

THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, August 18, 2022



Sweep Success

North Shore Vacuum nears 90th anniversary

By Cary Shuman

Wayne Simonelli's well-known business, North Shore Vacuum, located on Market Street in Lynn is really floor-ishing. Yes, that's a pun and not a very good one, at that.

But the flourishing part is very true as North Shore Vacuum is approaching its 90th anniversary in the city, a testament to the professionalism and expertise of the family that has been rewarded by the loyalty of its multi-generational customers.

And it should be noted that Simonelli actually has two stores that sell vacuum cleaners and other floor-care related products. He has also owned North Shore Vacuum on South Main Street (Route 114) in Middleton for 15 years. Jillian Dunn, Wayne's daughter, directs the Middleton store's operations. Wayne also has two sons, Adam and Eric, who like



Wayne Simonelli stands outside his North Shore Vacuum store located at 30 Market in Lynn.

Jillian, were frequent visitors to the store during their childhood.

Simonelli is in his 33rd year as the leader of North Shore Vacuum. Wayne's uncle preceded him as the owner and prior to that, Wayne's great-uncle started it all in 1934.

Also worked for the MBTA
Wayne Simonelli grew up in

Chelsea and graduated Chelsea High in 1970. He then studied computers and electronics at GTE Sylvania Technical School.

"I got a job working for the MBTA," said Simonelli. "I fixed trains on the Green Line. I worked on the second shift, so I used to

Please see VACUUM Page 12

Salem State U. receives largest cash gift ever made to a Mass. state university

Special to the Journal

Cummings Foundation has donated \$10 million to Salem State University's School of Education to support programs and initiatives aimed at diversifying, strengthening, and sustaining the next generation of educators. The gift represents the largest cash contribution ever made in the history of the nine Massachusetts state universities.

"This generous contribution is an investment in our students, our campus goals and the entire region, and I am exceptionally grateful to Cummings Foundation," said President John D. Keenan. "I could not be more proud of what Cummings Foundation's support says about the high-quality academic programs Salem State offers. I am also thrilled that this contribution marks the second time in as many years that Salem State has broken the record for receiving the largest cash gift in Massachusetts state university history. This distinction speaks volumes about the depth of support for our students and the work being done across campus."

With Cummings Foundation's

support, the School of Education will greatly expand its programming, including: building on efforts to diversify the educator pipeline for all teacher license areas, such as the cohort-based Educator-Scholars of Color initiative; creating a center for professional learning aimed at retaining teachers and school leaders, including support for developing anti-racist and equity-focused instructional and leadership practices; preparing educators to meet student needs beyond PreK-12 education, such as early childhood literacy through the Jumpstart initiative; and supporting pathways to licensure for hundreds of emergency-licensed teachers in the region; among other efforts.

"We are delighted to deepen our partnership with Salem State University, and in doing so, support the vibrancy of the North Shore," said Bill Cummings, founder of Cummings Foundation and commercial real estate firm Cummings Properties. "Salem State is at the heart of ensuring that all students have

Please see GIFT Page 2

LYNN BABE RUTH ADVANCES TO SINGLE-ELIMINATION PLAY IN WORLD SERIES

The Lynn Babe Ruth team was set to begin the single-elimination rounds in the Babe Ruth World Series after qualifying with a 3-0 record in the national tournament that is being held in Virginia.

Manager Leon Elwell's contingent was set to play Torrance, California Wednesday afternoon in a game that would determine whether Lynn receives a bye into the semifinals.

Lynn has displayed strong pitching, clutch hitting, timely defense, and superb baserunning in pool play with victories over Eau Claire Wisconsin (2-1), the host Stafford, Virginia team (6-5), and Hamilton, New Jersey (3-0).

The single-elimination portion of the tournament is the most exciting as teams play to keep their championship hopes alive.



The Lynn Babe Ruth team enjoying a celebration dinner.

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EDITORIAL

AND JUST LIKE THAT -- SUMMER ENDED

Within just a few hours of writing our editorial last Tuesday (August 9) extolling the virtues of the heat and humidity of the summer season, Mother Nature turned the tables on us.

We were sitting in our hot house -- we don't have air conditioning -- but enjoying a warm breeze, when, at 8:14 p.m., the wind shifted from south-westerly to north-easterly. The air suddenly became chilly -- the temperature dropped 10 degrees within a few minutes -- and we soon had to shut all of our windows.

Yes, the weather this past week has been nice (and is forecast to remain so for the next 10 days), but the temperatures have struggled to reach 80 during the day and we've had to wear warm clothing in the cool evenings.

No doubt there may be a few lingering hot days in the weeks ahead -- we have many fond memories of hot Labor Day (and even some Columbus Day) weekends from our youth.

But it is clear that the summer of 2022 is all but over -- and fall is in the air.

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

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Gift

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access to a high-quality education and the opportunity to advance themselves, their families and their communities. It is also a major contributor to workforce development in the MetroNorth region."

Salem State University's School of Education graduates frequently go on to serve as teachers in Massachusetts Gateway Cities with increasingly diverse student populations, including nearby Lynn, Salem, Revere, and Peabody, among others throughout the Commonwealth. The university will utilize Cummings Foundation's contribution to build an infrastructure that is even more responsive to the long-term and emerging workforce needs of these and other area school districts.

"The impact of this historic gift will be significant and far-reaching, paying lasting dividends to the school districts in which our students go on to serve," said Dr. Joseph Cambone, dean of the School of Education. "The COVID-19 pandemic has severely harmed an already fragile educator pipeline on the North Shore. We are exceptionally grateful to Cummings Foundation for this generous commitment at such a crucial time."

To recognize the university's continued partnership with Cummings Foundation, Salem State will name its school of education, the university's founding program, after alumnus James L. (Jamie) McKeown '77, establishing the McKeown School of Education. The naming celebrates the legacy of McKeown, a Salem State alumnus, former Cummings Properties president and dedicated community leader who passed away unexpectedly at the age of 41.

