



# THE LYNN JOURNAL

Friday, January 26, 2024



## LYNN CITY COUNCIL HONORS RETIRING CITY COUNCILORS LOZZI, STARBARD, AND COLUCCI



Pictured at the Lynn City Council recognition ceremony for its retiring councilors are, from left, City Clerk Janet Rowe, retiring Ward 4 Councilor Richard Colucci, Mayor Jared Nicholson, City Council President Jay Walsh, retiring Ward 4 Councilor Richard Colucci, retiring Ward 2 Councilor Rick Starbard, and Executive Assistant to the City Council Terry Young. See Page 3 for more photos.

## Meet Lynn's Major League Prospect

### Deniel Ortiz's baseball career is soaring high

By Cary Shuman

If hitting a baseball is a science, Deniel Ortiz is Albert Einstein. If hitting a baseball is an art, Deniel Ortiz is Pablo Picasso.

The 19-year-old Ortiz's local coach and mentor, Julio Henriquez, owner of The Dugout, a baseball training facility on Linden Street, said he has proudly watched Ortiz's amazing development from a 14-year-old high school freshman player to his status as a rising junior college

superstar.

"When you see Deniel's immense talent and get to know him personally, he's the definition of a baseball player," said Henriquez. "You can tell that he was made to play the game of baseball."

Indeed, in a recent public workout at The Dugout, Ortiz, who is 6-feet-2 and 225 pounds, crushed each pitch at will, unleashing technically sound, ferocious swings in the style of

Please see ORTIZ Page 2



Lynn's Deniel Ortiz has been attracting the attention of Major League Baseball League teams after a sensation season in the Walters State Community College baseball program.

## Mayor Nicholson will deliver his State of the City Address Jan. 30

Staff Report

Lynn Mayor Jared Nicholson will deliver his State of the City Address Tuesday, Jan. 30 at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Nicholson, a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School, will speak about the numerous accomplishments of his mayoral administration and outline his goals for 2024.

In a letter to residents, Mayor Nicholson wrote:

"In 2023, we took bold steps

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Lynn Mayor Jared Nicholson'

## Swampscott baseball field will be named in honor of Frank DeFelice

By Cary Shuman

The Town of Swampscott honored its legendary coach Frank DeFelice during an impressive ceremony before the Winthrop-Swampscott boys basketball game January 16.

The Swampscott Select Board of Selectmen voted last week to name the Swampscott baseball field, the Frank DeFelice Diamond, with a formal dedication set for this spring.

A large and supportive crowd of Coach DeFelice's former players and assistant coaches, family members, and friends attended the ceremony.

The inscription on the plaque that was presented to Mr. DeFelice, by two of his former Swampscott High students and athletes, Steve Bulpett and Joe Caponigro, reads in part: "To honor a legacy



Hall of Fame coach Frank DeFelice displays the plaque that was presented during the special ceremony held before the Winthrop-Swampscott boys basketball game.

crafted on and off the fields of play, Swampscott's varsity baseball team will henceforth compete on the "Frank DeFelice Diamond." The accomplishments of Mr. DeFelice as coach, teacher, and mentor

Please see DEFELICE Page 3

# EDITORIAL

## HOW ARE THOSE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS GOING?

All of us, consciously or subconsciously, make some sort of New Year's resolution in the hope of improving our lives and those of our loved ones.

Without a doubt, the most common New Year's resolution is weight loss, which is not surprising, considering that 72 percent of all Americans -- an astounding number -- are either overweight or obese. Excess weight has been linked to just about every disease imaginable --- cancer, diabetes, and heart disease being among the most prominent. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, excess weight greatly increased the risk of death or serious complications from COVID-19 across all age groups.

We strongly condemn discrimination of any form against those who are overweight. Maintaining a healthy body weight is difficult for just about everyone (almost three-quarters of us, apparently) in our hurry-hurry world where the convenience of fast-food makes it all-too-easy to indulge in an unhealthy diet on a regular basis.

In addition, we are deluged with advertisements from the fast-food industry, who give us those full-screen shots of triple-bacon-cheese-burgers-with-fries-and a soft drink -- a truly deadly combination that hits all of the "bad food" buttons for high calories, saturated fat, salt, and added sugar.

It is not a coincidence that the average American male today weighs 30 pounds more than the average American male did in 1960 and the average American female today weighs the same as that male in 1960 (and no, it's not because we're all taller than our grandparents) when you consider that in 1960, there were 248 locations of a certain fast-food franchise across America, but today there are 13,340 of them. (And that's just one fast-food company!)

However, we do not subscribe to the belief that being overweight is the result of a "disease" that somehow uniquely affects Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity, or gender, compared to the rest of the world. (We rank as the most-overweight people among every industrialized nation.) To be sure, there are some individuals who genetically are pre-disposed to having an unhealthy body weight. But whenever American-style food is imported into countries across the globe, health issues that previously did not exist in those countries become epidemic.

There is no question that bad food can be addictive, whether it's those triple-cheeseburgers, infinite varieties of snack foods, etc., etc., etc. in a society where bad food is cheap, available everywhere, and pushed on us by Madison Avenue -- and where we associate overeating as a form of reward.

