New grocery stores will be win for Lynn shoppers

Planned Ernie’s, Market Basket means choices

With the closing late last year of the longtime Lynn staple Johnnie’s Foodmarket and Ernie’s Harvest Time, in November and December, respectively, food shoppers saw their choices diminish in the central part of the city. While there are shopping chains and discount grocers – Shop & Stop on Washington Street and Price Rite at 356 Lynnway – the loss of both Johnnie’s and Ernie’s was a major loss to central Lynn families who shopped there for generations.

That’s why the news last Friday that Ernie’s Harvest Time will reopen in downtown Lynn, Tuesday that a deal has been finalized for a new Market Basket at the former General Electric Factory of the Future site, is such tremendous news for the city and its consumers.

With a population of 90,000 plus and perhaps 100,000 more not counted in the 2012 federal Census, there’s plenty of demand to keep all of the stores busy.

Ernie’s had been a Lynn landmark for 64 years and its patrons lamented its closing last Dec. 29. Owner Ernie Fratangelo plans to re-open at a location near City Hall by the end of summer.

“Ernie’s is another good sign for the downtown,” Lynn Economic Development and Industrial Corp. (EDIC) Director James Cowdell told The Item. “They’re a welcome addition with a long customer base plus, this is a heavily populated area.”

Although the Foodmaster chain is permanently out of business, the addition of Market Basket in Lynn brings another Massachusetts’ family chain to Lynn, in addition to Food masters, Caldoro and Stop & Shop, and pending closure of the long dormant Factory of the Future site, the city’s future looks promising.

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Since gardens were the number one source of income for residents who attended our meeting, we contacted Ward 1 Councilor Wayne Lozzi to see what could be done to control the population. He informed us that several years ago he was made aware that these geese are becoming a major problem for areas in and around Flax Pond and Magnolia Place, which is used by citywide groups for recreation and sports. These areas were being littered with the number of geese and their droppings. Home owners bordering the pond were complaining about the amount of goose poop and attorneys and residents where they walk and their homes play.

The problem is controlling the geese population in the most humane way possible.

Upon investigation, Councilor Lozzi discovered that unless some methods were taken at this time, the goose population would continue to multiply at an alarming rate and make our parks and swimming areas unpleasant and unattractive.

There are a certain number of geese which will remain on the ponds and there are migratory geese that come and go. The problem is controlling and keeping these “traveling” geese to a reasonable number through a humane method.

Councilor Lozzi investigated all possible methods of goose control and on several letter to town's leaders and also with environment agencies.

Besides the threat of heightened fees, which is the most humane method to control the geese population. Councilor Lozzi and volunteers obtained the required permits and started the process of addition measures. This progress is so successful that the community will continue to see the reduction of the goose population.

This is not just a local concern in Lynn but in neighboring Lynnfield and Peabody. This is an issue that needs attention and action. It is an issue that is affecting the quality of life for many people.

Kevin Cole is president of Lynn’s Flax Pond Association. He can be reached by email at kcole1969@gmail.com.

Jay Ambrose
A guy’s walking across a college campus, sees a young woman, grins, winks, and, even though he doesn’t know her and doesn’t know whether she likes to have someone so handsome out on a date. She’s not interested.

She accuses this fellow student of sexual harassment, and, because of new federal rules, she does not have to show that others might also find her remark offensive — as previously required — to succeed in her complaint.

This is but one of many regulations that seem to presume him innocent and rule out harassing someone despite reasonable doubt. There’s the possibility of a seven-day hearing by a moment’s reasonable doubt.

Sounds incredible, doesn’t it? But the same thing has happened and is being fought over more recently in the new America. In that new America, that is not quite a democracy, but it is a government that is defined by a few thousands of pages of regulations that cover everything from the amount of water that can be held in a toilet to the kind of light bulb we can install in our homes.

Maybe some think that every time a new rule comes along it is a proper, preferably from the Internal Revenue Service, but the reality is that specialists who run our economy, live because, after all, they make more than you do, and if evidence tells us something else. It tells us the administrative state can be grotesquely unfair, unconstitutionally, self-consciously, unreasonably automatically intrusive, stupid and unresponsive.

And as if there wasn’t enough of all that, the courts interpreted recent principles that came our way in the form of the Affordable Care Act. In a Wall Street Journal analysis by a student of the subject, we learn of a department letter letting colleges and universities know they’re darn well better to know that sex is a crime and sexual harassment is not.

The letter says that if supposed victims pressured themselves, defined that criterion’s enough to decide sex harassment was committed.

Much of higher education may well know less to label the kind of sex harassment are.

What is beyond what these are and good regulations that our colleges and universities use in how different.

Skip two years, and the White House is again going after a situation in the Government Accountability Office says as a bad joke.

Some old problems were addressed, as The Fiscal Times notes that all this is happening “to $85 billion in potential cost savings” — $85 billion that is cost savings that the secularists are going to get.

President Barack Obama will fix our regulatory mess, won’t he? He is right to be in Des Moines in 2011, he talked about addressing the incredible incoherence in government regulations.

And as if that wasn’t enough, he may go on to say, if we can’t find any more, he will do it.

For more bad news, note the Heritages Foundation’s estimate that the cost of federal regulations, and the government administration and its protection, in the new economy will be at $134 trillion.

I find that probability offensive and suspect many others do, too.

Jay Ambrose, formerly Washington Director of editorial policy for Scripps Howard newspapers, has written for the Tribune and the Times.

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