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THE LYNN JOURNAL

Friday, December 6, 2024



From left, are members of the Morin family, Elijah Morin, Caleb Morin, League Field Director Bill Morin, and City of Lynn home run champion Jacob Morin, with President John Cronin, who presented the Morin Family with the Volunteers of the Year Award. Not pictured are fellow Morin family members and award winners Michele Morin and David Morin.

Mayor Nicholson announces bid for reelection

Special to the Journal

Lynn Mayor Jared Nicholson announced at a campaign reception Monday that he will be a candidate for re-election in the 2025 municipal election.

Nicholson, 39, was elected the 59th mayor of Lynn on Nov. 2, 2021, and was inaugurated on Jan. 3, 2022. He succeeded Thomas McGee as chief executive of the city.

A graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School, Nicholson delivered an inspiring speech highlighting his numerous accomplishments during his term.

Following is the text of Mayor

Nicholson's remarks:

"I am so excited to announce tonight that I am running for reelection as Mayor of the City of Lynn.

Lynn's time is now. What so many have talked about as potential is starting to become a reality. We have unparalleled access to public infrastructure resources and private investment. And we have a terrific team in place in City Hall, my partners in elected office, and our community and business leaders.

Our job now, and my plan for the next four years, is to continue to make the most of these op-

Please see NICHOLSON Page 4

A Little League, A Big Legacy

Pine Hill closes the book after 65 wonderful years in existence

By Cary Shuman

It will certainly go down as one of the most dramatic speeches in the history of Little League Baseball in Lynn.

When PHLL President John Cronin approached the stage and took the microphone at the annual awards banquet Nov. 26 at Prince Restaurant, the gathering of players, parents, coaches, and league officials could sense that something monumental was happening.

And who better to deliver an historic speech than John Cronin, the eminent Harvard man and former college baseball player, who with the help of a dedicated board of directors, worked so diligently to continue providing the Pine Hill neighborhood a league of its own and keeping it vibrant - despite the dwindling numbers the last few seasons. Cronin was speaking for all

the coaches, past and present in Pine Hill, the leaders of distinction, builders of confidence and esteem, and teachers of the game, like legendary Daily Item scribe Steve Krause, St. Mary's renowned basketball coach David Brown Sr., current Greater Lynn Babe Ruth President and Lynn Facilities Manager Rich Avery (whose wife, Jill Avery, splendidly served as PHLL president for nine seasons), former Lynn Tech star lineman Peter Dow, and revered youth sports leader Joe Driscoll.

Many athletes in Lynn began



Pine Hill Little League President John Cronin speaks from the stage at the Nov. 26 awards banquet.

their sports careers in PHLL, notably Mr. Brown's son, David Brown Jr., who went on to achieve all his goals as a state champion and All-Scholastic at St. Mary's High School, and who currently plays football at Bentley University. And more recently, 12-year-old Jacob Morin's incredible 26-homer performance in the 2024 Lynn Little League Home Run Derby at Chris Spagnoli Field (besting league mate Alex Ramos in the finals) will forever stand tall in PHLL annals. As will the special award presentation to Jacob's deserving family at the league's last official banquet.

John Cronin knew that he had to deliver a gem in his farewell address, and with his own family present in the room, the father and coach rose to the moment with extraordinary grace and class and said what he wanted to convey and thanked those he felt were necessary to be thanked.

Yes, Pine Hill Little League is calling it a day and relinquishing its charter, but the baseball and softball-playing "Hillies" will always have the memories of all

Please see PINE HILL Page 6

LHAND, UNITED WAY DELIVER OVER A THOUSAND THANKSGIVING MEALS TO LYNN FAMILIES



Thanksgiving meal bags destined for Lynn families the week before Thanksgiving. Over 1,500 Lynn families received a bag, with all the essentials needed for a Thanksgiving meal. Read about it, and more on Page 2.

EDITORIAL

REMEMBER THE NEEDY ON YOUR SHOPPING LIST

Americans already have been spending a record amount of money thus far this holiday season, spurred on by the extended "Black Friday" (we are using air quotes because Black Friday sales began in early November), Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday shopping days.

However, amidst our zeal to find the "perfect" gifts for our family members and friends, we hope that our readers make the effort, no matter how small, to remember those in need this holiday season.

As we noted in this space two weeks ago, homelessness is at an all-time high in this country. For example, almost one-in-eight New York City school children experienced homelessness during the most recent school year.

The simple reality is that for far too many of our fellow Americans, the holidays bring little or no joy.

There are countless ways by which each of us can make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate, ranging from toy drives to food banks to Salvation Army Santas. With Christmas fast approaching because of the shortened holiday season, we urge everyone who has the ability to do so to make that small effort to help those for whom the holidays are just another day.

HOPEFULLY, MUSK WILL BRING US SELF-DRIVING CARS

Everyone concedes that Musk unquestionably is a visionary who already has revolutionized the automobile industry. He was named Time Magazine's Person of the Year for the success of Tesla, which made electric vehicles available to the mass market. Tesla has done more than any other company in the world to address the existential threat of climate change caused by fossil-burning fuels.