Our present overweight society increasingly makes the 2008 Disney sci-fi movie "Wall-E," in which the humans of the future are grossly overweight, look prescient -- except that the distant future already is here. The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health recently estimated that, based upon current trends, by 2030 86 percent of Americans will range from overweight to obese.

With the odds stacked against us to make our weight-loss New Year's resolutions stick -- which is why so few of us are successful -- it would appear that our only hope is for those new weight loss drugs to become readily-available and covered by insurance for all Americans. Societal weight-loss would be the best thing we could do to improve our collective health, both physically and emotionally. The drugs may be expensive, but if that's what it will take for Americans to shed our excess pounds, the upfront costs of those drugs will save us billions of dollars in health-care costs down the road.

## Ortiz / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dodgers star Mookie Betts.

Ortiz, who played baseball at Lynn Classical and St. Mary's before transferring to Redan High School in Georgia, is set to begin his second season at Walters State Community College in Tennessee.

It's what Ortiz accomplished in his first year at Walters State and in his summer season in the Appalachian League that has Major League Baseball scouts taking notice. At Walters, who competes in the Tennessee Community College Athletic Association (TCCAA), Ortiz was a team leader in average (.383) home runs (16) and runs batted in (55) in 59 games.

Last summer, Ortiz, representing the Kingsport (Tennessee) Axmen, won the Appalachian League Home Run Derby, drawing much media attention from area newspapers and television stations who covered the competition.

One of his home runs during the season was a tape-measure job, landing an estimated 450 feet from home plate.

### Early years in Puerto Rico

Deniel Ortiz grew up in Puerto Rico, where he played Little League baseball. He moved to Lynn with his mother when he was 12 years old. He enrolled as an eighth grader at the new Marshall Middle School, excelling as an infielder for the Marshall fall baseball team. He also played in the Lynn Babe Ruth organization.

He became a starting player and hit .300 as a freshman at Lynn Classical under Coach Mike Zukowski. He transferred to St. Mary's and played for the Spartans as a junior (his sophomore season was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic) for three-time state championship coach Derek Dana.

Ortiz continued his baseball career that summer for the Ohio Warhawks before spending



Deniel Ortiz of Lynn (second from left), pictured with Eric Maria, instructor at The Dugout baseball training facility, Anthony Mateo of Lynn, and Julio Henriquez, owner of The Dugout, which is located at 71 Linden St.

his senior year at Redan High School. Ortiz tore it up for the Redan Raiders, batting .630 with a league-high eight home runs.

He committed to Walters State Community College and his baseball prospects have soared dramatically after a potent 2023 season.

"I'm excited about the new season," said Ortiz. "I want to lead our team to a berth in the national tournament. I'll be playing third base and batting third in the order."

Ortiz has been in correspondence with Division 1 college programs, including North Carolina State, Missouri, Kansas State, and Houston.

### Grateful to Henriquez and The Dugout

Deniel Ortiz made his first

visit to Julio Henriquez's Dugout baseball facility as an eighth grader, acting on the recommendation of his friend, Anthony Mateo, a baseball standout himself who pitched for the North Shore Navigators in 2023.

"I've learned so much during my training at Dugout," said Ortiz. "Mr. Henriquez has been a mentor and a friend. I'm so grateful for his support and guidance."

Five years after walking through the doors at The Dugout, Deniel Ortiz could have the honor of hearing his name called in the 2024 MLB Draft.

"My goal is to play professional baseball," said a confident Ortiz, revealing that his favorite team is the New York Yankees.

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## LYNN CITY COUNCIL HONORS RETIRING CITY COUNCILORS LOZZI, STARBARD, AND COLUCCI

The Lynn City Council honored retiring City Councilors Wayne Lozzi (Ward 1) Rick Starbard (Ward 2) and Richard Colucci (Ward 4) at its final meeting of 2023.

Council President Jay Walsh presented special awards to the three officials recognizing their outstanding dedication and commitment to serving the residents of Lynn.



City Council President Jay Walsh presents a special award to Richard Colucci in recognition of his outstanding service as the Ward 4 councilor. Mr. Colucci served in city government for more than 30 years, making him one of the longest-serving officials in the city's history.



City Council President Jay Walsh presents a special award to Rick Starbard in recognition of his outstanding service as the Ward 2 councilor. Mr. Starbard was first elected in 2016.



Ward 2 Councilor Rick Starbard and his wife, Lois Starbard, are pictured at the ceremony honoring the retiring councilors in the Council Chambers.



City Council President Jay Walsh presents a special award to Wayne Lozzi in recognition of his outstanding service as the Ward 1 councilor. Mr. Lozzi was first elected to the Council in 2004.

## Nicholson / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and achieved significant accomplishments and milestones, as well as meeting several of our goals for the year. We faced difficult moments in 2023 as well, and we continue to believe that coming together in the hard moments and marking our successes is important to the overall health of our community.

