

# THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, December 23, 2021



Tim Demakes (back row, center) of Old Neighborhood Foods greets guests at the Holiday Party.

## Mayor-Elect Nicholson announces the first team members

Special To The Journal

Lynn Mayor-Elect Jared Nicholson has announced the first staff members that will be working in his office starting January 4, 2021.

“We are thrilled about the team that is coming together,” Nicholson said. “We have a lot of ideas about how to hit the ground running and this group starts to bring in the skills we will need to make sure that happens.”

Following his election, Nicholson immediately got to work putting together a Transition Committee consisting of 10 people to help him prepare for the role and find the right staff for his new administration. A subcommittee of Magnolia Contreras, Faustina Cuevas, Charlie Gaeta, and Drew Russo has helped Nicholson interview candidates and advise him on hiring decisions.

Contreras, co-chair of the

Transition Committee, said, “we have been impressed by the field of candidates and the process that the Mayor-Elect has led to make these decisions.”

Jon Thibault will take on the role of Chief of Staff. Thibault is currently the Chief of Staff to State Senator Brendan P. Crighton and worked as Crighton’s Legislative Director before being appointed Chief in 2019. Born and raised in Lynn, Thibault attended Lynn English High School and went on to graduate from Boston University in 2009. Jon gained extensive knowledge of Lynn’s municipal government as the Assistant to LHAND Executive Director, Charlie Gaeta. With Nicholson, Thibault will be responsible with overseeing and administering the day-to-day operations within the Mayor’s Office and will serve as the liaison between the Mayor’s Office,

Please see NICHOLSON Page 3

## Boys and Girls Club hold holiday party

Special To The Journal

The Boys and Girls Club of Lynn held its Holiday Party Friday at the facility located on North Common Street.

Executive Director Brian Theirrien welcomed guests from

the Club’s Licensed Child Care Program and Teen Drop-in Center to the celebration.

Guests enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner and desserts. The gymnasium was spectacularly adorned with Christmas decorations and lights. Staff members

were attired in festive fashion.

Each guest could pick from an amazing set of gifts that included official NCAA basketballs, and games such as Monopoly and Candy Land. There was a drawing for several new bicycles.

Please see PARTY Page 8

## Walsh family is lauded for support of Lynn Christmas Eve Parade

By Cary Shuman

As Lynn residents prepare to enjoy the annual Christmas Eve Parade that kicks off at 5 p.m. in Austin Square, Ward 7 City Councilor Jay Walsh and his family are receiving some much-deserved praise for their support of the parade.

“The Walsh family and John’s Oil step up every year with their generosity,” said Parade Committee member Jordan Avery. “They make it happen, no questions asked. Without them, it wouldn’t be possible.”

Jay Walsh, who is the parade chair, has participated the parade for 36 years. “I was five years old

when I attended my first parade,” said Walsh. “I never missed a parade. I’ve been at every one.”

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will travel on board a Lynn fire engine throughout the city, greeting residents and distributing candy and gifts.

Please see PARADE Page 2

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# EDITORIAL

## HAVE A MERRY -- AND SAFE -- CHRISTMAS

The holiday season usually is the most wonderful time of the year.

But Christmas, 2021, is anything but wonderful, even for those of us who are among the most fortunate in our society.

Our collective stress and anxiety levels are at an all-time high thanks to the recent arrival of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, which has upended the holiday plans for many of us.

Each and every day, the virus is killing almost 1300 Americans, a statistic that has become mind-numbingly routine. That figure still is well below the 3000 deaths per day a year ago at this time, but still, it translates into 500,000 deaths per year.

Hospitals once again are at full capacity in many states, with coronavirus patients filling emergency rooms and crowding-out those who have other health issues.

This was not the scenario we had envisioned a few months ago, when it appeared that we had COVID-19 under control.

For those of us who are fully-vaccinated with three shots of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines (or one J&J plus one of the those other two), the effects of the Omicron variant are proving to be fairly mild, akin to having a bad cold.

But for anyone who is unvaccinated, infection with the Omicron variant is proving inescapable thanks to its high-degree of transmissibility. And as the statistics demonstrate, the chances of becoming seriously ill are dangerously-significant.

Although the pandemic has eviscerated the usual holiday celebrations that bring together family, friends, and colleagues, adding to our mental health issues, especially for older Americans, the toned-down holiday season offers us an opportunity for reflection, a chance to reach an appreciation for the things that really matter in our lives: The health and safety of ourselves and our loved ones, as well as the urgent need to assist those who find themselves in dire straits this holiday season.

We hope that all of our readers will heed the warnings of our public health officials and that those with the means to do so will help the vast numbers of our less-fortunate fellow Americans.

We wish all of our readers a merry -- and safe -- Christmas.

## GUEST OP-ED

### Gift ideas for Christmas

Dr. Glenn Mollette

This Christmas give somebody the gift of mercy and forgiveness. Be broad with your giving and generous. We all need a lot of both. For such a joyful holiday of cheer, giving and yuletide merriment there is much to be stressed about.

