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ITEM PHOTO / JONATHON M. WHITMORE

The family of late Lynn police officer Steve Downey prepare for the 2nd memorial golf tournament in his name. Carolyn Downey is flanked by her son Chris and daughter Kristen.

For Steve's Sake

2nd annual Downey Memorial Golf Tourney planned for Aug. 28

By **ROBIN CONNOLLY**
THE DAILY ITEM

He was always in their corner. Lynn Police Lieutenant Stevan Downey was as well known for slipping into his children's school events, ball games and cheering competitions to stand, quietly, in the corner as he was for a no-nonsense street demeanor.

"He was always there," youngest son, Chris says, "despite working about 80 hours a week. He was there."

They — Chris, Kristen (Robinson), Michael and Katy, with mom, Carolyn, will be there — August 28th at the Ipswich Country Club — as the 2nd Annual Stevan E. Downey Memorial Golf Tournament begins. Downey, diagnosed with Mesothelioma, a rare lung cancer caused by exposure to asbestos particles, died in 2004 at the age of 58.

"We had no idea what to expect," the Downeys say of last year's benefit that raised \$23,500 for the International Mesothelioma Program at Brigham & Women's Hospital.

Kristin, mother of Abigail, 8, and William, 5, expected to feel she could keep her dad's name alive, in the community, and for his grandchildren, including her twin, Michael's, Owen, 5; namesake, Stevan, 2, and Julia, 1, born after her grandfather's death. "It means so much," Downey's firstborn twin says, "when people tell

LYNN

you they knew him. They remember him."

They are memories, the 26-year police officer and U.S. Marine veteran's family says that shine August 28th in, among features, a slide show of his life. It's the showing of the "always a cop" cop, known for off-duty diligence including a stop made while driving his youngest home from school to foil a robbery.

Viewers familiar with the straight-talking street Downey (secretly known for behind the scenes sentimentality) will also glimpse the father who "went on the roller coaster at Canobie Lake" 15 times because there was no one else in line. "Every time I asked, 'Where's your father?' that day," Carolyn says, grinning, "they all pointed up."

It's the point of the longtime civil servant who "rolled in wet sand" to become 'Sandman' for his grandkids. It's the strength of the father who created a different relationship with each of his children and a duality with their mother, a nurse, that carried them through the nightmare of his death.

"If we can help one family," Kristen says of her family's battle, still, to come to terms with the cancer (with a latency of "25 to 40" years) that took her father's life in five months, "it's worth it."

He's worth, the private side of this public man's life stresses, whatever they have to do to make people aware and to keep his name. "We were amazed by people who came, called, sent checks,"

See **DOWNEY**
PAGE D2

Lynn Lions set for big role at convention

LYNN

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The call went out, and among the 17,000 international Lions Club members arriving in Boston Friday (through July 4) will be a few familiar faces.

Lynn Lions' President, Kevin Donahue, Wyoma Lions' President, Jim Bailey, and Shoe City Lions' President Jeannine Gentleman lead members to the worldwide convention originally set for New Orleans. Southern hospitality was interrupted when Hurricane Katrina slammed the Gulf Coast of Louisiana.

Lions of Mass. Multiple District 33 (of which Lynn, Wyoma and Shoe City are members) stepped up and offered Boston for the 89th annual. Past International Director, Chuck Kostro, chairs "Team Boston" and says: "We are going to show the world the passion, energy and 'can do' spirit of the Massachusetts Lions. We are going to showcase our humanitarian efforts to the world."

Highlights include a Parade of Nations at 9:30 a.m., July 1 featuring an estimated 8,000 Lions from more than 150 countries, many in native dress. It includes floats, bands and the Boston Duck Boats. The parade starts behind the Boston Public Library and heads down Boylston to the Common.

The Lions of Lynn join the line of the world's largest service club with nearly 1.4 million members in approximately 45,000 clubs in 196 countries. Lions, whose motto since 1917 is "We Serve," volunteer for humanitarian causes.

Lynn's trio is active with contributions to eye research and service to the blind. They support Lynn students in programs like district winner Peace Poster; state runner-up in youth speech for several years and the All State Band. MLERF grants nearly \$1 million annually to state research labs/hospitals, and as of last year, totaled over \$20,000,000 in grants since 1951. The Visual Aids Foundation (located only in District 33N), with status as a 501-c-3 organization makes CCTV's available on request with few restrictions.

