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# THE LYNN JOURNAL

Friday, January 15, 2024



PAT GECOYA PHOTO

City Councilors take the Oath of Office from Honorable Justice Cesar A. Archilla.

## 2024 City of Lynn Inauguration Ceremony

Special to the Journal

Four new Lynn Councilors took the Oath of Office joining seven current members on the Council. This new Council makes up a diverse group for the next two years. They bring a personal talent with a professional style. They are business owners, a dentist, and an attorney. They

all work hard to achieve and are ready to move the City of Lynn forward in a new direction.

The new Councilors include Ward 1 Dr. Peter Meaney, Ward 2 Obed Matul, Ward 4 Attorney Natasha Megie-Maddrey, and Councilor at Large Nicole McClain. Other Councilors are At-Large Brian Field, Brian LaPierre, and Hong Net with Ward 3

Coco Alinsug, Ward 5 Vice-President Dianna Chakoutis, Ward 6 Fred Hogan, and Ward 7 President John Walsh.

The School Committee has two new members – Sean Reid and Andrea Satterwhite. Both bring knowledge to the committee. Andrea Satterwhite has

Please see INAUGURATION Page 5

## City invests \$2.2 million in affordable housing

Special to the Journal

In 2022, the City created the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) and designated \$3 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to the trust. To date, more than \$2.2 million has been invested to increase affordable housing opportunities in Lynn.

The Affordable Housing Trust Fund has awarded:

- \$1.25 million to Preservation of Affordable Housing for pre-de-

velopment funding (\$75,000) and acquisition of the Olympia Square Apartments (\$1,175,000) to preserve affordability. POAH will be using the predevelopment funding to create 30-40 units of affordable housing on an adjacent parking lot, likely including at least 10 parking spaces on the ground floor and approximately 2,000 square feet of commercial space.

- \$509,000 to the Latino Support Network for a proposed project that will result in six in-

come-restricted homeownership condominiums affordable to households earning up to 60 and 80 percent AMI.

- \$400,000 for a Housing Program Manager function over several years

- \$75,000 to the Commonwealth Land Trust for the Casa Project, a 36-unit development with eight units at or below 30 percent area median income (AMI) and the other 28 units at

Please see HOUSING Page 2

## Lynn Rams cheer teams have a season to remember

### Lynn 8-U cheer team takes fifth at Nationals

By Cary Shuman

The twenty athletes on the Lynn Rams 8-U cheer team will forever remember their first appearance in the American Youth Cheer (AYC) National Cheer Championships in Kissimmee, Florida.

The talented team, led by head coach Aleyah Bryant, assistant coach Natashaly Elwell, and team mom Ami Cashman, finished fifth in the tournament that brought together teams from across the country.

Bryant, who is in her second year as head coach of the Rams, said her team earned its invitation to Florida by advancing from local and state competitions in Lowell and regionals in Providence.

After their success at regionals, the athletes and their families continued their season-long fundraising efforts that helped defray

the expenses for their plane trips and hotel stay in Florida.

Once in Florida, the Lynn team had to make its way through the semifinals on Friday, Dec. 8. In an exciting atmosphere in a packed arena, the Lynn team performed a precise, well-choreographed, two-and-a-half-minute routine. “They did awesome,” said Bryant. “We came in fourth place [Friday] and that allowed us to go to Super Sunday, where we placed fifth in the nation.”

The Lynn 8-U team’s accomplishment followed up on last year’s team making it to regionals.

“It’s been a great run,” said Bryant, who previously coached in the Lynn Chargers organization before the merger with the Rams two years ago. “These girls are very talented. A lot of the

Please see CHEER Page 7



The Lynn Rams 8-U Cheer Team advanced to the 2023 AYC National Championships in Florida. Front row, from left, are Esmeralda Colon, Larisa Lion, Kwinn Dellazoppa, Kenna Dellazoppa, and Aaniya Cordy. Middle row, are Noelle Cashman, Milani Rivera, and Analeesia Colon.

# EDITORIAL

## DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. NEVER GAVE UP

For those of a certain age, it is hard to imagine that 2024 will mark 56 years since the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis while he was standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel on April 4, 1968. Recalling how we felt when he first heard the news of Dr. King's murder still brings chills and a deep sense of sadness that never has subsided.

For those who are too young to have been alive in that era of American history, there are a few things that everyone should know about Dr. King that should provide inspiration to all of us.

First, Dr. King was fearless. He knew from the inception of his rise to prominence of the Civil Rights movement that he would become a target for those who opposed change. Yet, even though he often told others that he believed his death would be imminent, he did not relent in his fight to continue his work in the civil rights movement.

