

Lynn Neighbors.

celebrating what makes Lynn so special...YOU!

Others deserve 'a chance,' too



Downey family raises funds in dad's memory

LYNN
By ROBIN CONNOLLY
THE DAILY ITEM

Chances are. Sometimes, they're like the ones that Lynn Police Lt. Steve Downey gave to those in need of a break. Other times, for the 24-year officer and Vietnam marine vet, they are the happenstance (three decades before) that brought him in contact with asbestos and the start of a cancer (Mesothelioma) that wouldn't reveal itself until 2003, taking his life in 2004. They are life chances his wife, Carolyn, and children — Katy, Kristen (Robinson), Chris and Mike — say that inspire the September 16th First Annual Stevan E. Downey Memorial Golf Tournament. "When Kristen first mentioned it," Chris, an engineer, says. "I was a little resistant, but when I thought about it, thought of the chance to help another family, it made sense." It's a sense, the five say, of having "had a chance" having "sparks of hope" and having had Dr. David Sugarbaker, head of Brigham & Women's International Mesothelioma Program. "He is amazing," Steve Downey's 35-year partner says of the care during the rapid onset, five-month ordeal that led to her husband's death. It's an ordeal, she says of the estimated "3,000 new diagnoses" this year that, for many, begins — and ends — with instructions to "go home and get your things in order."

The family of deceased Lynn Police officer Stevan Downey is preparing to host a benefit golf tournament in his honor. Front, from left, daughter Katy Downey, grandson Stevan Downey and wife Carolyn Downey. Rear, from left, daughter Kristen Robinson, son Chris Downey, grandson Owen Downey and son Mike Downey.

ITEM PHOTO / JONATHAN M. WHITMORE

See **DOWNEY**
PAGE D2

Building a community — one child at a time

Catholic Charities center wins accreditation



LYNN
By ROBIN CONNOLLY
THE DAILY ITEM

It just adds up. It's one + hundreds of little "ones" to equal a whole community, and at the recently accredited Catholic Charities Lynn Child Care Center on North Federal Street, all the right answers are lining up. "We build community," Janet McDougall, administrative director, says, "one child at a time." It's a process, she and Program Director, Jane Lovett, say acknowledged by the facility's accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). "It's about not remaining stagnant," the two early childhood veterans at the center in operation since 1990, say. "Everyone has worked really hard to reach the highest of standards, and we are thrilled to be acknowledged." It's acknowledgement, both say, of "a focus on the whole child" that extends to a child care center that reaches to be "the best that it can be." It's the best Lovett says of a 33-year career (ending October 7 with retirement) and affording her an exit package filled with great memories. "It's such important work," she says, "and you see it every day." Both see, they insist, the need for quality daycare to assist parents and, in particular, those who may be most in need. "I want everyone in

ITEM PHOTO/ REBA M. SALDANHA

Catholic Charities kindergarten teacher Paulie Hilton shares story time with (from left) Stephen Ovalles, Morgan Heart, and Matthew MacDougal recently at their Lynn facility.

See **CHILD CARE**
PAGE D2



Daniel Henkenmeier, left, receives his pilot's license with the help of FAA inspector and instructor, Mike Koumjian. Henkenmeier is a senior at Lynn English High School and an active member of the ROTC.

Lynn teen's head stays high up in the clouds

LYNN
By ROBIN CONNOLLY
THE DAILY ITEM

His head is in the clouds, and he likes it that way. Daniel Henkenmeier, a senior at Lynn English High, admits that part of the draw to flying came when he was a youngster. "I just always liked it," the newly licensed pilot, graduate of Beverly Flight Center says. "I liked the fact that there weren't too many other kids who were pursuing it." He pursued, the son of Patricia and Lyle Henkenmeier says a rigid 40+ hours of mandatory training (including written tests, accompanied piloting and solo performance) to arrive, this month, license in hand, literally, at the wheel. "It's time now," the active ROTC member says, "that I can call my friends and invite them up with me." It's also time, he says, laughing, that he has to "talk some of them into going with me." It's a place, the newbie pilot says, in which he is comfortable, despite others misgiv-

ings. "My father just told me to tell him when I got back," he says of one of his initial forays, "and I did." He did, with the confidence of a skywriter who's writing his own plan, including a possible stint at East Coast AeroTech after graduation. "It is something I'd consider," he says. It's the same consideration shown his flight instructor and inspiration, Mike Koumjian, a Portland, Maine, FAA inspector who, this student says, was "always very calm, always great." It's the greatness, Lynn's young pilot says of completing instruction with Koumjian, flying "to Portland, off to Gloucester" and now pursuing the further freedom that comes with a license to fly in non-optimum weather. "I have to have so many flight hours to reach that," he says, "so my friends and family will be with me flying to different places for my instrument rating." He rates the experience as up there, he says, and the license just the beginning of the most elevated of travel. "I'm glad I did it," this airman says. "I'm glad I have my license."