"Jamie would be astonished to know that his school, which he had so many fond memories of, is now named after him. To know

that educators, and future educators, will greatly benefit from the Cummings' generosity is just overwhelming to my family and me," said Denise McKeown, Jamie's widow.

Jamie McKeown received his bachelor's degree in elementary education at Salem State University in 1977 and went on to become a dynamic leader in the North Shore community. Prior to his tragic passing in 1996, he had a distinguished career at Cummings Properties where he grew from leasing agent in 1979 to company president in 1990. In July 2014, Cummings Foundation named the James L. McKeown Memorial Plaza on Salem State's North Campus in Jamie's memory through a \$1 million gift and has since also provided generous support to the university's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. This latest Cummings Foundation gift furthers McKeown's legacy at Salem State by supporting educators and future educators and strengthening the communities in which they serve.

The gift was made possible through Cummings Foundation's Affiliated College philanthropic initiative. Salem State joins five other institutions that are beneficiaries of commitments of at least \$10 million each from Cummings: Tufts University, Endicott College, Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology, Roger Williams University, and University of Global Health Equity, in Rwanda.

"The Salem State University Foundation deeply appreciates Cummings Foundation's investment in our students, and by extension, the students they go on to educate as teachers and school leaders," said Annalisa Di Palma, newly elected chair of the Salem State University Foundation, Inc. "An endowment fund of this magnitude reflects a true and unwavering commitment to

the students of Salem State and the region, who will benefit from this commitment for generations to come."

Established as Salem Normal School in 1854, Salem State has been preparing educators for the workforce for 168 years. Of the approximately 1,000 students enrolled in The McKeown School of Education, one-third are undergraduates and over 70 percent are pursuing PK-12 educator licensure. Eighty-five percent of the university's alumni live and work in the North Shore region, and 24 percent of its living alumni have degrees in education.

"Our role is to work hand-in-hand with the school districts in our region to ensure they have the professionals needed to give their students the education they deserve," said Dr. Nicole Harris, associate dean of the School of Education. "Cummings Foundation's gift will transform the way we partner to address some of the most pressing problems of the high-need districts that we serve, and it will allow us to do so in a way that is sustainable. This donation will truly touch countless lives."

The McKeown School of Education offers a wide range of academic offerings that prepare students to make a difference in education. The school's academic and licensure programs include: Early Education and Care, Early Childhood Education, Educational Studies, Elementary Education, English as a Second Language, Moderate Special Needs, Secondary English, Secondary History, Secondary Mathematics, Secondary Spanish, Physical Education, Library Media Studies, School Counseling, School Adjustment Counseling, Reading Specialist, Education Leadership (Principal/Assistant Principal) and Higher Education Student Affairs. Please visit this link for more information.

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Annual festival honoring healing Saints Cosmas and Damian set for Sept. 9-11

Rock & Roll, Vocal, and Grammy® Halls Fame Artist, The Platters will host fellow international headline recording artists The Trammps, Chubby Checker & The Wildcats, and Starship featuring Mickey Thomas at the 97th edition of the Italian Culture, Family, and Food Festival honoring the Italian healing Saints Cosmas and Damian on Cambridge, Warren and Porter Streets in East Cambridge, the weekend of September 9, 10, and 11, 2022.

The three-day fun family event features a wide variety of sweet and savory food, a “Beer Garden” sponsored by Anheuser-Busch, and music that spans four decades of dance, pop, and rock kicks off Friday at 6 p.m. when Saints Cosmas and Damian accompanied by members of the fraternal Society, the North End Marching Band, and the faithful process from their

permanent home at 17 Porter Street in East Cambridge to the outdoor chapel overlooking the festival concourse on Warren Street. At 7 p.m., a special healing service with the holy relics of Saints Cosmas and Damian led by Monsignor Anthony Spinosa (formerly from East Cambridge) from the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon will take place.

At 7:30 p.m., teleport with Morning Magic co-host David O’Leary (MAGIC 106.7 FM) and Club Classic DJ Ricky P. (former STAR FM) at the Warren Street Stage and dance under the stars to the hottest club classics along with an exceptional live performance by disco greats The Trammps (Disco Inferno, Hold Back the Night, That’s Where the Happy People Go, Zing Went The Strings Of My Heart...). On Friday, be “where all the happy people go” at the outdoor “Warren Street Disco,” where partiers

can also take a shot at walking away with a \$500.00 grand cash prize at a Throwback Disco Dance Contest.

On Saturday, the festivities begin at 1 p.m. as the savory aromas of pizza, fried dough, Italian sausages, peppers, Zeppole’s, and much more permeate the air around Cambridge, Porter, and Warren Streets, along with continual live entertainment.

Beginning at 7 p.m., the Feast area expands to include the Cambridge Street Stage igniting an evening of song and dance as festival attendees rock through the decades as they twist the night away with the legendary Chubby Checker & The Wildcats (Twist, Let’s Twist Again, Limbo Rock, The Hucklebuck...), and rock on with the architects of the city built on Rock & Roll, Starship featuring Mickey Thomas, jamming to their mega hits that include We Built This City, Noth-

ings Gonna Stop Us, Sara, It’s Not Over. Between Checker and Starship, they’ll be a special surprise Rock & Roll Hall of Fame performance taking concertgoers on a musical journey through the decades of music from the 50s to today. Around the corner on the Warren Street Stage, New England’s favorite party group, Vinyl Groove, performs with continuous dancing under the stars.

The grand finale of the Feast on Sunday begins at 10 a.m. with Boston Auxiliary Bishop Peter Uglietto as the principal celebrant of a Mass in honor of the Healing Saints Cosmas and Damian on the Warren Street Stage. At 1 p.m., the grand procession with the Saints, accompanied by the North End Marching Band, St. Alfio’s Marching Band, and the award-winning Everett High School Marching Band under the direction of Gene O’Brien, winds through the streets of East

Cambridge and Somerville.