Two months ago, Musk held a publicity event for the press and investors to showcase his plans for self-driving robo-taxis, which he said will be available by 2027. Self-driving vehicles will be powered by AI and Musk's companies have committed to buying billions of dollars of AI computer chips from Nvidia, the American chip company founded by another visionary, Jensen Huang.

A few months back, we wrote of our visit to San Francisco and mentioned that we drove in autonomous electric taxis operated by Waymo, which was founded by Google. Our experience, as has been the case with everyone who has used Waymo, was amazing.

Waymo is now expanding to Los Angeles, Phoenix, Austin, Atlanta, and Florida and clearly is the industry leader in robo-taxis.

Self-driving electric vehicles represent the future -- and it is coming faster than anyone ever expected thanks to Nvidia, whose AI chips will be key to the revolution. Self-driving electric vehicles not only will be good for the planet, but they also will benefit each of us in our everyday lives -- they will be safer (all but eliminating the carnage that exists on our highways today), they will reduce our auto insurance and repair costs, and they will allow for greater independence for both the young and old for whom driver's licenses are iffy propositions.

Although Waymo is doing great things with robo-taxis, a car manufacturer such as Tesla can scale-up production to meet the mass market. We would note here that GM tried the robo-taxi field with its Cruise fleet, but it presently is on hold because of safety issues.

Although Waymo already has a huge lead on Tesla, we have no doubt that once Elon Musk sets his mind to it, Tesla will catch up to -- and surpass -- Waymo. And, we hope, the sooner the better.

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. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to Cary@lynnjournal.com

LHAND, United Way deliver Thanksgiving meals

The Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Development (LHAND) partnered with the United Way of Massachusetts Bay to provide Thanksgiving meals to 1,500 Lynn families of three or more.

"We are truly fortunate to have the United Way actively involved in our community, along with the dedicated LHAND staff supporting this project," said Charles J. Gaeta, Executive Director of LHAND.

Each family received a reusable grocery bag filled with stuffing, cornbread and brownie mix, canned beans, corn, onions, carrots, rice, and a \$20 Market Basket gift card to purchase a turkey.

On Friday, 1,500 meal bags were delivered to LHAND's Executive Office on Church Street. Students from St. Mary's School graciously assisted LHAND staff in preparing for Distribution Day on Saturday. More than 40 volunteers, including Mayor Jared



LHAND Board Member Justin Anshewitz, Mayor Jared Nicholson, LHAND Exec Dir. Charles Gaeta, his grandson Christian Gaeta, State Rep Peter Capano and Councilor Brian Field.

Nicholson, State Representatives Dan Cahill, Peter Capano, and Jennifer Armini, members of the Lynn City Council, and Lynn Youth Street Outreach Advocacy, helped distribute the meals.

This year marks LHAND's 16th year participating in The Gratitude Project, an initiative started by the United Way 25 years ago.

Catholic Charities Lynn Food Pantry donates to local families

The Catholic Charities Lynn Food Pantry provided Thanksgiving meal bags to 500 families

in need on Monday, November 25 as high grocery costs continue to put a strain on households

across the region.

Lynn Mayor Jared Nicholson joined Catholic Charities staff and community volunteers, which included members of the Knights of Columbus in Reading, with providing families and individuals with turkeys and bags full of fresh produce.

Throughout November, Catholic Charities Boston has packed and distributed 4,500 Thanksgiving meals at six locations across Dorchester, Brockton, Lynn, Lowell, and South Boston.

"Every person deserves to have access to healthy meals," said Kelley Tuthill, President and CEO of Catholic Charities Bos-



Volunteers from the Knights of Columbus in Reading joined staff and community members to support the Thanksgiving meal distribution at the Catholic Charities Lynn Food Pantry.

Please see FOOD PANTRY Page 3

THE LYNN JOURNAL

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman cary@lynnjournal.com

PHONE 781-485-0588

EMAIL: EDITOR@LYNNJOURNAL.COM

WEB SITE: WWW.LYNNJOURNAL.COM

DIRECTORY

Advertising & Marketing
Director of Marketing
Debra DiGregorio
(deb@reverejournal.com)

Asst. Marketing Director
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LYNN PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMS — DECEMBER 2024

The following activities are taking place at Lynn Public Library this month. Be sure to check them out!

Adult Programs (18+)

Wreath Decorating

Mon, Dec 2 & Wed, Dec 4 at 6:30 PM

Two sessions available. Patrons may only sign up for one. Must be a Lynn resident.

Virtual Programs

How to Create a Standout Resume

Mon, Dec 2 at 2 PM

Find Your Next Job with the BRIDGE Method – Mon, Dec 16 at 2 PM

A Perky Pairing: Chocolate and Coffee

Tue, Dec 12 at 6:30 PM

Learn how to pair coffee and chocolate. Samples will be served.

Cocoa and Crafts

Thu, Dec 14 at 2:30 PM

Craft supplies will be available to patrons 11+ years old to create cards, gift tags, and more. Registration encouraged but not required.

Friends Craft Fair & Book Sale

Sat, Dec 7, 10 AM – 3 PM

Browse crafts and books. Proceeds benefit library programming.

Book Clubs

Movie Night Book Club – Mon, Dec 9 at 6:30 PM – Gone with the Wind

Book Club – Mon, Dec 18 at 6:30 PM – Bring Your Own Book

Adult Color/Paint Time

Sat, Dec 21 at 2:30 PM

Check in at the Main Desk for materials.

