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Friday, October 6, 2023

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PAT GECOYA PHOTO

Fifteen local organizations partnering with Education Comes First received a grant of \$175,000. - (Front): The Real Program Jan Plourde, Boys & Girls Club Grace Duran, Girls Inc. Deb Ansourlian, Building Bridges Through Music Doreen Murray, Boys & Girls Club Jodi Furlong, Lynn YMCA Kathleen Walsh, ECF Board Member Cherry Tree Law Firm and State Rep. Daniel Cahill, Private Jewel Fitness Alex Sepulveda, ECF Board Members Nick Mennino and Tim Demakes, and Exec. Director of Boys & Girls Club of Lynn Brian Therrien.

Education comes first in Lynn

Staff Report

The most important gift in life is receiving an education. A new non-profit program named Education Comes First (ECF) began just over one year ago which is a separate entity from any partnerships. The first goal is raising funds to donate to multiple organizations outside of the Boys & Girls Club of Lynn. Executive Director of Boys & Girls Club Brian Therrien and Mike Conway set up this initiative to supply grants throughout the state, New England region, and be-

yond. Brian said, "We have three sites in Long Island, New York and twelve in Massachusetts including six located in Lynn."

Education Comes First inspires the youth to further their educational endeavors outside of a classroom in subject areas of Math, Reading, and Social Development. During summer 2023 impressive performance occurred at the Lynn Boys & Girls Club as 1,098 ECF students read 4,078 books and had ninety collective hours in the Khan-Math program.

Deb Ansourlian of Girls Inc

said, "We able to serve over two hundred girls during the summer. Our goals are Reading and Math programs. The exciting part is that programs are now integrating with everything we do at Girls Inc. The older girls read with the younger girls. Everyone is really involved and thank you for this EFC grant."

Lynn program partnerships include Private Jewels Fitness, Girls Inc of Lynn, The Real Program, Boys & Girls Club of Lynn, Demakes YMCA of Lynn, and Building Bridges Through Music.

Massachusetts Green Retail Cannabis Dispensary holds grand opening

Lynn's Jordan Avery is the founder and CEO

By Cary Shuman

Ever since he was a student at Lynn Tech Vocational Institute, Jordan Avery held a dream in his heart of opening his own business in the city that he loves.

That dream was realized on Saturday, Sept. 30, when Avery joined family and friends for the grand opening of the new cannabis dispensary, Massachusetts Green Retail, located at 829 Boston St., Lynn, site of the former O'Brien's Restaurant.

A 2013 Tech graduate, Avery, 29, is the founder of the new business and its chief executive officer.

"When I was young kid, I would shovel out cars from the snow in the winter - and in the summer, I would cut grass, rake leaves, and do whatever I could to be an entrepreneur and continue to explore business opportunities as I began my life's journey,"

Please see GRAND OPENING Page 3

City closes Magnolia Park, heavy metals in soil

Special to the Journal

The City of Lynn has shut off all access to a portion of Magnolia Park, after testing connected to the new Pickering Middle School project determined the presence of heavy metals in the soil a foot beneath the ground, requiring notification to the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection.

The materials found require limiting access prompting the City to completely close off the area, according to Inspection-

al Services Director Michael Donovan, who noted there is no danger to residents or the two schools that sit above the park.

"Unless you're growing vegetables on it or literally eating the dirt, there is nothing to worry about," said Donovan, who explained that the park was built on a swamp more than 100 years ago.

"Most people had coal furnaces at that time, so there was a lot of coal ash used to fill it in

Please see MAGNOLIA Page 4

The Independent Newspaper Group
offices will be closed on Columbus Day,
Monday,
October 9, 2023



For the latest news in Lynn that you need to know, go to lynnjournal.com

Extraordinary literacy achievements recognized: Campbell and Moreno honored with ELLA awards

The Celebrate Literacy Day Committee is thrilled to announce the recipients of this year's Excellence in Literacy Leadership Award (ELLA) - Amanda Campbell and Diana Moreno. These outstanding individuals have demonstrated unparalleled dedication and commitment to promoting literacy and language learning, making a profound impact in their communities and beyond.

The Excellence in Literacy Leadership Award recognize and celebrate the exceptional efforts of not-for-profit organizations and individuals who have significantly contributed to the advancement of literacy, especially among English Language Learners (ELLs). The awardees have been selected for their remarkable achievements and for going above and beyond to elevate, improve, promote, and increase



Amanda Campbell.

access to literacy and higher education for countless individuals striving to enhance their language skills and embrace the transformative power of literacy.

Amanda Campbell is the Deputy Director of the Multilingual Education Department at Lynn Public Schools. She is a passionate educator with over two



Diana Moreno.

decades of experience, who has made significant contributions to dual language learning models that celebrate the gifts of bilingualism. Her tireless efforts have helped countless immigrant and newcomer students integrate into their new communities and use their existing learning to build on new knowledge and English language development.

