

## FEDERAL FUNDING

# 'Historic investment' \$8M for local contamination cleanup projects

By Peter Currier  
pcurrier@lowellsun.com

**LOWELL** » U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan and U.S. Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey recently announced \$8 million in funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will be used for projects within Trahan's district, including a significant portion that is going to Lowell.

The \$8 million will be used for brownfield cleanup projects in communities across the 3rd Congressional District. Brownfields are pieces of land that have previously been somehow contaminated.

"I voted for the Bipartisan

Infrastructure Law to make long overdue improvements in communities large and small across the Commonwealth," said Trahan. "This federal funding will give Lowell, Lawrence, Clinton, and the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission the resources necessary to complete revitalization projects that will improve life for hardworking families, create good-paying jobs, and strengthen our local economy for years to come."

The city of Lowell will receive \$5 million from that pool to cleanup a 5.7 acre area along the VFW Highway that had been contaminated.

Lowell City Manager

Tom Golden said the cleanup of that area would allow the city to "complete the remediation of critical open space" along the Merrimack River's north bank.

"This funding is a significant step forward in transforming this section of the Centralville neighborhood into a regional destination park," said Golden. "EPA Brownfields funding will not only help to revitalize our community, but this project will serve as a model for climate resiliency, expanding and showcasing our commitment to sustainable and equitable urban development."

Another \$500,000 will be given to Lowell to assess



On Feb. 10, 2023, from left, U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm, U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan, U.S. Sens. Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren, and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll listen to a speech by Commonwealth Fusion Systems CEO Bob Mumgaard.

the sites of five former mills and manufacturing facilities in the Hamilton Canal Innovation District for the

city's JAM (Jackson/Appleton/Middlesex) Urban Renewal Plan. The Merrimack Valley

Planning Commission will receive \$1 million to support cleanup projects across

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## BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF GREATER LOWELL



COURTESY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF GREATER LOWELL

From left, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell Executive Director Joe Hungler (back row), club teens Nana Donkor and Alix Huynh, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, club alum and UMass Lowell student Kemigisa Adyeri, club alum and Curry College graduate Yvonne Welsh, and Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell Deputy Executive Director Juan Carlos Rivera during Driscoll's May 17, 2024 visit to the club amid its Believe & Become Campaign.

# Driscoll visits amid club's expansion campaign

### Submitted article

**LOWELL** » Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll toured the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell May 17, viewing the club's ongoing renovation construction and hearing from impassioned community members about the importance of the club's vision to end generational poverty through its ambitious Believe & Become campaign.

During a roundtable discussion with more than 70 community leaders and dozens of club staff and supporters, Executive Director Joe Hungler and several community leaders, including UMass Lowell

Chancellor Julie Chen, Theodore Edson Parker Foundation board member Sophy Theam, and Lowell City Manager Tom Golden, spoke passionately about the club's ongoing renovation as a sound investment not only in the city's youth, but also in the community. The discussion was held in the spacious new café and multipurpose community room in a space previously holding the club's unused swimming pool.

The club's \$23.5 million Believe & Become Campaign aims to nearly double the number of youth served and transform the neighborhood by renovating the current outdated

buildings with a state-of-the-art facility.

Driscoll toured the club's new food truck, which will address food insecurity, the expanded kitchen that will be able to serve 450 members a day, and the foundation of the new Teen Center addition and classrooms, which will allow the club to serve more than double the number of teens.

"There are so many good things happening here at the Boys & Girls Club and in Lowell, the way you're driving the economy, providing educational opportunities, and supporting the next generation," Driscoll said. "Our administration believes in the power of cit-

ies. And great cities don't happen by accident. It takes intentionality, it takes commitment, and it takes people who care about the community who are all aligned towards a shared vision. And right now, I don't think anyone is doing that better than Lowell."

John Schwab, chair of the Board of Trustees, informed the audience that the Believe & Become campaign is at a critical point, with the need to raise \$4 million by July 31 to secure \$1.5 million in matching funds and keep construction on target. To date, the campaign has raised \$13 million of the \$23.5 million

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## The Five Minute Read

### Temporary lane shifts on I-495

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announced it will implement daily lane and/or shoulder closures along portions of Interstate 495 northbound, between the Route 3A overpass and Route 38 interchange in Chelmsford and Lowell.

