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THE LYNN JOURNAL

Friday, February 7, 2025



Recipients of the North Shore Juneteenth Association's Local Black Excellence Awards, from left, Gina Tilltison Cordy, Ernest Jean-Jaques Jr., Audrey Jimenez, Michael Corley, Dr. Lourenco Garcia, and Kashawn Little. See page 8 for more photos.

North Shore Juneteenth Association holds Local Black Excellence Awards

Special to the Journal

The North Shore Juneteenth Association, under the leadership of President Nicole McLain, celebrated the incredible achievements and talents of the local Black Community during an impressive ceremony Tuesday at the Lynn Auditorium.

The event is held to support and uplift those that have excelled in their careers and community work and to honor their contributions and showcase their brilliance."

Mayor Jared Nicholson brought the official greetings of the city and congratulated the honorees for their outstanding contributions to the community. The honorees were Minister

Brenda Reed-Womack, Tania Freedman, Audrey Jimenez, Ernest Jean-Jacques Jr., Louise Dominique, Dr. Lourenco Garcia, Michael Corley, Gina Tilltison Cordy, Jasmine Graddy, Ralph Edwards, Jessica Chiappini, Kashawn Little, Lillie Jones, and Clarence Jones.



Recipients of the North Shore Juneteenth Association's Local Black Excellence Awards, from left, Jasmine Graddy, Minister Brenda Reed-Womack, Jessica Chiappini, and Tania Freedman.

Mayor Nicholson delivers State of the City Address

Special to the Journal

Mayor Jared Nicholson delivered the State of the City Address Jan. 21 in the Lynn city Council Chambers.

Following is the text of Mayor Nicholson's remarks:

Thank you, Faustina. Good evening Lieutenant Governor, Councilors, School Commit-

tee members, Legislators, and guests. Thank you all for being here. Gracias a todos por estar aquí.

I want to especially thank my wife, Katherine, my sons Henry and Benjamin, as well as my parents. I'd also like to thank my staff and the entire

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Constant Contention

St. Mary's boys basketball is 17-0 and gearing up for another postseason run

By Cary Shuman

The St. Mary's High School boys basketball team is off to its best start ever – which is saying a lot when the program has multiple state championship banners and been a title contender every season under head coach David Brown.

With a 17-0 record, the No. 1 seed in the division, and a Top-5 ranking in the Globe and Herald polls, Brown has his team rolling again in the Catholic Central League and gearing up for another possible trip to Tsongas in March.

The Spartans are deep and talented, and their versatility has allowed Brown to utilize various starting fives in games.

"I think we've used 14 different starting lineups because of different matchups and a few injuries," related Brown.

All-Scholastic JJ Martinez leads the way

One of the Spartans' main-



James Hall of the Citi Classic organizing committee presents the Tournament MVP Award to JJ Martinez of St. Mary's High School.

stays has been 6-foot-2-inch junior JJ Martinez, a returning All-Scholastic player. Martinez was the named the Citi Classic Most Valuable Player in a

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EDITORIAL

10 YEARS AGO, WE WERE AMIDST SNOWMAGEDDON

Yes, time does fly, and for those of us who lived through the Snowmageddon, it's hard to believe that 10 years have passed since we were in the middle of that epic winter season of 2015.

Major snowstorms just kept rolling in, week after week, from January through the end of February, eventually burying the Metro Boston area under a record total of 110 inches of snow for the season.

Even for those of us who enjoy a brisk snow-shoveling workout, the non-stop barrage of major snowstorms that barreled through our area at the rate of twice per week was overwhelming. Our driveway resembled a tunnel, with the snow piled 8-9 feet on either side, which made shoveling the snow extra hard because we also had to throw it up high just to clear the wall of snow to get it out of the way.

We also recall clearing our roof of snow (because of warnings that the snow could become too heavy and cause a collapse). We actually fell off the portion of our roof that -- fortunately -- was not too high off the ground. We plunged into a cushion of eight feet of snow that was only a few feet below the roofline and climbed back onto the roof to finish the task. No harm, no foul.

For those who park their cars on the street, the Snowmageddon was sheer torture. No sooner had you shoveled out your space, then another big storm came in and reburied your vehicle. Some folks eventually just gave up and their cars remained entombed for weeks at a time.

Cities and towns were overwhelmed in their efforts to keep up with snow removal. Not only did they exhaust their entire snow removal budgets by mid-January (the state and federal governments eventually reimbursed communities for some of their snow removal costs), but they could not find any place to put the tons of snow that had to be trucked away.

In Revere, National Guard units brought in heavy equipment just to make the city's streets passable. Some communities ended up dumping the snow onto their playing fields. In Winthrop, the mountain of snow that was piled high onto the high school baseball field still obstructed the field into late-April.

There were so many snowstorms and so many declarations of states of emergency by then-Governor Charlie Baker, that it seemed as though we were in one long State of Emergency.

