



Diciembre/December 15, 2016

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The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

Para una mejor ciudad / How  
to make a better city

Pg. 17

(MA) Lawrence, Methuen, Haverhill, Andover, North Andover, Lowell

(NH) Salem, Nashua, Manchester

## Maldonado anunció su candidatura a la alcaldía



El Concejal at-Large Modesto Maldonado anunció que es un candidato para alcalde en las próximas elecciones a celebrarse el año que viene. Maldonado hizo el anuncio en el Heritage State Park, el pasado jueves, 8 de diciembre en una reunión con cerca de 80 personas. Más detalles sobre su discurso la semana próxima.

### Maldonado announced his candidacy

Councilor at-Large Modesto Maldonado announced that he is a candidate for mayor in the upcoming election next year. Maldonado made the announcement at Heritage State Park last Thursday, December 8th at a gathering of about 80 people. More details about his speech next week.

## Tertulia con Sánchez Beras



César Sánchez Beras gesticula durante su disertación llevada a cabo el pasado sábado 10 del corriente mes de diciembre ante un grupo de amigos amantes de la poesía.

Vea artículo de Bethania Apolinar y más fotos en la página 12.

## It's Christmas at the Credit Union



Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union held its annual celebration for Christmas and as every Christmas party, it was attended by Santa and Mrs. Claus. Here we see them with Layla De Silva who came to tell him about her dreams of Christmas.

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## Es Navidad en la Caja de Ahorro

Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union llevó a cabo su celebración anual con motivo de la Navidad y como toda fiesta Navideña contó con la presencia de Santa y la Sra. Claus. Aquí los vemos con Layla De Silva que vino a contarles sus sueños de Navidad.

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## Otras celebraciones de Navidad / Other Christmas celebrations

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## Sueños Basketball honra benefactores

### Basketball organization honors its benefactors

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# Methuen Police Offer Guidance on Marijuana Legalization

With the legalization and regulation of commercial and recreational marijuana set to begin on Thursday, Mayor Stephen N. Zani and Police Chief Joseph Solomon seek to inform the public on what has changed and what remains the same under state law.

Law enforcement agencies statewide received guidance on Wednesday from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and Secretary Daniel Bennett.

"The Methuen Police Department is a public safety agency, first and foremost, and we want our residents to understand the new law clearly," Chief Solomon said. "I am grateful to EOPSS for providing much-needed guidance to police departments."

As of tomorrow, Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016:

- A person age 21 or older may legally possess up to one ounce of marijuana outside their primary residence.
  - A person age 21 or older may possess up to 5 grams of marijuana concentrate (such as cannabis oil).
  - No civil penalties or tickets may be issued for legal possession of marijuana or marijuana concentrate by those age 21 or older.
  - Police may not seize lawful quantities of marijuana or marijuana concentrate
  - For persons between the ages of 18-21, marijuana possession remains decriminalized, and police may levy a civil penalty of \$100.
  - For persons under age 18, possession remains decriminalized, but juveniles in possession will be subject to a civil penalty of \$100 and will be required to complete a drug awareness program or face a penalty of up to \$1,000. (Parents may be held liable for the penalties.)
  - Marijuana is still not allowed on the ground of a public or private school.
  - Marijuana is not allowed in City of Methuen government buildings, including City Hall and the police station.
  - A person age 21 or older may possess up to 10 ounces of marijuana inside their primary residence. (Only one primary residence is allowed per person.)
  - A person age 21 or older may grow/cultivate up to six marijuana plants OR a single residence, consisting of two or more people over age 21, may cultivate up to 12 marijuana plants if at least two people in the household are engaged in growing activity there.
  - For example: In the case of households with two roommates, if one roommate wants to grow marijuana but the other does not wish to engage in the cultivation of marijuana, the other roommate may only grow six plants, not 12.
  - Any person who exceeds the cultivation limits without a license from the Cannabis Control Commission, may be subject to civil fines for seven to 12 plants or criminal prosecution of a single person if that person exceeds 12 plants.
  - A person age 21 or older may give under one ounce of marijuana to another person age 21 or older.
  - Unlicensed selling or trading remains a criminal offense
  - Sale of marijuana paraphernalia, such as bongs or pipes, to a person age 21 or older, is legal.
  - Sale of marijuana paraphernalia, such as bongs or pipes, to a person between the ages of 18-20 remains a misdemeanor, while sale to minors remains a felony.
  - A person under age 21 who purchases or attempts to purchase marijuana paraphernalia, is subject to a civil penalty of \$100, but not criminal charges.
  - It remains a crime to operate a motor vehicle under the influence of ANY drugs, including marijuana.
  - Public consumption of marijuana is prohibited, unless used for medical purposes.
  - Consumption of marijuana in any place that bans the use of tobacco (bars, restaurants, etc.) is prohibited.
  - No person may possess an "open container" of marijuana in a motor vehicle. Additionally, marijuana remains illegal under federal law and inside federal parks, buildings, and facilities.
- "We hope that these guidelines provide some clarity for our residents and officers alike," Mayor Zanni said. "Please be safe and be smart. Our police officers will remain extremely vigilant in looking for those operating under the influence or engaging in any activities that may harm yourself or others."

## ACT Lawrence to honor community leaders

ACT Lawrence has announced the recipients of its 2016 community awards. The awards will be presented at the organization's annual meeting and community holiday party, this Saturday, December 10th, 2016, from 3 PM to 6 PM at North Common Educational Complex.

ACT Lawrence's community awards are given to individuals and organizations that have collaborated with ACT Lawrence over the years and made a difference in the Arlington neighborhood. ACT Lawrence's board of directors will present the Community Champion Award to Ms. Sabrina Boggio for her outstanding accomplishments, leadership and commitment to our mission. Dr. Ana Cristina Silva will receive the Board Member of the Year Award, for her commitment and contributions to improve ACT Lawrence's programs and their impact on the community. Volunteer of the Year Awards will be presented to Attorney Wendy Estrella and Ms. Elizabeth Lavasta. Ms. Nathalie Lora will be recognized as Employee of the Year for excellence and

commitment to exceeding program goals.

ACT Lawrence's Annual Meeting and Community Holiday Party is a community celebration bringing families together for dinner, music, and games. Among other activities, children and adults will be able to get their pictures taken with Santa Claus. Nearly 1000 people are expected to attend this event, where ACT Lawrence members will elect the new board of directors and celebrate the organization's accomplishments in 2016.

ACT Lawrence is a non-profit 501 c (3) community development corporation, founded in 1996 and dedicated to the revitalization of the Arlington neighborhood. Over the years, we have assisted thousands of families through numerous social and economic justice efforts including financial capability, homebuyer workshops, business development and youth jobs. For more information or to volunteer contact [aluna@actinc.org](mailto:aluna@actinc.org), or visit [actinc.org](http://actinc.org).

(Please see pictures on page 6.)

## EDITORIAL | EDITORIAL

### Busquemos la paz

E sta es la estación en la cual tradicionalmente encontramos el cariño y el amor de todos cuantos nos rodean. Este ha sido un año difícil para el mundo, el país completo y especialmente para nuestra ciudad y en particular para los familiares de tantas víctimas de violencia.

Estamos cansados de enterrar a nuestros jóvenes y atar la reputación de nuestra ciudad a estos actos monstruosos y aún los que se ven rodeados de tanta maldad a diario, sufriendo las consecuencias, limpiando los destrozos causados por sus acciones.

Hemos celebrado marchas por la paz, vigiliadas, noche nacional afuera y cuento evento comunitario dirigido a eliminar la violencia y en lugar de reducirse, cada día parece tomar mayor fuerza. La mujer sigue siendo abusada, nuestros comerciantes y choferes de alquiler continúan siendo asaltados lo que ha dado por resultado de que muchos en la comunidad tienen temor a salir a la calle.

Parece tan extraño desear Feliz Navidad al próximo porque no sabemos lo que llevan por dentro. Quizá nosotros mismos lo escuchamos con ironía. La realidad es una: tenemos que buscar la paz dentro de nosotros mismos antes de tratar de salir a espaciarla. De gracias a Dios por tener salud y amor dentro de su hogar y ese será el comienzo para desear a otros lo mismo que usted ya halló.

### Let's seek peace

T his is the season in which we traditionally find the love and the affection of all around us. This has been a difficult year for the world, the whole country and especially for our city and in particular for the families of so many victims of violence.

We are tired of burying our youth and tying the reputation of our city to these monstrous acts and even those who are surrounded by so much evil daily, suffering the consequences, cleaning up the damage caused by their actions.

We have held marches for peace, vigils, National Night Out and as many community event aimed at eliminating violence and instead of reducing it, every day it seems to get stronger. Women are still being abused, our merchants and taxi drivers continue to be assaulted which has resulted in many within our community being afraid to go out into the street.

It even seems strange wishing a Merry Christmas to our neighbors because we do not know what they carry inside. Maybe, we hear it with irony. The reality is one: we have to seek peace within ourselves before we try to go out and spread it. Thank God for having health and love within your home and that will be the beginning to desire others the same as you already found.

### NECESITAN CHOFERES PARA TRANSPORTAR ANCIANOS

Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Lawrence, una coalición de comunidades de fe, agencias de servicio social y organizaciones de salud, está buscando voluntarios para llevar a ancianos a citas al médico y otras citas de calidad de vida a través del Programa de Friends in Deed de Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley. Si usted puede, aunque sea ocasionalmente, por favor, llame a Renee A. Baker, reclutador de voluntarios, al 978-946-1463 (y mencione Interfaith Caregivers.)

Gracias de parte de Interfaith Caregivers y los muchos ancianos que necesitan de los servicios de choferes voluntarios para poder permanecer independientes en su propio hogar.

# Rumbo

The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

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Conéctese con nosotros hoy en [glfhc.org](http://glfhc.org). Pregunte a cualquier miembro del personal cómo se puede registrar en nuestro portal del paciente.

POR DALIA DÍAZ  
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

# Desde Mi Esquina

## La conexión de Lowell

Algo extraño sucede en el Ayuntamiento de Lawrence. Cada vez que hay un trabajo de alta remuneración disponible en la ciudad, parece que el "mejor profesional calificado" pasa a ser alguien de afuera con muchos jefes de departamento que viven en otras ciudades.

Ahora parece haber una línea recta hacia Lowell. Comenzó con Theresa Park en el Departamento de Planificación. Luego vino el Comisionado Interino del Departamento de Agua Daniel Lahiff, la Contralora Ramona Ceballos, y ahora la nueva Tesorera es Kelly Oakes. Estos dos puestos en la oficina de finanzas no tienen que ir ante el Concejo Municipal y el Director de Presupuesto y Finanzas, Mark Ianello, tiene absoluto control sobre quién es contratado.

Eche un vistazo a "Cómo hacer una ciudad mejor" por James O'Donoghue en la página 17. Él aborda la cuestión de contratar gente de fuera sobre los lawrencianos. No tiene nada que ver con la Ley de Residencia porque, para encontrar "los candidatos mejor calificados", tal vez tengamos que ir fuera de la ciudad ocasionalmente. Repitiendo esa tendencia tan a menudo (y particularmente de una ciudad) me hace preguntarme si algún día podríamos traer a la Concejal Rita Mercier al Concejo de Lawrence. ¡Ella enderezará a todo el mundo!

## Si no hablamos de eso, no pasó

No hemos escuchado más sobre el caso del bombero Joseph Carberry después de que se declarara culpable, pero todavía quedan problemas por resolver. Entre ellos, que en el departamento de policía decidió mantener la escopeta recortada fuera del informe de la policía cuando fue arrestado. Ese fue la acusación más grave contra él.

Hace unas semanas, el Concejo Municipal de Lawrence solicitó que el Jefe de Policía James Fitzpatrick compareciera ante ese cuerpo y él no apareció. También, en la página 17, William Green tiene algunos puntos interesantes sobre las responsabilidades del concilio cuando se

trata del jefe de policía. Citó directamente del contrato de trabajo entre la ciudad y el jefe, mostrando que tienen un mando directo sobre el jefe de la policía y está obligado a cumplir los mandatos del Concejo.

¡Esta ciudad es un desastre! El jefe Fitzpatrick no sabía que estaba siendo insubordinado y los concejales no tenían idea de que pudieran exigir su presencia en su reunión.

Lo mismo ocurrió con el vandalismo en el estadio la semana pasada. Estas son algunas de las imágenes que envié al alcalde y a otros en el Ayuntamiento y nadie lo sabe. Creo que limpiaron y repararon el daño enseguida. Todo por el bien de mantener la imagen de la ciudad. Ocultar cosas y controlar los medios de comunicación no es la manera de inculcar fe y orgullo. Sólo están creando desconfianza y duda en todo lo que oímos.

## Fiesta de Navidad de Rivera

Yo estuve hablando con algunas personas que fueron invitadas a la fiesta del alcalde sólo para encontrarse que estaba buscando dinero. Lo interesante es que me dijeron que el Alcalde Rivera invitó a los contratistas que trabajan removiendo nieve a una reunión. Al parecer, pensaron que era para discutir los arreglos para la próxima temporada, pero el verdadero propósito era invitarlos a su fiesta de Navidad. Estaban presentes el Presidente del Concejo Kendrys Vasquez y la Concejal Estela Reyes.

Me parece desagradable que el alcalde invite a los contratistas de la ciudad a sus recaudaciones de fondos.

