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RAINBOW ADULT DAY CARE 5TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Ward 3 Coco Alinsug; At-Large Councilors Brian Field and Hong Net presented Lynn Council Citation and Sean Reid presented the State Senate Citation to Thanha Net, Johnny Mao, and Alexandra Pierre,

Rainbow Adult Day and the Health Care Center of Lynn celebrated a five-year anniversary. The program began in 2018 with only forty participants attending each day. Currently, the program has grown to over 190 participants from throughout Massachusetts.

Many beneficial services are available for the clientele according to Marketing Director Johnny Mao. He continued to say, "Rainbow Care covers seniors who have health insurance plans such as, Mass Health, Senior Care Options, Fallon Health, Tuft Medical, and many more.

Our Center offers medical, nursing, social, therapeutic activities along with Alzheimer and Dementia programs. A dietician monitors meals when served to participants. Informational programs offer citizenship applications, public housing, medical Doctors, renewal of hygiene and passports, and transportation."

Mayor Jared Nicholson expressed on behalf of the City of Lynn a sincere congratulation on the five year anniversary. He said, "This is such an amazing community here with a remarkable team in place. This center has grown and built a quality pro-

gram." Mayor Nicholson continued to say, "All our residents deserve these services in a safe and a genuine culturally competent way. The city thanks the team who created this program, all participants who embraced this community, and those who make this center a warm, welcoming, healthy, and supportive place."

Councilor-at-Large Brian Field along with At-Large Hong Net and Ward 3 Coco Alinsug presented a City of Lynn Council Citation. Sean Reid from State Senator Brendon Crighton's office presented a State Senate Citation.



Mayor Jared Nicholson presented a City of Lynn Citation to Program Director Thanha Net, Marketing Director Johnny Mao, and Program Coordinator/Marketing Alexandra Pierre



Transportation Drivers Recognized by Thanha Net and Johnny Mao to Rozan Mam and Lead Driver Chhavorn Yang.

Candidates Night for Lynn City Council being held by E. F. Gilmore DAV

Special to the Journal

The E. F. Gilmore DAV of Swampscott/Lynn will be hosting a candidates' forum for Lynn City Council candidates on Monday October 30 at 6:30 P.M. at the Lynn Campus of the North Shore Community College. The forum is being co-sponsored by the North Shore Community College Veterans Service Center. "While the DAV is non-partisan and we do not endorse or support candidates, we do encourage our members to get involved and participate in the electoral process", said Jeffrey Blonder,

Commander of the E. F. Gilmore DAV. "As a veteran I know the sacrifices that my fellow veterans have made in order for the citizens of this area have the freedom to vote."

"While we hope the candidates address their plans to assist veterans in the City of Lynn, veterans are also concerned about most of the issues that most Lynn residents are concerned with", Blonder added.

The forum is open to all residents and refreshments will be available. For more information, please contact Commander Jeffrey Blonder at 617-967-6892.

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Judith Wilson announces her candidacy for School Committee

Judith Wilson is a political candidate campaigning to be one of Lynn's next School Committee members.

The following is her statement:

For the past 36 critical years, Judith Wilson has called Lynn home. She is vested in this historic city and has made valuable contributions by helping people in various areas of dire need, including volunteering.

Judith Wilson is a devout mother, a local author, and a former Substitute Teacher in the Lynn Public Schools. Additionally, she was a Family Engagement Supervisor who successfully developed, advocated, and intentionally implemented programs and activi-



Judith Wilson

ties designed to educate, support, and enhance the personal development of families.

Judith Wilson reports that

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

Temporary Lynn Commuter Rail Station platform expected to open nine months ahead of schedule

Acting Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt, MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng, Senator Brendan P. Crighton, Representative Peter Capano, Lynn Mayor Jared Nicholson, and MBTA Board Director Thomas McGee joined community leaders and stakeholders at the construction site of the temporary platform at Lynn Commuter Rail Station on the Newburyport/Rockport Line.

The MBTA in partnership with Commuter Rail operator Keolis Commuter Services (Keolis) was able to accelerate construction of the temporary platform in order to resume Commuter Rail service at Lynn Station in December 2023, which is nine months sooner than previously planned. The interim station will be located on Silsbee Street, which is three blocks or less than approximately a quarter of a mile from the original station.

“We all understand the holistic impact of a project like this in terms of how it will expand access to the entire public transportation network, lead to more business for local retailers, and be an incentive for the creation of new housing nearby,” said Acting Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. “We’re grateful the MBTA found a way to build a temporary platform months earlier than previously announced because people in the Lynn area are eager to use Commuter Rail if they can do so conveniently.”

“Lynn has a bright economic future ahead, and the MBTA is a vital partner to local businesses and residents,” said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. “By ensuring Lynn is connected to Boston and other major cities, it increases job opportunities, access to essential services like medical institutions, and the vibrancy of its downtown area. As the MBTA continues to tackle years of disinvestment, we are committed to a new way of doing business: delivering service and projects in a more timely manner wherever possible. By accelerating the reopening of Lynn Station, we are reconnecting communities and the public we serve.”

“In partnership with the MBTA, Keolis looks forward to delivering the temporary platform for the residents of Lynn by the end of this year,” said Abdellah Chajai, CEO and General Manager of Keolis Commuter Services. “As operators of the Commuter Rail, we understand the important connections that our service enables each and every day for riders and we are eager to restore



Attending the MBTA Temporary Rail Line Platform Dedication – State Reps Jenny Armini and Peter Capano, State Senator Brendan Crighton, Mayor Jared Nicholson, Transportation Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt, MBTA CEO Phillip Eng, MBTA Board Director Thomas McGee, MBTA Police Chief Kenneth Green, State Reps Donald Wong and Daniel Cahill

that service for the City of Lynn.”

