



Lou Markakis
781-558-8518

Rosa DeCastro
781-589-8527

Bernardo Sepulveda
857-523-9785

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THE LYNN JOURNAL

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HEROES AMONG US

City Council, Mayor Nicholson honor Brown, Thomas for their heroic actions during Orchard Street fire

By Cary Shuman

The Lynn City Council and Mayor Jared Nicholson honored Jay Brown and Cherice Thomas for their acts of heroism during a Dec. 9 fire at a home at 18 Orchard Street.

Ward 6 Councilor Fred Hogan and Mayor Nicholson each presented individual citations to Thomas and Brown at a meeting Tuesday night in the Council Chambers.

“There was a fire and what happened was truly amazing, especially around the holiday – Lynn people step up for other people, and that’s what being part of the city and this community is all about,” lauded Hogan.

The Council recognized Ms. Thomas for “your act of courage and bravery to ensure the safety of occupants of a home on Orchard Street that was engulfed by flames.”

Hogan commended Thomas, 48, who “immediately got her building cleared and then went to yell and get people out of the house next door and prevent some people from going back in to save their pets (and belongings).”

The Council recognized Mr. Brown “for your extraordinary act of courage, bravery,

and selflessness in risking your own life to ensure the safety of the occupants of a home on Orchard Street that was engulfed in flames.”

Hogan said that Brown, 46, a maintenance mechanic at General Electric, was leaving work that day, “and looks and sees the smoke, drives all the way down Orchard Street, sees that the house is engulfed, runs to the back of the house, runs to the front and he kicked in the door and yelled to the people. During Christmastime for people like Jay and Cherice to step up and save lives, it’s just truly amazing. These are two people that I grew up with in that neighborhood.”

Hogan also thanked the Lynn Fire Department for their swift response to the incident and their professional operations in extinguishing the blaze quickly.

Mayor Nicholson said, “It is such an honor for me to be able to thank Jay and Cherice on behalf of the City of Lynn for their heroism, for their thinking, for their action in time of incredible danger and risk to care for their neighborhoods and for their fellow humans. As always, we say thank you to our first responders in the Fire Department. When

Please see HEROES Page 7



Ward 6 Councilor Fred Hogan (left) and Mayor Jared Nicholson (right) present citations to Jay Brown and Cherice Thomas in recognition of their heroic actions during the Dec. 9 fire at a home on Orchard Street.

Lynn invests in arts community by opening applications for First Poet Laureate

Special to the Journal

The City of Lynn, Massachusetts, has announced that it will open the application process to select its inaugural Poet Laureate at the end of this month. Interested individuals can apply anytime from December 31, 2024, through January 31, 2025, with the poet laureate expected to be selected by the end of March 2025.

The Lynn Poet Laureate will represent the city through public readings, community events,

and artistic initiatives. This effort aims to enrich Lynn’s cultural landscape and celebrate the literary talent rooted in the community. Nicole McClain, City of Lynn Councilor-at-Large, spearheaded the idea for the designation of Poet Laureate.

“By appointing a Poet Laureate, we celebrate not only the art form but also the creative community and its capacity to inspire empathy, provoke thought, and preserve cultural heritage,” says McClain. “This initiative fosters a deeper appreciation for the

written word and highlights the importance of the arts and culture sector in shaping our collective future.”

Lynn will become just the 18th municipality in Massachusetts to name a poet laureate, a historic step for the city as it continues to celebrate and promote its vibrant and diverse arts community that includes creators and organizations focused on music, visual arts, performing arts, and history. The Poet Laureate will serve

Please see POET LAUREATE Page 3

OUR OFFICES ARE CLOSED
CHRISTMAS
& NEW YEARS
SEE YOU IN 2025!

EDITORIAL

CHRISTMAS IS FAST APPROACHING, BUT THERE'S STILL TIME TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

It's hard to believe that Christmas is just a week away. We realize that the compressed holiday shopping season has put even more pressure than usual on all of us, but we hope that all of our readers can find the time to remember those in need this holiday season.

The stock market may be booming and unemployment may be near an all-time low, but there was the depressing news this past week that homelessness among Americans once again has increased in the past year and millions of American children (1 in 8) face food insecurity on a regular basis.

The cold, harsh reality for many Americans in 2024 is that the promise of benefitting from a booming economy still is only a dream, where even those who are lucky enough to work full-time are barely getting by thanks to the crushingly-high cost of housing.

And for those who cannot find a job, or who are unable to work -- and especially for their children -- the holiday joy that most of us take for granted is just an illusion.

We recognize that in our hurry-hurry world where we barely have time to think, the Christmas season brings with it the onslaught of last-minute shopping and holiday preparations. But we urge all of our readers who have the means to do so to take a brief "time-out" in order to consider doing something to make the holiday season a bit brighter for those who are less fortunate.

We can assure our readers that any gift of charity that we make, whether it be to a Toys for Tots program or to a Salvation Army Santa (the Salvation Army provided services to 27 million Americans last year) or a food bank donation, will be the most meaningful — and most satisfying — act that we can make this holiday season.

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE STARTED 80 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

It was 80 years ago this week that the final big battle of WWII in Western Europe -- the Battle of the Bulge -- got underway.

In brief, the Battle of the Bulge marked a last-ditch counter-offensive by the German Army against the U.S. and its allies as the allies advanced through Belgium and toward Germany. The German attack, which caught the Americans by surprise, earned its name from the "bulge" that the sudden German thrust created in the middle of the American line in the Ardennes Forest of Belgium.

The battle was immortalized in the 1965 movie, *The Battle of the Bulge*, and then 40 years later in the great HBO series *Band of Brothers*, which followed the exploits of E Company of the fabled 101st Airborne Division, including its crucial role in the defense of the Belgian town of Bastogne where General Anthony McAuliffe uttered the famous, one-word declaration word, "Nuts!" in response to a demand for him to surrender from the German commander who had surrounded the Americans. The 101st Airborne hung on, against all odds and a militarily-superior enemy, stalling the German offensive until General George Patton arrived with reinforcements.