## Nada para los niños en esta ciudad

La gente usa eso como excusa cuando se trata de la delincuencia y del crimen en Lawrence. Hay muchos que prefieren culpar a los padres por no supervisar lo suficiente a sus hijos. Esas son respuestas muy simplistas. Conozco las muchas actividades alrededor de la ciudad para que los niños se involucren porque las cubrimos, participamos y damos a conocer lo que hacen muchas organizaciones.

Sólo para nombrar algunos, el Club de



Niños y Niñas es notorio por los muchos programas después de la escuela disponible de deportes, tutoría, ayuda con tareas, artes y oficios y numerosos profesionales que comparten su experiencia. Son famosos por la calidad de los ciudadanos que producen en esta comunidad. Cuando se van a casa por la noche, ya han recibido una comida caliente.

El Centro de Arte de Essex tiene decenas de clases de arte a precios muy razonables, aunque cubren el costo si la familia es de bajos ingresos - que tienden a ser muy baratos.

El Taller de Escritura para Jóvenes estudiantes de los grados 6 al 10 en el Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center es una gran oportunidad para los estudiantes que demuestran un interés en la escritura con honorarios de \$10 de inscripción para cada sesión y becas están disponibles.

La YMCA tiene el famoso Music Club donde los niños van después de la escuela hasta la hora de cierre. Aprenden todo sobre la música, desde la escritura, tocando muchos instrumentos y actuando. Y, mientras están aprovechando estos programas gratuitos, reciben una membresía gratuita para usar el gimnasio, jugar al baloncesto, nadar y participar en todo lo que la YMCA puede ofrecer.

Las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence ofrecen muchos programas a todos los niveles. Probablemente es el primer lugar en que la mayoría de la gente piensa de como importante es la escuela secundaria, donde realmente no hay escasez de opciones:

En cuanto al atletismo, hay aproximadamente 20 equipos deportivos universitarios ofrecidos en otoño/invierno/primavera casi todos los cuales también tienen equipos juveniles de junior y freshman.

## CARTAS AL EDITOR RUMBO

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# Impacto Noticias

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Por supuesto, hay más en la vida que en los deportes, y hay aproximadamente 17 clubes oficiales que se reúnen regularmente en el campus, incluyendo el Club de Arte, Club de Libros, Club de Codificación de Computadoras, Club de Danza, The Lawrencian Newspaper, una revista literaria, Mock Trial Club, Robotics Club, Writers Club, nuestro primer Drumline, el Student Leadership Council, el personal del anuario, e incluso un Rubik's Cube Club.

Luego, por supuesto, hay el programa de drama, coro y programas de banda, y el programa JROTC, que como ustedes saben es una gran presencia en la escuela secundaria y uno de los mejores en el estado. Estoy sin duda olvidando algunos.

Es importante tener en cuenta que el distrito provee autobuses tardíos (a las 6:30 y un nuevo autobús extra a las 7:30) para asegurarse de que la falta de transporte no impide que los niños puedan participar. ¡Ellos necesitan poder llegar a casa seguros!

En los niveles de escuela media y primaria, hay muchas ofertas que varían según la escuela y puede llamar para obtener una muestra de usted piensa que podría ser útiles. Algunos ejemplos obvios son la música ampliada, la banda y las oportunidades de teatro. En todo el distrito existe el programa de deportes intramuros de la escuela intermedia, que - con el apoyo de la organización Play Ball! - ha crecido a 12 deportes co-ed en 13 escuelas, sirviendo a aproximadamente 2000 estudiantes en grados 5-8.

Tenemos muchas otras organizaciones con programas más pequeños que son igualmente eficaces para educar a nuestros niños y mantenerlos seguros. Depende de los padres para mostrarles lo que está disponible e interesarlos.

# Como la fecha límite de conexión para los planes de salud se acerca, los miembros y los nuevos solicitantes toman medidas para la inscripción

Casi 28,000 miembros han cambiado de planes para 2017, más de 24,000 nuevos solicitantes han elegido un plan o inscrito para el Año Nuevo

Con la fecha límite del 23 de diciembre próximo para los planes que comienzan el 1 de enero de 2017, más de 28,000 miembros actuales del Massachusetts Health Connector han elegido un nuevo plan y más de 24,000 nuevos solicitantes han alineado la cobertura para el Año Nuevo.

La inscripción abierta comenzó el 1 de noviembre y se extenderá hasta el 31 de enero, pero la fecha límite del 23 de diciembre es la más importante del año. Para las personas - tanto los miembros actuales como los nuevos solicitantes - que desean una nueva cobertura para el Año Nuevo, la fecha límite para elegir un plan y pagarla es de nueve días. El plazo federal es el 15 de diciembre, pero los residentes de Massachusetts tienen tiempo adicional bajo las reglas estatales para completar su inscripción.

"Nos complace ver a tanta gente, tomarse el tiempo para participar en la inscripción abierta y entrar en el mejor plan para sus necesidades para 2017", dijo Louis Gutiérrez, Director Ejecutivo de Massachusetts Health Connector. "La fecha límite es el 23 de diciembre para obtener cobertura para el Año Nuevo, lo cual es importante para los miembros que quieren un plan diferente el próximo año y para aquellos que no tienen seguro ahora".

Antes y durante la Inscripción Abierta, los miembros actuales han sido alentados a comprar nuevos planes para 2017, particularmente aquellos que de otra manera experimentarán un gran aumento en la prima. Los miembros han estado

activos durante la Inscripción Abierta, con más de 20,054 personas a partir del 7 de diciembre pagado por un nuevo plan, y 7,927 adicionales habiendo elegido un nuevo plan antes del plazo de pago del 23 de diciembre.

Los nuevos solicitantes continúan buscando la cobertura 2017 antes de la fecha límite. Hasta el 7 de diciembre, 13,737 personas habían pagado por un nuevo plan de salud para 2017 y 10,529

adicionales habían escogido un plan antes del plazo de pago del 23 de diciembre. Un nuevo miembro se considera inscrito una vez que se paga la prima de su primer mes.

Para los miembros y los solicitantes que tienen preguntas sobre la información de solicitud o escoger el plan correcto, la asistencia está disponible en todo Massachusetts. Junto con la información de apoyo en MAhealthconnector.org, las

personas que buscan ayuda pueden visitar a un conector de salud en un centro en una de las seis comunidades (Boston, Worcester, Springfield, Fall River, Lowell y Brockton), o Navigator o Certified Application Councilor en su comunidad. Una lista de asistentes se puede encontrar en el sitio web. Aquellos que necesitan ayuda también pueden ponerse en contacto con el servicio de atención al cliente al (877) MA-ENROLL.

## As Health Connector Deadline for January Plans Looms, Members and New Applicants Take Steps for Enrollment

Nearly 28,000 members have switched plans for 2017, more than 24,000 new applicants have picked a plan or enrolled for the New Year

With the Dec. 23 deadline approaching for plans starting Jan. 1, 2017, more than 28,000 current Massachusetts Health Connector members have picked a new plan and more than 24,000 new applicants have lined up coverage for the New Year.

Open Enrollment started Nov. 1 and runs through Jan. 31, but the Dec. 23 deadline is the most important of the year. For people – both current members and new applicants – who want new coverage for the New Year, the deadline to pick a plan and pay for it is nine days away. The federal deadline is Dec. 15, but Massachusetts residents have additional time under state rules to complete their enrollment.

"We are pleased to see so many people, take the time to 'stop, shop, enroll' early in Open Enrollment and get into the best plan for

their needs for 2017," said Louis Gutierrez, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Health Connector. "The deadline is Dec. 23 to get coverage for the New Year, which is important for both members who want a different plan next year, and for those who do not have insurance right now."

Before and throughout Open Enrollment, current members have been encouraged to shop for new 2017 plans, particularly those who would otherwise experience a large increase in premium. Members have been active during Open Enrollment, with more than 20,054 people as of Dec. 7 having paid for a new plan, and additional 7,927 having picked a new plan in advance of the Dec. 23 payment deadline.

New applicants continue to look for 2017 coverage in advance of the deadline. As of Dec.

7, 13,737 people had paid for a new health plan for 2017, and an additional 10,529 had picked a plan in advance of the Dec. 23 payment deadline. A new member is considered enrolled once their first month's premium is paid.

For members and applicants who have questions about application information or picking the right plan, assistance is available throughout Massachusetts. Along with supporting information at MAhealthconnector.org, people seeking help can visit a Health Connector walk-in center in one of six communities (Boston, Worcester, Springfield, Fall River, Lowell and Brockton), or a Navigator or Certified Application Councilor in their community. A list of assisters can found at the website. Those needing help can also contact customer service at (877) MA-ENROLL.

**¡Llegó la hora de inscribirse en un seguro de salud!**



- Planes de salud gratis o a bajo costo
- Cobertura de alta calidad

Es el momento para obtener un seguro médico o considerar un nuevo plan para el próximo año.

El período de inscripción **termina el 31 de enero**.

### ¿Necesita ayuda en español?

Visite el siguiente centro en su área:

#### Greater Lawrence Community Action Council

Marisa Melendez, Navigator

350 Essex Street, Lawrence

978-681-4905

# ACT Celebró su Fiesta Navideña

Arlington Community Trabajando celebró su Fiesta Navideña el pasado sábado 10 del corriente mes en el gimnasio de la antigua High School. Según muestran las fotos, los niños disfrutaron en grande sobre todo con la visita de Santa.



Award winners: Left to right: Sabrina Boggio, Attorney Wendy Estrella, Ana Cristina Silva, Elizabeth Lavasta and Nathalie Lora.

# El Gobernador Baker nominó a Salim Tabit a la Corte Superior de Massachusetts

El Gobernador Charlie Baker ha nombrado al abogado de Andover Salim Tabit para servir como Juez Asociado de la Corte Superior de Massachusetts.

"Tengo la más absoluta confianza de que Salim Tabit tiene el temperamento y la dedicación de servir al pueblo de este estado en la Corte Superior", dijo el Gobernador Charlie Baker. "El trae una trayectoria diversa y una carrera legal distinguida llena de una gran cantidad de experiencias civiles, penales, de juicio y de servicio público".

"Este respetado y experimentado abogado exude el trabajo duro y el carácter necesario para servir a Massachusetts con justicia e integridad", dijo la vice gobernadora Karyn Polito. "Estoy ansiosa por ver que el Concejo revise al candidato".

El Tribunal Superior está compuesto de 82 jueces en 20 juzgados en los 14 condados y es un tribunal estatal de jurisdicciones generales que maneja una amplia variedad de litigios civiles en asuntos de contrato, lesiones, derechos civiles y otros casos que exceden \$25,000. Además, la Corte supervisa asuntos criminales incluyendo homicidio, delitos sexuales, robo y fraude financiero. Aproximadamente el 65% de los casos son demandas civiles y el 35% restante son procesos penales.

Las nominaciones judiciales están sujetas al consejo y consentimiento del Concejo del Gobernador. Los solicitantes para las aperturas judiciales son revisados por la Comisión

de Nominación Judicial (JNC) y recomendados al gobernador. El gobernador Baker estableció el JNC en febrero de 2015 de acuerdo con la Orden Ejecutiva 558, una comisión no partidaria y no política integrada por voluntarios de una muestra representativa de la diversa población del Commonwealth para examinar las solicitudes judiciales. Veintiún miembros fueron nombrados posteriormente al JNC en abril de 2015.

## Acerca de Salim Tabit

Salim R. Tabit es socio fundador de Broadhurst Tabit LLP, un bufete de abogados de práctica general especializado en litigios civiles, trabajos de transporte de bienes raíces, representación de pequeñas empresas, inmigración y trabajo de defensa criminal. Tabit comenzó su carrera legal en 1995 como Fiscal de Distrito Auxiliar en el Condado de Essex y más tarde fue asignado a la Corte del Distrito de Lawrence donde él serviría como Jefe de la Unidad de Justicia Juvenil. En 1998, abrió su propia empresa, manejando litigios criminales y civiles centrándose principalmente en asuntos de inmigración y reunificación familiar. En 1999, se asoció con Broadhurst, Lakin & Lakin, donde manejó una amplia variedad de asuntos legales y a menudo ofrece trabajo pro bono en las comunidades pobres e insuficientemente representadas. Se graduó de Carleton College con un B.A. en Ciencias Políticas en 1991 y en Boston College Law School en 1994.

## Governor Baker Nominates Salim Tabit to Massachusetts Superior Court

Governor Charlie Baker has nominated Andover attorney Salim Tabit to serve as Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court.

"I have the utmost confidence that Salim Tabit has the temperament and dedication to serve the people of the Commonwealth on the Superior Court," said Governor Charlie Baker. "He brings a diverse background and distinguished legal career filled with a wealth of civil, criminal, trial and public service experiences."

"This well-respected and experienced attorney exude the hard work and character necessary for serving the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with justice and integrity," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "I look forward to the Council's review of the nominee."

The Superior Court is comprised of 82 justices in 20 courthouses across all 14 counties and is a statewide court of general jurisdictions that handles a broad variety of civil litigation in matters of contract, injury, civil rights, and others with amounts in controversy exceeding \$25,000. In addition, the Court oversees criminal matters including homicide, sex offenses, robbery, and financial fraud. Approximately 65% of the cases are civil lawsuits and the remaining 35% are criminal proceedings.