So while we acknowledge the truth of the proverb that all of us tend to look back at the past through rose-colored glasses, we have to admit that we hope the Snowmageddon of 2015 was a one-and-done sort of event that we never will have to deal with again.

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Lynn Community Health Center CEO announces appointment of two new chief officers

Special to the Journal

After an extensive search and interview process, Lynn Community Health Center (LCHC) CEO Brenda Rodriguez is pleased to announce the appointment of two new executive leaders to her team: Tracey Albertson as Chief People Officer and Veronique Maston as Chief Consumer Officer. Both leaders bring a wealth of expertise to their roles and will play a critical part in shaping the future of LCHC as it continues to evolve and meet the growing healthcare needs of the Lynn community.

Tracey Albertson, Chief People Officer

Tracey Albertson joins LCHC as Chief People Officer, bringing extensive experience in human resources and talent management. Previously, Tracey served as Staff Vice President, Human Resources at Elevance Health, a Fortune 20 company, where she led the talent strategy for over 10,000 associates across 26 states. Tracey's leadership in building high-performing teams and creating inclusive, empowering environments makes her uniquely qualified to support LCHC's continued growth and to ensure it remains an employer of choice in the healthcare industry.

In her role, Tracey will focus on developing strategies that enhance workforce engagement, professional development, and organizational culture, all of which are critical to ensuring LCHC can continue to deliver high-quality care. At a time when healthcare systems nationwide face workforce challenges, Tracey's expertise in building leadership pipelines and fostering collaboration will be key to supporting LCHC's staff and attracting top talent to meet the needs of the community.

"I'm excited to be joining LCHC and working alongside a dedicated team to build a workplace where staff can thrive and feel supported in their roles," said Tracey Albertson. "By investing in our people, we can ensure they are well-equipped

to provide exceptional care to those who need it most."

Veronique Maston, Chief Consumer Officer

Veronique Maston will serve as Lynn Community Health Center's inaugural Chief Consumer Officer, bringing more than a decade of experience in healthcare transformation and patient experience. Most recently, Veronique was part of the leadership team at Texas Health Resources, where she was instrumental in driving patient experience initiatives, quality improvements, and organizational change. Her experience in understanding the Voice of Consumer (VoC) and applying human-centered design principles will be invaluable as LCHC continues to enhance its patient care.

Veronique's role will focus on improving the overall patient experience at LCHC, ensuring that every patient receives high-quality, compassionate care from start to

finish. As the healthcare landscape evolves, she will work to ensure that LCHC remains agile and responsive to patient needs, fostering an environment where patients feel heard, supported, and empowered in their care decisions.

"I'm honored to join Lynn Community Health Center at such a pivotal time in its journey," said Veronique Maston. "I look forward to working closely with the team to deliver a patient experience that is not only excellent but also tailored to the unique needs of the communities we serve."

Brenda Rodriguez, CEO of Lynn Community Health Center, expressed her excitement about these key appointments:

"We are thrilled to welcome Tracey and Veronique to our senior leadership team. At a time when our community's healthcare needs are rapidly

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SEND US YOUR NEWS

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Josh Kraft officially announces candidacy for Mayor of Boston

By Cary Shuman

The great race for mayor is on.

And mayoral candidate Josh Kraft, his supporters, and campaign team couldn't have asked for a better kickoff than what transpired Tuesday morning at the historic Prince Hall Grand Lodge in Dorchester.

Kraft walked confidently to the podium and delivered a speech that outlined his vision of Boston. People from neighborhoods across the city, from the Boys and Girls Club, the Urban League, and the Patriots Foundation stood behind him holding blue and white "Josh Kraft For Mayor" signs.

The media presence was extraordinary and the coverage intense. Following his speech, Kraft answered questions from a swarm of reporters about a variety of subjects. He then walked over to embrace his daughter, Anna Kraft, who had been sitting proudly in the front row during the event.

Just 15 minutes later, Boston TV stations led their noon broadcasts with live reports from Dorchester and highlights of Kraft's speech.

Among the many people in the audience were colleagues, former city officials and public safety department leaders, and friends.

Also attending was a contingent from Chelsea, where Josh Kraft was a transformative figure who helped build the largest youth organization in the city and led a fundraising drive for a new state-of-the-art \$11 million youth center, the Jordan Boys and Girls Club, with new leaders now carrying on the remarkable legacy of the club's founder. His positive impact on thousands of lives of Chelsea's youth is truly immeasurable.

'I've spent my entire career in the neighborhoods of Boston'

"I am honored to be surrounded by family and so many friends," he began. "My name is Josh Kraft. For those who don't know me, for the past 35 years,

I've been doing community-based work in and around Boston, including twelve years as CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, in my role with the Patriots Foundation, and as volunteer board chair of the Urban League of Eastern

Massachusetts.

"I've spent my entire career in the neighborhoods of Boston – from Roslindale to East Boston, from Mattapan to Charlestown, from South Boston to Roxbury. From the moment I started working in Boston, I fell in love with this city – its many unique neighborhoods, and its people ... especially its people – hard working, humble... and above all, proud of this city, no matter which neighborhood you come from.