Second, Dr. King stood for the rights of all Americans, not merely those of color. He was in Memphis working with striking sanitation workers, whose pay and working conditions he was seeking to help improve. He was an outspoken critic of the Vietnam War because he knew it to be an unjust war, not only for poor Americans who could not get a college deferment for the draft, but also for the people of Vietnam, whose homeland was being bombed into oblivion at great profit for the American military-industrial complex.

If Dr. King were alive in the present era, there is no doubt that he would have been in the forefront of the Black Lives Matter movement that has highlighted the ongoing racism and economic inequality that oppresses Americans of all races today.

Dr. King's words ring as true today as they did two generations ago; his "I Have A Dream" and "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speeches are among the most powerful not only in American history, but in all of Western civilization.

All of us should learn from the example set by Dr. King that in each of us is the power to change the world -- that each of us has the capacity to inspire others, whether through our words or deeds, whether on a small or large scale, to make the world a better place.

Many of our fellow citizens have followed the path set by Dr. King and many more will do so in the years ahead. So as we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day this Monday, let us recall not only his memory and the many things that he accomplished, but let us also resolve never to give in to the forces of intolerance, prejudice, and hate that continue to plague our country and the world today.

## REPLACE BELICHICK? GOOD LUCK WITH THAT!

As we are writing this at the beginning of the week, there is rampant speculation that the Patriots are going to fire Bill Belichick, who undeniably is the greatest football coach of all time.

Yes, he had a great quarterback in Tom Brady, but Belichick's genius was in taking players such as Brady (who, after all, was the 200th pick in the draft) and turning them into pros who could fill a niche (Teddy Bruschi, Julian Edelman, and Kevin Faulk being prime examples) on his teams. Belichick's Patriots were a classic case of the sum of the whole being greater than the sum of the parts in much the same way that Red Auerbach, another coaching genius, did for the Celtics.

Belichick's attention to detail was unparalleled, which explains why he routinely could allow great players to leave -- think Lawyer Milloy, Ty Law, Richard Seymour, Vince Wilfork, etc. -- and still be able to turn unheralded replacements into top-notch players.

To be sure, Bill Belichick wasn't perfect -- we still have never heard a logical explanation for why he did not play Malcolm Butler in that Super Bowl with Philly -- but when you look around at all of the so-called "new wave" of football coaches, there is a lot of mediocrity, and even the best are not in his league. (The only current coach who comes close to Belichick is an old school guy, Andy Reid of Kansas City.)

The Patriots need to rebuild and if there's anyone who knows how to do that, it is Bill Belichick (although even he will have a hard time unless the Pats can draft a quarterback who can compete with Ryan Allen, Mahomes, Tua, Joe Burrow, Lamar Jackson, Justin Herbert, and C.J. Stroud).

Our prediction is this: If Belichick goes, whoever is his replacement will last about three years -- and the Pats and their fans will realize that there was only one Bill Belichick, the G.O.A.T.

## Housing / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

or below 50 percent AMI.

"These are meaningful steps and the type of investment we envisioned when creating the Affordable Housing Trust Fund," said Mayor Jared C. Nicholson. "The projects funded thus far will not only add affordable units, but also maintain existing units, ensuring that residents can stay in their homes."

The City Council approved an ordinance in June of 2022 establishing the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which, in tandem with an inclusionary zoning policy, is designed to provide the City tools to address the critical issue of housing affordability.

"We are actively using this important tool to make meaningful investments to help members of our community gain and retain access to housing that is safe and affordable," said Nicholson, who thanked the members of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund board for their work on mov-

ing this initiative forward.

One of the recommendations that came out of the City's Housing Production Plan was to upgrade existing housing stock that could be accessible to current residents in neighborhoods throughout the City.

"The Affordable Housing Trust Fund is a tool that was looked upon favorably by residents who were involved in the Housing Production Plan process," said Charles Gaeta, executive director of the Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development. "Having the trust in place complements the work we are doing to increase affordable housing opportunities."

In conjunction with the establishment of the Affordable Housing Trust, the City hired Sophia Yero as housing program manager. Yero, who holds a bachelor's and MBA from Florida Atlantic University, is charged with driving positive change through innovative housing solutions.

# THE LYNN JOURNAL

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**LOCAL STUDENTS**  
*EARN ACADEMIC HONORS*

**MALDEN CATHOLIC STUDENTS FROM LYNN, ACHIEVE HONOR ROLL**

Malden Catholic students have completed the coursework required for the first quarter of the 2023-2024 school year. The school has three categories for outstanding academic performance honors: President's List (90 - 100 in all classes), First Honors (85 to 89 in all classes), and Second Honors (80 to 84 in all classes).