ITEM PHOTO / REBA M. SALDANHA

Catholic Charities counselor Maria Vargas shares a laugh with Justin DeLeon recently at their Lynn facility.

CHILD CARE

FROM PAGE D1

Lynn to have the best," McDougall, a single parent of two, says. "That's it. I think the children in this community and their parents are entitled to the best."

It's entitlement, she says, stressed in the North Federal Street facility.

"Come in and learn," the self-described "talker" says. "There are so many resources, and they're available to parents who need help."

It's help offered by the newly accredited, largest daycare in the area, and "whether you pay \$80 a week or \$800, your child is

a priority."

It's a priority, the multi-room, two-months-to-six-year-old facility says that begins with care in the daytime and a continuum that carries to the home.

"That's what we're about," the two say of the 115-child care center that spans intake services to supplementary resources.

"Each child is special," they say, "and treated with the same respect as every other child."

It's respect ranging from clear definitions of age group needs, with teachers geared to specific expectations and classes/instruction available at all times. "We are always learning, always moving."

They're moves that have

attracted student/teachers here and veteran teachers to seek North Shore Community College for further instruction. They are, Lovett and McDougall say, all part of the "circle" that is Lynn's early education.

In conjunction with the Lynn Early Childhood Council and its Community Partnerships for Children/Lynn Family Network and Parent/Child/Home Program vision, the center reaches higher, the two say.

"We want everyone in the city to join us," the two say of having joined the 1,200 accredited centers in the state. "We all want what's best for Lynn's children, and we can all work together to make it happen."

It happens at Catholic Charities Lynn Child Care Center every day — for nine month olds who tackle tasks, toddlers who trump obstacles and kindergartners who learn kindness in curriculum.

It happens, Lovett and McDougall say, in a place where little ones line up to make an equation of partnership + parents + pre-primer pride = the whole experience.

It's one child added to hundreds of laughing, learning lessons, and the results are in the Catholic Charities' child-collective, headed for adulthood and summing up its own value as it goes.

Come on. Take a chance.

Lynn resident wins \$1,000 scholarship

LYNN

Lynn resident Lan Duong, a recent graduate of Lynn English High School, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by Junior Achievement of Eastern Massachusetts.

Junior Achievement is a national organization that strives to educate and inspire young people to value free enterprise, business and economics by connecting their lives in the classroom with their future in the workplace.

Duong, 18, received the scholarship for her involvement in the JA Groundhog Job Shadow Day Program, future goals, academic performance and letters of recommendation.

Lynn resident Sheree Dunwell, a 2003 graduate of Lynn Classical High School, recently completed an intense one-month course at the Goethe Institute in Munich, Germany, where she studied both opera and German.

Dunwell is currently studying classical voice at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Penn. where she holds a 3.86 GPA. Upon graduating CMU in June 2007, she intends to study opera in Europe where she will obtain her masters degree, with the hopes that she will sing as a professional opera singer.

Under the direction of Classical High School Music Teacher Michael Smith and Lynn Public Schools Director of Fine Arts Joe Picano, Dunwell has

PEOPLE

been studying voice since sophomore year in high school. She was awarded a full scholarship to study voice at the New England Conservatory of Music's Handel and Haydn Vocal Apprentice Program while she attended Classical High and performed at Symphony Hall in Boston with the Massachusetts All State Choir, for which she auditioned and scored second highest in the state.

She was also selected to sing at Mayor Edward J. Clancy's inauguration as well as at many other sporting events that have taken place throughout the city.

Former Lynn resident Janine Brown-Smith, of Reading, received a juris doctor degree cum laude from New England School of Law during Commencement ceremonies at the Wang Center for the Performing Arts. She was the recipient of the Dean's Award and the Trustee Bradbury Gilbert Award for Excellence in Achievement.