Diana Moreno, Assistant Vice President of Membership Development at Metro Credit Union, has spearheaded numerous projects to increase financial liter-

acy rates among marginalized communities. Her involvement with various non-profit and grass roots organizations reflects her passion for this work and tireless effort to ensure that language barriers do not hinder anyone's access to financial knowledge and opportunities.

Diana and Amanda's passion for literacy has inspired educators and volunteers to be agents of positive change within the communities they serve. Their commitment to empowering communities and promoting literacy has not only improved academic outcomes but has also played a significant role in breaking the cycle of poverty for many individuals.

"We are thrilled to honor Amanda Campbell and Diana Moreno with the Excellence in Literacy Leadership Award," said Saritin Rizzuto, Founder of CLD and Co-Chair of the planning committee. "Their exceptional contributions to promoting literacy and supporting English Language Learners have made a lasting impact on the lives of

countless individuals. Their dedication and vision truly embody the spirit of the ELLA Awards, and we are proud to recognize their achievements."

The ceremony will take place on November 16th at 5:30 pm at the Lynn Museum, where Amanda Campbell and Diana Moreno will be presented with the awards. The event will also provide an opportunity to learn more about their inspiring work and the importance of literacy in transforming lives.

In its 12th year, Celebrate Literacy Day was founded to create awareness about literacy and education while highlighting the important work of grassroots non-profit organizations and community leaders. The planning committee is made up of a group of volunteers

For more information about Celebrate Literacy Day & the Excellence in Literacy Leadership Awards Reception or to schedule interviews with the award winners, please contact Laura Luna at lauramluna@yahoo.com or 617-388-7977.

MBTA ferry services will be extended this fall

Due to popular demand, the MBTA announced that East Boston, Winthrop, and Lynn ferry services will be extended through the fall. East Boston and Winthrop ferries are extended until November 30 and Lynn ferries are extended to October 31. Ferry service schedules are available at mbta.com/ferry.

"This summer we were able to expand our water transportation network and the public response has been so positive that we have decided to now extend these ferry services into October and November," said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. "Safe and reliable multi modal transportation including water transportation is a priority. I'm proud that the MBTA team can continue to offer this to the public."

The East Boston ferry operates on weekdays and weekends between East Boston at Lewis Mall Wharf and the downtown Boston area at Long Wharf (North). A one-way fare on the East Boston ferry is \$2.40 (or \$1.10 for Reduced Fare riders), which is the same as taking the subway. Tickets can be purchased on the mTicket app. Printed LinkPasses, Commuter Rail Zone passes, and M7s are also accepted. M7 cards, or M7s, are MBTA Student CharlieCards that are pre-loaded with month-

ly passes for the school year for middle and high schoolers. East Boston ferry service is funded through the Commonwealth.

The Winthrop ferry operates on weekdays between Winthrop Landing, Quincy, and the downtown Boston area at Central Wharf (South). A one-way fare on the Winthrop ferry is \$6.50. Tickets can be purchased on the mTicket app or with cash. Printed LinkPasses, Commuter Rail Zone passes, and M7s are also accepted.

The Lynn Ferry operates on weekdays between the Blossom Street Pier and the downtown Boston area at Long Wharf (North). A one-way fare on the Lynn Ferry is currently \$7. Tickets can be purchased on the mTicket app or with cash. Printed LinkPasses, Commuter Rail Zone passes, and M7s are also accepted.

Passengers should note that some schedule adjustments may be made due to weather this season. Service information will be available at mbta.com/alerts.

For more information, visit mbta.com/ferry, or connect with the T on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook/TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

Volunteers build beds for children in need

Nearly 3,000 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts ("Blue Cross") employees volunteered at service projects including non-profit as to support 57 not-for-profit organizations that reflect Blue Cross' commitment to supporting healthy, equitable and sustainable communities as part of the company's 13th annual Service Day.

The Mass. Coalition for the Homeless in Lynn was chosen and the volunteers built beds for children in need.

Launched in 2011, Service Day is designed to connect employee volunteers to organizations for a day of service projects that reflect the company's commitment to addressing health justice in Massachusetts. This year, 1,500 employees will be volunteering at community partner sites throughout Mas-

sachusetts, while 650 will be participating in projects at Blue Cross' Hingham office and another 800 volunteering virtually.

"We're excited to partner with not-for-profits that are doing such meaningful work across Massachusetts," said Sarah Iselin, Blue Cross' president and CEO. "There's no other day of the year that expresses Blue Cross' values quite like Service Day. I'm excited to be joining our associates and volunteering this year."

Many of this year's Service Day projects focus on health justice in communities, including food justice, environmental justice, and racial justice. Blue Cross is partnering with not-for-profits such as Jewish Family Services MetroWest, GreenRoots, and Boys and Girls Club of Boston, as well as Dignity

Matters and Cradles to Crayons to support environmental and community initiatives. Blue Cross volunteers who work outside the state remain actively involved in Service Day, taking part in several virtual projects for Annie's Kindness Blankets, Happy Hope Foundation, and Letters Against Isolation, among others.