Soldiers fought in brutal winter conditions against a ruthless German enemy that literally was taking no prisoners -- the Nazis executed hundreds of captured American soldiers during the engagement. Altogether, the U.S. Army lost approximately 19,000 men and suffered 75,000 total casualties in what became the United States' deadliest single World War II battle, which extended from December 16, 1944, to January 16, 1945. When the battle was over, so too for all intents and purposes were the Germans, whose surrender occurred less than four months later.

The reason we wish to make note of this epic battle is because in some of our sister newspapers, we write a weekly "Through the Years" column. In our Revere newspaper, it was noted that seven Revere families were notified this week 80 years ago that their sons, husbands, and fathers had been killed in action.

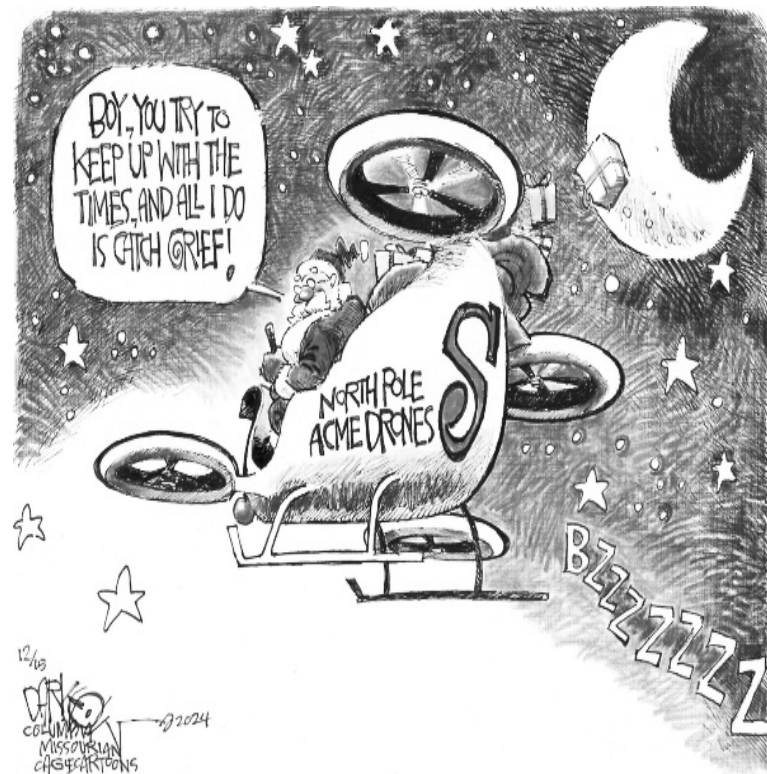
We today can only imagine the profound and deep sense of grief and sadness that enveloped entire communities all across the country as the telegrams from the War Department were delivered by the thousands to families informing them of the loss of their loved ones over those terrible four weeks.

In addition, it occurred to us that so few of the Greatest Generation, including our own uncles and fathers who served in that war, are still alive today. All of the members of Easy Company have passed away.

We do so in hopes of acknowledging the debt we owe to the brave soldiers who gave their lives in the forests and on the fields of Belgium 80 years ago, with the hope that we might fulfill the sentiments expressed by Abraham Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address: "...that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain."

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



City, state delegation, MBTA and MassDevelopment announce plans for Lynn Garage

Special to the Journal

The City of Lynn and the MBTA unveiled an initial concept for the MBTA garage on Broad Street, which would involve a partial demolition and repurposing of the space. The City will be working with both the MBTA and MassDevelopment to renovate and revitalize the site.

Recognizing that the garage provides critical parking support for both the commuter rail station and the general downtown area, one half of the garage space would be repaired for continued use as parking. The garage has been partially closed since the summer of 2022 due to safety

Please see GARAGE 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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Reporting Staff
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Garage / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

concerns. The other half of the garage space would be razed and used for transit-oriented development through a public-private partnership.

“It’s time for this to move forward,” said Mayor Jared C. Nicholson. “We want to be in position to capitalize on the opportunities at this site, while maintaining important parking to support both the commuter rail and our downtown. We look forward to seeing plans as they are formulated.”

Nicholson said that the City expects public engagement to be an important part of the process.

“We are excited at the potential for this site,” the mayor continued. “MassDevelopment and the MBTA are positioned to ensure that the City and the state get maximum use of this site, which is in a key location between the waterfront and the downtown. We appreciate the work of our state delegation in advocating for this.”

“The MBTA is pleased to partner with the Lynn delegation, MassDevelopment, and the City on options for the Lynn Garage site that benefit everyone, including our commuter rail passengers that utilize this parking facility,” said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. “The MBTA is committed to tackling longstanding issues head-on with a focus on best supporting the communities we serve, and the upcoming revitalization of this garage space in Lynn is a good example of a creative solution for the garage that can benefit both MBTA passengers and the entire Lynn community.”

Thanks to the advocacy of the City and the state delegation, the MBTA included \$22.2 million in its most recent Capital Investment Plan for the decommissioning of the garage.

“We are thrilled to see progress being made towards a new Lynn garage,” said Sen. Bren-

dan Crighton. “This is a valuable space and we look forward to working with the MBTA and MassDevelopment to modernize the area and make it a core component of a vibrant downtown. Thank you to the Healey-Driscoll administration and the City of Lynn for their work and continued commitment to transit oriented development and strategic housing production.”

“As a proud advocate for the revitalization of Downtown Lynn, I’m thrilled to see the collaborative efforts between the City, state delegation, MBTA, and MassDevelopment moving forward on this transformative project,” said Rep. Dan Cahill. “This project is a testament to what we can achieve when we work together to enhance both transit infrastructure and housing opportunities. We’re not only addressing immediate transportation needs, but also creating a foundation for a thriving, sustainable downtown that benefits our entire community. I’m proud to continue supporting this important work alongside my colleagues in the state legislature.”

“This is an exciting and long-awaited step forward for our city,” said Rep. Peter Capano. “By balancing our parking needs with transit-oriented development, and by seeking community input along the way, we will ensure that our downtown continues to thrive.”

“This project will enhance the commuting experience and further support Lynn’s role as the North Shore’s transportation hub,” said Rep. Jenny Armini. “It’s also an exciting opportunity to unlock the potential of a key downtown site.”

This project is still in the design phase, with additional plans and opportunities for public comment expected to be announced in 2025.

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
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 wel-

come to bring projects and enjoy refreshments.