"Serving Boston has been my passion and a great source of joy and purpose in my life. But I also know there's more for me to give to this City.

"And that's why, today, because I love this city and its people, I am excited to declare my candidacy to be the next Mayor of Boston."

Kraft acknowledged that he will be "an underdog" in the race for mayor.

"I enter this race as an underdog And I know that this will be an uphill fight," he said. "But I am excited for the challenge. Excited for the opportunity to listen and learn from the people of Boston ... Excited to share my ideas and vision for this great city.

"I am asking the people of Boston to set aside any ideas they might have about me based on my last name and let me tell you about the path of service I've forged ... the experience I've gained along the way ... and the plans I've developed to make life better for Boston."

In the speech, he criticized the current administration, stating that "we face some serious, serious challenges, challenges that Mayor Wu has not risen to."

"In fact, when it comes to the mayor's big campaign promises—to make the MBTA free for Boston residents ... to put in place a rent control program ... and to launch a Green New Deal for Boston's schools—she is 0 for 3," said Kraft.

"On the number one challenge facing our residents—access to housing that regular people can afford—production under Mayor Wu has ground to a dead halt.

"In fact, among similar sized cities across the nation, we have fallen to the very bottom when it comes to new housing production. As a result, rents

are at an all-time high, and so is the median price of a home which is \$950,000.

"Sure, this is a complex problem, but at its core: you can't solve a housing crisis if you're building less of it.

"On schools, we spend more per pupil than any other big city school system in the nation, about \$30,000 per student – all for a school system that regularly fails our kids on virtually every measure, including the ability to provide even the most basic services.

"Can you believe this? Our city spends \$171 million every year to provide bus transportation for about 20,000 students. Eighty-five hundred bucks per student each year for buses that can't even make the opening bell. How can a family trust a school system to educate their kids when they can't get them to school on time? That is unacceptable.

"Meanwhile, our neighborhood streets have become jammed up by poorly conceived, hastily installed bus and bike lanes that all too often have increased congestion and eliminated parking. As a result, moving around has become a burden for families, seniors, and members of the disabled community – and the small businesses who rely on them. It's a mess!

"Don't get me wrong: I'm all for being creative about how we solve our transportation challenges. But our "transportation problem" under this administration has quickly spiraled into a "quality of life problem."

His vision for Boston

"Over the course of this campaign, I will offer my vision for Boston – forged not only by my own experiences, but more importantly, those of the people I've met along the way," said Kraft.

"And it starts with housing, the number one challenge facing our city.

Today, there are projects ready to be built that would result in more than 20,000 units of housing. But they are stuck, stuck due to regulations imposed by the current administration. To jump start new housing construction, I will put in place one-time incentives aimed at projects that are priced for middle-class and first-time homeowners.

"Having all these projects sit

on the shelf generates no new housing, no new affordable housing, no new jobs, and no new tax revenue. Getting new construction going again must be a top priority because availability is the path to affordability.

In addition, I will put in place a rent control program that can work for both tenants and building owners.

"So, this is how the plan works. In exchange for capping increases in rents over a 10-year period, the city will provide a cut in real estate taxes to building owners. This program would be targeted at properties that serve middle- and lower-income residents and would exclude luxury rentals. Renters deserve to be protected from massive year-over-year increases and my plan will do that.

"Mayor Wu promised us rent control three years ago, but I will deliver it.

"Finally, I will take the tax revenue generated by jump-starting the 20,000-plus permitted units sitting un-built and create an affordable housing fund to help first-time homebuyers and provide rent relief.

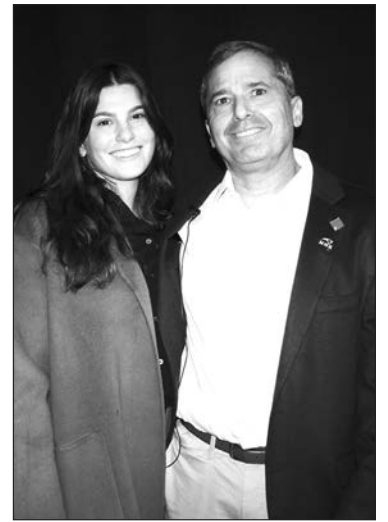
Elected members of the School Committee

"To improve our schools, we need a school committee that challenges city leadership and holds BPS accountable. It is time to have elected members along with appointed members on the school committee. And as Mayor, I'll make that happen.

"I will work hand in hand with the community and our partners at the state to bring an end to the human tragedy that is Mass and Cass. Listen, addiction doesn't have to be a life sentence. And among Boston's many prized possessions, is a robust and resilient recovery community who proves that one day at a time.

"I will breathe new life into Operation Exit – a powerful program started by Mayor Marty Walsh – and make Boston a national model when it comes to supporting individuals emerging from the criminal justice system and helping them gain skills and employment so they can build a new life and make our communities stronger.

