

Building futures

Girls Inc. has big plans for new old building

BY PAUL FINCH

As the cover of one its many brochures says, "It's all about the girls."

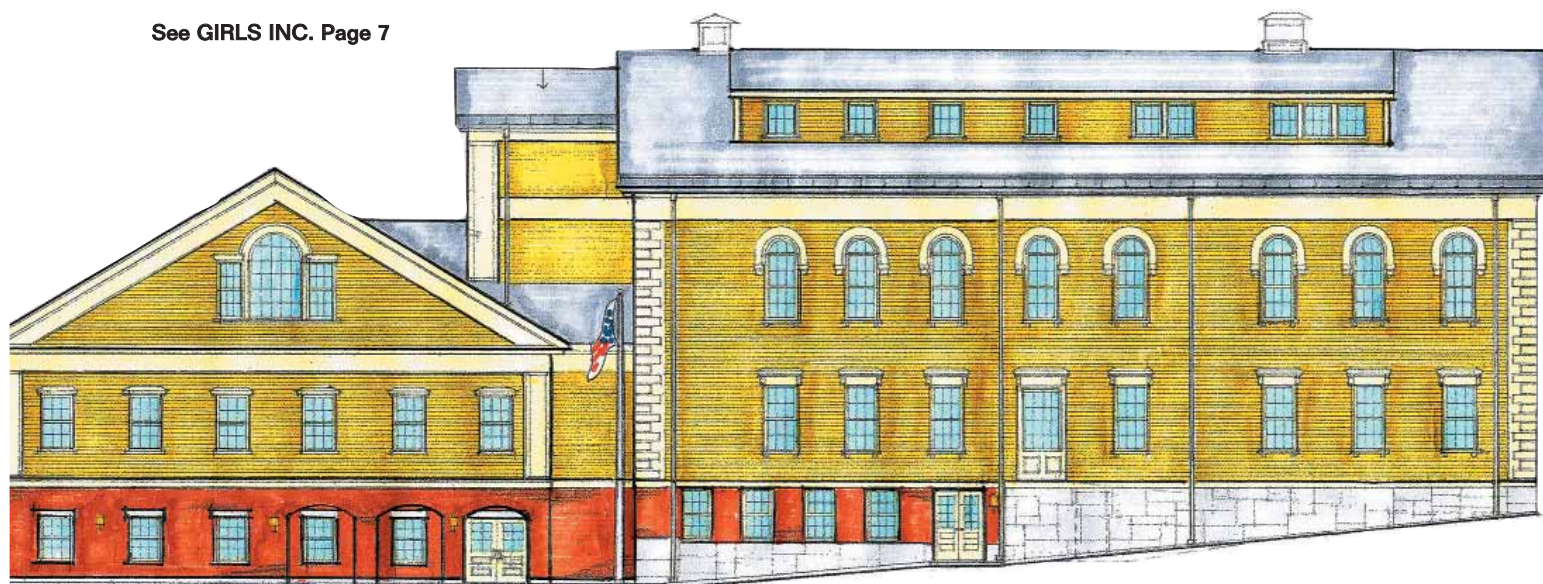
And today, as Girls Incorporated at the corner of Nahant and Broad streets seeks to raise money so it can relocate to a larger, more serviceable building, that slogan is as true as it was when the organization began — as the old Girls Club — more than 60 years ago.

Girls Inc. is about halfway toward realizing a \$4.7 million goal in its Capital Campaign, according to executive director Pat Driscoll. Thus far, the group has raised \$2.2 million,

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Girls Inc. isn't just fiddling around. While members work on their violin skills, above, there are big plans for a new headquarters, below. PHOTO: PAULA MULLER



Union and Lynn: a perfect union

BY PAUL FINCH

Now that Union Hospital has committed to staying in Lynn, the trick, says longtime benefactor David J. Solimine Jr., is not only to keep the facility on Lynnfield Street, but to educate the neighbors and the city on the institution's value.

"I think that the Lynn community at large, and the Ward 1 neighborhood in particular, need to be advocates for Union Hospital," said Solimine, whose contributions resulted in the refurbished emergency room being named for his parents, David Sr. and Mary Jane Solimine.

"We need to think about Union Hospital as a jewel that's important to us."

Solimine says that is a delicate balance sometimes, because neighbors do have their concerns about possible expansion projects.

"But," he says, "if there's expansion for a new operating room, we'd like to see the neighbors view it as a good thing ... to have our hospital be the best it can be.

"And it is our hospital," he

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INSIDE

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Catholic Charities and Operation Bootstrap team up for literacy.

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KEEPING PACE

Elder service agency improves the lives of three women.

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Welcome to the premier edition of *The Connector*, a newspaper designed to highlight the good works of local non-profit and social-service agencies. This edition is funded by Solimine Landergan & Richardson Funeral Homes and published by Grant Communications Consulting Group.

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Helping us accomplish our mission

Edward J.
Clancy Jr.

The City of Lynn is fortunate to have a wide variety of nonprofit agencies not only providing services on a daily basis, but also stimulating our economy by employing thousands.

It is entirely appropriate that the organizations you will read about in this inaugural edition of *The Connector* receive recognition for the great work they do day in and day out.

Lynn has a long tradition of lending a helping hand to those who need it,

whether they be infants, elderly or anyone in between. The nonprofits that operate here — both private- and public sector — have done an outstanding job of not only carrying on, but also enhancing the city's reputation as a welcome host to those in need of services.

I have often pointed out that we in government must constantly remind ourselves of our mission. We are not a private business that exists to make a

profit for shareholders. Government exists to provide services for its constituents — the citizens. We must operate in the context of providing services in a professional, cost-effective manner.

The nonprofits in our city offer significant assistance in carrying out that mission. For that, they are to be thanked.

Edward J. "Chip" Clancy Jr. is mayor of Lynn.

All citizens touched by services nonprofits provide



Mark S. Kennard

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the first edition of *The Connector*.

Great things are happening in the nonprofit sector of our community. We are delighted to have the opportunity to highlight our

successes — an opportunity provided to us by David J. Solimine Jr., vice president of Solimine Landergan & Richardson Funeral Homes, and Grant Communications Consulting Group, the sponsor and publisher,

respectively, of *The Connector*.

At the same time, we share with you our sadness at the recent loss of Vince Lique, the longtime executive director of Greater Lynn Senior Services. Vince epitomized the true nature of the nonprofit community through his unwavering idealism that life was good and could be even better, by his commitment to help those in need, and by his compassionate belief that each person deserves an opportunity. He will truly be missed by all of us.

Nonprofit organizations have been the social, recreational, educational, and cultural backbone of Lynn for more than 100 years. The life of every citizen in our community is

touched each day through the countless different types of services that we provide. Our commitment to you is to continue to work to enhance the life of each and every citizen of our great city. Your support of our organizations at fundraising events, as volunteers, as Board members, and as employees has enabled us to grow and mature together through the years. Yet the non-profit industry is more than just opportunities and services. We are a huge economic engine in Lynn, providing thousands of jobs, and putting millions of dollars into the local economy. Nonprofit organizations as a group are the second largest employer in the city and we continue to grow.

The focus of the Lynn Connector is to publicize the wonderful things happening throughout the local nonprofit world. The intent is to be inclusive of all nonprofit organizations in the city in terms of providing information about programs and services to the public. I hope that you will find our stories interesting, helpful, and perhaps even inspiring. Great things are happening in our City and we are delighted to be your partner!

Mark S. Kennard is executive director of Project COPE in Lynn and president of the Lynn Non-profit Business Association.

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www.solimine.comUnion Hospital and Lynn
form a perfect union

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added. "It's the people of Lynn's hospital. It belongs to the people who live here. And we have to make sure that it's continuously updated, that its services are updated, and that we're behind the hospital in providing cutting-edge service."

Solimine says there needs to be a stronger sense of urgency about people from Lynn being advocates for the hospital.

"We want to make sure it thrives," he said. "We want to work with the North Shore Medical Center to make sure we have the newest of programs, that capital improvements are made on a regular basis, and that programs are expanded to serve the Lynn community."

James McKeever, a Grant Road resident, said having the hospital is a positive for both the city in general and the surrounding neighborhood. "We are fortunate to have a first-class medical facility and it is important that we keep the lines of communication open between the hospital and community," McKeever said.