The temporary platform will be fully accessible for all riders and include emergency generators, wayfinding, and variable messaging systems. The location of stops for connecting bus routes is still in the process of being planned and will be announced closer to the opening of the temporary platform.

Lynn Station was closed on October 1, 2022, while the Lynn Commuter Rail Station Improvements Project advances. Since then, the alternate travel option for passengers has been utilizing existing area bus routes and a free shuttle bus from Lynn to Swampscott station until the temporary platform was built. Due to the station’s important role in the community and after working closely with local leaders, the MBTA expedited the construction of the temporary platform at Lynn to restore service as quickly and safely as possible.

“Thank you to the Healey-Driscoll administration and General Manager Eng for their partnership and for prioritizing the restoration of Commuter Rail service in Lynn,” said Senator Brendan Crighton. “The legislative delegation, Mayor Nicholson, and local officials have long fought for service to be preserved while our new station is being built, and we are pleased that this administration felt the same sense of urgency and expedited the construction of a temporary platform.”

“We are excited to announce the restoration of service when the temporary platform for the Commuter Rail is made available to

residents,” said Mayor Jared Nicholson. “This platform will provide the necessary transportation our residents deserve and couldn’t have happened without the collaboration of the City, State Delegation, and the Healey-Driscoll administration. I sincerely appreciate the MBTA’s response to our advocacy to accelerate the construction of this station.”

“Finally, Lynn residents will have commuter rail access back,” said Congressman Seth Moulton. “While it is simply unacceptable that Lynn residents have been without a safe, reliable, and affordable public transit option for this long, today’s announcement marks a positive step in the right direction. I am grateful to the MBTA and General Manager Eng, Mayor Nicholson, and the

State delegation for their work in expediting the return of this essential service to Lynn. Next, we need to find a workable long-term solution so that the hard-working people of Lynn are never without transportation options again.”

“This is a creative temporary solution that allows access for our commuters while we await the completion of an updated and safe station that our city and our riders deserve,” said Representative Dan Cahill.

The MBTA was able to accelerate work on the temporary platform by leveraging their strong partnership with Commuter Rail operator Keolis and its contractor crews. At the direction of General Manager Eng and the MBTA, Keolis was able to provide an alternative platform design and modified

construction plan that shortened procurement and installation timelines. Keolis was also able to mobilize its skilled workforce to quickly complete the early stages of construction, preparing the foundations of the new platform, and building out the electrical and other base infrastructure. Work is being performed jointly by Keolis and contractor crews working hand in hand with MBTA Capital Delivery through all construction phases to deliver the completed temporary platform.

For more information, visit mbta.com/LynnStation 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.

Wilson / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

she is pursuing one of six spots on the School Committee because changes are needed in Lynn schools. She desperately wants to ensure every local student achieves academic excellence, attends safer schools, is given afterschool programs that proactively engage students, attends schools with solid infrastructure safe for learning, receives mental health support for local teachers, and revisits the Massachusetts bullying policy. Additionally, Judith Wilson strongly believes parent involvement is key to the change she desires to witness in schools.

Critical improvement of academic skills for special education students, adequate resources

for teachers, voice equity for all students and parents (a seat at the table), and inevitably becoming a model locally and statewide are equally important.

Judith Wilson is a college graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work. She furthered her education by earning a Master of Education with a focus on Mental Health and is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success Society (honor).

The skills Judith Wilson has acquired as a former Substitute Teacher, Family Engagement Supervisor, and Mental Health Clinician would undoubtedly help her transition well into the role of a School Committee member.

Her experience establishing partnerships with families, school committee members, listening to the needs and concerns of all concerned, and building alliances with local communities and their leaders, school administrators, teachers, and other stakeholders would be an asset to the School Committee.

Judith believes children represent the future of the world, and they are best served when provided with all the necessary tools to grow healthily using an integrated approach.

Win or lose, Judith Wilson reports she will be committed to helping to improve Lynn Public Schools.

Lynn Shannon Community Safety Initiative partners host legislative breakfast

Lynn Police Department hosted the Legislative Breakfast in collaboration with the Shannon Safety Committee. Partnering agencies in the committee include Lynn Police Department, LifeScene, LYOSA, Lynn Parks and Recreation, Catholic Charities North, and Northshore Community College.

The Shannon Safety Initiative offers outreach, case manage-

ment, youth leadership training, and job opportunities through a city-wide, inter-agency violence prevention partnership serving Lynn youth ages 14-24.

Each of the agencies provide resources and programming to help curb violence and gang activity involving Lynn youth. The partnerships allow for wide outreach, case management, as well as workforce and life develop-

City of Lynn names unarmed response team and looks to hire director

The City continues to make progress in the formation of an unarmed response, and gets closer to implementing the team by coming up with a name and the posting the director job.

A working group of stakeholders has been meeting since April to help develop the vision for the unarmed response team, including the name, structure and call types to which it will respond.

The stakeholders included members of the community, the City's Public Health Department, Lynn Community Health Center, the co-chairs of the Lynn Racial Justice Coalition and community organization/service providers such as Children's Friend and Family Services, My Brother's Table, HAWC, North Shore Rape Crisis Center and several others.

