

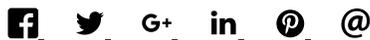
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Service clubs enhance Harbor Place project

By Mike LaBella mlabella@eagletribune.com Oct 27, 2017



COURTESY PHOTO Community members along with members of the Haverhill Exchange Club stand in front of an American flag and flagpole that was installed at Harbor Place.



HAVERHILL — Three Haverhill service clubs enhanced the new Harbor Place project by installing an American flag and flagpole, creating a flower garden and installing bronze plaques recognizing five distinguished citizens.

Last week, the Haverhill Exchange, Kiwanis, and Rotary clubs unveiled their contributions to Harbor Place, a transformative project that is a partnership of the Greater Haverhill Foundation and the Planning Office for Urban Affairs, which hosted the dedication.

Mayor James Fiorentini presented each club with citations on behalf of the city.

The Exchange Club donated an American flag and flagpole in partnership with Pentucket Bank and 20 donors. Community member Salvatore DeFranco, a former Navy Seal who operates Battle Grounds Coffee Company on Washington Street, raised the flag for the first time at the dedication ceremony.

DeFranco was accompanied by the Haverhill High School chorus, which sang our National Anthem.

The flag is located along Merrimack Street at the western end of the Harbor Place commercial building, where the next phase of Harbor Place will be developed, according to Exchange officials.

The Kiwanis Club contributed a flowerbed that members will update with seasonal flowers throughout the year. The flowerbed is on the Basiliere Bridge side of Harbor Place.

Also during the dedication, members of the Rotary Club unveiled bronze plaques honoring five distinguished citizens, whose personal achievements contributed to community, country and the world at large: Frank Howard Lahey, 1880-1953; Hannah Dustin, 1657-1732; John Greenleaf Whittier, 1807-1892; William H. Moody, 1853-1917, and Bob Montana, 1920-1975. All five honorees are members of the Haverhill Citizens Hall of Fame:

Their plaques were mounted to a concrete wall inside the Harbor Place plaza, near a water fountain that resembles a buoy.

"The Exchange Club of Haverhill is very excited to be a part of Haverhill history, particularly by installing a permanent flagpole to proudly display the American flag at Harbor Place, something that is so near to our mission," said Jen Cantwell, president of the Exchange Club of Haverhill. "We commend everything the Harbor Place team has done, not only in making our local service clubs a permanent part of Harbor Place, but for all they have accomplished in creating a better Haverhill for the entire community.

"Harbor Place is a wonderful tribute to what Haverhill is becoming," Cantwell added. "The Exchange Club is honored to have a part in that."

Bryan Chase, president of the Haverhill Kiwanis Club said his club was thrilled to be part of the magnificent Harbor Place project.

"This development stands as a proud symbol of our community and we are proud to spread the Kiwanis mission of working on behalf of all children," Chase said. "The Kiwanis Club is honored to maintain a portion of Harbor Place's green-space and hope that this city will look to it as a sign of our commitment to Haverhill and its young people."

Rotary Club President Melissa Cerasuolo said the Harbor Place project marks an important chapter in Haverhill's history and the Haverhill Rotary Club was pleased to celebrate this occasion with five bronze plaques commemorating several outstanding citizens whose achievements underscore so many generations of progress.

"In the years ahead, we expect to add more plaques to the Plaza as part of Haverhill Rotary's commitment to preserving and celebrating our city's rich history and to inspire future generations toward Rotary International's motto of Service Above Self," she said.

The official dedication of the Harbor Place residential building and the Brian S. Dempsey Boardwalk is scheduled for Oct. 30 at 12:30 p.m. Featured guests include Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, archbishop of Boston, and Jay Ash, secretary of housing and development.

Harbor Place is one of the largest projects launched in the Merrimack Valley in decades and is a transformative investment for Haverhill. Haverhill is on the move as a Gateway City taking full advantage of its distinctive assets, including educational and cultural institutions, and, historic buildings for economic growth.

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