Typically, people have been stressed about all the holiday parties, gatherings and Christmas scheduling. This year there is more stress related to sickness, masks, vaccinations, Omicron, natural disasters, filled hospitals, massive numbers of funerals and inflation. The last couple of Christmases have not been life as usual for most of us.

You may have watched Chevy Chase in National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. He becomes over the top stressed out when his Christmas lights won't work and he literally kicks, stomps and curses a blue streak across his yard. It's a funny scene. Mostly because in some way we've all been there a time or two.

Most of us enjoy giving if we can. We enjoy giving to the people we love. Christmas trees,

decorating, eating and gatherings are all a part of the season. However, we become frustrated when we lose sight of the big picture. The big picture includes looking around and beyond our Christmas pain. Millions of people would simply be thrilled to have the problems that some of us have. Many people are in the nursing home and will never go to the mall again. Some have a terminal disease and this may be their last Christmas. Depression will weigh heavy on many who have lost their homes, buried loved ones or experienced financial devastation from medical care or natural disasters. Most of these people would love to have a house to decorate or gifts to buy for a loved one.

Celebrate Christmas this year. Give away some special gifts. Give gifts that money can't buy or time cannot fade. Give love, give forgiveness and give some mercy. Extend these generously to yourself. If you can't give them to yourself it's impossible to give them to others.

The little baby that Christmas celebrates became a man and

taught people that we should love God and love others as we love ourselves. Herein is part of the rub. Too often people stop loving themselves. Life becomes imperfect, we fail, get hurt or mad and we kick Santa or the reindeer across the yard. Unfortunately, we don't stop there. We go into Ebenezer Scrooge bah humbug mode. We don't get our groove back and miss out on some of Christmas' most wonderful characteristics- mercy and forgiveness.

The Christmas story is about a child who came to show us the way. He showed us how to love, forgive and be merciful. Some of the people in your life probably need it more than you know. Give generously and start with yourself.

*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.*

## Parade/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We need this parade as city right now, with everything going on and everything we went through, and what’s happening again with COVID,” said Walsh. “I think people need this night. It’s important.”

In addition to Walsh and Avery, other members of the Parade Committee are Janet Melanson, Scotty Surette, Michelle Robbins, Jay Walsh’s parents, John Walsh, and Laura Walsh, his daughter, Jayla Walsh, and Sonny Maynard.

Following is the parade route:

5:00 P.M. Summer st: Austin Square

5:15 P.M. Boston St: Myrtle St: Holyoke St: O’Callaghan Way

5:30 P.M. Walnut St: Linwood Rd: N. Franklin St: Right onto

5:45 P.M. Boston St: Cottage St: McDonough Square

6:00 P.M. Western ave: Market Sq: S Common st: Pleasant St: State St

6:30 P.M. Broad St: Lewis St: Lafayette Park

6:45 P.M. Fayette St: Essex St: to Chestnut St

7:15 P.M. Western Ave: Chatham St: Lewis St: Left onto

7:45 P.M. Eastern Ave: to Western Ave:

8:00 P.M. Stanwood Rd: Fernwood Ave: Chase Rd: Euclid Ave: to Broadway 8:30 P.M. Jenness St: Den Quarry Rd: Cedar Brook Rd:

9:00 P.M. York Rd: Casco Rd. 9:15 P.M. Lynnfield St: Wyoma Sq:

9:30 P.M. Broadway: Boston St: Lynngate Plaza.

## THE LYNN JOURNAL

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# Nicholson CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

city department heads, and local, state, and federal officials.

“I believe in Mayor Nicholson’s vision and goals for the city,” said Thibault. “I look forward to working with him, this team, and the departments in City Hall to deliver great results for the residents of Lynn.”

Jean Michael Fana, who managed Nicholson’s mayoral campaign, has been selected as the Outreach Director for the Mayor’s Office. Jean returned to Lynn last spring after serving as an Army JAG Corps Paralegal. He served as a Trial Defense Paralegal at Camp Humphreys, South Korea and later was assigned to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Jean graduated from Lynn Classical High School prior to joining the Army. Jean was Honorably Discharged at the rank of Sergeant. As the Outreach Director, Jean will be responsible for constituent services and community affairs on behalf of the office.

“Jared has given me a wonderful opportunity to continue to work directly for the people of Lynn,” said Fana. “Our goal is to make this administration active and responsive to the needs of the people and I’m excited to join the team in supporting that goal.”

Valerie Vong, who was the Nicholson campaign’s Digital Director, will also be joining Mayor Nicholson’s office

as Communications Manager. Vong proudly represents her Asian-American roots—especially as the eldest daughter and granddaughter of Khmer refugees. She graduated at the top of her class from Lynn English High School in 2018 with National Honor Society recognition and was an awardee of the President’s Education Program. She is currently a fourth-year first-generation college student at Clark University, pursuing a double major in English and Environmental Science, with concentrations in public policy, environmental policy, and pre-law. At school, Valerie is the Publicist of Korean Culture Club, a member of Sigma Tau Delta, a member of the Pre-Law Society, and on the e-board of Clark Sustainability Action. Outside of school, she currently interns for New American Leaders, YDMA, and MASSPIRG Students. Valerie will work to support the Mayor’s communication efforts and ensure that all residents have access to the office so that their voices can be heard.