"This progress would not be possible without our amazing team in the Mayor's Office and throughout City Department, our close collaboration with the City

Council, School Committee, state and federal delegation, and our partnership with community leaders.

"It is an honor to serve as your Mayor and I am excited to enter 2024 with an ambitious agenda to continue to drive the City forward. All that we have accomplished would not have been possible without the support of our community. Thank you to all who helped make our progress possible."

## DeFelice / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

well warrant this recognition – among them the 1993 state baseball championship, induction into the Massachusetts Baseball Coaches Association and Swampscott High Halls of Fame, 465 victories with a .644 winning percentage. His work lives on in those that he helped develop. That following his retirement he has continued to support the town's programs and offer guidance established Coach DeFelice as a true embodiment of Big Blue pride and spirit."

Mr. DeFelice, who is an inductee in the Winthrop High Hall of Fame, delivered remarks following the award presentation.

"When I was a boy growing up in Winthrop, I played all the games that boys played in junior high," recalled Mr. DeFelice. "Then I got to high school, and I settled on football and baseball. When I got into my early 20s, I was disappointed to realize that I was a better football player than a baseball player. But my passion – I love football – but I have a tremendous passion for baseball. To have an opportunity to get a baseball field named after you in the town that you live in and where you coached – I think it's tremendous that I have that privilege and honor. I'm very excited about it. Thank you very much."

Former Swampscott High



Chris Tsiotos and his brother, Nick Tsiotos, warmly greet Frank DeFelice at the ceremony at Swampscott High where it was announced that the Swampscott baseball field will be named the Frank DeFelice Diamond in tribute to his outstanding coaching career.

baseball star Kevin Rogers, who was the winning pitcher in the 1993 state championship game and went on to play at UHN, summed up vividly the thoughts of his teammates and others who had the honor to be on a Frank DeFelice-coached team.

"I'm honored to be here for Coach. He's deserving of this," said Rogers. "Any recognition and accolades are a long time coming and well deserved, and we're all proud to have played for him, because he's a legend in town. There's a reason that we carried ourselves the way we did year after year, generation after generation, so I'm just happy

to have been part of the program that had Coach DeFelice as the anchor."

Former Item sports editor Paul Halloran, who coached with Frank DeFelice in Swampscott, congratulated his colleague and friend on his much-deserved recognition by the Town of Swampscott.

"This is the most well-deserved honor there could be. I got a chance to experience just how tremendous a coach and molder of men Frank was. He absolutely held his players to the highest standards, yet he was always fair and honest with them," said Halloran. "If you were the parent of a player, you hit the jackpot when your son got to play for Frank DeFelice, even if some players realized that later in life."



Swampscott High coach Frank DeFelice is pictured with his many former players, along with family members and friends who attended the ceremony in his honor naming the Swampscott baseball field, the Frank DeFelice Diamond.

## CITY PAWS

## Companion animal timelines

By Penny &amp; Ed Cherubino

Human lives have many timelines. We often refer to a particular one: the timeline of the dogs who have been part of our family and friendships. A memory of a time or place often includes the dog or dogs who were part of that moment.

Recently, we remembered a special time with a particular friend and realized he was one of the people who knew all our dogs. This thought resulted in us listing the people who shared this distinction and naming the companion animals each had in their lives.

**May I Pet Your Dog?**

Living in an area with so many college students and young adults means we often sense the longing for a canine connection that comes with the question, “May I pet your dog?”

Sometimes, that exchange is followed by a

history of their lives with pets. They might tell us, “My family had a Westie when I was young?” Or, “I really miss my dog. He lives with my parents.” We’ve even had offers to walk our dogs from dog-lonely people.

We always suggest volunteer and paid jobs that will bring them in contact with animals. These opportunities range from volunteering at an animal shelter to working for a grooming or pet supply shop or a dog walking service. We understand the need for fur to stroke and an animal to curl next to you on a sofa or a bench. We share that need and are happy to let our pup play surrogate for a few minutes.

We also appreciate and are aware of what it takes to accept the responsibility of a companion animal at a point in your life when you may not be able to meet the financial, time, or housing requirements that would make it possible.

**Sharing Companions**

We’ve always been advocates of dog-sharing, not only for a quick pat on a walk but also in a much more meaningful way. We chose a West Highland White Terrier for our first dog because we shared a home with a lovely older friend. Our research told us that Westies were seldom one-person dogs. We wanted a dog who would happily spend time with all three of us. Our Sassy fit the bill, and as a former school teacher, our tenant was a great help with her training.

Recently, we spotted neighbors with a new dog. We knew they had been reluctant to return to full-time dog care after losing their long-time companion. This dog, they told us, was their Grandpup! They had a win-win situation: they could enjoy walking with a dog again and seeing their dog community while helping their daughter have more free time in her busy life.

While dogs are the most accessible animals to share with others, we have known a lovely



Living near so many young adults means we often sense the longing for a canine connection that comes with the question, “May I pet your dog?” (Photo by Alison Pang)

Ragdoll cat that belonged to a good friend, a guinea pig who lived with a family member, and a stunning parrot who lived on our floor.

