

Felicidades a los River Sharks



El equipo de natación de River Sharks exhibió plenamente el espíritu de equipo en las Seccionales 2018 New England Boys & Girls Club, que tuvieron lugar recientemente en el Boys & Girls Club de Worcester.

Además de ser nombrado el equipo subcampeón en la División II, los River Sharks obtuvieron el primer lugar en los

grupos de edad de 11-12 y 13-14 años. ¡Aún más impresionante, ganaron el codiciado Premio Team Spirit!

La continua dedicación de los nadadores ha sido una inspiración para todos en el club.

¡Únase a nosotros para felicitar a los River Sharks!

Rinden homenaje a Roger Farah

Roger Farah sosteniendo la placa que le entregaran los voluntarios que le ayudan a mantener funcionando The House of Mercy en Lawrence, un lugar donde los que no tienen un techo sobre sus cabezas encuentran refugio del clima, mientras reciben alimento, pueden ducharse y lavar sus ropas.

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Roger Farah was honored

Roger Farah holding the plaque given to him by the volunteers who help him keep The House of Mercy running in Lawrence, a place where those without a roof over their heads find shelter from the weather, while receiving hot meals, take a shower and wash their clothes.

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Congratulations River Sharks

Team spirit was on full display by the River Sharks swim team at the 2018 New England Boys & Girls Club Sectionals, which took place recently at the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester.

In addition to being named the runner-up team in Division II, the River Sharks claimed first place in the boy's 11-12 and

13-14 age groups. Even more impressively, they earned the coveted Team Spirit Award!

The swimmers' continued dedication has been an inspiration to everyone at the club.

Please join us in congratulating the River Sharks for great swims by all!

Nazario Esquea abrió su oficina de contabilidad



Nazario Esquea sentado en su mesa de trabajo de la oficina de contabilidad que recién inauguró, localizada en el 18 de Broadway, Suite 01, en Lawrence.

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Nazario Esquea opened his accounting office

Nazario Esquea at his desk of the newly opened accounting office, located at 18 Broadway, Suite 01, in Lawrence.

Pg. 7

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USCIS amplía su opción de pago con tarjeta de crédito por honorarios

El Servicio de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de EEUU (USCIS, por sus siglas en inglés) anunció hoy que ahora aceptará pagos con tarjeta de crédito por presentar la mayoría de sus formularios.

La nueva opción de pago está disponible para los 41 formularios basados en tarifas procesados en las instalaciones de Lockbox de USCIS. Para pagar con Visa, MasterCard, American Express o Discover, los solicitantes deberán utilizar el Formulario G-1450, Autorización para transacciones con tarjeta de crédito.

USCIS ingresará los datos de la tarjeta de crédito en el sistema Pay.gov, operado por el Departamento del Tesoro de EE. UU., Y luego destruirá el Formulario G-1450 para proteger la información de la tarjeta de

crédito.

Los solicitantes de naturalización y aquellos que renueven o reemplacen sus Green Cards ya pueden usar una tarjeta de crédito cuando realicen la presentación en línea en uscis.gov. Además, USCIS ha estado aceptando pagos con tarjeta de crédito por formularios de naturalización presentados en las instalaciones de Lockbox desde 2015.

Las versiones actuales de todos los formularios de USCIS están disponibles de forma gratuita en uscis.gov/forms. Obtenga más información sobre los recursos de USCIS en uscis.gov/tools.

Para obtener más información sobre USCIS y sus programas, visite uscis.gov o síganos en Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis) y Facebook (/uscis).

USCIS Expands Credit Card Payment Option for Fees

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today that it will now accept credit card payments for filing most of its forms.

The new payment option is available for the 41 fee-based forms processed at USCIS Lockbox facilities. To pay by Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover, applicants will need to use Form G-1450, Authorization for Credit Card Transactions.

USCIS will enter credit card data into the Pay.gov system, operated by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and will then destroy the Form G-1450 to protect the credit card information.

Applicants for naturalization and those renewing or replacing their Green Cards can already use a credit card when they file online at uscis.gov. In addition, USCIS has been accepting credit card payments for naturalization forms filed at Lockbox facilities since 2015.