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# Mayor Rivera's Investigation Team

## Boston Police Deputy Superintendent Norma Ayala-Leong

Deputy Superintendent Norma Ayala-Leong. Deputy Ayala-Leong is in charge of the Major Case Division, an extremely important area of the BPD. The city's first female homicide detective, Deputy Ayala-Leong now oversees many different areas of the Department including the Sexual Assault Unit, Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, Crimes Against Children, Drug Control Unit, CrimeStoppers tip line, and Fire Investigation. A woman whose dedication and hard work allowed her rise through the ranks, Deputy Ayala-Leong has directed her focus towards leading the Department into the future. A woman with an unparalleled sense of dedication, we thank Deputy Ayala-Leong for all she has done, and all that she continues to do, for the Department.

## Angel Taveras, former Mayor, Providence, RI

Angel Taveras focuses his practice on municipal restructuring, public finance, commercial litigation, pension litigation and public infrastructure. With over 14 years of experience in litigation, he is a licensed attorney in Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island. His diverse litigation practice includes complex commercial matters, including matters arising under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the Truth in Lending Act, the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, as well

as bankruptcy litigation, zoning and land use, shareholder disputes, and election recounts and challenges.

From 2011 to 2015, Angel served as the Mayor of Providence, Rhode Island, where he led a city government with 5,700 employees and a budget of \$678 million. He is credited with rescuing the city from the brink of bankruptcy and confronting a \$110 million structural deficit through landmark reforms to pensions, negotiated concessions in labor contracts and unprecedented assistance from tax-exempt institutions. Under his leadership, Providence was recognized with the All-America City Award from the National Civic League for its plan to boost third-grade reading proficiency, was the recipient of a \$3 million award from the Carnegie Foundation to create innovative high schools, and received the City Livability Award at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2014. In addition, Angel won Bloomberg Philanthropies' Mayors Challenge \$5 million grand prize for his innovative proposal to improve the vocabularies of pre-school age children.

## Mark A. Berthiaume

White Collar Criminal Defense Litigation | Antitrust & Trade Regulation Mark A. Berthiaume focuses his practice in the representation of clients in white collar criminal matters, internal investigations, government investigations, and complex civil litigation, including the defense

of class actions. Mark has represented corporations in connection with internal investigations and government investigations of securities fraud, antitrust violations, bank fraud, health care fraud, mail and wire fraud, and immigration law violations. Much of his practice also concentrates on international, national and regional corporate clients and their officers and directors in complex civil litigation involving securities, intellectual property, real estate, construction, and telecommunications-related disputes. Mark, a former Assistant U.S. Attorney, is an experienced trial lawyer, practicing in the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as U.S. Courts of Appeals and U.S. District Courts.

## W. Dennis Aiken

A licensed private investigator with over 40 years' experience to include 34 years as a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and 8 years as a senior investigator for United Technologies Corporation (UTC).

In addition to an extensive background conducting complex investigations in field offices throughout the world, Dennis rose through the ranks of the FBI serving as Chief of the FBI's Public Corruption Section. He has also conducted worldwide training of business executives, public officials and law enforcement personnel on a wide variety of topics including white collar crime and internal controls. Dennis' most recent experience with the FBI was

in Providence, RI where he formulated and conducted investigations resulting in the dismantling of a racketeering enterprise that was running Providence city government and conviction of high level officials in both Rhode Island Senate and House of Representatives for corruption. Dennis received many awards based on his investigative success with the FBI, the most recent of which being the 2007 U.S. Attorney General's Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement. Dennis retired from the FBI in 2007 after 34 years of service.

In 2007, Dennis became the Senior Investigator for Pratt & Whitney, a division of United Technologies Corporation (UTC). At Pratt & Whitney, Dennis conducted over 500 internal investigations, many of which were of the highest complexity and sensitivity. In 2012, Dennis was promoted to UTC Headquarters where he served as Senior Investigator for UTC Corporate conducting and overseeing the most complex and sensitive investigations on behalf of UTC Corporate worldwide. Dennis created and implemented standard work by which all internal UTC investigations were conducted, both in the Compliance and Human Resources organizations. He trained executives, compliance officers and Human Resources personnel worldwide.

Dennis retired from UTC in 2014 and since then has operated Aiken Investigations and Consulting, LLC serving primarily corporate and legal clients.



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# Declaración del Alcalde Rivera: Reacción a los eventos

Primeramente, el asesinato de Lee Manuel Viloria-Paulino es una tragedia que ha sacudido a nuestra comunidad y herido de una manera incomprendible a una de nuestras familias. Es por esta razón que hago un llamado todos en nuestra comunidad a darle tiempo a la familia Viloria-Paulino para llorar y sepultar a Lee Manuel. En este tiempo de necesidad, debemos extender nuestras oraciones y apoyo a la Familia Viloria-Paulino para que puedan sobrelevar la pérdida de Lee Manuel y el horrendo crimen cometido. Yo al igual que nuestros jóvenes crecí en esta comunidad, y de igual manera me aflige que ustedes tengan que vivir esta trágica realidad. Mi Administración, junto con el Departamento Escolar, está trabajando para que todos los recursos necesarios estén a su disposición para que ustedes puedan navegar a través de estos tiempos difíciles.

A la comunidad en general: en tiempos como estos, nuestra resolución y capacidad de unirnos a menudo es cuestionada por

nuestro deseo de encontrar respuestas a las preguntas, y que a menudo estas opiniones contradictorias nos llevan a confrontarnos unos con otros. Hoy les pido como comunidad hacer lo totalmente lo contrario. Les pido a todos que unirnos, le debemos esto y más a la memoria de Lee Manuel, a su familia, amigos, y a nosotros mismos.

En los últimos días ha habido muchas preguntas sobre cómo nuestro departamento de policía respondió a la desaparición de Lee Manuel. En mi opinión, y luego de hablar con el Jefe Fitzpatrick y el Departamento de Detectives de Lawrence, entendemos que se tomaron las medidas apropiadas. Para ser claro, apoyo al Jefe Fitzpatrick y del Departamento de Policía de Lawrence. Dicho esto, reconocemos que la familia y la comunidad tienen preocupaciones y hemos escuchado sus palabras, así que creo que es apropiada una comisión para llevar a cabo una investigación independiente sobre este asunto. He reunido a un equipo de personas con amplia experiencia en seguridad pública

que nos ayudará a entender mejor los pasos que se tomaron a lo largo de este caso. Este equipo será liderado por Angel Taveras, ex alcalde de Providence, RI y del bufete de abogados Greenberg Traurig, LLP de Boston, Boston Superintendente Adjunto Norma Ayala-Leong, también apoyando la investigación estará el abogado Mark Berthiaume adjunto auxiliar de EE.UU., que especializado en investigaciones internas del gobierno, y el ex agente especial del FBI, W. Dennis Aiken. Las biografías de cada miembro estarán disponibles.

Además de esta investigación, revisaremos las muchas reformas de todo el departamento que el Jefe Fitzpatrick ha iniciado desde que se convirtió en Jefe de la policía. Revisaremos y evaluaremos el impacto de estos cambios y buscaremos formas de mejorar la relación y crear más confianza entre el departamento de la policía y la comunidad a la que sirven.

Con respecto a la demanda de la comunidad por más respuestas, estaremos realizando reuniones comunitarias con el Departamento de la Policía y el Departamento Escolar. Esta será una oportunidad para un diálogo abierto sobre cómo ambos departamentos pueden ser más efectivos y cómo junto a la comunidad puede asociarse con ambos para el beneficio de todos.

Y a las preocupaciones de aquellos que sienten que nuestras calles no son seguras, también a ustedes los hemos escuchado. Así que dentro de una semana el Jefe de la Policía y yo, junto con su personal de mando presentaré un plan que se basa en nuestros esfuerzos agresivos

para combatir el crimen en nuestra ciudad. Estamos decididos a no sólo reducir el número de incidentes de delincuencia, sino a infundir finalmente un sentido de seguridad a través de nuestra Ciudad. Vamos a trabajar con una mano dura y con medidas más drásticas si es necesario.

Por último, pedimos que el Fiscal de Distrito continúe actualizando e informando al público sobre el estado de esta investigación. La comunidad sigue preocupada por la seguridad pública desde que sucedió esta tragedia. Cualquier garantía que ellos puedan proporcionar que esta persona actuó por sí sola aliviaría las preocupaciones de nuestra comunidad. Hago un llamamiento al Fiscal del Distrito para que la investigación en este asunto no termine solamente con este arresto. Hay información que el público tiene en la mano que deja dudas y sólo trae más preocupaciones sobre la seguridad pública en nuestra ciudad. Queremos saber específicamente. ¿Actuó sola esta persona? Y por favor, sea exacto y diligente, pero que conduzca esta investigación con toda la debida rapidez, y se asegure de que cada pieza de evidencia sea revisada y que todos los testigos sean entrevistados en el tiempo oportuno. Y si es necesario pido a la burocracia que maneje este asunto rápidamente trabajando a todas horas, y hasta el fin de semana si es necesario para llevar a cabo esta tarea.

Para terminar, es importante que no perdamos de vista que nos quitaron una vida a destiempo. Y que continuemos levantando nuestras oraciones y apoyo a la familia y amigos de Lee Manuel en este tiempo de luto.

## Statement from Mayor Rivera Action Plan Going Forward

First, the murder of Lee Manuel Viloria-Paulino is a tragedy that has rocked our community and hurt one of our family's in an unimaginable way. So I call on everyone to give the family time to mourn and bury Lee Manuel. In this time of need we should all extend our prayers and support to the Paulino Family as they come to bear the loss of Lee and the horrific crime committed. I was a young person who grew up in this community so to the young people of this community: it saddens me that this is a reality you have to live with. My Administration, along with the School Department will ensure that all necessary resources and support needed, will be made available to you to as you navigate through these difficult times. To the broader community: in times like these, our resolve and ability to come together is often challenged by our desire to find answers to questions, often resulting in conflicting opinions that pit people against each other. Today I am asking us as a community to do the opposite. I am asking everyone to band together. We owe it to the memory of Lee, to his family and friends, and to ourselves.

Over the past few days there have been many questions about how our police department responded to the disappearance of Lee Manuel. It is my understanding in speaking with Chief Fitzpatrick and the Lawrence Detective Unit that the appropriate measures were taken. To be clear, I stand behind Chief Fitzpatrick and the Lawrence Police Department and I give them my support. With that said, we acknowledge that the Paulino family and the community have concerns and we are listening to them too so I believe it is appropriate to empanel and conduct an independent investigation into this matter. I have put together a team of individuals with extensive public safety experience that will help us better understand the steps that were taken throughout the course of this case. This team will be led by Angel Taveras, former mayor of Providence, RI and of the law firm Greenberg Traurig, LLP of Boston, Boston Police Department Deputy Superintendent Norma Ayala-Leong, also supporting the investigation will be Attorney Mark Berthiaume former assistant US attorney, who specializes in internal government investigations, and Former FBI Special Agent W. Dennis Aiken. Short bios

of each member will be made available.

In addition to this investigation, we will review the many department wide reforms that Chief Fitzpatrick has initiated since becoming Chief. We will review and assess the impact of these changes and look to find ways to improve the relationship and build more trust between the police department and the community they serve.

In response to the community's demand for more answers, we will be conducting community meetings with the Police Department and the School Department. This will be an opportunity for open dialogue about how both departments can be more effective and how the community can partner with both for the benefit of all.

And to the concerns of those who feel that our streets are not safe we hear you too. So within a week the Chief and I along with his command staff will present a plan that builds upon our already aggressive efforts to fight crime in our city. We are determined to not only lower the number of incidents of crime but to ultimately instill a sense of safety across our City. We will bring a stronger hand and more drastic measures if need be to do so.

Lastly, we request that the District Attorney continue to update and inform the public on the status of this investigation. The community remains concerned about public safety since this event. Any assurances they can provide that this individual acted alone would ease the concerns of our community. I call on the DA to insure that the investigation in to this matter does not end with this one arrest. There is information that the public has in hand that leaves doubts and only brings more concerns about public safety in our City. Specifically did this person act alone? Please be thorough and diligent but do this with all due haste, and insure every piece of evidence is reviewed and every witnesses interviewed in a timely manner. If needed, request that the bureaucracy that handles these matters expedites and works at all hours and weekend if need be to accomplish this task.

In closing, it is important that we not lose sight of a life that was taken from us too early. That we extend our prayers and support to the family and friends in their time of grieving.

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# Wood Mill celebró la Navidad Wood Mill celebrated Christmas

Wood Mill Center, una instalación de Genesis Health Care ubicada en el 800 de la calle Essex, en Lawrence, celebró su fiesta anual de Navidad en el Lawrence Senior Center el jueves, 8 de diciembre.

Luego de una deliciosa cena, el grupo de danza del Boys and Girls Club de Lawrence, bajo la dirección de Cathy Cuevas interpretó distintas danzas acompañadas por la música de los DJ Edward Morel y Fernando Mejía, que se destacan por la variedad y calidad de su música.



On the left with red tie is Theodore Vathally Center Executive Director, Yamilca Gil, Cook. Luis Inoa Wood Mill Food Service Director, Iris Pena who gladly volunteer her time every year, with her delicious food and Alicia Nordin, Wood Mill former director.



Wood Mill Center, a Genesis Health Care facility located at 800 Essex St, Lawrence, held their annual Christmas Party at the Lawrence Senior Center on Thursday, December 8th.

