

# The Daily Item



Sports: Rondo, Allen lead Celtics by Phoenix B5

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**The 81st Annual Academy Awards**

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**Fashion show on red carpet**



**Jackman host in a big hurry**



**Ledger family there for Heath**



**'Slumdog' kids make scene**

## 4th Fireworks downsized

### Joint July celebration latest economic casualty

#### SWAMPSCOTT

By DEBRA GLIDDEN  
THE DAILY ITEM

The annual Fourth of July fireworks will be scaled back this year due to the troubled economy.

Swampscott Town Accountant Dave Castellarin said the annual Fourth of July fireworks display on Lynn Shore

Drive, which is a joint effort between the city of Lynn and Swampscott, costs \$50,000. Castellarin said Lynn pays \$30,000 for the fireworks and Swampscott kicks in \$20,000. He said each community is also responsible for paying its own public safety details. Castellarin said he was contacted by the city of Lynn because there was some concern the city would not be able to raise its share of

the cost for the fireworks display this year due to the current economic climate. "There was some concern on the part of Lynn that it couldn't raise the \$30,000 for the fireworks show this year," he said. "The city wants to cut the display back so it would cost \$37,000, which we would split 60/40. That's something we're willing

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## Saved from the bells

### Lynn chamber, police applaud new alarm law

#### LYNN

By ROBIN KAMINSKI  
THE DAILY ITEM

Excessive false alarms at businesses and residences across the city have burdened the Lynn Police Department for years, tying up and draining its valuable resources.

More than 5,000 false alarms in 2007 resulted in unnecessary police dispatches, along with 5,318 in 2006, 5,497 in 2005 and 5,606 in 2004.

Those elevated numbers prompted Councilor At-Large Daniel Cahill to propose the idea last year, which was warmly welcomed by the Lynn Police Department and Lynn Area Chamber of Commerce (LACC) in order to hold chronic false alarm abusers accountable.

Officially passed by the City Council on Feb. 17, the ordinance will work to tackle the ongoing problem with a series of hefty fines.

Cahill's plan originally called for a fine for all residents and businesses with repeated false alarms, but he altered it so that the first and second false alarms would be met with written warnings.

A \$50 fine will be given for the third false alarm, followed by a \$150 fine for the fourth and fifth false alarm and a \$300 fine for the sixth and following calls.

The ordinance also calls for people to use a nationally approved type of alarm system, a fine cap of \$50 for people in residences 70 years of age or older, multiple activations in a defined time period such as a

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## Nice night for a toasty roast



ITEM STAFF PHOTO/JONATHAN M. WHITMORE

Families enjoyed the mild February evening and gathered near the halfway house on Long Beach in Nahant for a campfire and marshmallow roast Saturday evening sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Today's full weather details on page A9.

## Snow dough makes few Saugus streets special

#### SAUGUS

By CHRIS STEVENS  
THE DAILY ITEM

Every resident thinks their neighborhood is special, but when it comes to plowing only a handful of streets have become a priority.

With snow removal costs climbing closer to \$800,000 Town Manager Andrew Bisignani has made a decision to only bring out the plows for snowfalls of four inches or more.

"I used four inches as a benchmark," Bisignani said. "Obviously if it's a public safety issue we will address it and obviously we will do the hills."



Attubato

The town budgeted \$150,000 for snow and ice removal for fiscal 2009, which is not unusual. Since no one can predict

how much snowfall there will be in a given year, snow-and-ice removal is the one budget line the state allows communities to overspend. The shortfall is then made up in the next year's budget.

Bisignani budgeted \$700,000 in the fiscal 2010 to cover the this winter's shortfall but that might not be enough.

"At this point we've spent all

our money for snow and ice," he said. "If we go beyond this we start eating into the budget."

Public Works Superintendent Joseph Attubato said he is trying his best to maintain the streets with the town's small fleet of 23 plows and without calling in outside contractors.

"We will try and maintain the streets the best we can," he said. "It may take a little longer but it will save the town a ton of money."

While Bisignani and Attubato have prioritized the town's streets, they also prioritized their list. The following is a list of the streets that would be plowed first during a

storm: Altamount Ave, Austin Street, Benson Avenue, Briggs Court, Cheever Avenue, Clayton Avenue, Felsmere Avenue, Johnson Terrace, Lewis Lane, Pinehurst Road, Riverview Avenue, Sharon Drive, Springdale Terrace, Staff Road, Whittier Avenue. To view the list in its entirety, visit [www.itemlive.com](http://www.itemlive.com).

Along with the snow issues, Bisignani said there are also a slew of manholes that have collapsed and will need to be repaired.

"Every winter it's a problem but this year is one of our worst," Attubato said. "It started before Christmas."

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## Saugus Main St. landfill audit comes back clean

#### SAUGUS

By CHRIS STEVENS  
THE DAILY ITEM

It took Selectman Stephen Horlick three tries to get it approved and nearly a year for its completion, but the audit on the Main Street landfill is in and it's, in one word, uneventful.

Horlick requested an audit in 2007 when he discovered there was only \$185,000 left in an account that was supposed to carry enough to monitor the landfill for 30 years. Town Manag-



Horlick

er Andrew Bisignani said at the time he didn't expect any smoking guns to appear and he said Friday he was correct.

"I don't see any fault in there," he said. "The landfill closure was completed in a professional manner, ahead of schedule and it hasn't cost the town a nickel so far."

Bisignani admitted there will be some post-closure monitoring costs, "but it's a small price to pay for the \$2.7



Bisignani

million it saved the town to close the landfill."

In 2002, Selectmen voted to cap the landfill by accepting 200,000 cubic yards of Big Dig fill, for which the town was paid to receive. A clause in the contract with the Central Artery left the door open to revisit the option of accepting up to 425,000 cubic yards, depending on how the project went, which is what the town did in the end. Bisignani finished the project that

had been started by former Town Manager Stephen Angelo by taking in the total amount of fill because it would net \$675,000 that would be earmarked to pay for the required post-closure monitoring.

However, Horlick pointed out that the earmarked money had dwindled considerably.

According to the \$18,000 final report put together by Melanson Heath & Company, certified public accountants and management advisors, the revenue for the project came in higher

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