Construction of the Lake Stevens Boys & Girls Club Teen Center is underway! Chris Pratt, a graduate of Lake Stevens high school, attended the ground breaking ceremony on December 20th and shared his childhood experiences and optimism for the Teen Center.

“I hope [the Teen Center] provides a welcoming place for kids to explore their creativity and gives teens a safe space to spend time after school,” said Pratt.

Led by the Club’s hardworking steering committee, more than $850,000 was raised for the Teen Center by local community members and through Pratt’s efforts as he partnered with OMAZE (an online charity auction company). The Teen Center will be named after Pratt’s late father and longtime Lake Stevens resident, Dan Pratt.

“The Dan Pratt Memorial Teen Center will create a fun, unique space that will capture the imagination and interests of the Lake Stevens teens,” said Bill Tsoukalas, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Snohomish County.

The current Club stands on the site of the old Lake Stevens community center and was renovated in 2004 to meet the community’s growing needs. Today more than 500 teens and over 2,100 members attend the Club. This exponential growth has resulted in the expansion of overall Club programs and our teens needing a dedicated space for their activities. The new Teen Center will be equipped with computers, game room equipment, snack bar, digital juke box, video game stations and a movie room.

Construction on the Teen Center began in January 2017 and is scheduled to be completed in Spring 2017.
COASTAL COMMUNITY BANK SPONSORS YOUTH OF THE YEAR AWARD CEREMONY

Kate Neumeister, 16, has been a member of the Alderwood Boys & Girls Club for 12 years. She is a junior at Kamiak High School where she is involved with sports medicine and pre-med club. She is a summer camp counselor in training and volunteers much of her free time at the Club, participating in Keystone and Teen Council. Last year, Kate completed more than 200 volunteer hours.

The Youth of the Year program begins at the club level as each BGSC Club selects their Youth of the Quarter. A finalist from each Club qualifies to become the BGSC Youth of the Year. As Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s premier youth recognition program, Youth of the Year recognizes outstanding contributions to a member’s family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club, as well as overcoming personal challenges and obstacles. Youth of the Year honorees are examples of the impact the Boys & Girls Club has in the lives of young people.

Kate was awarded $2,000 in scholarships to be used toward her continued education. She will go on to compete at the Washington State level against Youths of the Year from Boys & Girls Clubs across the state.

We are proud of all our Youths of the Year for their hard-work and service to their communities. Thank you to our partner, Coastal Community Bank, for sponsoring the Youth of the Year Celebration.

“The Boys & Girls Club has helped shape me into the person I am today. The Club helped me become more confident and a leader in various aspects of my life. The Club has helped me discover that I enjoy helping and serving others, leading to my goal of becoming a nurse practitioner.”

ARLINGTON STILLY2000 PROJECT UPDATE

The Arlington Stilly2000 expansion is nearly complete. It will add a second gymnasium and a teen center onto the Arlington Boys & Girls Club. Strong support from businesses, community organizations and local residents have helped bring this project into the home stretch. For a $250 donation, supporters can have a name displayed on the donor wall as a show of their commitment to the project and the community.

More than 2,200 Club members and almost 500 teens will benefit from the additional space. The project is expected to be completed by May 2017. For more information about how you can contribute, visit BGCSC.ORG/STILLY2000.

THE EMPLOYEE COMMUNITY FUND OF BOEING PUGET SOUND AWARDS $46,000 GRANT TO GRANITE FALLS

In 2016, the Granite Falls Boys & Girls Club moved into a new facility that includes a games room, gymnasium, large multi-purpose room, kitchen, and computer lab. The Employee Community Fund awarded the Club a generous $46,000 grant to fund technology updates for the new facility. Improvements include 20 new computers with cutting edge software, a state of the art flight simulator, and much-needed equipment for the Club’s FIRST Robotics team.

Almost half of the Club’s members are involved in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities. The computer lab updates will increase the Club’s capacity to offer even more STEM programs.

David Green, a Boeing employee and Club volunteer, is excited for what the updates will bring to the Club and the Robotics program specifically.

“The upgrades included brand-new equipment for our FIRST Robotics program. I’ve been coaching robotics at the Club since it opened its doors,” Green said.

As a result of the grant, Club members will receive an additional 4 hours of educational computer programs each week, 5 hours to complete coursework and 5 hours of unstructured, but supervised computer exploration. This will assist in decreasing the “technology gap” between children of means and those less fortunate by providing equal access to computer literacy skills necessary for the 21st Century Workforce.

Teens make up 37 percent of the Club’s population and the Club wants to meet the needs of older youth and reduce rural isolation from technology. With the grant, the Club was able to add a dedicated teen space with a Flight Simulator with a custom cockpit and flight controls where teens can use Space & Flight Exploration software.

“I use the flight simulator to explore different places in the world. I like to challenge myself to land the airplanes without crashing,” said Alexis, a Granite Falls Club member.

An annual Club membership is $30, but the true cost of caring for each youth is $500 a year.

Our Campaign for Kids invites the community to help bridge this gap in funding and make an impact in the life of a child. With your support, we can continue to provide a safe place for kids to belong and grow.

Make Your Gift Today: bgcsc.org/get-involved/donate
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March
11 - Monroe Dodgeball Tournament
11 - InspireHER Law & Justice Day
25 - Oak Harbor Annual Auction

April
22 - North Kitsap Gala Auction

May
6 - Arlington Auction
6 - Monroe Mom & Son Carnival
6 - Snohomish Wine Auction
20 - Tulalip Auction
22 - Brewster Golf Tournament
23 - Warm Spring Gala

June
3 - Mukilteo Golf Tournament
3 - Monroe Daddy Daughter Dance
3 - InspireHER S.T.E.A.M Workshop

September
16 - Lake Stevens Golf Tournament
22 - Coupeville Barn Dance & Chili Cook Off
30 - Mukilteo Luau & Auction

October
7 - BGCSC Grand Gala Auction
17 - Snohomish Breakfast of Champions
28 - North Kitsap Mystery Dinner

November
23 - Everett Thanksgiving Dinner

“The one place I felt wanted and appreciated was my local Boys & Girls Club.”
Monroe Club Member

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For updates on events and Clubs, visit us at www.bgcsc.org