After a delicious dinner, the Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence dance group, under the direction of Cathy Cuevas, performed different dances accompanied by the music of DJs Edward Morel and Fernando Mejia, who stand out for the variety and quality of their music.

## Es Navidad en la Caja de Ahorro

Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union llevó a cabo su celebración anual con motivo de la Navidad. Santa y la Sra. Claus se reunieron con los niños en las oficinas centrales de la Caja de Ahorros localizada en el #500 de la Calle Merrimack.



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## It's Christmas at the Credit Union

Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union held its annual celebration for Christmas. Santa and Mrs. Claus met the children at Credit Union central offices located at 500 Merrimack Street.

# El escritor Sánchez Beras rememora cinco siglos de poesía popular dominicana

Por Bethania Apolinar

La historia de la poesía popular dominicana fue contada durante un encuentro ameno por el escritor y profesor César Sánchez Beras, quien se enfocó en la décima espinela y sus principales exponentes en Hispanoamérica.

El poeta abarcó desde el origen de la poesía, las características de la poesía popular, hasta el surgimiento de la décima espinela y su llegada a América. Habló de otras composiciones poéticas como el pie forzado, la glosa, copla, controversia, la décima concatenada y política.

Analizó los cinco siglos de la poesía popular dominicana, sus principales exponentes, los más publicados y de mayor influencia como Juan Antonio Alix o Franklin Mieses Burgos, así como los escritores y poetas que se han destacado en la décima.

Dijo que en la República Dominicana la décima se inició en el Siglo XVI con la llegada de los primeros europeos y el Siglo de Oro Español que concentró en la isla a diferentes intelectuales de España.

Sánchez Beras resaltó las peculiaridades de la décima dominicana, citando el hecho de que generalmente no es cantada, su estructura sufre alteraciones técnicas por la poca preparación de los que la crean, y que pocas veces se lleva a los ritmos dominicanos. Agregó que en países como Venezuela, Cuba, Puerto Rico y Argentina necesitan de una melodía para cantar las décimas, lo que les permite tener un espacio para la improvisación.

Otro elemento que destacó es que la décima dominicana no tiene difusión amplia en los medios de comunicación ni está contemplada en los programas sobre literatura latinoamericana ni en los estudios del folclor; además de que faltan estudios sobre su evolución y desarrollo, y como género de cultura popular no es rentable y necesita patrocinio.

Sánchez Beras dijo que otras características es la falta de centros destinados a su recopilación e investigación, no se realizan concursos o eventos sobre la estructura y declamación de la décima, como en Puerto Rico y Cuba; mientras que a diferencia de otros países, en la República Dominicana muy pocos intelectuales escriben libros en décimas para renovar el lenguaje.

Indicó que paralelamente con el currículo, en sus enseñanzas de español trata de inculcarle a los estudiantes latinos

de la ciudad de Lawrence, parte de lo que dejan de aprender por el hecho de vivir fuera de su cultura nativa o compartir dos identidades.

Para la historia dominicana Juan Antonio Alix era el más grande decimero. Este dominó el Siglo XIX, pero según Sánchez Beras, desde el punto de vista del manejo de la estrofa y del conocimiento del oficio, el mocano Luis Camejo era superior y se destacó por escribir décimas picantes y políticas.

Alix era una persona pública, escribía una décima diaria y las vendía a centavos. La gente compraba sus décimas para enterarse de lo que estaba pasando en el país, como la llegada al país de los revólveres, el acordeón, los primeros acordeonistas y otros temas.

El escritor citó a destacados decimeros europeos, como Vicente Espinel creador de la regla de la Poesía Espinela, Miguel Cervantes creador del Quijote, Calderón de la Barca, entre otros.

También repasó los principales escritores dominicanos que han sobresalido en las décimas, incluyendo al ex presidente Joaquín Balaguer, al poeta nacional Pedro Mir, la poetisa Salomé Ureña de Henríquez, Antonio Fernández Spencer, Narciso González, Luis Eduardo (Hichi) Lora.

Citó a algunos decimistas que se han destacado en los deportes, las pocas dominicanas que han incursionado en la décima, y algunos casos de la décima cantada en las voces de Juan Lockward, Johnny Ventura, Juan Luis Guerra y Félix D Oleo.

Entre los decimeros importantes en Iberoamérica citó a Marqués de Santillana, Luis de Góngora, Lope de Vega, José Martí, Sor Juana Inés, Rafael Alberti, Nicolás Guillén, Manuel Alberti, Rubén Darío, Manuel Machado, Eliseo de Diego, Luis Beiro y otros.

La charla se realizó en La Guarida, un espacio cultural que se aperturó en la Essex Street, donde algunos intelectuales de origen dominicano desarrollan una agenda cultural con temas que tienen que ver con la literatura y arte popular, así como temas históricos, económicos y cuestiones de controversia.

Según el ingeniero Wilfredo Peralta, uno de los fundadores del lugar, lo que buscan es un espacio de crecimiento, de intercambio de ideas para que los asistentes se nutran.



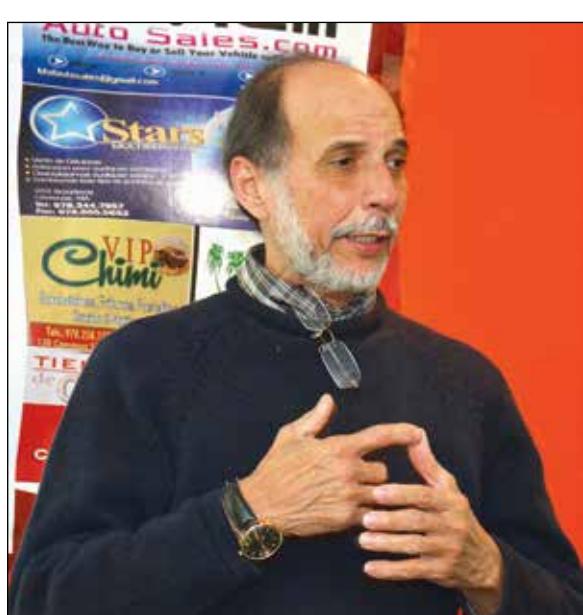
César Sánchez Beras autografiando una copia de su más reciente libro "Con las Voces del Otro" y Dionys Mezquita atrás.



Andy Lora discute un punto con Sánchez Beras. En la foto también se destaca Bethania Apolinar, autora de este artículo y Antonio Bueno, entre otros.

## Perfil de César Sánchez Beras

César es oriundo de San Pedro de Macorís, República Dominicana; es escritor de varios géneros y lleva 20 años residiendo en Lawrence. Es profesor de la escuela Lawrence High School desde el año 1996, donde comenzó enseñando historia y ahora imparte español. Desde 1992 escribe libros de poesías, cuentos, leyendas, teatro y su última publicación que fue una novela sobre la emigración haitiana: "Al Este de Haití". Sánchez ha publicado 10 libros infantiles y 14 para adultos. En cuanto a las décimas publicó un libro titulado "Con las Voces del Otro".



Wilfredo Peralta actuó como moderador.



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# "A Night of Sueños" honra a benefactores

El pasado 3 de diciembre Sueños Basketball celebró su actividad pro fondos "A Night of Sueños". En el evento se reconoció el apoyo del Padre Joel Almonó, el oficial Willian Castro y el Representante Estatal Frank Moran. Además, los representantes Marcos Devers y Frank Moran aprovecharon la ocasión para reconocer a William Castro por su servicio a la comunidad.

En el evento el joven Geison Vázquez hablo de cómo el programa Sueños Basketball ha impactado su vida.

"Sueños Basketball agradece a todos los que les apoyaron y espera cada día seguir creciendo y ayudando a los jóvenes y sus familias," dijo Raymond Núñez, entrenador del programa de baloncesto de Lawrence High School.

"Gracias a la iglesia Episcopal de Gracia por sus facilidades y a la iglesia

Metodista Libre Hispana de Lawrence por su colaboración," expresó Jacqueline Marte, presidenta de Sueños Basketball, una organización sin fines lucrativos que trata de obtener un gimnasio propio y aumentar los programas que están diseñados para ofrecer aprendizaje de cosas cotidianas para los muchachos. Específicamente, los fondos van hacia los programas adicionales que cuestan aproximadamente \$50,000 al año.

Sueños Basketball fue fundado por el Entrenador Internacional, José Dilone, un nativo de República Dominicana que ha entrenado profesionalmente en México, Colombia, España, y fue entrenador asistente de la Selección Nacional de República Dominicana. El programa ofrece a los estudiantes la oportunidad de crecer como personas de carácter, estudiantes trabajadores y atletas comprometidos.



Samantha Victoria, Jacqueline Marte-Dilone, José Dilone, director de Sueños Basketball, y Cherry Ernesto Victoria.



Desde la izquierda, el Concejal Modesto Maldonado, Jacqueline Marte-Dilone, el Juez Newman, José Dilone director de Sueños Basketball, el Concejal Brian de Peña, el Representante Estatal Frank Moran y el Sargento Willian Castro.



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## "A Night of Sueños" honors benefactors

On December 3, Sueños Basketball celebrated its fundraising activity "A Night of Dreams". In the event, they recognized the efforts of Father Joel Almonó, Officer Willian Castro and State Representative Frank Moran. In addition, representatives Marcos Devers and Frank Moran took the opportunity to recognize William Castro for his service to the community.

In the event the student Geison Vázquez talked about how the Sueños Basketball program has impacted his life.

"Sueños Basketball is grateful to all those who supported us and hopes to continue growing and helping the youth and their families," said Raymond Núñez, Lawrence High School basketball coach.

"Thanks to Grace Episcopal Church for its facilities and the Free Methodist Hispanic Church of Lawrence for their collaboration," said Jacqueline Marte, president of Sueños Basketball, a non-profit organization that seeks to obtain a gymnasium of their own and to enhance all the programs that are designed to build life skills for the kids. Specifically, the funds are going to support the "extra" programs which cost approximately \$50,000 annually.



Raymond Nuñez con una camiseta firmada por los niños y Angie Eric.

Sueños Basketball is founded by International Coach, Jose Dilone, a Dominican Republic native who has coached professionally in Mexico, Colombia, Spain, and was assistant coach for Dominican Republic's National Team. The program offers the students the opportunity to grow as people of character, hardworking students, and committed athletes.



Jacqueline Marte-Dilone, Angie Eric y Yadira de la Cruz.

# Secretary of the Air Force presents Tsongas with prestigious award for her public service

U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James yesterday presented Congresswoman Niki Tsongas (MA-3) with the Secretary of Air Force Distinguished Public Service Award. Secretary James presented the award to Rep. Tsongas for the Congresswoman's continued commitment and advocacy work on behalf of the Air Force.

The Secretary of the Air Force Distinguished Public Service Award was established to recognize civilians who have personally made a profound contribution on the national level to advance the progress to the Air Force mission. The award is the Air Force's highest public service award bestowed to civilians by the Secretary of the Air Force.

"My sincerest gratitude goes to Secretary James and to all the men and women of the United States Air Force. I am humbled to be recognized with this award but more importantly, I am honored to work on their behalf in Congress," said Rep. Tsongas. "As the daughter of an Air Force colonel, having grown up on military bases around the world, and representing a district with a strong and proud military tradition, I know the challenges faced by military families and have dedicated my time on Capitol Hill to ensuring airmen, and all servicemembers, have the resources they need and the support they deserve. The Air Force continues to be on the cutting edge of defending our nation, as evidenced right here in Massachusetts at places like Hanscom Air Force Base, where they are leading the way with innovative projects to benefit servicemembers and pave the

way for more widespread technological breakthroughs. I thank the remarkable men and women of the Air Force for this recognition and especially for their service to our country."

As a senior member of the House Armed Service Committee, Congresswoman Tsongas has worked across the aisle to ensure servicemembers have the resources, policies and support for continued safety and success here at home and around the world. Her advocacy has led to significant changes in military policy in a number of areas, most notably in addressing military sexual assault.

For example, when the Air Force started the Special Victims Counsel program, which provides sexual assault victims with a lawyer, Congresswoman Tsongas worked to bring it to every branch of the military. Rep. Tsongas has also been a strong advocate for the innovative research and development being undertaken at Massachusetts military installations, in particular Hanscom Air Force Base, the only active duty Air Force base in New England which currently is home to numerous high-tech programs and projects.

Rep. Tsongas is a co-chair of the House Air Force Caucus and also serves on the Air Force Board of Visitors.

Secretary James said: "I am grateful for the outstanding support from our Air Force Caucus co-chairs. The bipartisanship backing we receive in support of the Air Force, its Airmen, and their families allow them to remain the best and ensure an enduring heritage and unlimited horizons for the United States Air Force."



Rep. Tsongas & Secretary James

## Below, is the text of the citation presented to Rep. Tsongas by Secretary James

For exceptionally distinguished public service in support of the Air Force, its Airmen, and their families from November 2007 to present day. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee and its Military Personnel and Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittees, Representative Tsongas exhibited extraordinary leadership and vision ensuring America's Air Force remains the pre-eminent air, space, and cyberspace force in the world. As a Co-Chair of the House Air Force Caucus, Representative Tsongas has worked daily with fellow members to invest in the Air Force mission sets and capabilities that are America's asymmetric advantage. Also, as Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Military Sexual Assault Prevention Caucus, she worked to eliminate sexual assault from our military and provided measures to better prevent and respond to incidents. Further, as a member of the Air Force Academy Board of Visitors, she helps ensure our cadets are given the resources and instruction to be future Air Force leaders. In addition, Representative Tsongas' legislation expanded technological innovation initiatives ensuring the Air Force will maintain air superiority and global reach into the future. An unfailing promoter of Air Force innovation, she expanded relationships with companies that have not previously worked with the Department of Defense resulting in more than 7 million dollars in projects targeted toward rapid acquisitions. Representative Tsongas' outstanding, career-long contributions have ensured an enduring heritage and unlimited horizons for the United States Air Force.

