

LOCAL NEWS

Children's group is expanding to Lowell

By MICHAEL LAFLEUR
Sun Staff

LOWELL — The Cambridge-based Massachusetts chapter of a national, grass-roots children's-advocacy organization is setting up shop in Lowell and holding a community forum Friday to pique residents' interest.

"It's a chance to sort of hear about the organization in general and also specific to Lowell," Stand for Children organizer Lizzie Pollack said. "It's a forum launching the organization here in Lowell."

Founded in 1999 and headquartered in Portland, Ore., Stand for Children has been operating in Massachusetts since 2003, said state Director Meg Ansara. It also has chapters in Oregon and Tennessee.

In the Bay State, Stand for Children activists are running programs in Arlington, Boston, Gloucester, Lexington, Newton, Winthrop and now Lowell, she said. There are 630 dues-paying members of the organization in those towns.

The organization draws upon members of a community to choose a cause benefiting children to champion.

Ansara said the organization chose to target Lowell because in the city, "We saw a community that's committed to its children but also could use a uniform organization that could bring people together across the community."

Lowell Stand for Children

organizers include former School Committee member Joseph Mendonca; neighborhood activist Carol McCarthy, former principal of the now-closed Sacred Heart School; 2005 City Council candidate Richard Douglas; and Cecilia Okafor, executive director of the city's African Assistance Center and a 2005 School Committee candidate.

Mendonca said the idea is to work with neighborhood or church groups or any other interested Lowell residents to create teams focused on specific children's issues, which have yet to be chosen.

He said the Friday forum, scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m., at the Lowell Lodge of Elks on Old Ferry Road, will be the first step in identifying and prioritizing the organization's goals for the next year.

"I like the fact there are no set goals other than the fact it needs to benefit kids," he said. "It's not just education. It's anything that could make children's lives better."

Ansara said the statewide organization also plans an April 26 rally on Boston Common, along with meetings with individual state legislators, to advocate increased state funding for local schools.

Food and refreshments will be served at Friday's forum. For more information, call Pollack at (617) 460-4801 or visit Stand for Children's Web site at www.stand.org.

Michael Lafleur's e-mail address is mlafleur@lowell-sun.com.

Dance for a cure on Friday in Tewksbury

TEWKSBURY — Paul Brooks, 22, of Wilmington has been battling leukemia for the last three years, and he thought he had beaten the disease after two years of intensive chemotherapy. But Brooks recently had a relapse and is now in need of a bone-marrow transplant.

Paul's PALS, a support group made up of Brooks' family members and friends, will hold a benefit dance on Friday to raise money for a bone-marrow drive in April. Any donations will defray the cost of bone-marrow testing, which is about \$70 per person.

The dance, which will also feature a series of raffles and a silent auction, will be held from 8 p.m. to midnight at the Tewksbury/Wilmington Elks Lodge at 777 South St., Tewksbury.

Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Advance tickets are on sale at the Wilmington Insurance Agency at 5 Middlesex Ave., Flaherty Jewelers at 240 Main St., and the Wilmington T Stop News at 424 Main St.



Wilmington resident Paul Brooks is suffering from leukemia. COURTESY PHOTO

For more information, call Cheryl Kennedy at (978) 229-7614 or visit home.comcast.net/~paulspals. Donations should be addressed to Paul's PALS at the Reading Cooperative Bank on 230 Lowell St., Wilmington.

—ALEXANDRA MAYER-HOHD AHL

Chelmsford aiming to honor Vietnam vets

By HIROKO SATO
Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD — On Memorial Day, the town may have its first monument to honor local soldiers who died in the Vietnam War — if enough money is raised for the project by then.

The town is looking to erect the Chelmsford Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It will be likely located at the Vinal Square Common in North Chelmsford.

The project began when the late Sewer Commission Chairman Jack Emerson and resident George Dixon Jr., approached the town's former Veterans Agent and Human-Services Director Martin Waish years ago with the idea to honor Kenneth Rockwell Hughes, who died in the war at the age of 22, according to Regina Jackson, assistant to the Department of Veterans Services.

The men later agreed the memorial should be for all veteran soldiers from the war.

"We decided that it's time for Chelmsford to honor all the Vietnam veterans, espe-

cially those who were killed," Jackson said. "It's a good tribute from the community."