The lane closures are scheduled to start Sunday, June 2, through Friday, June 7, between the hours of 8 p.m. to 5 a.m., to allow crews to conduct sidewalk improvement work safely and effectively.

The work will primar-

ily consist of maintenance pavement resurfacing (excluding bridges), utility and drainage structure adjustments and pavement marking improvements. Drivers who are traveling through the impacted areas should expect delays, reduce speed and use caution. All work is weather dependent and subject to cancellation or modification.

For more information, go to [mass511.com](http://mass511.com).

### League of Women Voters meeting

**WESTFORD** » Learn about the League of Women Voters

of Westford during the organization's annual meeting on Wednesday, June 5, at 7 p.m., at the Westford Museum, 2 Boston Road. League members will review the group's accomplishments over the past year, choose the leadership team and decide on activities for the coming year. The meeting is an opportunity for its members to influence the community issues the LWV of Westford will focus on and to learn more about the organization.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, issues-oriented organization — open to all — that en-

courages informed and active participation in government. The League does not support or oppose any candidate or political party. For more information about the organization, visit [lwv.westford.org](http://lwv.westford.org).

### Community market

**TEWKSURY** » The Tewksbury Community Market starts its 11th year on Thursday, June 6, from 4 to 7 p.m., in the parking lot behind the Recreation Center at 288 Livingston St. The market runs every Thursday until the end of September.

Opening day features 30 BRIEFS » PAGE 4

## CRIME

# Police: Warrant suspect had stash of guns, ammo

Lowell man, 20, was sought for armed robbery, larceny charges

By Aaron Curtis  
acurtis@lowellsun.com

**LOWELL** » A foot chase downtown on Tuesday between police and a warrant suspect ended with the arrest of the suspect — a 20-year-old Lowell man — and the seizure of a stash of firearms and ammunition.

Henry Garcia, wanted by police on warrants for charges including armed robbery and larceny, allegedly abandoned a sawed-off shotgun, an AR-style rifle, and a .45-caliber handgun during the pursuit, according to Lowell Police reports.

The incident began on Tuesday afternoon, when police went to an apartment at 338 Market St. in an attempt to track down Garcia. While police were at the door, a detective spotted Garcia lower himself from a second-floor balcony onto a sidewalk along Worthen Street. In the process, Garcia was allegedly seen dropping a "black bag with yellow sunflowers." According to police, Garcia "tried to pick that bag up but failed to do so," and then took off on foot.

During the ensuing chase with police that saw Garcia flee down Market Street, toward Dutton Street, Garcia "dropped a firearm from his waistband," police said.

Garcia was eventually wrangled in and surrendered.

Inside the black bag, police said they found a 12-gauge shotgun, and five shotgun shells. The shotgun's barrel was approximately 14 inches long, meaning it qualified as a sawed-off shotgun, according to the police report.

Additionally inside the bag was a 5.56mm high-capacity AR-style rifle that police said appeared to be a "ghost gun" due to its lack of serial number, making it untraceable. There was also a high-capacity feeding device in the bag that contained 12 rounds of ammunition. Police said the feeding device had the capacity to hold "at least 30 rounds."

The .45-caliber handgun Garcia allegedly dropped on the sidewalk during the chase held seven rounds in its magazine.

Garcia was arraigned on Wednesday in Lowell District Court on three counts of carrying a firearm without a license, carrying a loaded firearm without a license, two counts of possession of ammunition without a firearm identification card, possession of

a sawed-off shotgun, possession of large capacity firearm, and possession of large capacity feeding device.

Judge William Travaun Bailey ordered Garcia be held without bail pending a 58A dangerousness hearing scheduled to take place on Monday. The hearing will be used to determine if Garcia poses a threat to the public, and if so, if he should remain behind bars as his case progresses in court.

Garcia's attorney, Jeanine Mercure, declined to comment about the case.

Police said Garcia's warrants included one that came about after he allegedly stole approximately \$2,400 worth of merchandise from Target in Lowell, where he was employed at the time.

In November, Target staff contacted police about an internal investigation involving Garcia. Police said surveillance footage at the store allegedly captured Garcia removing merchandise protection, concealing and stealing items including Apple AirPods, an iPad Mini, and cologne.

