



EASTON LIONS CLUB

Easton Lions Club, P.O. Box 1032, Easton, MA 02334-1032 Mark Vinocoor, Editor, mvinoco@comcast.net



President's Message

By *Kevin McIntyre*,
President

Not Above You;
Not Beneath You;
But With You



We Serve

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Based on information provided by the Lions Club International office, our club is the 12th largest in the United States. Not too shabby for a community the size of Easton. A good amount of credit has to go to Lion Lee Williams, whose "stats" at International indicate that he has personally recruited 222 members, although we know that number is actually higher because he does not take credit for all members he brings in. Very impressive, and it has us bulging at the seams at our meetings at VFW.

High expectations accompany the high ranking our club enjoys, and I have yet to be disappointed. Due to the outstanding efforts of some key Lions, Nancy Sullivan, Ken Love, Amos Keddem and Dale Kerester, just to name a few, we are on track to have a successful 27th Annual Cable TV auction, **now delayed until March 10**. So long as the weather cooperates on THAT day, and the two million moving parts fall into place, we will be shaking hands and slapping backs Sunday night. There is never a

surplus of volunteers at the big events, so if you have not signed up, it is not too late. Let Amos Keddem know when you can help.

For those who have not heard, it is with great sadness that I share the news of the passing of fellow Lion Tom Hedrick. I do not have all details, except that Tom passed Thursday. Tom was a regular, spirited and jovial participant at our club meetings, and he will be sorely missed by all. His wife Carole and family are understandably in shock at the sudden and unexpected passing. I did call and offered whatever assistance or support the club can provide, and I encouraged the family to take advantage of the offer. When services are announced, we will spread the word, and I am confident that there will be a strong club showing in honor of Tom and in support of his family. Tom was a Past President and a Melvin Jones Award winner, in addition to being a good friend and willing volunteer. May he rest in peace.

Restoration of the Yardley-Wood Rink Building

By Jon Morgan

The restoration project for the Yardley-Wood Rink building is completed, and now we've got a warm, comfortable place to work in as we support the fun activities at the Rink!

John Mallers took on the project of restoring the building. His goal was to clean it up, secure it from uninvited guests, and convert it to a roomy, clean, warm and friendly space to work in. He met his goal, and then some! John tackled this project largely on his own (he had help from Bill Palmer, Jon Morgan, Ed Pires and Harry Lynd), and was efficient in gathering resources to support the project.

You'll want to visit the Rink to see the fruits of his labor - the building is now a great place to work in, and is a better base of operation for the Rink.



iPAD Raffle Winner

By Nora Yousif



The Lions Club is pleased to announce **Lori Prew**, as the winner of the iPad Raffle.

Lori is an active Easton resident. She serves as a Stephen Minister at the Covenant Congregational Church, serves on the School on Wheels Advisory Council, and has formed many women's groups in town, including the "Blue Chips and Salsa" Investment Club. She currently serves as Director of Corporate Outreach at Willwork Exhibit and Event Services in Easton.

Knowing all the positive contributions the Lions Club makes to our community, she happily gave her *last* \$10 in cash to purchase an iPad Raffle Ticket from Lion, Amos Keddem, during the Holiday Festival. Way to go Lori! She proved the old saying, "For it is in giving that we receive!"

Thank you to **all** participants of the raffle as you all gave to a wonderful cause helping to raise over \$1200. Know that your ticket purchases are now being used as a donation to support eye research and local charities.

Also, keep an eye out for the upcoming **Lions Boston Harbor Cruise** on Saturday, June 8th from 7-10pm. Tickets can be purchased at eastonlions.com. Let's get cruising Easton!!!

Donations Needed for the Easton Lions Auction

Hard to believe, but this will be the 27th annual cable television auction put on by the club!

This is the Easton Lions biggest fundraiser of the year to raise funds to support Eye Research and our Community. The Easton Lions Club not only supports local charities and youth and community groups but also seeks to fulfill the challenge issued many years ago by Helen Keller: "Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind child untaught; no blind man or woman unaided? I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?"

- **When:** Sunday, March 10, 2013, from 2pm-8 pm.
- **Where:** Broadcast live on Easton Community Access Television (Comcast Ch. 9, Verizon Ch. 22) from the Olmstead/Richardson cafeteria.
- **Go to:** EastonLionsAuction.com to preview the items available to be purchased at the auction. Let your friends know about the website – anyone interested can make donations or become a sponsor online.