“I had the privilege to work with Jared on the campaign trail,” said Vong. “And throughout the months I served as both an intern and the Digital Director, I was incredibly moved and inspired by his vision, tenacity, and our shared aim to uplift the

city of Lynn through a more equitable approach. I look forward to continuing my work alongside Jared.”

Mayor-elect Nicholson is also pleased to announce that two integral members of the current administration will continue serving after he takes office in January.

Faustina Cuevas, the City’s first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, assumed her position this past June and quickly established herself as a key member of the Mayor’s staff. As DEI officer, Cuevas is responsible for implementing and overseeing initiatives to ensure greater diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout city government and the community at large. Cuevas is also co-chair of the Mayor-elect’s Transition Committee tasked with advising the incoming administration.

Meaghen Hamill, Chief of Staff to Mayor Thomas McGee, will be staying on for a two-month period in the role of Senior Adviser to complete the transition between the McGee and Nicholson administrations. Hamill, a Boston University graduate, has worked with Mayor McGee since 2010 rising to the position of Chief of Staff in his Senate office and serving in that capacity during his four years as Mayor.

## LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

### Boston College High School Honor Roll

The following students have been named to the First Quarter Honor Roll at Boston College High School:

Three Lynn Residents Named to Honor Roll at BC High

- Alpha Berry, High Honors (Class of 2023)
- Cristian Erazo, High Honors (Class of 2025)
- Rodrigo Guizar, Honors (Class of 2025)

For High Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.80 quality point average and all grades “C+” or higher. Freshmen need a 3.6 qual-

ity point average and all grades “C+” or higher.

For Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.20 quality point average and all grades “C-” or higher. Freshmen need a 3.165 quality point average and all grades “C-” or higher.

About Boston College High School: Boston College High School is a Jesuit, Catholic, college-preparatory school for young men in grades 7 to 12. Founded in 1863, the school enrolls approximately 1,500 students from more than 140 communities in eastern Massachusetts. For more information please visit [bchigh.edu](http://bchigh.edu).



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# “Freezin’ for a Reason” 2022 is back

Special to the Journal

The “Freezin’ For A Reason” Polar Plunge is back! The Sonia and the Capano families have chosen the “Rally4Ricky Fund,” as this year’s “Freezin for a Reason” reason to receive all the net proceeds from the 2022 plunge on January 1, 2022, at 12 p.m., at the Nahant Coast Guard station.

The “Rally4Ricky Fund” was established by the friends and family of Rick Nelson and Kristen (Dean) Nelson, of Lynn, to defray the medical costs and family expenses for their 7-month-old son, Ricky.

In August, 2021, Ricky was diagnosed with “Infantile Spasms,” commonly known as “West Syndrome.” West Syndrome is a severe neurological disorder causing abnormal brain-waves leading to ongoing episodes of seizures. The prognosis for children with West Syndrome depends on the underlying cause and how quickly they are treated

after the onset of symptoms.

Ricky was treated almost immediately after the onset of symptoms and the cause of the spasms is yet to be determined. Young Ricky is responding well to his treatment and will be checking in continually with his team of doctors at MGH.

Rick and Kristen Nelson were both born and raised in Lynn. They recently purchased a home in Lynn and plan to stay here to raise their family. Kristen works as a teacher in the Lynn Public Schools. Rick works at General Electric.

Both Kristen and Rick have been part of the core group of volunteers and supporters and have “plunged” for all of the past “Freezin For A Reason” reasons and causes.

Now it’s our turn to #Rally4Ricky, to help and support this young Lynn family with the medical bills and expenses for their young son, Ricky.

Committee member Stephanie Sonia said, “The Nelson (Dean)

Family was chosen this year to help out with medical costs for their son Ricky who was diagnosed with West Syndrome. Rick and Kristen Nelson have been part of our core group for “Freezin for A Reason” since it started. They have plunged and donated every year. It’s our turn to plunge for them. We keep doing this because we love helping people in our community

Since its inception, “Freezin’ for A Reason” has raised over \$100,000.00 for several “reasons,” including a new splash pad at the Lynn Special Needs Camp, Homes for Our Troops, the Michelle Durgin Scholarship Fund, the Kelly Martin Autism Fund, and Lynn Camp Rotary. Please join us on Jan 1, 2022, to help support the Rally 4 Ricky fund. T-shirts are now available for \$25.00. Please contact Stephanie Speliotis Sonia (781) 249-5701, Patti Capano (781) 241-2462, or Lauren Abernathy Phelps (781) 248-1011, to place your order for T-shirts.