"About the only thing that comes to us with no effort is old age."  
"Lo único que nos llega sin ningún esfuerzo es la vejez."

- Gloria Pitner

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## MR. B'S SPORT STORIES

BY FRANK BENJAMIN

Mr. B's Sports Stories are published on the 1st and the 15th of each month.

### Informal reunion of Lawrence High School finest athletes



A short time ago some of Lawrence High schools finest athletes held an informal reunion at the Heavenly Donuts coffee shop on Merrimack St in Methuen. It was well attended and I am enclosing a photo taken at this event. A few editions ago we published a team picture of most these stars in their game uniforms.

This photo shows them as they are

today and I'll give you some clues as to who's who in this current picture. Here goes:

He was a multi-sport star from Tower Hill. Next he was a guard who now resides at the beach.

He is retired now living in NH.

He is a retiree from the Gas Co his older brother was a great hoopster for the blue

and white a NH resident now.

A 3 sporter the he is now ,a former teacher and employee of the City of Lawrence.

A former 3 sporter at LHS.

He is now a retired detective in the City he still lives in.

A Derry NH native now a former football captain in high school and a player at Michigan State.

Also a former football Capt. at LHS and now a retiree from Maden Mills, his son Mark also played on the gridiron for the Lancers before a horrific car accident cut short a promising college career.

A former funeral director still lives in the area and he and his family are big time in real estate.

A Former great blue and white performer in multi sports and a former LHS hoop coach who can tell you that the immortal football coach Bear Bryant came to Lawrence to sign him and teammate Johnny Hale to play at Alabama University is not fibbing. He is a retired hoop referee these days in

NH.

A former qb who was known as a magician with the ball is now a retired football official.

A lineman who lost his high school sweetheart for years and just recently they reunited and are together again and living in Lexington, MA.

A local Curt Gowdy employee who just was lucky enough to earn an invite to this great event.

A local former local All State lineman voted by every one of the States newspapers as All Scholastic now is tops in keeping your cars lined up.

Finally a surprise attendee a Rockingham Park regular looking for a place to go.

This is my story and I hope the clues help you to identify these stars as they are today. They are a valuable piece of the City's sport history and I hope you will join me in tooting their horns one more time.

### Kauffman Foundation Awards \$4.3 Million in Grants to Organizations that Support Women and Minority Entrepreneurs

Small Business Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet to honor the organizations' commitment to leveling the field for women and minorities at Kauffman's Mayors Conference on Entrepreneurship

While startup activity in the United States is slowly rising, women and minorities consistently have lower rates of entrepreneurship. The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation today announces grants to a dozen nonprofit entrepreneur support organizations to help remedy that. The Inclusion Challenge grant program will award funds to the selected organizations to help female entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs of color achieve higher rates of success.

"Entrepreneurship in America should be available to everyone, yet women and minorities continue to face more obstacles to starting businesses when it comes to accessing funding, education, mentors and markets," said Victor Hwang, vice president of Entrepreneurship at the Kauffman Foundation. "The Inclusion Challenge grants will enable these outstanding support organizations to expand their services to empower more entrepreneurs and help them succeed. The nation and

our economy as a whole will benefit from more entrepreneurs generating income and wealth in traditionally underserved markets."

Inclusion Challenge grant recipients are attending the Kauffman Foundation's Mayors Conference on Entrepreneurship today in St. Petersburg, Fla., where Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet of the Small Business Administration will honor the grantees' commitment to leveling the field for women and minority entrepreneurs. The Mayors Conference theme is "Diversifying Entrepreneurial Opportunity."

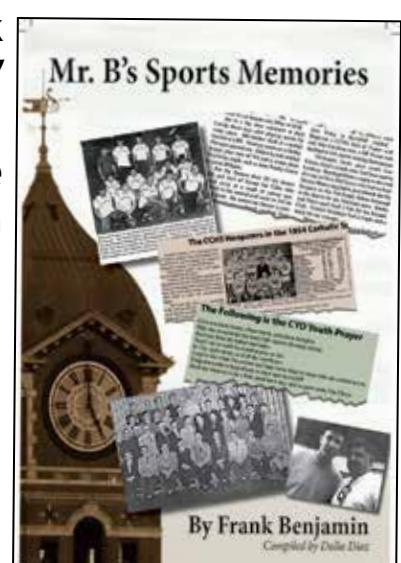
Selected from more than 376 applicants, the Inclusion Challenge grantees serve a range of sectors in 13 states from coast to coast. Grant awards range from \$87,000 to \$420,000 over the next two years per grantee.

The only organization in Massachusetts was EforAll.

## New shipment!

**Frank Benjamin's book  
"Mr. B's Sports Memories"  
is back!**

**This is a great keepsake  
for anyone growing up in  
the Merrimack Valley.  
If interested in acquiring  
a copy, go to Lawrence  
Public Library and ask for  
Louise Sandberg. Also,  
Lawrence History Center  
at 6 Essex St., Lawrence.**



BY DALIA DÍAZ  
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

# From My Corner

## The Lowell Connection

Something strange is going on at Lawrence City Hall. Every time there is a high-paying job opening with the city, it seems that the "best qualified professional" happens to be an outsider with many department heads from other cities.

Now there seems to be a straight line to Lowell. It started with Theresa Park in the Planning Department. Then came Acting Commissioner of the Water Department Daniel Lahiff, Comptroller Ramona Ceballos, and now the new Treasurer is Kelly Oakes. These two positions in the finance office do not have to go before the City Council and the Budget and Finance Director, Mark Ianello, has absolute control as to who gets hired.

Take a look at "How to make a city better" by James O'Donoghue on page 17; he touches on that issue of hiring outsiders over Lawrencians. It has nothing to do with the Residency Law because, in order to find "the best qualified candidates" we may have to occasionally go outside of the city. Repeating that tendency so often (and particularly from one city) makes me wonder if some day we might be able to bring Councilor Rita Mercier to the Lawrence City Council. She'll straighten everybody out!

## Don't talk about it; it'll go away

We have not heard any more about Firefighter Joseph Carberry's case after he pled guilty but there are still issues left to solve. Among them, who in the police department decided to keep the sawed off shotgun out of the police report when he was arrested. That was the most serious case against him.

A few weeks ago, the Lawrence City Council requested that Chief James Fitzpatrick appear before that body and he was a no show. Also, on page 17, William Green has some interesting points about the City Council's responsibilities when

dealing with the police chief. He quoted directly from the employment contract between the city and the chief showing that they have direct command over the chief and he is obligated to follow the Council's mandates.

This city is such a mess! Chief Fitzpatrick didn't know that he was being insubordinate and the councilors had no idea that they could demand his presence at their meeting.

The same occurred with vandalism at the stadium last week. These are some of the pictures I sent to the mayor and others at City Hall and no one knows about it. I believe they cleaned and repaired the damage right away. Everything for the sake of maintaining the image of the city. Hiding things and controlling the media is not the way to instill faith and pride. They are only creating mistrust and doubt in everything we hear.

## Mayor Rivera's Christmas party/fundraiser

I was talking to some people who were invited to the mayor's party only to find that he was looking for money. The interesting point is that they told me that Mayor Rivera invited the contractors who work on the snow plowing and removal to a meeting. Apparently, they thought it was to discuss arrangements for the coming season but the real purpose was to invite them to his Christmas party. Council President Kendrys Vasquez and City Councilor Estela Reyes were present.

I find distasteful that the mayor invites city contractors to his fundraisers.

## Nothing for kids to do in this city

People use that for excuse when discussing delinquency and crime in Lawrence. There are many who prefer blaming parents for not supervising enough



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### RUMBO

315 Mt. Vernon St.  
Lawrence MA 01843  
Email: Rumbo@rumbonews.com

Letters must be less than 300 words in length. Please send a telephone number or email address by which we may confirm the sender.



their children. Those are very simplistic responses. I do know the many activities around the city for children to get involved in because we cover them, participate and publicize what many organizations do.

Just to name a few, the Boys and Girls Club is notorious for the many after school programs available from sports, tutoring, homework assistance, arts and crafts and numerous professionals sharing their expertise. They are famous for the quality of citizens they raise in this community. By the time they go home for the night, they have been already fed a hot meal.

The Essex Art Center has dozens of art classes at very reasonable prices although they cover the cost if the family cannot manage the cost – which tends to be extremely reasonable.

The Youth Writing Workshop for students in grades 6 through 10 at the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center is a great opportunity for students showing an interest in writing. Fee is \$10 registration for each session and scholarships are available.

The YMCA has the famous Music Club where children go after school until closing time. They learn all about music, from writing, playing many instruments and performing. And, while they are taking advantage of these free programs, they receive a free membership to use the gym, play basketball, swim and participate in all the YMCA can offer.

The Lawrence Public Schools provide many programs at all levels. Probably the first place most people think of as this being important is the high school, where there is really no shortage of options:

As far as athletics, there are roughly 20 varsity sports teams offered in fall/winter/

spring almost all of which also have junior varsity and/or freshman teams as well.

Of course there's more to life than sports, and there are roughly 17 official clubs which meet regularly on campus, including the Art Club, Book Club, computer Coding Club, Dance Club, the Lawrencian Newspaper, a literary magazine, Mock Trial Club, Robotics Club, Writers' Club, our first ever Drumline, the Student Leadership Council, the yearbook staff, and even a Rubik's Cube Club.

Then of course there is the drama program, chorus and band programs, and the JROTC program, which as you know is a huge presence at the high school and one of the very best in the state. I'm no doubt forgetting some.

Important to note: The district provides late buses (at 6:30 and a new extra late bus at 7:30) to make sure lack of transportation doesn't keep kids from being able to participate. They need to be able to get home safe!

At the middle and elementary school levels, there are many offerings which vary by school and you can call around to get a sampling of what you think that might be helpful; some obvious examples are the expanded music, band and theatre opportunities (as you know from our holiday show schedule). District-wide there is the middle school intramural sports program, which – with support from the Play Ball! organization -- has grown to 12 co-ed sports at 13 schools, serving roughly 2000 students in grades 5-8.

We have many other organizations with smaller programs that are equally effective in educating our children and keeping them safe. It's up to parents to show them what's available and get them hooked.

fb/david avocado wolfe

**A brave snake saving a fish from drowning.**

**This is how the media reports the news these days.**

# Responsabilidades del Concejo Municipal de Lawrence

Por William Green

En una reunión del concejo municipal en abril de 2014, me dirigí a los concejales de la ciudad presidido entonces por Modesto Maldonado. En ese momento declaré que había discriminación sistemática dentro del departamento de policía. Me reuní con él y otros concejales varias veces para discutir el tema.

Hubo una frustración constante. El hecho de que él y los otros concejales afirmaron que eran impotentes para hacer algo. Incluso después de identificar los problemas con el Jefe Fitzpatrick, fue nombrado sin ninguna otra entrevista e incluso fue instalado por un voto unánime del concejo. Podrían haber evitado esto si en aquel entonces se hubiesen negado a hacerlo permanente. Todos dijeron que no podían hacer nada. Era demasiado tarde y el jefe debía ser nombrado oficialmente de todos modos porque el concejo no actuó. Así, el concejo fue capaz de culpar al alcalde por cualquier problema futuro. Mientras tanto la comunidad sufre.

La mayoría de los residentes piensan que los concejales no tienen poder ni autoridad. Simplemente, no es así. El concejo municipal puede ordenar al jefe de policía y es según su contrato.

Después de leer el Contrato de Empleo del Jefe de Policía de la Ciudad de Lawrence, es muy claro que él está bajo la autoridad directa y debe responder al

concejo.

La Sección 2a establece que el jefe "... aplicará las directivas del Concejo Municipal".

La Sección 2c declara que el Jefe "Planificará... para cumplir mejor con las políticas y metas del Concejo Municipal..."

Ese lenguaje es claro. El concejo puede dar las principales directivas, políticas y metas que el jefe debe cumplir. Con relación a las metas, el jefe estaría sujeto a una revisión periódica por el concejo.

Los concejales tienen más control sobre el departamento de policía de lo que ellos hayan creído tener. ¿Cuántos de ellos han realmente leído el contrato?

Si en realidad buscan su cancelación, hay múltiples violaciones que acompañan la falta de fuerza de carácter y habilidades de liderazgo que Fitzpatrick ha demostrado.

El concejo de Kendrys ahora tiene la oportunidad de hacer un impacto significativo si consiguen asesoría sabia y ejercitan su autoridad.

Si salen con cualquier excusa como, "Oh, pero el alcalde puede..." no acepte esa respuesta. Un buen alcalde nunca vetaría una decisión que pase el concejo municipal siempre que tenga sentido y sea para mejorar la seguridad de la comunidad.

Vea sus videos en YouTube *Yo Soy William Green*.

## Lawrence City Council's responsibilities

By William Green

At one city council meeting in April 2014, I addressed the city councilors to include then council president, Modesto Maldonado. At that time I stated that there was systemic discrimination within the police department. I met with him and other councilors several times to discuss the issue.