In another incident, police said Garcia was spotted on surveillance removing two sets of Apple AirPods and two iPad Minis from the stockroom. He then allegedly "concealed them in his cart and brought them into the fitting room." Police said when Garcia exits the fitting room, the four items are no longer on the cart. About a minute later, two males enter the fitting room, and exit a minute later. A minute after that, one of those two males re-enters the fitting room and exits 15 seconds later.

During this time, police said Garcia is observed in "the women's fashion section actively looking at the fitting rooms while the two males are inside."

Garcia was charged with larceny over \$1,200, and subsequently fired from Target. He had been working there for a little more than a month at the time of his termination, police said.

Another warrant filed for Garcia was for the charges of armed and masked robbery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, larceny over \$1,200, vandalizing property, and kidnapping. The details of this case were not immediately available.

Follow Aaron Curtis on X, formerly known as Twitter, @aselahcurtis



ISRAEL-HAMAS

# Biden details hostage deal aimed at winding down war

By Aamer Madhani, Chris Mezerian and Darlene Superville  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Friday detailed a three-phase deal proposed by Israel to Hamas militants that he says would lead to the release of the remaining hostages in Gaza and could end the grinding, nearly 8-month-old Mideast war.

Biden added that Hamas is "no longer capable" of carrying out another large-scale attack on Israel as he urged Israelis and Hamas to come to a deal to release the remaining hostages for an extended cease-fire.

The Democratic president in remarks from the White House called the proposal "a road map to an enduring cease-fire and the release of all hostages."

Biden said the first phase of the proposed deal would last for six weeks and would include a "full and complete cease-fire," a withdrawal of Israeli forces

from all densely populated areas of Gaza and the release of a number of hostages, including women, the elderly and the wounded, in exchange for the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

American hostages would be released at this stage, and remains of hostages who have been killed would be returned to their families. Humanitarian assistance would surge during the first phase, with 600 trucks being allowed into Gaza each day.

The second phase would include the release of all remaining living hostages, including male soldiers, and Israeli forces would withdraw from Gaza.

"And as long as Hamas lives up to its commitments, the temporary cease-fire would become, in the words of the Israeli proposal, 'the cessation of hostilities permanently,'" Biden said.

The third phase calls for the start of a major reconstruction of Gaza, which faces decades of rebuilding

from devastation caused by the war. The 4-1/2 page Israeli proposal was transmitted to Hamas on Thursday.

Meanwhile, congressional leaders on Friday invited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to deliver an address at the U.S. Capitol. The invitation from House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Republican, and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a Democrat, has been in the works for some time though there is great concern, especially among the Democrats, about Israel's pursuit of the war.

No date for the speech was set.

Biden acknowledged that keeping the Israeli proposal on track would be difficult, saying there were a number of "details to negotiate" to move from the first phase to the second.

One roadblock to overcome during the first phase would involve the two sides agreeing on the ratio of hostages to prisoners to be released during the next

phase, according to a senior Biden administration official who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity.

Biden's remarks came as the Israeli military confirmed that its forces are now operating in central parts of Rafah in its expanding offensive in the southern Gaza city. Biden called it "a truly a decisive moment." He added that Hamas said it wants a cease-fire and that an Israeli-phased deal is an opportunity to prove "whether they really mean it."

But even as Biden pressed for the "war to end and for the day after to begin," Israeli officials have made clear they remain committed to a military defeat of Hamas.

The Democrat is in the midst of a tough reelection battle and has faced backlash from some on the political left who want to see him put greater pressure on Netanyahu's government to end the war.

Netanyahu's office in a

statement following Biden's speech said that he authorized Israel's hostage negotiating team to find a way to release the remaining hostages.

But the Israelis maintain "the war will not end until all of its goals are achieved, including the return of all our abductees and the elimination of Hamas' military and governmental capabilities." The prime minister's office also called for the "exact outline" proposed by Israel to be followed.

Matt Duss, executive vice president for the Center for International Policy in Washington, said the Netanyahu reaction suggested the "possibility of daylight between a proposal Israel would accept and what President Biden outlined."

Hamas said in a statement it viewed the proposal presented by Biden "positively" and called on the Israelis to declare explicit commitment to an agreement that includes a permanent ceasefire, a complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, a prisoner exchange and other conditions.