The hospital does offer a wide range of services. It has established a relationship with the Lynn

Community Health Center, offering financial support for the walk-in center and the new facility on Western Avenue.

The hospital also provides an Emergency Department-Primary Care Connection Project through which patients seeking care in the emergency room who do not have a primary care physician are provided with an appointment at the health center and given taxi vouchers and other assistance in getting to the appointment.

The Community Health Van provides a variety of programs (teen pregnancy prevention, harm reduction for IV drug users, health screenings, etc) throughout Lynn's neighborhoods.

The Women's Health Initiative provides breast-cancer and cervical-cancer screenings and treatment for uninsured and under-insured women. There are also interpreter services throughout the hospital and in physicians' offices in a variety of languages including Spanish, Russian, Khmer, French Creole and Somali.

Union Hospital also has many other ongoing programs such as an outpatient vascular center and diabetes-management program.

ON THE MOVE



THE RIDE offers lifeline to physically challenged

BY PAUL FINCH

Dorothy Davis of Lynn vowed when she retired that she would remain active. But twin cases of arthritis in her knees can make that a challenge sometimes.

Enter THE RIDE, a joint venture of Greater Lynn Senior Services and the MBTA to provide transport for people who are unable, because of a physical illness, to take public transportation.

"It is a substitute for public transportation," says GLSS coordinator Jeanne Leydon. And it's a lifesaver to Dorothy, who serves not only on the GLSS board of directors, but on the boards of PACE and the Council on Elder Affairs.

"Believe me," she says, "the bottom line is that I couldn't do any of this without THE RIDE. My doctor says I'm going to need two knee replacements before too long.

"I can't walk long distances and I cannot stand in line to wait for buses. My knees lock up. So even though the bus stop is practically right outside my house, I can't make use of them because of my knees. I also go down to the Lynn Senior Center for lunch, and I wouldn't be able to do

"It allows me to do the things I want to do, and go to all the places I need to go."

Dorothy Davis

any of that without THE RIDE."

THE RIDE first came into being in the Boston area in 1977, and made its debut in Lynn in 1987. Anyone with physical limitations that preclude them from using public transportation is eligible to use the service, which costs \$1.50 per trip.

"Let's face it," Davis says. "There's no way on God's earth, with what I make, that I can afford taxis to go everywhere I need to go. But this is perfect for me. It allows me to do the things I want to do, and go to all the places I need to go."

THE RIDE provides door-to-door transport, meaning that drivers cannot go into the passengers' houses. "It's not an ambulance service," Davis says. "But they'll come right to your door."

"It goes anyplace that any other public transportation vehicle would go," Leydon said. "You can take it to the store, to the doctor's, or to work. It's like taking a bus."

Cars come in all shapes and sizes, and can accommodate motorized wheelchairs.

THE RIDE has a fairly wide scope, too. For the \$1.50 fee, it will take a passenger throughout the North Shore, from Topsfield to Boston. To go farther, passenger would either need a transfer or they would have to pay another fee, according to Jacquelyn Dunlop, the MBTA's liaison to GLSS.

To make reservations for THE RIDE from Lynn, call (781) 596-8222; and (888) 319-7433 or (800) 621-0420 TTY from outside the city.

Riders must apply and be approved by the MBTA and have an active account prior to booking a ride. The MBTA uses an electronic fare system. All riders must have adequate funds in their account.

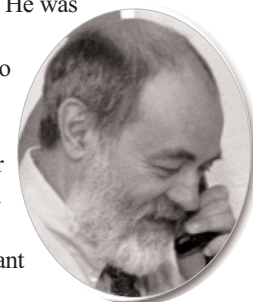
For more information about transportation services or THE RIDE, call GLSS at (781) 599-0110, or visit www.mbtaride.com

APPRECIATION

Vince Lique had vision, compassion

BY ALLAN KORT

Vince Lique, who died in March after a three-year battle with lung cancer, was the epitome of what the head of a non-profit agency should be — caring, committed and compassionate to the people he served. Vince was all that and more. He was an executive director with a vision and the people skills to carry out that vision.



Vince Lique

As a newspaper editor, I witnessed Vince turn Greater Lynn Senior Services from a 60-pound weakling in the early 1980s into a vital, vibrant agency that today has 500 employees and 100 volunteers who care for the elderly and, among other things, deliver 200,000 Meals on Wheels annually for shut-ins, serve 140,000 meals at eight community cafés and provide 300,000 rides annually for seniors and the disabled.

As a person who has served on several non-profit boards, including GLSS, I witnessed first-hand a truly unique individual who put his staff and clients' needs above all else, including his own self-interest. I like to tell the story of a particularly tough financial year when myself and a couple of other GLSS board members had to literally twist Vince's arm to take a raise that was long overdue. He had budgeted nothing for himself because of "other pressing needs" and he resisted our efforts to reward him. Needless to say, we had the votes.

And, while most people probably only saw Vince as the able CEO of a multi-million-dollar agency, I saw him as a warm and affable human being who wore colorful suspenders and off-beat "kids that care" or "smile" ties. Speaking of kids, Vince decided to take paternity leave at home in his beloved Nahant shortly after he and Kathy, his wife of 30 years, adopted their second Korean daughter in 1987. That came almost a decade before the federal government made it *de rigueur* with the passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act.

However, the most telling attributes of Vince's character and inner strength came after his cancer diagnosis in 2003. After a short period of hospitalization and treatment, Vince returned to work with the knowledge that the survival rate for lung cancer was three years or less. But instead of wallowing in self-pity, Vince turned to his family and his passions. He played a lot of golf, and concentrated on his avocations of cooking and wine. He also traveled to Asia and Africa several times to explore other cultures and grow spiritually.

All that while preparing the agency for a future without Vince. In fact, he worked as usual right up to a couple weeks before his passing. And, I am told, without a complaint about his misfortune. That is the Vince Lique I knew.

Allan Kort is executive editor of The Daily Item of Lynn.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

If you're willing and able to serve, non-profits are ready to welcome you

By PAUL FINCH

Lynn Attorney James J. Carrigan is no stranger to non-profit boards. In fact, you might say he wrote the book on them.

A decade ago, Carrigan produced a seminar to try to recruit minorities into the non-profit board circle.

Ten years later, he's at it again.

The four-session seminar, which could be called "an introduction to serving on non-profit boards," has been resurrected this month by the Lynn Non-Profit Business Association under Carrigan's direction. The weekly sessions at the T Building (across from North Shore Community College) began May 9 and concludes May 30.

"This simplifies the process of serving on a board of directors," Carrigan said. "Prospective board members who participate will be better prepared to serve on boards than most of us who have ever done it."

The current version of the seminar came about because Carrigan's wife, Attorney Anne Gugino Carrigan, had seen it work once and thought having another one might accomplish the same goals. It was broken down into four components, the first run by agency executive directors; the second by board presidents; the third, chaired by Carrigan, on Robert's Rules of Order; and the fourth a compendium on access, with speakers including Allan T. Kort, executive editor of the Daily Item; as well as Sen. Thomas McGee, and Reps. Steven Walsh and Robert Fennell.

"This really works," Carrigan said. "We've had great results. Out of the original seminar, we got people to join boards who later became presidents of those boards."

Carrigan and David J. Solimine Jr. have worked together for various organizations, including each having served as chairman of the YMCA board. Solimine, who has been on more boards than he can count, says the key to finding good volunteers is to match them up with their interests and give them a voice.

"I come from a background," he says, "where if you're going to be on a board, you have to participate. I've never felt right about just showing up and being a name on the stationery."

Solimine, from a family whose philanthropic endeavors are widely known and admired, says boards of directors in non-profit agencies have multiple functions.

"Boards of directors really help to spread the word about what programs their agencies offer," he said. "They help communicate the message of the agency."

"But it's a back-and-forth thing," he said. "The board brings the community to the agency and helps direct the

Satisfaction comes with embracing your community

By DAVID J. SOLIMINE JR.

The lessons of family, community, friendship, responsibility, compassion, and making a difference are lessons that my father — with much help from my mother, Mary Jane — instilled in me. These lessons continue to pass to my sons — with much help from my wife, Patty.