Local favorites Stephen Savio’s Seabreeze and Smokin’ Joe and his band entertain throughout the day as the food and fun flow through the streets. The parade arrives back on Warren Street at 7 pm for a welcome back celebration featuring a confetti shower followed by a LIVE performance in honor of the Saints by The Platters (Only You, Great Pretender, Smoke Gets in Your Eyes, Twilight Time...) performing their classic hits, some old Italian classics selected and arranged specifically for this celebration including a sneak preview of new music being added to the Great American soundtrack by the group in more than six decades later this year.

For Feast and vendor information, call (617)-407-1256 or visit www.cosmas-and-damian.org.

MGC releases July 2022 Gross Gaming Revenue

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission reported that the month of July 2022 at Plainridge Park Casino (PPC), MGM Springfield and Encore Boston Harbor generated approximately \$99 million in Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR).

PPC, a category 2 slots facili-

ty, is taxed on 49% of GGR. Of that total taxed amount, 82% is paid to Local Aid and 18% is allotted to the Race Horse Development Fund. MGM Springfield and Encore Boston Harbor, category 1 resort-casinos, are taxed on 25% of GGR; those monies are allocated to several specific

state funds as determined by the gaming statute.

To date, the Commonwealth has collected approximately \$1.155 billion in total taxes and assessments from PPC, MGM and Encore since the respective openings of each gaming facility.



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JULY 2022		GROSS GAMING REVENUE	TAXES
MGM SPRINGFIELD SUBJECT TO 25% TAXES	TABLE	\$4,242,403.60	
	SLOTS	\$17,275,318.86	
	TOTAL	\$21,517,722.46	\$5,379,430.62
ENCORE BOSTON HARBOR SUBJECT TO 25% TAXES	TABLE	\$29,672,721.61	
	SLOTS	\$35,051,906.67	
	TOTAL	\$64,724,628.28	\$16,181,157.07
PLAINRIDGE PARK CASINO SUBJECT TO 49% TAXES	SLOTS	\$12,498,196.15	
	TOTAL	\$12,498,196.15	\$6,124,116.11
TOTAL TAXES			\$27,684,703.80

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Federal funding approved for Lynnway project

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and MBTA are pleased to announce that more than \$20 million in funding has been approved for the Lynnway Multimodal Corridor Project by the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) FY 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program.

The federal funding for the Lynnway Multimodal Corridor Project will help to reverse inequities along a critical transportation corridor in the City of Lynn. For decades, the Lynnway has focused on moving vehicles through the corridor, often to the detriment of other modes of travel. The current design of the corridor disincentivizes trips

by foot, bike, or transit, and this project will alleviate serious safety concerns for those who need to travel along this road using these modes.

The Lynnway Multimodal Corridor Project will help to continue the City of Lynn's commitment to economic development and improved mobility along the Route 1A corridor. This project will do so by creating a high quality, separated two-way bicycle path, improving on the pedestrian infrastructure by reconstructing sidewalks to ensure they are ADA compliant, and increasing bus reliability by adding bus lanes to the corridor. These improvements, which are subject to a public stakeholder engagement process, will help to alleviate congestion by improving intersections and overall roadway

safety.

"Funding from USDOT's RAISE Grant Program will allow the Commonwealth to start public outreach and input, leading to the design and construction of the Lynnway Multimodal Corridor Project and we appreciate the support by the congressional delegation and local officials in getting our RAISE application approved," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Jamey Tesler. "The Lynnway Multimodal Corridor project is a high-quality bus, bicycle, and pedestrian improvement project along one of the City of Lynn's most important corridors; one that for decades has prioritized the movement of vehicles rather than moving people efficiently and equitably."

The Lynnway Multimodal

Corridor is the first phase of a proposed transit corridor connecting the MBTA bus and commuter rail Central Square-Lynn Station in Lynn to the northern terminus of the Blue Line. The project is also a key component of the MBTA's Bus Network Redesign, which will bring more frequent all-day service to key corridors throughout the Boston area. USDOT funded a similar bus rapid transit project on the Blue Hill Avenue corridor in Boston in the FY 2021 round of the RAISE Grant Program, and MassDOT and the MBTA will take steps to replicate the success and benefits of that partnership via funding for this critical project in Lynn.

The Lynnway is part of Route 1A and runs between the Revere city line in the south to the Na-

hant Rotary to the north, where it becomes Lynn Shore Drive. The Lynnway serves as Lynn's primary north-south connection within, to, and from the city.

Several months ago, MassDOT announced the submission of three federal grant applications to USDOT to seek funding from the RAISE Grant Program. In addition to seeking funding for the Lynnway Multimodal Corridor Project, applications were submitted to create a pedestrian and bicycle connection over the Mystic River between Somerville and Everett and to improve the safety and security of passenger rail in the Knowledge Corridor (a corridor encompassing 49.5 miles between Northfield and Springfield).

NEWS IN BRIEF

AREA PRICES WERE UP 7.0 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

The New England Information Office of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has released figures for the Boston CPI in July 2022. The CPI program produces monthly data on the changes in prices paid by urban consumers for a representative basket of goods and services. The highlights appear below:

- The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Boston-Cambridge-Newton area was up 0.7 percent over the two months. This was mainly attributable to higher prices within food, up 2.6 percent.
- Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 7.0 percent in Boston; the rate was lower than the national rate, up 8.5 percent.
- The all items less food and energy index increased 3.9 per-

cent over the year driven mainly by higher shelter (2.8 percent), medical care (6.9 percent), and new and used motor vehicle costs (7.5 percent).

- Energy prices jumped 43.9 percent since last July largely attributable to higher gasoline prices, up 55.1 percent.
- Food prices increased over the year (10.3 percent) the highest annual advance recorded in Boston since July 1979 (+12.4 percent). This was mainly due to higher grocery prices, up 10.9 percent.
- Of the twelve metropolitan areas for which inflation measures are available this month, Boston had the third-lowest annual rate (7.0 percent). New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA posted the lowest annual rate (6.5 percent). The largest increase was seen in Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL (11.2 percent).