Israel has faced growing international criticism for its strategy of systematic destruction in Gaza, at a huge cost in civilian lives. Israeli bombardments and ground offensives in the besieged territory have killed more than 36,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians.

Biden also addressed those in Israel who resist ending the war. Some members of Netanyahu's far-right coalition have opposed any deal that falls short of eradicating Hamas and they have called for an enduring occupation of Gaza.

"They want to keep fighting for years, and the hostages are not a priority to them," Biden said. "I've urged leadership of Israel to stand behind this deal."



Dozens of community leaders came together May 17, 2024 to support the Boys & Girls Club Believe & Become project during a visit by Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll.

## Believe

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budget, which increased by more than \$5 million due to rising costs from the pandemic and inflation.

"It is a big challenge, no doubt, but we are confident that our community and supporters will recognize that Believe & Become is about far more than a building and far more than the Boys & Girls Club," Schwab said. "The impact of this initiative will have an immeasurable impact on our community's education, health, and economic vitality over the next 100 years or more as we work together to change the future of a generation and seek to end generational poverty."

Several current and former Club teens spoke to Driscoll on the importance of their Boys & Girls Club in their own lives and in the community. Former club member and Youth of the Year Yvonne Welsh shared her gratitude for the Boys & Girls Club and the importance of giving members a new, renovated space.

"I am so excited about the new space at the Boys & Girls Club because it opens up so much more opportunity for youth in Lowell to grow and learn and develop," said Welsh, who is graduating from Curry College as a commencement speaker, and is heading to Boston College to study for her master's degree.

The Believe & Become project is transforming an aging facility and crumbling infrastructure into a modern learning center with sustainable and flexible program spaces. In addition to the café, highlights include an entirely new teen center that will accommodate programs for 250 teens



From left, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell Executive Director Joe Hungler, Lowell City Manager Tom Golden, UMass Lowell Chancellor Julie Chen and Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell alum and UMass Lowell biomedical engineering student Kemigisa Adyeri during Driscoll's May 17, 2024 visit to the club.

each day, more than double the current capacity of 100. The expansion emphasizes the pathway and workforce development programs designed to support youth to graduate from high school and develop a plan for their future.

Hungler thanked Driscoll and the dozens of community leaders for taking time from their busy schedules to visit the club and hear the update on the Believe & Become campaign.

"A project of this magnitude takes commitment and support from every aspect

of our community — from education and economic development to philanthropic and public safety. We are so incredibly grateful for the outpouring of support for this effort to give our kids and teens the facility and programs they deserve," Hungler said. "We need a strong push to take this campaign to the finish line, and I'm confident we will get there. I cannot tell you how much it means to these kids and teens to know their community values them and believes in them."

critical resources for rehabilitating key properties across the Merrimack Valley. We are grateful for the continued support of the EPA and our Federal legislative delegation in recognizing the importance of this funding in unlocking housing, community, and economic development opportunities across the cities and towns in our region."

Other funding includes \$1 million to clean up four sites in Lawrence, as well as \$500,000 to clean up the Rockbestos-Surprenant Cable Corp. facility in Clinton.

Warren called the funding from the infrastructure bill "a great win" for the environment.

"I'm over the moon that we'll be able to invest in our

## ECONOMY

# Key inflation gauge rises at slower pace

By Christopher Rugaber  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A price gauge closely tracked by the Federal Reserve cooled slightly last month, a sign that inflation may be easing after running high in the first three months of this year.

Friday's report from the Commerce Department showed that an index that excludes volatile food and energy costs rose 0.2% from March to April, down from 0.3% in the previous month. It was the mildest such increase so far this year.

Measured from 12 months earlier, such so-called "core" prices climbed 2.8% in April, the same as in March. Overall inflation increased 0.3% from March to April, the same as in the previous month, and 2.7% from a year earlier, also unchanged from March's figure.

The latest figures could provide some tentative reassurance for Fed officials, who aggressively raised interest rates to fight inflation, that price pressures are easing. Chair Jerome Powell has said he expects inflation, after picking up in the first three months of 2024, to resume cooling in the coming months. Powell has cautioned, though, that the central bank needs "greater confidence" that inflation is sustainably slowing before it would consider cutting rates.

