



### PLAY AND GROW

Boys & Girls Club preparing for full slate of activities, Page B1

### PRIMED AND READY

Nashua Silver Knights well armed for 2022 season, Page C1

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## GOP backs parental rights bill, Sununu promises veto

By INDEPTHNH.ORG STAFF

House and Senate Republicans passed an amended version of the controversial Parental Bill of Rights legislation Thursday, which Gov. Chris Sununu quickly

vowed to veto if it passes. Democrats say the bill, House Bill 1431, is discriminatory against the LGBTQ+ community and will force schools to out LGBTQ+ students to their parents against their will.

"This bill as written creates numerous challenges for kids," Sununu said. "I share the concerns of the Attorney General and as such, will veto the bill if it reaches my desk."

Democratic gubernatorial candi-

date Sen. Dr. Tom Sherman, D-Rye, called it the New Hampshire Republicans' version of Florida's "Don't Say Gay" bill.

GOP | PAGE A3



Telegraph photo by DEAN SHALHOUP

Former state representative and Nashua Mayor Donnalee Lozeau traces highlights in Nashua's history for members, guests and honorees at Wednesday's Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce Eminence Awards Luncheon. City Community Development Director Matt Sullivan, right, spoke about Nashua's future, while Rich Lannan spoke about present-day Nashua.

# Standouts

Chamber bestows Eminence Awards upon top Nashua leaders; speakers offer insight into city's past, present and future

By DEAN SHALHOUP  
Senior Staff Writer

NASHUA – The subject of affordable housing has appeared regularly on meeting agendas and in the minutes

of several Nashua boards and commissions in the past few years, and nobody can say the issue hasn't been thoroughly dissected and discussed by city officials and residents alike.

One thing that has changed, how-

ever, is the increasing reference to the topic as "the housing crisis," and while it's not unique to Nashua, the folks both in and out of City Hall

CHAMBER | PAGE A3

## Memorial Day observances in Greater Nashua

After a pandemic-driven hiatus the past two years, most cities and towns in the region are resuming their annual Memorial Day observances.

Following is a list of communities celebrating the holiday with public activities. All take place on Monday unless otherwise noted.

### NASHUA

Memorial Day parade steps off at 10:30 a.m. from Holman Stadium, proceeds east on Amherst Street to Library Hill, turns south onto Main Street, halts at the City Hall reviewing stand, then continues south on Main Street to Lake Street, disbands at Elm Street Middle School.

### HUDSON

Memorial Day parade steps off at 2 p.m. from Hudson Mall Shopping Center, 77 Derry Road. Proceeds west on Derry Street to Library Park, halts for ceremonies,

then continues south on Library Street to Central Street, disbands at American Legion Post 48 hall.

(On Saturday starting at 8 a.m., Legion members will be placing flags at Library Park for the Flags of Honor observance).

### LITCHFIELD

Memorial Day parade assembles at 9:30 a.m. at Litchfield Middle School; steps off at 10 a.m. and proceeds to the Litchfield Historical Society.

The Memorial Day program then gets underway at the historical society. The society's Civil War room will be open to the public.

### PELHAM

Memorial Day ceremony starts at 9 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park. Parade begins at 10:30 a.m. and proceeds to Gibson Cemetery.

More information at pelhamweb.com.

MEMORIAL | PAGE A3



Nonprofit of the Year winner Greater Nashua Mental Health, represented by president and CEO Cynthia Whitaker, left, with presenter Amy Bottomly.

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## CHAMBER

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tasked with meeting the challenge head-on want the Gate City to emerge as the leader in mitigating, and eventually solving, the housing crisis.

City Community Development Director Matt Sullivan indicated as much last Wednesday, telling a roomful of Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce members, guests and Eminence Awards honorees that there are several initiatives currently in the works that take direct aim at the crisis.

Sullivan was one of three guest panelists at Wednesday's Eminence Awards luncheon at Sky Meadow Country Club, which culminated in the presentation of the coveted award to winners selected from among three finalists in each of the seven categories.

(See the accompanying list for the winners and the two other finalists).