Sip and Stitch

Sat, Dec 28 at 2:30 PM

Knitters/crocheters are welcome to bring projects and enjoy refreshments.

Teen Programs (Grades 6-12)

Tech Space Open

Thu, Dec 5 & Dec 19, 3 PM – 5 PM

Computers, iPads, Xbox, and more available.

Cocoa & Crafts

Thu, Dec 14 at 2:30 PM

Craft supplies available for making cards, gift tags, and more. Registration not required.

Book Club

Mon, Dec 16 at 3:30 PM

Discuss The Accidental Apprentice.

Wooden Gingerbread Houses

Mon, Dec 11 at 6 PM

Craft Hour – Sat, Dec 23 at 2 PM

Game Time

Mon, Dec 18 at 2 PM

Play video games, computer

games, and/or board games.

Children's Programs (Birth-Grade 5)

Messy Mornings

Wednesdays at 10 AM

Join Miss Sue for storytime, then stay for a toddler craft with Miss Teri.

Visit with Percy the Therapy Dog

Tue, Dec 12 at 3 PM

Read him a story or just give him hugs.

Elf on the Shelf

Mon, Dec 16 at 3 PM

Enjoy the holiday tradition of Elf on the Shelf, performed by Carole Finn.

Lego/MegaBlox Night

Mon, Dec 17 at 6 PM

Play with Legos or MegaBlox and create something cool to display.

Gingerbread Cookie Decorating

Thu, Dec 19 at 3 PM

Get creative with decorating your own gingerbread cookies.

Pajama Story Time

Mon, Dec 19 at 6 PM

Don't forget to wear your pajamas!

Vacation Week Drop-In

Dec 23, 26-30

Stop by anytime in the Children's Department for Legos, crafts, stories, and more!

For more information, visit lynnpubliclibrary.org/calendar or call 781-595-0567.

Lynn Public Library, 5 N. Common St., Lynn, MA.

Holiday Hours

Dec 24 & Dec 31 – Open 9 AM – 12 PM

Dec 25 & Jan 1 – Library Closed

ABCC kicks off 'Operation Safe Holidays'

Special to the Journal

To ensure safety for everyone in Massachusetts during the holidays, the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) will be conducting alcohol enforcement at local bars in Massachusetts cities and towns through New Year's Eve.

In doing so, the ABCC hopes to prevent accidents caused by impaired driving and other al-

cohol-related harm that often occurs at this time of year. The ABCC will work with municipal police departments and focus enforcement efforts at bars that have been identified as the last to sell alcohol to a convicted drunk driver and other high-risk locations.

"It is extremely important to deter bars from over-serving and prevent problems before they happen," said State

Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg, who oversees the ABCC. "We want to keep people safe and make sure everyone can enjoy the holidays with their family and friends, avoiding tragedies before they occur."

The program is run in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Impaired Driving Crackdown, from Thanksgiving Eve through New Year's Eve, and

is funded through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security - Highway Safety Division.

According to the NHTSA, from 2017 to 2021, 137 drivers involved in fatal crashes on Thanksgiving Eve (6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.), also known as 'Blackout Wednesday,' were alcohol impaired. In 2021 alone, 36 drivers were in fatal crashes on that day. Also, from 2017 to 2021, young drivers ages 21-24 represented

the largest percentage of drivers involved in deadly crashes. The message before Thanksgiving is simple – the NHTSA says to stop the blackout trend on Wednesday.

Alcohol is involved in 40 percent of traffic crash fatalities, resulting in 17,013 fatalities and injuring an estimated 275,000 people annually. Data indicates that well over 50% of impaired driving arrests originate at bars.

Food Pantry / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2



Lynn Mayor Jared Nicholson shakes hands with Yuri Sanchez-Rijo, a basic needs case manager at Catholic Charities North in Lynn.

ton. "Unfortunately, we continue to see many families and individuals struggling with food insecurity. Thanksgiving is a time to come together with community partners to fulfill our mission of serving our most vulnerable neighbors with respect and dignity, both throughout the holiday season and beyond."

Since its opening two years ago, the 3,600-square-foot regional Lynn Food Pantry has served over 8,000 clients from Greater Lynn. It is one of four pantries operated by Catholic Charities Boston, one of the largest food distributors for the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB).

For more information visit <https://www.ccab.org/>



Catholic Charities Boston President and CEO Kelley Tuthill (wearing a red sweater and pictured third from the left in the back row) and Lynn Mayor Jared Nicholson (center, wearing a green tie) gathered with volunteers and staff during the Thanksgiving meal distribution at the Catholic Charities Lynn Food Pantry on Monday, November 25.

Democrats dominate local races in 2024 State Election

By Kane DiMasso_Scott

In the Nov. 5 state election, Democratic candidates scored decisive victories across several key races, reflecting strong voter turnout and support for progressive policies in the area. A total of 32,047 ballots were cast out of 62,307 registered voters, representing a 51% voter turnout.

Senatorial and Congressional Races

Elizabeth Ann Warren retained her seat as Senator in Congress with a commanding 20,093

votes, while her Republican challenger, John Deaton, secured 10,696 votes. Seth Moulton, the Democratic candidate for Representative in Congress, dominated his race with 24,456 votes, leaving 6,496 blanks and 1,095 write-ins.