President's List (90 to 100 in all classes)

Evelyn Luna  
Lena Rodriguez Aguila  
Henry Sadivar Salgado  
First Honors (85 to 89 in all classes)

Destiny Fotabong  
Precious Kamara  
Botao Mo  
Helen Nguyen  
Janeale Suello Smith  
Second Honors (80 to 84 in all classes)

Austin Argant  
Ariana Benedith  
Sabrina Sildivar Salgado  
Yolandy Vargas-Ventura  
Since 1932, Malden Catholic High School has shaped emerg-

ing 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 renown universities including Harvard, Dartmouth, Georgetown, Brown, Cornell, Tufts, Duke, Georgia Tech, Boston College, Northeastern, Boston University and Amherst College. 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 (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with electives such as Robotics and Engineering Design. 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.malden-catholic.org>.

**Lynn offers curbside composting**

The Lynn Department of Public Works is partnering with Black Earth Compost, a full-service composting company, to offer curbside composting across the city. Composting is a process that recycles organic waste to become needed nutrients for soil and helps to divert food waste from trash.

Residents can register to receive a curbside bin along with compostable liners. Using the bin, households will collect compostable items including food scraps, soiled paper products, and certified compostable service ware. Residents can then schedule a recurring time for pick-up by Black Earth Compost.

In the spring, residents utilizing this service will receive a voucher for a cubic foot bag of

compost as well as discounts on bulk compost and soil blends.

The first 100 people to register for the program will receive a free composting starter kit, which includes a bin and liners.

"We are pleased to make this program available to residents as we try to enhance the sustainability model throughout the city," said Mayor Jared C. Nicholson.

"This partnership with Black Earth Compost is a great first step toward limiting the amount of food waste in our trash," said Lisa Nerich, DPW associate commissioner. "We are hopeful that the residents of Lynn will participate in this program"

For more information or to register for the curbside composting program, visit [lynnma.gov](http://lynnma.gov).

**Boston nonprofit acquires senior affordable housing in Lynn**

Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) has acquired Olympia Square Apartments, a 44-unit, 100% Section 8, fully occupied senior housing building in Lynn, just north of Boston. Formerly known as the Sweetser Block, the building was constructed in 1874 and originally housed a shoe manufacturing operation. The property was converted to apartments during the early 1980s and has two ground-floor commercial tenants.

With its convenient location in the center of downtown Lynn and just a short walk from an MBTA commuter-rail station, Olympia Square has always enjoyed high levels of occupancy but in recent years it suffered from deferred maintenance and the previous owner sought a preservation-minded buyer with the capacity to recapitalize it.

Olympia Square is home to a diverse and active group of seniors who love their building and community but wanted to see improvements. The renovations will include full window and roof replacement, life-safety and HVAC overhauls, and upgrades to apartment kitchens and bathrooms. The start of that work is targeted for late 2025.



Olympia Square Apartments was recently acquired by POAH.

"Creating new opportunities for affordable housing, and preserving long-term affordability of existing housing, are central components of CEDAC's mission. The acquisition and preservation of the Olympia Square Apartments in Lynn is a major accomplishment by POAH and will provide much needed affordable housing in the community," said Roger Herzog, Executive Director of the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation (CEDAC).

"CEDAC was proud to partner with POAH and our participating lender, The Life Initiative, to provide critical acquisition fi-

nancing that will help to advance the project's development and looks forward to continuing to work with them and other state and community partners as the project moves forward."

Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) is a nonprofit developer, owner and operator of more than 13,000 affordable rental apartments nationwide (3,700 in Massachusetts including 711 north of Boston). POAH's primary mission is to preserve, create and sustain affordable, healthy homes that support economic security, racial equity, and access to opportunity for all. [www.poah.org](http://www.poah.org)

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# DCR and Greenbelt announce conservation restriction on Lynn Woods, permanently protecting the park from development

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Greenbelt, Essex County's Land Trust (Greenbelt), today announced they have partnered to protect more than 2,000 acres of Lynn Woods, as part of a decades-long effort with the City of Lynn to permanently preserve the park and ensure it remains an important recreational resource for the region and a supplier of clean water for city residents. DCR and Greenbelt were gifted a conservation restriction on Lynn

Woods Reservation by the City and the Lynn Water and Sewer Commission, who own and manage the land.

"At DCR, we have a tremendous opportunity to improve the health and happiness of our residents across Massachusetts by preserving access to beautiful parks around the state like Lynn Woods," said DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo. "We are grateful to Mayor Nicholson, Greenbelt and the Friends of Lynn Woods for their partnership in ensuring

this remarkable landscape is permanently protected from development and that it will serve as a source for recreation and clean water for the region for generations to come."

"Lynn Woods is a tremendous natural resource that is enjoyed year-round by our entire region and beyond," said Senator Brendan Crighton. "Thank you to DCR, Greenbelt, Essex County's Land Trust and the dedicated advocates, particularly the Friends of Lynn Woods, who fought tire-

lessly to protect this gem. Due to their efforts, Lynn Woods will continue to be a source of recreation and sustainability for generations to come."