I had the privilege of growing up in the house my dad was actually born in. My dad is a first-generation American and the youngest of his siblings. When my parents married, they renovated the upper floor of my grandparents' home and over the next 30 years raised their family there. With my sisters and me out of school, my parents built a home 100 yards up the street on a lot that they had bought years before. Talk about roots!

My dad has spent his entire life in two houses on the hill in West Lynn that he reminds everyone is Nanny Goat Hill. This is certainly quite different than the thousands of miles that separate the small town in Italy where my Dad's parents were born and the house in West Lynn where they raised their family.

My sons are now entering the adult world and my

hope and expectation are that they embrace the community in which we live as their father and grandfather have. We have been blessed with a strong and supportive family that has overcome many of the struggles that each family faces. The lessons taught in our family and in so many families in Greater Lynn extend to the entire community. Exposing my sons to all that my father shared with me is so important to me.

There is so much more satisfaction in giving than in receiving. At the same time, when we face struggles in life, we need to reach out to people that can help.

There are so many wonderful people and organizations in Greater Lynn that fit this role. This publication was created to publicize the programs available

in our community so that we are all knowledgeable about the resources available to us. Each one of us has something to offer and I encourage you to take an active part in a group or organization that interests you.

David J. Solimine Jr. is vice president of Solimine Landergan & Richardson Funeral Homes, which is funding The Connector.)



Three generations of Solimines visited the hometown of David Solimine's parents — Anzano diPuglia, Italy, in 2005. Shown are David Solimine Jr., Michael, David Sr., and Joel.

staff as to what's important, both now and to the future of the agency. We need people (on boards) who have the best interests of the community in which they're involved. And we need people who are passionate about whatever service the agency offers."

Solimine likes to find people who have never served on boards before, as opposed to tapping the same people for different boards. "If you can do that ... find people who have a singular passion for whatever cause the agency represents, then you're going to have a better board," he said.

"As a board member," he said, "your voice is heard. You

contribute your opinions and your insights to the overall cause. That type of thing helps improve the board by bringing a fresh perspective to different agencies."

So, who is the ideal board member?

"It is someone who's willing to give of himself or herself, someone who attends the meetings, participates in them, supports the organization with their time, talent or treasure ... or all of the above ... and is a sounding board for the staff of the organization, to really let the agency know what's needed in the community. He or she is the eyes and ears of the organization."

By MAUREEN MULLEN

Pedro
can't say
no to
serving
others

Peter C. Pedro Jr., promised his wife, Michelle, he was just going to look around. He was going to meet with a few people at Girls Inc., of Lynn, but was not going to be signed up for anything.

"A good friend of mine, Jansi Chandler, who served on another board in Lynn with me, told me one day, 'I'd like you to get involved,'" Pedro said. "I told her that I didn't think I could because I was involved in other things and didn't think I could fit in. She

said just do me a favor and come down and meet Pat Driscoll, the executive director.

"Well, I'll tell you Pat is the secret to the success of that organization because in a matter of seconds I was hooked. I called my wife on the ride home and I said, 'I know I promised I wouldn't but let me tell you why I am.' I think it's the best kept secret in the area. The work these folks do over there, the staff, is just amazing."

That was nearly seven years ago, and Pedro has been a member of the

Girls Inc., board of directors ever since.

Pedro, 37, a partner in The Bostonian Group, an employee-benefits advisory firm, is also on the board of directors of the Agganis Foundation and Catholic Charities, works with the Red Auerbach and The Bottom Line education foundations, and served with the Special Olympics.

While all his volunteer work gives him satisfaction, he said his involvement with Girls Inc. allows him to see his work almost as it happens. "They're all satisfying and fulfilling,"

he said, "but with this one, day in and day out, you realize you're making an impact. If you've ever heard a couple hundred screaming, excited kids who love what they're learning and doing, it's just amazing.

"It's very different from some organizations. When the girls are putting on a show at one of our board meetings, singing, reciting, performing, that's when you realize, wow, we should be doing so much more."



Pete Pedro Jr.



Helping HAND

Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development
is making housing dreams come true

BY PAUL FINCH

One project is nearing completion, and another is just getting started. But the bottom line is the same: Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development programs continue to meet the city's modern housing needs.

The Devlin Park development, on the site of the former Joseph P. Devlin Nursing Home, contains 12 new homes for sale. For those who purchase property with the proximity of schools in mind, this one is perfect, as you can send your child through school from Grades K-12 at Callahan, Breed, and Lynn Classical — all within a quarter-mile of the development.

Devlin Park, with homes developed by the Lynn Community Development Housing Corporation in partnership with LHAND and the city, contains 12 Colonial-style, two-story homes with about 1,800 to 2,100 square feet of living space. Though the homes range from six to seven rooms, they all feature three bedrooms and two baths.

"New construction in West Lynn is very attractive," said LHAND Neighborhood Development Manager Peggy Phelps. "Most new homes are being built in Ward 1, and I'm glad to see a new market opening

up in this neighborhood."

The homes are listed for between \$389,900 and \$439,900. Proceeds from the sales will be split between the LCDHC and the city. The LCDHC is also offering a discount for Lynn law enforcement personnel, as long as they stay in the home for at least 10 years.

"The price range is attractive for new housing," said Phelps. "They're nice sized lots, about 6,300 to 12,700 square feet, close to Route 1 and equipped with all the latest amenities. I think they're just what young families are looking for."

As Devlin nears completion, the project at the old Waterworks building on Walnut, Childs and Flint streets is stepping up.

The Walnut Street Station project will consist of two stages on 72,000 square feet of land: the conversion of the existing building into condominiums and the building of five homes on the land behind the building, on Childs and Flint streets. The subdivision will include five single-family homes, all with three bedrooms.

Construction began in early May, with that phase of the project expected to take about six months. The LCDHC will serve as the general contractor and will sell the homes at market rate when they are completed.



Above from left, Dawn Whelan of LHAND, Mayor Edward J. "Chip" Clancy Jr., LHAND Executive Director Charles Gaeta and State Rep. Steve Walsh visit one of the Devlin Park homes.

Kathy Reed, a Childs Street resident who is serving as a neighborhood captain and a liaison between the LCDHC and the residents, said the project has been extremely well received in the neighborhood.

"The general consensus among the neighborhood was that we couldn't wait for the project to get started," said Reed, who has lived in Lynn for 25 years, 11 on Childs Street. "We've been looking at that eyesore of a building for so long. Everyone understands that when this project is complete it will improve the value of all our properties."

Phase 2 of the project will involve the conversion of the Waterworks building into 12 condominium units, all two-

bedroom. Demolition work on the inside of the building started March 30. The actual construction will start about the time the single-family homes in back are completed.

"This is an exciting project for everyone at the LCDHC," said board member Oliver Toomey. "We are getting the best of both worlds by preserving an historic building and providing 17 new housing units that we think will be very attractive to buyers, considering its easy access from routes 1 and 128."

For more information, contact LHAND at (781) 477-2800.

LCHC: Don't let asthma limit you

BY MAUREEN MULLEN

"Boy, if I only had the answer to that!" said Dr. Eileen Fisk, team leader of the pediatrics department of the Lynn Community Health Center, when asked why asthma is so prevalent now compared to a generation or even a decade ago.

While the answer is not clear, Fisk and her team are dedicated to ensuring that the children in Lynn who have asthma are not restricted by their conditions.

"Asthma shouldn't be limiting at all," Fisk said.

"There are extreme



U.S. Rep. John F. Tierney and LCHC Executive Director Lori Berry at LCHC's 35th anniversary.

cases that I have seen very rarely, maybe once or twice in a lifetime of practice, but most people should not be limited by their asthma. Medication should be able to control the symptoms so they can do anything. The most important thing is to learn what triggers the asthma and avoid the triggers."

The LCHC, located at 269 Union St., provides primary care regardless of ability to pay. Started in 1971, the center provides services in more than 20 languages, and is accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

"The wonderful thing about the health center is we're really open to anybody," Fisk said. "We can take any health-insurance plane. If you don't have health insurance, we'll help you get it or we'll set you up so you're in our free-care pool. We don't turn anyone away."

