

# IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

## SHOP TALK

### LHAND's Gaeta earns top honor from National Economic Development Assoc.

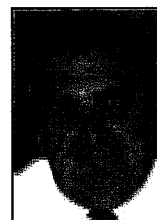
#### LYNN

Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development Executive Director Charles Gaeta was named Volunteer of the Year by the National Economic Development Association.

The award, which was presented at NEDA's annual conference in Providence, R.I., annually goes to someone who serves without compensation to promote effective local economic development.

Gaeta has served on the board of directors of the Economic Development Industrial Corporation since its inception in 1977, including the last 22 years as chairman.

Under Gaeta's leadership, EDIC/Lynn has awarded 350 business loans totaling more than \$14 million that resulted in the creation of more than 2,000 jobs in the city. Also, a number of major projects have been under-



Gaeta

taken by the EDIC including making available 100 acres of waterfront land for mixed-use development, the securing of funding for the commuter ferry project, the conversion of vacant buildings into 250 residential units in the downtown and the location of new businesses downtown including Willow Labs and Eastern Bank.

Gaeta has served as LHAND executive director since 1993, during which time the agency has received numerous awards and is recognized by HUD as a model agency. Currently, LHAND provides housing and housing assistance to more than 3,000 people, with the majority being senior citizens and disabled individuals.