State and Local Offices

In state legislative contests, Brendan P. Crighton (Democrat) won the race for Senator in General Court with 24,342 votes, while his closest challenger received just 1,021 write-ins.

Terrence W. Kennedy, running as a Democrat for Councillor,

garnered a strong 23,989 votes to secure his seat, significantly outpacing 932 write-ins.

For Clerk of Courts, Thomas H. Driscoll, Jr. (Democrat) emerged victorious with 17,810 votes, defeating Todd R. Angilly (Unenrolled) with 5,287 votes and Doris V. Rodriguez (Independent) with 4,895 votes.

In the race for Register of Deeds, Eileen R. Duff (Democratic) captured 19,018 votes, well ahead of Republican Jonathan Edward Ring, who received 8,840 votes.

School Committeeman Sean Reid was elected state represen-

tative for the West Lynn/Nahant district, while Reps. Dan Cahill, Donald Wong, and Jenny Armini were re-elected to their seats.

Ballot Questions

Voters also weighed in on five statewide ballot questions. Notably, residents overwhelmingly supported Question 1, which proposed implementing a mandatory audit, with 21,300 votes in favor and 8,139 votes against. However, they rejected Question 4, which would decriminalize certain psychedelic substances, with 17,245 votes against and 12,889 votes in favor.



You can see the full breakdown and vote totals per precinct online at the [lynnma.gov](https://www.lynnma.gov).

Nicholson / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

opportunities. Protect our gains and one another. Most importantly, make sure that the opportunities for the City of Lynn translate into gains for the residents of Lynn.

To do that we need inclusive and balanced growth. We need strong execution of core City functions and successful implementation of our many plans with equity in mind. We need to make the City work for all of us and continue to be a force for good in an uncertain world.

Four years ago, we ran a campaign promising a strong recovery from COVID-19 and inclusive growth. Thanks to the wonderful efforts of so many, we have delivered.

The number of jobs in Lynn reached pre-COVID highs and then surpassed them.

We desperately needed a senior center and now have a beautiful one.

Two years from now, we are on track to deliver a brand-new Pickering Middle School that will solve overcrowding at the middle school level.

We lined up the largest private investment in the City's history, over \$450 million at the South Harbor site on the Lynnway.

We successfully fought for restored ferry service to Boston and a temporary platform when ours was abruptly shut down.

And we've done it all with fiscal discipline, achieving hard to come by upgrades from our ratings agencies.

We continue to push to make sure that this growth includes all of us, implementing a successful inclusionary zoning policy that's already created affordable units for Lynn residents and an Affordable Housing Trust Fund that's already supporting the creation of hundreds of units at deeper



COURTESY PHOTO

Mayor Jared Nicholson addresses the crowd.

levels of affordability.

Through grit, ingenuity, and teamwork, we're accomplishing what once seemed impossible by adding classrooms by the dozens on a limited budget. We've opened a new pre-K center and a new high school, the Frederick Douglass Collegiate Academy. We've increased the number of seats at Lynn Tech by 25%, adding new shops in biotechnology and construction. Adults benefit too, with new evening programs at Tech in high demand industries like automotive, plumbing, and welding.

Lynn's time is now. We're getting more folks involved, improving diversity at City Hall, with a majority of our hires identifying as people of color. The interpreters we brought to City Hall help make sure all residents find what they need.

We also want the City shine physically. We added dozens of new barrels all over the city – parks, playgrounds, parking lots and street corners. We're adding several accessible playgrounds,



Mayor Jared Nicholson (center), with city officials (from left, School Committeeman Lennin Pena, City Councilor Obed Matul, Councilor-at-Large Nicole McLain, City Councilor Fred Hogan, City Councilor Natasha Megie-Maddrey, and School Committeewoman Andrea Satterwhite).



School Committeeman Eric Dugan, School Committeeman and Rep.-Elect Sean Reid, School Committeewoman Lorraine Gately, Mayor Jared Nicholson, and School Committeeman Lennin Pena.

more turf fields, and open space on the waterfront.

We're going to continue to grow our public safety team with another 10 recruits going to the next Police Academy, the coming launch of the Lynn Calm Team and the deep collaboration between the police, schools, and

community groups in service of our youth.

We set a record for streets paved last year and we're upgrading several of our major roadways to make it easier to get around the city.

Lynn's time is now, to continue to grow together. Nowhere

brings people together from such different walks of life so brilliantly like the City of Lynn. It's a deeply held value that will stay with us through thick and thin. That's why I am so excited tonight to ask for your support in the election next year. Thank you!

FRESH AND LOCAL

Cooking and mental health

by Penny & Ed Cherubino

Researchers and doctors are slowly looking to food to improve mental, emotional, and brain health. Recently, we've read reports on the benefits of cooking as a therapy for depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Research points to ways cooking can improve executive and cognitive function in those with mild cognitive impairment. Other studies promote cooking for patients with obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiovascular disease, traumatic brain injury, and stroke.