"April is a first step in the right direction, but much work remains," said Stephen Stanley, chief U.S. economist at Santander, an investment bank.

The Fed tends to favor the inflation gauge that the government issued Friday — the personal consumption expenditures price index — over the better-known consumer price index. The PCE index tries to account for changes in how people shop when inflation jumps. It can cap-

ture, for example, when consumers switch from pricier national brands to cheaper store brands.

Inflation fell sharply in the second half of last year before sticking well above the Fed's 2% target in the first few months of 2024. With polls showing that costlier rents, groceries and gasoline are angering voters as the presidential campaign intensifies, Donald Trump and his Republican allies have sought to heap the blame on President Joe Biden.

Friday's report also showed that income growth slowed and spending cooled sharply in April, a trend that could help moderate economic growth and inflation in the coming months and potentially please the Fed.

Adjusted for inflation, after-tax incomes fell 0.1% in April, the second such drop this year. Consumer spending also declined 0.1% when adjusted for inflation, a sign that economic growth may remain modest in the current April-June quarter. The Fed will likely see such data as evidence that the economy is cooling in a way that could restrain inflation later this year.

Many Americans, particularly lower-income workers, have been pulling back on spending as they struggle to keep up with rising expenses, leading some businesses to rein in prices. In recent weeks, chains including McDonald's, Target and Walmart have announced price reductions or temporary discount deals.

Grocery prices eased last month, according to Friday's report, though they're still up significantly from before the pandemic. The prices of long-lasting goods also dropped, led by less expensive new and used cars, furniture and appliances. The cost of used cars has declined nearly 5% over the past year.

## Funding

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the Merrimack Valley.

"MVPC is thrilled to receive funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Program," said MVPC Executive Director Jerrard Whitten. "This funding provides

## Briefs

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vendors will be on hand offering farm-fresh vegetables, fresh-baked desserts, cold-pressed juice as well as other food choices such as mac and cheese, seafood and barbecue. Or browse the creations made

by local artisans and crafters. Food trucks serving meat pies, churros and empanadas will also be on site. The market has more than 70 vendors and its lineup changes from week to week.

Most vendors accept both cash and credit. For information, visit [tekwburymarket.com](http://tekwburymarket.com) or call 978-640-4490 ext. 205.

Program for reducing child abuse

LOWELL — The Mahoney Family Fund presents "Signs, Symptoms & Solutions of Child Abuse and Domestic Violence," on Friday, June 7, from 8 to 10 a.m., at the Long Meadow Golf Club, 165 Havelah St. The complimentary breakfast begins

at 8 a.m., and the program at 8:30 a.m. The educational event highlights evidence-based research to bring awareness and find solutions to prevent domestic violence and child abuse.

The panel includes state Rep. Tram Nguyen, Stacie LeBlanc, co-founder of The Up Institute, and Detective Mi-

unlock vital funding to free our towns and cities from dangerous pollution and toxic contamination," said Markey. "This historic investment will bring cleaner water, land, and air to communities across the Commonwealth and deliver a more livable future with green spaces to work, live, and play."

guel Quinones, in the Lowell Police Department's Family Services Unit.

The event is free, but registration is required for planning purposes. To register, visit [bit.ly/4d-VCBKe](http://bit.ly/4d-VCBKe). For information, call 972-672-7152 or email [maureen@mahoneyfamilyfund.com](mailto:maureen@mahoneyfamilyfund.com).

**In Loving Memory**  
**Raymond D. Lamy**  
1955 - June 4 - 2022

Your gentle face and patient smile  
Will forever be recalled.  
You had a kindly word for each,  
And died beloved by all.  
The voice is gone and still the heart,  
That loved us well and true,  
Bitter was the trial to part!  
From one so good as you,  
You are not forgotten, Mom,  
Nor will you ever be.  
As long as life and memory last,  
We will remember thee.  
We miss you now, our hearts are sore  
As time goes by we miss you more,  
Your loving smile, your gentle face,  
No one can fill your vacant place.  
Lovingly remembered &  
Safely released,  
By your Wife & Family

A Mass will be  
Celebrated in Memory  
at St. Michael's Church  
Sunday, June 2, 2024 at 11:00 AM