And, I will offer a com-



Josh Kraft, candidate for mayor of Boston, is pictured with his daughter, Anna Kraft, following his announcement Tuesday at Prince Hall in Dorchester.

mon-sense transportation plan to deal with the congestion-clogging our streets – and that starts with an immediate pause for all new bike lane construction.

"On all of these issues—housing, transportation, schools, city services—this isn't about ideology. It's about results."

Choosing a career in public service

Kraft said he chose a career of community service and he learned some important lessons along the way.

"I've met so many remarkable and resilient people that call Boston home," said Kraft.

"Each of them has taught me some pretty important lessons:

That leadership is not about talking -- but about doing the work and getting results. That it requires bringing people together to solve problems – especially people that might disagree with me. That the teachings of my faith and my family matter.

"My mother, Myra, taught us to always look out for the marginalized groups – the ones that are overlooked and don't have access to opportunities.

"And, lastly, you can learn from anyone, and that everyone has something to share, everyone has something to contribute.

"Perhaps the most important learning experience I've ever had was during my second semester in graduate school while I was volunteering at a methadone clinic. I met a man in his late 30s who was struggling with substance abuse and was

ST. MARY'S (from Page 1)

convincing 63-54 victory over Division 1 Everett at Emmanuel College. Martinez needs 34 points to reach the 1,000-career point milestone, and he has clearly taken his game to another level this season.

“This year, we gave JJ a little different role where we’re not looking for him to have to score as much as he did in the past, but he has the ball in his hands a lot more when he’s playing the point guard position,” said Brown. “He’s averaging 16 points and eight assists, and he’s our leading rebounder. He’s doing a great job.”

Freshman Fortier emerges as a star

Last year’s starting point guard Jake Fortier, now a freshman, has made the most of his new position in the backcourt. “We put him off the ball because he’s such a great shooter and he’s averaging 15 points a game from the wing position,” said Brown. “He demands a lot of attention on the wing, which opens up the court for a lot of other guys as well.”

Other Spartan Standouts

Coach Brown said that sophomore guard June Vasquez has been “a real pleasant surprise” for the team.

“He’s earned his way into a starting position,” noted Brown.

Vasquez is averaging 12 points a game and shooting more than 40 percent from three-point land, giving opposing coaches another component to consider while preparing for the Spartans.

Starting 6-foot-4-inch center Donel Matumbo, who returned to the team Monday (in a 69-42 victory over rival Bishop Fenwick) after being sidelined by a shoulder injury, is averaging eight points and nine rebounds



The St. Mary’s High School boys basketball team is pictured above after defeating Everett in the Citi Classic at Emmanuel College. From left to right, are Coach Brian Mulvey, Coach Joe Fama, Jonny Mercado, Donel Mutombo, Marlon Estrella, Jason Perry, Devell Pamplin, Tyler Guy, JJ Martinez, Gabe Sykes, Hagen Parent, Jake Fortier, Coach Dave Brown, Rowan Merryman, Sam Phelps, Coach Pancho Bingham, Luke Phelan, Coach Donald Brown, and Coach Richie Bianchino.

a game. “Donel is giving us a lot of energy down low rebounding and defending,” said Brown. “He can defend anyone from the 2-5 position, so it gives us a lot of flexibility.”

St. Mary’s football star Tyler Guy has been a starting player and top defender, who usually guards the opponent’s best offensive player. Devell Pamplin, another talented football player, has been averaging 10 points and eight rebounds in the last ten games.

Rowan Merryman, younger brother of former state champion Omri Merryman, is a sophomore guard who is bringing a tremendous presence off the bench and averaging eight points per game. He is also distributing the basketball well, averaging five assists per game.

Gabe Sykes, a 6-foot-6-inch transfer from Ipswich, is averaging seven rebounds and four points per game, while giving the Spartans a strong presence in the paint.



Proudly displaying the Citi Classic championship trophy are St. Mary’s boys basketball coaches, from left, Jonny Mercado, Pancho Bingham, Brian Mulvey, David Brown, Donald Brown, Richie Bianchino, and Joe Fama.


Brown noted that Luke Phelan, who has been in the St. Mary’s program since the sixth grade, “has worked hard and earned a lot of quality min-

utes.” “Luke knocks down the open shot, gets a lot of 50-50 basketballs, rebounds the ball – he’s played really well off the

bench,” lauded Brown. Sophomore guard Marlon Estrella has also been a dependable contributor.

“One of our strengths has been our depth, which gives us the ability to wear teams down – hopefully we can keep it up.” Asked if he projected this year’s team to be undefeated and a No. 1 seed at this point, Brown replied, “I thought we could make a run and have a chance if we got better during the season. I didn’t expect us to be this good and consistent this quickly. But the players worked hard in the off season and they’re hungry. It would be great to have a homecourt advantage in the State Tourna-

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OFFICERS (from pg. 2)

evolving, these two leaders will provide the strategic direction and vision we need to continue growing and adapting. Tracey's expertise in talent management and organizational culture will help us build a stronger, more engaged workforce, while Veronique's patient-centered approach will help us to ensure that the experience we provide is reflective of our commitment to the community. Together, they will be instrumental in

shaping the future of our health center and ensuring we continue to build the type of care that our community deserves."