Companion animals are more than part of your timeline. They can be a lifeline connecting you with people and requiring you to exercise. The National Institutes of Health writes, “Interacting with animals has been shown to decrease levels of cortisol (a

stress-related hormone) and lower blood pressure. Other studies have found that animals can reduce loneliness, increase feelings of social support, and boost your mood.” That makes sharing a pet a kindness to someone else. Having one is a kindness to yourself.

*Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.*

**Biden-Harris Administration announces \$2.5 million grant for more electric-vehicle charging network**

The Biden-Harris Administration last week announced a \$2.5 million grant to the Town of Deerfield, Massachusetts to fund two publicly accessible EV charging sites. The award is one of 47 projects in 22 states and Puerto Rico selected to receive a total of \$623 million in funding to help build out an electric vehicle (EV) charging network under the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program. This means EV drivers in Massachusetts and across the country can charge their electric vehicles where they live, work, and shop.

The grants are a critical part of the Biden Administration’s goal of building out a convenient, affordable, reliable and made-in-America national network of EV chargers, including at least 500,000 publicly available chargers by 2030 ensuring that EV’s are made in America with American workers.

Under President Biden’s leadership, EV sales have more than quadrupled, the number of publicly available charging ports has grown by nearly 70 percent, and more than 4 million EV’s are now on the road. Spurred by the President’s historic invest-

ments, private companies have announced more than \$155 billion in the EV and battery supply chain under the Biden-Harris Administration. EV’s are critical to our rapid and equitable transition to clean transportation systems, producing zero tailpipe emissions, reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions – major contributors to climate change and key contributors to respiratory ailments.

“America led the arrival of the automotive era, and now we have a chance to lead the world in the EV revolution—securing jobs, savings, and benefits for Americans in the process,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. “This funding will help ensure that EV chargers are accessible, reliable, and convenient for American drivers, while creating jobs in charger manufacturing, installation, and maintenance for American workers.”

The grants being announced today are made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law’s \$2.5 billion Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program, a competitive funding program, that includes construction of approximately 7,500 EV charging ports.

The CFI program complements the \$5 billion National Electric Vehicle (NEVI) Formula Program to build the “backbone” of high-speed EV chargers along our nation’s highways. Thanks to the NEVI program, new charging stations in Ohio and New York have opened, and states like Pennsylvania and Maine have broken ground.

“Every community across the nation deserves access to convenient and reliable clean transportation,” said U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm. “The Biden-Harris Administration is bringing an accessible, made-in-America charging network into thousands of communities while cutting the carbon pollution that is driving the climate crisis.”

In Massachusetts, the \$2.5 million grant will be used to fund two public access EV charging sites at the Leary Public Parking Lot and Town Hall Public Parking Lot. The sites are centrally located to the surrounding rural towns and will serve several disadvantaged communities.

“From my time working at the local level, I know that finding electric vehicle charging in a community is different from finding charging along high-

ways,” said U.S. Transportation Deputy Secretary Polly Trottenberg. “USDOT is proud to make an investment that will provide Americans with convenient, straightforward charging options in their communities.”

“The Federal Highway Administration is pleased to announce this grant in Massachusetts that will bring EV charging to people and communities all across the nation,” said Federal Highway Administrator Shailen Bhatt. “These investments through the CFI Program will grow our national EV charging network, support President Biden’s goals of achieving net-zero emissions for the nation by 2050 and promote opportunity for all Americans to enjoy the benefits of EV charging.”

As part of today’s announcements, the Federal Highway Administration is awarding \$311 million in funding to 36 “community” projects, including two Indian Tribes in Alaska and Arizona. These projects invest in EV charging and hydrogen fueling infrastructure in urban and rural communities, including at convenient and high-use locations like schools, parks, libraries, multi-family housing, and more.

Another \$312 million in fund-

ing will go to 11 “corridor” recipients whose projects are located along roadways designated as Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs). These projects will fill gaps in the core national charging and alternative-fueling network.

The CFI Program advances President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, which set a goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution. More than 70% of the CFI funding announced today will support project sites in disadvantaged communities.

To provide a consistent charging experience for users that ensures a convenient, affordable, and reliable national charging network, EV chargers constructed with CFI funds must adhere to the same minimum standards established for NEVI-funded chargers. FHWA is working closely with the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation, which provides technical assistance on planning and implementation of a national network of electric vehicle chargers and zero-emission fueling infrastructure.

## TWO LYNN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS HONORED

PAT GECOYA PHOTOS

Two Lynn School Committee members were honored for their service to the Lynn School Department. Donna Coppola served twelve terms and Dr. Tiffany Magnolia served two terms. Both committee members brought a new perspective and insights to education in Lynn.

“This has been an honor to serve the children of Lynn for twenty-four years,” said Donna Coppola. She worked with five mayors, six superintendents, and dozens of school committee members. “My best part of this position was helping our students, attending graduations, and seeing students achieve,” stated Donna. She also was involved with the Joi Program helping many young girls to continue their education and move onto a successful career path.