The auction is brought to you in part by ECAT: Easton Community Access Television.

The Auction will also be live streamed on the internet, through the auction website at www.EastonLionsAuction.com, so that more folks can watch and participate.

Sponsorships for the auction are available. In addition to the great exposure on TV during the auction, we also prominently display the sponsors on the auction website and on email

blasts throughout Easton. This is a great way to support the Lions and to get some great exposure for your business.

If you are interested in donating, sponsoring or helping: please contact Dale Kerester at Auction@eastonlions.com or by phone at 617-835-3542 (cell).

The Lions Club of Easton Foundation is exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible. Any cash donations should be made payable to "Lions Club of Easton Foundation".

We will again offer our winning bidders the ability to pay by credit card.

We continue to look for ways to improve how we operate the auction. Have any ideas?

Example Items to be Auctioned:

The Easton Lions Club is pleased to announce that Bourne Auto Center at 135 Belmont Street (Route 123 - across from Stonehill College) has generously donated a car to be auctioned off at the Easton Lions Club 27th Annual Cable TV Auction. Other items include: Passes/tickets to: Ecotarium, NE Aquarium, F1 Boston, Plimouth Plantation, Story Land, Six Flags, Sky Zone, 5 Wits Adventure, Davis Farmland. 2 official Pats footballs: a 2001 Super Bowl ball, and a '91 ball signed by all players. A \$50 card to Chateau, \$100 South Shore Eye Assoc., \$100 Borgeson oil change & tire rotation. 1 week at Inn on the Harbor, Newport (Lee) \$900. ACM reciprocal membership at Easton Children's Museum \$125. Wills, H/C proxy, POA from Atty Richard Lawton \$? Boyajian: 2½ # Norwegian salmon (\$75) and 4 six-bottle cases of infused olive oils and vinegars (mixed) \$45/case. Hardwood frame pool side hammock from Pool Place. \$139. Framed Bodio print of Frothingham Park, W. Side Graphics \$80. Brass & copper weathervane \$100. Foodsaver Vacuum Sealing system plus 4 heat-seal rolls and 44 bags \$275. More Favorites to come!

Thrift Store Website

Has Lee ever lied to you???? Of course Not! Both Lee and The Easton Lions Club are Proud to Present:

The All New.....Easton Lions Thrift Store Website

Is now available for your viewing pleasure!!!!

Go To:

www.eastonlionsthift.com



January 29, 2012

Mr. Kevin G. McIntyre
The Lions Club of Easton
PO Box 1032
Easton, MA 02334

Dear Mr. McIntyre,

On behalf of everyone at South Shore Habitat for Humanity, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your gift of \$300.00 for the Easton home. Each dollar brings our Family Partners one step closer to realizing the pride and stability of homeownership.

South Shore Habitat for Humanity was founded as an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International in 1986. Together with our volunteers and donors, we have provided affordable housing for 91 adults and 183 children.

We will deliver our 52nd home in Norwell in February, have started construction in Easton, and look forward to building another home in Stoughton later this spring. Thank you for helping us to deliver simple, decent and affordable homes to families in need.

Sincerely,

Martine
Martine Taylor
Executive Director

Here's to Easton!

Next Gen News

By Nora Yousif

Next Gen Lions, friends, and family gathered this weekend to knock down some pins over chatter at the Charlie Horse for a Super Bowl themed "Super Bowl" ing.

We donned our favorite football jerseys in theme with Sunday's Super Bowl game and took to the lanes. With over 20 attendees, we talked about Lion's happenings, new events the Next Gen group has brewing (Boston Harbor Cruise Fundraiser), and found out who the best bowler is among the group.

Kids of the Next Gen-ers enjoyed the food, bowling, and arcade nearby. Brian Lankiewicz, new to Easton and to the Lions, organized the event.

Our next planned event is the Snt. Patricó Day social at Hibernia March 15th. Look out Easton for the Lions Boston Harbor Cruise coming your way Saturday, June 8th. Be sure to save the date! Cruise tickets are \$35 and bus transportation from Easton to Boston and back is an additional \$5.



The Quest to Create a Bionic Eye Gets Clearer

By Shirley S. Wang

Restoring sight to the blind has proved particularly challenging for scientists, but a new technology combining an eye implant and video-camera-enabled glasses may soon be available in the U.S.