About Lynn Community Health Center

Lynn Community Health Center is a leading provider of healthcare services in the region, offering a wide range of services including primary care, dental care, mental health services, and more. LCHC is committed to providing

high-quality, affordable care to all, focusing on improving the health and well-being of its diverse patient population. As a trusted community resource, LCHC strives to create an inclusive, supportive environment for both patients and staff, ensuring that everyone receives the care they need, when they need it.

For more information, please visit www.LynnCHC.org.

KRAFT (from pg. 3)

also HIV positive.

He asked me if I could help him with something: --- would I teach him how to read?

"Over the course of several months, I sat with him twice a week for an hour and did my best to teach him the basics of reading.

"Now, looking back, I guess I did help this man learn to read. But he taught me something just as valuable: about pressing forward with your life even in the face of almost unspeakable adversity and obstacles.

"Over the past 35 years, I have had the opportunity to meet so many different peo-

ple – single parents and their kids. Police officers. Non-profit leaders. Community leaders. Teachers and advocates. People returning from incarceration. People fighting addiction.

And let me tell you: Every single one of them has something to teach us about how to press forward. Every single one.

"Here in Boston, we are fortunate to be the home of so much history and so many firsts, but what has always defined us is our focus on the future – on our relentless desire to adapt and grow and innovate and lead.

And today, when the future is uncertain, and the challenges are real – a healthy and vibrant Boston has never been more important to our citizens and our region.

"Yes, we have a lot to be proud of. But for me, I want to be more than proud of what we've already done – I want to be proud of where we're going. I want us to take these challenges head on no matter how hard they are.

"That's why I want to be your next Mayor – and that's what this campaign is going to be about. And I ask you to join me. Thank you!"

NOTEBOOK (from pg. 4)

ment."

Brown said it has been an outstanding year for other Lynn teams as well, noting the tremendous season that Lynn Classical is enjoying under the direction of head coach Marvin Avery.

"There is a lot of good basketball being played in the City of Lynn," said Brown. "Lynn Classical is one of the top-15 teams in the division, and it would be a big day for the City of Lynn if we end up meeting them in the State Tournament. Marvin is doing a great job over there. And Lynn Tech is making a great run at the tournament."

If St. Mary's does play Classical in March, we advise you to get your tickets early, because the game [at the Tony Conigliaro Gymnasium] will be sold out.

SPARTAN NOTEBOOK

St. Mary's won the Boverini Tournament for the fifth year in

row and has clinched a share of the Catholic Central League title. A win over Division 1 Bishop Feehan on the Shamrocks' home court in "the CCL game of the year" Friday would give St. Mary's the outright title. The Spartans will look to contain Feehan's 6-foot-9-inch center, Brody Bumila, who interestingly has committed as a left-handed pitcher to the Division 1 University of Texas baseball program.

"It's going to be a tough game with Feehan," said Brown, who has 366 career victories.

The Spartans have a resident expert on undefeated seasons on their bench in the legendary Pancho Bingham, who led the 1980 Lynn Classical team to a 25-0 record and the Division 2 state championship. Immediately following that memorable season, Bingham and the Rams played Division 1 state champion Cambridge Rindge and Latin in an unprecedented ex-

hibition game before a capacity crowd at Revere High School. Classical won the game impressively, and Pancho outplayed Cambridge's 7-foot center and future NBA No. 1 draft pick Patrick Ewing. Pancho went on to play Division 1 college basketball at Boston University for head coach Rick Pitino, who is now the head coach at St. John's University. Pancho was unstoppable that season and likely could have averaged 30-plus, but he shared the rock with Stu, Tony, Sandy, and Meryl – and piloted the Rams to the greatest season in city history.

And you can't write about St. Mary's High School without mentioning the girls' basketball program led by head coach Jeff Newhall. The No. 4-ranked Spartans have their own "CCL game of the year" Friday night in Lynn against No. 1-ranked Bishop Feehan.

STATE OF THE CITY (from pg. 1)

team working for Lynn for all that you do.

A particular thank you on this frigid evening to all our first responders and volunteers who are helping us deal with the extreme cold, including the additional emergency warming center opening tonight at First Church of the Nazarene on Eastern Ave with the support of the Public Health Department. Thank you.

The state of the city is ready.

We're ready for this to be Lynn's time. We've known all along that this is a great community whose strengths are too often undercounted and that we could be even greater with the right support. And we've put in the work. The foundation has been laid. The shovels are in the ground. We are hitting our stride.

We are ready for the City's opportunities to become actual improvements in the lives of our residents.

At the same time, we're ready to be a force for good in a time of uncertainty. Ready doesn't

mean knowing exactly what the future holds, or even avoiding challenge and hardship. Ready is having the right team in place and the right plans in place – and having confidence in our commitment to our values.