Mayor Jared Nicholson and Superintendent Dr. Evonne Alvarez thanked both committee members for their dedication and commitment to students. State Senator Brendan Crighton and State Rep Peter Capano presented State House Citations. Donna and Tiffany received City Citations from the Mayor and School Committee members presented a plaque and bouquet of flowers.



Dr. Tiffany Magnolia received a plaque and City Citation from Mayor Jared Nicholson.



Mayor Jared Nicholson congratulated Donna Coppola for her twenty-four years of service on the School Committee.



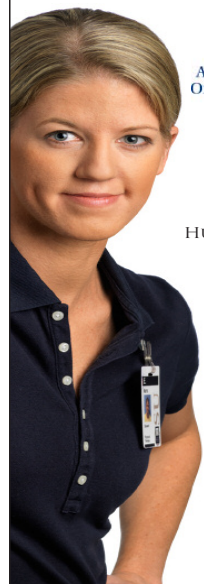
Lennin Pena, Supt. of Lynn Schools Dr. Evonne Alvarez, State Senator Brendan Crighton, Dr. Tiffany Magnolia, Eric Dugan, Mayor Jared Nicholson, Donna Coppola, Lorraine Gately, Brian Castellanos, State Rep Peter Capano, and Kevin Gonzalez Khan.

### A SHORT STORY ABOUT A MOTORCYCLE AND A SUDDEN TURN.

When she was a young college student, Elisabeth Marra had a serious motorcycle accident that ultimately changed her life. Two years after the crash, her painful open fractures had failed to heal. Then she heard about a new and complex surgery pioneered by a surgeon who used a patient's own stem cells to concentrate the healing process. This time, her surgery and subsequent therapy were successful.

Elisabeth's experience caused her to redirect her own career aspirations. Inspired by the medical professionals who helped her reclaim her active lifestyle, she changed her major to study physical therapy—a profession where her own experience could help other patients prevail through difficult recoveries.

We tell Elisabeth Marra's story here to illustrate two of the most profound messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If reading it inspires just one more person to achieve something special, then its telling here has been well worth while.



American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
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## 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](mailto:obits@reverejournal.com) or call 781-485-0588

### SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Lynn Journal encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to [Cary@lynnjournal.com](mailto:Cary@lynnjournal.com)



# Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2024

January 28 - February 3

#CSW24

Catholic Schools  
United in Faith and Community

The Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2023 – 2026 theme is “Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community.” Catholic schools have an irreplaceable role in the Church’s evangelizing mission. Building on the central goal of Catholic schools to form saints, Catholic schools teach and embrace the whole person, body, mind and spirit. 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.

## ST. PIUS V SCHOOL HOLDS MANY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES



St. Pius V School gathered for an assembly organized by Mrs. Gina Cordy and Mrs. Joy Morris to honor Martin Luther King Jr. The assembly included inspiring music, reflections on Martin Luther King Jr., student Peyton Buksa’s original poem, and excerpts from the legendary “I Have a Dream” speech. Students, staff, and guest speaker Reverend Andre Bennett from Zion Baptist Church discussed and reflected on the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. during this impactful assembly.



On January 6, Bob and Donna Hartshorn of the Lions Club visited St. Pius V School to present medals to our students who won the Lions poster contest - Juliette Chevalier was named district winner and Nina Tran was named regional winner and will be moving on to next round of the contest.



St. Pius V School athletics department has been booming over the last two years. Last year we saw the return of our cheerleading team after a hiatus of over 10 years. The cheerleaders perform at all basketball home games. This year we also brought back baseball and softball after many years. Our track and basketball teams continue strong with over 50 students participating. Alumna Amy Tran designed a new Warriors logo for our athletes which is featured on the track shirts and other gear. Our Athletics directors Joe Hallisey and Chris Griebel have been holding successful fundraisers for the athletics department, including the popular students vs. faculty basketball game that will be returning this spring!



### St. Pius V School

28 Bowler Street  
Lynn, MA

781-593-8292

info@stpiusvschool.org



Catholic Schools  
United in Faith and Community

### OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Jan. 28th  
12:30-2:00 p.m.

### Abierto al Público

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12:30-2:00 p.m.

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#CSW24

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## East Boston Central Catholic School celebrates Catholic Schools Week

### Enrollment soars in school’s 50th year

By Cary Shuman

East Boston Central Catholic School will celebrate 50 years of excellence in Catholic education at its annual gala April 12 at Spinelli’s, Lynnfield.

In advance of that milestone event, EBCCS will Celebrate Schools Week beginning Jan. 28 with an exciting slate of activities for students and their families.

There is certainly a lot to celebrate.

EBCCS Principal Robert Casaletto reports that there is an enrollment of 189 students for the current school year, which is an increase of over 20 percent from the previous year.

Casaletto said one of the reasons for the surge in popularity was the school’s high retention rate, proudly stating, “Our students and their parents who were here last year all loved it, so they all came back this year. We had a 95 percent retention rate.”

Another key to the success in attracting students to the school was its considerable outreach to different parishes in the area beyond East Boston. Casaletto credits new School Chaplain, the Rev. Dan Zinger, for helping to bring in more Catholic families.”

