



January Ward Two Newsletter

Happy New Year!! It hardly seems possible that 2018 flew by so quickly. I hope that everyone had a great Christmas with family and friends. The highlights of our Christmas was seeing my oldest daughter Jessica move into her first home, even though it is in Pine Hill and not Ward Two and my youngest Stephanie being able to be home from Ireland for the holidays. As hectic as the holidays can be, being with family and friends makes it all worth it. Once again, thank you to all that sent in photos of your beautiful trees for the Bruins raffle and congratulations Chris and Dave Pierce of Atkins Ave as the winners.

As challenging as this past year has been for the city financially, the FY 2020 budget which begins this July 1st will be much more of a challenge. To get through they FY 2019 budget, the Home Rule Petition was passed which allowed the city to borrow \$14 million dollars to close the gap in the 18 budget and the 19 budget. While I was not in favor when the vote was taken, it passed. This year there can be no borrowing to close what could be a \$5 million dollar gap. In one regard, that is a good thing as we cannot go deeper in debt. The Mayor is working with union representatives in hopes of saving a significant percentage of that gap but it will not close it all. It is easy to say to make it up in cuts but believe me, that excess just isn't there. There are already shortages in many city departments that impact services and shortages in public safety that needed to be rectified and still are short staffed. There are a lot of projects in the pipeline which will not only bring in permitting fees but increased taxes on those developed properties. As we have been since my first day as chair of the Public Property Committee, we continue to aggressively bring that money back into the city coffers as well as look to sell properties that have no other value to the city. As I have said many times, we are being killed by the high percentage of our population who attend schools and can not afford to continue to see those numbers go up annually by the hundreds.

I really didn't plan on making the beginning of a New Year newsletter sound so bleak and not everything is bleak. There are a lot projects underway or about to be. There is a lot of interest in the city that will see great investment and opportunity in the city especially with so much of our develop-able properties being designated as Opportunity Zones. Click for more info on [Opportunity Zones](#) As I eluded to last month, the city has been awarded \$59 million in Mass DOT funds to reconfigure Western Ave from Buchanan Bridge to Market Sq, Essex St from Eastern Ave to Rockaway St. and the Broadway/Euclid Ave./Jeness St. Much of this construction will be in Ward Two. I will let you know about future meetings as this moves through the planning stages. Click for more info on [Street Reconstruction](#) As challenging as this coming year will be, I do see great things on the horizon for Lynn.

Last month I mentioned trash related issues. I met with the DPW Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner along with officials of Waste Management two weeks ago to discuss the problems with trash, recycling and yard waste pickups in Ward Two. They did point out some things that I wasn't aware of such as the pure volume of yard waste. It is most likely related to storms in the fall which caused more leaves to fall at once. It was said that this year's tonnage of yard waste was much higher than recent years. When that happens it does delay pickup. Extreme heat and cold also impact equipment as it does our own vehicles which can cause delays. We also discussed why some areas are missed more frequently than others. I am working on producing a spreadsheet with the areas with the most frequent problems so that they can work with the drivers and supervisors of those routes to work towards a solution. I also asked that I be notified when an area is going to be missed due to breakdowns, late hours, etc. This way I can

notify you before you notify me. While it is unlikely to be perfect, we are working on it. In the meantime, if your trash, recycling or yard waste has not been picked up as scheduled, please leave it out and they will be back the following day and send me a quick email in case I am not aware. Please share this information with your neighbors that may not be on the newsletter list. You can stay up to date on trash related pickup dates by visiting the DPW page at [Lynn DPW](#) You can also request tree repairs and report street lights that are out. Last week, I reported a lot of lights which were out (particularly Lexington St.) and noticed the page to the contractor Coviello Electric was not working properly. I have found it easier to call the number to report street lights. If you are going to call, please know the pole number. The phone number is on the web page.

Another topic I brought up last month was snow stakes. I purchased 100 of them and put some up on the cul de sacs that I had complaints about last year as the ends of the street are not clearly defined. I also left some on the door steps of those that asked for them. I have a few more left if folks want them. If anyone is interested in purchasing them, I got them on Amazon for about \$1.50 each. I hope they help. With snow inevitably coming, please remember your neighbors who may have difficulties as well as pay close attention to furnace vents. Many newer units vent out the side of the house and can be blocked by drifting snow which can cause carbon monoxide poisoning in the home. If anyone uses or is planning on using a generator in case of power outage, do not run those in doors for the same reason. If your home does not have a carbon monoxide detector, please get one ASAP. The reason I bring this up is a co worker of my daughter had carbon monoxide in their home due to running a generator in their home following a power outage. As ill as the family felt, they are extremely lucky that it wasn't deadly.

We will once again have some snow fun contests once the white stuff flies.


Our next ward meeting will be in February. I will work on a topic but if there is something that you would like to see addressed at a meeting, please let me know.

With this being the beginning of the second year of my term means that 2019 will be an election year for the City Council and School Committee. When nomination papers are available in March, I will be seeking re-election to continue to be your Ward Two councilor.

I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2019!

Rick Starbard

Curbside Pickup 2019
January 7 - January 11, 2019
Christmas tree pick up during this time
Happy New Year



For further information please call 781-268-8000

Looking for a fun January night out?? Come down to the Lynn Museum on January 18th for Arts After Hours Snow Ball. It is always a great event and they will announce their plans for their 2019 season of shows. I have sponsored this group since they

began and I credit them for being one of the groups driving the success of Downtown Lynn. Click [Arts After Hours](#) for more information.



If it happens in Lynn find out about it at:



If its going to snow, stay in the know by clicking below



Lynn's New RAVE Mobile Safety Smart911 System

Plan Ahead For Any Emergency
Always Be Notified

Sign up for the RAVE Mobile safety system to receive emergency alerts relative to the city of Lynn at [RAVE 911 Signup](#)



Join your Ward Two Neighbors

There are over 300 Ward Two residents signed up to our Ward Two page on Next Door. This is another great way to connect with your Ward Two neighbors. Sign up at: [www.nextdoor.com](#)

Please tell your neighbors to "GET CONNECTED" at [www.rickforlynn.com](#) to

get on my email and newsletter list.

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