Infrastructure

We're ready for the infrastructure projects that we've been diligently advancing to start bearing fruit.

There are major projects already done. Blossom Street now extends across the Lynnway directly to our ferry terminal. The new Lynnfield Street was a long time coming and looks terrific. Several other roadways are in various stages of construction and planning. In the meantime, we set a record last year for the amount of roadway paved in a single year.

Saying we are ready for change is sometimes a nicer way of saying we're sick and tired of the status quo. But I'm just going to say that we're sick and tired of a dirty King's Beach.



From left, Ward 3 Councilor Coco Alinsug, Councilor-at-Large Nicole McLain, Councilor-at-Large Brian LaPierre, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, Mayor Jared Nicholson, President of the Lynn Veterans Council Charles Dineen, Ward 2 Councilor Obed Matul, School Committeeman Lennin Pena, and Ward 4 Councilor Natasha Megie-Maddrey.

We are ready to try something new this summer with a temporary ultra-violet treatment pilot, which we will be asking the Swampscott Select Board to support, and which, if it works, would make the beach swimmable this summer. We know it is time to do things differently and we're ready to try new ideas.

We're ready to enjoy the beautiful new parks we've opened: the playgrounds at Lynn Woods, Kiley Park, Barry Park, Cook Street Park. We're ready to open this year a new Keaney Park, Gallagher Playground and McManus turf field. And we'll keep going; next on the list for a major overhaul is Sagamore Street Park. We're ready to deliver these parks in a way that's much more inclusive too, with all these new playgrounds being handicap accessible.

We're ready to reclaim our waterfront. This summer we will open Lynn's Harbor Park, more than 20 acres of beautiful landscaping and breathtaking views of the harbor. What was once literally a dump has been transformed into a place for recreation and a point of pride for our residents. We're ready to continue the momentum we have on the waterfront, to capitalize on one of the most important development opportunities in Greater Boston while making sure it stays true to our community. We do that with teamwork and planning, so I'd like to thank the whole team driving forward the South Harbor Implementation Plan.

We're ready for a cleaner city.

The new barrels all over our parks, playgrounds, streets and lots have been a great success. But clearly, we need to do more. We're launching a downtown beautification initiative this spring in partnership with local

businesses to get more eyes and hands on the street.

Budget

We're ready to continue to make the most of limited resources. Our fiscal discipline has been paying off – exiting state fiscal oversight was a significant sign of strength and our bond rating was upgraded and then affirmed at the last issuance. We'll continue our fiscal discipline in 2025, being careful stewards of taxpayer funds and aggressive in the pursuit of outside grants. A great example of that is the Energy Manager we'll be hiring in 2025, funded by National Grid through a federal grant. This person will help our buildings become more energy efficient, a win for the environment and our budget.

We're ready to finally bring City governance into the 21st Century, including a more formal capital planning process. The City Council and I appointed a Charter Review Commission for the first time in decades. This Joint Commission put forward some good government, common-sense reforms that I fully support. I hope and expect the Council to send those recommendations to me so we can send them to the legislature for approval and implementation.

Our new capital planning process will give us more visibility and therefore better control of our long-term goals and spending. It coincides nicely with the creation of our Capital Projects Unit, which moves the folks overseeing our long-term construction projects out of the Inspectional Services Department and into its own dedicated unit. This will allow for the ongoing preparation and implementation of a robust capital plan, something that all high-functioning cities need.

Community

We're ready to come together and support one another in difficult moments. We've made tremendous strides in making city government more welcoming. City Hall better reflects the community we serve, both in the diversity of our personnel and our ability to deliver services in multiple languages.

We saw this progress noted in the equity audit we completed last year thanks to a state grant. During the audit, community members touted our inclusive values, progress in language access, inclusive hiring, and community-building. I want to thank the entire City team that works tirelessly each day in service of our community.

We're ready to continue this work. We have a major community event this spring for our 175th Anniversary of becoming a City, when we'll turn on the refurbished fountain on our historic Lynn Commons. We will continue this summer with the return of our Summer Kickoff Festival, which 5,000 people attended last year, and into the fall with the fourth annual Lynnside Out Festival and our annual Halloween and holiday festivities. Bringing people together and making positive connections between residents and their City Hall help us build the kind of strong community that supports us all.

We are ready to support particular communities to whom we have a special obligation. Our seniors will have a refurbished, expanded senior center later this year as the renovation completes. Visit any day and you'll see firsthand the power of community to offer essential services while providing joy and connec-

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Ward 3 Councilor Coco Alinsug, Nadine Murkison, Darrell Murkison, and State Rep. Dan Cahill.

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SPEECH (from pg. 6)

tion for all who seek it.

Our veterans, who fought for our freedom, deserve our unending gratitude. Thanks to the initiative of the Veterans Council, 2025 will see the renaming of Heritage Park to become Veterans Memorial Park just steps from the Gold Star Families bridge.