Benefits of Cooking

It's often suggested that you keep learning to improve your brain health. You might learn a new language, practice meditation, yoga, or tai chi, play word games, volunteer, or become physically and socially more active. Research has shown that cooking can be added to this list. For us, cooking and learning about food, wine, and food culture are a focus for our lifetime learning goals.

Food and Wine magazine quoted Hillary Ammon, Psy.D., a clinical psychologist at the Center for Anxiety & Women's Emotional Wellness. "Cooking can serve both purpose and pleasure, Ammon says. "It is a hobby that can provide a sense of purpose — nourishing your body or cooking for others — and a sense of pleasure, in that it brings you joy or satisfaction," she explained. "When we consider some of the basic tenets of treating depression in therapy, we are often looking to ensure people have both purposeful and pleasurable activities in their lives."

Cooking Therapy

Other findings show that the steps you take in cook-

ing, such as planning what to cook, following a recipe, and being creative, improve your executive function capacity. Initial research on the topic has led to programs of "Cooking Therapy."

There are many versions of cooking therapy, which is a new approach. Ammon explained that it can involve a patient cooking with their therapist. While cooking, the therapist can lead a relaxed discussion of the patient's mental health issues.

Side Benefits

One side benefit of cooking is improved nutrition. When you shop for good ingredients, choose recipes that will improve your health conditions, and cook the food yourself, you make a big step towards eating what's good for you.

As more links between your brain health and microbiome are proven, cooking at home will enable you to add more fiber, fermented foods, and foods rich in Omega-3 fatty acids and antioxidants to your menus. Even learning what these are is a benefit.

Cooking can be a form of self-expression and a creative outlet for many. It can also promote mindfulness, enhance self-esteem, and promote self-care. Cooking with and for others is an excellent form of socialization. People have always bonded through food. For those who have always cooked, teaching and supporting those who could benefit from learning to cook can be mutually beneficial.

Today, physicians are happy to refer patients with specific health conditions to registered dietitians who can provide food guidelines as a control factor. We were recently prescribed the MIND Diet as one that would be great for our brains. It combines the Mediterranean and DASH diets and is recommended for seniors as a preventative measure against cognitive loss.

Since it is always a good

idea to check in with your primary care physician before you make any lifestyle changes, make an appointment and ask for guidance on how you might use this new research on the value of cooking and cooking therapy to help manage any brain-related issues you would like to discuss.

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.



(PHOTO BY YUNUS TUG)

Cooking is good for your mental health and brain health. Cooking with others increases the benefits.

'Tis the Season for Lynn Christmas Kids

Share your photo to be included in this year's **SPECIAL PAGES**

BY WEDS. DEC. 19

Email your photos to PROMO@REVEREJOURNAL.COM

Please include names with your photo.

PHOTOS RECEIVED WITHOUT INFO WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED

Photos on your phone? Just scan here and attach the photo to the email that is generated!

PHOTOS PUBLISHED FRIDAY DEC. 20th CHRISTMAS EVE

Pine Hill / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

those joyful spring and summer nights at Spagnoli field in their hearts forever.

Following is the text of PHLL President John Cronin's remarks at the banquet:

"Players, Coaches, Parents, Family and Friends-

Welcome to the Pine Hill Little League 2024 banquet. For those counting, this little neighborhood Little League has not only thrived, but survived, for 65 seasons. It's been a constant that has marked the march of time for us, our kids, our parents and grandparents, and provided a place to gather, to compete, to marvel at the determination and dedication of the people of our corner of Lynn. A corner that we, in our time as shepherds of this league, have sought to protect and enhance. As we wrap up another season of watching our favorite people – these guys – build confidence and camaraderie while playing our nation's pastime, I'd like to think we did a pretty good job. I mean, just LOOK at those smiles out there.

It may sound simple or shallow to start there, but where else would we start? What else is this league for, is this league about, if not than to see the smiles on the faces of Selena Harkins, or Mateo Marichal, or Nora Grawe? To see the pride on the face of Todd Goodwin as he watched Jonathan step up to the plate as a Pine Hill All-Star this year? Or to welcome Zach Kahrmanovic, or Liam Mora, or any of our new t-ballers into the fold? To witness the joy of our 8-year-old tournament team beating Peabody West (that one was sweet), or our Minor A Yankees going through West Lynn to get to the championship?

Well, there's one other place I can think of to start. And that's the benches at Gallagher Park on a warm spring night, with the smell of the grill in the air, a few kids on bicycles, others yelling at each other jokingly about who caught or dropped the ball off of the wall, a Weinberg toddler or two or three (or 10, I've lost count), running the bases and laughter all around, from inside the concession stand and without. Simply: perfection. The culmination of the work that everyone here put into for months and years – a true community party on a weekly basis. A home for us and our kids.

Little league may be about some other important things: competition, learning life lessons, developing character. In Pine Hill, it's always been about



The Major Brewers, front row, from left, Liam Grawe, Caleb Morin, and Jonathan Goodwin. Middle row, from left, Ryan Cronin, Christopher Boudreau, Liam Mora, and Aaron Brelsford. Back row, from left, Coach Matt Goodwin, Coach Adam Brelsford, Head Coach Todd Goodwin, Coach Bill Morin, Jacob Morin, and Coach John Cronin.