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COCO ALINSUG'S DOUBLE CELEBRATION

A double celebration for Ward 3 Councilor Coco Alinsug was a campaign reception and his birthday. A large turnout of friends, dignitaries, and campaign workers who supported Coco when he initially ran for public office came to wish him a very Happy Birthday at the reception. He has proven over and over time to his constituents and his fellow Councilors that he is a tireless worker devoted to Ward 3 and to the City of Lynn. He is proud of his Philippine heritage as he became the first of his nationality in New England to hold a Council seat.

Ward 6 Councilor Fred Hogan, also celebrating a birthday, said it was amazing for Coco to decide to run for Ward 3. Fred continued to say, "I was the guy on the ground in Ward 6 doing a lot of work coordinating my campaign plans when Coco announced that he was going to run for Ward 3. This was great and he was not running against any of my council colleagues. Therefore, I got the opportunity to endorse Coco; I was proud to endorse him and put on the "Vote for Coco" shirt. We both call each other for im-

portant city concerns; he is learning from me, and I am learning from him. There is no other place to be this evening to celebrate our Birthdays together."

Also celebrating a birthday was Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll who is running for Lieutenant Governor in the Commonwealth. She said, "If you want to go fast, you go alone; If you want to go far, you go together and that is Coco; he brings people together. Kim continued, "The energy Coco brings to the City Council by knowing what is happening in his neighborhoods and writing a Ward 3 newsletter keeps his constituents informed and supported. Coco sees the challenges and works to solve them. He brings accountability and professionalism to the office. Kim continued to state, I am so proud to celebrate my birthday with him. Most importantly, I am a Coco fan."

Coco's run for office has opened doors for many people of color and for immigrants in the city. His challenge is to be very good and honest as a City Councilor. He feels that if he can do it, you can do it as well.



Local Officials and Candidates: School Committee Lenny Pena, At Large Brian Field, Sheriff Kevin Copping, Ward 6 Fred Hogan, Ward 3 Coco Alinsug, State Democratic Committee Julie Curtis, Mayor Kim Driscoll, Tristan Smith, Terri Tauro, Jenny Armini, and State Rep. Paul Tucker.



Councilor Coco's Ward 3 Precinct Captains – Sandy Anshewitz, Councilor Coco, Sue Vancelette Walker, Lisa Prak Pinoyboi, Bonnie Carr, and John Delyani and children.



Celebrating Birthdays together – Ward 6 Councilor Fred Hogan, Ward 3 Councilor Coco Alinsug, and Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll.



Friends Celebrating Coco's Birthday.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LADIES NIGHT

The Knights of Columbus Annual Ladies Night returned after a two-year break. 162 ladies were treated to either a Lobster Plate or a Chicken Cordon Bleu Dinner. Congratulations to Elaine Connick becoming "2022 Lady of the Year" recognized for her outstanding support at Beano and other KofC functions throughout the year. Grand Knight Charlie Rowe and Ladies Night Chairman John Somares thanked everyone who attended and the members who served as waiters and cooks. DJ Alan LaBella entertained the ladies with a variety of pop music selections coordinated for a variety of favorite dances.



Grand Knight Charlie Rowe and Ladies Night Chairman John Somares presented the 2022 Lady of the Year award to Elaine Connick for her dedicated support to the Knights of Columbus.



DJ Alan LaBella and Ladies doing the "Electric Slide" dance.

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LOCAL STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

LOCAL STUDENTS NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST

Tufts University recently announced the dean's list for the Spring 2022 semester. Among students earning dean's list honors are:

- David Barrios of Lynn
- Rayya Chek of Lynn
- Tallia Dudley of Lynn
- Jasmairy Marte of Lynn

Stephen Ong of Lynn

Dean's list honors at Tufts University requires a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Massachusetts, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global

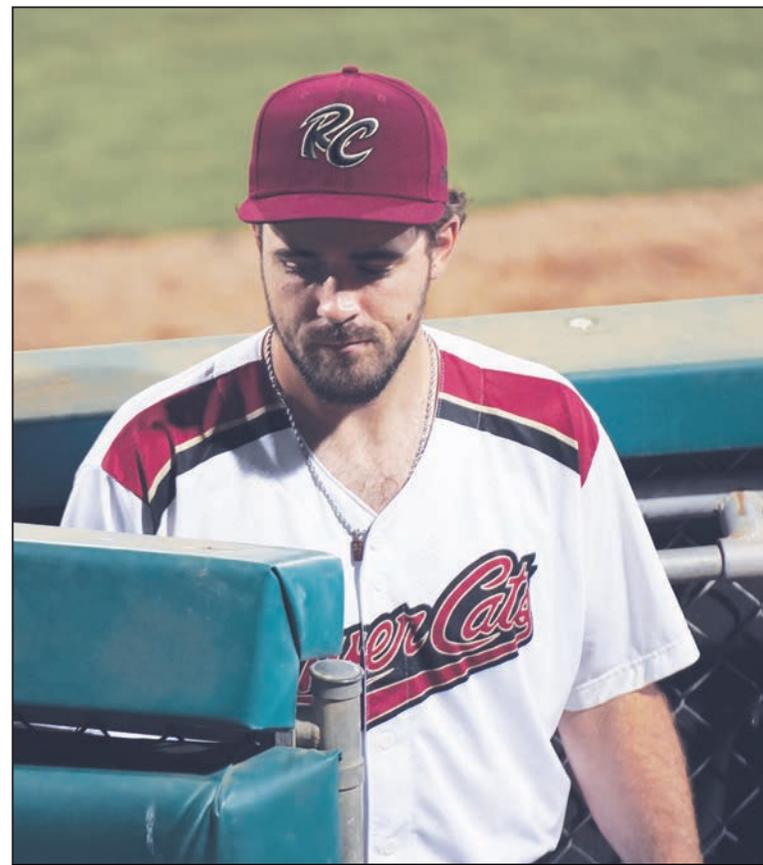
reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university's schools is widely encouraged.

