

# THE DAILY ITEM OCTOBER 27, 2010

## Lynn vets clinic expansion slated for January finish

**LYNN**

**By THOR JOURGENSEN**

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A four-fold expansion of the Boston Street veterans clinic is slated to be completed by January, five years after a federal veterans affairs reorganization plan threatened to close the facility.

"Veterans of Lynn spoke with one voice five years ago ...," said city Veterans Director Michael Sweeney. "We knew that when the facts were laid out there was no way you could take the clinic out of Lynn."



**Sweeney**

Arthur Salkins and Guy Noble were among the local veterans who worked with U.S. Rep. John Tierney's aides to open the original, 900-square-foot clinic in the medical building owned by Dr. Daniel Wistran and fellow physicians.

Wistran, a Swampscott resident, has since retired but he made a vow in 2008 to honor friends killed in the Vietnam War by expanding the clinic. Plans call for expanding the clinic with its 1,900 square

feet of medical care space to an 8,000 square-foot facility.

Work is under way and the 2011 opening date is eagerly anticipated by veterans like Ted Kurpiel, who served during World War II.

"I've needed tests done and had to jockey all the way to Bedford (veterans hospital). It will be a pleasure coming here," Kurpiel said.

Sweeney said about 2,000 veterans use the existing clinic on a regular basis. He said the expansion will benefit older veterans like Kurpiel with medical needs

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including diabetes care as well as younger ones returning from service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Tierney toured the clinic construction site Tuesday and said the expanded clinic can serve

Iraq and Afghan veterans in need of mental health care and follow-up treatment for head injuries.

"We are proud we put a facility like this to good use," he said.

The expanded facility will be outfitted with equipment including digital X-ray and ultrasound machines and a community room where veter-

ans, their families and people providing resources to them can meet and discuss concerns.

In preparation for construction, a pediatric medical practice has moved to the Boston Street building's second floor. Construction plans include providing the clinic with its own entrance.