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.

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

Old North Church unveils hidden 18th-century angels in ongoing restoration

Special to the Journal

An interior revolution is underway at Boston’s Old North Church and Historic Site. On Sept 30, a 6-month paint conservation and restoration project began to uncover 18th-century painted angels hidden beneath layers of white overpaint on the balcony arches in the church’s sanctuary. I invite you to join renowned paintings and murals conservator Gianfranco Pocobene for the multi-step process that has begun at Old North Church in Boston’s North End and will continue through late March.

The angels at the center of this work were painted by John Gibbs, an accomplished decorative painter and congregation member, who completed Old North Church’s first major interior decoration, including the painting of 16 angels, between 1727 and the 1730s. The angels are depicted as cherubs, with round childlike faces and wings.

While Old North Church once boasted a colorful interior filled with intricate and ornate designs, all of this artwork – including Gibbs’s angels – was painted over with white paint in 1912.

However, a paint study conducted in 2017 revealed that the lost cherubs still exist. Expert craftspeople painstakingly removed layers of white paint to partially uncover one of the angels painted in 1727. Old North’s team nicknamed this angel “Howard” in honor of a beloved advocate and supporter of the church.

The 2024-2025 paint restoration project is restoring more of Gibbs’s work: the rest of the angels and decorative festoons between them. In order to un-

cover the angels, lead conservator Gianfranco Pocobene and his team apply a solvent gel similar to a paint stripper that softens the layers of white paint, manually remove the overpaint with a plastic scraper, and then do additional cleaning with a cotton swab covered in solvents. An exciting discovery has been that Gibbs’s angels do not have identical faces; each one was designed to be unique. Watch this video inter-

Please see OLD NORTH CHURCH Page 5



A close up of one of the the recently uncovered angels.

Poet Laureate / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a two-year term and receive a \$2,500 stipend for their contributions to the city’s cultural life.

“Lynn’s creative community has long been a cornerstone of our city’s identity. Establishing a poet laureate is a way to honor and amplify the voices of those who bring creativity and meaning to our shared experiences,” explained Lynn Mayor Jared C. Nicholson. “This program will

provide a platform to celebrate poetry’s power to connect, inspire, and transform the residents of our great city.”

Eligibility Requirements:

All who meet the following criteria are welcome and eligible to apply to become Lynn’s first Poet Laureate:

- Be 21 years or older.
- Be comfortable presenting in

English.

- Preference given to Lynn residents.
- Have a portfolio of work available via website, social media, publication, or blog.
- Prepare and present a piece for an interview.

“The Poet Laureate program is about more than celebrating poetry—it’s about recognizing the unique voices and stories that



Scan this code to visit the Poet Laureate application. The application goes live on Dec. 31, 2024.

define our city,” added LaCrecia Thomson, Arts and Culture Planner for the City of Lynn. “This initiative will help deepen Lynn’s cultural legacy and create opportunities to bring people together through art.”

Applications open on December 31st, 2024. For more information and to apply, please visit: <https://shorturl.at/bd8rc>

Rotary Club of Lynn to distribute dictionaries to gradeschoolers

Special to the Journal

On January 8, 2025 the Rotary Club of Lynn will continue with its tradition of distributing dictionaries to 3rd graders in all the schools in Lynn with 3rd grade classes. Twenty Lynn public and private schools are participating

this year, up from 18 schools in past years. Since 2008, the Rotary Club of Lynn, MA has presented over 1,200 dictionaries annually to third-grade students. This year marks the 16th consecutive year of this service project for the Club and a distribution of over 20,000 dictionaries since its inception! All the 3rd graders

are generally thrilled to receive a book they can call their own.

The distribution will begin at 9:00 am on the 8th at the Callahan School. At that school it is anticipated that the dictionaries will be distributed by: Mayor Nicholson; Superintendent Dr. Alvarez; the President of Lynn Rotary, Jean-Marie Minton; and pos-

sibly some members of Lynn's State House representatives. In addition, 38 Rotarians will assist, along with several Lynn Public School staff members.

It should be noted that the financial co-supporters of this project are the Reading Cooperative Bank (RCB) and McGrath Enterprises, without their sup-

port the Lynn Rotary could not continue with this project. Kerry Ranieri, RCB VP of Community Banking & Development Officer; and Jim Connors CEO of McGrath Enterprises are expected to be at the Callahan School as well.

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education announces application open for next K-12 commissioner

WELLESLEY – The Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education announced today that it is accepting applications for the next Commissioner to lead the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The DESE Commissioner works closely with the Board and the Healey-Driscoll Administration to advocate for Massachusetts's public elementary and secondary schools and works to strengthen the impact, accessibility, and quality of elementary and secondary education across the state.

The Board is looking for a forward-thinking, data-driven educator and a proven leader and manager within complex, multi-tiered systems. The successful candidate will demonstrate effec-

tiveness in devising imaginative approaches that serve students, teachers, and their school communities, an unwavering commitment to the transformational power of elementary and secondary education, and a clear track record of dismantling systemic inequities and improving the experience of all students, particularly those from marginalized communities and experiences. Importantly, the next Commissioner will champion DESE's educational vision.

"The Healey-Driscoll Administration, in partnership with the Board, has made progress, moving towards realizing an education system that truly delivers a high-quality, high-relevance education to every student in Massachusetts, regardless of

their zip-code, background, or circumstance. The next Massachusetts K-12 education leader will be pivotal in this mission and driving continued efforts to provide all students with the opportunity to realize their dreams and thrive," said Education Secretary Dr. Patrick Tutwiler.

"The Massachusetts Board of Education is the longest standing board in America, founded by the father of public school education Horace Mann himself, and is committed to ensuring that every child in the Commonwealth has equitable access to an excellent public school education," said Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Chair Katherine Craven. "We are seeking a commissioner who has demonstrated success in collaborating

with local districts to create innovative learning opportunities for all children, and a proven leader with great results in closing persistent achievement gaps."

The Board has retained Isaacson, Miller to support the hiring process and has over the past month gathered feedback from stakeholders inside and outside of government about what people want to see in the next Commissioner. This has included public comment sessions and over 150 responses to a public survey. Chair Craven has also convened a Preliminary Screening Committee made up of the Chair, Secretary Tutwiler, Member Dr. Ericka Fisher, Member Dr. Martin West, and over 20 other key stakeholders.

