

# Downtown Lynn: Growing and getting increasingly hip

By GAIL LOWE

FOR THE DAILY ITEM

Central Square in downtown Lynn is teeming with song, spoken word and theatrics.

As an example, Gulu Gulu Café has an open mic series on Friday nights that has attracted people who want something more upscale than a bar.

Gulu Gulu owners Marie and Steve Feldmann are basking in the glory of Lynn's new heyday. The refinement of their adopted city is finally becoming reality.

Gulu Gulu regulars Linda Werbner and Mark Muzeroll moved to Lynn several years ago from another North Shore city. The couple bought a condominium in the Diamond District and couldn't be happier. "We love Lynn," said Werbner. "What's not to like? Public transportation is great, we have a beautiful coastline and a growing, hip downtown."

The heartbeat of the city has quickened with a steady influx of young professionals like Werbner and Muzeroll who want to enjoy their neighborhood after a long work week. Lynn's newest residents - many of whom have bought condominiums at the Boston Machine Lofts - are helping to ensure that the city continues its current upward spiral.

As an example, the police department has upgraded its street patrol in the downtown area to protect residents' property and to ensure their safety and the business community is installing a surveillance network, which has been successful in other cities.

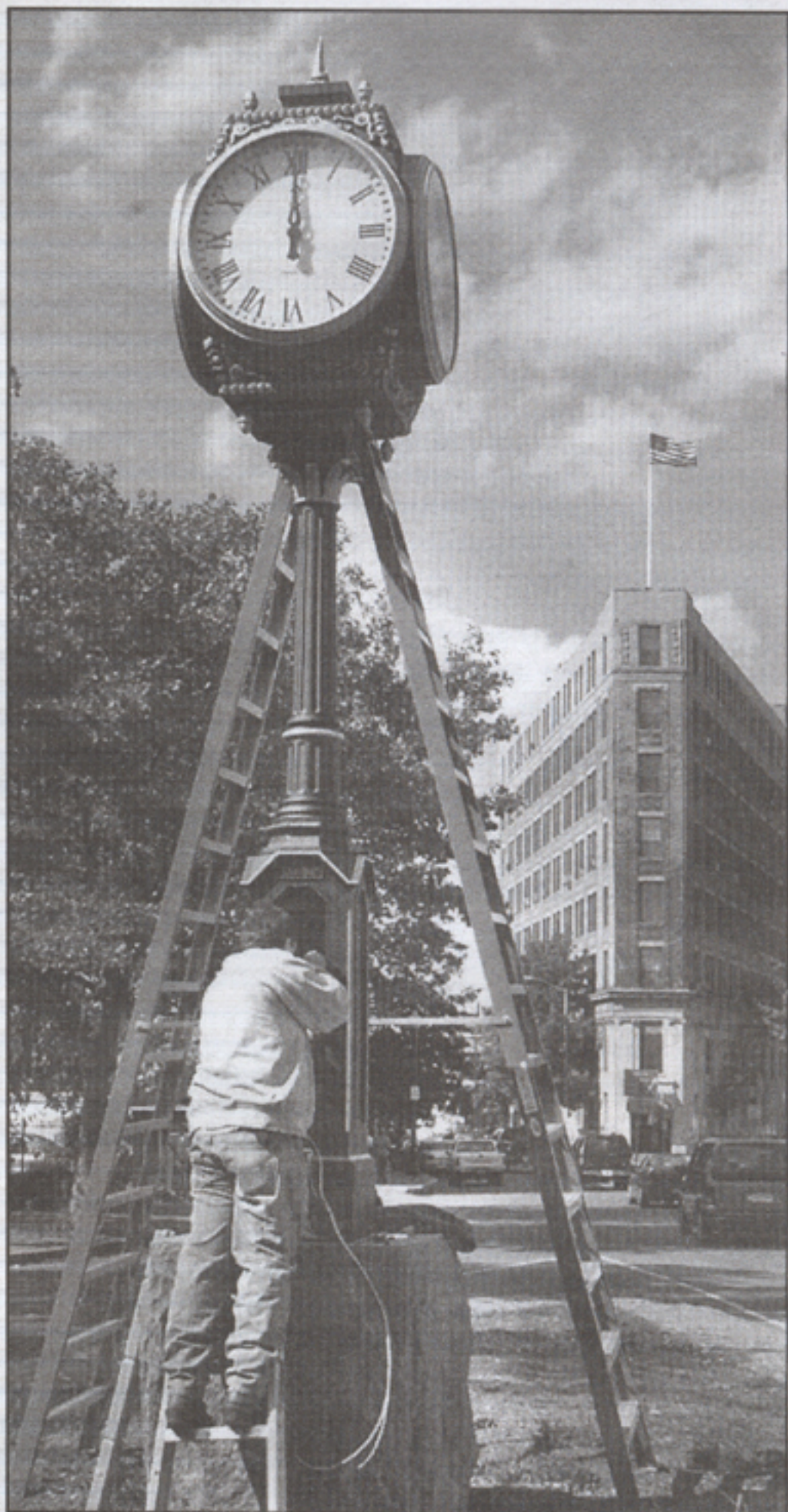
The transformation of Lynn's oldest commercial buildings into condominiums continues with the Caledonia, the original name for the rooming house that abuts St. Joseph Church on Union Street. According to developer David Gass, the Caledonia, former home of Gross Floor Coverings, will contain two street-level commercial spaces and eight residential condos on the floors above. The commercial units have already been sold.

Gass said that students at Lynn Vocational Technical High School repaired and repainted the decorative iron fencing on the rooftop that served as a snow barrier. "I think it's great that the students could take part in this project," he said.

The trend toward refinement in Lynn has continued on Oxford Street where Lowell Gray, founder and former owner of the Internet company, Shore.Net, opened the Oxford Street Grill in June, a ground floor restaurant catering to upscale patrons. "Take a look inside the front windows," commented one Lynn resident who requested anonymity. "There are actually white linens on the (imported Brazilian) tables. I've had dinner there and found the food to be very good."

Comments like these are becoming more and more commonplace as people rediscover Lynn's many positive attributes.

Take a look around. High Rock Tower. Seaport Landing Marina. Lynn Woods. Gannon Golf Course. Lyn-



Clock tower is just one of the many changes in Central Square.

nArts. North Shore Spirit. Free community movies at Red Rock Park. A farmer's market. These are only a few of the many attractions Lynn's residents can enjoy. Other working class cities would be hard pressed to come close to what Lynn has to offer.

As the city continues to grow, both commercially and residentially, so will the need for skilled workers and more housing. And that's good news for everyone.

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