Major Brewers Head Coach Todd Goodwin, with Coaches' Award recipient Liam Mora.

even more. It's been about community, and family, and the love and the appreciation that we all have for those things. An unspoken promise to never take that for granted.

So, while we remember, honor, and join in the smiles on all these little faces that have and continue to make this all worth it, tonight is, unavoidably, also

bittersweet. When I took over as president of this league in late 2020, the long-term future of the league was uncertain, with graduations of players from multiple core league families pending. It begged the question: where do we go from here? For the last four seasons, YOU answered that question – we weren't going anywhere. We battled to keep en-



PHLL President John Cronin presents the President's Award for the 2024 season to Christopher Boudreau.

rollment up, to fundraise to support our operations, to give the kids the Pine Hill Little League experience that we had come to expect and cherish.

Our teams competed and we had many of those great, memorable Gallagher nights.

All along, however, I personally, and our board in general, have had to struggle with the reality of

baseball and youth sports in the modern day. Falling participation numbers, exacerbated by a global pandemic, combined with competition from other sports, AAU programs, and consolidation of other leagues presented a harsh reality which resulted this year in being only able to field



The Minor A Yankees, left to right/ Coach Mike Nardone, Coach Ted O'Toole, Lisander Guerrero, Ronan O'Toole, Presley York, Michael Nardone, Edwin Soto, and Coach Ernesto Soto.



The Minor B Cubs, from left, Coach Rosanna Sorrentino, Coach Kyle Callahan, Marianna Woodbury, Bode Callahan, Evan Heaphy, and Andrew Vega-Asia.



The Minor C Expos team, pictured at the Pine Hill Little League awards banquet, from left, Coach Michael Cronin, Coach Kyle Callahan, Blair Callahan, Brooks Callahan, Emily Cronin, Nora Grawe, and Coach John Cronin.

a single major league team and, going forward, the likelihood of not having enough players at that level to participate in All-Stars.

Thankfully, we are not the only people in this City whose outlook and mission are to make baseball in Lynn a family-focused, character-building endeavor where player development comes first, and competitive success comes second. The coaches and board members of West Lynn Little League have been true partners in our baseball

experience over the past several seasons. From welcoming us to special season-ending games under the lights at the Minor B level, to keeping our strong association at the upper minors, to being willing partners in re-vamping this year's city series and being co-operative Jimmy Fund participants, the administration and families of West Lynn have given us hope that, with the right plan going forward, baseball in this part of the City can continue to survive and thrive.

And now they've stepped up and PROVEN that they agree with our belief that our leagues fit together. Many of you may know this already, but I'm proud – and a little sad – to formally announce that, pending confirmation by Little League International, 2024 will be the last season for Pine Hill Little League as an independent league. I'm sad because of the symbolic nature of that announcement, the reality that things will be a little different going forward. But proud be-

cause this group here tonight has done the hard work of building the relationships and the reputation that lead a league like West Lynn to be willing to join us and form a new, combined league under their name, while also proudly retaining the Pine Hill name at Gallagher Park as the center of our new Pine Hill Developmental Minor League Program.

As we have done aggressively over the last 4 years, we will continue to focus just as heavily on the youngest and most eager of learners as we do our majors players. To make sure that our 4 to 9 year olds are on equal footing with our 10-12 year olds in terms of opportunity and skill development. And just as importantly, to make sure that Gallagher Park and Pine Hill remain a center of good friends, good food (the best in the district), good baseball, and overall good times.

So. I know I'm dropping some heaviness on you. We not only celebrate 65 years tonight, but, in a way, say a symbolic goodbye. Let's reminisce, let's enjoy a fantastic slide show put together by Josie Marichal, but let's do one other thing. Let's get excited and determined.

Excited at the opportunity for

our kids to compete. Not just in general, but to have a real chance at an equal footing that had begun to evade us as other leagues garnered more territory - and, as a result, more players. But even more importantly – let's get determined. Determined to seize this opportunity to work with a willing partner in West Lynn who appreciates what we have had in Pine Hill, that wants to afford us the opportunity to keep that spirit alive and bring it to the larger West Lynn community. Determined to remember the amazing 65 years we've had in this league. Determined to have more of those perfect Gallagher nights. I hope that all of you will join me in helping make that happen. Keep coaching, keep volunteering, keep coming down to the park to see those little smiles. It's what Little League and what Pine Hill are STILL and will ALWAYS be about.

Thank you for 65 great years. Here's to 65 more, even if it's in a different form. Because those smiles will never leave our memory and will never stop driving us to keep this neighborhood what it is. Not perfect, but on those few spring nights every year, our idea of perfection."



The Cronin Family, PHLL President John Cronin ((left) and League Information Officer Maura Cronin (right) and their children, Michael Cronin, Emily Cronin, and Ryan Cronin, pictured at the organization's final awards banquet.



The Pine Hill Little League banner, on display for the final time at the awards banquet at Prince Restaurant in Saugus.

THE LYNN HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL FOOTBALL LUNCHEON AT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL ON LYNNFIELD STREET



Lynn Tech's Head Coach James Runner III with his football captains, and Head Coach Brittany Legault with her Cheerleader captains.



Kipp Academy's Head Football Coach Jim Rabbitt and Asst. Coach Anthony Grimaldi with their captains, and Head Coach Michad Jones and his cheerleader captains.