Interested candidates can find

the application and community members can nominate someone, provide feedback, and stay up to date on this process online at Doe.mass.edu/commissioner-search/.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) serves more than 900,000 preK-12 public school students, more than 20,000 adult learners, and more than 75,000 educators in the state's 400 school districts. The Department's educational vision calls for all students to be known and valued; learning experiences to be relevant, real-world, and interactive; and for individualized supports to enable students to excel at grade level or beyond.

NEWS BRIEFS

TWO MEN ARRAIGNED FOR FLYING DRONES FROM RESTRICTED LONG ISLAND

Two men were charged in Dorchester BMC today with three counts each connected to flying drones in hazardous air space around Long Island and Boston Harbor on Saturday, Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced.

Robert Duffy, 42, of Charlestown, and Jeremy Folcik, 32, of Bridgewater, were each charged with trespassing, breaking and entering, and violating a municipal ordinance or bylaw. Judge Erika Reis released the men on personal recognizance and ordered them to stay away from

Long Island and to not operate drones. Both will return to court February 6 for pre-trial hearings.

Boston Police responded to the abandoned homeless and hospital campus on Long Island via patrol boat at about 10:30 p.m. Saturday to investigate reports of unmanned aircraft being flown in hazardous proximity to Logan Airport. As officers searched the site they saw a light on in a building and a person walk by a window. Officers climbed to the second floor of the building by fire escape stairs and conducted a room search. Officers encountered Duffy and Folcik in the building. Duffy told officers he had been flying a drone and that it was in his backpack. Duffy and Folcik told officers they had been transported to the island on a boat owned by a third man.

They said they did not know the man's name. Boston Police asked a State Police patrol boat unit for assistance in locating the third man but he was not apprehended.

Using data from the drone's serial number officers identified six recorded flights on Saturday and seven recorded flights on December 7.

"No trespassing" signs are posted on structures throughout the shuttered Long Island campus.

"There are many areas in Massachusetts to safely operate drones. But flying them from an area closed to the public while creating a potential public safety hazard in the process is conduct that will land people in court to answer to criminal charges, which is exactly what happened here," Hayden said.

USPS ADVISES HOW TO KEEP YOUR CARRIERS SAFE IN WINTER WEATHER

Snow in New England can be a beautiful sight as it glistens on the lawn, decorates tree limbs and adds a sense of wonder to the holidays. It can come as a blessing for skiers, plow drivers and kids yearning for a school-free snow day. But for postal letter carriers and other delivery personnel it can be a nightmare.

Icy walkways, wet leaves and rakes, toys or other trip hazards hidden under the snow can cause injury to a carrier trying to navigate a path to your mailbox. Keeping your walkway clear of snow, ice and other obstacles can not only protect people deliver-

ing to your home, but it can also help you avoid potential insurance claims or lawsuits resulting from slip and fall injuries sustained on your property.

Likewise, if your home is serviced by a curbside mailbox, keeping a clear path to and from your box is each homeowner's responsibility.

Letter Carriers are committed to delivering to every address every day, provided that it's safe to do so. With your help creating a safe environment, we can keep the mail moving and make sure everyone gets home safely at the end of the day.

On behalf of the more than 660,000 postal employees nationwide, USPS would like to wish you a joyous holiday season and a happy and healthy new year.

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MBC hearing focuses on climate adaptations, access for all to state's recreational beaches

Special to the Journal

On Monday Nov. 18 at 10am, the Metropolitan Beaches Commission (MBC) and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay hosted their annual hearing on the state of the beaches at the Massachusetts State House. The hearing featured testimony from Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Brian Arrigo on the progress the agency has made toward infrastructure, maintenance and equity recommendations by the Commission, as well as a discussion of the vulnerability of the recreational beaches to storm surge and sea level rise.

"I have really appreciated the responsiveness from DCR over the past year under Commissioner Arrigo," said MBC Co-Chair, Senator Brendan Crighton. "While we continue to make progress on our water quality issues on the North Shore, our district regularly sees the impact of storms on our coasts, seawalls and beaches. MBC looks forward to supporting DCR in understanding the vulnerabilities our beaches face."

"I've seen first-hand how much people in my district in East Boston rely on Constitution Beach for recreation, especially in the hottest summer on record," said MBC Co-Chair Rep. Adrian Madaro. "I know East Boston residents are eager for infrastructure updates to this critical natural resource, so I look forward to learning about the progress that DCR has made under Commissioner Arrigo. In addition, I am

interested in their accomplishments towards the equity recommendations in last year's Breaking Barriers report and hearing about goals for the coming beach season."

Arrigo testified to the Commission, highlighting the actions DCR took in 2024 to address the MBC's recommendations for improved beach access for non-English speakers, people with disabilities and people of color.

"Having access to beaches, parks, and green spaces is a matter of equity," Arrigo affirmed. "As we experience more and more periods of climate-change driven extreme heat during our summers, it's vitally important that all of our residents and families feel welcome at and can safely enjoy our beaches to cool off. These spaces build healthy communities. We are grateful to the Commission and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay for their continued partnership in our work to break down accessibility barriers to our Metro Beaches."

To that end, in the past two years, DCR has introduced new water safety and shorebird protection signs, featuring QR codes that offer translations into nine additional languages. Additionally, every Metropolitan Beach now hosts welcome signage in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Haitian Creole, Cape Verdean Creole, Arabic, Mandarin, Traditional Chinese, and Russian. DCR will also be installing new easier to understand English and Spanish beach rules signs at all beaches, ahead of the 2025 summer season. The



Caption: MBC Commissioners and Staff (from L to R) Mercy Robinson, Margaret LaForest, Rep. Joan Meschino, Sen. Brendan Crighton, Rep. Adrian Madaro, John Allen, Susan Hamilton, Christian Krahforst, Chris Mancini, and Jason Rundle hosted the hearing from the State House while others, including Rep. Jessica Giannino, Robert Tucker, Christopher Byner and Dan Kenary participated by Zoom.

new signs, which will be available in the nine languages via a QR code, feature logos reminding beachgoers not to engage in certain activities for their safety.