LYNN BASKETBALL COMMUNITY SUPPORTS LET IT FLY CLASSIC IN CHELSEA



CARY SHUMAN PHOTO

The Lynn basketball community was well represented at the Let It Fly Classic last Saturday at the Chelsea High School gymnasium. Enjoying the annual tournament were Malcolm Brown Jr., Victor Smith, Matt Muolo, Ebony White, Lorenzo Rivera, LaShaunda Hogan, and Moses Valentin.



LYNN'S BEN BOWDEN NOW A PLAYER IN THE SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS ORGANIZATION

Former Lynn English and Vanderbilt baseball star Ben Bowden (photo above) is now a member of the Sacramento River Cats, a Triple-A affiliate of the San Francisco Giants. A 6-foot-4-inch lefthanded pitcher, Bowden is off to a strong start for the River Cats with a 1-0 record and 15 strikeouts in nine innings of work. Interestingly, Ben's uncle, St. Mary's baseball coach Derek Dana, was a catcher in the San Francisco Giants organization following his stellar career at UMass/Amherst. The Rivercats will feature Ben Bowden in its team podcast on Monday.

Six steps to avoid a tire blowout

With summer holidays underway, travellers are being advised to check their tire conditions to prevent a blowout.

The holiday car rental experts at StressFreeCarRental.com are urging people to check the conditions of their car to prevent serious consequences from occurring.

Warmer conditions can lead to heated air expanding inside the tires, which ultimately leads to increased pressure on tires and potentially destroy a tire.

There are simple ways to prevent a blowout, from regularly checking the tire tread, to packing less in the suitcases.

(Hot weather increases the chance of over-inflation in tires/ Image credit: Pixabay)

A spokesperson from Stress-FreeCarRental.com said: "More people will be travelling in the car more than ever this summer and a common mistake is travellers forgetting to monitor their tire conditions.

"It's vital for road users to regularly check their tire pressure and look out for punctures before embarking on a journey.

"The hot weather only worsens tire conditions, so it's important to use these helpful tips to prevent the repercussions of a dreaded tire blowout."

Here are six useful tips from StressFreeCarRental.com to avoid a tire blowout:

Check the tire tread

The heat can result in the rubber on tires becoming softer than usual. This creates more friction on the roads, which can result in over-inflation and eventually tire blowouts.

Regularly look for punctures

How many people do you know who have experienced a tire puncture? It's a common issue for road users from nails on the road to the problems caused by potholes. Before setting off on a long car ride, always check for any type of puncture and listen to the sound from the tires when they get moving.

Less is more when packing up the car

It can be easy to get carried away packing every piece of clothing for a trip, but less is more when loading up the car.

Heavy luggage can increase added pressure to tires, combined with the warm weather, it can deflate them quite quickly.

Steer from potholes

Keep an eye on the road as potholes can create issues such as tread separation and punctures which can lead to a blowout. Be mindful of other drivers and stay sensible when avoiding them.

Monitor your tire pressure

The warmer conditions can make pressure in tires increase by 1 to 2 psi for every change 10°C. Keep on top of checking the pressure, as the large increase in tire air pressure can cause them to explore.

Take short breaks on the journey

If you're planning a road-trip or frequent journeys during the summer, it's important to take short breaks to ease off tire pressure. Have a look if there's any sights or activities to do before your destination, as driving on hot roads all day long can increase the risk of over-inflation.

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FRESH AND LOCAL

August tomatoes

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

With the arrival of gorgeous summer tomatoes, we suggest you save all those recipes that have you cooking tomatoes for fall and winter. Grab a sharp knife and cutting board, and supper is underway. If you can chop, slice, wedge, or dice a tomato, you can turn this ripe, red bounty from local farms into terrific menu items.

Summer is the season of local tomato glory when we pop pints of cherry tomatoes like candy and slice slabs of giant heirloom tomatoes to present on a platter as a side dish. A sprinkle of sea salt and a grind of fresh pepper is all they need to shine. And, perhaps, local August tomatoes are really meant to be eaten out of hand, over the sink, with the juices running off your chin.

Tomato Sandwiches

August is the month to enjoy BLTs. We also love avocados, lettuce, and tomatoes. Sometimes we switch out the bacon for cheese. This year we've been making that with the flavored Farmers Cheese Spreads from local cheesemaker Fromagerie Madeline at the Copley Square Farmers Market. Their seasonal selection includes plain, Every-

thing Bagel, Garlic, Spinach Dip, Italian Herb, Dill, and Sriracha Hot Pepper. Slather a good slice of bread with the one that most appeals to you and top it with slices of tomatoes from a local farm.

In Provence, they have a whole-meal sandwich called Pan Bagnat. You should prepare it ahead, so it's perfect for entertaining or picnics. This sandwich is a great way to use slightly over-ripe tomatoes since you want the juices to soak into the bread. We like making it with big, round loaves of country bread.

Stuffing, Soup, and Salads

You can create an attractive main course by hollowing out beautiful heirloom tomatoes and filling them with something delicious. For example, you can use the innards of your hollow tomatoes with mozzarella cubes, halved cherry tomatoes, and basil for a fresh take on a Caprese salad. We have also seen tomatoes stuffed with crab, tuna, or bean salads.

Gazpacho is another way to enjoy a relaxed, no-cook supper. This Spanish soup makes a great contribution to a potluck or picnic. Your food processor or blender will do most of the work.



Toast slathered with herbed Farmers Cheese Spread from Fromagerie Madeline and topped with slices of colorful cherry tomatoes was a perfect farmers market day treat.

Still, we recommend you hand-cut a lovely selection of toppings like colorful cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, and red onions. You can stray from the classic and add corn, crabmeat, or chunks of avocado.

You might create salads where the tomato is the star rather than a supporting cast member. Fill a platter with slices, chunks, and wedges of the best tomatoes you can find. Dress them with a tasty

vinaigrette and top with some fresh herbs and perhaps something salty like capers or bits of bacon or ham.

We have a favorite salad that is simply arugula topped with fresh tomatoes that are chopped and marinated in oil, vinegar, and herbs for an hour or so. Some cooks recommend peeling and deseeding the tomatoes for this dish, but we enjoy this simpler version.