"This will ensure that this incredible public resource will be protected for present and future generations," said Representative Peter Capano.

"While progress and development are essential, we must also recognize the intrinsic value of Lynn Woods and the beauty that it contributes to our community," said Representative Dan Cahill. "I believe in striking a balance between growth and preservation. Restricting future development of our public lands is a commitment to safeguarding the natural splendor that defines our region and sustains the well-being of current and future generations."

"Lynn Woods is a treasure in our community, and we are committed to prioritizing preservation initiatives that support our outdoor recreation spaces," said City of Lynn Mayor Jared Nicholson. "Permanently conserving the Woods ensures that this space will continue to be enjoyed for generations."

"What a wonderful place Lynn Woods is - a huge, green treasure for the residents of Lynn and all of us in the region! In addition to all the benefits of its walking trails and water supplies, Lynn Woods is nature's air conditioner for the neighborhoods of Lynn," said Kate Bowditch, president of Greenbelt. "Greenbelt's analysis has identified Lynn Woods as the most valuable 'urban cooling' property in all of Essex County, and its permanent protection will mean those benefits will be there for future generations, who may need Lynn Woods even more than we do now."

"The forward-thinking Lynn residents who, one hundred and thirty years ago, donated their land and money to give us the Lynn Woods deserve to have their act of generosity remembered," said Jane Kelley, president of the Friends of Lynn Woods. "I can think of no better way to thank them than to preserve and protect their gift for future generations."

Lynn Woods was one of the first - and for a time the largest - municipal parks in the country. In 1870, the then Lynn Water

Board, now known as the Lynn Water and Sewer Commission, acquired the land that would become Breed's Pond following a destructive fire in the city the previous year. In 1889, Frederick Law Olmsted, the landscape architect behind Boston's Emerald Necklace, advised the City of Lynn that the site should be left undeveloped and preserved in its natural state for local residents to enjoy. In 1890, Lynn voters approved the creation of what was then the 998-acre Lynn Woods. The park, which stretches through Lynn, Saugus and Lynnfield, has since grown to the more than 2,100 acres it is today and includes more than 30 miles of trails for hiking, running, skiing, biking, and walking, as well as three water reservoirs.

Over the years, Lynn Woods Reservation has become an important place for those in the surrounding urban communities seeking open, green space, however, it faced threats of development over the years with proposals including a golf course and rerouting Route 95.

In 2001, the state acquired 40.5 acres of the reservation in Saugus to protect it from a threat of development on the shores of Walden Pond.

This conservation recreation - one of the state's largest - will now permanently protect the precious forestland from future development and ensure it continues to not only provide outdoor recreation, but also protects treasured natural, cultural and water resources for the public. As an urban park, the forestland also serves as an important resource in protecting area residents from the impacts of climate change.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Brian Arrigo, the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).



**Catholic Schools**  
United in Faith and Community

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January 28 - February 3

#CSW24

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*The fact that all members of a Catholic school community share the Christian vision of faith that Christ is the foundation of Catholic education is what unites the school as a faith-filled community.*

*While faith is the binding element in Catholic schools, the Church reiterates that parents are the first teachers of their children. Holding this tenet, Catholic school communities expand beyond the walls of school buildings to envelop the family as an integral part of the school community. Together teachers, administrators, staff, students and parents fuel the light of faith by integrating culture with faith and faith with living.*

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# Inauguration/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PAT GECOYA PHOTOS



The Honorable Cesar A. Archilla, First Justice at Haverhill District Court, gives the Oath to Office to the Lynn School Committee.

a nursing background and Sean Reid is a staff member for State Senator Brendan Crighton. Other School Committee members are Brian Castellanos, Eric Dugan, Lorraine Gately, and Lenny Pena.

Giving the Invocation was Pastor Kurt Lange while Honorable Cesar A. Archilla First Justice at Haverhill District Court gave the Oaths of Office. Presentation of Colors were Honor Guards of the Lynn Police, Lynn Fire, and Lynn English MC-JR-ROTC. Lynn Public Schools All-City Band played "Salute to America" and "Salute to America's Finest." Major Jared Nicholson gave Remarks and looks forward working with the Councilors and the School Committee.

Congratulations to the City Councilors and School Committee members ready to serve the City of Lynn.



John Walsh elected Council President, and Ward 5 Dianna Chakoutis elected as Council Vice-President. Also pictured is Councilor-at-Large Hong Net (left).



Lynn English MC-JR-ROTC Honor Guard.



New City of Lynn Officials – Andrea Satterwhite N.P., Sean Reid, Nicole McClain, Obed Matu, Natasha Megie-Maddrey, Esq., and Dr. Peter Meaney.