Transit

We're ready for the state to finally deliver on their transit promises.

That's actually happened in a real way with the restoration and extension our ferry service, which I know we all greatly appreciate, and you see that in the numbers with a ridership last season of more than 40,000.

Working with our state delegation, we're still waiting and pushing for major improvements at the MBTA Garage site. The state of repair of that facility is outrageous. We need parking to continue to support the downtown and we deserve it to be maintained with respect for our residents. That said, we are excited about the opportunity for redevelopment in conjunction with the preservation of a significant amount of parking and appreciate the Healey-Driscoll Administration and MBTA for taking this on. We have the same urgency and long-building frustration with the efforts to rebuild our commuter rail station and electrify our rail line. We appreciate the T's work on these projects as well. When they are done, we will have near-rapid transit like every other region in Greater Boston.

Lynn has been left out for too long. Remember, saying that we are ready for change is a nice way of saying we're sick and tired of the status quo. We're ready for the transit service we deserve.

Peace and Public Safety

We're ready to strengthen public safety. Our Fire Department does excellent work in keeping us safe, and they deserve facilities that are up to the task. We have upgraded Fire Station HVAC systems around the City and are continuing a major renovation of the Fayette Street station. Last year we got two new engines and a ladder and another two engines are coming this year.

We're ready to hire more police officers. Our police officers do heroic work every day to keep us safe and we need more

of them. We have 13 recruits going to the next academy. If you know someone who's like our officers, someone who is brave and community-minded, tell them to sign up for the civil service test before January 28th.

We're ready to grow the team of people tackling gang violence. Under the state Shannon Grant, we've added new partners in the Lynn Housing Authority as well as Justice Resource Institute to provide extra supports with the goal of violence prevention.

We're ready to make big investments to combat the opioid crisis. We've laid the groundwork for spending the Opioid Settlement Funds, gathering extensive input from diverse perspectives and starting to award grants to learn what's possible. This learning and investment will continue in 2025.

We're ready for the next generation to enter the workforce. Last year, we made a bold commitment to offer a job to every young person who applied. Interest soared and we followed through, tripling the size of our summer youth jobs program. We're preparing for another big year this summer.

We're ready to continue to take City Hall and our message of peace through community engagement to the streets. Last year we went door to door with City volunteers around Commercial Street, Veteran's Village, and the Highlands. Our next community canvass this spring will be around Flax Pond.

We're ready to launch the City's unarmed response team, the Lynn Calm Team. This new team will help us tackle mental health issues and further racial justice. We've already made the first hires and will be launching the pilot this spring.

We're ready to respond to whatever comes out of Washington. We don't know yet what that will be. But we are a welcoming, inclusive community. We'll support all of our residents regardless of immigration status, regardless of gender, or even who you voted for. We'll fight for our values and one another. That has been my commitment as mayor from day one – a Lynn for all of us.

Housing

We're ready to continue the hard work to address the housing crisis that continues to hurt so many of our residents. The inclusionary zoning policy we

implemented with the Council is expected to create units this year for Lynn residents. This year we can also implement the housing stability ordinance that the Council passed last fall that will give us some of the best tenant support in the Commonwealth by making sure all tenants are notified of their rights.

We're ready to break ground on three important projects that we've supported extensively, extremely low-income housing at the Hennessy House on Andrew Street with Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Development (LHAND), veterans housing at the Lynn Armory with LHAND, and senior housing at the Solimine House at the former Union Hospital site.

We're ready for even more, having invested several million dollars into projects with American Rescue Plan Act and Affordable Housing Trust funds that will unfold in the coming years creating another 565 affordable units.

And we're ready to overhaul our zoning ordinance, to make sure it matches the readiness for positive, balanced, growth that's articulated in the Vision Lynn master plan.

Jobs

We're ready for our residents to get better access to high-paying jobs. We are a hard-working city full of hard-working people. Too many of our residents struggle to afford to live, despite how hard they work. A lot has to change to fix that. But one strategy that's in our control is workforce development.

We have launched the Lynn Workforce Collaborative to formalize the City's approach to workforce development. We want to grow programs like the adult education happening at Lynn Tech and the English classes at Washington Elementary. We want to get our residents into the higher paying jobs that exist, which is why Lynn Tech added a shop in Biotech this year. It's why next year, Tech is adding a shop in Construction Craft Laborers. To make sure that the development that is happening in Lynn and the region includes our own community members.

Those and other additions we've made at Lynn Tech have increased capacity there by 25 percent. Tech schools around the state, including LVTI, have become oversubscribed. Here in Lynn, we were ready to do



Lynn Community Health Center (LCHC) Chief of Staff Meghan Hamill, Mayor Jared Nicholson, LCHC Chief Executive Office Brenda Rodriguez, and LCHC Board Chair Drew Russo.

something about it and have made a significant dent in the annual waitlist.