Since Service Day's inception, the total value of the company's financial and volunteer support to local not-for-profits has exceeded \$11 million. Blue Cross also supports each not-for-profit by providing a grant to cover the costs of each project, in addition to sending its employee volunteers. Blue Cross provides a minimum contribution of \$2,500 for each not-for-profit Service Day partner.



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City names public health, parking directors; CFO reappointed

Special to the Journal

Mayor Jared C. Nicholson appointed Lisa Tobin as director of public health, Jessica Chiappini as parking director, and reappointed Chief Financial Officer Michael Bertino, with the City Council confirmed.

“We are excited with both appointments of Lisa and Jessica, who bring a wealth of experience and professionalism to their new roles,” Nicholson said. “Both Lisa and Jessica bring a background of dedicated public service and will provide their respective departments with vision and leadership that will continue to expand the accessibility of City Hall and provide residents with essential services. We are also grateful to retain Michael Bertino, who has played a crucial role in the City’s financial recovery and removal from state oversight.”

Tobin is a 25-year public employee who worked in the Inspectional Services department since 2014 as sanitarian. She also served as sealer of weights and measures for the last three years. Prior to that, Tobin worked 15

years at the Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development, as admissions office manager and executive assistant to the executive director.

“I always had a desire to work for the City,” said Tobin, who recalled shadowing former Lynn Public Schools Business Manager Stephen Upton on Student Government Day as a Lynn Classical senior in 1992. “I feel fortunate to be able to do it.”

Tobin earned her bachelor’s degree from Westfield State University and master’s in public administration from Suffolk University. She is licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a certified health officer.

“I had the opportunity to take the Certified Public Health exam and it coincided with this position becoming open,” said Tobin, who oversees a staff of 14, including six who are stationed at the Lynn Senior Center.

“There is a lot of desire to grow that program and make it even more robust than it already is,” Tobin said. “The goal is to increase programming for seniors.”

A runner, Tobin has been

teaching exercise classes at the Demakes Family YMCA for 26 years.

Chiappini started working for the City in April 2020 after 25 years as a paralegal at Lynn law firm Bradley Moore PrimaSon Cuffe & Weber. She worked in Inspectional Services as code enforcement officer and assistant supervisor of custodian and maintenance.

“I always had an interest in enforcement,” said Chiappini, a Lynn English graduate who earned her bachelor’s and master’s (criminal justice) from Salem State University.

In her role as code enforcement officer, Chiappini dealt with complaints about illegal apartments and illegal contractor yards, causing her to work closely with the parking department.

“It all comes back to parking,” she said.

Chiappini, who is directing a staff of 13, said her priorities are to continue to upgrade equipment and explore the possibility of installing kiosks, which would centralize where people pay for metered parking. She also wants to make sure the two City park-



Jessica Chiappini.



Lisa Tobin.

ing lots downtown are fully utilized.

Chiappini encouraged residents to register for the RAVE Mobile Safety program, which provides notifications on parking bans, school closings, major traffic delays and weather alerts. There is no cost to sign up, which can be done by visiting smart911.com.

“We want to make sure residents are getting the most up-to-date, accurate information,” said Chiappini, who is the co-founder of Brown Girl 2 Brown Girl, a mentoring program for minority

girls in the city.

Bertino has been Lynn’s CFO since 2018. Prior to that he worked in municipal finance in Winthrop, Somerville and West Newbury. A graduate of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, he started his professional career as an accountant and also worked as a bank examiner.

“I’m happy to continue working for the administration and to have the opportunity to continue the good work that the City has been doing,” Bertino said. “We’ve completed a lot, but there’s a lot more to do.”

Grand Opening/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said Avery.

One could feel the sheer pride of Jordan’s mother, Kimberly Day, and family, as he officially cut the ribbon to open the new state-of-the-art store.

At 6-feet-5 inches tall, Avery made a towering presence during the ceremony. But it’s his considerable work ethic, personable demeanor, and loyalty to friends that brought him congratulatory wishes from close to 400 people who visited Massachusetts Green Retail on opening day.

Avery expressed his gratitude to the attendees in person and in a heartfelt statement that he had composed for this special day in his life.

“Today is a day that fills my heart with pride and gratitude,” said Avery. “I’m excited to open Massachusetts Green Retail in the very city that has been my home, my school, and my life’s journey. This is an incredible honor.”

Avery, who is the chairperson of the Lynn Human Rights Commission, said it took more than a five-year process to open the new dispensary.

“I want to express my deepest

thanks to my family, friends, supporters, and everyone, both near and far, who has stood by my side throughout this challenging journey,” related Avery. “There were times when it seemed like this day would never arrive, as we faced obstacles, delays, and even legal battles. But through unwavering determination, we are here celebrating the opening of our dispensary in Lynn, Massachusetts.”

Avery singled out the expert, legal guidance he received from Lynn attorney Sam Vitali.

“He was the main guy that really stood by side and helped me,” credited Avery. “He was amazing throughout the legal process. I also want to thank Lou Markakis for being there in a big role to support me.”

Avery said the mission of Massachusetts Green Retail is “to be great neighbors, offer safe, lab-tested and approved cannabis products, and contribute positively to the community we all call home.”