Bag Pipe musician Ned Shinnick open up the ceremony.



Honorable Cesar A. Archilla, Mayor Jared Nicholson, and Pastor Kurt Lange.

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# SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS ARRIVE IN LYNN ON CHRISTMAS EVE FOR THE ANNUAL PARADE

It was a warm and clear December 24th, last Sunday evening when the Annual Santa Claus Christmas Parade left for the 23-mile tour across the city.

Boston Street as well as all the other along the route were filled with families and friends, all waiting to give a holiday wave to Santa and Mrs. Claus. Many thanks to all that planned

and participated in the parade. Thanks goes out to the Lynn Police and Fire Departments, and to Michael Zacarria and his crew from Action Emergency Management.

The enthused crowd was greeted by treats thrown to them from parade participants, and who doesn't love a sweet treat after a holiday dinner.



Lynn Youth Soccer was represented.



A big holiday wave for everyone.



Lots of ATVs in the parade.



Many characters in the parade.



You're a mean one-Mr. Grinch. Looking for toys to steal along the route.



Natasha Wade with Jaxson and Julian Christiansen.



The reindeer brought Santa across Lynn on Christmas Eve.



Holli, Luis, Marianna and Brendan Mareno with Hannah Olson along Boston Street waiting for the parade.

**Cheer** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

girls have gymnastics or dance training. They work hard and have a positive attitude. They know when it's time for business and when it's time for fun."

Bryant understands the commitment and dedication it takes to excel in cheering, having been an East Lynn Pop Warner cheerleader and a captain of the Lynn English High School cheerleading team, graduating in 2013.

"I participated in the Powder Puff game [versus Lynn Classical], and yes, we won that year," said Bryant.

Bryant, who works as a store manager, said the large trophy from Nationals is "at my house," but it will be on display at the awards banquet when the coaches and athletes celebrate their

outstanding achievement.

Bryant credited the leadership of Lynn Rams president Amy Robinson and cheer director Arielle Brisbon. "Amy's great to work with. She does an excellent job and is awesome to the kids. Everyone admires her. Arielle runs an outstanding cheer program and it's going to continue to grow. I think the girls love being a part of the Lynn Rams and representing the city."

As a testament to this year's success and Bryant's noteworthy ability to make cheering a fun, confidence-building activity, nearly all the 8-U athletes have indicated they will be returning this August – for what they hope will be another run at a national championship.

**A dream season for Brisbon and her team**

By Cary Shuman

Arielle Brisbon has been to the National Cheer Championships as a head coach four consecutive times, but each trip has been very special.

In December, Brisbon's Lynn Rams Cheer 12-U took third place in the AYC Nationals in Kissimmee Florida, one year after her team finished top-5 in the nation. In 2021, the Rams 10-U cheerleaders were national champions. In 2019, her 8-U

team were also national champions.

Interestingly, six of the eight girls on the 2019 team were member of this year's squad. As a sign of the growing popularity of the Lynn Rams cheer program, there were 27 girls on the 2023 team.

"They've won state titles every year, and three regional titles and one second-place," said Brisbon proudly.

Brisbon was a cheerleader herself in the East Lynn Pop Warner

organization and made the varsity team at Lynn English High School, concluding her career a team captain, graduating in 2009.

Currently a certified medical assistant, Brisbon is also studying at North Shore Community College toward a nursing degree.

Despite her busy schedule, Brisbon not only coaches in the Lynn Rams program, but she is the director. Her daughter, Amiyah, is a member of the Lynn

Please see DREAM SEASON Page 10



Representing the Lynn Rams' AYF Cheer and Football teams that qualified for the 2023 National Championships, front row, from left, are 12-U assistant cheer coach and league treasurer Amy Croce, 12-U assistant cheer coach Kaymarie Pizarro, team mom Ami Cashman, 8-U assistant cheer coach Natashaly Elwell, president Amy Robinson, cheer director and 12-U head cheer coach Arielle Brisbon, 12-U assistant cheer coach and registration director Stephanie Castillo, and 8-U head cheer coach Aleyah Bryant. Back row, from left, 12-U head football coach James Hunt and 12-U assistant football coach Vincent Marino.