The 2022 “Freezin’ For A Reason” Committee, from left, Mike Sonia, Rick Nelson, Stephanie Sonia, George Sonia, and Mario Capano.

## DUNKIN’ DONUTS GIFT TO LYNN FIRE

The Mello-Coletta Family of Dunkin’ Donuts located at 80 Boston Street made a \$2,000.00 contribution to the Lynn Fire

Department. “This donation supports first responders who maintain public safety,” said David Mello. This gift will benefit the

Lynn Fire Department fire safety training programs and the annual Open House to the public.



PRG Photo

LFD Chief Stephen Archer accept the donation from David Mello and Mary Ann Coletta of Dunkin’ Donuts along with LFD Network Systems Coordinator Kerri Stone, and LFD Lt. Michael Galvin.

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# ROTARIANS SUPPORTS THE RED KETTLE CAMPAIGN

What a better way to spend time helping others in need! Lynn Rotarians rang the donation bells outside Lynn Market Basket raising funds for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. This charitable program helps Lynn citizens with emergency assistance.

The Rotary Club community service project has been devoted to this most worthy cause for many years. Please support the Salvation Army during this holiday season. All proceeds are budgeted to serve Lynn.



Ring in the Joy to give - Former Lynn Deputy Superintendent of Schools Ray Bastarache with Dr. Patrick Tutwiler



GLSS CEO Kathryn Burns rings for charity.



Supporting a worthy cause - LVTI 8th Grade VP Kerry Bastarache.



Doing the Most Good!- Jack and Jean Marie Minton.



Rotarians ready to ring the donation bell - Lynn Superintendent of School Dr. Patrick Tutwiler with Dan Cahill, and Paul Price.

A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

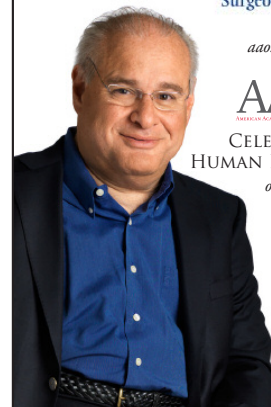
As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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# GREATER LYNN BABE RUTH HOLDS AWARDS BANQUET

PHOTOS BY CARY SHUMAN

Greater Lynn Babe Ruth held its Awards Banquet Dec. 16 at Prince Restaurant.

League President Jeff Earp, one the unsung heroes in Lynn youth sports who has kept the program going during the COVID-19 pandemic, served as master of ceremonies for the awards program.

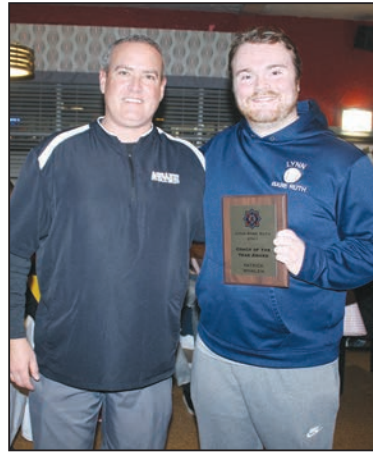
Individual awards were presented to the members of the 2021 league championship teams, and the three All-Star teams who are contended for state championships.

Elvis Rodriguez, hitting coach in the Houston Astros organization and founder of the Swing Factor in Lynn, was the guest speaker.

“If you want to be a high school player, a college player, or professional player – being a baseball player is not a part-time job,” said Rodriguez. “You have to put in the time, get in the weight room and do what you have to do to take it to the next level. That being said, all that goes out the window if you don’t take care of your grades. Because when it comes time to go to college, even to professional baseball, if your grades are not there, it doesn’t matter how good you are, or how much work you put in the weight room or in the batting cages – there’s nothing your mom or dad or coach can do to get you eligible to play. So, if you’re going to put in the work to become a pro baseball player, you have to put in double the work in the classroom to get where you want to be.”



Coach Billy McCafferty presents the Lucas DeJoie Award to Kevin Cushman.



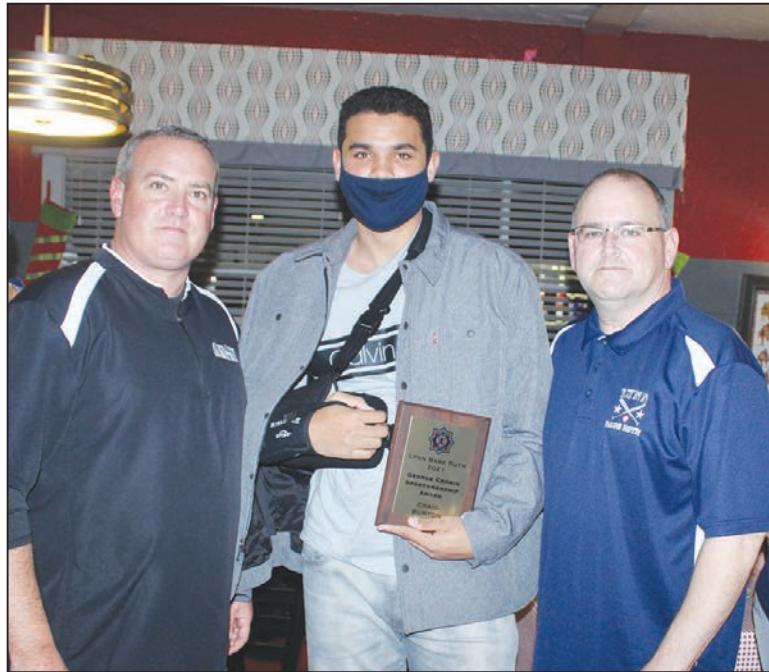
Board Member Rich Avery presents the Coach of the Year Award to Patrick Whelan.



