

Gary Morelli named as permanent CEO of YMCA

Posted: Friday, November 20, 2015 11:00 am

The Merrimack Valley YMCA announced that Gary Morelli was chosen to lead the Merrimack Valley YMCA as president and CEO on a permanent basis.

Morelli had been serving as CEO during a transition period that started after the departure of Stephen Ives, who left in May to head a YMCA in Ohio.

A Transition Committee headed by John Fouhy, Board of Directors chairman, also included representatives from the Executive Committee, Trustees, and Branch Boards who have worked with Morelli for the past five months to evaluate his performance.

During the transition period, Frank Kenneally was asked to step up to replace Morelli who had been serving as COO.

A month earlier than originally planned, the transition committee unanimously endorsed and recommended for the Board of Directors' approval that Morelli be appointed permanent CEO. The decision not to conduct an open executive search is reflective of the confidence that the board has in Morelli and the entire leadership team, according to a press release from the YMCA.

“By its vote, the Board has demonstrated its confidence that Gary is the right leader for our Y and has the capability, passion and commitment to insure our many programs and services have a positive impact on individuals, children and families in the Merrimack Valley,” said John Fouhy, chairman of the Corporate Board.

Morelli, with a degree in Recreation Administration, began his non-profit career serving the Boys & Girls Club of Nashua, N.H. He served the association for a total of 19 years, with the last 12 of those as the executive director in Salem, N.H.

He joined the Merrimack Valley YMCA in 1997 as the executive director of the Andover/North Andover YMCA branch. He became vice president of the Merrimack Valley YMCA in 2001, and in



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From left, John Fouhy, Corporate Board Chairman of the Merrimack Valley YMCA, Gary Morelli, president and CEO of the Merrimack Valley YMCA, and Mike Mancuso, Board of Trustees Chairman of the Merrimack Valley YMCA. Morelli was chosen as permanent CEO and president after a five-month transition period.

2010 was appointed Chief Operating Officer.

“I am pleased to be serving as the CEO of the Merrimack Valley YMCA,” he said. “It is an exceptional organization. I have deep connections here and share a passion along with our staff for those we serve.”

Front and center as one of the major initiatives of Morelli will be to see through the completion of the Andover/North Andover \$22 million expansion project. The expansion will double the existing facility space, meeting both the current and the anticipated future needs of the community.

“I believe the YMCA is particularly relevant today and will in the future remain integral to our communities because one of the great strengths of our organization is the quality and consistency of our services and programs we offer,” he said.

The new Wellness Center will open in December 2015 and the grand opening of the entire Facility is slated for March 2016. Another major project Morelli is leading includes the expansion of the Lawrence YMCA branch. The groundbreaking of the new construction in Lawrence will be announced early 2016.

Morelli will be the permanent CEO at the Merrimack Valley YMCA, headquartered in Lawrence and consisting of the Andover/North Andover YMCA, the Lawrence YMCA, the Methuen YMCA and Camping Services.

He will oversee an association consisting of over 650 staff which delivers annually over \$3.9 million of subsidized services to deserving children, adults and families of the Merrimack Valley.

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