DCR also invested more than \$300,000 on new beach wheelchairs and over 1,000 feet of mobility mats. Over the last two years, DCR has added 44 new beach wheelchairs to the Metro Beaches. The DCR Universal Access Program, tasked with providing adaptive and accessible recreation opportunities, worked alongside Save the Harbor staff to conduct an accessibility audit of public beaches in 2023, and this data is being used to plan future capital projects. Save the Harbor also established the Beach Accessibility Advisory Committee to help update DCR lifeguard training.

Finally, Save the Harbor's Executive Director Chris Mancini commended Commissioner Arrigo's continued support for the Better Beaches Partnership, which aims to give deci-

sion-making power directly to community members over community spaces. This year, Save the Harbor distributed \$315,000 in grants to 83 community groups, artists, and coalitions to host free events all summer long on DCR beaches. "72% of our 2024 Better Beaches grantees are led by or directly serve people of color," Mancini reported.

Following Commissioner Arrigo's testimony, Save the Harbor Policy Manager Jason Rundle presented an update on the Commission's work around coastal resilience, which featured 11 community climate workshops in 2024. "Understanding that the vast majority of community members value their beaches as spaces for rest and recreation emphasizes the importance of preserving these resources," said Rundle. "We need to take a look at both short-term vulnerabilities to storm surges and long-term beach migration and sea level rise so that we can support the state in developing interventions

that can protect our beaches."

Finally, the hearing opened to public comment during which residents from across the region brought attention to instances of poor water quality on some beaches, improvements to bathrooms and public bathrooms, and the need to reevaluate the state testing and flagging protocols that communicate when beaches are open and closed to the public.

Looking ahead, the MBC intends to prioritize better understanding of the beaches' vulnerability, consistent efforts to improve equity and accessibility, as well as ongoing maintenance and infrastructure improvements to playgrounds, seawalls, plantings and other needs as identified by beachgoers in each community. The MBC Commissioners agreed that each of the 13 Metropolitan beaches needs its own vulnerability assessment to plan adaptations in the face of increasing climate impacts. Save the Harbor is looking forward to supporting DCR in this effort in 2025.

Old North Church / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

view with Gianfranco to learn more.

"The timing of this project is particularly exciting. As we approach the 250th anniversary of Old North's signal lanterns and Paul Revere's midnight ride in April 2025, visitors to the church will get a glimpse of the sanctuary as Revere knew it," said Nikki Stewart, Executive Director of Old North Illuminated.

This project will be done in two phases:

- Phase 1 (through Dec.): Gianfranco and his team will work on scaffolding in the rear of the church while they conduct the

work and test solvent mixtures on small areas of paint. The winning solution will be used on the surface to swell and dissolve an estimated three to four layers of paint, which will be delicately stripped away to reveal 8 of the hidden angels. The project will then pause as scaffolding will come down for holiday services in the church.

- Phase 2 (mid-Jan. through late March): Scaffolding will go back up in the front of the church to continue the stripping process. Eight more angels will be revealed. In early 2025, visitors will see half of the work com-

plete and the other half in progress, making it an ideal time for media coverage. The grand reveal, when all 16 angels will be uncovered, will be in April.

"The step-by-step uncovering of the angels at Old North Church is revealing fascinating aspects of John Gibbs's painting technique," said Gianfranco. "Even more intriguing and exciting is the opportunity to conserve and restore some of the earliest paint decorations in America and make them accessible to the public and scholars alike."

Born in Italy and raised in Canada, Gianfranco received

his Master of Arts in Conservation from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario in 1984. He first came to Boston in the 1980s to earn a Certificate of Advanced Training from the Center for Conservation and Technical Studies at Harvard Art Museums. He then spent the next 15 years working for the Straus Center for Conservation, Harvard Art Museums where he oversaw the restoration of mural cycles at the Boston Public Library by Puvise de Chavannes, Edwin Austin Abbey, and John Singer Sargent. In 2004, he was appointed Chief Conservator at the Isabella Stew-

art Gardner Museum where he carried out treatments and technical studies on the paintings collection. Early this year he left the Gardner Museum to focus exclusively on his private practice, Gianfranco Pocobene Studio which was established in 1991. Some of the Studio's significant mural projects include the restoration of the John LaFarge murals at Trinity Church, Boston, the Women's Gallery mural at Vilna Shul, Beacon Hill, Puvise de Chavannes' Philosophy mural at the Boston Public Library, and Benjamin Constant's mural at the Ames-Webster Mansion, Boston.

LYNN BOYS & GIRLS CLUB HOLDS ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Photos by Cary Shuman

The Lynn Boys and Girls Club held its Annual Holiday Celebration for its members Wednesday, December 18 in the club's festively decorated gymnasium.

Executive Director Brian Theirrien welcomed the many members and guests to the party. The guests enjoyed a buffet, desserts, and hot chocolate. Each member was able to choose a gift from under the holiday tree.

Under Theirrien's leadership, The Lynn & Boys Club has expanded its programming and activities at the facility which has undergone major renovations. The club is one of the largest youth-focused organizations in the city, earning respect throughout the Boys & Girls Club system for its outstanding programming

conducted in a safe and enriching environment. Congratulations to Mr. Theirrien and his staff for an outstanding year at the club and a festive and fun holiday celebration.



Athletes from the Private Jewels Boxing Club in Lynn join Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Brian Theirrien, board members, and other distinguished guests at the Lynn Boys & Girls Club's Annual Holiday Celebration Dec. 18 in the gymnasium.



The Lynn English High School Junior ROTC, known for its community service in the city, joins Lynn Boys & Girls Club Director of Drop-In Darby Connolly (back row, far left) for a photo at the Club's Annual Holiday Celebration held Wednesday, Dec. 18.

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Heroes /

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

citizens like this go above and beyond, it is a wonderful opportunity to thank them and also to share their example, because I think it's really an inspiring one. You really made a difference, and we thank you for it."

Following the impressive ceremony, Thomas and Brown were asked about receiving such important awards from the Council and the Mayor and being recognized as "a hero."

"It feels good to be thought of as a hero but I didn't think about it that way," said Thomas, the daughter of the late Roy Thomas and Joanne Thomas. "My instincts kind of kicked in and I went over there to help as much as I could, and I'm just happy that everyone got out of the house. I'm glad that we did see it and we were able to call 9-1-1 and get a response right away because other than that, I don't know what would have had happened."