One final reminder, never refrigerate a tomato. Preserve the flavor of your fresh tomatoes by keeping them on the kitchen counter or in your fruit bowl. Buy what you will use quickly and shop for them often while they are in season.

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

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Elected officials, transit advocates call for suspending fares for all MBTA riders

Special to the Independent

Elected officials, advocates, and riders are calling for suspending fare collection across the entire MBTA system during the month-long shutdowns of the Orange Line (beginning August 19) and the Green Line north of Government Center (beginning August 22).

New data released shows that, excluding already free bus routes, 137,056 daily bus trips are taken on routes that connect to the Orange Line – meaning tens of thousands of people who rely on buses to connect to the Orange Line will pay an MBTA fare before connecting to a free shuttle service. Additionally, thousands of bus riders who may not be making a connection to a shuttle will still bear the brunt of increased congestion in the region.

To respond to the significant negative impacts the shutdowns will have on these and all MBTA riders, and to continue to promote transit use over driving, riders, advocates and elected officials are calling for suspending fares across all rapid transit lines, all bus lines, and all commuter rail lines and zones through the duration of the shutdown. The MBTA's current plan offers free rides only on Orange Line shuttle buses, as well as allowing riders to pay for trips on commuter rail lines within Zones 1A, 1, and 2 by showing their CharlieCard or CharlieTicket.

A suspension of all fares, coupled with implementing rapid bus lanes and a more accessible commuter rail service, would respond equitably to the needs of all transit riders and ensure more people continue to use the system rather than drive during the shutdowns.

“The Orange Line serves as a crucial economic, social, and community link for students and working families in Massachusetts, including for many lower-income communities and communities of color throughout Greater Boston. They will bear the brunt of this devastating shutdown, but they shouldn't be forced to carry the financial costs as well. Fare-free transit is a common-sense step to lessen the burden on commuters and ensure the T puts public transit riders first.” – Senator Ed Markey

“Due to decades of underinvestment and mismanagement of the MBTA, our constituents find themselves in an untenable situation. We should not have to choose between safety and service. Riders should not have to

bear the burden of these disruptive shutdowns, which we know will hit our most vulnerable commuters hardest. Making the T free during these shutdowns would reduce the financial impact on riders and lower families' costs during a time of inflation, while also promoting connectivity, accessibility, sustainability, and addressing the transit gaps that have deepened the racial and economic disparities in our communities. I thank Senator Markey for his close partnership in this effort and to our advocates and local partners for keeping up the pressure.” – Representative Ayanna Pressley

“Bus riders who rely on a connection to the Orange Line are facing an extraordinary burden during the shutdown. We know that fare free buses are faster and more reliable, and eliminating fares across the system during this period will give time and money back to the people who are most impacted by this disruption.” – Boston Mayor Michelle Wu

“During these unprecedented closures, MBTA riders deserve unprecedented support. Somerville residents will be doubly burdened with both the Orange and Green Line closures, and for many, access to jobs, school, health care, and other essential services will be at risk. Suspending fares systemwide is not only the equitable thing to do – it's good policy that will keep more users on public transit during the next month and beyond.” – Somerville Mayor Katjana Balantyne

“The shutdown demonstrates the extreme importance of public transportation for everyone: riders, drivers, cyclists, businesses, the economy, and our air and climate. Recent disasters have steeply eroded confidence in the system, but we need to rebuild ridership for everyone's benefit. Free fares for everyone will help with that. Free fares will signal gratitude and an apology to those riders who have stuck with public transportation through multiple disasters, many of whom have no real alternative.” – State Senator Pat Jehlen

“Safe, reliable and affordable public transportation is critical to connect our communities, and the Orange and Green Line diversions will have serious impacts on my constituents. I am concerned that the needs of those who rely most on public transportation, for whom working from home or being late for work are not options, are not being considered. Making

the system fare free during this shutdown is one critical way to address the financial impact of this closure.” – State Representative Christine Barber

“The Orange and Green Line shutdown will result in lost wages and missed medical appointments, further exacerbating the health disparities of low-income communities that were hit hardest during the pandemic like Chelsea and East Boston and who are reliant on public transportation. A full fare suspension will give essential workers and low-income families a fighting chance to thrive during this transit emergency.” – GreenRoots Associate Executive Director Maria Belen Power

“Riders along the Fairmont corridor, especially in Dorchester and Mattapan, use the bus system to connect with the Orange Line to bring them into downtown. The idea that they will have to figure out a very unclear system of payment when having to deal with significantly longer travel times and transfers is shameful – the MBTA needs to prioritize riders by giving the free fares and transparency on the process ahead.” – Action 4 Equity Transit Organizer Mea Johnson

“The T is essential to our work. I take the Orange Line frequently for our environmental justice presentations, connecting with youth leaders in Greater Boston and to accompany my grandmother for her needs in the city. A suspension of fares will make it a lot easier for young people to commute outside of Chelsea.” – Darien Rodriguez, GreenRoots ECO Youth Crew Member, 15 years old

“The month-long shutdown of the Orange and Green Lines is expected to have a severe impact on mobility in Greater Boston and increase traffic congestion throughout the region. Left unabated, this will be disruptive to riders, the economy, and the business community. Suspending fares across the MBTA system will help encourage public transit use and address serious equity issues for the many bus riders who are set to pay for service before connecting to a free shuttle bus. The legislature approved \$266 million in this year's state budget to address the safety repairs recommended by the FTA, so there is funding available to support this initiative. Using this money to support riders and this region during these shutdowns is a wise use of these funds at this critical time.” – A Better City President & CEO Rick Dimino

“Suspending fares systemwide makes sense in a crisis situation like the one that we're facing today. The current suspension of fares for commuter rail riders in Zones 1, 1A, and 2 does not go far enough if the goal of authority is the reduction of traffic in the diversion zone. Full fare suspension on all modes will help convince more people to take the train, bus, or ferry instead of their car, and will reduce congestion both for Orange Line shuttles and for those who have no choice but to drive.” – TransitMatters Programs Manager Matthew Petersen