Board Member Rich Avery presents the Monica Harris Parent of the Year Award to Andrea McCafferty.



Board Member Rich Avery presents the Ron Lavino Volunteer Award to Billy McCafferty.



Board Members Rich Avery and Bob Gratiano present the George Cronin Sportsmanship Award to Craig Burton.



The Michael Devereaux Scholarship Awards were presented to Kyle Candelieri, Patrick Whalen, and Christian Burt.



Rockies Coaches Billy McCafferty, Rich Avery, and Brandon Rocheleau present the League MVP Award to Almani Medina.



The Lynn 13-year-old All-Star, led by Coaches John Peterson, Teddy Mercado, Pat Whalen, and Dan Lilja, advanced to the state semifinals.

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# GREATER LYNN BABE RUTH HOLDS AWARDS BANQUET



The incomparable youth sports leader, Jeff Earp, president of Greater Lynn Babe Ruth, with Babe Ruth Coach Christian Burt, a graduate of the program who is a member of the Salem State University baseball team.



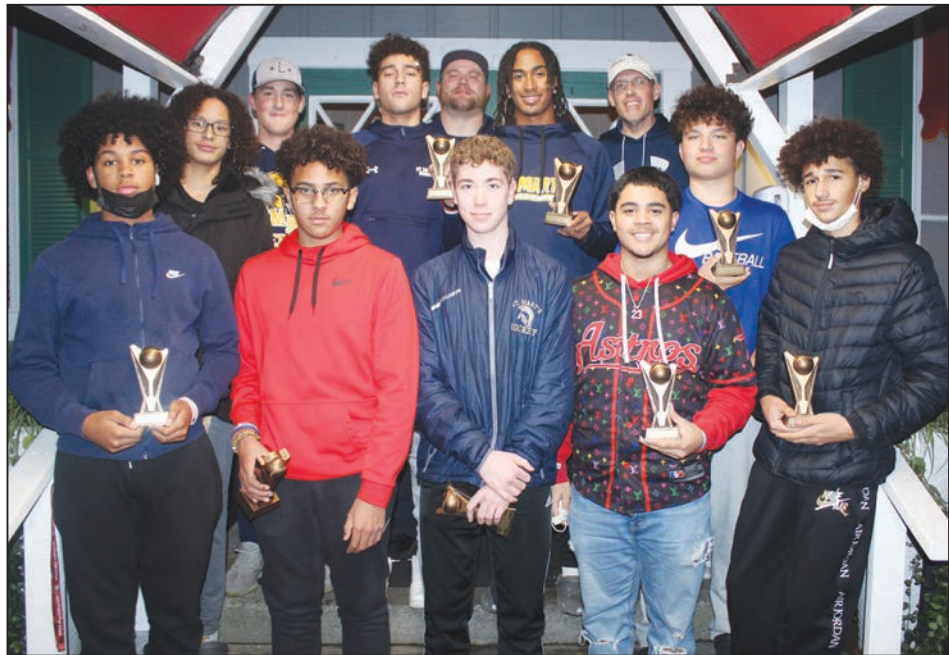
The board members and coaches in the Greater Lynn Babe Ruth baseball organization.



Coach Billy McCafferty, President Jeff Earp, and Board Members Bob Gratiano, and Rich Avery present the Michael Devereaux Award to Stephen Pedro for Overall Excellence and Inspiration.



The Lynn 15-year-old All-Star team.



The Greater Lynn Babe Ruth 14-15 Division champion Pirates. Front row, are Eiron Pimental, Calvin Reynolds, Chris Champa, Nevin Gonzalez, and Alex Lara. Back row, are Alberto Gerardo, Matt Lewis, Levy Da Silva, Coach Josh McGrath, Gabe Diaz, Coach Dany Lewis, and Jared Paone. Missing from photo: Jason Figueroo and Wilfredo Perez.



The 13-year-old champions, the Orioles, including players JJ Zirpolo, Jayden Mojica, Nate Cutone, Colin Newhall, and Jayden Mojica, and Coaches John Peterson, Patrick Whalen, Woodley Auguste, and Jake Peterson.



The Lynn 14-year-old All-Star team, led by Coaches Josh McGrath, Rich Avery, Bob Gratiano, and Leon Elwell, advanced to the state championship game in the 2021 State Tournament.