Stacey Bryant-Brown attended the recognition ceremony for her cousin, Cherice Thomas.

"I'm so proud of my cousin," said Bryant-Brown. "I'm so glad God put her in in the right place at the right time and nobody got hurt. I thank God for that, and what a Christmas present that everybody made it out alive."

Jay Brown said it felt "amazing" to be recognized by city government for his heroic actions.

"I was just acting in the spur of the moment," said Brown. "I wasn't expecting anything. I just jumped into action when I saw the situation going on. And where there were no first responders there, I felt something needed to be done, so I stepped up and did what I had to do. It was a honor to get a phone call from Councilor Hogan [about the citation], and it was a true honor to help somebody in need."

Attorney-at-Law Nicole Bluefort Brown, Mr. Brown's wife, said she was "very, very proud" of her husband's efforts.



The Lynn City Council and Mayor Jared Nicholson honored Cherice Thomas and Jay Brown for their heroic actions during a fire on Orchard Street. Pictured at the citation presentation ceremony are, from left, Ward 3 Councilor Coco Alinsug, Councilor-at-Large Nicole McClain, Ward 4 Councilor Natasha Megie-Maddrey, Ward 6 Councilor Fred Hogan, award recipient Jay Brown, Councilor-at-Large Brian LaPierre, award recipient Cherice Thomas, Ward 1 Councilor Dr. Peter Meaney, Mayor Jared Nicholson, City Council President Jay Walsh, Councilor-at-Large Brian Field, and Ward 5 Councilor Dianna Chakoutis.



Cherice Thomas holds her City of Lynn citation in the company of her cousin, Stacy Bryant-Brown (left), and friend, Elaina Serrano (right).

"I'm excited to see the city recognizing Jay," said Nicole. "Often times, people will do the right thing and maybe call the police or the fire department, but he went a step and beyond and did something very courageous,

very brave, and he risked his own life to save others, and I'm just very proud of my husband."

Joseph Santa, maintenance manager at GE, praised his colleague, Jay Brown.

"Jay's always dependable.



Shown congratulating Jay Brown following the ceremony are his mother-in-law, Jeannette Bluefort (left), and Joseph Santa (right), maintenance manager at General Electric where Jay works as a maintenance mechanic.

He's always a standup guy. He's always going above and beyond everything that he can do. He's an exemplary employee. The people look up to him. He's a go-

to guy around our shop area, and he definitely embodies the spirit of everything we want out of a GE employee."

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BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF LYNN FAMILY THANKSGIVING DINNER



Executive Director Brian Theirrien and Boys & Girls Club staff are pictured at the Club's Thanksgiving Dinner.



Shown left, State Rep. Dan Cahill (far left) joins the culinary operations team for a photo at the Lynn Boys & Girls Club Thanksgiving Dinner.

Courtesy Photos

The Boys and Girls Club of Lynn held its Family Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 20. Club members wrote messages on a banner they made in memory of the late Patrick Gecoya, beloved photographer for the Lynn Journal.



Boys and Girls Club members remember the late Patrick Gecoya with messages of love and appreciation.

Shown left, State Rep. Dan Cahill (far left) joins the culinary operations team for a photo at the Lynn Boys & Girls Club Thanksgiving Dinner.

Healey-Driscoll admin. awards over \$11 million to prevent youth violence

Annual grant program offers new funding for initiatives in public housing

Special to the Journal

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced funding awarded through the Charles E. Shannon Jr. Community Safety Initiative, including new funds to support violence prevention in public housing sites. The grant program is an important tool in helping communities build collaborative programs to improve safety and reduce gang activity.

“Preventing violence among young people is critical to ensuring the future wellbeing of our youth and the safety of our communities,” said Governor Maura Healey. “This work requires collaboration among law enforcement, state and local officials, youth-serving nonprofits, and research partners to help ensure funds have the greatest positive impact. The partnerships built through the Shannon Community Safety Initiative are among the strongest tools we have to prevent youth and gang-related violence in Massachusetts.”

“The lasting success of grant-funded program sites demonstrates the remarkable outcomes we can achieve when collaborating to support our youth,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “Each program site has forged strong partnerships across disciplines while applying evidence-based approaches to ensure young people can access beneficial programming and essential services that enhance their wellbeing and ensure the safety of Massachusetts communities.”

The FY25 Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon CSI) is a state-funded grant program that awards yearly funds to support regional, multi-disciplinary program sites that take collaborative and evidence-based approaches to reduce youth and gang violence. The funds are managed and administered by the Office of Grants and Research (OGR). A total of 15 program sites were awarded grants totaling approximately \$11,179,673. Each program site will receive support from a Local Action Research Partner (LARP), which will assist with strategic planning, critical analysis and continuous feedback to support program operations and ensure that funded programs remain within

scope, on schedule and within budget. Researchers interested in serving as a LARP were required to submit applications separate from the Shannon CSI program site applicants. The selected LARPs will share approximately \$785,543 in additional funding.



To view the full list of grant recipients and awardees, scan this code to visit the Mass.gov website.

This marks the first year the Shannon CSI has incorporated the new Housing Site Initiative, which allocates a portion of the program’s funds to support violence prevention in publicly funded housing. In accordance with the Legislative language authorizing the Shannon CSI, housing sites that have been subject to enforcement actions by the US Department of Justice were giv-

en preference for this funding.

“Youth violence significantly affects victims, their families, and entire communities. Building strong partnerships and implementing collaborative, results-oriented solutions are the most effective ways to tackle the complex issues that contribute to gun violence,” said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence Reidy. “The Shannon CSI reflects the administration’s deep commitment to offering resources that support the steadfast efforts and community collaborations aimed at enhancing safety, decreasing gun violence, and fostering youth engagement.”

The Shannon CSI incorporates key elements of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model. It utilizes a multi-pronged approach to gang violence prevention, which includes providing social interventions, suppressing acts of violence, providing positive opportunities, creating organizational change and mobilizing communities to prevent and reduce gang activity.