Massachusetts Green Retail is open seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.



Jordan Avery, with his mother, Kimberly Day, by his side, cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of Massachusetts Green Retail, a cannabis dispensary located at 829 Boston St., Lynn.

EDITORIAL

AID TO UKRAINE MUST BE APPROVED FORTHWITH

The entire country (with the exception of those whose goal is to cause anarchy and chaos) breathed a sigh of relief thanks to the last-minute passage by the House and Senate of a bill to fund the government for 45 days this past weekend. However, there was a glaring omission in the bill's 71 pages: The lack of funding earmarked for additional military aid for Ukraine to assist in its fight against the barbaric invasion of that country by the sociopathic dictator of Russia, Vladimir Putin.

Although substantial majorities of both parties in both the House and the Senate favor our continued and future financial support for the Ukrainians in their struggle for freedom, the funding proposed by the Pentagon for more weaponry and other aid did not make it into the final bill that was signed by President Biden. The small minority of legislators who almost crashed the government this weekend also are opposed to providing the Ukrainians with further aid for reasons known only to themselves and it was to this small group that legislative leaders kow-towed in the final bill by excluding financial assistance to Ukraine.

The news footage each and every night reveals the ongoing atrocities being committed by Putin against the Ukrainian people. Right now, they and they alone are standing up to the sociopathic Putin, demonstrating to the world that their freedom is worth fighting and dying for.

In addition, the united front of America and its Western allies against Putin's invasion is signaling to the Chinese that they should not expect that the U.S. and its Pacific allies will stand by if they decide to invade Taiwan or continue to control the South China Sea with outlandish claims about their "territorial waters."

Anyone who asserts that it is time for a "peaceful resolution" to the war in Ukraine is playing into Putin's hands. Putin wants to swallow Ukraine whole. He already had annexed a large chunk of eastern Ukraine and the Crimea when he undertook his invasion. There is no reason to think that Putin would come to the peace table now and even if he did, does anyone seriously believe that he would honor any peace deal?

We live in a world where people expect everything to be done fast and patience is not a virtue. But the simple reality is that Putin is playing a waiting game, all the while destroying and killing as much as possible, hoping that support for Ukraine by the free world will wane and eventually his tanks will roll into Kyiv. The only means by which Putin can succeed is if Ukraine's allies throw in the towel -- a move that not only would be devastating for the Ukrainians, but that would prove to have significant adverse consequences for our own foreign policy.

We urge our members of Congress to work to support a new package of aid to Ukraine ASAP. America needs to show potential dictators that the free world will stand united against their tyrannical impulses.

TIM WAKEFIELD

We just wish to say a few words to acknowledge the passing this week of Tim Wakefield, the former Red Sox pitcher, who passed away suddenly this week from brain cancer. Beyond his remarkable success as a Major League pitcher for 20 years, 17 of which were with the Red Sox (during which time he became the all-time winningest pitcher in Red Sox history with 186 victories), Tim Wakefield was acknowledged by everyone who knew him to be the ultimate team player.

For many athletes, that is a mere cliché, but Tim Wakefield truly exemplified the meaning of that term both on and off the field. He embraced his work with the Jimmy Fund and the Dana Farber Institute in a quiet way, touching the lives of countless children, their families, and their caregivers, with his empathy and support.

Yes, Tim Wakefield will be celebrated as a famous athlete, but, in the words of the poet Wordsworth, his lasting legacy will be this:

"That best portion of a good man's life;

"His little, nameless, unremembered

"Acts of kindness and of love."

GUEST OP-ED

Hell's fire – treat others the way you want to be treated

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Do you worry about going to hell? Will you burn there in hell's fire? Will you be in the hands of the Devil?

Hell may be a place where people are locked into a room with endless Presidential candidates hollering and speaking over each other to the point that nothing makes much sense and everybody ends up sounding crazier and crazier.

I accept what Jesus taught about heaven and hell. He actually talked more about hell than he did heaven. Hell is described as a very sad place of pain and suffering. I certainly do not want to leave my body and go somewhere worse. I have chosen to go to the better of the two places and I am trusting in Jesus to get me there.

As you know there is plenty of hell on earth. Why would we want to leave the hell of earth and go to more hell?

A dear friend told me recently about his sweet wife being in

Intensive Care in Alabama. She has battled multiple sclerosis for 20 years. All the medication she takes has impacted her heart. She recently had a heart attack and is now intubated. "MS sucks," my friend said.

Most of us have watched loved ones die from lung cancer, pulmonary fibrosis, dementia, diabetes, and various neurological diseases. It's hell for the person and hell for the loved ones. Most likely if we live long enough, we will all go through some form of severe suffering. You might die suddenly and escape the long valley of suffering or you may not. Being intubated, struggling to breath, walk, talk, and eat is not a way any of us want to spend our days.

So where is hell? There's plenty of it on planet earth. Almost 2 billion people live in poverty. Many of these people have to walk somewhere every day for just a bucket of water. Every day, millions are desperate for medical care but have access to none. Millions of Americans are homeless. Six million more

immigrants have entered our country over the last three years. So, there is more homelessness, poverty, misery, and hell in the streets of America than ever before.