# Party CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Theirrien thanked the generous sponsors of the party, Old Neighborhood Foods, Brotherhood Credit Union, and the Heritage Helps Foundation.

Tim Demakes of Old Neighborhood Foods personally stopped by the party to spread Christmas cheer.

As Andy Williams sings in the popular Christmas song, "It's the most wonderful time of the year," and the members of the Boys and Girls Club of Lynn were treated to a wonderful party.



Program Director Rob Kennedy with guests at the Holiday Party.



Lynn Boys and Girls Club staff and volunteers are pictured at the Holiday Party. Front row, Jayleane Hearn, Marjorie Nunez, Caitlin Wright, and Taina Perez. Back row, Nicky Lebron, Neidy Lebron, Darby Connolly, Aaliyah Mendez, Program Director Rob Kennedy, and Aaron Vizcaino.



Darby Connolly of the Lynn Boys and Girls Club, with Holiday Party guest, Carlos de Dios.



Executive Director Brian Theirrien welcomes guests to the Holiday Party.



Pictured at the Lynn Boys and Girls Club Holiday Party are, from left, Dan Gisonno, Ryan Connolly, Deb Hyde, and Executive Director Brian Theirrien.



Lynn Boys and Girls Club personnel did a great job hosting the Holiday Party. From left, are Erica Sousa, Katie Greene, Emily Flores, Executive Director Brian Theirrien, Rasheed Barron, Xiomary Sepa, and Jarlene Fernandez.



Director of Marketing and Communications Erica Sousa, with guests, Avery Toussaint, Jeffrey Alexander, and Gio Ferreras.

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# Merry Christmas!

*Charles Gaeta, Executive Director  
Laura Walsh, Chairperson*

*Board of Commissioners Susan McGinnis-Lang,  
Steve Martin, Robert Muise, & Justin Anshewitz*



## LYNN SIM SPORTS PRACTICE CENTER HOLDS GRAND OPENING

The Lynn Sim Sports Practice Center, located at 451 Broad St., held its grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday.

Lynn Sim owner Mark Ciolo welcomed city officials to his new facility. Mayor Thomas McGee, Mayor-Elect Jared Nicholson, State Rep. Peter Capano, EDIC/Lynn Executive Director James Cowdell, and Greater Lynn Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Colin Codner joined Ciolo in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



State Rep. Peter Capano presents a State Citation to Mark Ciolo, owner of Lynn Sim Sports Practice Center.

Lynn Sim offers sports simulators and practice areas for golf, tennis, soccer, basketball, softball, hockey, wiffball, and dodgeball.

A golf and tennis professional who has been teaching both sports for more than 25 years, Ciolo was also a standout baseball player growing up in Woburn. Lynn Sim gives him the opportunity to bring those sports and more under one roof.

“I’ve been wanting to do something like this for a long time,” he said. “I like all sports. This allows me to offer them in the same location.”

Lynn Sim offers memberships – 50 percent discount until Dec.

31 – as well as hourly rates to use the facility, which also includes a mini-soccer field, synthetic ice to work on stick handling and shooting, JUGS machine, artificial turf, putting green, basketball hoop and a pro shop. Ciolo is expecting it to be popular among students after school and on weekends and adults at night.

“There’s something for everyone,” said Ciolo, who is a former tennis director at Boston

Sports Clubs and Northeast Tennis Center. “It’s a family-oriented place.”

Ciolo, who lives in Nahant, obtained a loan from EDIC/Lynn which he used for equipment and other improvements to the 7,500-square-foot space.

“EDIC has been great to work with,” he said. “I went to them with my business plan and they have been very helpful and ac-

cessible.” EDIC/Lynn Executive Director James Cowdell said a recreational facility that caters to all ages is a welcome addition to the city.

“EDIC was glad to work with Mark in making his dream become a reality,” Cowdell said.

Lynn City Council President Darren Cyr was also very instrumental in the development of the new sports practice center.



Mayor-Elect Jared Nicholson and Mayor Thomas McGee try out the new soccer practice area.



Mayor Thomas McGee presents a City of Lynn Citation to Lynn Sim Sports Practice Center Owner Mark Ciolo congratulating him on the opening of the new facility. Also extending his congratulations is Mayor-Elect Jared Nicholson.



Taking part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Lynn Sim Sports Practice Center are, from left, Greater Lynn Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Colin Codner, EDIC/Lynn Executive Director James Cowdell, Mayor Thomas McGee, Lynn Sim Owner Mark Ciolo, Mayor-Elect Jared Nicholson, Business Copy representative Jeff Rubin, and State Rep. Peter Capano.



EDIC/Lynn Executive Director James Cowdell, an avid golfer with a 14 handicap, shows Tiger-like form on his drive at the golf simulator.