The annual grant program has been proven successful in addressing violence in communities experiencing high rates of gang activity. The program’s

Statewide Research Partner (SRP), Northeastern University, earlier this year released a statewide brief as well as site-specific findings highlighting the program’s success in 2023. The SRP is also funded through Shannon CSI and is selected through a competitive application process each year. The SRP application process has not yet opened.

“This program utilizes nationally recognized best practices to support youth and communities that are impacted by gang violence. By partnering nonprofits, police, public housing officials and other local leaders with researchers and support from the Office of Grants and Research, we’ve achieved long term success preventing youth violence in Massachusetts communities,” said OGR Executive Director Kevin Stanton.

The City of Lynn received a total award amount of \$446,354, with \$69,421 of that slated for Housing Site Initiative Funding.

Program sites will receive support from the following research partners, who were awarded funds through the FY25 Shannon CSI LARP program:

North Shore Community College will receive \$42,000.

MCU announces second round of 2024 Charitable Foundation Grant recipients

Special to the Journal

Metro Credit Union (MCU), the largest state-chartered credit union in Massachusetts, today announced that it has awarded \$50,500 in grant funding to six local nonprofit organizations through the Metro Credit Union Foundation. Metro launched the Foundation in April 2023, and these grants represent the most recent round of awards to support nonprofit organizations, initiatives, and programs that contribute to the economic well-being of local communities and their residents. The Metro Credit Union Foundation has awarded \$208,000 in grants to date.

“The Metro Credit Union Foundation was launched to further our efforts in giving back to the communities we serve in meaningful ways,” said Robert Cashman, President and CEO, Metro Credit Union. “We’re pleased to award grants through the Foundation to these organizations in support of the impactful services and programs they offer to empower local residents to advance their financial capabilities and wellbeing.”

The following organizations have been awarded grants during the current cycle:

- Chelsea Restoration Corporation, Chelsea, MA – \$7,500: 2025 First Time Homebuyers Workshop Series
- Junior Achievement of Greater Boston, Boston, MA – \$10,000: Financial and Business Literacy Program in Chelsea schools. Junior Achievement also has a location in Lynn.
- Lawrence CommunityWorks, Lawrence, MA – \$7,500: Financial Empowerment Program
- Rogerson Communities, Boston, MA – \$7,500: Beaufort Road Project – Senior Affordable Housing
- The Wily Network, Newton, MA – \$8,000: Wily Scholars Finances and Financial Future Program
- Women’s Money Matters, Boston, MA – \$10,000: Expansion of Financial Futures Financial Wellness Program

The Metro Credit Union Foundation awards grants to organizations with a focus on:

- Community Development – creating vibrant and equitable neighborhoods.
- Securing Safe & Affordable Housing – providing opportunities for affordable housing and home ownership with down-payment assistance and homebuyer education programs.
- Financial Wellness & Advancement – promoting financial competency by providing knowledge and skills.

For more information about the Foundation, application guidelines, and upcoming application deadlines visit Foundation.MetroCU.org.

Each year, Metro gives back to local communities through a number of philanthropic initiatives, partnerships, scholarships, and volunteer programs. Metro has been recognized for its charitable contributions with the Boston Business Journal Corporate Citizenship Award for the past five years.

Metro Credit Union is the largest state-chartered credit union in Massachusetts, with \$3.4 billion in assets. Metro provides a full range of financial products to close to 200,000 members in Barnstable, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester counties in Massachusetts, and Cheshire, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Strafford counties in New Hampshire. Metro is the credit union of choice for employees at over 1,200 companies through its Metro@work program.

Founded in 1926, Metro currently operates branch offices in Boston, Burlington, Chelsea, Dorchester, Framingham, Lawrence, Lynn, Medford, Melrose, Newton, Peabody, Reading, Salem, Tewksbury, and West Roxbury. Metro is also a Juntos Avanzamos (“Together We Advance”) designated credit union, an honor given to financial institutions for their commitment to serving and empowering Hispanic and immigrant consumers. Metro was recently named among the most charitable companies in Massachusetts by the Boston Business Journal. Learn more at MetroCU.org.



Front row: Charlene Bauer, SVP Outreach and Advocacy, Chief Development Officer, Metro Credit Union; Aleyda Garcia, Assistant Director of Asset Building, Lawrence CommunityWorks; Robert Cashman, President and CEO, Metro Credit Union; Dr. Almi Guajardo Abeyta, Superintendent, Chelsea Public Schools; Joanna Furgiuele, Senior Development Officer, Foundation Partnerships, Junior Achievement (JA) of Greater Boston; Leisla Ortiz, Assistant Executive Director, Chelsea Restoration Corporation; Marilyn Garcia, Executive Director, Chelsea Restoration Corporation
Back row: Lucky Chima, Corporate Relations, Rogerson Communities; Arleen Zorrilla, Director of Asset Building, Lawrence CommunityWorks; Solomon Rosenberg, Senior Director of Advancement, The Wily Network; Sophie Cohen, Communications and Grant Manager, The Wily Network; Kelly Knox, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, Rogerson Communities; Jalyn Ramos, Development Coordinator, Women’s Money Matters; Radhames Nova, President and CEO, Junior Achievement (JA) of Greater Boston

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The Rose Kennedy Greenway announces the return of Hatchlings Winter Lights

Special to the Journal



PHOTO BY CHRIS RUCINSKI

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy is excited to announce that Hatchlings by interdisciplinary design team Studio HHH have returned in November. Hatchlings, which debuted on The Greenway last winter, provide a playful reference to one of Boston's most iconic landmarks, the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade, while envisioning a brighter and more environmentally sustainable future.

Selected as the winning design from the Greenway Conservancy's 2023 Request for Proposals for a Winter Lights Program, Hatchlings was inspired by a whimsical question posed by Studio HHH: What if the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade hatched a cluster of baby "shells" that wandered off down the Charles River Esplanade through The Greenway like adventurous ducklings? "We loved studying the intricate Art Deco architecture of the Hatch Shell pavilion," said Vanessa Till Hooper, founder and creative director at Studio HHH. "Through the process of work-

ing to echo its arches and angles, we discovered many layers of thoughtful design and mathematical elegance. It's a perfect structure, and we are delighted by the opportunity to draw new attention to this beautiful and historic Boston landmark."