While it is not known how many children in Lynn have asthma, Fisk said her database has "pages of names" of kids who have shown symptoms of the condition. With six school-based health centers located in Lynn Public Schools, Fisk and her team — three pediatricians and three nurse practitioners — work with the schools to identify kids who are at risk for asthma or demonstrate symptoms of the illness, and then educate the kids and their parents on preventing asthma attacks and controlling them when they do happen.

"We teach kids to stay healthy, eat right and to not stop exercising just because they have asthma," Fisk said. "Staying away from second-hand smoke is a real important thing. (We tell them to) wash your hands frequently, and be careful in crowds."

For more information visit www.lchcnet.org or call (781) 581-3900.

Girls being...

Programmed to succeed

The Girls Incorporated mission is to build girls' capacity for responsible and confident adulthood, economic independence and personal fulfillment.

It does this through a series of programs, all of which are well researched and field-tested to ensure their effectiveness and suitability for their respective age groups. The programs draw on six important categories: careers and life planning, health and sexuality, leadership and community action, sports and adventure, self-reliance and life skills, and culture and heritage.

Providing a Nurturing Environment for School Aged Child Care: This year-round program for girls ages 6-12 is held at the main site on Broad Street along with a satellite program at the Washington Community School. Daily activities consist of homework help, computer literacy, reading, sports, informal time and special events. During the summer, Girls Inc. offers full-day summer camp at both sites for 120 girls.

Engaging Middle School Girls: Girls Inc. believes adolescent girls from the ages of 12-14

have unique needs, especially when it comes to withstanding societal pressure around behavior and appearance, and the challenge finding a balance between family and peers.

The programs in this area give girls the opportunity to explore, ask questions, solve problems and receive academic support, personal development and fun activities.

Operation SMART (Science Math and Related Technology) is a program designed to promote interest and participation in science, math and technology through hands-on activities and special events. Girls explore the world of engineering as they build and program robots using the Lego Mindstorms technology. The SMART Girls Summit takes place in June.

Eureka! is an intensive, five-week summer math, science, technology and sports enrichment program for girls entering the seventh and eighth grades. The program runs through July and August, and girls participate in sports, swimming, personal development workshops, field trips and enhance computer skills.

Connecting with Teens: The teen programs offer some life-changing alternatives to simply hanging out. They address serious issues such as drugs, early sexual activity, alcohol, tobacco and racism.

The Career Learning Center offers several programs and activities designed to inform and prepare teens for college and the job market, as well as providing academic support during their high school years. The program helps young women investigate career and college options.

La Verdad is a substance-prevention program consisting of a group of 10 teens who are dedicated to educating youth on topics such as communication skills, stress management, peer and media pressure, tobacco and alcohol awareness, addiction education, leadership skills and other issues.

After training, the teens facilitate workshops to pass on information to their peers by role playing, skits and other interactive activities.

For more information on Girls Inc. of Lynn, visit the website at www.girlsinclynn.org or call (781) 592-9744.



Girls Inc. scholarship winners honored at the Celebration Luncheon included, Francine Makuwa, top left, and Marina Tonconogaya, top right. Above, Ashlyne Babb plays the violin at the luncheon.

PHOTOS: THE DAILY ITEM OF LYNN

Girls Inc. looks to bright future

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"and the campaign is going really well," Driscoll said.

The funds will go toward the renovation of a building at 50 High St., with Liberty and Oxford streets bordering it, to be used as the organization's new headquarters. Built in 1850, the building was the site of the first Lynn high school, and then the city's first vocational institution — the old Shoe School.

The group got \$550,000 thanks to Ruth and Nelson Darling of Swampscott, who were among the first to commit to helping out. They pledged \$100,000 and challenged four other donors to match them. Thanks to the generosity of the Eijk and Rose-Marie van Otterloo Family Foundation, the Peter and Carolyn Lynch Family Foundation, Jane's Trust, and two anonymous donors, that challenge has been met. In all, the Darlings were responsible for \$550,000 in donations.

Others have committed at least \$10,000 to the campaign, including: Anina Butler, Jansi Chandler, Patricia and James Driscoll, Eastern Bank, GE Good Neighbors Fund, Harbor Loft Associates, Carol and Mark MacRae, Peter C. Pedro Jr., Colleen and James Polk, Schwartz & Benjamin, Casey Schwartz, Pam Scott, Alix Smullin, Solimine Landergan & Richardson Funeral Homes, Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Sweetland, and Sally Thompson.

"It is important for those in a position to help to step up to the plate when causes like this present themselves," said David Solimine Jr., vice president of Solimine Landergan & Rhodes. "The outstanding work that Girls Inc. does in the city is to be applauded."

The campaign is chaired by Chandler with a committee that includes Ann Gugino Carrigan, Gina Deschamps, Mark MacRae, Shari Sagan McGuirk, Stephanie Sullivan McCaughey, Colleen Polk, Casey Schwartz, Pamela Scott, Alix Smullin, Sally Thompson, Rose-Marie van Otterloo, Paul Williams; and Girls Inc. Executive Director Pat Driscoll and

Director of Development Joan Lawrence.

"We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers who share a passion for Girls Inc.," Chandler said. "The group is committed to the capital campaign and is leading the way to making our dream a reality."

Girls Inc. is also looking to get almost \$1.8 million in various tax credits. The building is on the state and national historic register site and is eligible for historic tax credits. Driscoll said the planners worked with a historic preservationist on the design, and she feels confident they've met the criteria for being awarded tax credits.

Girls Inc. is also eligible for New Markets Tax Credits. The program stimulates economic development and employment in some of the poorest census tracts in the country.

The Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation included the Girls Inc. project in its application to the federal government last September. The MHIC is one of only three organizations in the country to receive funds in all three rounds of the New Markets Tax Credit allocations.

Driscoll says the building, and accompanying land (and planned addition) would provide twice the space Girls Inc. has now. Already, the organization has grown to the point where it now occupies two buildings (the main one, plus the white house next to it on Nahant Street). It is also forced to run programs out of Curwin Circle, the Washington Community School, and the Lynn Community Minority Cultural Center.

Since its founding in 1942, Girls Incorporated of Lynn has been widely recognized and respected for the powerful and positive impact it has had on generations of girls and women. It is considered one of the premier organizations on the North Shore, due to its educational after-school programs. It is a local affiliate of the national organization of the same name.

Why girls only at Girls Inc.? Boy, oh boy, that's easy!



Members of the Girls Inc. chorus perform at the annual Celebration Luncheon.

By PAUL FINCH

Girls Incorporated of Lynn states that its mission is to build girls' capacity for responsible and confident adulthood, economic independence and personal fulfillment.

One of the more frequently-asked questions of the organization, is "why girls only?"

The organization's philosophy is that having a place for girls to explore their interests, without stereotypes and with encouragement and support, is essential to developing girls who are "strong, smart and bold."

"Our belief has been borne out of experience and research that looks at the ways girls are too often treated as second-class citizens in co-

educational programs," the organization said in a statement commemorating its 60th anniversary.

By having a girls-only environment, Girls Inc. believes girls can plunge into activities without worrying about whether they belong or not, or whether they may be more or less skilled than boys.

By keying on gender-specific programming, girls can focus on their real interests, at their own pace, and free from distractions and comparisons.

Girls Incorporated believes that the most effective way to counteract discrimination and gender stereotyping is to be aware of specific ways that girls are often discriminated against and to create programs that counteract those biases.

...GIRLS

Gregg House makes learning fun

By MAUREEN MULLEN

It's early afternoon and Kelly O'Connor is getting ready. Soon, more than 250 youngsters will pile through the doors of the Gregg Neighborhood House on Broad Street.

The Gregg House's mission is to provide children age 5-13 with an enriched educational and social after-school experience. In 2000, 2004 and 2005 it was awarded the Reading is Fundamental state championship for successfully implementing a literacy program throughout the year.

"We subscribe to the philosophy that children learn by doing and through play," said O'Connor, Gregg House's director. "To supplement what children are learning in school, we have aligned our curriculum with the Department of Education's curriculum frameworks."

"We do this by providing project-based activities,"

O'Connor added. "So, they're creating volcanoes in the science room. They're

learning about measurements by cooking in the kitchen, and growing vegetables. Themes are carried throughout each learning center."