The four Chelmsford men to be honored are Hughes, John Francis Bettencourt, Peter Vincent Blazonis and James Alden Doughty. Except for Hughes, all of the men died at the age of 20. Bettencourt was killed in 1967, the others in 1969.

Jackson said she is certain that three of the men are Chelmsford High School graduates.

The town is hoping to have the monument erected before Memorial Day and is asking community members for donations. Town officials have yet to determine the exact cost of the project but believe it may be a few thousand dollars, according to Jackson.

Those who have information about the soldiers to be honored or their surviving relatives are encouraged to call the Veterans Office at (978) 250-5238. Donations should be made to Chelmsford Vietnam Veterans Memorial, c/o Chelmsford Veterans Services, 1A North Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824.

Sullivan gets Best Talk Show honor

SULLIVAN/From Page 3

2005 after his longtime colleague David Brudnoy passed away after recommending Sullivan be his replacement.

Not long before Brudnoy's death from cancer, Sullivan had learned he had a brain tumor, which was later removed by surgery.

He missed the show throughout most of February and about half of May last year while getting treatments for cancer, but since then has been back on the air, and back behind the keyboard for *The Sun*.

"I started off like Ted Baxter at a little radio station in Lowell, and here I am," Sullivan said. "The fact of the matter is that it's flattering, and that's about all I can say about it."

WBZ Radio's Director of News and Programming Peter Casey said the award highlights the difference between Sullivan and everyone else on the air.

"His show is a local show, and he does local politics, local

issues," Casey said. "And a lot of the stuff other stations do tends to stay with the syndicated shows and not really focus on the things people are talking about in their neighborhoods. I think that's Sully's strength — he's a neighborhood guy."

Robert Mills' e-mail address is rmills@lowellsun.com.

Monopoly competition Saturday in Tyngsboro

TYNGSBORO — The Tyngsboro High School Graduation Night Committee is hosting its second Monopoly Tournament on Saturday at Tyngsboro High School. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Participants must be at least 13. The cost is \$25 per player, and includes lunch and a T-shirt.

Thirty-six winners from the first round will receive their

registration fee back and advance to the second round. Six second-round winners receive an additional \$25 and enter the final round. One of those six will win \$500, a trophy "and bragging rights," said Mary Lanzillo, chairman of the Graduation Night Committee.

For more information, call (978) 649-6157.

Subcommittee tackling parking garage issue tomorrow night

COUNCIL/From Page 3

for the garage.

"I would tend to say no, but I don't know," he said. "It's just going to impact other things that we need to do. We only have so much money."

Lowell also is facing the imminent prospect of launching two new school construction projects, estimated to cost nearly \$33 million, with about \$10 million of that total coming from municipal bond sales.

Without adding money to the garage project, the city could be faced with the prospect of cutting floors from the project or curtailing the size of retail storefronts that are proposed to front Middlesex Street.

Coggins on Friday said, "I don't even want to speculate" when asked the city's potential options.

"I can honestly tell you we don't have a plan yet," he said. "But we'll be putting those options together and presenting them to the subcommittee Monday night."

During the regular council meeting tomorrow, councilors will consider Cox's proposed re-appointments to the city Board of Assessors, Historic Board and the Civic Stadium and Arena Commission.

They also will consider nine council motions, including a

request by Councilor Kevin Broderick to consider hiring "expert defense counsel" to represent Lowell in its plans to take much of the Appleton Mills complex on Jackson Street by eminent domain.

Meanwhile, Councilor Armand Mercier is asking the council to authorize Cox to "resume negotiations" with the complex's owner, James Lichoulas.

Broderick also has filed two motions pertaining to the troubled, \$24.6 million Kathryn P. Stoklosa Middle School, one asking for further information about a \$290,000 settlement paid to the general contractor in the project and requesting the city auditor provide "a detailed accounting of the construction loan account."

The council's zoning subcommittee, chaired by Broderick, is scheduled to meet tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Reception Room to discuss several proposed changes in the city zoning code as well as a plan to adopt a six-month moratorium on building new homes in areas of the city zoned "traditional multifamily."

Michael Lafleur's e-mail address is mlafleur@lowell-sun.com.

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Sunday, April 2, 2006
9 a.m.

Section	Row	Seat
114	7	12