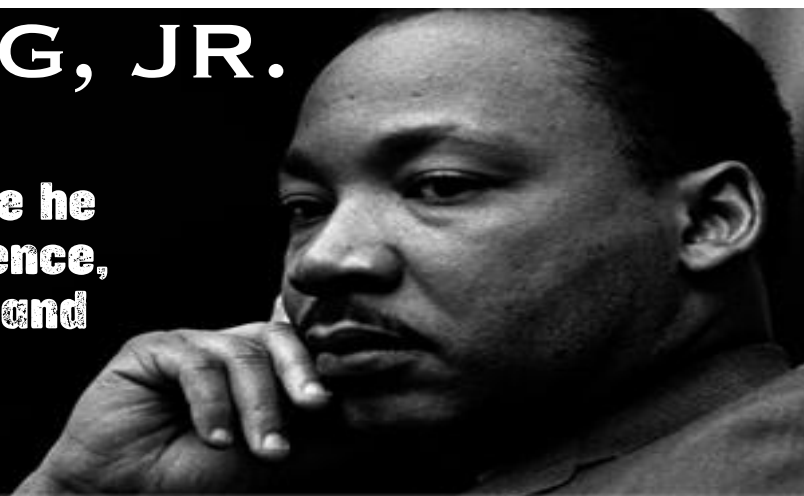
The Lynn Rams 12-U Cheer Team advanced to the 2023 AYF National Championships in Florida. Front row, from left, are Sa'Mya Rivera, Kaisha Colon, Amiyah Brisbon, Aviana Runner, and Kaylee LaCava. Back row, from left, are Coach Kaymarie Pizarro, Coach Amy Croce, Ava Ranahan, Journey Baez, Jasenie Nunez, Jazmin Khundkar, Izabel Miran, Coach Arielle Brisbon, and Coach Stephanie Castillo.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

1929 — 1968

**"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."**

*Martin Luther King Jr.*



**"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."**

Charles Gaeta, Executive Director | Laura Walsh, Chairperson  
Board of Commissioners Susan McGinnis-Lang,  
Steve Martin, Robert Muise, & Justin Anshewitz

# BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

PAT GECOYA PHOTOS

Boys & Girls Club of Lynn Annual Children's Christmas Party brought joy and lots of smiles. Children received gifts and had a delicious meal. Santa Claus appeared and wished children a very Merry Christmas.

Executive Director Brian Therrien was excited along with his staff and volunteers to see children having fun. Brian expressed his heartfelt feelings as he said, "This is an opportunity to celebrate a special moment during the Holidays. Children received a present and enjoyed a wholesome warm meal. We are so fortunate to have many sponsors throughout the community donating gifts to the children. We want children to have a wonderful experience during the Christmas season."



Greeting children were Senior Group Manager Jodi Furlong with Page Driscoll and Ann Marie Joyal of Eastern Bank.



Dan Gisonno as Buddy the Elf and Martin Connolly of Northeastern Mutual distributed candy canes to children.



Children having a jolly time with Site Coordinator Xiomary Garcia-Ce-da and Associate Director Grace Duran



Lynn English MCJR-ROTC volunteers – Ian Adames DeLa Rosa, Ghafous Diallo, Victor Echevarria, Axel Velasquez, Janice Cabral, Alison Castro, Soonjii Charlotin, Laura Rodriguez, Daniel Jupa, Yeyrelin Mercedes, Jesselly Ampudia, Peter Akonde, Moshamimed Jahan, Thomas Ok, Sophia Oeun, and Tasawwar Rayan.



St. Mary's Swim team members, Michele Brewster and Grade 12 Emily Donahue, at a children's table



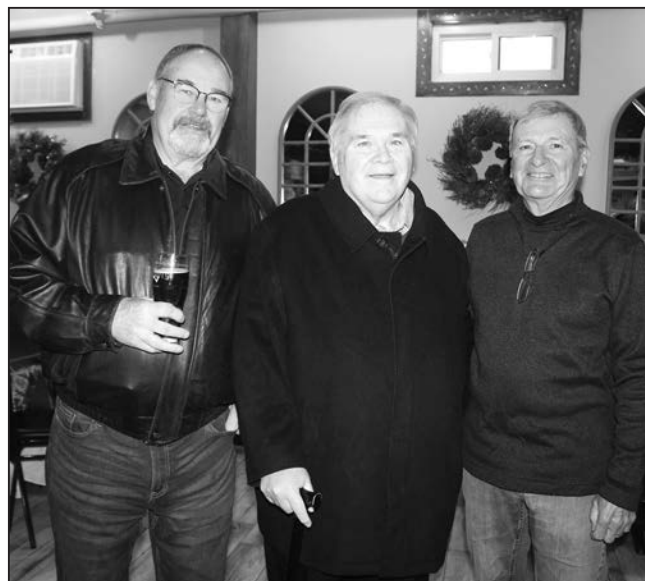
Happy children with Santa Claus, Mike Curley of Blue House Santa, Director of EEC Anima Piccirillo. Associate Director Grace Duran, and Executive Director Brian Therrien with children.