Life and planet earth are great if you are relatively healthy, have a place to sleep, food to eat, and a little money to spend. However, health can change fast and often does. The point is there are lots of suffering people and suffering caregivers. Do everything you can to be kind to people. Give them a smile. A good word. A good deed. Be helpful when you can. You will appreciate it when it's your turn to suffer.

Many people are suffering in hell every day. Treat others the way you want to be treated.

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.

Magnolia/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and there were some heavy metals in that ash," he said. "The presence of these metals in the soil requires notification to the DEP."

Donovan said there would be follow-up testing and that the park would remain closed until further testing and mitigation work are completed. The area in question is intended to be used as a parking lot when the new Pickering Middle School is built. Soil testing in the area where the new school will be sited, along with the existing Sisson Elementary School, came back clean, Donovan said.

Mayor Jared C. Nicholson reinforced that there has been no danger to the public.

"This shows how detailed the

process of building a new school is and why it is critical to be thorough in all aspects of the project," Nicholson said. "The most important thing is that we were able to discover this problem and will address it as necessary."

The City will be working with groups and individuals who had previously reserved the park on finding suitable alternative space.

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Malden Catholic hires Valdez as Varsity Baseball coach

Malden Catholic has hired former MLB coach David Valdez to head its Varsity Baseball program announced Malden Catholic Director of Athletics, William Raycraft.

Prior to joining Malden Catholic, David Valdez spent several years coaching in Major League Baseball as a hitting coach, international player's assistant and most recently as a player development coach in the Milwaukee Brewers system. In prior years, he was named Manager of the Year after his club finished as Division Champions in the Piedmont Collegiate Summer League in Richmond, VA and had a six-year stint as Manager for the Men's Baseball team at Bunker Hill Community College.

He was also a coach for the Dominican Summer League and US Heroes of the Diamond US Team and for fourteen years owned Valdez Baseball Academy, a successful instructional camp designed to train little league, high school, college and professional baseball players and provide athletes with position-specific instruction. In addition, Valdez coached several AAU programs including National Champions in 2013 and 2014, runner-up in 2015 and he was selected as Most Influential Latin Person in Massachusetts.

Plus, David Valdez's career as a professional athlete included playing for the Seattle Mariners, Los Angeles Dodger systems as well as the Dominican Winter, Columbian Winter, Frontier and Northern Leagues.

"I have wanted to be a part of the MC baseball program for a long time and I'm extremely excited about having the opportunity to work with the Lancers," Valdez stated. "I am confident that we will make extraordinary things happen on the diamond and bring back the baseball performance that MC enjoyed in its rich history to the Catholic Conference. I look forward to making the alumni base and greater school community proud," added Valdez.

Valdez emerged out of a strong pool of applicants with outstanding qualifications. According to William Raycraft, "Coach Valdez is considered to be one of the most respected minds in baseball and will be a great asset to our pro-



David Valdez.

gram on and off the field. His major league experience along with the ability to teach at all levels of baseball experience will significantly benefit our student-athletes and build an outstanding MC program." Raycraft added, "Valdez is an incredibly passionate person who not only loves the game but knows how to inspire, listen, teach and win – all of these qualities will translate well to our students."

Since 1932, Malden Catholic has shaped emerging leaders in our community, claiming a Nobel Laureate, a Senator, two ambassadors and countless community and business heads among its alumni. Annually, graduates attend some of the nation's most renowned universities including Harvard, Princeton, Dartmouth, University of Chicago, Georgetown, Cornell, Brown, Tufts University, Carnegie Mellon, Duke, Notre Dame, Northeastern University, Boston College and College of the Holy Cross, just to name a few. Foundational to student success is Malden Catholic's codivisional model which offers the best of both worlds, single-gender academics during the day and integrated social and extracurricular opportunities after school. Malden Catholic is known in the community for its rigorous academics, SFX Scholars Program and award-winning STEM program. Malden Catholic curricula is designed to improve individual growth mindset, leadership principles and success outcomes along with integrating the Xaverian values of trust, humility, compassion, simplicity and zeal. <https://www.maldencatholic.org>.



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COUNCILOR AT LARGE NICOLE MCCLAIN HOLDS EVENT AT OLD TYME ITALIAN CUISINE



Ladies with Nicole McClain for Councilor At Large.



Men stand up for Nicole McClain for Councilor At Large.

Story and Photos by Patrick R. Gecoya

Councilor-At-Large Nicole McClain has proven herself as an effective member of the Lynn City Council. Since her tenure, Nicole has been assisting residents whenever she is notified. Nicole is the community voice for the people.

Brenda Womack, who introduced Nicole, said, "Nicole is the person who really will work for you. She will take an issue to the proper person in order to have it resolved. On November 7, vote

for number six on the ballot for Nicole McClain - the people's voice at the table."