“Given the enormous economic impact the shutdown will have on the region, systemwide fares suspension is an investment in keeping people - and the economy - moving for the next month. The Commonwealth's historic revenue surplus, in addition to unexpended ARPA funds and the additional funds the legislature allocated to the MBTA to address the FTA recommendation, offer more than enough resources

to fill any revenue shortfall that may occur as a result of a system-wide fares suspension.” – LivableStreets Executive Director Stacy Thompson

“While the need to take drastic steps to improve the safety and reliability of our public transportation system is understood, this move must be met with a sincere effort to reduce the negative impacts on all who rely on the system. The reality is many riders will feel compelled to turn to private vehicles to get where they need to go, which will impact countless bus riders who will sit in worsened traffic. A suspension of fares is not only the just action to take, but can serve as an incentive for Orange and Green Line riders to use the commuter rail rather than driving.” – Transportation for Massachusetts Interim Executive Director Josh Ostroff

**The group utilized the MBTA COVID Recovery Dashboard developed by TransitMatters, which is based on MBTA ridership data.

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Essex District Attorney Jon Blodgett announces endorsement for Paul Tucker

Essex District Attorney Jonathan W. Blodgett announced his endorsement for Rep. Paul Tucker, a Salem attorney, who is running for District Attorney in the upcoming Democratic Primary Election. DA Blodgett is retiring after a remarkable 20 years leading the Essex District Attorney's Office.

In his formal statement, DA Blodgett said: "A successful and effective District Attorney must possess managerial experience and proven administrative skills, have a criminal justice background, knowledge of the law, and be staunchly committed to public safety and victims of crime.

"The next Essex District Attorney must have the requisite skill set and experience to effectively manage a budget of more than \$12 million and a staff of over 170. Paul Tucker has this experience, having successfully managed a large public safety agency.

"During his over 30-year tenure in law enforcement, he partnered with the last two district attorneys in successfully investigating and prosecuting criminal cases. Throughout his career in public safety he has been a relentless advocate and champion for the rights of crime victims. He understands that a district attorney is the only voice in the courtroom for victims.

"For these reasons, I endorse Paul Tucker for Essex District Attorney. He has earned the respect and admiration of all he has worked with in public safety throughout his career and will be an outstanding District Attorney."

"I am sincerely honored to receive DA Blodgett's endorse-

ment. For decades, the Essex District Attorney's Office has set the standards for integrity, innovation and effective pursuit of justice. I have had the privilege of being part of the DA's Prosecution Team in over 1,000 cases with DA Blodgett and former DA Kevin Burke. Their strong commitment to holding criminals accountable, securing justice for victims of crime, providing services and drug treatment to non-violent offenders, and engaging the community in crime prevention are unmatched." Tucker said. "As District Attorney I will uphold those high standards and build upon that unwavering commitment to the pursuit of justice. I welcome this opportunity to put my criminal justice background, law enforcement training, and administrative and management experience to work to lead the Essex District Attorney's Office."

Tucker has been an attorney for 22 years. He chose to devote his career to public safety and criminal justice and has stood with the victims of crime for 30 years. He holds a Juris Doctorate in Law, both Master's and Bachelor's Degrees in Criminal Justice. He is a member of the Massachusetts Bar, a college adjunct professor and former police academy public safety instructor.

He is a respected Former Salem Police Chief with proven administrative skills managing a department of over 100 employees and a budget exceeding 10 million annually. Tucker, a Salem Police Medal of Honor recipient, is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, the 2010 New England Law Enforcements Executive Development Seminar,

and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Advanced Narcotics Investigation. Tucker previously served as Director of the North Shore Drug Task Force and member of the Board of

Directors of the New England Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association.

Tucker most recently has been an effective State Representative (7th Essex District) serving on the Public Safety/Homeland Security, Judiciary, and Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Committees. He Co-Chaired the Special State Commission on Adolescent Crime. He has worked in partnership with the District Attorney, Essex County Sheriff, Municipal Chiefs of Police, and local non-profit organizations to strengthen and improve our criminal justice system.

Tucker, a Salem Police Medal of Honor recipient, is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, the 2010 New England Law Enforcements Executive Develop-

ment Seminar, and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Advanced Narcotics Investigation. Tucker previously served as Director of the North Shore Drug Task Force and member of the Board of Directors of the New England Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association.

DA Jon Blodgett recently named "2022 Prosecutor of the Year" by the National District Attorney's Assn., was first elected to office in 2002. For the past 20 years D.A. Blodgett has been a recognized leader in confronting the opiate epidemic, domestic violence, auto insurance fraud and gun violence, through prosecution, diversion, and partnerships with schools, police, and community leaders to fight crime. He instituted an adult drug diversion program and has rolled it out to all district courts in the county. He also expanded juvenile and youthful diversion programs throughout the county. He initiated a special Gun Court session in Lynn District Court that has eliminated the backlog

in gun cases in Lynn. He partnered with the Insurance Fraud Bureau of Massachusetts and local police to prosecute auto insurance fraud which has not only saved rate payers millions of dollars but has made the streets safer. His Office has also expanded the use of High-Risk Assessment Teams to better protect victims of domestic violence and hold batterers accountable. He is currently chairman of the Board of the Addiction Policy Forum and has been a member of the Board of the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance since 2005. He was elected President of the National District Attorneys Association in 2018 and has served on the Board and the executive committee of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

Tucker has also been endorsed by scores of community leaders from across Essex County who want to elect a strong District Attorney to take DA Blodgett's place. For a complete list go to: www.paultucker.org.

POLICE NEWS

LYNN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MAIL THEFT

A Lynn man pleaded guilty in federal court in Boston to stealing money from the mail.

Juan Murillo, 32, pleaded guilty to one count of theft of mail by an employee of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). U.S. District Court Judge Allison D. Burroughs scheduled sentencing for Nov. 9, 2022. Murillo was indicted by a federal grand jury on May 3, 2022.