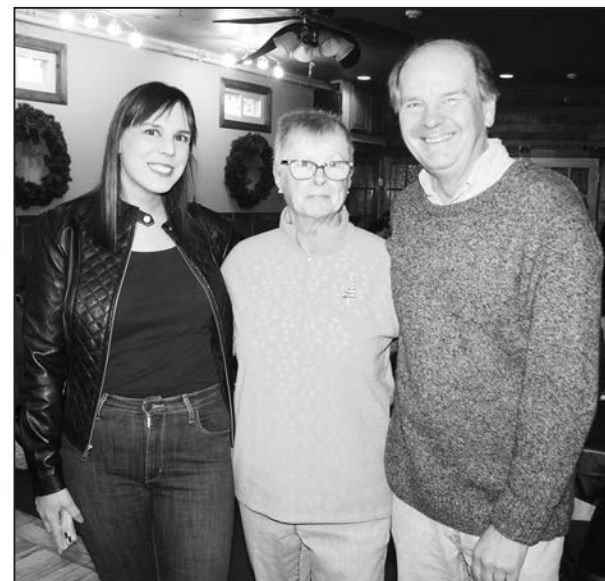
# STEVE KRAUSE 70TH BIRTHDAY AND RETIREMENT



City Councillors Richard Colucci (left) and Diana Chakoutis present a Citation to Lynn resident Steve Krause at his party at Old Tyme Italian Cuisine.



Sports radio broadcasters Tim Kearns (left) and Rick Moore (right) congratulate Steve Krause and wish him a happy 70th birthday at the party at Old Tyme Italian Cuisine.



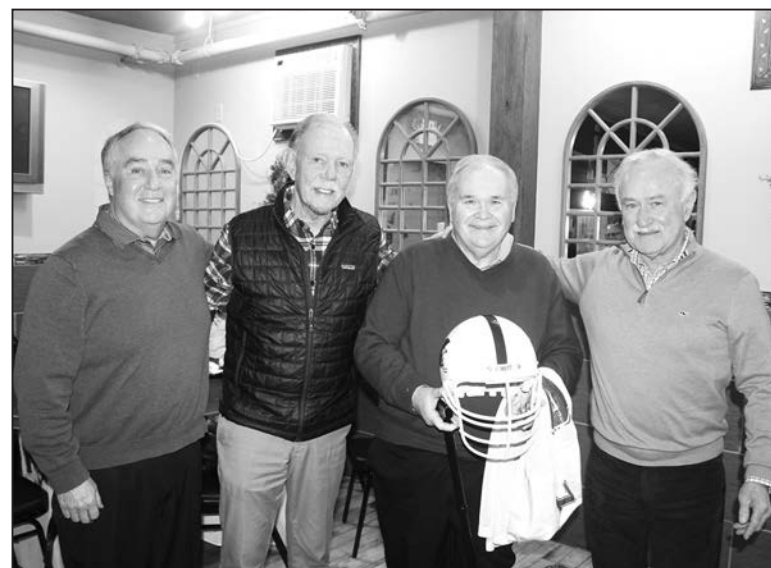
Boston Herald reporter Gayla Cawley, Alison Brotherton, and former Item editor Bill Brotherton.



Journalistic royalty, Steve Krause, and his former Item newspaper colleagues, Bill Brotherton and Joyce Erekson.

Family members, friends, and colleagues attended a surprise 70th birthday party for former Item sports editor Steve Krause on Dec. 17 at Old Tyme Italian Cuisine.

City Councillors Richard Colucci and Diana Chakoutis presented a citation to Krause recognizing his outstanding career in journalism and wishing him health and happiness in his retirement.



Former Saint John's Prep classmates and football teammates, from left, Paul (Dapper) Driscoll, Jim McNulty, Steve Krause, and Dana Hughes. Hughes caught the game-winning pass from quarterback Dave Handy on Halloween 1970 as the Prep football team defeated Swampscott and snapped the Big Blue's 32-game unbeaten streak.



Steve Krause has always had the support and admiration of his family throughout his career in journalism. Pictured with Krause at the birthday/retirement party are Jayne (Krause) Zaya, former St. Mary's ace right-hander Lesley (Zaya) Seeley, Andrew Krause, Kevin Seeley, Linda Krause, and Steve Zaya.



Steve Krause reacts to the warm standing ovation that was accorded to him at his 70th birthday and retirement celebration.

# Dream Season / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

12U team.

Brisbon said her athletes have improved their skills steadily, learning and executing the more intricate maneuvers such as back handsprings and back walkovers that are performed in the higher age divisions.

"The 10U year was probably the most rewarding because they competed against so many teams, were undefeated all season, and still became national champions," said Brisbon.

### Proud of this year's team

The Lynn Rams 12U team welcomed 11 newcomers to cheering last year and three more this year.

"I think once you start doing well in a sport, it attracts more people," said Brisbon. "The goal

is always to keep developing our cheerleaders' skills, which can be challenging with new girls joining the team."

