

LOCAL NEWS

Chelmsford seeking residents' help to raise \$20G for Vietnam memorial

By HIROKO SATO
Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD — The town is asking residents to help raise \$20,000 to erect its first memorial in the community to honor local soldiers who died in the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee is gearing up to construct a 6 1/2-foot tall monument on the Vinal Square Common in North Chelmsford. The idea for the project surfaced years ago when late Sewer Commission Chairman Jack Emerson and resident George Dixon Jr., approached the town's former Veterans Agent and Human-Services Director Martin Walsh with the idea to honor Kenneth Rockwell Hughes, who died in the war at the age of 22, according to current Veterans Agent Regina Jackson.

The men later agreed the memorial should be for all veteran soldiers from the war, and the town now knows there are four fallen soldiers

from Chelmsford. They 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. Their names will be etched on one of the four sides of the granite monument.

The front of the monument will bear the inscription: "In honor of those from Chelmsford who served. In memory of those who fell. The Vietnam War 1959-1975."

Jackson said it will cost about \$20,000 to have the monument constructed by LUZ Granite Corp., which was selected through a bid. The town so far has raised \$3,645. The committee hopes the monument will be ready for dedication sometime in the fall, likely in late October.

Donations should be sent to: Chelmsford Vietnam Veterans Memorial, c/o Chelmsford Veterans' Services, Community Center (Old Town Hall), 1A North Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824. For more information, call the Veterans Office at (978) 250-5238.

'It still will affect us'

Telford Lane neighbors react to verdicts in Deltona, Fla., murder trial

By BRITTNEY BOOTH
and SARA KIESLER
Daytona Beach News-Journal

DELTONA, Fla. — Even if Shawn Neuman leaves Telford Lane, what happened next door will never leave her.

Neuman, 38, and her two daughters had only lived on the street a few months when six people and a dog were brutally stabbed and beaten to death at 3106 Telford Lane on Aug. 6, 2004.

After two long years of constant media coverage and the occasional television truck parked along their street, Telford Lane residents offered a collective sigh of relief Tuesday after learning a jury in St. Augustine found Troy Victorino, 29, Jerone Hunter, 20, and Michael Salas, 20, guilty of murder for the six deaths.

Though she still thinks about the tragedy, Neuman and her neighbors no longer live in fear.

Still, "even when we move — we won't live here forever — it still will affect us," she said.

"You can't have something like that happen next door and it not affect you."

Killed in the attack were Erin Belanger, 22, and Francisco "Flaco" Ayo-Roman, 30, both former residents of Lowell, Anthony Vega, 34; Roberto "Tito" Gonzalez, 28; Michelle Ann Nathan, 19; Jonathan Gleason, 17, and Belanger's pet dachshund George.

After the killings, the heinous crime left a scar on Deltona. But residents and city leaders say the city's wounded reputation has been healing.

Though he wasn't yet mayor of Deltona when the gruesome crime took place, Mayor Dennis Mulder said the murders were an

unfortunate cloud hanging over a city that otherwise has clear skies. And recently released crime statistics from the Volusia County Sheriff's Office might prove Mulder's theory that the killings were a terrible but random occurrence.

From 2004 to 2005, the violent-crime rate dropped in the city by 17.3 percent, while the population of more than 80,000 grew by 3.6 percent, according to figures released by the Sheriff's Office.

"It's one of the lowest (crime rates) in the state for its size," Mulder said. "It raises awareness that violent crime can happen anywhere."

On Telford Lane, Neuman said the guilty verdict is "the beginning of the final chapter" in a story that won't end until the men are gone. She hopes the jury sentences them to death.

"Everybody's been paying serious attention," she said. "We keep up with everything that's going on."

Next door, the new residents of 3106 Telford Lane don't dwell on the tragedy.

"It's just a regular house," said Jarrell Shakey, 12. He and his family have lived there a year and watched parts of the trial on television.

"I think it's wrong what they did to the people," said his sister Kyona Shakey, 13.

Across the street, David Rayborn, 14, remembers his parents returned early from work that day to ensure his safety after learning about the slayings.