The City hosted a public forum in July, with Spanish interpretation available, to share updates with the community. Police Chief Chris Reddy, members of the Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC) and the Mayor's Office fielded questions from the public, addressed concerns and discussed next steps. There were more than 50 people in attendance.

"Creating an unarmed response team has been a major goal of our administration. I'm grateful for the many collaborators who have gotten us this far and very excited for the important step of finding the right program director," said Mayor Nicholson.

At its September 14 meeting, the working group finalized recommendations that were shared with the Mayor's Office including the name of the team: Lynn Calm Team (LCT), which symbolizes the goal of the unarmed response team to create a calm

and positive response to community concerns. Another attraction for this name among the community, was that it would be easy to translate into other languages while still maintaining the essence of what the word means and exudes.

The City's DEI Officer, Faustina Cuevas, who has been leading this charge from the City side said, "we are incredibly grateful for the knowledge, time and thoughtfulness of this working group of stakeholders. We were able to deliberate important and critical components of this unarmed response team and attempt to find common ground on what will work for everyone in our community."

The focus of LCT will be in three areas: acute mental and behavioral health, community mediation and quality of life matters. To start, the team will operate in a pilot phase a few days a week and hopefully expand in the near future based on the success of the pilot.

The next steps are to work with Eliot's Community Behavioral Health Center to sign a contract to host the LCT at 95 Pleasant St. The City will also post the position of program director, who will oversee the team and the contract with Eliot from the City side. This position will operate out of the Lynn Public Health Department and will be full-time with benefits. Other roles for the team will be worked out with Eliot through a contract agreement.

Mayor Nicholson is excited for the next steps and shared "we can't wait to find the right program director to help us launch this independent alternative response to address critical mental health needs and further racial justice in our City."



The Legislative Breakfast in collaboration with the Shannon Safety Committee hosted by the Lynn Police Department was a great success.

ment to be offered to impacted youth.

Joined by influential members of the community, each of the agencies in the Shannon CSI shared their work and impact. LifeScene's Director of Strategic Programs, Jessica Fabain, shared that their work can mean showing different options to youth outside of what they thought possible for themselves.

To share firsthand experiences two youth guest speakers

Dairis and Taylor, participants in LifeScene's Project Success and LYOSA respectively, shared about their own journeys. Dairis spoke about how she never imagined how much she would learn or the opportunities of developing career skills.

"Coming into Project Success I thought it was going to be just like school, but we got to have interactive discussions on important topics and have experiences that showed me opportunities

that I thought were never possible for me" LifeScene's Project Success participant, Dairis.

Every speaker emphasized the importance of the work being a collaborative effort not only within the Shannon Committee but partnering with influential individuals and entities of Lynn. Gratitude was expressed towards all those who joined and reiterated the commitment towards serving the youth of the Lynn's community.

FAMILY JOINS IN HONORING JOHN NERICH AT RETIREMENT PARTY AT LYNN DISTRICT COURT



CARY SHUMAN PHOTO

One of Lynn's most prominent families, the Nerich family, turned to support and congratulate retiring Lynn District Court Chief Court Officer John J. Nerich III, at his retirement celebration. The family is pictured above with Mr. Nerich, who served with distinction in his leadership position at the Lynn courthouse where he was admired and respected by his colleagues for his professionalism, work ethic, loyalty, and dependability. Front row, from left, are Christine Nerich Brown, Madison Nerich, Laurie Nerich, guest of honor John J. Nerich III, Jean Nerich, Lisa Nerich, and Mark Nerich. Back row, from left, are Kerry Nerich, Timothy Nerich, Timmy John Nerich, Maggie Nerich, Leanne Amirault, Nick Amirault, and Casey Brown.

EDITORIAL

HAMAS ARE TERRORISTS, NOT FREEDOM-FIGHTERS

The demonstrations that have been occurring around the country, especially on college campuses, in apparent support of the Hamas terrorists who slaughtered 1400 Israelis, have been disappointing on many levels.

The Hamas organization is not composed of “freedom fighters” who are seeking to better the lives of the two million people of Gaza. Rather, Hamas is a terrorist group that proclaims only one goal -- the destruction of the State of Israel -- and has shown it will stop at nothing to achieve its ends, including the cold-blooded slaughter of 1400 Israeli civilian men, women, and children.

In addition, Hamas and its masters, the Iranian government leaders (who have funded and trained the Hamas terrorists), consider the two million residents of the Gaza strip -- of whom half are children -- essentially as cannon fodder to achieve their objective of provoking a response from Israel that, they hope, will set the Middle East, if not the entire world, aflame.

The massacre at the Israeli kibbutzim, dance festival, and villages on October 7 accomplished nothing, other than to bring about an Israeli military invasion of Gaza that the Israelis see as necessary in order to root out the military capacity of the Hamas terrorists, but which Hamas knows invariably will result in the deaths of hundreds of innocent Gazan civilians and children.

Peace in the Middle East will be achievable only when all Arab states and Iran are willing to acknowledge the right of the State of Israel simply to exist. However, given that Iran, Hamas, and others preach that Israel must be destroyed, peace will never be achieved and the endless cycle of violence only will continue for future generations, a sad state of reality that the pro-Hamas demonstrators conveniently ignore.

WILL A PILL MAKE AMERICANS SLIMMER?