In addition to eye research, Lions support charities, aid citizens with eye exams/glasses and have received several awards from District 33N for their efforts. They support the Item Santa, Salvation Army Camp, Lynn Shelter, Lions Eye Mobile for health fairs (vision/hearing screening clinic on wheels), Seeing Eye Dog Foundation, American Action Fund and Braille Books.

The Lions, with a goal of preventing/curing blindness, recycle eyeglasses, support organ donation with the Mass. Registry of Motor Vehicles, promote Diabetes awareness and work with LCIF to assist victims of natural disaster.

Gentleman says: "The Boston Convention offers club members the unique opportunity to experience an international convention without the global travel. The members of the Shoe City Lions Club are pleased to be able to attend this event and experience international fellowship."

Bailey adds, "Having the convention in Boston is a great honor for Boston and Mass. Lions. It showcases right in our backyard what great charitable work the Lions do here and throughout the world. I'm so proud to be a Lion helping other people with eye problems and someday overcoming blindness."



ITEM PHOTOS / GREG SKINNER

Gloria Carr, left, reaches for Amya Keyes' juice during an evening of social activities and food for the Catholic Charities Healthy Families last Wednesday night in Lynn.

Healthy Families

Moms and toddlers celebrate success at Catholic Charities dinner

By **ROBIN CONNOLLY**
THE DAILY ITEM

She lay in the maternity ward bed and waited for those feelings to come. They never did.

Elly Perez, 18, gave birth — and almost gave up simultaneously — just over a year ago. "I was so inside myself," the self-admitted independent soul says. "I didn't want anyone to know my business, to know how scared I was, and I didn't know what to do."

She knew she delivered a little girl, knew she was a mother, the Lynn English graduate returnee this year (ranked 31 out of —) says, but little else. "One of the nurses at Salem saw me, saw me trying to take care of my baby and told me about Healthy Families North Shore," the now proud mother says, "and they changed my life."

They, and in particular home visitor, Elizabeth Ramos, changed Jaydalise's mom from confused to clear. "I thought about all kinds of things," she says, "and I didn't want anybody coming in and asking me questions because I didn't have any answers."

She answers herself now, the two-job worker (Pizza Hut and Essex County Food Services) says. "I pay my own rent, take care of my daughter, and I'm proud." It's pride applauded by the 1-year-old seated on mom's hip who chuckles at "A Celebration of Success," an end of the year event sponsored by the North Shore chapter of the national Healthy Families program, now under the umbrella of Catholic Charities.

It's laughter, Perez says, from her littlest friend. "She listens to me," this mother says. "We talk after I work, and I'm getting her ready for bed." They are times, the teen traumatized by pregnancy at 16 says, she never thought she'd know. "I have learned so much from this program," she says. "We even have group meetings where other mothers talk about their babies, and we learn from each other."

It's learning, Susan d'Hevincourt, Donna Foti-Scovell, Maureen Reiser and Catholic Charities' Erin Heenan, say offered the approximate 130 parents currently in the three-year program. It's a focus, they say, aimed at parents under 21 with children under one. "It's about the bond," d'Hevincourt says, "about helping to set goals, to finish educations, to break the cycle that might be in place."

It's a place, Elly says, where she found her daughter; where she found, with help from her own mother, Elizabeth Ramos, the strength to feel. "I remember waiting," the soon-to-be enrolled college student says, "just waiting to feel those feelings and maybe everything would be all right." They didn't arrive; Healthy Families North Shore did.

This proud mother/graduate/worker, who admits she wouldn't have said anything last year, says, this time, with a huge smile, she's glad she waited.

Catholic Charities' Healthy Families North Shore counts among its strongest supporters volunteers, Ruth Chaiton, Catherine Lundeergan, Margaret Piccola, Ann Tavers and North Shore Shuttle's Vince Giarrusso.



Elizabeth Ramos, right, sings nursery rhymes in Spanish to Jay Lis last Wednesday night during the Catholic Charities Healthy Families dinner.

Downey

FROM PAGE D1

they say. "Afterwards, when we sat and talked about it, it was incredible."

It's memory and missing him that brings Steve Downey's family here, and as with all things important — he's in their lives, in their corner and in giggles of grandchildren and a sandman on the beach.

The 2nd Annual Stevan E. Downey Memorial Golf Tournament is Monday, Aug. 28, at the Ipswich Country Club. Player entry fee (\$175) includes greens fees/cart, pullover windshirt, raffle ticket, longest drive and closest to pin contests, gift bag, prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, dinner/appetizers and more. Registration deadline is Aug. 7 for the planned sellout. Register as teams of four (individuals/pairs accommodated as space allows).