The hiring of an assistant principal, Gabriela Twaalfhoven, has also been instrumental in building enrollment. Twaalfhoven worked directly with new families on enrollment last summer.

Casaletto also noted the Catholic Schools Foundation providing of financial support to families in need through its Building Minds Scholarship Fund.

Casaletto is in his seventh year as principal and 30th year as a member of the EBCCS faculty. His leadership of the school during the COVID-19 pandemic was extraordinary and in actuality, resulted in an increase in enrollment when the school was allowed to reopen.

“The people affected by COVID-19 was high in East Boston, so the Health Department wouldn’t let us open,” said Casaletto. “We opened our pre-K only for in-person learning. But we did a virtual learning program that our parents were just thrilled with, and because we did such a good job surviving the pandemic, we grew our enrollment coming out of it and it’s been going up since.”

#### Catholic Schools Week Activities Schedule

Special student activities have been planned throughout Catholic Schools’ Week to give parents an opportunity to “join” your child’s classroom.

EBCCS parents are invited to the following activities. Each activity will take place in your child’s classroom unless a different location is noted.

#### Sunday, January 28

Mass will be celebrated at St. Michael’s Parish - St. John’s Church in Winthrop at 10:00 a.m. to kick-off CSW. Our choir will sing and all families are encouraged to join.

#### Monday, January 29

- Kindergarten: Winter Art Project 8:45-9:30
- Cherubs, Kindergarten, 3, 4, & 5: Young Authors’ Presentation Auditorium (see Library Schedule)

#### Tuesday, January 30

- Grade 7: “Kahoots” Game 8:30-9:10
- Angels, 1, 2, 6, 7, & 8: Young Authors’ Auditorium (see Library Schedule)

#### Wednesday, Jan. 31

- Angels: Circle Time 8:30-9:00
- Cherubs: Morning Routine & Heggerty Phonemic Awareness 8:30-9:15

- Grade 3: Reader’s Theater Presentation 1:00-1:30
- Grade 1: Chicken Soup w/

Please see EBCCS Page 8



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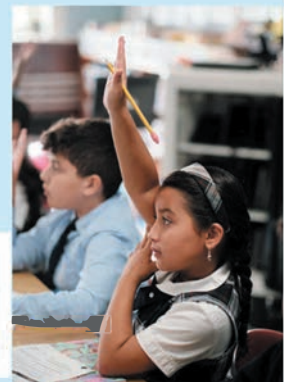
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Students enjoying storytime in class at EBCCS.



Mayor Jared Nicholson joins city and school officials at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly renovated Lynn Tech Fieldhouse.

### LYNN TECH FIELD HOUSE RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Fifty-two years ago, Lynn Vocational Technical Institute was built in the Brickyard of Ward 6. The Lynn Tech Field House was one of the largest athletic facilities in the Greater Lynn area. It housed indoor track meets, local and state basketball games,

Lynn Tech intramural programs, graduations, athletic and medical clinics, and at times used as a shelter for Lynn residents. Throughout the years, the fieldhouse floor saw its wear and tears. This year a new floor was installed with a state of the art indoor track course, a Basketball hardwood surface, LED lighting, window replacements, and new spectator stands.

LVTI Director Fred Gallo welcomed everyone attending this beautiful, renovated facility. Director Gallo acknowledged city government officials and the school department for making the investment to the fieldhouse. He said, "We are so proud to have this beautiful facility to use, not just for our students, but this is a facility that really serves this

whole community." He further stated, "Lynn Tech is a school that is really involved in the community and cares about our community. We are glad that it benefits Lynn Tech students and benefits the City of Lynn."

"When I see this beautiful facility, it is representative of an era of hope and what can be replicated across our city," said Superintendent Dr. Evonne Alvarez. "I will work with the city to make sure we have spaces of this caliber for all of our students at our high schools."

According to Mayor Jared Nicholson, amazing things happen in the Lynn Public Schools every day as he said, "Our students deserve the state of the art facilities. And that is what we have here in this fieldhouse."

He continued to say that a lot of collaboration had gone into this project with the state, city, and school department. These are important improvements. We, the city, are in charge of the stewardship of these public assets. It is our responsibility to take care of public spaces. At moments like this, we all come together to celebrate realizing this dream of having space that lives up to what the students do every day.

Also recognized was former Acting Superintendent Debra Ruggiero for her work on this project and former Lynn Tech Track Coach and Track Official Joseph Abelon for his insight on the track lanes.

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### EBCCS / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Rice Activity 1:40-2:10.

#### Thursday, February 1

- Grade 6: Sarcophagus Design 8:30-9:10
- Grade 5: Math & Social Studies Super Bowl 9:30-10:30
- Middle School: Ice Skat-

ing Field Trip 1:00-4:00

• Grade 4: City of Snow-don Presentations 1:30-2:10

#### Friday, February 2

- Student Appreciation Casual Dress Day
- Grade 2: Groundhog Day Activities 9:00-9:30

• Grade 7 & 8: Science Fair 1:00-2:15 Auditorium

We ask all students and faculty to dress in something RED to honor all our troops who have deployed or will deploy for their active duty assignments.