A 1979 graduate of Lynn Classical High School and a 1983 graduate of Salem State College, Brown-Smith is the daughter of Warren and Teresa Brown of Lynn and is married to Robert A. Smith, vice-principal of the Pickering Middle School. Brown-Smith is chief operating officer of the Cotting School in Lexington.

A Dean's List student while in law school, Brown-Smith received CALI Excellence for the Future Awards in Law and Ethics of Lawyering, UCC: Negotiable Instruments and Payment Systems, and Government Lawyer.

Lynn resident Allyson M. Melanson recently made the dean's list at Worcester State College for the spring 2005 semester. Melanson met the requirement of having a GPA of 3.5 or better for 12 graded credit hours.

The following Lynn students were among the 2005 graduates

of Westfield State College: **Frantzie Kebreau**, bachelor of arts in psychology; **Tara Yaffi**, bachelor of science in criminal justice; **Corinne Carritte**, bachelor of arts in psychology; **Michael Desantis**, bachelor of science in computer science; **Daniel McDonough**, bachelor of arts in music; **Shawn Melanson**, bachelor of science in criminal justice.

The following Lynn residents were named to the dean's list at Boston University for the spring semester: **Matthew Cogan**, **Jennie D'Etremont**, **Dmitriy Lyubarskiy**, **Suzanne Nou** and **Alexis Ramirez**.

Comedy tonight at Lynn K of C

There'll be lots of laughs at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 177 Lynnfield St., tonight as Bob Siebel, Paul D'Angelo and Friends take the stage. Doors open at 7 p.m. for a belly-laugh benefit to support Lynn's Special Needs Camp's Building Fund. Show begins at 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at door. For information, call the camp at 781-477-7096.

Goldfish Pond plans Fun 'N Flea Day

Goldfish Pond celebrates its 25th Annual Fun 'N' Flea Day, Saturday, Sept. 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain date is Sept. 11. The most popular annual flea market, according to organizers, takes place blocks from

DOWNEY

FROM PAGE D1

For the lieutenant's family there "was a chance, and we were given it."

It was the chance that surgery, removal of a lung, would give him time. For others, Chris and Katy, who frantically researched after their father's diagnosis, say, it may not be there. "We found Dr. Sugarbaker; his program," Chris says, "and found they were, here, in Boston."

It's the place, Kristen says, where they learned about a cancer that has a "latency period of up to 40 years after exposure before symptoms occur."

Downey's likely exposure occurred during the 1970s, but the origin is unlikely to ever be definitively identified. "My dad was in Vietnam," Chris says of possible exposure sites, "but he also went into a burning building where there was asbestos. When he bought his house, he gutted the whole thing himself, pipes, everything. He even wondered about his grammar school."

It's the wonder, Kristen, a schoolteacher and mother of "Grampy's" Abigail, 7, and William, 5, says, that makes the fundraiser as much about awareness as about the man who raised her and her siblings. "My father was a great man," Kristen says. "Everywhere I go somebody has a Steve Downey story, and I think it would be great to keep his name in the community."

It's a community, Carolyn says, that includes a Downey legacy well known to those who knew the strong, direct man of conviction with whom she raised her children. "Steve always told me that I raised them," she says of the Downey-four determined to increase awareness, give someone else a chance, and, in so doing, bearing an undeniable resemblance (times four) to the chance-giver who inspires their pursuit.

For Michael, a firefighter, father of "Grampy's" Owen, 5, Stevan, 2, and Julia, three months, and the one identified by his siblings as most like his dad, the event is about letting people know what this family didn't. "Chances are so much better," brother Chris, adds, "if it's discovered before the symptoms."

Steve Downey, a known health/fitness fan who "never smoked or drank and was in the best possible condition" attributed fatigue after simple chores, Carolyn says, smiling at

the recall, to "getting old." The pneumonia-like symptoms that followed were also put to a night shift and life demands.

By the time the patient is symptomatic, the Downeys later learned, the prognosis is diminished.

"We knew with the surgery that he would have 3-5 more years," Steve Downey's family says, "and that was the chance we had, the chance for more time." It was, they say, a chance that didn't come to fruition, but like the role model they knew, it was the one they were given.

It was a gift, all five, insisted aided by David Sugarbaker, the surgeon who came to funeral services for the man and the family in which he believed. "For him to take that time after all he had done," Steve Downey's legacy says, in chorus, "is unbelievable."