Brisbon said the two-and-half-minute routine at Nationals (that she choreographed) truly showcased her girls' athleticism and teamwork, opening with lifts, tumbling, seven simultaneous backhand springs, pyramids, and twist-ups.

"I can't thank the girls enough for their dedication and determination," said Brisbon. "To qualify for the Nationals is a tremendous achievement. It was an outstanding year. I'm so proud of how far this team has come this year."

The captains of this year's team were Amiyah Brisbon (Arielle's daughter), Lanyeah Reese,

Jayla Antwine, and Jeylah Gaskins.

"We had really good leadership from the captains - along with my staff, assistant coaches, Amy Croce, Stephanie Castillo, Destiny Guy, and team mom, Kaymarie Pizarro, who I wouldn't be able to do this without."

As cheer director, Brisbon also offered her official congratulations to the Lynn 8-U team, who also qualified for Nationals. "I was very proud of how far they advanced this year. It was beautiful to watch," said Brisbon.

Brisbon said she is looking forward to returning to the Lynn Rams cheer program for the 2024 season.

"I'll be back as the director and most likely be heading to the 14-U team," said Brisbon, in an exclusive announcement of her future intentions.

# OBITUARIES

## David Raymond Doucette Of North Dakota, formerly of Lynn

David Raymond Doucette, 68, of Rugby, North Dakota died at his home on December 29.

David was born on January 15, 1955 in Lynn to Raymond and Elsie (Abel) Doucette.

He was raised in Lynn and graduated from high school in Salem in 1973. Even in high school he displayed his talents of woodworking by making furniture and served as a teacher's aide in the class. He continued on working as a woodworker and construction in the area.

He married Caroline Anne Greenleaf on December 30, 1978 in Nashua, New Hampshire.

Dave was employed at CabTech where he worked in the cabinet factory as a woodworker. In 1993, he started SamSara Cues in Nashua and in 2000 moved the company to Rugby, North Dakota. The Company was globally renowned for manufacturing high quality award winning exquisite pool cues.

One of his cues was purchased by Middle Eastern Sultan, Hassan Bolkih of Brunei. The cue was inlaid with precious stones,



various metals, including gold and a variety of exotic woods. The business which is still in operation, was sold in 2019.

He is survived by his wife, Caroline and a sister, Victoria Jane Doucette, and his mother-in-law Ann-Marie Richard. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister Judith Lymburner.

There will be no services held. [www.niewoehnerfh.com](http://www.niewoehnerfh.com).

To place a memoriam  
please call 781-485-0588

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# FREEZIN FOR A REASON CHARITY POLAR PLUNGE

A successful 2024 Freezin for a Reason Polar Charitable Plunge has over one hundred participants diving into the chilly waters at Short Beach in Nahant on New Year's Day. This is a traditional fundraiser to help a family who faced a difficult life incident.

According to George Sonia this plunge has been going on for 16 years as he said, "This year the proceeds will go to the Bag-

ley Family. Our goal is to raise as much money from this event through registration, raffles, and T-shirt sales. The Bagley family experienced a horrible tragedy when the mother lost her life saving her son in a New Hampshire River accident."

This year's event produced the largest turnout, noted Mario Capano. "After the plunge everyone will gather at Rolly's Tavern. Our registration to join this char-

itable event was tremendous. We wish the Bagley Family a Happy New Year, and hopefully, things will get better for them."

"The Sonia and Capano families are over the top with gratitude," said Patti Capano. She said, "Our continuous appreciation to all our donors, friends, and plungers, who attend every year. This was true community love from everyone supporting the Bagley Family."



Leading the charge for the Polar Plunge.



Bagley, Resse, and Stevens Family members.



The Leonard Team – Matt, Tim, and Terese with Brendan Wilkinson.



Cal's News Barry Calvani with Mario Capano and George Sonia.



Lynn Police Chief Chris Reddy and his ready and go team.



## Report to our Riders

# Lynn Commuter Rail Station Opens



Ellis Street Platform (with accessibility ramp shown on the right).

The MBTA and Keolis are proud to announce the opening of temporary platforms located at Lynn Commuter Rail Station, nine months ahead of schedule.

The MBTA is pleased to resume Commuter Rail service to Lynn and reconnect communities and the public we serve through public transportation.

Riders traveling inbound to Boston can board the train from the **Ellis Street** parking lot and outbound riders can board through the walkway beside the Senior Center on **Friend Street**. The pedestrian connection between the platforms uses the existing sidewalks under the **Silsbee Street Bridge**. The interim station is fully accessible with ramps to each platform.

We know that public transit is vital to strengthening regional connectivity and fueling economic opportunities. Lynn has a bright future ahead and the MBTA and Keolis are pleased to be partners in supporting that.

KEOLIS



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[MBTA.com/LynnStation](https://www.mbta.com/LynnStation)