This campaign event highlighted women's support for Nicole as she said, "The amount of women behind me is amazing. Women are so strong in our community; they make things happen every single day. I have met so many women who have been holding this city together for the longest time."

Coming from a single parent home, Nicole's mother raised four children on her own as Nicole said, "I am standing here on

the back of a strong black woman. This is why it is so important for me to acknowledge the women here this evening. I thank all of you for coming out and supporting me. I feel the support. I am the only woman running for Councilor At Large."

Nicole is working as a Councilor At Large and is running for reelection as a Councilor At Large. She has been available to constituents. Nicole provides residents with services they really need, which she does immediately.

Nicole McClain is an Iraq Veteran, Neighbor, and Advocate.

She is committed to supporting seniors, affordable housing, revitalizing downtown, and she is a community leader. Nicole is a homeowner, a businesswoman, and works as a Director of Salvation Army's Lynn After School Program. Vote for Nicole McClain on November 7 for Councilor At Large.



Deputy Secretary of Veterans' Services Gayle Bennett for Veteran Nicole McClain for Councilor At Large.



Candidates support Nicole McClain for Councilor At Large – Dr. Peter Meaney, Tiffany Magnolia, Natasha Megie-Maddrey, Nicole McClain, Coco Alinsug, Stacy Bryant-Brown, Donna Coppola, and Lenny Pena.



Nicole McClain Campaign Staff – Voter Registration Coordinator Brenda Womack, Volunteer Outreach Organizer Barbara Kinney, and Campaign Manager Adriana Paz.



Nicole McClain greets Ward 5 Resident Tristan Smith and Ward 5 Councilor Dianna Chakoutis.

**VOTE NOVEMBER 7TH
#6 ON THE BALLOT**

**RE-ELECT ★ ★ ★
NICOLE MCCLAIN**

**COUNCILOR AT
LARGE**

VETERAN • NEIGHBOR • ADVOCATE

BRIAN LAPIERRE HOSTS 'FALL RACE TO THE FINAL' EVENT

PAT GECOYA PHOTOS



North Shore Labor Union member Derek and his wife, Lisa, White meet Councilor-at-Large Brian LaPierre.

Lynn Councilor-at-Large Brian LaPierre hosted family, friends, and supporters recently at Rolly's Tavern for a Fall Race to the Final event. It was well attended. LaPierre gave brief remarks to the crowd "thanking them for their continued support." He stated, "I have the energy, passion, and commitment to be an effective leader, who cares deeply about Lynn and its residents. Please send me back to the Lynn City Council on November 7th so I can continue fighting for you and your values."



Gina O'Toole with Councilor-at-Large Brian LaPierre.



Jeff Newhall with Councilor-at-Large Brian LaPierre.



Councilor-at-Large Brian LaPierre with his family.



MA Democratic State Committeewoman Cathy Dwyer with Councilor-at-Large Brian LaPierre.



Caroline Lapierre, Councilor-at-Large Brian LaPierre with Atty. Rick Vitale and Cathy.



Candidates, Dr. Peter Meaney, Roger Garcia, Stacy Brown- Bryant, and Sean Reid, with Councilor-at-Large Brian LaPierre.



Councilor-at-Large Brian LaPierre with supporters.

On Tuesday, November 7th, Please re-elect

Brian LaPierre

FOR COUNCILOR AT-LARGE

Connect with the campaign

Phone: 617-974-1243

 Facebook.com/
Brianlapierreatlargelynn

 @BrianLaPierre

Paid for by The LaPierre Committee

CELEBRATE YOUR ITALIAN HERITAGE! HAPPY COLUMBUS DAY!

The Lynn Journal is privileged to publish this map of Italy which designates the regions of that wonderful land where our Italian-American neighbors can trace their roots



**LYNN HOUSING AUTHORITY
& NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

*Wishing You a wonderful
Italian Heritage Month*

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LYNN GREEK FESTIVAL AT ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CENTER

PAT GECOYA PHOTOS



Family and Friends – Pat Maksey, Kath Savage, Ethan, Kathy Alukonis, Kerri Wong, Shevonne Linnane with Devin.

Labor Day Weekend is the annual Lynn Greek Festival at St. George Orthodox Center. The weather was at its best for the beginning of meteorological fall. People enjoyed the assortment of homemade Pastries offered by the Ladies of St. George Philoptochos Society. Lines formed for specialized Entrées and Side orders cooked by talented chefs. Greek donut balls dipped in honey known as Loukoumades were a delicious treat for many visitors.

Father Alex Orfanos, who came to this festival as a child and is now the parish Priest of St. George, said, “This is a pleasant feeling to be here and to see our volunteers doing excellent work serving individuals of this community. I am overjoyed by the large attendance as everyone enjoys themselves.”



WCVB-TV news anchorperson Maria Stephanos attends Greek Festival meeting Peter and Andrew Mikedis.



Loukoumades Cooks – Maggie Hatzis, Carlos Pu, Greg Turpin, Maria and Peter Speridakos, Head Chef Manny Argiros, Wayne O’Keefe, Kathy Massouras, and Arthur Argeros.