# Legislation filed to protect survivors from dangerous individuals, distribution of explicit images

The Baker-Polito Administration last week filed legislation to create comprehensive new protections for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, assault and battery, the harmful distribution of explicit images, and other crimes. The package of legislative proposals being refiled by the Administration today includes An Act to Protect Victims of Crimes and the Public and An Act Relative to the Harmful Distribution of Sexually Explicit Visual Materials. Together, the proposals will strengthen public safety tools and statutes designed to keep survivors and communities safe.

Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito announced the legislation at a roundtable event where they heard from survivors whose stories speak to the importance of these critical public safety reforms. The roundtable was held at Plymouth Public Library and was moderated by Sandra Blatchford, the Executive Director of the South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center, which works with several of the

survivors present today. Other advocates and survivor resource organizations were also present to speak in support of the legislative package. Several survivors who spoke in support of the Administration's dangerousness legislation shared their experiences with domestic violence and noted that the legislation would provide stronger protections for people who encounter similar experiences in the future. Other survivors told stories that highlighted the importance of strengthening and modernizing laws that hold people accountable for the distribution of sexually explicit visual materials.

"These proposals would provide stronger protections for survivors and we are grateful for our partnership with providers and advocacy organizations who support survivors for sharing their stories in support of this legislation," said Governor Charlie Baker. "Our dangerousness proposal would update the current system of pretrial detention, which exposes victims and survivors to

potential harm. Making these and other commonsense changes will strengthen the ability of prosecutors and the courts to hold dangerous individuals and protect survivors and our communities."

"Hearing survivors' stories underscores the importance of acting soon to make these reforms that will make our families and communities safer," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Chair of the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. "By modernizing the laws governing the harmful distribution of sexually explicit visual materials, we can combat cyber-bullying through prevention education, empower prosecutors to appropriately handle cases involving minors and explicit images and help state law keep up with what technology is now."

"We cannot overstate the courage of victims and survivors who have chosen to share their experiences and support these bills," said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy. "As a former prosecutor now charged with leading the state's public safety apparatus, I know these laws will equip criminal justice and law enforcement professionals to mitigate the threat of dangerous individuals and non-consensual sharing of explicit content, especially among our young people. The measures in these bills demonstrate the Administration's responsiveness to challenges facing today's society."

"SSRAC fully supports both legislative filings to address dangerousness and SEVM. Holding offenders on dangerousness enables survivors to focus on their safety," said Sandra Blatchford, executive director of the South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center. "Protection against the pervasive threat of a dangerous offender often means a victim may have to leave employment, uproot children, and move away from support systems. The provisions of the dangerousness legislation will enable survivors to evaluate options, work with advocates, and move towards healing and safety."

"We have worked with too many victims brutally assaulted at the hands of a predator with a long and violent criminal history. While pending trial, these offenders often violate stay-away orders, with little consequence," said Julie Kehoe, chief executive officer of Health Imperative. "This dangerousness legislation will provide law enforcement and criminal justice professionals

with long-overdue tools to save lives and reduce incidents of domestic and sexual violence."

An Act to Protect Victims of Crimes and the Public: First filed in 2018, the Administration's proposal would expand the list of offenses that can provide grounds for a dangerousness hearing and close certain loopholes at the start and end of the criminal process that currently limit or prevent effective action to address legitimate safety concerns. It would strengthen the ability of judges to enforce the conditions of pre-trial release by empowering police to detain people who they observe violating court-ordered release conditions; current law does not allow this, and instead requires a court to first issue a warrant. Under this proposal, judges will be empowered to revoke a person's release when the offender has violated a court-ordered condition, such as an order to stay away from a victim, or from a public playground. Current law requires an additional finding of dangerousness before release may be revoked.

The legislation also expands the list of offenses which can provide grounds for a dangerousness hearing including crimes of sexual abuse and crimes of threatened or potential violence. It also follows the long-standing federal model in including a defendant's history of serious criminal convictions as grounds that may warrant a dangerousness hearing. Current law requires courts to focus only on the crime charged and ignore a defendant's criminal history when determining whether the defendant may be the subject of this sort of hearing.

Additional elements of this proposal would:

- Extend the requirement that police take the fingerprints of people arrested for felonies to all people arrested, regardless of the charge, and allows a court to order fingerprinting of any person arraigned on any criminal charge, to ensure that decisions about release can be made with knowledge of a person's true identity and full criminal history.

- Enhance the collection and value of data for the cross-tracking system required by G.L. c. 6A, § 18¾, by ensuring that information about an individual who is arrested or arraigned can be linked to a unique fingerprint identifier.

- Require that the probation department, bail commissioners and bail magistrates notify authorities who can take remedial action when a person who is on pre-trial

release commits a new offense anywhere in the Commonwealth or elsewhere.

- Allow bail commissioners and bail magistrates to consider dangerousness in deciding whether to release an arrestee from a police station when court is out of session.

- Create a new felony offense for cutting off a court-ordered GPS device.

