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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF GREATER LOWELL

Officials celebrate House passage of economic development bond bill

Bill, which includes \$2M for club, must now pass Senate



PETER CURRIER — LOWELL SUN

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell members gathered with state and club officials July 2, 2024 to celebrate the state House of Representatives' passage of An Act Relative to Strengthening Massachusetts' Economic Leadership. Now in the hands of the Senate, the House version of the bill includes a \$2 million bonding authorization that will help fund the club's ongoing Believe & Become Campaign if it is included in Gov. Maura Healey's capital plan.

By Peter Currier

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LOWELL » Members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives celebrated last week's passage of the economic development bond bill Tuesday afternoon at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell, which will receive \$2 million through the bill if it subsequently passes the state Senate.

The Boys & Girls Club is in the middle of its Believe & Become Campaign, which centers largely on the expansion of the club's building at 657 Middlesex St.

So far the campaign has raised \$14.6 million, with a goal of reaching \$17 million for phase 1 of the project by July 31. The \$2 million authorization goes towards the building's renovations, which are aimed at creating educational and workforce programs for the club's teenage members.

Hadassa Pelissier, 14, has been going to the club since 2021, and has since witnessed firsthand the changes the club has gone through over the last few years.

"Seeing the impact our community has gone through, and the excited faces when the teens see the construction workers, it makes me proud to be a teen here," said Pelissier.

State Rep. Rady Mom filed the amendment to the bill, and was a club member himself in his youth in the 1980s.

"The club meant that much to me, and all of my family and friends as well to this day," said Mom while crediting fellow state Reps. Vanna Howard and Rodney Elliott for working to support the funding and



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co-sponsoring the amendment. "We made this possible, that is to bring funding and continue with the club joy, and the club construction, that you guys can have a home that will sustain for many many years."

Howard said she was proud to file the amendment for the Believe & Become Campaign. "Our youth, our teens deserve high-quality club programs," said Howard. "We are glad we could do a little bit to help the Boys & Girls Club to realize your future."

Elliott said he and his fellow representatives were pushing to help bring phase 1 of the Believe & Become Campaign to fruition. "We are down at the State

House, and we are going to do our part to bring this over the finish line," said Elliott.

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell Executive Director Joe Hungler said he hopes for the Teen Center portion of the project to be completed sometime this coming winter.

"We're going to continue fighting, finding ways to make this happen for all of you," said Hungler. "I think that one of the most important things about this project for me is that throughout this project our teens have had a voice in what it looks like and what our needs are, and we are going to continue doing that going forward." State Sen. Ed Kennedy said in

a phone call Tuesday afternoon that he would support funding for the Boys & Girls Club being included in this bill, but he noted that it still needs to go through the Senate, which will present its own version before the two chambers go to conference to reconcile the differences between the two versions.

Kennedy also noted that this is a bond bill, meaning the project funding in the bill isn't a direct earmark, but rather an authorization for Gov. Maura Healey to borrow money for a specific project and to include it in her capital plan. If that does happen, Kennedy said the funding may still not be made available until at least January.

ASHBY

American Legion holds flag burning ceremony

By Cheryl A. Cuddahy

Correspondent

ASHBY » The Holmes-Curran-Bennett American Legion Post 361 of Ashby recently conducted two flag burning ceremonies of unserviceable flags.

The ceremony was originally scheduled for June 14 to commemorate Flag Day; however, the ceremony was postponed to June 15, due to weather.

"Several individuals did show up on Friday, so it was decided to conduct the ceremony using half of the flags," Commander Chris

Travers said.

The ceremony, held on Friday, was conducted by Commander Travers and Sons of the Legion Commander Michael Bigwood.

On Saturday, the ceremony was conducted by Commander Travers, Sr. Vice Commander Bill Clement, and representing Sons of the Legion Porter Dodge.

There were about 150 flags burned, with 20 people in attendance, on both days.

"We would like to thank all who attended and donated flags," said Commander Travers.



COURTESY OF HOLMES-CURRAN-BENNETT POST 361

Pictured, left to right, are Sons of the Legion Porter Dodge, Commander Chris Travers, and Sr. Vice Commander Bill Clement, as they read through the proper procedure for the flag burning ceremony to those in attendance.

TOWNSEND

Celebrating Fourth of July at lawn party Thursday

By Cheryl A. Cuddahy

Correspondent

TOWNSEND » The town's Military Band will play a special Independence Day concert at 7:30 p.m. this Thursday on the Townsend Common.

Area residents of all ages are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs and blankets.

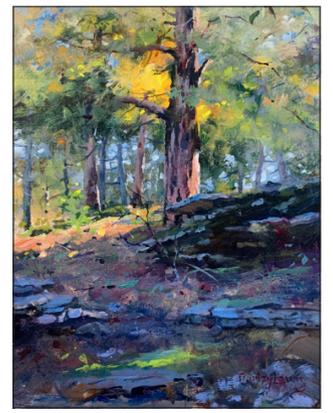
Townsend VFW Post No. 6538 and its Auxiliary will host the lawn party to be held in conjunction with the band concert.

VFW members will be selling hot dogs, popcorn, bottled water, and soda, as well as a variety of homemade cookies, squares, cakes, breads, candies, and pies.

There will be activities for the children and an opportunity to win stuffed animals and a patriotic money hat. Townsend Band Stand tiles will be available for sale and an information booth with VFW members will also be set up.

The band will conclude its concert at 9:30 p.m. with the "Star Spangled Banner".

The Five Minute Read



COURTESY FARLEY LEWIS

Fine artist Farley Lewis, of Missouri, comes to Lowell July 8-10, 2024, to teach a three-day "Poetic Landscape" painting class at Chez Claire Art School, in the Brush Art Gallery, 256 Market St.

Painting workshop

LOWELL » Spots are still available for the "Poetic Landscapes" painting workshop with painter Farley Lewis, Monday, July 8 through Wednesday, July 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., \$550, Chez Claire Art School, in the Brush Art Gallery, 256 Market St. Lewis, a fine arts painter from Missouri, will teach students how to design better paintings, understand and use values and colors more effectively and creative approaches to applying paint. To register, visit chezclaireart-school.com. Daily gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. For information call the gallery at 978-459-7819 or Lewis at 417-773-1175, email farleylewis@gmail.com or visit farleylewis.com.

Community market takes July 4 holiday

TWEEKSBURY » The Tewksbury Community Market takes a break this week to celebrate July 4, and returns Thursday, July 11, from 4 to 7 p.m., in the parking lot behind the Recreation Center at 288 Livingston St. The market runs until the end of September. For information, visit tewksburymarket.com or call 978-640-4490 ext. 205.

Salsa in the Park

LOWELL » Bring your dancing shoes to the North Common Amphitheater on Saturday, July 6, from 3 to 7 p.m., for Salsa in the Park. The rain date is Sunday, July 7, from 2 to 6 p.m. Residents are invited to learn some salsa moves, enjoy social dancing and watch dance performances at the corner of 465 Fletcher St. and Father John Sarantchou Way. Music provided by Eddie Tunez and dance lessons taught by Susy. The project is