Americans have been overeating -- and eating the wrong kinds of food -- for a long time. It is estimated that 40 percent of Americans are obese and another 32 percent of us are overweight -- which means that three out of every four Americans maintain an unhealthy weight. American men today weigh 30 pounds more than they did 50 years ago and American women now weigh as much as that average American man of 50 years ago.

Americans currently rank in the top 10 among all countries for obesity in the world (those who rank higher than us for obesity mostly are small, developing nations) and we are the most overweight nation of every affluent country on earth.

Diabetes has become epidemic in the U.S. and the economic costs stemming from health issues related to our obese society runs in the billions of dollars, while bringing misery to hundreds of millions of our fellow citizens. During the recent pandemic, the biggest factor (aside from being over the age of 65) for developing a serious case of COVID-19 was being overweight.

However, it would appear that a miracle solution -- in the form of drugs originally meant to treat diabetes that also have been shown to tamp down patients' appetites -- is on the horizon.

These drugs already are being prescribed “off-label” for use as weight-loss drugs and the results thus far have been dramatic. In addition, these drugs also show promise for other medical conditions, such as improving blood pressure and cholesterol levels, improving blood sugar levels in patients with diabetes, delaying the onset of type 2 diabetes, and decreasing the occurrence of repeat heart attacks and strokes in those who have type 2 diabetes.

Wall St. believes that these drugs will have a dramatic effect on our society. The two drug companies who make these drugs, Eli Lilly (Mounjaro) and Novo Nordisk (Ozempic and Wegovy), have seen their stock prices surge, while those in the snack food industry -- the makers of junk food such as Twinkies, Oreos, and Doritos -- have seen their stock prices plummet in recent weeks.

There are still many questions about the efficacy and side effects of these new drugs if they are to be prescribed for weight loss, but the future holds hope that America may have found a “cure” for our obesity epidemic.

Healey-Driscoll Admin. unveils \$4 Billion Affordable Homes Act to increase production and lower costs

Special to the Journal

The Healey-Driscoll Administration today unveiled a \$4 billion plan to jumpstart the production of homes and make housing more affordable across Massachusetts. The Affordable Homes Act, a comprehensive package of spending, policy and programmatic actions, represents the largest proposed investment in housing in the state's history while simultaneously striking at the root causes of housing unaffordability and making progress on the state's climate goals. Governor Maura Healey will be highlighting the package in Chelsea, Springfield and Pittsfield.

This multi-pronged approach includes \$4 billion in capital spending authorizations, 28 substantive policy changes or initiatives, three executive orders and two targeted tax credits. All are directed at reducing barriers to the production and preservation of housing, and giving communities the tools to develop more housing where they need it. The majority of the spending will have benefits for moderate- and low-income households.

In Massachusetts, an infusion of new homes is needed to lower costs, accommodate population growth and achieve a healthy vacancy rate. In combination with the housing development tax credits that were part of the tax relief package signed into law by Governor Healey on October 4, the initiatives in this plan will fund or enable the creation of more than 40,000 homes that otherwise would not be built, including 22,000 new homes for low-income households and 12,000 new homes for middle-income households. In addition, the Affordable Homes Act will preserve, rehabilitate or make resilience improvements to 12,000 homes for low-income households, support more than 11,000 moderate-income households, and fund accessibility improvements for 4,500 homes.

“The cost of housing is

the biggest challenge facing the people of Massachusetts. We said from day one of our administration that we were going to prioritize building more housing to make it more affordable across the state,” said Governor Healey. “The Affordable Homes Act delivers on this promise by unlocking \$4 billion to support the production, preservation and rehabilitation of more than 65,000 homes statewide. It's the largest housing investment in Massachusetts history. Together, we're going to make our state a place where people can afford to move to and stay to build their future.”

“As a former local official, I've seen firsthand how new housing can transform communities and help them flourish.

But we only get those benefits when people can actually afford to live in these homes,” said Lieutenant Governor Driscoll. “The Affordable Homes Act is full of new tools for municipalities to help them implement the solutions that work best for the unique needs of their communities so that they can build consensus and build new homes.”

Recognizing the important role the state's public housing portfolio plays in housing affordability, the Affordable Homes Act also provides significant investment into upgrading this essential asset. A total of \$1.6 billion will provide for the repair, rehabilitation and modernization of

Please see AFFORDABLE HOMES Page 10



Gov. Maura Healey welcomes state and local officials and residents to the program held the Box District Park on Gerrish Avenue in Chelsea.

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FINAL STRETCH SUPPORTERS WITH SEAN REID

Sean Reid for Lynn School Committee ran a final stretch toward election day. He met and greeted each supporter personally at Tony's Pub and Grill.

Everyone was so enthusiastic about Sean Reid's candidacy as he spoke, "You all know what I

am about. I am ready to hit the ground each day of my candidacy and each day on the School Committee. I want to make a positive difference in what is currently going on in our city." Sean continued to say, "Our schools are a catalyst to make

change happen. Also, I will work to improve our schools, develop career pathways, and expand student opportunities. I will be accessible. Call me or text me for a conversation. Thank you all for showing your support to my candidacy for School Committee."

PAT GECOYA PHOTOS



Sean Reid meet Alicia Perez and Niguel Ramirez.



Meaghan Hamill and Christine Donovan for Sean Reid.



Princess Guwor and Louis Lenzie support Sean Reid.



Candidate At-Large Roger Garcia, Schools Committee Lenny Pena, and Norris Guscott at Sean Reid's event at Tony's Pub.



Sean Reid greets Jamie Floyd.



Brother-in-Law Sean Crowley with Sean Reid.