Researchers have been pursuing the development of such a bionic eye for decades, in some cases spending hundreds of millions of dollars to tackle engineering challenges. One device designed to help people with a rare eye condition is awaiting U.S. regulatory approval. It is known as Argus II, made by Second Sight Medical Products Inc. of Sylmar, Calif. Other researchers, including at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University, continue to work on what they believe are even more sophisticated versions.

Second Sight's product uses what is known as a retinal prosthesis that bypasses the dead or damaged cells in the eye needed to detect light. Instead, the device reroutes visual data via the implant to parts of the eye that still work. Like other similar devices under development, it uses a video camera embedded in a pair of eyeglasses to collect visual input in the form of light and transmit it to the implant as an electrical signal.

If Argus II is approved by the Food and Drug Administration, it would be the first retinal prosthesis to hit the market in the U.S. The device is already available in Europe.

The patients most likely to benefit from these devices are those with retinitis pigmentosa, a rare disease that damages and kills the cells in the retina—a tissue layer at the back of the eye—that process light. For people with the condition, their vision grows increasingly blurry until they eventually can't see at all. Some 100,000 patients in the U.S. have the condition.

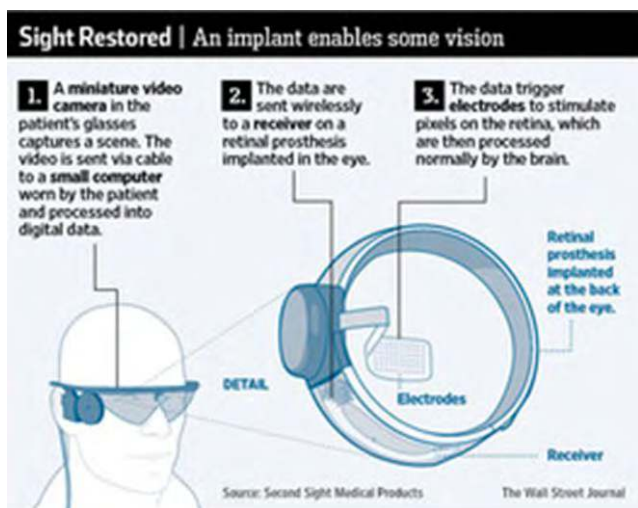
Another group of patients who may find such technology useful, scientists say, is those with severe macular degeneration. This is an age-related disease that damages the part of the eye that perceives fine detail, according to the National Eye Institute. The various retinal prostheses under development all use video cameras to send light information to chip implants. Most of them use the data to trigger electrodes in the chip to stimulate pixels of light on the retina, which are then processed normally by the brain as images.

The technology tested to date lets the wearer primarily see in black and white. It is most useful for seeing sharp contrasts, such as the painted white line of a crosswalk on a dark road. But scientists hope that they can improve the detail to eventually enable color vision in its wearers.

Barbara Campbell, a 59-year-old vocational rehabilitation counselor, has had virtually no sight since her 40s. She had the Argus II implanted in her left eye in 2009 after hearing about the device through her work at the New York state Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped.

Though she was told the device was experimental, Ms. Campbell thought, "anything I gain will be a plus," she said.

Ms. Campbell had a five-hour surgery at New York-Presbyterian Hospital and two months later was fitted for the video glasses. Returning to her apartment, she could see that the light fixtures in the hallway of her building were different from how she remembered they used to be.



(Continued on page 6)

While her vision is still limited to discerning large objects such as furniture, she said, she can now see the pole at her bus stop instead of having to locate people standing nearby. When she goes to the theater, she can follow the actors on stage, though she cannot see their facial expressions.

"It's very exciting and it's very cool," Ms. Campbell said. "I felt that my brain now had to become used to using vision again," she said.

Some 50 patients, including Ms. Campbell, have been implanted with the Argus II, with two-thirds of them experiencing benefits. The patients who respond the best can read large letters a few inches tall. Patients report the biggest gains are in improved orientation and mobility, said Robert Greenberg, Second Sight's CEO, who also is a medical doctor.

Designing a bionic eye has been much more difficult than developing other types of aids, such as a cochlear implant for hearing, say scientists. For one thing, visual information is two-dimensional—both horizontal and vertical coordinates must be sent to the brain—while sound waves needed for hearing are one-dimensional.