His grandmother, Ruth Moscato of DeLand, said the murders scared her daughter's family, who have lived in the home for 17 years and have never seen trouble.

"I'm very glad they were found guilty," she said. "I think it brings some closure."

Weeds whacked from Lake Mascuppic

LAKE/From Page 3

\$23,000 will come from association dues and fundraising.

Done by Aquatic Control Technology of Sutton, the annual treatment to kill off the invasive curly leaf pond weed began May 23, putting an end to summer fun for the weeds typically seen sunning themselves in the lake through June and July.

Fanwort, another highly invasive weed, needs to be dealt with aggressively. The company is placing sonar pellets into the lake with levels kept at 11 parts per billion for 45 to 60 days, which will attack the photosynthesis of the plant. That treatment costs \$20,000, but will last three to six years.

"During the sonar treatment, we tell people not to use the lake water to irrigate their lawns, because it will kill the lawn, but it is not a problem for fish or well water," Smith said while taking a visitor for a ride around the quiet, clean lake on his pleasure boat on a recent Saturday morning.

"It is also safe for the native weeds that grow in the pond and stay in the middle, not causing any trouble," he added.

In August, copper sulfate will be used to combat algae growth.

"This is the cleanest I've seen this lake since I've lived here," said Smith, a Bowers Avenue resident of 15 years. "We are also trying to get people to switch to organic fertilizers to cut down on the phosphorus."

"I've been using it on my lawn, and so far I am happy with it," said association Vice President Bill Look.

Smith and Look are both very happy with Aquatic Control Technology's work, but would also like to see the state pony up some cash for a boat wash at the lake's boat launch.

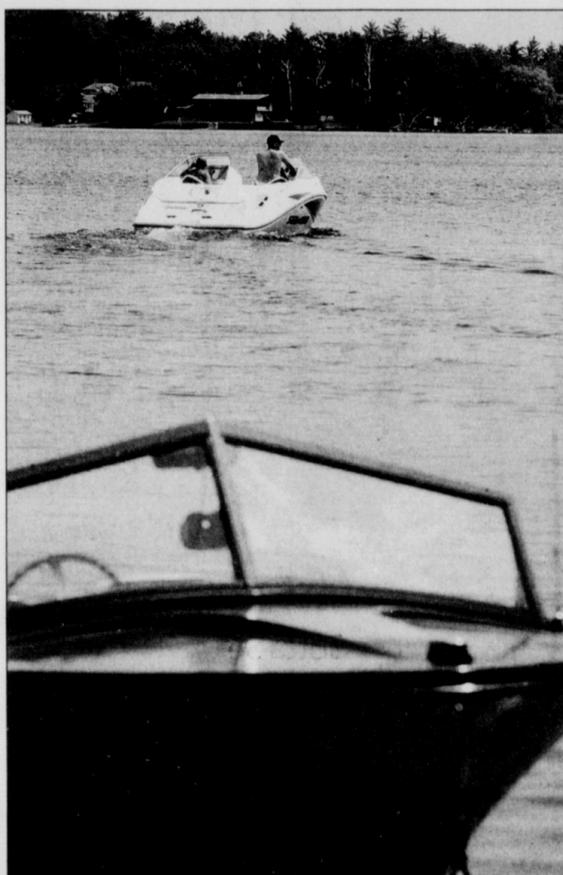
"People come from all over with their boats," said Look, who has lived on the lake for 30 years. "The next thing you know the weeds on their boats are in the lake and spreading. A lot of boat launches in Maine have washes and we should too."

In addition to slimy algae and weeds, the association has been fielding complaints about irresponsible and reckless boaters, leading to the decision to hire Tyngsboro police to patrol the waters.

"Working with the town and the police has been great," Smith said. "And the police union is kicking in some of the money for the patrols."

Although the lake may look inviting, the town beach remains closed for the third year due to budget constraints. With no lifeguard on duty, visitors are warned to "swim at your own risk."