While serving as a City Carrier for the United States Postal Service, Murillo stole two iPads which had been previously delivered to a Harvard University dorm while on his route delivering other mail. Additionally, on or about Sept. 23, 2021, Murillo stole cash from mail that he was supposed to deliver to postal customers.

The charge of theft of mail by an employee of the U.S. Postal Service provides for a sentence of up to five years in prison, up to three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the deter-

mination of a sentence in a criminal case.

United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins and Matthew Modafferi, Special Agent in Charge of the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General, Northeast Area Office, made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by the Harvard University Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Eugenia M. Carris, Deputy Chief of Rollins' Public Corruption and Special Prosecutions.

TSA LABOR UNION PRESIDENT SENTENCED IN FRAUD SCHEME

The president of a local union representing Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees was sentenced on Monday in federal court in Boston for engaging in a fraud scheme to defraud the union by misappropriating \$29,050 in union funds.

Marie LeClair, 59, of Lynn, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Indira Talwani to three years of probation with six months of home confinement. LeClair was also ordered to

pay restitution and forfeiture of \$29,050. On June 2, 2022, LeClair pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud.

LeClair was the president of the American Federation of Government Employees, Local 2617, which was based in Boston and represented TSA employees. Beginning in or about March 2015, LeClair engaged in a scheme to defraud the union by misappropriating funds belonging to the union for her personal use. Specifically, LeClair transferred funds from union accounts to a travel debit card issued in her own name without the knowledge or authorization of the union and used the misappropriated union funds for personal expenses. On May 22, 2018, LeClair made a wire transfer of \$3,000 from a union account to her personal travel debit card.

United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins; Jonathan Russo, District Director of the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor Management Standards; and Dr. Joseph V. Cuffari, Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Kaplan of Rollins' Criminal Division prosecuted the case.



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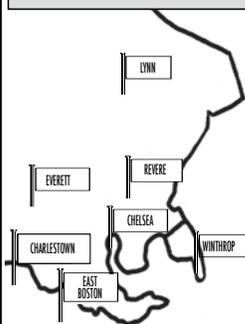
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Vacuum / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

come to the store during the day and go there at night.”

The ingredients to success

Wayne was in the distributive education program at Chelsea High, which was similar in its

mission to the co-operative education program at Northeastern.

“I started working at Thom McAn [shoe store] and became the manager,” recalled Simonelli. “That’s where I got a lot of

knowledge about retail sales and dealing with customers. I use a lot of the methods, such as book-keeping, that I learned with Thom McAn.”

The secrets to North Shore Vacuum’s continuing success?

“I think it’s good customer service, having great products, and a wide selection,” said Simonelli. “We sell about a dozen to two dozen brands of vacuum cleaners.”

Which brand is best in Wayne’s opinion?

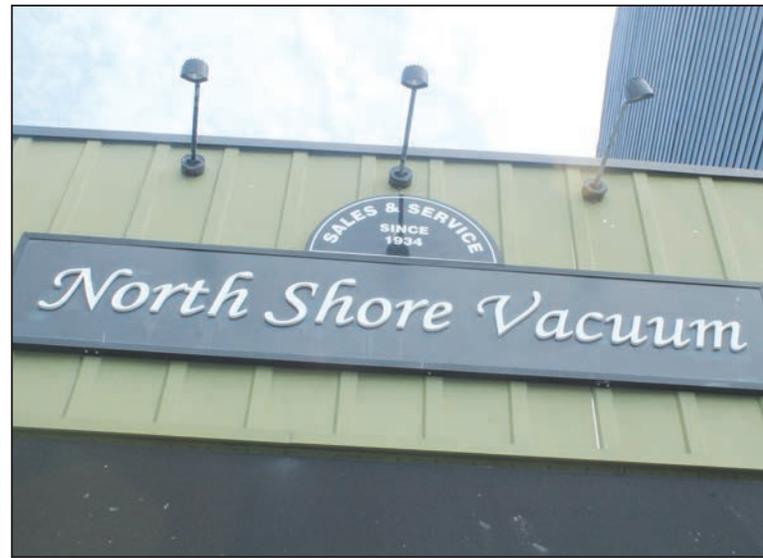
“It’s Miele. They are high-end machines that cost \$1,200-\$1,300. We sell a lot of those.”

Simonelli said modern technology has resulted in superior and more efficient vacuum cleaners.

“Vacuum cleaners are much better today,” said Simonelli. “We also do central vacuum installation and sales. A lot of the new houses have central vacuums.”

Simonelli, who works out daily with weights, said he’s not ready to step away from the vacuum business.

“I have a lot of pride in my business,” said Simonelli. “I’m



The iconic North Shore Vacuum sign atop the store that is approaching its 90th year in existence.

excited that the business will stay in the family and that my daughter is well-versed in this industry. She’s knowledgeable. She’s very sympathetic to people’s needs.”

One of Wayne’s biggest supporters is George Markos, who owns Brother’s Deli, which is located directly across the street. The two men have become close

through Wayne’s many visits to the restaurant.

“Wayne is one of the best businesspersons in our neighborhood,” said Markos. “He has an incredible knowledge of his products. There’s a lot of competition, but Wayne has stood strong, and he runs a great business.”

With 90 years of service, customers certainly agree.

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Just Don't Miss It! - ¡Simplemente No Te Lo Pierdas!

Ticket/Boletos

EVENTBRITE: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nslba-all-white-party-fiesta-de-blanco-tickets-386203022637>

Sponsorship Option Available / Opción de Patrocinio Disponible

DIGITAL Screen Digital Banner On Site / Anuncio Digital en la Pantalla Durante el evento. \$100.00

(No tickets included/No boletas incluidas) (Deadline/Fecha Limite 08/24/2022). **General Info: 781-596-8300**

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Wayne Simonelli, owner and operator of North Shore Vacuum, is pictured adjacent to the Miele Vacuum Cleaners display inside the store on Market Street.

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