Similar to last year's installation, many of the Hatchlings will be powered either entirely through solar power or through a combination of grid and solar power. "Maintaining consistent solar energy throughout the darkest months of the year was a design challenge we were excited to meet, something that our studio felt was critical to advancing the conversation about sustainability in Boston," said Teresita Cochran, solar specialist at Studio HHH.

In total, nine Hatchlings dot The Greenway, each featuring vibrant arches in colorful animated lights. The Hatchlings appear in a variety of sizes, with the largest standing at 8.5 feet tall and the smallest at 2.5 feet tall. Throughout the winter months, the pavilions will serve as sites for informal gatherings, photo backdrops,

and other activations. We welcome you to join us in celebrating the re-opening of the Hatchlings at The Greenway's Winter Warmer on Saturday, December 21 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Rings Fountain. Come celebrate the Winter Solstice with FREE programming including a hot chocolate bar, holiday toy workshop, bubble house, photo booth, with live music and an instrument petting zoo by Boston Music Project.

Visit rosekennedygreenway.org/hatchlings to find the exact locations of the Hatchlings and to download an interactive walking tour. For more information on upcoming events in connection with the Hatchlings, please check the Greenway Conservan-

cy's events calendar: rosekennedygreenway.org/calendar.

Follow the Hatchlings' winter fun on social media (@rosekennedygreenway) and share your own posts using the hashtag #HatchlingsOnTheGreenway

The Greenway Winter Lights Program is exclusively funded through private sources. Hatchlings by Studio HHH (2023-2024) was made possible through the generous support of Meet Boston.

Studio HHH is an interdisciplinary design studio specializing in creative interventions within the built environment and public realm, led by founder/creative director Vanessa Till Hooper and art production manager Emily Castro. The studio team of all-women

designers and artists, including sustainability specialist Teresita Cochran, develops meaningful and engaging experiences at the intersection of art, architecture, and technology. Studio HHH was founded in 2018 in Somerville, MA. They currently operate in Boston, The Berkshires in western MA, and Brooklyn, NY.

The Greenway is a contemporary public park in the heart of Boston. The Greenway welcomes millions of visitors annually to gather, play, unwind, and explore. The Greenway Conservancy is the non-profit responsible for the management and care of The Greenway. The majority of the public park's annual budget is generously provided by private sources.

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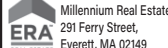
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Full of Beans!

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Buying Beans

As we all try to use less processed, more local, sustainable, fresher, and diversified food products, you may not realize that the humble bean is all of these.

Farmers markets or high-quality food shops may sell Baer's Best Beans grown in Massachusetts. This farm produces about 20 varieties of heirloom and specialty beans. We suspect that more farmers will add beans to their crop list. Beans add goodness to the soil, which is a win-win for farmers.

Rancho Gordo is a West Coast company that preserves food diversity with heritage beans. The website's store locator lists some local sources: Formaggio Kitchen, Dave's Fresh Pasta, and Bocco Wine and Cheese.

We highly recommend the company's bean cookbooks. Another favorite source for bean recipes is Joe Yonan's "Cool Beans: The Ultimate Guide to Cooking with the World's Most Versatile Plant-Based Protein."

Adapting Your Body to Beans

If you're not in the habit of

eating beans, your body will take time to adapt to the fiber load they provide. You can start slowly by adding a small dose of beans to a soup or salad and increasing your intake over several weeks.

You may have heard the expression, "Beans, beans, the magical fruit, the more you eat, the less you toot!" In your lower digestive tract, beans are fermented by healthy bacteria, and gas is produced as a by-product. You may have fewer digestive issues as your microbiome and gut health improve. In Mexico, cooks add the herb epazote to their beans, while in India, asa-fetida is used to ease digestion.

Another tip is to rinse canned beans (without sauces) to reduce flatulence and the high sodium in the canned product. Some experts suggest that several changes in the soaking water can remove some gassy fiber if you start from dried beans.

The funniest suggestion we've read was from Mairlyn Smith, author of the book "Peace, Love & Fibre." In an article in Food and Wine, she was quoted as saying "...that she and her husband go for 'fart walks' most nights



Beans with Greens is a favorite quick supper. This one adds Italian sausage, but we often enjoy a vegetarian version with a slice of bread to complete the protein.

after dinner about an hour after they've eaten. We eat a lot of fiber, so we have gas, and you fart when you walk."

The Rancho Gordo website offers more information about beans and an exploration of their heritage bean offerings. To con-

tinue your education, sign up for their newsletter and receive a monthly dose of "beanology."

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

MBCU announces Everett Branch Manager announces Lynn native Lila Kanj as branch manager

Special to the Journal

The Board of Directors and the Chief Executive Officer of Mass Bay Credit Union (MBCU) are pleased to welcome Lynn native, Lila Kanj as the new Branch Manager of its Everett location. In her role, Lila will oversee daily branch operations, ensure compliance with regulatory standards, and lead her team in delivering exceptional member service while driving the branch's strategic growth initiatives. Lila brings over 15 years of financial services experience, both as a Branch Manager and in various other leadership roles at local credit unions.

"We are excited to have Lila Kanj join our team. Her impressive background in retail banking and commitment to great service are an asset to our Everett branch and community," said Kelli Cullen, Chief Operating Officer.

A Salem State College graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Marketing, Lila is passionate about fostering strong member relationships and creating pos-



Lila Kanj, the new Mass Bay Credit Union Everett branch manager.

itive changes within organizations. Her dedication to training and mentoring employees has consistently resulted in increased productivity, morale, and service excellence.

Founded in 1936 as a credit union for MBTA employees, Mass Bay Credit Union has since expanded to include membership within the local communities it serves. As a not-for-profit organization, MBCU puts people, not institutional profit, at the forefront of its mission.

Advertisement for Digregorio Family Car Care & Repair. Features text: "4 GENERATIONS OF OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE DIGREGORIO FAMILY SINCE 1947", "CAR CARE & REPAIR", "BROADWAY MOTOR SERVICE", "TOM DIGREGORIO | JOHN DIGREGORIO", "Inspection Station", "Winterize Your Vehicle", "Auto Repair", "Tires", "FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE REPAIR AND PARK SERVICE CALL JOHN FOR DETAILS", "88 BROADWAY, REVERE | (617) 996-8371". Includes an image of a red car.

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