

# The Daily Item

## WEEKEND EDITION

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## Central Square to kick-off 'Third Thursdays' celebrations

By **David Liscio**

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**L**YNN -- In an effort to maintain the energy level in burgeoning Central Square, the Lynn Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring art shows, musical performances and other activities on the third Thursday of each month.

Hence, the name Third Thursdays, and the inaugural event is set for tomorrow, from 5- 8 p.m., when local officials will preside over two ribbon-cuttings for new businesses - Big Scoops Ice Cream Shop, next door to the newly opened Central Square Barber Shop, and Interbook, a book store adjacent to the fledgling Gulu Gulu Café. The ribbon cuttings are scheduled for 5 p.m. and 5:15 p.m., respectively.

Additional activities slated to run throughout the three-hour event include performances by the Crystal Pan Jammers steel band; an exhibit entitled "Beneath the Surface" and a film screening at the Raw Art Works studio in Central Square, with the film showing at 6:30 p.m.; the opening of an exhibit at LynnArts, titled "Three Artists, Three Voices"; another exhibit opening at the Gulu Gulu Café, from 6-8 p.m., featuring the work of Cambridge artist Bren Bataclan; an exhibit at the Lynn Museum & Historical Society, called "Bulldogs & Rams:A Century of Rivalry in Lynn"; and a performance by the Lynn English High School ROTC Drill Team, from 6-6:30 p.m.

"Central Square in downtown Lynn is growing with new residential and commercial development. It's also the center of the city's expanding arts and cultural district," said Lynn Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kevin Donahue, adding that Third Thursdays aims to celebrate the recent successes in Central Square and the downtown business district.

Central Square and several streets that radiate from the core have been invigorated during the past year with millions of dollars invested in the conversion of former industrial buildings into condominiums. As a result, new stores, services and restaurants have begun filling the long-vacant storefronts.

"We want to keep the momentum going," Donahue said.

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