Director of Lynn's All City Band Jeremy Witherell and Percussion Instructor Jeanne Dunlap with senior band members.

On Tuesday, Nov. 26, the Lynn Rotary hosted the annual football lunch for all the local high school football and cheerleader captains as well as the Lynn All City Band.

This annual event was made possible by four major sponsors, Brotherhood Credit Union, Riverworks Credit Union, St. Jean's Credit Union, and Metro Credit Union.



Superintendent of Lynn's Public Schools Dr. Evonne Alvarez with her remarks and best wishes to all the teams.



President of the Lynn Rotary Jean Marie Minton with Master of Ceremonies and State Representative Elect Sean Reid and Lynn Mayor Jared C. Nicholson.

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Fr. Brian Flynn with the blessing.

THE LYNN HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL FOOTBALL LUNCHEON AT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL ON LYNNFIELD STREET



Mayor Jared Nicholson, Rotary President Jean Marie Minton, Master of Ceremonies and State Representative Elect Sean Reid and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Evonne Alvarez and the members of the Lynn Rotary.



Master of Ceremonies Sean Reid with Senator Brendan Crighton.



St. Mary's of Lynn Head Football Coach Sean Driscoll with his captains and St. Mary's of Lynn Cheerleading Captains.



Lynn English Football Head Coach Tyllor McDonald with his captains and Cheering Coach Cassie DeMillie with her Cheering captains.



Lynn Classical Head Football Coach Brian Vaughan with the football captains and cheerleaders.



Sponsors of the Football Luncheon, Peter Kopoulos from Riverworks, Diana Moreno from Metro Credit Union, from St Jean's Credit Union Kathy Donahue, David Surface, and John Kington, from Brotherhood Credit Union Kim Corliss.

Legislature passes comprehensive economic bond bill

Special to the Journal

The Massachusetts State Legislature passed an economic development bond bill that authorizes \$3.96 billion in capital authorizations and a robust set of policy changes to support businesses and communities alike.

Key Highlights for the District

Policy:

Liquor License Equity: Removes the archaic requirement that restaurant liquor license holders must be a United States Citizen, in doing so, this provision will create a pathway for lawfully present and vetted immigrants to also apply for licenses for their small businesses.

This policy was originally filed as a stand-alone bill by State Senator Patrick M. O'Connor (R-Weymouth). The legislative effort was later led by a bipartisan collaboration between Senator Edwards (D-East Boston) and Senator O'Connor.

"This provision is essential in promoting equity in the service industry, the nation's largest employer of immigrants," said State Senator Patrick O'Connor (R-Weymouth) "permitting all lawful residents of the commonwealth to rise within the managerial ranks not only alleviates staffing challenges, but provides economic mobility for individuals who were previously disenfranchised."

Project Labor Agreements (PLAs): This provides a clear affordable pathway for municipalities to require a PLA if in the common good and best interest

of the community. A PLA assures high standards and great wages.

Targeted Toxicity: It requires the Massachusetts Commissioner of Agriculture to conduct a study on the presence of harmful substances—such as mercury, parabens, and other endocrine disruptors—in cosmetic products, and their potential negative effects on minors. The study will examine the health impacts of these substances on people under 18, how advertisements encourage minors to buy products containing these substances, and the use of minors in advertisements for such products, including images of children marketing hair relaxers and skin-bleaching products.

It will also analyze how these images vary by age, race, and sex, and include a list of cosmetic products that use child-like images or children to market these products, as well as a geographic analysis of where these products are sold in the state. The commissioner must submit a report with findings and recommendations to the joint committee on public health, the joint committee on racial equity, civil rights and inclusion and the senate and house committees on ways and means by May 1, 2025

Support for Small Businesses: The bill also authorizes a five-year pilot program for the Commonwealth to assist small businesses in acquiring surety bonds. Large capital projects, whether public or private, often require retention of a surety bond by the contractor as financial security. Historically, economically and socially disadvantaged

businesses often cannot acquire these bonds because of a lack of credit history or collateral. This program creates a self-sustaining state assistance program to open doors for more of these businesses.

Capital Authorizations:

Suffolk Downs: It authorizes \$19M to support the mixed use and creation of affordable housing in the redevelopment project at Suffolk Downs in the Cities of Boston and Revere.

This is a joint effort by State Senator Lydia Edwards (D-East Boston) and State Representative Jessica Giannino (D-Revere) to continue to push for this milestone project that will create thousands of new affordable housing units. "I am grateful for Speaker Mariano's leadership and the hard work of my colleagues in passing this critical legislation to strengthen the Commonwealth's economic leadership. This legislation makes key investments in significant economic development projects across Massachusetts. I'm proud to have secured funding for several important initiatives in the 16th Suffolk

district, including the Suffolk Downs project, the conversion of Revere's former McKinley School into a food hub, and a master planning exercise for the Squire Road Corridor," said State Representative Jessica Ann Giannino (D-Revere).

Water Transportation: It authorizes \$900,000 for the purchase of a water transportation vessel for the town of Winthrop to expand waterways between Winthrop and the inner Boston Harbor.

Since being elected to the Massachusetts State Senate, Senator Edwards has prioritized access to public transportation by expanding ferry services to alleviate traffic congestion in and out of Winthrop and the surrounding areas.