Another challenge is protecting the implant in the eye, since it essentially has to sit in a bath of organic liquid. "It's like taking your television and throwing it in the ocean and expecting it to work," said Dr. Greenberg. Scientists have spent time working out how to manufacture tiny, airtight boxes that can shield implants when they are in the eye.

A big obstacle has been figuring out how to adequately capture and stimulate enough pixels of light on the retina to produce a clear image. Normal vision is based on more than one hundred million receptors in each eye, but it is impossible to squeeze that many electrodes into a tiny device that has to lay on the retina, said John Wyatt, a professor in the department of electrical engineering at MIT who has been working on a retinal prosthesis since 1988.

Second Sight's Argus II contains 60 electrodes, but some other scientists say that for a retinal prosthesis to be truly useful to patients, hundreds are needed. "In theory, you'd like to have more electrodes, but not if it means an implant that doesn't survive more

than a few months" because the device is too bulky and unstable to stay in place in the eye, Dr. Greenberg said. "That was the trade-off we made."

Instead, the company is working to create better video cameras and software, which are external to the eye and easily updated, to better enhance and interpret the information sent to the implant, he said.

Dr. Wyatt and his group at MIT are developing a bionic eye that will contain between 256 and 400 electrodes. They are currently working on their fifth version. Earlier models have been implanted successfully in Yucatán miniature pigs and temporarily in six humans. They are planning to form a company to commercialize their technology.

At Stanford University, ophthalmology professor Daniel Palanker's group has taken a different approach to the problem. Instead of using electrodes, his team developed rows of tiny "photovoltaic" pixels (like solar panels), powered by the pulsed light from the video goggles, which are implanted under the retina. These implants convert light into electric current that stimulates local retinal neurons, which then send signals to the brain, meaning no wires are necessary to stimulate the retina.

Using this technology, Dr. Palanker expects to be able to fit enough light-powered panels to stimulate 5,000 pixels in a space similar to what the other retinal prostheses use. The device is currently being tested in rats and is expected to begin a human trial in a year or two, he said.

Source: The Wall Street Journal, January 28, 2013, 6:52 p.m. ET, retrieved from: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324539304578264052022342798.html>

Chief Recruiter Has Bagged a Total of 222

Beginning in 1979, Easton Lion Avery Lee Williams has been working hard to maintain the vitality of our club by recruiting a constant stream of new members. Those efforts, to date, have yielded the enormous total of 222 members!

Our club ranks 12th in the US and 60th in the world in terms of active members, with most of the larger clubs in the world situated in India.

Congratulations to the Easton Lions of the Month!!!!

September, 2012 - **Burt Lewis**
 October, 2012 - **Tony D'Ambrosio**
 November, 2012 - **Ed Pires**
 December, 2012 - **Tony Cabral**



Eyemobile Needs New Home



By PDG Ray Hebert
 Eyemobile Committee President
eyemobile@district33s.org

Fellow Lions of District 33S,

Your Lions District 33S Eyemobile is in danger of losing its home of many years. The Lakeville Lions Club property, where the Eyemobile has been garaged, was recently sold. The Eyemobile committee is currently in negotiations with the new owners to determine what costs would be involved to continue using the garage. Should we not be able to come to a fair and equitable agreement, your Eyemobile would be left out in the cold.



The Eyemobile committee is asking for your assistance in exploring another option. If you, or anyone you know, have or know of a suitable building, or section of a building where the Eyemobile could be garaged, please contact either District Governor David Barbour or Eyemobile Committee President PDG Ray Hebert.

Should other available locations be brought to our attention, representatives of the committee would further explore those possibilities.

Hopefully, with your help, a new home can be found for your Eyemobile.

Queen of Hearts

By Ginny Ando and Paul Lemieux,

The -  *Queen of Hearts*  - Raffle
is over \$3000--**wow!!...**

Name the song and the artist contest:

"Been walking my mind to an easy time my back
turned towards the sun
Lord knows when the cold wind blows it'll turn your
head around
Well, there's hours of time on the telephone line to
talk about things to come
Sweet dreams and flying machines in pieces on the
ground...."

Send entries to: mvinoco@comcast.net

*All entries that are correct will now be entered into a raffle to win the monthly prize.

Winners will be announced in the monthly newsletter, and at regular meetings.

* Markie V. Inc. retains all rights to this contest.

Newsletter Sponsor

By *Mark Vinocoor*, Newsletter Chairperson

Special thanks go to:

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