Treasurer/Campaign Manager Vinny Capano and Sean Reid.



Attending Sean's Meet and Greet event - Candidate Don Castle, At-Large Hong Net and Brian LaPierre, Ward 4 Candidate Natasha Megie-Maddrey, Sean Reid, Ward 6 Councilor Fred Hogan, and Ward 1 Candidate Peter Meaney.



Sean Reid's Family - Peter Sheckman, Tricia and Dave Crowley, Maryanne Sheckman, Sean and Kelsey Reid with Patty and John Roderick.



SEAN REID

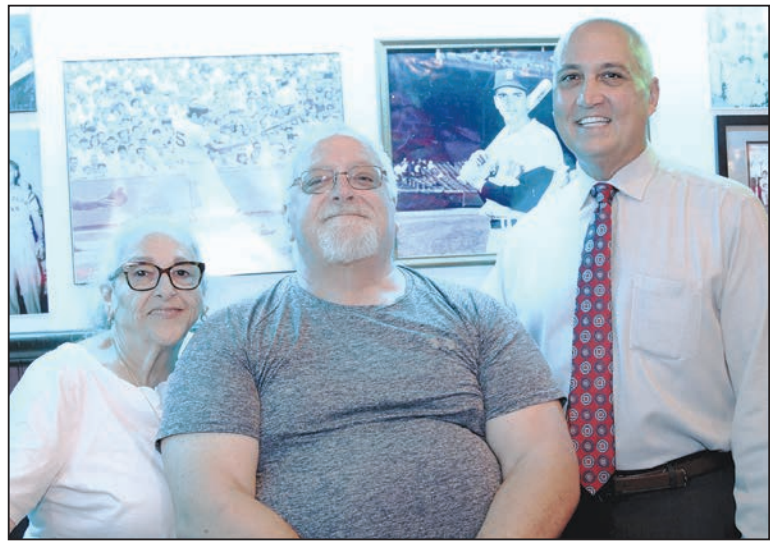
for Lynn School Committee

"A New Generation of Leadership for Our Schools!"

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DONALD CASTLE FOR COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE ON THE FINAL STRETCH

PAT GECOYA PHOTOS



Kevin and Susan Walsh with Don Castle.

Donald Castle is on his final stretch for Councilor-at-Large. Friends and Pine Hill neighbors came to Tony's Pub showing support. Don wants to bring businesses into Lynn, to improve city infrastructure, and to develop a school plan to update facilities and to work toward building a new Pickering Middle School. Don said, "I promise to work hard for Lynn." He is respectful, honest, and has integrity to serve on the City Council as Councilor-at-Large. Vote for Don on November 7th.



Brian Field, Fred Hogan and Alex Pedro with Don Castle.



Joe Ortega, Maria Primiterra, JD Ortega, and Walquira Leguisamon for Don Castle as Councilor-at-Large.



Friends of Don Castle – Obed Matul, Sean Reid, Brian LaPierre, Don Castle, Wayne Lozzi, Hong Net, Damon Mitchem, Chris Gomez.



Yoleny Ynoa, Jerry Powers, and Rev. Posan Ung meet Don Castle.



Pine Hill Neighbors Support Don Castle for Councilor-at-Large.

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for all voices



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LHAND HOSTS 25TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Friday, September 15, The Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Development (LHAND) hosted its 25th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament at Gannon Municipal Golf Course. Since starting the fundraiser in 1998, the agency has been able to award scholarships to over 200 students and Awards of Merit to over 75 community active high school seniors. In this time, LHAND has raised close to a total of \$500,000 in donations. The contributions from our generous donors have allowed for the advancement of students' education as well as the city of Lynn entirely.

This year's tournament consisted of a total of 71 donors and 90 golfers. Our corporate level sponsor was once again Jimmy Connors of McGrath Enterprises.

OBTEK Services was the cart sponsor, while Eastern Bank and Salem Five sponsored the event's dinner. The Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament's continuous success would not be possible without the support of our community partners and LHAND staff who donate both time and money to our fundraiser.

The executive director of LHAND, Charles Gaeta, said "LHAND is proud to organize such an important cause that continues to flourish each year. We are committed to positive change in the community and our fundraiser allows such an impact to continue. We look forward to receiving 2024 scholarship applications and are excited to be part of student's educational endeavors".



The staff (left to right) are John Ladd, Charlie Gaeta (LHAND's Executive Director), Mayor Jared Nicholson, and Peggy Phelps.



OBTEK Services. From left to right, Dan Gates (co-owner), Cj Gheringhelli, Dan Neary, and John Barry (co-owner).

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SANDRA LOPEZ SEEKS SCHOOL COMMITTEE SEAT

Photos by Patrick Gecoya

Sandra Lopez announced a run for Lynn School Committee to friends and supporters. She wants to serve the Lynn commu-

nity to benefit educational needs of the youth as she stated, "I want parents to become more involved with their children's education. My initial focus is on the family structure. It is important to

watch how the child will develop in the classroom." Sandra feels an educational team consisting of Parents, Teachers, Adjustment Counselors, and Social Workers needs to monitor a student's

progress in school and to include scheduled parental meetings for the betterment of a child's success.

Special Educational services should be maintained within the Lynn school system, not transferred outside of the city according to Sandra. She continued to explain, "Services should be expanded to give challenging

students more opportunities to grow. Also, in today's society it demands that our students prepare for essential career pathways after graduation either toward college or with vocational training to become successful and productive citizens."