"I am eager to continue working on expanding public transportation for Winthrop residents," said State Senator Lydia Edwards (D-East Boston). "The ferry service in Winthrop was an invaluable resource for daily commuters traveling in and out of the town during the week-end and summer closures of the

Sumner Tunnel, and I am committed to expanding this mode of transportation into a full, year-round service."

Enhancing Development in Winthrop: It authorizes \$1,000,000 for infrastructure improvements at the "Old" Winthrop middle school on 993 Pauline Street in the town of Winthrop;

"The allocation of \$1 million to the old middle school in Winthrop marks the beginning of a transformative process to demolish the aging structure and create a vibrant, usable space for the community to enjoy. This funding will kickstart the long-awaited redevelopment of a site that has remained dormant for far too long, paving the way for future growth and opportunity," said State Representative Jeffrey Rosario Turco (D-Winthrop).

"We have so much to be proud of and to support in our small businesses. I want to thank my colleagues in the state house, especially those on the conference committee that continued to negotiate and fight for this bill," said State Senator Lydia Edwards (D-East Boston).

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Blue Man Group Boston will celebrate the season with extended show schedule

Special to the Journal

Blue Man Group will be decking the halls in December with holiday elements added to the show and an extended performance schedule. From December 18th - December 29th, there will be 28 shows with seasonal elements added to the performances including holiday music using the group's unique musical instruments. From December 26th - 31st there will also be added matinees including an 11 am and 2 pm show on certain days. And for a New Year's Eve celebration that the entire family can enjoy, there will be four shows on December 31st (11 am, 2 pm, 5 pm & 8 pm).

There are multiple holiday offers currently running including savings of 25% with a family four pack for a great afternoon or night out with the entire family. Tickets can be purchased here. There are multiple show additions and options throughout the holi-

days that include morning, afternoon, and evening options.

For over 25 years, Blue Man Group has continued to evolve and introduce exciting new content keeping the high-energy show fresh for audiences of all ages. The

show was recently transformed in October with original new music, two brand new acts and a jaw-dropping new finale. This show refresh marks the first time since 2011

Please see BLUE MAN GROUP Page 12



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAWN KINGSTON PHOTO

Blue Man Group Boston at the Columbus Park Trellis Lighting.

Lynn's Professional Service Directory

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THE Lynn JOURNAL

Rep. Jenny Armini attends grand reopening of Roca headquarters

Rep. Jenny Armini, whose district includes neighborhoods in Lynn, attended the grand reopening of the Roca headquarters Wednesday in Chelsea. Roca

is a violence intervention and behavioral health program for young people, with a separate location in Lynn.



Rep. Jenny Armini is pictured with Roca Executive Vice President of New England Scott Scharffenberg (right) at the event following the \$6.2 million renovation project at the facility.

Blue Man Group / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

that Blue Man Group Boston has seen a show transformation of this magnitude, while retaining the same essence and magic of the three bald and blue men who explore today's cultural norms with wonder, poking fun at the audience's collective quirks and reminding them how much they all have in common.

All available show tickets can be purchased online now by visiting www.blueman.com/boston or calling 1-800-BLUEMAN. For tickets and more information about Blue Man Group Boston, check out www.blueman.com. Doors open one hour before each performance. Children under the age of 5 are not permitted in the theatre.

Blue Man Group is a global entertainment phenomenon, known for its award-winning theatrical productions, iconic characters and multiple creative explorations. Blue Man Group performances are euphoric celebrations of human connection through art, music, comedy and non-verbal communication. Since debuting at New York's Astor Place Theatre in 1991, the live show has expanded to additional domestic residencies in Boston, Chicago, and Las Vegas, an international

residency in Berlin, and multiple North American and World tours, reaching more than 50 million people worldwide. Blue Man Group is universally appealing to a broad range of age groups and cultural backgrounds, and continually injected with new music, fresh stories, custom instruments and sensory stimulating graphics. Blue Man Group is owned and operated by Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group. For more information, please visit www.blueman.com.

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LYNN KICKS OFF HOLIDAY SEASON WITH CITY HALL-IDAY FESTIVITIES



Mayor Jared Nicholson joined city officials and residents in kicking off the holiday season with the tree-lighting ceremony. Pictured, from left, are City Councilor Fred Hogan, School Committeeman Lennin Pena, Mayor Jared Nicholson, City Council President Jay Walsh, City Councilor Obed Matul, and School Committeeman and Rep.-Elect Sean Reid.

Public invited to annual tree lighting at USS Constitution

Special to the Journal

The public is invited to attend USS Constitution's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 6, 2024, starting at 3:00 p.m.

This free event will feature a visit and photo opportunities with Santa Claus, complimentary hot chocolate and cookies, holiday music, ship tours, and re-

marks from the ship's commanding officer.

Boarding of USS Constitution will begin at 3:00 p.m., and the event will conclude at 6:00 p.m.

Guests can witness the ship's gun firing during evening colors, a ceremony marking the lowering of the American flag at sunset, scheduled for 4:11 p.m.

The tree-lighting ceremony will commence at 4:30 p.m., photos with Santa Claus will be

available immediately afterward.

USS Constitution is open for free public visitation Wednesday through Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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