# BOSTON TEA PARTY LYNN PATRIOT FRANCIS MOORE HONORED

PAT GECOYA PHOTOS

In the evening of December 16, 1773 colonists tossed 340 tea chests owned by the East India Company into Boston Harbor. When the British Parliament placed a tax on tea, the Colonists became upset by saying, "No taxation without representation." This sparked from the Coercive Acts that gave impetus to the American Revolution against England.

Commissioner Arthur Dulong asked the Boston Tea Party Museum to come to Pine Grove Cemetery as he stated, "We have documentation of Francis Moore who participated in the Tea Party. The museum presented a certified Boston Tea Party Participant Medallion for Moore's grave site." Arthur continued to say, "It is important to celebrate what we have in Lynn, and this is a good thing for people to know."

Francis Moore was originally from Cambridge and married a descendant of the Breed family in Lynn. Being a Patriot and the only participant who was unmasked, Moore was one of the one-hundred documented Patriots throwing tea into Boston Harbor.

The Breed-Newhall family owned the land that is now Pine Grove. They transferred ownership to Lynn in 1850. Laid to rest



Official permanent Medallion at Francis Moore grave site.

inside Pine Grove are Civil War veterans, three Medal of Honor Veterans, and Jan Matzeling who changed the shoe industry in 1885 with a mechanical invention, noted by Commissioner Dulong.

Attending this 250th Lynn Anniversary Celebration were Breed-Moore family descendants - James FC Breed, Alan Breed Pooler, Joan LH Breed, Parker Breed-Gambale, Madeline Pooler, and Luke Crouse.



Commissioner Arthur Dulong and Joan LH Breed with Boston Tea Party officials who presented a certified Boston Tea Party Participant Medallion.



Pine Grove Cemetery Commission - Mary Wright, Ralph E. Tyler Jr, Robert Nadeau, and Commissioner Arthur Dulong.



Breed-Moore Descendants at Francis Moore monument - James FC Breed, Parker Breed-Gambale, Allan Breed-Pooler, Joan LH Breed, Madeline Pooler, and Luke Crouse.

# Healey-Driscoll Administration announce new opportunities for veteran-owned businesses

The Healey-Driscoll Administration last week announced that the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO), which is responsible for bringing fairness to the state's bidding and procurement process, has entered into a new partnership that will help veteran-owned businesses bid on contracts across the state.

The SDO is partnering with the National Veteran Owned Business Association (NaVOBA), an independent nonprofit that certifies businesses owned by veterans and service-disabled veterans. Both organizations will work together to increase contracting opportunities with veteran-owned businesses.

"Our Supplier Diversity Office does incredible work every day to expand opportunities for

diverse and small businesses to win contracts with the state, which makes our businesses, our economy and our communities stronger," said Governor Maura Healey. "Our veterans have sacrificed so much in service to our country, and we take the responsibility of supporting them very seriously here in Massachusetts. We are proud to launch this new partnership that will lower barriers for veteran-owned businesses to bid for contracts and do business with the state."

"This new partnership is an important step in our administration's efforts to bolster support and services for Massachusetts veterans under the leadership of Secretary Jon Santiago," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We look forward to

working with NaVOBA to cut red tape and streamline the process for veterans to do business with Massachusetts."

"This is an important step toward removing administrative burdens on veteran-owned businesses to becoming certified, opening up tremendous opportunities for these individuals who have served our country to bid on state contracts and grow their businesses here in Massachusetts," said Secretary for Administration and Finance Matthew J. Gorkowicz. "I am proud of the work SDO has been doing to expand opportunities and look forward to continuing our efforts to help small businesses thrive."

"The SDO has been successful in helping bring fairness in the state's bidding process through our cross-certification partnerships, such as with the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council, Center for Women's Enterprise, City of Boston, Disability:IN, and the National LGBTBE Chamber of Commerce," said SDO Executive Director William McAvoy. "We expect our partnership with NaVOBA to help business owners who have served their country."

"NaVOBA is thrilled to join forces with the Supplier Diversity Office in this impactful collaboration," said Matthew Pavelek, President and CEO of NaVOBA. "Our partnership exemplifies a shared commitment to advancing opportunities for veteran-owned businesses. We aim to empower

veterans to thrive in the business world by streamlining the certification process. We appreciate the Executive Office of Veterans Services for their support and commend the Supplier Diversity Office for their dedication to fostering an inclusive and thriving business environment for our nation's heroes."

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the SDO and NaVOBA, the SDO will grant certifications to businesses already certified with NaVOBA. Typically, businesses need to apply and undergo an investigation from the SDO before they receive certification. This agreement streamlines the process, making these businesses able to receive the benefits of SDO certification, such as the ability to bid on state contracts and attend SDO trainings and networking events. Certified businesses are also included in the SDO's listing of certified businesses used by prime vendors and state agencies looking for vendors.

The MOU also allows the SDO to access NaVOBA's membership database to reach out to members about becoming SDO certified.