Schools

Speaking of education, we're ready for the facilities our students deserve districtwide. For years, our classroom sizes have swollen beyond what's reasonable or fair to our students and educators. We were tired of waiting on an outdated and inequitable state school building system. We were ready to take action ourselves. And we're doing exactly that by creatively and effectively opening new schools by repurposing existing buildings.

We purchased the former Eastern Bank headquarters on Market Street last year. Now we're ready to transform those offices into classrooms and double the size of the Frederick Douglass Collegiate Academy, our new early college high school. That acquisition will allow us to open a new pre-K center at Bennett Street by moving the administrative offices to the bank building, continuing our momentum to increase access to education in those vitally important early years. And it will allow us to open a new, Arts & Sciences-themed high school at Fecteau-Leary, moving the amazing programs offered in that building currently to new spaces at the bank and repurposing the old Classical building.

This isn't possible without a lot of teamwork, creative thinking, and determination. I want to thank all the educators, the Superintendent and her team, students, families, and facilities staff for their hard work and collaboration on these projects.

By the way, we're also ready for a new Pickering Middle School. This year we broke ground on the brand new, state-of-the-art school, a project that has been a decade in the mak-

ing, and expect it to be ready for students two years from now in 2027.

That will help our schools do their jobs in making sure our young people are ready to live complete and fulfilling lives.

Being ready implies that you've done the work physically and mentally to prepare. Walk around the city and see the hammers swinging, for instance at the new Virginia Barton Educational Center at Briarcliff opening in February or the GAR Building under renovation downtown, or crack open our many planning documents, from Vision Lynn, the City's first ever master plan, to the new Lynn Public Schools Strategic Plan to our \$11 million federally-funded Safe Streets For All traffic safety improvement plan and you will see that we are ready in the sense that we're doing the work physically and mentally to prepare. But no one can predict the future. Being ready, ready for anything that comes, also implies that your heart is full of courage and love.

One of the notable aspects of being mayor is becoming aware of some of the city's hardest moments. After three years, I can absolutely assure you that Lynn's heart is full of courage and love. From the police officer who saved a stabbing victim with an improvised tourniquet to the firefighter who reversed an overdose, from the librarian who calmed a disquieting patron to the teacher who intervened in a dangerous situation, from the community organizer who helped a family avoid homelessness to the business owner who poured everything she had into a new venture, I see that your hearts are full of courage and love and I know that the state of our city is ready for a bright future whatever comes our way.

Thank you.

NORTH SHORE JUNETEENTH ASSOCIATION HOLDS LOCAL BLACK EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Recipients of the North Shore Juneteenth Association's Local Black Excellence Awards, from left, Lillie Jones, Clarence Jones, and Ralph Edwards.



North Shore Juneteenth Association President and Councilor-at-Large Nicole McLain (center) welcomes her colleagues in city government to the awards ceremony, from left, Councilor-at-Large Brian Field, Ward 6 Councilor Fred Hogan, Ward 3 Councilor Coco Alinsug, Ward 4 Councilor Natasha Megie-Maddrey, Mayor Jared Nicholson, Sen. Brendan Crighton, Rep. Sean Reid, and Rep. Dan Cahill.

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL 2024 AMELIA EARHART FELLOW

Members of the Zonta Club of Chelsea & North Shore and the Zonta Club of Malden recently celebrated the remarkable achievements of Zonta's District 1 Amelia Earhart Fellowship recipients. Amelia Earhart Fellowship is a unique and prestigious award program started in 1938

in honor of Amelia Earhart the famed pilot and Zonta member. This \$10,000 Fellowship is awarded annually to up to 30 women internationally pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace engineering and space sciences. Candidates are evaluated based on their aca-

demical achievements, research proposals and leadership potential. Women who demonstrate a superior academic record conducting research applied to aerospace engineering or space sciences are eligible.

The Fellowship recipients honored at this event were Ki-

erra Wilk a Ph.D. Candidate at Brown University studying Planetary Science, Mennatallah Hussein is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at MIT and Madelyn Hoying's Ph.D. research is in the Tearney Lab at MGH investigating aerospace physiology

leading to novel medical devices for long duration space flight.

Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. For more information, please visit the website; Zonta.org.



Shown (left to right) are Kierra Wilk Fellowship Recipient, Janice Tatar, Zonta Club of Chelsea & North Shore President, Diane Raycraft Zonta's District 1 Governor, Maria Luise Zonta Club of Malden President, Mennatallah Hussein Fellowship Recipient, Madelyn Hoying Fellowship Recipient.



Shown (left to right) are Lee Farrington, Barbara Lawlor, Mary Jane O'Neill, Diane Cambria, Diane Raycraft Zonta 1 District Governor, Sheila Arsenault, Janice Tatar, Zonta Club of Chelsea & North Shore President, Georgia Green, Christine DePrizio, Joan Lanzillo-Hahesy, Janice Sikorski



Happy Valentine's Day

Charles Gaeta, Executive Director

Board of Commissioners Susan McGinnis-Lang, Steve Martin, Robert Muise, Justin Anshewitz, & Kiara Palomares