There was one consistent frustration. The fact that he and the other councilors claimed they were powerless to do anything. Even after I identified problems with Chief Fitzpatrick, he was still appointed without any other interviews and was even installed by a unanimous vote of the council. They could have prevented this, then, by refusing to make him permanent. They all claimed they could do nothing. It was too late and the chief was to be appointed anyway because the council failed to act. Now the council was able to blame the mayor for any future problems. Meanwhile the community suffers.

It is widely believed that the councilors have no power or authority. That is simply not the case. The city council may direct the chief to do things and it is contractual.

After reading the City of Lawrence Police Chief Contract of Employment, it is very clear that he is under the direct authority and must answer to the council.

Section 2a states that the chief will, "...implement directives from the City Council."

Section 2c states the chief will, "Plan...to better carry out the policies and goals of the City Council..."

That language is clear. The council may give the chief directives, policies, and goals that the chief must comply with. For the purposes of goals, the chief would be subject to periodic review by the council.

The council has more control over the police department than they may have known. They know now. How many of them have actually read the contract?

If it is termination that they are after, there are multiple violations that accompany the sheer lack of demonstrated strength of character and leadership skills Fitzpatrick has shown.

Kendrys' council now has the opportunity to make a significant impact if they get wise counsel and exercise their authority.

If any excuse would be, "Oh, but the mayor can..." do not accept that answer. A good mayor would never veto a passing agenda item that made sense, and was to improve the safety of the community.

Find his videos en YouTube under *Yo Soy William Green*.

## Cómo lograr una mejor ciudad - Parte 2

Por James O'Donoghue

Desde que escribí mi artículo que se publicó en Rumbo la semana pasada alguien ha sugerido que "Making Lawrence Better" no empieza con la policía, pero comienza con los padres que no se preocupan lo que sus hijos están haciendo y con quién andan.

Siempre es mucho más fácil juzgar a la gente demasiado rápido que realmente tomar el tiempo para mirar las profundidades de sus problemas.

Muchos de los padres de Lawrence luchan entre tener que trabajar para mantener a sus hijos y la necesidad de pasar más tiempo con ellos.

A menudo, los padres sin trabajo son peores en la crianza porque viven en un mundo de depresión que es perjudicial para desarrollar la perspectiva de sus hijos. La pobreza del desempleo asesina más que sólo espíritus.

Durante los tres años del Alcalde Rivera: Lawrence no sólo se ha estancado, sino que se ha movido en contra de sus ganancias económicas. El Alcalde Rivera y sus designados no han hecho ningún esfuerzo real para proporcionar empleos a los padres y residentes sin trabajo de Lawrence.

La mayor parte del crecimiento del empleo dentro de Lawrence parece emplear a personas de fuera de la ciudad que a su vez gastan poco de sus ingresos aquí. El cierre de Polartec, Lawrence Pumps, Voltek y otras empresas se ha convertido en una tendencia durante el breve mandato de esta administración.

Hemos visto mayores impuestos y los peores gastos innecesarios que puedo recordar por cualquier otro alcalde. Aumentar la tasa impositiva no atraerá a las industrias que pueden proveer a nuestros residentes con los trabajos de salario vital que necesitan.

El pronóstico económico no se ve bien. Ahora será más difícil para un nuevo alcalde enderezar a Lawrence debido a la pesada deuda y los problemas crecientes.

Con el advenimiento de una posible recesión en el horizonte un nuevo alcalde tendrá que hacer frente a la ciudad sangrando puestos de trabajo y los ingresos fiscales, mientras que tratan de luchar contra el aumento de la delincuencia.

Este es un asunto serio y Lawrence necesita un alcalde serio para cambiar las cosas.

## How to make a city better

- Part 2

By James O'Donoghue

Since I wrote my article that was published in Rumbo last week someone has suggested that "Making Lawrence Better" does not start with the police but it starts with the parents not caring about what their kids are doing and who they are hanging out with.

It is always a lot easier to judge people too quickly than to actually take the time to look into the depths of their problems.

Many of Lawrence's parents struggle between having to work to support their children and needing to spend more time with them.

Often the parents without jobs are worse off at parenting because they live in a world of depression that is harmful to developing their children's perspective. Poverty from joblessness is a killer of more than just spirits.

During Mayor Rivera's three years as the mayor: Lawrence has been not only stagnant but moving in reverse against its economic gains. Mayor Rivera and his appointees have made no real effort to provide jobs for the jobless parents and residents of Lawrence.

Most of the job growth within Lawrence seems to employ people from outside of the City that in turn spend little of their income here. The closing of Polartec, Lawrence Pumps, Voltek and other companies has become a trend during this administration's brief tenure.

We have seen higher taxes and the worst unnecessary expenditures that I can ever recall by any other Mayor. Raising the tax rate will not attract the industries that can provide our residents with the living wage jobs that they need.

The economic forecast does not look good. It will now become more difficult for a new Mayor to straighten out Lawrence due to the heavy debt and growing problems.

With the advent of a possible recession on the horizon a new Mayor will have to deal with the City bleeding jobs and tax revenue while trying to fight the increase in crime.

This is serious business and Lawrence needs a serious mayor in order to turn things around.

## Lawrence High School Graduates of 2010 through 2012

The Library received a large amount of LHS yearbooks (2010 and 2012) from the high school. They are giving them away. If interested, please contact Louise Sandberg in the Main Library, at 51 Lawrence St.

# Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. (LFDEF) recibe una subvención de \$4,000 del Merrimack Valley General Fund

(LFDEF) fue notificado que recibirá el 13 de diciembre \$4,000 en fondos de la subvención del Fondo General de Merrimack Valley, un fondo de la Essex County Community Foundation (ECCF). El Fondo de Desarrollo y Educación para la Familia de Lawrence, Inc. utilizará los fondos de la subvención para dos propósitos: \$3,000 apoyarán las clases de inglés como segundo idioma y clases de ciudadanía del Maria del Pilar Quintana Family Center y \$1,000 para los costos de transporte del programa de música Strings para Phillips Academy, que es el Programa de Cuerdas Asociado a Lawrence Family Development Charter School.

El Merrimack Valley General Fund (MVGF) es un fondo de interés en ECCF que presta servicios a las agencias en el Valle Merrimack del Este. El fondo se estableció cuando la Fundación de la Comunitaria del Valle de Merrimack se fusionó con la ECCF en 2004. La MVGF financia programas que sirven a la comunidad en las áreas de Arte y Cultura, Educación, Servicios Sociales y Comunitarios y Servicios Juveniles. La misión de la Fundación de la Essex County

Community Foundation es promover la filantropía local para fortalecer las organizaciones sin fines de lucro del Condado de Essex, MA. Más información en [www.eccf.org](http://www.eccf.org)

La Fundada en 1995, Maria Quintana Family Center, de la Fundación para el Desarrollo Familiar y la Educación de Lawrence, está ubicada en 404 Haverhill St. Lawrence, MA y ofrece servicios de educación para adultos a lo largo del año calendario y clases de instrucción en los semestres de otoño y primavera. Para obtener más información sobre el Fondo de Desarrollo Familiar y Educación de Lawrence, Inc. Centro Familiar Maria del Pilar Quintana, visite [www.lfdef.org](http://www.lfdef.org).

La Escuela de la Carta de Desarrollo de la Familia de Lawrence (LFDCS) con sede en 34 West St. es una de las primeras escuelas públicas charter de K-8 Commonwealth. Ha funcionado durante veinte años. En marzo de 2015, la escuela obtuvo su quinto estatuto para funcionar como una Escuela Charter del Commonwealth de Massachusetts. Como escuela pública "Nivel 1" para el desempeño del MCAS en 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 y

2016, el trabajo de la Escuela Charter de Desarrollo Familiar de Lawrence es conocido por sus mejores prácticas como una escuela urbana de Massachusetts. La escuela utiliza prácticas basadas en la investigación para la instrucción e intervención académica, y complementa esta instrucción con programas de escuela después de la escuela y de verano. Para obtener información sobre la escuela autónoma, visite [www.lfdef.org](http://www.lfdef.org).



## Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. (LFDEF) is awarded a \$4,000 in grant funding from ECCF's Merrimack Valley General Fund

Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. (LFDEF) was notified that it will receive on December 13th \$4,000 in grant funds from the Merrimack Valley General Fund, a fund of the Essex County Community Foundation (ECCF). Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. will use the grant funds for two purposes: \$3,000 will support its Maria del Pilar Quintana Family Center's English as a Second Language and citizenship classes and \$1,000 will be used for the strings music program's transportation costs to Phillips Academy, which is the Strings Program Partner to Lawrence Family Development Charter School.

The Merrimack Valley General Fund (MVGF) is a field of interest fund at ECCF serving agencies in the Eastern Merrimack Valley. The fund was established when the Merrimack Valley Community Foundation merged with ECCF in 2004. The MVGF funds programs serving the community in the areas of Arts and Culture, Education, Social and Community Services, and Youth Service. The mission of the Essex County Community Foundation is to promote local philanthropy to strengthen the nonprofit organizations of Essex County, MA. Learn more at [www.eccf.org](http://www.eccf.org)

Founded in 1995, the Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc.'s Maria Quintana Family Center is located at 404 Haverhill St. Lawrence, MA and offers adult education services throughout the calendar year and instructional classes in the fall and spring semesters. To learn more about Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. Maria del Pilar Quintana Family Center, please visit [www.lfdef.org](http://www.lfdef.org).

The Lawrence Family Development Charter School (LFDCS) headquartered at 34 West St. is one of the first K-8 Commonwealth public charter schools. It has operated for twenty years. In March 2015 the school earned its fifth charter to operate as a Massachusetts Public Commonwealth Charter School. As a "Level 1" public school for MCAS performance in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, the work of the Lawrence Family Development Charter School is known for its best practices as a Massachusetts urban school. The school uses research-based practices for academic instruction and intervention, and supplements this instruction with after school and summer school programs. For information on the charter school, visit [www.lfdef.org](http://www.lfdef.org).

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## Lawrence Promueve la Lectura Lanzamiento de la Búsqueda de dos Poetas Laureados

El Alcalde Daniel Rivera, junto a la biblioteca pública de Lawrence, anuncia la formación de un comité de búsqueda que se comprometerá a seleccionar dos Poetas Laureados, un nativo y un inmigrante.

Un poeta laureado sirve a la comunidad promoviendo la lectura y participando en la apreciación de la lectura y escritura de poesías por toda la ciudad. Los Poetas Laureados centrarán su trabajo voluntario en las escuelas de Lawrence y las organizaciones comunitarias.

El comité de selección se comprometerá a una búsqueda de tres meses a partir de enero de 2017 y anunciará el Premio de Poetas Laureados en el mes de abril del 2017. Los siguientes meses, luego de la elección requieren un menor

compromiso de parte de la comisión. Entre las responsabilidades de la comisión se encuentra apoyar a los Poetas Laureados, y brindar un informe del progreso a la directora de la biblioteca.

Requisitos para los miembros del comité de selección:

- Residente de Lawrence (2 miembros pueden ser no residentes)
- Conocedor de la poesía
- Miembro activo de la comunidad
- 2 años de compromiso

Los interesados en servir en el comité de selección deben enviar un correo electrónico a la Directora de la Biblioteca Jessica Valentín a [jvalentin@cityoflawrence.com](mailto:jvalentin@cityoflawrence.com) a más tardar de 31 de diciembre de 2016.

## City Promotes Literacy Launching Search for Poets Laureate

Mayor Daniel Rivera, with the Lawrence Public Library, announces the formation of a search committee that will commit to selecting two Poets Laureate, one native and one immigrant.

A Poet Laureate serves the community by promoting literacy and encouraging the sharing and appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry throughout the city. The Poets Laureate will focus on Lawrence schools and community organizations.

The selection committee will commit to a three month search beginning in January 2017 and will announce the Poets Laureate in April 2017. The following months will require a lesser commitment

from the selection committee with the goal of providing general support to the Poets Laureate as well as reporting progress to the library director.

Criteria for selection committee members:

- Lawrence resident (2 members may be non-residents)
- Knowledgeable of poetry
- Active member of the community
- A 2 year commitment

Anyone interested in serving on the selection committee should email Library Director Jessica Valentin at [jvalentin@cityoflawrence.com](mailto:jvalentin@cityoflawrence.com) no later than December 31st, 2016.

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# Funcionarios de salud del estado inician una campaña de concientización para prevenir el virus del zika

El Departamento de Salud Pública (DPH, por sus siglas en inglés) inició una campaña de información pública sobre la prevención del virus del Zika. Esta campaña se enfoca en proveer información a las mujeres embarazadas y sus parejas sexuales que estén considerando viajar a áreas donde la transmisión del virus del Zika está presente.

"Nuestro mensaje principal es que si usted o su pareja está embarazada o está pensando en quedar embarazada, por favor, considere posponer su viaje a las áreas donde el virus del Zika se está propagando", expresó la Comisionada de Salud Pública, Monica Bharel, MD, MPH. "Sabemos que muchos residentes viajan durante los meses de invierno a zonas más cálidas donde el Zika puede estar circulando. Si usted debe viajar a alguna de estas zonas, tome todas las precauciones que pueda para evitar las picaduras de mosquitos durante su estadía en estos lugares".