Every Wednesday is club day and children choose a club with a theme and participate in activities for six weeks. Themes include American Idol, knitting, clothes-making, newsletters, and movie-making. At the end of six weeks, the children

share their projects with each other.

Gregg House recently received a grant from the Peaver Foundation, subsidizing the installment of a music studio, complete with instruments and teachers, and equipment to make CDs.

With 266 kids in the program, it's unlikely the 300-plus on the waiting list will become part of the Gregg House.

To access the Gregg House parents must meet the Department of Early Education and Care's income and service-need guidelines. Families are re-assesses every six months in order to verify their eligibility. If parents continue to meet the state's guidelines, their child has the potential to be enrolled in the program from age 5 to 12. The average stay is five years.

Gregg House is in the process of applying for accreditation through the National AfterSchool Association.

After a visit by the NAA

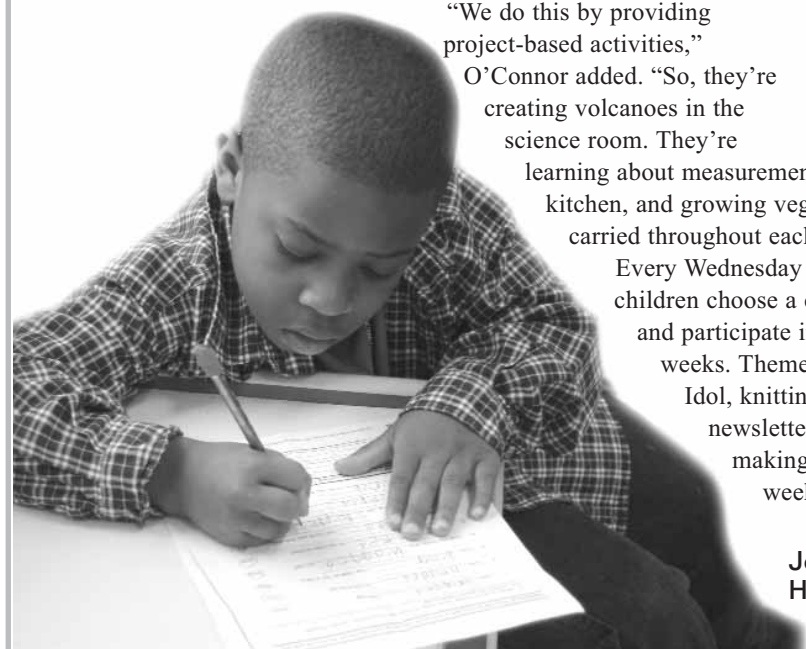
in June, Gregg House should have its accreditation, making it one of just approximately 15 accredited programs in the state, with the nearest in Lawrence.

"We have invested two years in this process," O'Connor said. "Every aspect of the program has been looked at and measured against the national standards."

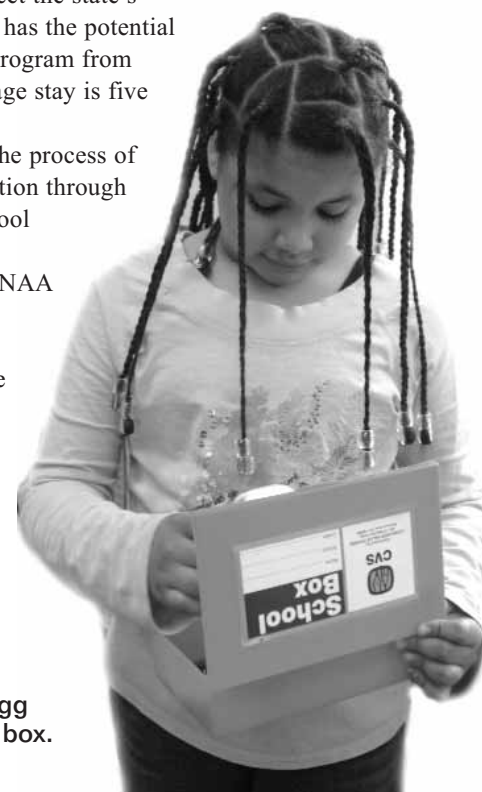
For information on the Gregg House, call (781) 592-0522.

"We have aligned our curriculum with the Department of Education's curriculum frameworks."

Kelly O'Connor
Gregg House director



Josh Aaron Brendon McKenzie, left, works on math at Gregg House, while Olivia Letts looks over supplies in her school box.



Catholic Charities and Operation Bootstrap: teen angels

By PAUL FINCH

While dropping out of high school can seem like a dead-end decision, guaranteeing a future of frustration, it doesn't have to be that way.

Thanks to the combined efforts of Catholic Charities and Operation Bootstrap in Lynn, teens and young adults who missed out on crucial basic education the first time around can get a second chance.

The program is called Teen Start, and it caters to youth age 16-21 who seek their General Educational Diploma (GED). Operation Bootstrap has a contract with the Mass. Department of Education, and subcontracts with Catholic Charities to provide Teen Start.

"When youth come to us, we assess their academic needs and abilities in relationship to their readiness to take the GED test," said Fran Troutman of Catholic Charities. "Some are ready to take the GED test right away. Others need further preparation."

Youth are assessed in all major areas of

education covered on the GED test, but reading comprehension skills determine where the GED preparation process begins.

Students are placed in one of three classrooms

according to their initial assessment results. The three levels of classroom preparation offered are: Adult Basic Education (ABE), pre-GED, and GED.

Classroom assignment and instruction are designed to meet the individual needs of each student, based on the student's need to develop skills in language arts, reading and writing, math, science and social studies.

"Typically, youth entering Teen Start state that math is their primary weakness,"

Troutman said.

Troutman says it's important for students who want to progress to consult programs such as Teen Start, because they're free,

whereas it costs money to take the GED.

"A lot of times," she said, "we refer our students to North Shore Community College (an official GED testing site) to take the actual test."

Catholic Charities' and Bootstrap's involvement with students goes beyond the classroom.

Teen Start has a guidance counselor who provides career and academic counseling. It also does follow-ups with students regarding post-secondary education and career development.

"Most of our students here are pretty voluntary. There aren't a lot of mandated students here, but even the ones who may come in reluctantly, once they come in, they see the benefit."

Fran Troutman
Catholic Charities

Troutman says the program receives referrals from school departments, North Shore CC, Operation Bootstrap, DSS, DYS, probation departments and other health and human service agencies.

"But," she says, "most of our students here are pretty voluntary. There aren't a lot of mandated students here, but even the ones who may come in reluctantly, once they come in, they see the benefits."

The program even holds a graduation ceremony in the North Shore CC gym. This year's ceremony is June 22.

"Any student who has received a GED has a graduation ceremony," Troutman said. "It's a nice, big event. The students get to invite all their families and friends, and it gives them a chance to show what they've achieved."

For more information call Catholic Charities at (781) 593-2312, or visit on the web at www.ccab.org. Operation Bootstrap can be contacted by phone at (781) 599-8543.

Treasures in the attic

Lynn Museum to expand programs, events and exhibits at new location

BY MAUREEN MULLEN

When the attic or basement gets filled to bursting, the typical remedy is to discard some of the stuff. But as the “city’s attic,” jettisoning artifacts was not an option for the Lynn Museum and Historical Society, currently located on Green Street.

So, it took up new residence, in the Heritage State Park Visitor’s Center at 590 Washington St., in the heart of downtown Lynn.

“We’re doing our move in three phases,” said Connie Colom, the museum’s executive director. “The first phase is the library and that was scheduled for May 15, and will reopen June 1. The offices are to be relocated at about the same time the library move is completed, and in the middle of June. We will move the rest of the artifacts once we’ve had time to prepare the storage facility.”

With the additional space, the museum will offer expanded hours, programs, and events, and benefit from its location in the city’s cultural block, near Lynn Arts and Raw Art Works.

“We’re looking forward to Third Thursdays,” Colom said, referring to the cultural events the city hosts on the third Thursday of each month from May through December.