This week last year, the lake was closed to all swimmers when high bacteria levels were discovered by the board of health. So far this year, the lake has received a



Rich Amico, of Medford, at the steering wheel, takes his friend Guy Nictra of Lowell for a cruise along Lake Mascuppic Tuesday afternoon.

SUN/BOB WHITAKER

clean bill of health.

"We continue to test the water weekly and so far the parameters have met the criteria, we have not had any elevated E. coli readings at

this point," said Health Administrator Joan Ferrari. Jennifer Amy Myers' e-mail address is jmyers@lowellsun.com.

ARREST LOG

Billerica

- **Bunton Sak**, 24, 74 Elm St., Lowell; speeding, operating a vehicle after license suspension, warrant.
- **Christopher R. Driver**, 21, 86 Billerica Ave., Billerica; operating a vehicle after license suspension.
- **Ashley O'Neil**, 17, 23 Colson St., Billerica; breaking and entering of a motor vehicle.
- **Melissa Yeo**, 18, 8 Glade St., Billerica; illegal drug possession.
- **Michelle M. Yeo**, 21, 8 Glade St., Billerica; two warrants.
- **Joshua M. Mullen**, 21, 4 Waverly Road, Billerica; assault and battery.
- **Michael S. Nadolny**, 20, 2 Oak St., Billerica; illegal drug possession.
- **Rafael Cordeiro**, 21, 10 Sunrise Ave., Billerica; attaching improper registry plates, driving an uninsured, unregistered motor vehicle, driving without a license.
- **Joshua M. Mullen**, 21, 4 Waverly Road, Billerica; malicious destruction of property (2 counts), resisting arrest.
- **Mark A. O'Brien**, 48, 14 Cynthia Road, Billerica; assault and battery.
- **John L. Jumper**, 46, 210 Arlington St., Quincy; disturbing the peace, resisting arrest.
- **Carlos M. Ramos**, 24, 678 Bridge St., Lowell; speeding.

Chelmsford

- **Steven C. Clano**, 20, 51 Stonybrook Road, Westford; warrant.
- **David Cote**, 45, 84 Barbara St., Lowell; shoplifting.
- **Whitney R. Reed**, 20, 220 Smith St., Lowell; break and entry into motor vehicle at night, larceny of property over \$250, receiving stolen property.
- **Christopher M. Overka**, 30, 6 Fairmount Ave., Nashua, NH; warrant.

Groton

- **Michael F. Champagne**, 54, 44 Fitchburg Road, Townsend; operating under the influence of alcohol, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, speeding.

Littleton

- **Nicholas Sampson**, 17, 116 University Ave., Lowell; person under 21 years old in possession of alcohol.
- **Jose Ferreira**, 48, 31 Pope St., Hudson; operating after suspension.
- **Meaghan Benton**, 20, 4 King St.; operating under the influence of alcohol, possession of marijuana - subsequent offense.
- **John Ackerman**, 40, 11 Trot Road; restraining order violation, assault and battery dangerous weapon - motor vehicle, assault and

battery on a police officer, resisting arrest.

Lowell

- **Kelly Watson**, 35, 75 Austin St. Unit 10; warrant - failure to pay fine (receiving stolen property under \$250).
- **Soknang Chham**, 23, 37 Butterfield St., disorderly conduct.
- **Viseth Keo**, 20, 40 Chapel St. 2nd Floor; public drinking.
- **Sokha Keo**, 21, 15 D St., Apt. 2; public drinking.
- **Bunrath La**, 22, 246 Stevens St.; trespassing.
- **Julio C. Gomez**, 21, 125 Alewife Brook Parkway, Somerville; warrant - failure to appear: assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.
- **Steven Tenney**, 21, 72 New Boston Road, Dracut; trespassing, breaking and entering in the day time with the intent to commit a felony, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (knife), assault (domestic), warrant - straight (threats), warrant - straight (assault and battery).
- **Joseph Rondeau**, 47, no known address; breaking and entering night, assault and battery.
- **Robert Rodriguez**, 43, 173 Liberty St.; domestic assault and battery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (shod foot).

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