Old Neighbor Tom Demakes with Arthur Stefanidis.



Gary and Gloria DeCicco, Maria Williams, and Elise Williams-DeCicco.



Entrée and Side Line – Paul and Karen Allan with John and Ronnie Manolian.



Festival Chefs – Nick Turpin, Taso Skalkos, James Meklis, Father Alex Orfanos, Bob Stilian, President George Kallivas, John Meklis, Mike Katsos, Chris Mikedis, Peter Katsos, Andrew Mikedis, and Peter Mikedis.



The Beverage Bar – Teddy Paginos, Candice Meklis, Gianna Meklis, Colby Grant, Lou Katsos, and Esa Sahel.



St. George Philoptochos Greek Pastry Table: - Maria Williams, Jane Baletsa, Ginny DiVirgilio, Kathy Moulison, Ellen Nichols, Patrice Kotsakis, Zoe Haskell, Elena Kirios, Alex Bitopoulos, Connie Speridakos, Mary Anne Spartos, Anita Rassias, and Chris Katsos.

Significant improvements to child care financial assistance program announced

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has announced significant improvements to Child Care Financial Assistance programs in Massachusetts. Updated regulations and policies will simplify the application process for parents, reduce paperwork for families and early education programs, and better support homeless families, families with disabilities and families facing domestic violence who take advantage of this program. With these changes, the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) is making it easier for young, working, low-income families to access the subsidies available for child care and “out of school time” education programs.

“One of the top priorities of our administration is making child care more affordable and accessible. These regulation and policy changes will help break down barriers for our low-income families and early education programs, making government services more user friendly and equitable,” said Governor Maura Healey. “We’re proud to take this important step forward that we know will lead to increased labor market participation and economic mobility for families, and support children’s school and life success.”

“In Massachusetts, we are investing in child care so that regardless of zip code or economic background, our youngest learners can access the high-quality education they need to succeed in school and life. Access to affordable child care is also an engine of the state’s economy, enabling families to participate in our workforce,”

said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “I am excited to see the impact these significant changes will bring to our state, making Massachusetts a more affordable place to live, learn and work.”

EEC has been working over the past year and a half with key stakeholders to make these significant child care financial assistance regulation changes. From the outset, EEC took on these regulation changes with the goals of centering the family voice and restructuring the agency’s operations, policies, and procedures to modernize and improve the experience for parents and providers.

Some of the key regulation and policy changes include:

- Improving and simplifying communication with families, such as launching email and texting campaigns to reach them directly and support them throughout the process of accessing child care financial assistance;
- Reducing and eliminating unnecessary and duplicative paperwork and reporting requirements that create an undue burden for parents;
- Updating the provider employment definitions and requirements to reflect the changing nature of work, including more flexibility for hourly wage earners and those working from home;
- Waiving fees for homeless families and easing reporting requirements for individuals with disabilities or those participating in treatment for substance abuse;
- Better aligning with partner agencies like the Department of Transitional Assistance

(DTA) and Department of Children and Families (DCF) to streamline processes and reduce administrative burdens for families;

- Incorporating more inclusive language that supports the dignity of receiving child care financial assistance, and is inclusive of LGBTQ+ families and families with disabilities; and
- Shifting policies to be more accessible, meaning they are written in plain language and will eventually be available in up to 14 languages.

“Our administration believes that expanding access to more affordable, high-quality early education and care is the first step to ensuring every Bay State child has access to the education they deserve, regardless of their circumstances or background,” said Secretary of Education Patrick Tutwiler. “Here in Massachusetts, we don’t just want to get ‘back’ to how things were before the pandemic—the new and updated regulation and policy changes will bring the state’s child care financial assistance program forward. With a focused intentionality on centering parents and simplifying the processes for providers, we are creating the child care financial assistance system that students and families deserve.”

“I am grateful for the significant changes we are making to our child care financial assistance programs in Massachusetts. Through regulations and policy, we are shifting the programs to be easier and more accessible to enable families to work and support their children’s school success. Using technology enhancements and eliminating

barriers, we are creating a more modern, flexible and dignified system,” said Early Education and Care Commissioner Amy Kershaw. “I want to thank the Early Education and Care Board, our early education and care programs and partners, and sister agencies who have worked collaboratively and intentionally with us to make changes that center families’ experiences and will bring greater equity and inclusion for the children and families participating in our child care financial assistance programs.”

EEC’s willingness to bring together state policy leaders and early education and out of school time providers through ongoing working sessions has demonstrated the agency’s commitment to ensuring an inclusive, equitable

and family-friendly subsidy system. For Kids Only Afterschool is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with EEC staff and state-wide colleagues on the future direction of subsidy policies and procedures. We are excited for the upcoming changes and to provide greater access to high quality early education and out of school time programming for children and families across the state,” said Briana Flannery, Deputy Director of For Kids Only Afterschool.

“Horizons has been excited to participate in the collaborative process with the EEC and other child care providers to simplify, modernize and expand access to child care financial assistance. These changes will particularly have a positive

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MassDOT to develop and evaluate options for eventual replacement of the Tobin Bridge

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) announced that it has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure a transportation planning and engineering consultant team to develop and evaluate options for the eventual replacement of the Maurice J. Tobin Bridge.