An Act Relative to the Harmful Distribution of Sexually Explicit Visual Materials: First filed in 2017, the proposal modernizes the laws governing the distribution of sexually explicit images and empowers District Attorneys with additional tools to protect children. Under this proposal, the first step in an explicit images case involving minors will be to enroll in an educational diversion program rather than go through the juvenile justice process and potentially be committed to the Department of Youth Services. While District Attorneys and the Attorney General will still have the right to bypass educational diversion programs in certain instances, the focus will now be on educational diversion rather than legal punishment.

Massachusetts law as currently written, calls for minors who engage in peer to peer distribution of sexually explicit visual material to be subject to prosecution for the distribution or possession of child pornography. This legislation seeks to update the law consistent with our lives and 21st Century technology. Should a case proceed to the juvenile justice system, this bill affords District Attorneys the discretion to decide whether a minor should be charged with a misdemeanor rather than a felony. The flexibility provided under this law will help ensure minors that do not belong in the juvenile justice system do not wind up there.

This legislation also seeks to close a loophole under current law by creating penalties for adults who distribute a sexually explicit image for purposes of revenge or embarrassment. While current law addresses non-consensual recording of an unsuspecting person, it does not address instances where someone distributes an image without consent regardless of whether the initial image may have been taken with consent. This legislation closes the gap in state law by creating a new felony offense and empowering judges in criminal proceedings to ensure an explicit image in question is permanently destroyed.

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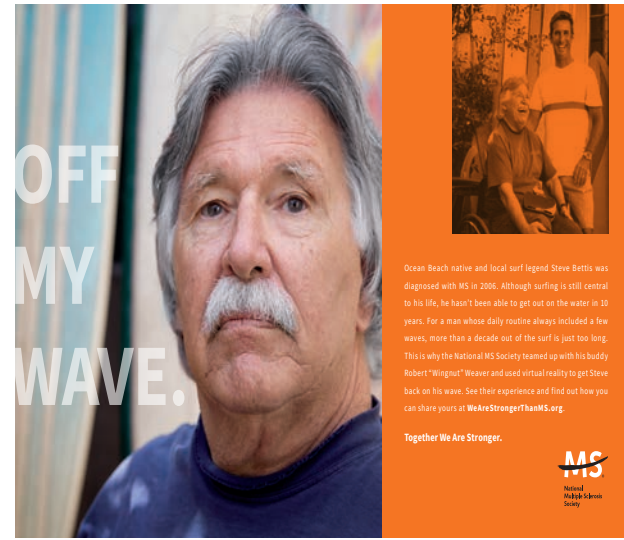
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Ocean Beach native and local surf legend Steve Betts was diagnosed with MS in 2006. Although surfing is still central to his life, he hasn't been able to get out on the water in 10 years. For a man whose daily routine always included a few waves, more than a decade out of the surf is just too long. This is why the National MS Society teamed up with his buddy Robert "Wingnut" Weaver and used virtual reality to get Steve back on his wave. See their experience and find out how you can share yours at [WeAreStrongerThanMS.org](http://WeAreStrongerThanMS.org).

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### TOYS FOR LYNN SHELTER AND BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

A joyous event at the home of Peter Mikedis as friends and family members donated toys and games for Lynn children to open on Christmas Day. Over hundreds of gifts were presented to the Lynn Shelter Association and to the Lynn Boys & Girls Club for distribution.

This is the time to remember

the children noted Peter Mikedis of Sidekim Foods in Lynn. "My wife and I have been hosting this party for years and it only was a toy drive. This is important to give toys to children. One can give a check any time of the year, but the real value is putting a smile on a child's face. Every child deserves to hold something

new around the holiday."

For the last two years no hospitals accepted toys because of Covid. A suggestion was brought to Peter's attention to donate toys to Lynn organizations. "My wife

and I grew up in Lynn, educated here, and felt this is a great idea. We met with Lynn Shelter Association who has three homes with over 100 children. We decided to provide these homes

with new toys as well as to the Lynn Boys and Girls Club. There is no better feeling for children to open something on Christmas morning seeing a smile on their face."



Mikedis Family of Sidekim Foods in Lynn support Lynn Shelter – Christopher Mikedis, Lynn Shelter Executive Russell, Peter, Stella, and Andrew Mikedis.



PRG Photo

Supporters donated toys and games for children.

#### VACCINE FACTS

## Like many parents of young children, you may be concerned about keeping your kids safe from COVID-19.



**Good news: The COVID-19 vaccine is now available for kids ages 5 and up. Experts agree it's the best way to protect against COVID-19 and prevent kids from getting seriously ill.**

It's natural to have questions about the vaccine for your child. Here are some facts:

- The COVID-19 vaccine was thoroughly tested.
- The clinical trials included thousands of kids ages 5-11.
- The vaccine has been proven safe for kids ages 5 and up.
- It was also proven to be 91% effective at preventing COVID-19 in kids.



**Want to know more?**

Talk to your child's doctor about the COVID-19 vaccine. [mass.gov/CovidVaccineKids](https://mass.gov/CovidVaccineKids)