Her educational motto states "If you help today ... tomorrow will not be late."



Sandra Lopez for School Committee with supporters and friends.



Candidates for Councilor-at-Large meet Sandra Lopez - Jose Encarnacion, Roger Garcia, Sandra Lopez, At-Large Brian LaPierre and At-Large Hong Net.



Sandra Lopez greets former School Committee member Maria Carrasco, School Committee member & Ward 4 Candidate Donna Coppola, with Domingo Dominguez.



Lynn Candidates meet Sandra Lopez for School Committee - School Committee Stacy Bryant-Brown, Ward 2 Elizabeth Figueroa, Sandra Lopez, Ward 4 Natasha Megie-Madrey, and School Committee Judith Wilson.



SANDRA M LOPEZ

Lynn School Committee

Teaching, correcting and directing

Are the key to education.

Paid political advertisement

Healey announces state's emergency family shelter system approaching capacity

Gov. Maura Healey announced that, by the end of October, the state will no longer be able to add additional units to its emergency shelter system for families experiencing homelessness. For months, the state's emergency family shelter system has been expanding at an unsustainable rate to meet rising demand driven by increasing numbers of newly arriving migrant families and slower exits of families in long-term emergency shelter stays. The state will not be able to accommodate more than 7,500 families, or approximately 24,000 individuals, and will likely hit this number by the end of the month.

As of October 16, there are nearly 7,000 families with children and pregnant women in emergency shelter, including newly arrived migrant families and longtime Massachusetts residents. About half of the individuals in emergency shelter are children.

Governor Healey also announced several actions that her administration is taking ahead of this next phase of the emergency shelter system, including appointing Lieutenant General L. Scott Rice as Emergency Assistance Director and prioritizing helping families who have been in shelter long-term to exit into more permanent housing options.

"For months now, we have been expanding shelter capacity at an unsustainable rate to meet rising demand. Despite the heroic work of public officials, shelter providers and the National Guard, we have reached a point where we can no longer safely or responsibly expand," said Governor Maura Healey. "Lt. General Rice has extensive experience leading large scale emergency management operations, and we are confident he is the right person to lead us through this new phase of the emergency shelter system. We will continue to help families exit shelter and move into more permanent housing options, connect those who are eligible with work opportunities to support their families, and advocate for the federal government to step up and address this federal problem."

"The Governor and I understand the strain that has been placed on Massachusetts communities over the past year as we have all come together to

ensure that families have access to the shelter and resources they need. Lt. General Rice will be a valuable resource for local officials as we enter this new phase of the emergency shelter program," said Lieutenant Governor Driscoll. "Together, we will move forward on our efforts to connect families with work and permanent housing, while continuing to call on the federal government to help us meet this moment."

Emergency Assistance Director

Governor Healey has appointed Lieutenant General Leon Scott Rice as Emergency Assistance Director. In this role, Lt. General Rice will oversee management and coordination of the emergency shelter system, including leading the administration's Incident Command Team, which was launched in May and includes representatives from multiple state agencies. He will be responsible for implementing this new phase of the emergency shelter system, coordinating directly with local, state and federal officials and other key stakeholders, and updating the Governor and Lieutenant Governor on daily developments.

Lt. General Rice has more than 40 years of experience with the United States Air Force and Air National Guard, retiring as a Lt. General and disabled veteran in 2020. He was the Director of the Air National Guard from 2016-2020, managing a \$11.5 billion budget and more than 100,000 personnel located in every U.S. state and territory. He also served as the Adjutant General (TAG) of the Massachusetts National Guard from 2012-2016, across two gubernatorial administrations. In this role, he led emergency response and post-disaster recovery efforts for Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Irene, the Boston Marathon Bombing and ice storms.

"I'm honored that Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll have placed their faith in me to lead this critical mission to ensure the safety and wellbeing of families in Massachusetts," said Lieutenant General Rice. "I've spent my career leading large scale organizations and emergency response operations, and I've learned that communication and partnership are key to meeting any challenge. This is the approach that I will bring to

this new role, and I look forward to working closely with our local, state and federal partners each step of the way."

Prioritizing Exits from Shelter

Beginning November 1, 2023, the state will no longer be able to add new shelter units. At this time, families seeking shelter will be assessed and those with high needs, such as health and safety risks, will be prioritized for placement. Families who are not immediately connected with shelter will be placed on a waiting list.

The state will be bolstering efforts to assist families with transitioning to stable housing, including assessing families who have been in shelter long-term — over 15 months — and prioritizing helping them exit the shelter system, which is intended to be a short-term, emergency option. The administration will be expanding support for rapid rehousing and rental assistance initiatives, such as HomeBASE, to support these transitions. The HomeBASE program helps eligible homeless families pay their first/last month's rent and security deposits, moving expenses, stipends to help with ongoing housing costs, and other costs that can help families stabilize an existing housing situation or stably rehouse. The state is also calling on the federal government, faith-based organizations and other non-government organizations to help support homeless families.

Other services will still be provided for families seeking emergency shelter, including at the Family Welcome Centers. Families will be assessed for basic needs and offered the opportunity to apply for public benefits through the Department of Transitional Assistance, receive necessities including diapers, hygiene products, and formula, and be referred to community-based resources.

Connecting Shelter Residents with Work Opportunities

A key piece of helping families move out of shelter is connecting them with jobs. With the business community asking for assistance filling open jobs across the state, the administration has launched two new programs to get shelter residents working.