The museum’s new location will also allow it to capitalize on its working relationship with — and proximity to — North Shore Community College. In the fall, the museum will host an exhibit commemorating the 25th anniversary of the fires of 1981 that swept through several blocks in the downtown area. With the help of technicians from NSCC, the museum will record oral and video memories of

the fires from visitors to the exhibit.

Colom was asked what most surprises visitors to the museum.

“I think the breadth of our collection,” she said. “We really are the city’s attic. We have treasures that go back to families who were here in the 1700s. We have furniture, materials from the shoe industry — both artifacts and archival material. Our library and archives are really quite significant. We have over 20,000 photographs. We were fortunate in that early use of the camera in the late 1800s there were photography societies here in Lynn and we have a lot of early photographs of the city. The longer I’m here, the more I learn about our collections and the more excited I get about it. For a local history museum, I think we have first-rate material.”

Prior to Fires of 1981 exhibit, the Museum is proud to be hosting its inaugural show, “Sea, Shore & Land: The Lynn Beach Painters at Home & Abroad,” at the new space daily from noon-4 p.m.

The show features 82 paintings by the seven artists, regional American impressionists known as The Lynn Beach Painters who lived and worked in Lynn from 1880-1920, most of which have not been exhibited in the past 20-30 years. None of these works were shown in the Museum’s 1999 show The Lynn Beach Painters: Art Along the North Shore 1880-1920.

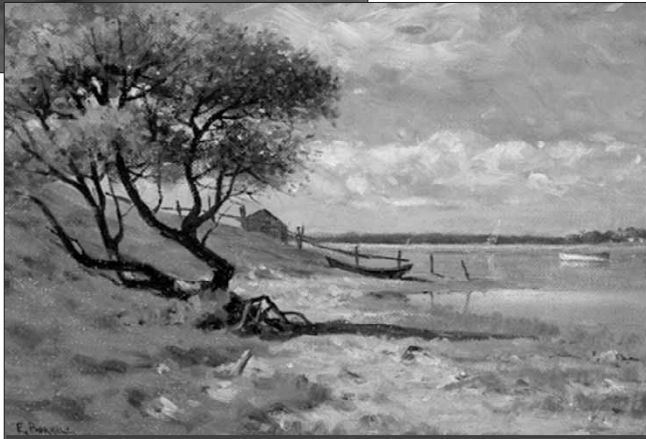
The exhibition promises to be a great draw for the Museum’s first summer in its new home.

Says Colom, “there is such a growing interest nationally in regional American impressionist painters and we are so excited about having 82 pieces that have not been exhibited in public for decades, that we feel sure that as the word gets out, the exhibit will be very popular over the summer.”

The exhibition runs until October 8.

For more information on the Lynn Museum, visit www.lynnmuseum.org or call (781) 592-2465.

Woodbury’s “Bride of Ogunquit,” above, and an untitled work by Burrill at right are on display in the Lynn Beach Painters Exhibit at the Lynn Museum.



Bridgewell’s Friendship Club: It’s about belonging

BY PAUL FINCH

Giving people with mental disabilities their dignity, putting them to work, and helping them achieve a sense of belonging is the ultimate goal of Bridgewell, formerly known as Greater Lynn Mental Health and Retardation Association.

And nowhere is this goal more evident — than at Bridgewell’s Friendship Club at 66 Silsbee St.

“The primary focus of our program is to help people regain their self-worth and self-esteem,” says Laura Giannino, director of the Friendship Club. “In the clubhouse model program, we do that first by building relationships. That’s the initial step. So often, people who have been struck with a mental illness feel as if they don’t have a place in the community where they belong. That’s our first job ... to provide a place to belong.”

Members of the Friendship Club, whose living situations vary from homeless all the way up to living independently in their own apartments, need only to have been diagnosed with a major mental illness. After going through a screening process and being found eligible to

be a clubhouse member, they have an opportunity to try work through their Transitional Employment Program (TEP) — another vehicle for giving them a sense of worth and identity, Giannino says.

Friendship Club personnel — nearly all of them social workers (“This is totally non-clinical,” according to Giannino) — walk their members through the job process every step along the way.

“We job-coach them,” she says. “Through the TEP, members do not have to go through the normal interview process. We establish the relationship with the employer. If our members are sick one day — or if they’re having a particularly bad day and they just can’t make it — we provide coverage for them as well as the employer. We give them support through weekly job-readiness groups where we discuss the issues they face when trying to get back in

the workforce.”

Hopefully, Giannino says, members who have been out of the workforce for years will be less intimidated by re-entering it this way. “Once someone who hasn’t worked in many years works for nine months (the duration of the time-limited cycle), maybe they’ll say, ‘Well, gee,

I’ve done that; maybe I can do more.’”

One of the many businesses that works with the Friendship Club’s transitional program is McDonald’s of Lynn and Salem. Owner Stephen Rima says in the 15 years since McDonald’s began partnering with the Friendship Club, more than 20 members have worked there on a transitional basis.

The Friendship Club also has the resources to help its members find jobs without time limits, Giannino says. Some of the people who may have come into the program homeless eventually find places to live. And when they

“So often, people who have been struck with a mental illness feel as if they don’t have a place in the community where they belong. That’s our first job ... to provide a place to belong.”

Laura Giannino
Bridgewell Friendship Club director

do, the Friendship Club stands ready to help them there, too.

“We talk about employment a lot, because we believe it is the backbone of the program,” she says. “But we help people with many issues such as food stamps, housing ... We help tap into different resources within the community. We go through the application process (for renting apartments or finding other housing), help them with transportation to buy furniture. We also help them with medical issues, and even help them manage their social security.”

That last aspect is important, Giannino said, because “once they start working, we help them report their earnings to Social Security and stay within the earning limits to maintain medical benefits.”

Giannino says the Friendship Club is different from traditional day-treatment programs. “We look to build on the strengths that exist within the individual,” she said.

For more information, visit www.bridgewell.org or call (781) 599-4240.

Project: learning to COPE

By PAUL FINCH

Annie and Carrie are 10 years apart. At 25, Annie seems to have caught herself before the downward spiral that resulted in addiction, and forced her to turn to the Project COPE’s Women’s Residential Treatment House, could cause irreparable damage to her life.

Carrie, 35, took a different path. It took the death of one of her closest friends – himself battling addiction – to jolt her into realizing that life as an addict held no promise and promised no future.

These days, they’re both at the treatment house on the Lynn Common, and they’re both clean and sober.

“My life was totally upside down,” said Annie, who comes from the Malden/Melrose area. “I’ve been struggling with addiction for most, if not all, of my life.”

She’s grateful she’s never been in jail, but, “I’ve been in trouble.

“My last time in detox, just this past Christmas, I begged for help and they offered to transfer me here.”

Carrie, from Haverhill, has children. But she

lived the life of an addict, brought on (in no small measure, she says) but some personal issues.

She served time in jail for larceny “all related to the drugs,” and, late last year, saw one of her best friends die of an overdose.

“He was straight for so long ... and he’d tell me how great life was when you weren’t using, and then he relapsed,” she said, fighting back tears. “When I saw him lying in that casket, and remembered how wonderful he said life was before he relapsed, I knew I couldn’t do this anymore.”

Somehow, she said, she found her way to COPE’s treatment house, and she’s been there ever since.

The treatment house, which has 25 beds maximum, is a mini-community of recovering addicts. Residents who live there all have functions within the house (Annie is the dorm manager, meaning she enforces the rules of the living quarters). By and large, says Michelle Simons, a counselor at the house (as well as a former client) the women get along well, and seem to thrive in an environment where gender issues don’t get in the way of recovery.

“I’ve never felt this good in my life,” Annie says. “I never knew the meaning of self-esteem or self-confidence, or self respect ... respect for others.

“I’ve never known what it’s like to feel as if life has possibilities,” she says. “Today, I truly feel as if I can do anything I set my mind to, if I stay clean and do the things I need to do.”

The recovery process includes counseling and rigorous attendance at 12-step meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous.

“We write out the first three steps as part of the process,” Simons says. “We definitely view this as ‘one day at a time’,” she says.

As for Annie, “I look at my life as having just begun,” she said, “and I don’t look at it as wasted opportunity.”

Carrie, who admits she’s had problems getting along with other women in the past, says she was intimidated when she first got to the treatment house.