The Tobin Bridge carries Route 1 over the Mystic River, directly connects Boston and Chelsea, and provides connectivity to the regional transportation network. With Annual Average Daily Traffic across the bridge at approximately 87,000 vehicles, (as of September 2023), the Route 1 corridor is regularly congested in the peak hours and operates at or near capacity. The RFP will procure a team to assist MassDOT's Office of Transportation Planning with a study to best position MassDOT in the project development process once the determination is made for the Tobin Bridge to be replaced.

"The time is now to start taking the steps needed with planning and engineering decisions about the future of the Tobin Bridge," said Acting Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "Before the Tobin Bridge reaches the end of its useful life, we're initiating a long-term strategic planning study to guide us on what type of facility should be built to replace it. This will also allow us to address any other deficiencies, and to think



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT FRANK

The Tobin Bridge as seen from Admiral's Hill in Chelsea during the July 4th celebration in Boston.

about opportunities we may have to improve future transit priority and multimodal travel over the Mystic River."

"This study is an investment in our future as it will not only prepare us to replace the Tobin Bridge but to also modernize the connection with a deep focus on climate resiliency and how to incorporate multimodal transportation options," said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver.

Environmental review within the study's scope of work, will encompass, but will not be limited to, impacts on ecosystems/habitats, overall environment, including air quality and greenhouse

gas impacts, environmental justice areas, navigable waterways, and designated Port Areas and Chapter 91 boundaries. In accordance with evaluating these impacts, this study will examine greenhouse gas emissions, flooding, urban heat islands, and climate change mitigation measures and metrics.

Given the number and variety of stakeholders in the Tobin Bridge area, the study's scope of work proposes a robust public engagement process. This will include, but not be limited to, the formation of a Working Group that will invite key stakeholders to participate, such as the City of Chelsea, the City of Boston, Massport, U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, advocacy groups and community organizations. Public engagement will include in-person public meetings, stakeholder meetings, briefings, a study website, and outreach workshops. The Working Group will work with the selected consultant team at the outset of the study process to develop an appropriate public involvement plan with a focus on equity, multi-modal travel, community impacts, and socioeconomic factors.

The Tobin Bridge is currently maintained in a "State of Good Repair," with preventative measures and maintenance projects programmed annually to ensure safe

operating conditions. On Wednesday, September 20, members of the MassDOT Board of Directors approved a contract for approximately \$128 million for Tobin Bridge repairs while the bridge's replacement is being evaluated. The scope of work includes:

- Cleaning existing steel and removing old paint on the Chelsea approach lower level mainline (northbound), Beacon Street ramp, upper level mainline (southbound) and Everett Avenue ramp.

- Performing repairs to the existing Chelsea approach steel superstructure elements, and safety walk elements at the lower level mainline, Beacon Street ramp, upper level mainline and Everett Avenue ramp.

- Upon completion of steel repairs, painting the existing steel.

- Performing repairs to substructure elements.

- Repairs to concrete substructure elements.

Construction for the Tobin Bridge's immediate maintenance repairs will be conducted in ways that minimize impacts on the local neighborhoods and to the traveling public. No permanent lane closures on the bridge are anticipated during construction and no impacts are expected to adjacent roadways.

Previously, in 2019, MassDOT launched the Tobin Bridge/Chelsea Curves Rehabilitation Project.

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impact on child care access and affordability for families experiencing homelessness. The culture shift currently taking place at EEC, creating more family centric solutions which accommodate the reality and complexity of working family's lives, is a welcome change," said Kate Barrant, President & CEO of Horizons for Homeless

Children.

The state's Child Care Financial Assistance programs are funded federally through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) and by the state level through multiple EEC line items. This year, the Healey-Driscoll administration and the legislature delivered \$778 million towards child care financial as-

sistance, an increase of \$60 million over FY23. Currently, 58,000 children and their families access child care with the support of state financial assistance. Nearly 4,500 early education and child care centers partner with the Commonwealth to provide care to low-income or subsidized students, which is 56% of the licensed early education and

care programs in the state.

"The Board of Early Education and Care was proud to vote to adopt these updated child care financial assistance program regulations. These significantly improved regulations will serve as the foundation for the programs and set the tone for what we know these programs can and will be – equitably support-

ing families to afford and access high-quality early education and care across the Commonwealth. I am grateful for the Board, the Healey-Driscoll Administration, and our partners efforts and the direction that Massachusetts is moving in," said Paul Belsito, Chair of the Board of Early Education and Care.

"For some families who rely on child care while they work, finding appropriate, high-quality care can be difficult. I am grateful to EEC for their efforts to support families and eliminating administrative barriers to a service that can make such a difference for children and their parents. By streamlining this process through the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Transitional Assistance, we are reducing the burden placed on people to provide information to apply for services for which they are already qualified, expediting their access to the child care they need," said Secretary of Health and Human Services Kate Walsh.

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