The first is a partnership with Commonwealth Corporation Foundation to develop a new job skills training program to connect businesses to individuals in shel-

ter who are still waiting for their work authorization but looking to gain on-the-job training and skills development. This new program is beginning as a pilot, starting with Salem but with interest in building business partnerships in other shelters and communities over time.

The second program connects MassHire Regional Workforce Boards and careers centers to shelters statewide with the goal of assessing skills and work readiness of residents who have their work authorization. The initial phase of this new program is focused on 14 shelter sites across the state, representing approximately 1,500 families.

The program is a ready showing results. MassHire South Shore is working with Dunkin Donuts to fill 30 employment openings and coordinating with Plymouth Area Coalition shelter provider to connect shelter residents to jobs. MassHire North Central started working with a local shelter that connected one individual with employment at a retail store in Leominster.

Both programs are looking for employers and businesses who want to be partners in these efforts that will help them meet their workforce needs. Interested employers and businesses should contact LWDBusinessinfo@mass.gov.

These new program builds on the four prongs of legal services work the administration has been conducting for months in shelters:

1. Immigrant Assistance Services: In July, the administration launched the Immigrant Assistance Services (IAS) Program led by the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA). The IAS program currently operates largely in staffed shelters, assisting with case management and work authorization, asylum, and Temporary Protected Status applications.

2. Resettlement Agencies Services: In September, the administration launched additional legal aid services led by resettlement agencies. This program focuses on new arrivals who, because of recent changes in federal policy and because these families entered at the border using the CBP1 app, can immediately apply for work authorization.

3. Pro Bono Program: Begin-

ning on October 17, the administration will also launch a Pro Bono Program with immigration organizations to provide services for more than 100 families at large shelters and

4. Legal Services Contract: In late October, the administration will also begin contracting with five legal services agencies to provide services in 25 shelter sites across the state.

The United Way Migrant Relief Fund also supports the essential needs of migrant families, including temporary accommodations, food, clothing, diapers, hygiene items, transportation, health screenings, translation services, ESOL classes and legal assistance. The fund has raised \$1.2 million since it was launched in August. More information can be found at unitedwaymassbay.org/migrantrelief.

Federal Engagement

Governor Healey will continue to use every tool at her disposal to advocate for federal assistance to this federal problem. She has made multiple requests to Department of Homeland Security Secretary (DHS) Alejandro Mayorkas for federal funding and improvements to the work authorization process. She was joined by others from the Attorney General, the State Legislature, the Mass. Business Association, the Boston Archdiocese, and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts. The Governor also conveyed these requests in meetings with the White House Chief of Staff last week and with Secretary Mayorkas in August, as well as a request for the federal government to stand up a congregate care site. Last week, a DHS consultant team visited Massachusetts to evaluate the situation, holding extensive meetings with administration officials over two days and visiting shelters and a Family Welcome Center.

Through its 1115 waiver, MassHealth is requesting federal funding for up to six months of temporary housing assistance and other supports for families and pregnant individuals, including newly arrived immigrants, who are enrolled as MassHealth members, in emergency shelter. These supports include case management and referrals to medical, social, and educational services.

Affordable Homes / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

the state's more than 43,000 public housing units. This includes \$150 million to begin "decarbonizing" public housing through the installation of heat pumps and electric appliances in 3,000 units and another \$15 million for accessibility upgrades.

Another \$200 million would be authorized for the Housing Innovations Fund to support alternative forms of rental housing for people experiencing homelessness, housing for seniors and veterans, and transitional units for persons recovering from substance abuse.

"Our public housing stock

in the Commonwealth has lacked capital investments for decades," said Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus. "The proposed investment by this administration meets the moment. It will create powerful ripples for decades to come to ensure that families and individuals live in communities they can take pride in. The push to spur housing production will also directly help many others across a wide range of incomes who feel they've been priced out here in Massachusetts."

The Affordable Homes Act

makes pivotal investments in green building and decarbonization that align with the administration's climate and housing goals. In addition to helping "green" Massachusetts' public housing stock, the bill includes \$115 million to ensure new affordable housing developments meet increased standards while remaining economically viable. The bill also directs all the state's housing investments to prioritize and incorporate the state's climate and decarbonization goals.

New policy initiatives that would be available to communities include the local option of adopting a real estate transaction fee of 0.5 percent to 2 percent on the portion of a property sale over \$1 million

– or the county median home sale price. This fee—projected to affect fewer than 14 percent of all residential sales—would be paid by the seller of the property with the money to be used to fund affordable housing developments within the community. The Affordable Homes Act would also allow accessory dwelling units less than 900 square feet as of right throughout the state with the ability for communities to set some reasonable restrictions. It is estimated this change could create more than 8,000 accessory dwelling units over five years.

A total of \$1.83 billion would be directed to housing production and preservation in Massachusetts. Highlights include:

- \$800 million for the Af-

fordable Housing Trust Fund to provide resources to create or preserve affordable housing for households whose incomes are not more than 110 percent of area median income; includes up to \$50 million for Mass-Dreams to create first-time homebuyer opportunities for households in Disproportionately Impacted Communities.

- \$425 million for Housing Stabilization and Investment Fund to support preservation, new construction, and rehabilitation projects.

- \$175 million for Housing-Works Infrastructure Program to fund municipal infrastructure projects to encourage denser housing development.

- \$100 million for Commonwealth Builder to spur construction of affordable homeownership opportunities.

- \$100 million for Mixed-Income Housing to support middle-income housing production.

