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Riverside Village celebrates Night Out

GOOD DEEDS

LEOMINSTER — Residents of the Riverside Village Apartments celebrated National Night Out — America's Night Out Against Crime on Aug. 6.

Joining the fun were Leominster Mayor Dean J. Mazzarella, Worcester County Sheriff Lewis G. Evangelidis, members of Fire Department, law enforcement and community agencies, along with a host of local businesses.

Owned by Retirement Housing Foundation, a national faith-based nonprofit headquartered in Long Beach, Calif., and managed by The Schochet Companies of Boston, Riverside Village has 312 apartments in 26 buildings spread over nearly 30 acres abutting the Nashua River. The development was the winner of the New England Affordable Housing Management Association's 2012 Communities of Quality Award for Exemplary Family Developments.

Held throughout the United States and Canada, National Night Out is coordinated by the National Association of Town Watch and was designed to increase awareness about various anti-crime initiatives in the community. The goal of the local event was to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

The event included entertainment, free food, giveaways, games and community booths. The Spanish American Center donated food and provided a DJ.

Students picked for shopping spree

WORCESTER — The Salvation Army and Target department store recently treated 19 Worcester students to a back-to-school shopping spree.

Each student received an \$81 Target gift card to purchase back-to-school supplies. The shopping spree took place at the Target department store at 529 Lincoln St.

The K-12 students were selected by the Salvation Army based on their family's needs. Each child was paired with a volunteer chaperone for the day.

Since 2009, Target has sponsored Target School Sprees to help prepare children for the first day of school. Under the program, Target has given \$1 million to the Salvation Army nationwide to cover the cost of the gift cards and transportation. Nearly 500 Target stores participated in the program this year.

Staples holds annual school supply drive

WORCESTER — Staples Inc. is winding up its sixth annual Students National School Supply Drive.

The company collected school supplies at local Staples stores during the last week. The supplies were given to students

at the Boys & Girls Club of America in Worcester. Staples customers can donate money to the program at local stores through Sept. 28.

The local stores involved in the drive are at 541B Lincoln St., 436 Southbridge St. (Route 12) and 120 Charlton Road, all in Worcester; 60 Pearson Blvd. in Gardner; 510 North Main St. in Leominster; 220 Fortune Blvd. in Milford; 70 Worcester Providence Turnpike in Millbury; and 18 Lyman St. in Newton.

The company kicked off the drive with a \$125,000 donation in July. All of the proceeds benefit members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Since 2008, the campaign has raised nearly \$3 million for hundreds of thousands of students in need throughout the country.

Bank helps Habitat for Humanity

WORCESTER — Bay State Savings Bank recently sponsored two building days for Habitat for Humanity, and sent two crews of employee volunteers to a work site on Plantation Street in Worcester. Despite the heat, the crews accomplished a lot.

"Most of the employees who volunteered have more banking experience than building experience," said Diane Giampa, senior vice president for human resources and marketing for Bay State Savings Bank, "but they are quick studies, and they take great pride in doing meaningful work like this, which will directly impact the lives of people in our community. Bay State Savings Bank is very pleased to serve as a sponsor and participant in such a worthwhile community project."

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