"Partnerships like the one between the Supplier Diversity Office and NaVOBA ensure veteran-owned businesses play a pivotal role in our economy. This collaboration marks a significant step in fostering their success," said Secretary of Veterans Services Jon Santiago. "The

Executive Office of Veterans Services strongly supports initiatives streamlining certification for veteran-owned businesses in state contracts, and we commend the Supplier Diversity Office and NaVOBA for their dedication to empowering our veterans."

"NaVOBA is thrilled to join forces with the Supplier Diversity Office in this impactful collaboration. Our partnership exemplifies a shared commitment to advancing opportunities for veteran-owned businesses. We aim to empower veterans to thrive in the business world by streamlining the certification process. We appreciate the Executive Office of Veterans Services for their support and commend the Supplier Diversity Office for their dedication to fostering an inclusive and thriving business environment for our nation's heroes."

The announcement marks the SDO's latest effort to aid veteran-owned businesses. Recently, the Commonwealth's Municipal Construction Affirmative Marketing Program (MCAMP), part of the SDO, released new guidelines mandating that certain construction projects must allocate at least three percent of its funding to Veteran-owned Business Enterprises (VBEs) and/or Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises (SDVOBEs). This is a first for the Massachusetts construction industry.

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# HABITAT PLUS VETERANS CHRISTMAS PARTY

PAT GECOYA PHOTOS

Habitat Plus in Lynn is a non-profit organization for residential veterans. The General Electric Aerospace Division provided gifts and Santa and Mrs. Claus distributed gifts to each residential veteran during this joyful evening. This event personally thanks our Military Veterans who have psychiatric symptoms.

This program began 35 years ago according to Claudette Forti as she said, "We receive support from GE Aerospace staff and from Santa and Mrs. Claus who greet each veteran. Every year

this event increases in size as other veterans and family members join this festivity to be with our residents."

Habitat Plus has twelve residential veterans and two staff veterans. Co-Founder Bernadette Forti is so excited how these in-house Veterans get along since the program started. She said, "These veterans more than superseded our expectations. They are a band of brothers who need assistance, support one another, and are the greatest men who served our country."



Resident Veteran with Co-Founder Susan Campbell.



Habitat residents, Victor and John, received Christmas presents from Santa Claus.



Santa and Mrs. Claus visited Habitat Plus for Veterans – (Front): Julie and Kathy Henkle, Susan Campbell, Dolores and Eric Newman, Andrea Gayle-Bennett; (Back): Veterans – Ed, Paul, Jody, Ed, Jackie, Victor, and Paul with Santa Claus (Scott Surette) & Mrs. Claus (Michelle Robbins).



Habitat Plus Resident Veterans with supporters.



Lynn General Electric Aerospace Division staff supports Habitat Plus – Andy Pitzen, MA Secretary for Veterans Andrea Gayle-Bennett, Tom Champion, Richard Roland, Tatiana Bosquet, Bill Maher, Paul Gouthro, Joe Bourgeois, Habitat Plus Quinn Carr and Janet Melanson, and Kevin Belz.

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# FUNDRAISER FOR HABITAT PLUS AND REMEMBERING VETERAN JOHN "IGGY" DORGAN

PAT GECOYA PHOTOS

An evening to remember the late Navy Veteran John "Iggy" Dorgan at Old Tyme Italian Cuisine Restaurant for his service with a fundraiser for veterans. "Iggy" Dorgan graduated in the first Lynn Trade class of 1948 on James Street majoring in Machine Shop. His skilled trade was a valuable asset to the United States Navy during the Korean Conflict in the early 1950s in Charleston, SC and later with the Boston Naval Shipyard.

A packed house of supporters came to join this most worthy charitable fundraiser for Lynn's Veterans at Habitat Plus in Lynn - a Veterans service organization. Over \$5,000 was raised through

raffles and ticket sales. "This is a fundraiser in my father's name - John "Iggy" Dorgan," said David Dorgan. He continued to say, "This is a benefit for Habitat Plus which is a homeless Lynn Veterans sober house. We gather here this evening in memory of my dad who was a Naval Veteran."

Committee members included David Dorgan, Darren Cyr, Christian Cyr, Lou Markakis, and the Dorgan family members. A delicious Italian buffet was served to supporters. Joe Savia, Brian Cocoran, and the James Montgomery Band provided entertainment during the evening.



Darren Cyr interviewed Special Guest, Culinary Rocker Johnny Cia.



Habitat Plus Veterans and Supporters - Ed Henkle, Matt Morollo with Claudette Toto, Executive Director Susan Campbell, Bernadette Forti, and Janet Melanson. Habitat Plus is located at 516-520 Essex Street in Lynn.



Italian Cuisine Owner Bob Stilian with Band Performer, James Montgomery, and Sam McInerney.



Family, friends, and Band members gathered together.



The Dorgan siblings remembered Dad - Deirdre Dorgan, Denise Corcoran, Naval Veteran Dan Dorgan, Diane Marengi, Dave Dorgan, and Dale Cyr.

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