La infección por el virus del Zika es especialmente preocupante en mujeres embarazadas o que pueden quedar embarazadas. Esto se debe a que las mujeres embarazadas que contraen el virus del Zika pueden transmitirle el virus al bebé, lo que podría causar defectos de nacimiento permanentes tales como la microcefalia.

La campaña presenta una inversión significativa en materiales y esfuerzos de divulgación entre la población de Massachusetts que no habla inglés, lo que incluye comunidades donde se habla español, portugués y criollo haitiano. Actualmente, el virus del Zika se transmite en zonas del mundo que son destinos de viaje comunes para los residentes de Massachusetts, entre ellas, América Central y del Sur, así como también las Islas del Caribe.

Esta información se encuentra disponible en línea en cinco idiomas y

puede solicitar el material sin cargo.

La campaña incentiva a las mujeres y a sus parejas a hablar con su médico antes de viajar a alguna área afectada por el Zika y a buscar cuidado prenatal después de llegar o regresar de un área con transmisión activa.

"La mayoría de la gente que tiene Zika nunca se entera y pueden transmitirles el virus a sus parejas durante las relaciones sexuales", afirmó la Epidemióloga Estatal, Dra. Catherine Brown. "Es por eso que es de vital importancia que tanto los hombres como las mujeres conozcan los riesgos de viajar a zonas afectadas por el Zika, y que tomen las precauciones correspondientes al regresar".

El esfuerzo de prevención será respaldado por anuncios en la radio en español y portugués, además de publicidad en el internet y en Facebook.

Los materiales impresos incluyen volantes de 8.5" x 11", uno para mujeres y otro para hombres, y folletos desplegables tamaño carnet para mujeres. Todos están disponibles mediante pedido en el Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearinghouse en inglés, español, portugués y criollo haitiano.

Para más información, los residentes de Massachusetts pueden visitar el sitio de internet sobre el virus del Zika del DPH ([mass.gov/zika](http://mass.gov/zika)) o llamar al (617) 983-6800.

## NECC to Offer New Nurse Assistant/ Home Health Aide Training Program

Northern Essex Community College will hold two information sessions for a new, five-week, non-credit nursing assistant program that begins in February at NECC Riverwalk in Lawrence.

The first information session will be held Wednesday, January 18, from 10 to 11 a.m. for the February 27-March 31 nurse assistant training program. Another information session will be held on Wednesday, February 1, from 10 to 11 a.m. Both information sessions will be held at NECC Riverwalk, 360 Merrimack St., Lawrence. A second nurse assistant training program will be offered April 24 through May 26.

The Department of Public Health recently approved a 125-hour program that introduces fundamental nursing assistant skills and information. It prepares participants to take the Massachusetts state examination to become licensed as a certified nursing assistant and be listed in the Nurse Aide Registry. Participants who

successfully complete the program will also receive a home health aide certificate.

The program focuses on communication, safety and infection control procedures, and basic personal care skills for patients/residents in sub-acute, long-term care and in an individual's home. Other topics include vital signs, documentation, and legal and regulatory practices. This full-time, program will be offered Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and includes classroom instruction, skills practice and clinical experience at a local, long-term care facility under the supervision of a registered nurse.

This is an opportunity to enter the in-demand, direct-care field and can also serve as a gateway to other health care professions.

The program fee \$1,279 plus \$86 fee for books and materials. For more information email Nancy Tariot at [ntariot@necc.mass.edu](mailto:ntariot@necc.mass.edu) or [noncredit@necc.mass.edu](mailto:noncredit@necc.mass.edu).

The Department of Public Health has launched a public information campaign on Zika virus prevention. The campaign focuses on providing information to pregnant women and their sexual partners who may be considering travel to areas where Zika virus transmission is ongoing.

"Our basic message is that if you or your partner is pregnant or thinking about becoming pregnant, please consider postponing travel to areas where Zika virus is spreading," said Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, MPH. "We recognize that many residents travel in the winter months to warmer areas where Zika may be circulating. If you must travel to those areas, take every precaution that you can to avoid mosquito bites while you're there."

Infection with Zika virus is of special concern for women who are pregnant or who may become pregnant. That's because pregnant women who become infected with Zika virus can pass the virus to the baby which may result in serious lifelong birth defects like microcephaly.

The campaign features a significant investment in materials and outreach efforts to non-English speaking populations in Massachusetts, including communities which speak Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole. Zika virus is currently transmitted in areas of the world which are common travel destinations for

Massachusetts residents, including Central and South America as well as the Caribbean Islands.

Information in five languages is available online and materials can be ordered free of charge.

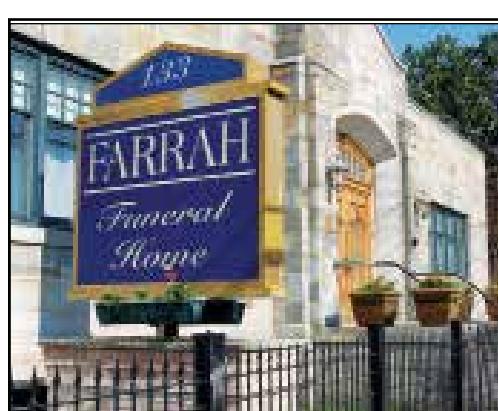
The campaign encourages women and their partners to talk to their doctor before traveling to Zika-affected areas and to seek appropriate prenatal care after arrival/return from an area with active transmission.

"Most people who have Zika never even know it, and they can pass the virus to their partner during sex," said Deputy State Epidemiologist Dr. Catherine Brown. "That's why it's so important that men as well as women know the risks of traveling to Zika-affected areas, and take appropriate precautions when they return."

The prevention effort will be supported by radio spots in Spanish and Portuguese, plus online and Facebook advertising.

Print materials include an 8.5" x 11" flyer – one for women and another for men – and a wallet-size fold-out brochure for women. Each will be available for order from the Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearinghouse in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole.

For more information, Massachusetts residents can visit the DPH Zika Virus webpage ([mass.gov/zika](http://mass.gov/zika)) or call (617) 983-6800.



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## MCC Among Top U.S. Colleges Awarding Degrees to Asian-Americans

Community College Week has included Middlesex Community College on its Top 100 list of U.S. community colleges awarding associate degrees in all disciplines to Asian-American students.

More than 11 percent of MCC credit students are Asian-American, primarily Southeast Asian. Among that cohort, 70 percent apply for financial aid, and the majority are also from families in which they are the first to attend college.

In order to better serve its Asian-American student population, Middlesex applied for and was recently awarded a U.S. Department of Education (DOE) five-year, \$1,732,245 development grant from the DOE Office of Postsecondary Education's Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI) program.

Under the grant, Asian-American students attending Middlesex will receive a range of support services and co-curricular activities designed to improve their college-going experience, as well as their completion and transfer outcomes.

"Middlesex is striving to build stronger

and deeper connections with the large and diverse Asian-American population in our region," said President James Mabry. "This grant will allow us to strengthen our community partnerships and help us improve success for Asian-American students at the college."

AANAPISI-grant project activities will involve establishing an Asian-American Connections Center (AASC) and peer-support program, titled Asian-American Student Network, to increase a sense of connection and belonging to the college. The project will also include personalized support to better navigate college processes; interventions focused on continued support for writing skills to aid ELL students as they transition to college; and the development of academic curriculum related to the cultural heritage of Asian-American students.

For more information about CC Week's Top 100 listings, visit: <http://npaper-wehaa.com/ccweek#2016/08/31/s1?article=2810441> For more information about DOE AANAPISI grants, visit: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/aanapi/index.html>

## MCC Joins Partnership to Support Engineering Transfer Students

Middlesex Community College is partnering with Northeastern University in an innovative initiative to increase support and successful outcomes for engineering transfer students from underrepresented backgrounds studying in energy fields.

Titled Student-Pathways Opening World Energy Resources (S-POWER), the project is supported by a five-year, \$5 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

Northeastern is partnering with Middlesex, MassBay and Northern Essex community colleges to build a collaborative education, administrative and mentoring "ecosystem" that supports engineering-student transfer success before, during and after the transfer process.

The S-POWER initiative targets financially needy, under-represented minority, female and first-generation engineering students, and aligns with a national imperative to increase workforce diversity in STEM fields.

"This partnership program is an outstanding opportunity for Middlesex engineering students," said MCC President James Mabry. "It will set them on a path to transfer success, and connect them with world-class faculty and industrial partners spanning a wide range of topics within the energy spectrum."

"S-POWER will also enable our

students to participate in a Summer Bridge program," added Michele Stein, Chairwoman of Computing & Engineering Technology. And Middlesex engineering students will be able to engage in research and mentorship programs, as well as build strong professional networks with industry and organizational partners in the energy sector, she explained.

As part of the program, three MCC students per year will be eligible for a \$2,500 scholarship, Stein said. The students need to be minority, female or first-generation with a 3.0 GPA and interested in pursuing an engineering associate degree with a focus on energy. Also, eligible students (with a minimum 3.4 GPA) who are interested in applying to Northeastern for bachelor's degree transfer, will be eligible for up to \$30,000 in scholarships.

"This program will advance research in topics such as renewable and energy generation, electricity distribution and storage, energy efficiency and infrastructure, and energy materials," said Stein.

For more information about S-POWER at Middlesex, contact Kathleen Sweeney, Dean of STEM: [sweeneyk@middlesex.mass.edu](mailto:sweeneyk@middlesex.mass.edu) or 781-280-3609; or Michele Stein, Assistant Professor of STEM: [stein@middlesex.mass.edu](mailto:stein@middlesex.mass.edu) or 781-280-3932.

## Middlesex CC Earns Six Awards for College Marketing

Middlesex Community College's Office of Marketing Communications has been recognized for outstanding work by regional members of the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR), the premiere organization for two-year college communications professionals.

MCC was awarded six Medallion Awards – four silver and two bronze – during NCMPR's recent District 1 Conference, held in Newport, R.I. The annual Medallion Awards competition spotlights the best work among District 1 member colleges. More than 250 entries were submitted in 46 categories.

"To receive awards from our regional college-marketing peers is a wonderful recognition of the MCC communications team," said Jennifer Aradhya, Director of Marketing Communications. "We are proud to promote student success at Middlesex through our innovative work in broad marketing channels, including social media, video and public relations."

The Office of Marketing Communications earned Silver Medallion Awards in the categories of Logo Design (Commonwealth Honors Program logo); Social Media Campaign (#MCCgrad Commencement campaign); Social Media Contest (UR 1st 30 Days Instagram Challenge); and Communications Success Story (Alicia Gentile: Dual Enrollment student who graduated from MCC and Nashoba Tech).

The college won Bronze Medallion Awards in the categories of Video Shorts (Commonwealth Honors Program video) and One-Time Special Event (inauguration of President James C. Mabry).

Affiliated with the American Association of Community Colleges, NCMPR has 1,550 members from more than 650 colleges across the United States, Canada and other countries. NCMPR's District 1 includes colleges from the northeastern U.S., eastern Canada and the United Kingdom.

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## Women's Soccer Lands Three on NEWISA All-New England Squads

Three members of the Merrimack College women's soccer team have been selected to New England Women's Intercollegiate Soccer Association (NEWISA) All-New England squads, with senior captain Julia Heffernan (Westborough, Mass.) earning First Team recognition, while juniors Sarah Boucher (Northbridge, Mass.) and Victoria Carter (Smithfield, R.I.) each earned a spot on the Second Team.

Heffernan, also a NEWISA Senior Bowl selection, earns her First Team honors after headlining a stout Warriors defense that allowed less than 1.30 goals per game this season and registered eight shutouts. Heffernan also netted the first goal of her career during her senior campaign, heading in a corner kick in a 1-1 tie with Southern Connecticut. She earned the first Northeast-10 Conference weekly honor of her career this season, being named the

NE10 Defensive Player of the Week.

Boucher brings home her first All-New England honors after a junior campaign that saw her match her career-best numbers of five goals and two assists for 12 points, with her goal and point totals ranking second on the team. She also led the Warriors with three game-winning goals on the season, which was the second-highest total for an individual in the NE10.

Carter joins Boucher on the Second Team after yet another productive season that saw her begin the year with a goal in three consecutive games. The junior led the Warriors in all three major statistical categories during the 2016 season, posting six goals and five assists for 17 points on the year. Her five assists on the season were tied for eighth in the NE10, while her 17 points ranked tied for 13th in the conference.

## Merrimack Valley Credit Union begins second decade of sponsoring Merrimack College's Athletic Program

Merrimack College representatives accept sponsorship of \$26,400



Left to right – Don Croteau, MVCU VP of Finance; Laura Wante, MVCU VP of Human Resources; Christine Ronca, MVCU AVP of Operations; John Obert, MVCU AVP of Strategic Planning; Brad Davis, Merrimack College Associate Athletic Director for External Relations; Patrick Spiegel, Merrimack College Director of Corporate Relations & Sponsorship; Peter Matthews, MVCU President & CEO; Yean-Ai Long, MVCU VP of Marketing; and Tony Marino, MVCU VP of Operations.

On Tuesday, December 13, Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) continued its decade-long sponsorship of the Merrimack College Athletics Partnership. Brad Davis, Associate Athletic Director for External Relations, and Patrick Spiegel, Director of Corporate Relations and Sponsorship, accepted the sponsorship of \$26,400 on behalf of Merrimack College at MVCU's corporate headquarters in Lawrence, Mass.

as the College continues to grow."

