Elder Services
- Danvers and Lawrence Service Centers - ESMV
- Leominster Service Center - Services of North Central Massachusetts
- Revere Service Center - Mystic Valley Elder Services
- Springfield Service Center - WestMass Elder Care and GSSSI
- Watertown Service Center - Springwell

Please note that masks are mandatory in the following Service Centers because they are located within municipalities that currently have mask mandates in place: Haymarket (Boston), Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Easthampton, and Watertown.

For more information on transactions and additional details on customer locations, please visit www.mass.gov/rmv or <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rmv-covid-19-information>.

For the latest Registry updates and information, please check Mass.gov/RMV or follow the RMV on Twitter @MassRMV.

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THE RIVER WAY AT 6 NEEDHAM'S LANDING NOW OPEN

The new River Way at 6 Needham's Landing recently opened its doors to residents of Lynn. This exciting new development located along the banks of the Saugus River added 32 new apartments to the ever-growing housing stock in the city of Lynn.

The studio, 1 bedroom, and 2 bedroom luxury apartments are a mixture of market-rate and affordable rate units.

Council President Darren Cyr and Ward 6 Councillor Fred Hogan welcomed Rob & John Nakashian's latest investment in Lynn. Brothers Rob, John, and Mike Nakashian recently completed two other affordable unit

projects in Lynn.

River Way was built by Arm Construction with private financing by DCU Credit Union. Rob Nakashian stated, "it was a pleasure working with Councilor Fred Hogan and Council President Cyr. Throughout the entire process, Fred and Darren were accessible and offered guidance working with city hall."

Cyr said "a vacant lot has been transformed into new, energy-efficient, safe, needed housing, and results in more tax dollars for our City."

For more information contact Karla Mota of Harbor Management at (781) 599-1573.



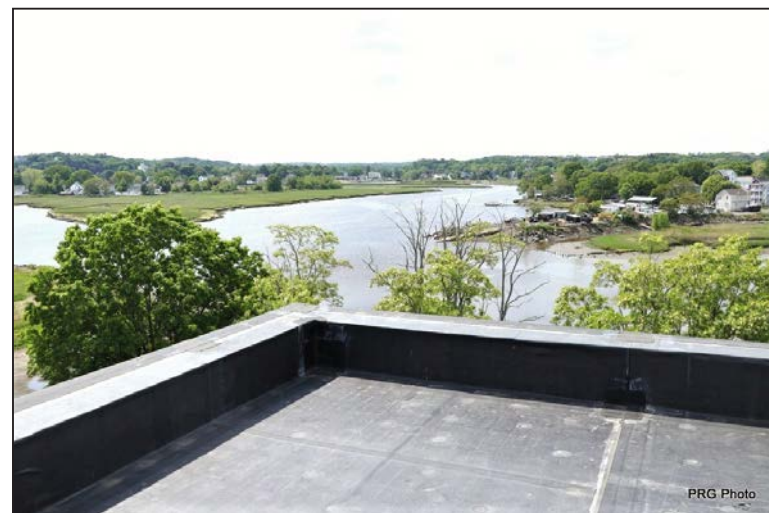
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Rob Nakashian, Councilor Hogan, and Lou Markakis.



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