“But I know now what tremendous support there is here,” she says. “I know that I can knock on any door in the dorms, whenever I’m feeling down, and get support from the other women in

the group”

She’s also come to realize, she says, “that I’m not this worthless person that I thought I was.”

Simons says the success rate at the house is excellent, and says that staff members give clients who have a tough time “getting it” tremendous latitude.

“Usually, what happens with people who just can’t, or won’t, work the program is that they just leave. They check themselves out.”

There’s also no time limit. If, after six months, a client still feels the need for the safety of the residential house, she can stay.

Both Annie and Carrie love the security of the house, but at the same time, they’re both doing what they can to resume their lives. Annie is an artist and a singer (“she sings beautifully,” Carrie says).

As for Carrie, “I miss my children,” she says. “I really want my kids back in my life ... real bad.”

For more information call Project COPE at (781) 593-5333.

Downtown Lynn: a work of art

LynnArts plays vital role in rebirth

By Paul Finch

State Rep. Steven M. Walsh is quick to point out that at the turn of the last century, Lynn was the theatre capital of the region.

Now, he says, the city is well into its renaissance as an arts community - thanks, in no small part, to the work of LynnArts Inc., of which he serves as executive director.

"We want to get back to the time when Lynn was synonymous with culture," he says. "As manufacturing has moved out of Lynn, arts is a good way to get people back into the community.

"Generally," he says, "the young entrepreneur wants to live in a community that offers more than just a place to sleep. Arts and culture is a big part of that."

LynnArts has been in the forefront of the rebirth of the downtown area. Ten years ago, the Lynn Arts and Lynn Cultural councils merged to form LynnArts Inc., putting two different agencies with two different functions under the

same umbrella.

LynnArts now has three gallery spaces used by artists and community groups. On May 1, it opened its display of Lynn public school art. It also houses the Iron Rail Theatre and co-sponsors the Meet Me Downtown festival.

On the other side of the ledger is the work the former cultural council (now Grants Committee) does. Using money allocated by the state, the Grants Committee weeds through hundreds of applications ranging from art exhibits, in-house workshops, and requests from schools for field trip passes, and disperses the grant money.

More than 10 years ago, LynnArts Inc. purchased - for one dollar - a building that had housed both the old Lynn Institute for Savings (now Eastern Bank) and Security Trust Bank, with a front door and a lobby separating the two.

Slowly, but surely, the building was completely rehabbed into what it is today. And now, it is a vibrant part of the community.

Furthermore, Walsh says, the area has seen tremendous growth in the last 10 years thanks to some zoning changes.

"Zoning changes to allow living (space) have made a significant change," he said. "The condos in the loft spaces in Central Square ... the Exchange Street lofts ... that has put bodies into Central Square, using services, coming to events after hours, supporting coffee shops and such, and making the downtown a place where coming to it makes people feel good.

"I don't think we're done yet," Walsh adds. "We're in the middle of it. As more folks come, we'll see more and more visitors to the city and the downtown area in general.

"People are looking at Lynn as a place to visit. We're re-emerging as a community people want to live in, with a nice waterfront and culture. In the next few years, it's going to continue to boom."

For more information visit LynnArts at www.lynnarts.org or call (781) 598-5244.



Dancers perform at the Meet Me Downtown festival.

Iron Rail takes center stage

By PAUL FINCH

The idea of LynnArts Inc. being a major player in the transformation of Lynn’s downtown area into an arts district is manifested in the name of the Iron Rail Stage Company.

Director Matthew Woods says the Iron Rail Stage is a theatre company that produces about one major piece per season — and sometimes two in the summer.

In its second year, the company will offer something especially for children and families.

Most of the productions are staged at the

Neal Rantoul Vault Theatre in the LynnArts building (so-named because the stage itself was constructed in the space where the bank’s vault used to be). “It’s what you call a black-box theater,” Woods says.

Traditional theaters have a stage and a permanent seating arrangement. Black-box theaters are empty. Staging is built on a per-performance basis, and directors are able to either perform plays traditionally, or do them in the round.

In June, the group will perform “Harlequin Refined By Love,” a play by Marivaux, written in 1720.

DIRECTORY

All Care Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice

16 City Hall Square
Lynn, MA 01901
(781) 598-2454
www.allcarevna.org

Since 1911, All Care VNA has been bringing superior health care to clients' homes with its expert staff of skilled nurses, rehabilitation therapists, certified home health aides, and medical social workers.

Boys and Girls Club of Lynn

25 North Common St.
Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 593-1772
www.bgcl.org

For 117 years, the Boys & Girls Club of Lynn has been in the forefront of youth development, working with young people from disadvantaged economic, social, and family circumstances.

Bridgewell

471 Broadway
Lynnfield, MA 01940
(781) 593-1088
www.bridgewell.org

Bridgewell is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities by offering residential, clinical, rehabilitation, educational, vocational and recreational services.

Cambodian Buddhist Center

109-110 Chestnut St.
Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 581-7266

Catholic Charities North

55 Lynn Shore Drive
Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 593-2312
www.ccab.org/ccab_north.htm

Catholic Charities North offers a range of services for all ages, including child care, emergency assistance, counseling, education and job readiness.

Children's Law Center of Mass.

298 Union St.
Lynn, MA 01903
(781) 581-1977
www.clcm.org

The Children's Law Center Of Mass. is a private, non-profit, legal advocacy and resource center providing direct representation to low-income children in Eastern Mass.

Elder Service Plan of the North Shore

37 Friend St.
Lynn, MA 01901
(781) 715-6608
www.pacenorthshore.org

Elder Service Plan of the North Shore, Inc. offers to eligible seniors the Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly, (PACE), and Senior Care Options, (SCO).

Family and Children's Services of Greater Lynn

111 North Common St.
Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 598-5517

Family & Children's Service of Greater Lynn provides programs and services to individuals, children and families,

including a Family Resource Center for families with children from birth to age 6, parent education and support groups; consultation, services to youth; counseling; services to elderly.

Girls Inc. of Lynn

88 Broad St.
Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 592-9744
www.girlsinclynn.org

Girls Inc. provides after-school and summer programs for girls ages 6-18, including school-age child care; academic support including homework help, tutoring, MCAS & SAT preparation; prevention programs and college and career exploration.

Greater Lynn Senior Services

8 Silsbee St.
Lynn, MA 01901
(781) 599-0110
(800) 594-5164
www.glss.net

GLSS provides a wide range of information and services, for those 60 and above, in order to help them maintain their health and independence in their own home.

Gregg Neighborhood House

85 Exchange St., Lynn, 01902
(781) 596-2515

The Gregg House provides quality early care and education as well as after school enrichment programming for children between the ages of birth through 13.

Help for Abused Women and their Children (HAWC)

27 Congress St., Salem, 01970
(978) 744-8552

The purpose of HAWC is to create social change by taking action against personal and societal patterns of violence and oppression against women and their children.

La Vida of Lynn Inc.

29 Green St. Lynn, 01902
(781) 586-0193
www.la-vida.org

La Vida of Lynn assists the Hispanic Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Boston in caring for the spiritual and material needs of Hispanics, and promotes their participation and leadership not only in the Church, but also in their communities.

LynnArts Inc.

25 Exchange St.
Lynn, MA 01901
(781) 598-5244
www.lynnarts.org

LynnArts is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the greater Lynn area by developing and fostering the arts and humanities in our community; by supporting artists and arts or cultural organization through resources, services, advocacy and planning; and by coordinating community involvement in the arts.

Lynn Community Health Center

269 Union St.
Lynn, MA 01901
(781) 581-3900
www.lchcnet.org

The Lynn Community Health Center

provides comprehensive health care of the highest quality to everyone in the Lynn community, regardless of ability to pay. Services include providing primary medical care for all ages, maternity care, specialty care, dental care, mental health and social services, pharmacy, nutrition and WIC.

Lynn Economic Opportunity & Head Start Program

156 Broad St.
Lynn, MA 01901
(781) 581-7220
www.leoinc.org

Lynn Economic Opportunity (LEO) is a community action agency with a range of programs to aid an assist low income individuals and families in the greater Lynn area. LEO's largest programs include Head Start, Fuel Assistance, Nutrition Services, pre-school and after-school care.

Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development

10 Church St.
Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 477-2800
www.lhand.org

LHAND assists low- and moderate-income families and individuals with safe, decent, adequate, and affordable housing with an emphasis on fostering economic independence and home-ownership opportunities, without discrimination, and addressing housing impediments for the special needs population.

Lynn Museum & Historical Society

Lynn Heritage State Park
590 Washington St.
Lynn, MA 01901
(781) 592-2465
www.lynnmuseum.org

The Lynn Museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and interpreting all aspects of the history of the city of Lynn.

Lynn Shelter Association

91 Liberty St.
Lynn, MA 01901
(781) 581-0739
sabes.necc.mass.edu/lisa/default.html

The Lynn Shelter Association provides shelter and services to homeless individuals and families.

Lynn YMCA

20 Neptune Blvd.
Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 581-3105www.lynnymca.org

The Lynn YMCA responds to community and individual needs by providing quality recreational, social and education experiences in a Judeo-Christian atmosphere for everyone regardless of sex age, nationality, religious belief or income.

My Brother's Table

98 Willow St.
Lynn MA 01901
(781) 595-3224
www.mybrotherstable.org

My Brother's Table is dedicated to feeding the hungry and serving all who come in need regardless of race, color, creed, or sex.

HAWC Walk raises \$150,000



Some 1200 participated in the Walk for HAWC (Help for Abused Women & their Children) in Salem April 30, raising more than \$150,000. The Honorary Chair of was Salem Mayor Kimberley Driscoll. For more information about HAWC, visit www.helpabusedwomen.org or call (978) 744-8552.

Neighborhood Legal Services

37 Friend St.
Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 599-7730
www.neighborhoodlaw.org

Neighborhood Legal Services provides free civil legal assistance to all elders and qualified low-income residents.

North Shore Community College

McGee Building
300 Broad St.
Lynn, MA 01901
www.northshore.edu

NSCC accepts students on a first-come, first-served basis without regard to race, sex, color, national origin, or disability status. Academic opportunities include associates degrees, certificate programs, community and corporate education, e-learning and ESL.

Operation Bootstrap

156 Broad St.
Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 599-8543
sabes.necc.mass.edu/OperationBootstrap/homepage.htm

Operation Bootstrap helps adult learners reach their personal goals by achieving literacy and developing career-based skills while improving their job readiness and job prospects.

Project COPE

117 North Common St.
Lynn, MA 01902
781- 581-9273
www.projectcope.com

Project COPE, Inc. is a nonprofit agency which provides a broad range of services in the areas of substance abuse and mental retardation. It seeks to help people achieve their fullest potential in medical, social, educational and emotional dimensions.

Raw Art Works

37 Central Square
Lynn, MA 01901
(781) 593-5515
www.rawart.org

Raw Art Works uses the power of the visual, film and performing arts to inspire growth and change in underserved youth from Lynn and surrounding areas.

Russian Community Service Settlement Program

298 Union St.
Lynn, MA 01901
(781) 593-0100
www.jfcsboston.org

The Russian Community Service Settlement Program helps newly arrived refugees from Russia and the Newly Independent States.

Serving People in Need

100 Willow St.
Lynn, MA 01901
(781) 598-9417

Serving People in Need provides temporary, transitional and permanent housing coupled with support services to low-income and at-risk families and individuals.

Union Hospital

500 Lynnfield St.
Lynn, MA 01904
(781) 581-9200
www.nsmc.partners.org

Union Hospital's services include: cardiovascular, emergency, neuroscience, oncology, orthopedic, radiology/nuclear medicine/imaging, physical therapy, psychiatric, and an ICU.

Keeping PACE



Sybil Coen, center, is joined by GLSS Resident Service Coordinator Robin DeStefano, left, and personal care assistant Maria Villar of All-Care Resources.

A better home, a better life

BY PAUL FINCH

Sybil Coen is an articulate, 59-year-old woman from Lynn who has Parkinson's Disease. Her condition landed her in a series of nursing homes four years ago, but she knew that's not where she wanted, or needed, to be.

Then, the Medicaid/Mass. Medical floor for eligibility for social services under its purview was raised to \$1,809 per month, and that was Sybil's ticket out of her nursing home and into the mainstream. She can thank the PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) Elder Service Plan with helping her with the transition and keeping her in her Olive Street apartment.

"Our goal is to keep seniors living in their own homes and communities," according to the cover of the Elder Service Plan of the North Shore brochure. And that it does.

"PACE is my savior," Coen says. "Without it, I'd still be in a nursing home. I think the trend is to transition people out of nursing homes rather than warehousing people in them."

Linda LeBlanc, marketing director for the Elder Service Plan, agrees.

"If you don't require

supervision for 24 hours, seven days a week," LeBlanc says, "then you really don't belong in a nursing home. And Sybil did not."

Coen knew that, too. But she also knew that because of her condition, she needed some help. PACE fills the gap.

"My family searched high and low for a service like this (during the time she was in a nursing home)," Coen said. "When I was in the nursing home, it was because I needed care and support that wasn't available at home. PACE gives me that support."

Coen's day begins with a personal care assistant, who comes to her unit to help her with her shower and help her get dressed. A second person comes in at some point every day to do the heavier, more physically-challenging duties such as laundry and heavy house cleaning. Coen shops via computer with Stop & Shop's Peapod program.

That's just one aspect of the services PACE provides. Simply defined, PACE is almost like a one-stop shopping network that helps clients with just about all aspects of living their lives, from medical care, dentistry, diabetes management, and maintaining oxygen equipment for people with

respiratory issues. It also provides companions who pick up home-bound clients and take them out.

"Most of our clients enter the program with at least seven or eight diagnoses," LeBlanc says. "We have specialty services that come right into the day program, such as dental care, eye care and podiatry. We have a nutritionist on staff."

To be eligible for services, clients must be 55 years or older, and live within an area that includes Lynn, Lynnfield, Nahant, Peabody, Salem, Saugus, Swampscott, Danvers, Beverly, Marblehead, Middleton, Wakefield, Essex, Magnolia, Gloucester, Hamilton, Ipswich, Manchester, Rockport, South Hamilton, Topsfield and Wenham.

Patients must also be certified as eligible for nursing-home care by the local home-care corporation, they must require help with at least two activities of daily living and at least one nursing need. They must have the ability to live at home safely, within the Elder Service Plan's support services.

For more information about PACE, call (781) 715-6608 or visit www.pacenorthshore.org

Living alone can be a Devine experience

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

After suffering from a stroke at age 57, Lynn resident Beverly Devine didn't know what her future would hold.

That was eleven years ago. Today, the 68-year-old is living in an apartment at Leisure Towers, enjoying her own surroundings and her vast collection of movies.

"I like to be as independent as I can," said Devine. "I don't want to go into a nursing home."

Devine enrolled in the PACE Elder Service Plan in 1995, just months after the program was established on the North Shore. A social worker set her up with her current apartment and she is visited daily by a nurse and a home-health aide, who assist her with bathing and dressing. A homemaker also comes in twice a week to assist with cooking and laundry.

"You can't have a better program than PACE," said Devine. "I'll always be grateful to them. It was



Beverly Devine

like an answer to a prayer."

Over the years, Devine has also suffered from mini-strokes and diabetes and is thankful for the extra care that PACE provides. Born and raised in Lynn, she has three children living in the area.

"The benefit of PACE is that her kids are able to spend time with her in a social way rather than providing care," said Linda LeBlanc, marketing director for the Elder Services Plan.

At 92, she's enjoying her independence

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

A native of Argentina, Christina Nosarchuk moved to Lynn 40 years ago. At age 92, she is still living at home, with the help of PACE services.

"I like to be able to do what I want to do when I want to do it," said Nosarchuk. "If I want to watch TV or knit, I have the freedom to do it."

Nosarchuk has been enrolled in PACE services since 1997 and is visited by either a homemaker or a home-health aide each day. She has a companion that is available to take her shopping or to the bank, and she also attends PACE's day program five days a week. Day program attendees are picked up by contracted vans, have breakfast and lunch and are entertained by bingo, arts and crafts and performers.

"I come here every day because I would be alone at home," said Nosarchuk. "Here, I'm surrounded by people."



Christina Nosarchuk