Sponsors (including presenting) or those wishing to donate can contact Kristen Robinson at 781-599-4158, kristen148@msn.com or c/o 302 Gardiner St., Lynn, MA 01905. Please make checks payable to "The Stevan E. Downey Memorial Golf Tournament". For information on the tournament, call Chris Downey at 781-639-9937.

For information on Mesothelioma visit www.impmeso.org.

DSS to hold golf tourney on Aug. 21

LYNN

The Lynn Department of Social Services (DSS) holds its 1st Annual "Cherish the Children — The Karen D'Eon Fund" Golf Tournament on Monday, Aug. 21 at the Gannon Golf Course.

D'Eon, described by DSS coworkers as "the woman who cherished them the most" died after a lengthy battle with cancer in June, 2002. The tournament in her memory seeks to continue the vision of the Lynn social worker "who nurtured and enriched the lives of countless children affected by poverty, neglect and abuse through small acts of kindness and generosity."

Proceeds benefit a fund to grant children's wishes including YMCA memberships, prom tickets, senior pictures, family photos, summer camps and more. It is, organizers say, a fitting tribute to the behind the scenes worker "behind their simple everyday wishes and dreams."

The \$100 per person fee includes 18 holes of golf, carts and buffet dinner (dinner only \$25). Each golfer receives gift bag prior to teeing off, and prizes will be awarded for the top three placing foursomes, longest drive (male/female), closest to the pin (male/female) and raffle prizes.

Hole sponsors are sought (\$100) and include a sign/banner displayed on the course that day. All donations "none too small" are sought along with merchandise, gift certificates, and/or golf items to be awarded as prizes/raffles.

Tournament will be played in Scramble format with registration at 9 a.m. and shotgun start at 10 a.m.

Donations can be sent to Tanner Lowe (781-477-1691), DSS, 20 Wheeler St., Lynn, MA 01902. Checks should be made payable to "Cherish the Children Fund."

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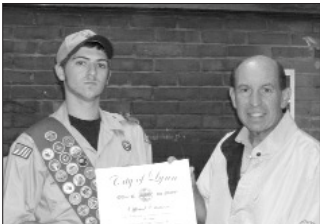
Ad Council U.S. Department of Transportation



ITEM PHOTO / OWEN O'ROURKE

Teacher retires

Retiring teacher Carol D'Etrement holds a balloon and flowers during her last day at Aborn School in Lynn on Monday.



Eagle Scout to get badge

Lynn's Nicholas Vernaci, left, received his Eagle Scout badge Sunday at a court of honor at Camp Lions. Vernaci, shown with Mayor Edward Clancy (who presented him with a proclamation on behalf of the city) supervised some repair and beautification work at Camp Lions for his Eagle project. He is in Troop 121 in Lynn.

East Baptist Church has Summer Kick-Off Festival

LYNN

East Baptist Church, 300 Western Ave., celebrates Summer Kick-Off Festival this week with activities for kids of all ages. Helping to welcome summer is a quartet of drama/music students from Wales.

Tim, Catt, Adam and Sarah assist with the following:

— Children's Club with games, bounce castle, hot dogs, cotton candy, etc. each day, 4 to 6 p.m.

— Wednesday, barbeque/outdoor concert from Wales at 6 p.m. on the church lawn.

— Thursday, senior citizen luncheon held by weekly club

(in association with GLSS) offers lunch/concert. Donation of \$1.50 for 60 and over; \$3.50 under 60. Reservations must be made by calling the church office at 781-592-1764.

— Friday, hot dog/hamburger supper at 6 p.m. followed by N.S. Spirit game.

— Saturday, 6 p.m., ham/bean supper and Welsh folk-barn dance. Also on July 1 is teenage basketball tournament, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Prizes awarded.

— Summer worship begins July 2 at 10 a.m. Welsh team participates.

For details, visit www.east-baptist.org or call the church at 781-592-1764.

BULLETIN BOARD



Eagle Scouts

Lynn Classical High School graduates Danny Thompson, Sean Deary and T. J. Russell became Eagle Scouts at a recent Court of Honor ceremony. Thompson and Deary completed projects in Lynn Woods. Russell's project was completed at Winter Island in Salem. The scouts are members of Troop 80 in Lynn.

Summer meal program begins

The Summer Free Meal Program, for children under 18 years of age, begins this week (June 26) at The HUB, 16 Union St. (corner of Chestnut and Union). Breakfast is served at 8 a.m. and lunch at noon as of this Monday. Program also includes outdoor games, storytelling, music, science and math, drama, college preparation, friendship and safety. The program is sponsored by the Mass. Department of Education, the College Application Education Program and Grace United Methodist Church of Lynn. Call 781-595-1022 or 781-595-1504.