This marks the 11th year of the relationship between MVCU and Merrimack College. The sponsorship has grown to not only encompass events surrounding the hockey program, but now includes financial literacy initiatives for both undergraduate and graduate students, alumni and student outreach, and career development opportunities.

"Merrimack Valley Credit Union has been a proud supporter of Merrimack College for 11 years now," said Peter Matthews, MVCU's President and CEO. "The explosive growth we have seen in the college in the last few years is exciting, and has allowed us to grow our partnership. We look forward to what this next decade has to bring for the credit union's partnership with the college."

## Merrimack Basketball to Host Education Day in January

The Merrimack College men's and women's basketball programs are pleased to announce that the Warriors will host their second annual Education Day from Hammel Court on Wednesday, Jan. 4, vs. the University of New Haven beginning with the women's game at 1 p.m. followed by the men at 3 p.m.

Local schools and classes are invited to attend the event free of charge, and enjoy the Northeast-10 Conference matchup between the Warriors and the Chargers. Last season's inaugural Education Day saw over 100 students spanning three schools attend the event.

Students in attendance will get an opportunity to meet members of the Warriors following each game and

participate in a postgame autograph session. Various giveaways will be distributed throughout the afternoon and students will have the opportunity to compete in halftime contests with a chance to win select prizes.

Both basketball programs are off to strong starts this season, with the women owning a 3-3 NE10 record and ranking among the top-five in the Northeast Division. The men won six games in November, the most in program history, and currently sit in third in their division with a 4-2 NE10 mark.

For more details and registration information, please contact Connor Coakley at coakleyc@merrimack.edu or call the Box Office at 978-837-5324.

## *Cartas al Editor / Letters to the Editor*

### Tristeza y pena en la Navidad

Cuando alguien ha perdido a un ser querido, las Navidades a menudo magnifican los sentimientos de dolor, especialmente si esta es la primera temporada Navideña desde la pérdida. Recuerdos de los buenos tiempos, la unión y las reuniones tradicionales a menudo recuerdan a la gente de su pérdida. También puede ser muy doloroso para las personas que están en duelo ver a otros que se sienten agradecidos y están celebrando cuando el dolor hace que la participación en las festividades sea abrumadora.

El primer paso para hacer frente a la pena en las fiestas es reconocer que la temporada será difícil y luego prepararse para ello de antemano haciendo planes y obteniendo apoyo. Para algunos, los grupos de apoyo pueden enseñarles habilidades para hacer frente a la época y proporcionar oportunidades para compartir sentimientos con otras personas que también están sufriendo.

Merrimack Valley Hospice ofrece varios grupos específicos de pérdida durante la temporada navideña y durante

todo el año. Los nuevos grupos de apoyo que se forman después del Año Nuevo incluyen un grupo de apoyo para hombres, un grupo para padres que han perdido a un niño adulto y un grupo específico para aquellos que han perdido a un ser querido debido al abuso de sustancias. Todos los grupos de apoyo se ofrecen en lugares convenientes en y alrededor del Valle de Merrimack, son gratuitos y abiertos al público.

Si usted, o alguien que usted conoce, quisiera una lista de los próximos grupos de apoyo ofrecidos durante esta temporada, por favor comuníquese con el departamento de duelo en Merrimack Valley Hospice al 978-552-4510. También puede encontrar la lista en nuestro sitio web en MerrimackValleyHospice.org.

Sinceramente,

Siobhan Mahoney, LICSW  
Coordinador de Baile  
Hospicio del Valle de Merrimack

### Holiday grief and sadness

When someone has lost a loved one, holidays often magnify the feelings of grief; especially if this is the first holiday season since the loss. Memories of good times, togetherness and traditional gatherings often remind people of their loss. It can also be very painful for people who are grieving to watch others who are feeling thankful and are celebrating when sorrow makes participating in festivities overwhelming.

The first step in coping with grief at the holidays is to acknowledge that the season will be difficult and then to prepare for it in advance by making plans and obtaining support. For some, support groups can teach holiday coping skills and provide opportunities to share feelings with others who are also grieving.

Merrimack Valley Hospice offers several loss specific bereavement groups during the holiday season as well as

throughout the year. New support groups forming after the New Year include a men's support group, a group for parents who have lost an adult child and a group specific to those who have lost a loved one due to substance abuse. All support groups are offered at convenient locations in and around the Merrimack Valley, are free of charge and open to the public.

If you, or someone you know, would like a list of upcoming support groups offered during this holiday season, please contact the Bereavement Department at Merrimack Valley Hospice at 978-552-4510. You can also find the list on our web site at MerrimackValleyHospice.org.

Sincerely,

Siobhan Mahoney, LICSW  
Bereavement Coordinator  
Merrimack Valley Hospice

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#### Learn WordPress at Nashua Library

The Nashua Public Library now offers a class in how to use WordPress to create websites and blogs. This class is in addition to other one-time computer workshops offered at the library: Computer Basics; Internet; Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access; Genealogy; and Online Job Searching. View the schedule at [www.nashualibrary.org/computerclasses.htm](http://www.nashualibrary.org/computerclasses.htm). All are free and open to the public, although registration is required (call 589-4611).

#### Bring the Family to the Zoo for Peanuts

Now you can visit the Franklin Park Zoo in Boston or the Stone Zoo in Stoneham at greatly reduced admission prices, using your Nashua Public Library card. Simply go to [nashualibrary.org](http://nashualibrary.org) and click Museum Passes. Then follow the instructions to reserve a pass for the date you want to go. The pass admits six people at just \$6 per adult and \$4 per child ages 2 to 12. Children under 2 are free. Regular admission is \$12-\$18. You can also book a pass at the reference desk in the library or by calling (603) 589-4611.

#### Need help finding a good book?

Are you looking for ideas on what to read next? Maybe you need suggestions for books to buy for your grandchildren or mother-in-law for the holidays. Let Nashua Public Library staff zero in on the right ones for you, with Reading Radar.

Just go to [nashualibrary.org/connect/reading-radar](http://nashualibrary.org/connect/reading-radar). That's where eight staff members tell you a bit about their own reading preferences. Choose the one whose interests match yours fill out a short form, and that person will reply with five suggested titles.

If you want suggestions for children's books, go to [nashualibrary.org/explore/kids](http://nashualibrary.org/explore/kids).

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#### Activities for Teens at Nashua Public Library

In addition to books, movies, manga, graphic novels, and computers, the Nashua Public Library offers plenty of programs after school for teens in grades 6 through 12. Go to [tinyurl.com/nplteen](http://tinyurl.com/nplteen) and start signing up!

the Nashua Public Library. The library has two Kala concert-size ukuleles that library cardholders ages 12 and up can borrow for 14 days. Each one comes with an instructional book and DVD, an electronic tuner, and a chord chart.

The ukuleles were donated by Michael Chung, founder of the Ukulele Festival at Greeley Park, through the Friends of the Nashua Public Library. "I truly believe the library is a great community resource," he said, so he made this donation to show his appreciation of it.

To borrow a ukulele, bring your Nashua library card and a photo ID to the reference desk. You can reserve a ukulele by going to [nashualibrary.org](http://nashualibrary.org) and searching the online catalog for "ukulele." If you have questions, call (603) 589-4611 or email [reference@nashualibrary.org](mailto:reference@nashualibrary.org).

#### Family Board Game Night

Bring the family to the Nashua Public Library on Mondays and meet new friends at Family Board Game Nights. Play Scrabble, Mancala, Othello, Clue, chess, checkers or whatever games you want to bring. Snacks will be available.

On the second Monday of the month, we'll learn to play games from other countries.

Board game nights are free; registration is not required.

#### Film Series return to the Public Library

After a break for the summer, the Nashua Public Library weekly film series have resumed.

Cinema Cabaret films for adults are shown on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Family Films are screened on Saturdays at 2 p.m.

For a schedule that lists the titles, ratings, and descriptions of the films, go to [tinyurl.com/nplfilm](http://tinyurl.com/nplfilm).

All the movie screenings are free and open to the public.

## **Lawrence High School Graduates of 2010 through 2012**

**The Library received a large amount of LHS yearbooks (2010 and 2012) from the high school. They are giving them away. If interested, please contact Louise Sandberg in the Main Library, at 51 Lawrence St.**

**READ PREVIOUS ARTICLES BY FRANK BENJAMIN ON OUR  
WEBSITE [RUMBONEWS.COM](http://RUMBONEWS.COM)**

## **Merrimack Valley Hospice Offers Free Grief Support Group**

Have you recently lost a parent, spouse, child or other family member and are grieving the loss? Do you think you would benefit from support in your grief, but you're not sure where to turn? Merrimack Valley Hospice is offering a free, ongoing support group for anyone who has recently experienced the loss of a loved one. Co-sponsored with H.L. Farmer & Sons Funeral Homes Aftercare Program, this group is designed to help participants understand the grief process, share their experience, and support each other in a facilitated environment. Sessions are tailored to meet the group's needs and will cover many different topics including the challenges of grief and loss and planning for the future.

This support group is currently being held in the Griffin-White meeting room at Merrimack Valley Hospice House, 360 North Ave. in Haverhill, MA, on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The group is facilitated by bereavement counselor Nancy Thornton. New participants to this group are welcome and can register by calling 978-552-4528 or 978-374-9257.

## **Merrimack Valley Hospice offering a Grief Support Group for Men**

Merrimack Valley Hospice is currently providing a Grief Support Group for men who have lost a love one and they welcome new participants. The group is meeting on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Griffin-White meeting room at Merrimack Valley Hospice House located at 360 North Avenue in Haverhill, MA.

This support group is designed to provide a safe and a supportive environment for men who are grieving a loss to share their experiences and feelings, and to learn about the grieving process. It will be led by specially trained facilitators, Michael Cooper and Richard Davis, and focus on the issues specific to men who have lost a loved one.

For more information on this support group and to register, call at 978-552-4510. For a full list of all support groups offered by Merrimack Valley Hospice, please visit our website at [MerrimackValleyHospice.org/bereavement-support](http://MerrimackValleyHospice.org/bereavement-support).

Merrimack Valley Hospice is a not-for-profit agency providing comfort care and supportive services to patients nearing the end of life, and bereavement services for their families and loved ones. Together with Home Health VNA and HomeCare, Inc., the agencies provide a full continuum of home health and hospice care in more than 110 communities throughout the Merrimack Valley, Northeastern Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire. Merrimack Valley Hospice also serves the Southern Maine region as York Hospital Hospice. For more information visit [MerrimackValleyHospice.org](http://MerrimackValleyHospice.org).

### **COME CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS**

### **VENGAN A CELEBRAR LA NAVIDAD**

### **AT SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION**

### **300 HAVERHILL ST. LAWRENCE, MA**

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE + NOCHEBUENA**

#### **SATURDAY/SÁBADO, DECEMBER 24**



**4:00 PM (English)**

**12:00 Midnight (Bilingual)**

#### **CHRISTMAS DAY+ NAVIDAD**

#### **SUNDAY/DOMINGO, DECEMBER 25**

**Spanish: 8:30 AM**

**English: 10:30 AM**

**Spanish: 12:15 PM**

We look forward to celebrating the great Feast of Christmas with you and your families. We hope you will invite your families and Christmas guests to join us at one of our Christmas Masses.

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**Don't Miss Out! Create an Ornament for Our Holiday Trees Today!**



Choose your holiday ornaments for the MSPCA at Nevins Holiday Tree. Every dollar you donate to honor your animals will help the thousands of animals that arrive at Nevins Farm needing our help. Each year Nevins Farm cares for over 6,000 animals who have been abandoned, neglected, or whose owners are simply no longer able to care for them. Your contribution to the Nevins Holiday tree helps us to help them.

Donations for holiday ornaments make great gifts and are the perfect way to honor a pet!

In addition to the ornaments below, special holiday decorations are available for gifts over \$250. Please contact Julia Pesek at [jpesek@mspca.org](mailto:jpesek@mspca.org) for more information.

**Create an ornament for a shelter pet!**

Want to help even more animals? Choose an ornament featuring one of our

many adoptable animals at the MSPCA at Nevins Farm!

No photo? No problem! We can produce a festive ball, bell or star prominently featuring your pet's name.

And remember....an ornament on the holiday tree is a wonderful way to celebrate the memory of a pet who has passed on.

Please note: Our ornaments are reused on our Holiday Trees year after year, and so they are not for individual sale. Your pet's photo will be displayed prominently in an ornament on our Holiday Trees through January 1st, but the ornament will not be mailed to you. We regret that we cannot return photos. Ornaments ordered before December 2nd will be included in our Holiday Tree Lighting on December 3rd. If you have questions regarding the Holiday Tree at Nevins Farm, please call us at (978) 687-7453 x6161.

## Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

Please contact Heal Lawrence if you wish to make a contribution to the victims of the recent fires in Lawrence. The website has a list of donated items and things that are still needed.

Favor de ponerse en contacto con Heal Lawrence si desea hacer una contribución a las víctimas de los incendios recientes en Lawrence. El sitio en la internet tiene una lista de artículos que han sido donados y lo que todavía necesitan.

<http://heallawrence.org/> heallawrence@aol.com  
<https://www.facebook.com/heallawrence.mass>

Please contact Heal Lawrence if you want to help. A fire can happen at any time.

Si desea ofrecer sus servicios póngase en contacto con Heal Lawrence. Un incendio puede ocurrir en cualquier momento.

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