

LOCAL NEWS

## The Five Minute Read



From left, Community Teamwork CEO Carl Howell, state Rep. Vanna Howard, and the 2025 Champions of Community Action, Lenis Perez of the Merrimack Valley YMCA, Sophy Theam of Enterprise Bank, and Joe Hungler of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell. (Courtesy Kevin Harkins Photography)



By **STAFF REPORT**

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### Community action champions

Community Teamwork Inc. recognized three local leaders as champions of community action at its annual [Spring Celebration 2025](#), which took place May 15 at the Andover Country Club. More than 300 people joined the festivities to celebrate the accomplishments of this year's honorees and to raise funds to support CTI's efforts to build emergency temporary housing for women facing housing insecurity in the community.

The Champions of Community Action award was established in 2022 to recognize individuals who support and uphold the mission of community action to uplift those in need.

"These individuals act as a 'catalyst for change' in our community," CEO Carl Howell said. "These are the people in our community who are working tirelessly and, in many ways, behind the scenes to ensure all individuals and families have equal access to housing, education and upward mobility."

This year's honorees were Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell Executive Director Joe Hungler; Merrimack Valley YMCA Associate Executive Director Lenis Perez; and Enterprise Bank Senior Manager of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging/Executive Vice President Sophy Theam.

Previous champions include Bobby and Aleksandra Tugbiyele, Pam and Jim Houlares, Bill

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Lipchitz, Stacey Thompson, Cathy Mercado, Richard Chavez, Vlad Saldana, Sue Kim, Richard Howe, Tom Golden and Paul Cohen.

For more information on CTI and ways to support the new housing for unhoused women in the community, visit [donate.onecause.com/womenshelter](https://donate.onecause.com/womenshelter).

### Game night

BILLERICA — Join other adults for a weekly meetup to play board games, including American mahjong, Monday, June 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Meeting Room Lower Level, Billerica Public Library, 15 Concord Road.

National Mah Jongg League rules will be followed. If you already have a National Mah Jongg League Card of Standard Hands and Rules, bring it with you. Participants are also welcome to bring a favorite game to share. Registration is required at [bit.ly/44kqMcZ](https://bit.ly/44kqMcZ).

For more information, call 978-671-0948 or visit [billericalibrary.org](https://billericalibrary.org).

### Save the date: Rourke Bridge public hearing

LOWELL — The Massachusetts Department of Transportation hosts an in-person public information meeting on Tuesday, July 15, between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m., at the Collegiate Charter School of Lowell Gymnasium, 1857 Middlesex St.

The purpose of this meeting is to update the public on the status of the Rourke Bridge replacement project in Lowell. MassDOT will present on the project background, the bridge design development, the anticipated construction schedule and phasing, early construction activities, public involvement opportunities and next steps.

This event will include a formal presentation followed by an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. All comments will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible. To ensure its meetings are accessible, MassDOT reasonably provides translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats and auxiliary aids and services. To request such services, contact MassDOT's chief diversity and civil rights officer at 857-368-8580 or [MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us).

For more information visit [bit.ly/3I3dlkm](https://bit.ly/3I3dlkm).



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