- \$50 million for the Momentum Fund – a new pioneering initiative designed to leverage state resources to support large scale, mixed-income multifamily development.

The Affordable Homes Act would also make the Community Investment Tax Credit Program permanent and increase it from \$12 million to \$15 million per year to support the work of Community Development Corporations. A new Homeownership Tax Credit would be created to spur production of homes affordable to first-time homebuyers earning not more than 120 percent of area median income.

As part of this package, Governor Healey will also sign three executive orders creating a Housing Advisory Council to develop a statewide housing plan, creating an Unlocking Housing Production Commission to develop recommendations for streamlining housing production, and directing state agencies to develop an expanded inventory of state-owned land suitable for housing.

A full breakdown of the Affordable Homes Act's provisions can be found online at www.mass.gov/doc/affordable-homes-act-fact-sheet.

Policy briefs on the Affordable Homes Act can be found online at www.mass.gov/lists/housing-bond-bill.

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OBITUARIES

Robert (Bob) Kodzis

Life Long Entrepreneur who courageously faced down every challenge that life threw at him until his last breath



After a long life filled with love and accomplishments, Robert (Bob) Kodzis, of Saugus passed away on September 28. He was 83 years old.

Bob was born January 25, 1940 to Mary (Ferrante) and Ronald Rose. He lost his father, Ronald, at the age of 8 and was lovingly adopted by his second father, John Kodzis at age 13.

Bob was a graduate of Saugus High school, Class of 1957. He fell in love with and married Joan Malcolm of Everett and enlisted in the coast guard shortly after high school. After two years of active duty he returned to Saugus to help raise his growing family.

But there was a burgeoning entrepreneur inside Bob Kodzis.

At age 28, he opened Kodzis Barber Shop in Saugus Center where he proceeded to cut the hair of every child and half the adults in Saugus. He built a great reputation among his customers and developed a loyal clientele.

Bob left the haircutting business when his friend Art Charleton introduced him to the Amway Corporation. It would become the professional love of his life and Bob would go on to become the 68th Diamond Direct Distributor in the history of the company. He developed a legendary reputation for his ability



to inspire audiences and individuals. Some even reached out to him through social media during the last year of his life, to thank him for his support, leadership and inspiration...fifty years after he left the organization.

After Amway, Bob enjoyed a

long and prosperous career as an executive at Manpower, Inc. before becoming a Realtor in New Hampshire.

Bob adored his family, quality brands, designer ties and tailored suits, his antique Cadillac, daily crossword puzzles and the sense of humor shared by his six children. He was a collector and sharer of clever words and profound quotes, and he knew more about Rolls Royce automobiles than almost anyone. Throughout his challenging life, Bob proved to be a very resilient human being. He survived many health emergencies, conquering cancer twice. He courageously faced down every challenge that life threw at him until his last breath.

Bob was dearly loved and will be so missed by his six children, fifteen grandchildren, four great grandchildren and one great-

great grandchild. They include:

Daughter, Kim Harrington, her husband, Jim, granddaughters, Tara and Julia and grandson, Jimmy and his wife, Julia; great grandchildren, Devaughn and Bella, great grandson Brandon, his wife Kim and great-great granddaughter, Adeline.

Daughter, Joni Furey, her husband, Mike, and grandsons, Michael and Tyler and grandson, Derek, his wife, Christine and great granddaughter, Zara.

Son, Bob Kodzis Jr., his wife, Patti, grandchild, Devon and husband, Nick and grandson, Sam.

Daughter, Jayne LaFay, her husband, Joe, granddaughter,

Gracie and grandson, Robert.

Son, John Kodzis, his wife, Heather, granddaughter, Ruby and grandsons, Johnny and Nicholas

Daughter, Vikki DiCredico, her husband, Kenny and grandsons, Kody and Kyle

Donations may be made in Bob's honor to the USA Clydesdale Preservation Foundation in Gilbert Arizona. USA Clydesdale Preservation Foundation.org

At his request, no public services will be held for Bob Kodzis. But his family will celebrate him together in a way that will make Bob laugh and feel their love.

OBITUARIES
All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper. Includes photo.No word Limit. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

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Report to our Riders



Acting Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt joins MBTA General Manager Phil Eng, Senator Brendan P. Crighton, Representative Jennifer Balinsky Armini, Representative Daniel Cahill, Representative Peter Capano, Representative Donald Wong, City of Lynn Mayor Jared C. Nicholson, former Lynn Mayor and MBTA Board Member Thomas M. McGee, City Councilors Coco Alinsug, Frederick W. Hogan, Nicole D. McClain, and Executive Director of Commuter Rail Michael Muller along with other leaders at the construction site.

The MBTA is proud to announce that we, along with our partners at Keolis, have accelerated the construction of a temporary platform for our Lynn Commuter Rail riders. We anticipate service operating at the Lynn temporary platform before the end of 2023. This launch is ahead of schedule, nine months sooner than anticipated.

The Lynn Commuter Rail service is vital to this community. Access to transit strengthens regional connectivity and makes it easier for area residents to access job opportunities, educational institutions, and healthcare services in Boston. We look forward to making continued progress for the Lynn community.

Lynn has a bright economic future ahead and the MBTA wants to be a partner to its residents and those who want to visit this city.



Image of the Future Temporary Platform

Phil Eng

Phil Eng
General Manager & CEO

Building a better T.
[MBTA.com/LynnStation](https://www.mbta.com/LynnStation)