Girls Inc. Food Service program

Girls Incorporated of Lynn participates in the Summer Food Service Program Breakfast and afternoon snack, provided to all enrolled members free of charge. Acceptance and participation requirements for the program/all activities are the same regardless of race, color; national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation or disability, and there will be no discrimination during the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided at the sites/times that follow: 88 Broad St., 8 to 9:45 a.m. and 4-4:45 p.m.; 58 Blossom St., 8:15 to 9:45 a.m. and 4-4:45 p.m.

Market coupons available for seniors

Greater Lynn Senior Services (GLSS) has Farmer's Market coupons to be distributed to qualified citizens on July 10, 9-11 a.m. at the Senior Center, 8 Silsbee St. Recipients must be 60 years and low income as measured by at least one other program in which proof of income has been demonstrated. These include: Food Stamps, Supplementary SSI, Medicaid, Fuel or Housing Assistance or similar programs that establish recipients at/or below 175% of federal poverty levels. Recipients must be present to receive coupons and must bring proof of eligibility. For information, all Phyllis Kinson at 781-586-8687.

Cheever honored at St. Michael's College

Corey Joseph Cheever, son of Carol and Joseph Cheever of Lynn and a student of Lynn Classical High School, was named the 2005-06 recipient of Saint Michael's College Scholarship and Service Book Award. The award recognizes those who demonstrate a commitment to volunteerism and leadership through community service. Cheever was presented the book First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers (HarperCollins 2000) by Loung Ung, a 1993 Saint Michael's College graduate who has become a widely acclaimed author.

The Rev. Ferara plans reunion trip

Franciscan Rev. Bede Ferara conducts his 31st reunion trip to Friar Tuck Inn, Catskill, N.Y. for

family/friends Aug. 7-11. His sisters, Jean Feola of Watertown and Ann Januario of Lynn and formerly of Revere are chairpersons. Cost includes bus, meals, room, entertainment, pools, cocktails, bingo and reunion with native East Bostonians now living on the North Shore. Committee members are Theresa Mustone of Melrose, Florence Mercurio of Revere and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Spolski of Revere. Bus leaves Aug. 7 from the VFW parking lot on Bennington Street, Revere, and returns around 5 p.m. Aug. 11. For information, contact committee members or write to Jean Feola, 54 Brookline St., Watertown, MA 02472.

Students graduate from Lesley U.

Cambridge's Lesley University announces the graduations of the following Lynn students: Tina M. Deschambault, daughter of Rose-Marie and Roland Deschambault of Biddeford, Maine, was awarded a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology while Jennifer Dubis was awarded a Master of Education. Jaime E. Libby was awarded a Bachelor's Degree in Human Development/Early Childhood Education.

Sacnez graduates from Columbia

Frankie Thomas Sanchez of Lynn graduated from Columbia College Chicago during commencement ceremonies held in May. Columbia College Chicago is an urban institution that provides degree programs in the visual, performing, media and communications arts to 11,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

Skalkos named to Dean's List

Evanthia G. Skalkos a junior at the College of the Holy Cross has been named to the Dean's List for the second semester, 2005-6. Skalkos, a psychology/sociology major, is the daughter of Mary and George Skalkos of Lynn.

Lim named an all-American scholar

Rosalynn Lim, daughter of Amy Lim of Lynn, has been named an All-American Scholar in Foreign Language by the United States Achievement Academy. Lim, a Breed Middle School student, nominated by Leticia Carrasco Toxey, was chosen on the basis of academics, interest/aptitude, leadership, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation, citizenship, attitude, dependability and recommendation.

Senior trips and events

The Lynn Council on Aging/GLSS Senior Center, 8 Silsbee St., open Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., offers discounted trips/special events. Gift certificates (first come/first served, while they last) are available to Gannon Golf/Peabody Essex Museum as well as tickets to Spirit ball games (various dates). For information, call Jennie Ford or Connie Duncan at 781-599-0110.

Church issues scholarships

First Church of Christ in Lynn, Congregational, presented the Daphne and Philip Chapman Scholarships at the Children's Day Services. Recipients of the annual scholarships were Katie Meehan, daughter of Gerald and Jane Meehan of Peabody and Ryan Ward Prendergast, son of Robin and Ronald Prendergast of Lynn. Meehan is a theater major at Salem State College and Prendergast is a history major at Bridgewater State. Scholarships are available to high school and college students.

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