It's belief, Katy, a newly inducted state trooper whose dad (a second-generation officer, descended from multiple civil servants) knew of, but didn't live to see her plans completed, says, his children share. "If you knew my dad, you knew he was a strong, compassionate person who would give anyone a chance. We'd just like to give that to another family in his name."

It's his name, his chance, they say of the father and husband that's "still with us." It's the philosophy of the husband, father, police officer and — most importantly — the "Grampy" who believed in giving them.

Chances were part of Steve Downey's life. Chances still are.

The First Annual Stevan E. Downey Memorial Golf Tournament is September 16, 2005, at the Hillview Country Club, 149 North St., North Reading. Golf slots are already filled. Dinner tickets (\$50) per person are available by calling Kristen Robinson at 781-599-4158. Those who wish to donate can send checks made payable to "The Stevan E. Downey Memorial Golf Tournament" c/o Eastern Bank, 195 Market St., Lynn, MA 01902.

Tournament sponsors (limited to 2) at \$2,500 offer company name on golf shirts and all related literature, full-page ad in booklet, company banner, first tee box sign, company logo in dining area, company info/merchandise in player gift bags and 8 dinner tickets following tournament.

Other sponsorships include dinner (\$1,000), driving range (\$500), individual hole (\$250), shared hole (\$150) and supporting (up to \$150).

Comeau fund-raiser is Sept. 18

The annual fundraiser, sponsored by Roger P. Comeau in memory of Dawn Marie Fellows, his niece, and in support of the Make A Wish Foundation of Mass. is Sunday, Sept. 18.

This year's event, at the Village Green Barn, Route 1, N,

Danvers, from 5-9 p.m. features Russ McQueen and the band, Overdrive, the comedy of Bob Siebel, a 50/50 drawing and silent auction/raffles.

Admission is \$20 and features a complimentary buffet and cash bar. For information, call Comeau at 781-592-3609.

LYNN BRIEFS

sonality disorders, panic disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder. Instructors are Caryn Berman and Andrea McAskill. Space is limited, and registration required. Call 781-631-3029.

LEHS '60 reunion

Lynn English High School, Class of 1960, celebrates its 45th reunion with dining and dancing at the Peabody Marriott Hotel on Sept. 9 beginning at 7 p.m. Those who have not received a notice of the reunion dinner and wish to attend can contact Joan Terrabassi Fulchino at 978-774-3573 or Joanne Costanzo Tice at 978-774-3480.

LEHS '55 reunion

The Lynn English High School Class of 1955 is celebrating its 50th reunion on Sept. 10 and organizers have been unable to contact several class-

mates. Anyone with an address, phone number or email address for the following people should call Phil Terenzoni at 978-532-2192 or email at terenzon@massed.net : Beverly (Bowden) Sharpe, Beverly Clements, William Cooney, Carole (Darling) Rice, Pearl Entin, Rosemary Fogarty, Philip Hall, Sandra Levine, Catherine Maxwell, Robert Morehouse, Anita Rolnick, Carol (Rossi) Calef, Marie Stanley and Rosemarie Wray.

LEHS '80 reunion

Lynn English High School, Class of 1980, seeks missing graduates for its 25th class reunion on Nov. 26 at Jimmy's Allenhurst, Route 114, Danvers. Anyone with information on classmates who have moved, changed names, etc. are asked to contact the committee at LEHSCLASSOF80@aol.com.

ST. PIUS V CHURCH, LYNN - RCIA

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic? Or were baptised, but never received communion or confirmation? Come, Check Us Out — No Pressure, No Obligation. Sunday A.M.'s
Call Mary Ellen Valeri at
781-595-7487

80 MPG MOTOR SCOOTER

Starting at \$1199.00

Redstreak Motor Scooters

- Register as a moped no MC license required
- Performance 49.6 cc, 4-stroke engine, electric start, air cooled, quiet and smooth
- DOT certified and street legal

RUSSO'S TRANSMISSIONS

1069 Western Ave., Lynn

Across from GE **781-595-0051**



Elenis Beauty Salon

- Highlighting
- Perms
- Coloring
- Waxing
- Precision
- Haircuts

Walk-ins Welcome

Marlene the former owner of Marlene's Salon is now located here

Evniki Vagenas
Hi-Styling

117 Munroe St. Lynn MA 01901
781-599-8116 Call for appointment