The Greater Nashua Chamber began the annual Eminence Awards program in 2003, the winners of which were presented their awards at a luncheon held in the spring of 2004.

The theme for this year's 19th Eminence Awards luncheon, "Celebrating Nashua! Past, Present & Future," featured Sullivan, who spoke about Nashua's future; former Mayor Donnalee Lozeau, who traced Nashua's past; and The Lannan Company president Rich Lan-

nan, who focused on present-day Nashua.

Sullivan told those present that the Imagine Nashua project, which welcomed input from anyone who wished to participate, created "a wonderful road map (of) where we want to head in the future."

Standing out in bold print is what Sullivan called "the ongoing housing crisis."

"It has some components unique to Nashua, but we're seeing similar situations across the state and even New England," he said.

The results of a 2020 housing study, aimed in part at creating more diversity in housing, will figure into future plans, and officials are looking to "make a substantial investment in affordable downtown housing," Sullivan said.

As for commuter rail, despite opposition among a faction of the state legislature to expand service into Nashua and Manchester, Sullivan said Mayor Jim Donchess is "working very hard" on seeing the project through.

"It's a long-term vision and we know it's a long, uphill battle, but it will be a game-changer for Nashua ... it will be transformative," he said, if commuter rail is eventually extended into Nashua and beyond.

Lannan, who owns residential and office buildings in downtown and is deeply involved in the Performing Arts Center – now called the Nashua Center for the Arts – said that while the COVID-19 pandemic hurt the

local hospitality industry significantly, but now, "there's new stuff going on ... Nashua held its own," he said, adding that "right now, you can't find empty space in downtown Nashua."

One of downtown's more prominent buildings that has sat vacant for the past few years will soon be occupied, Lannan said. He referred to the former TD Bank building, which the Manchester-based law firm Shaheen & Gordon bought with plans to renovate into more office space.

Lannan also predicted the Nashua Center for the Arts "is going to be a huge boost" once it's completed and begins booking events.

The \$25 million project, he added, is expected to be "very close to being finished on time."

Lozeau, currently the CEO of Southern New Hampshire Services, traced Nashua's history from its 1673 founding as Dunstable to the present.

She touched upon a bit of her own family history in Nashua, recalling growing up on French Hill as a third-generation American descended from Canadian immigrants – most all of whom worked in Nashua's booming textile industry.

She also shared one of her fondest childhood memories of visiting the Nashua Public Library when it was at 6 Main St.

"I remember walking down to the library before it opened and sitting on the steps," she said, adding that her vantage point gave her a clear view of the bookshelves in the lower-

## WINNERS & FINALISTS

The winners of the 2021 Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce Eminence Awards and the two other finalists in each category follow.

- Chamber Champion of the Year: Donna Bailey, New England Career Services. The other finalists were Peter Paladino, Bishop Guertin High School, and Christa Tsechrintzis, Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity.
- Community Volunteer of the Year: Dr. Amir Toosi, Rivier University. Other finalists were Richard Lannan, The Lannan Company, and Brenda McDougald, Enterprise Bank.
- Young Professional of the Year: Cecilia Ulibarri and Manuel Ramirez, Positive Street Art. Other two finalists were Ashley Fudala, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Nashua, and Dr. Marie Elizabeth Ramas, Gatehouse Treatment.
- Business Leader of the Year: Brian Law, of Law Logistics. Other two finalists were Michael Buckley, Michael Timothy's Dining Group, and Mike Apfelberg, United Way of Greater Nashua.
- Nonprofit of the Year: Greater Nashua Mental Health Center. Other two finalists were Nashua International Sculpture Symposium and Nashua Community Music School.
- Small Business of the Year: Pearl Marketing. Other two finalists were Sky-Terra Technologies and MI-BOX Southern New Hampshire.
- Business of the Year: Lovinger Volvo. Other two finalists were Harvey Construction Corporation and Silverstone Living.

level children's room.

"I'd pick out the books I wanted to borrow, so when (the library) opened I could get them before someone else did,"

Lozeau said with a laugh.

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