Current versions of all USCIS forms are available free at uscis.gov/forms. Learn more about USCIS resources at uscis.gov/tools.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, please visit uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis), and Facebook(/uscis).

Notre Dame received grant for laptops

Notre Dame Education Center was recently awarded a grant to improve Computer Literacy in all English Language Classes. Using the new laptop computers, students are able to increase their time on

task by accessing their Career Ready 101™ accounts or use parts of an Office Suite to improve their language skills. All classes are able to access the laptops during their class time.



Here, students in Elizabeth DeMarco's Level 2 ESL class are introduced to their new Career Ready101™ accounts, which can be accessed using any online device. In this class the students practice their log-ins, locating and returning to their most recent lesson, and managing their accounts. Mobile devices have small but important differences

in management that students need to learn to minimize frustration and maximize learning! With practice in computer literacy, the students spend more time learning and less time trying to navigate an application. For information about ESL or Citizenship classes, please see our website: <http://www.ndeclarence.net>.

EDITORIAL | EDITORIAL

Nazario Esquea, ejemplo de tenacidad

De joven, Nazario Esquea viajó a Estados Unidos como turista. No fue hasta el año 1995 que hizo su último viaje y se radicó en Lawrence como residente permanente. Tenía entonces 36 años.

Su delirio siempre fueron los números. En su nativa República Dominicana cursó estudios de Nivel Técnico en Contabilidad pero nunca obtuvo un título universitario, que siempre fue su ambición.

Desde hace ocho años, Esquea se desempeña como Data Entry Clerk, o cobrador de impuestos como él lo llama, de la Ciudad de Lawrence. Mientras trabajaba, se matriculó en Northern Essex Community College de donde se graduó en 2016, con un Asociado en Contabilidad.

La edad nunca ha sido un impedimento para Nazario, sino un acicate. Luego de obtener su título de NECC, se matriculó en la Southern New Hampshire University de donde se graduará el 3 de mayo de este año con un título de Bachelor.

En la actualidad, Nazario cuenta con 59 años y aún quiere alcanzar a una meta más alta, él no terminará hasta obtener su título de Certified Public Accountant (CPA) que según él, le tomará otro año.

Cuando muchos con esa edad ya comienzan a soñar con la edad del retiro, Nazario Esquea acaba de abrir su propio negocio, una oficina, donde además de ofrecer servicios de contabilidad a sus clientes, podrá servirles de planificador de impuestos así como de asesor financiero.

Felicitemos a Nazario desde estas páginas por sus logros, convencidos de que logrará sus futuros objetivos debido a su tenacidad.

Nazario Esquea, example of tenacity

As a young man, Nazario Esquea traveled to the United States as a tourist. It was not until 1995 that he made his last trip and settled in Lawrence as a permanent resident. He was 36 years old then.

His passion was always numbers. In his native Dominican Republic, he studied Technical Level in Accounting but never obtained a university degree, which was always his ambition.

For eight years, Esquea has worked as Data Entry Clerk or tax collector as he calls it, in the City of Lawrence. While working, he enrolled at Northern Essex Community College where he graduated in 2016, with an Associate Degree in Accounting.

Age has never been an impediment to Nazario, but an incentive. After obtaining his NECC degree, he enrolled at Southern New Hampshire University from where he will graduate on May 3 of this year with a Bachelor's degree.

Currently, Nazario is 59 years old and still wants to reach a higher goal, he will not finish until he gets his Certified Public Accountant (CPA) title that, according to him, will take another year.

When many at this age are already dreaming of retirement, Nazario Esquea has just opened his own business, an office, where in addition to offering accounting services to his clients; he can serve as a tax planner as well as a financial advisor.

From these pages we congratulate Nazario for his achievements, convinced that he will accomplish his future goals because of his tenacity.

“Accept responsibility for your life... It is you who will have to get you where you want to go, nobody else.”

“Acepte la responsabilidad por su vida... Depende de usted llegar hasta donde aspira a llegar, nadie más.”

- Les Brown

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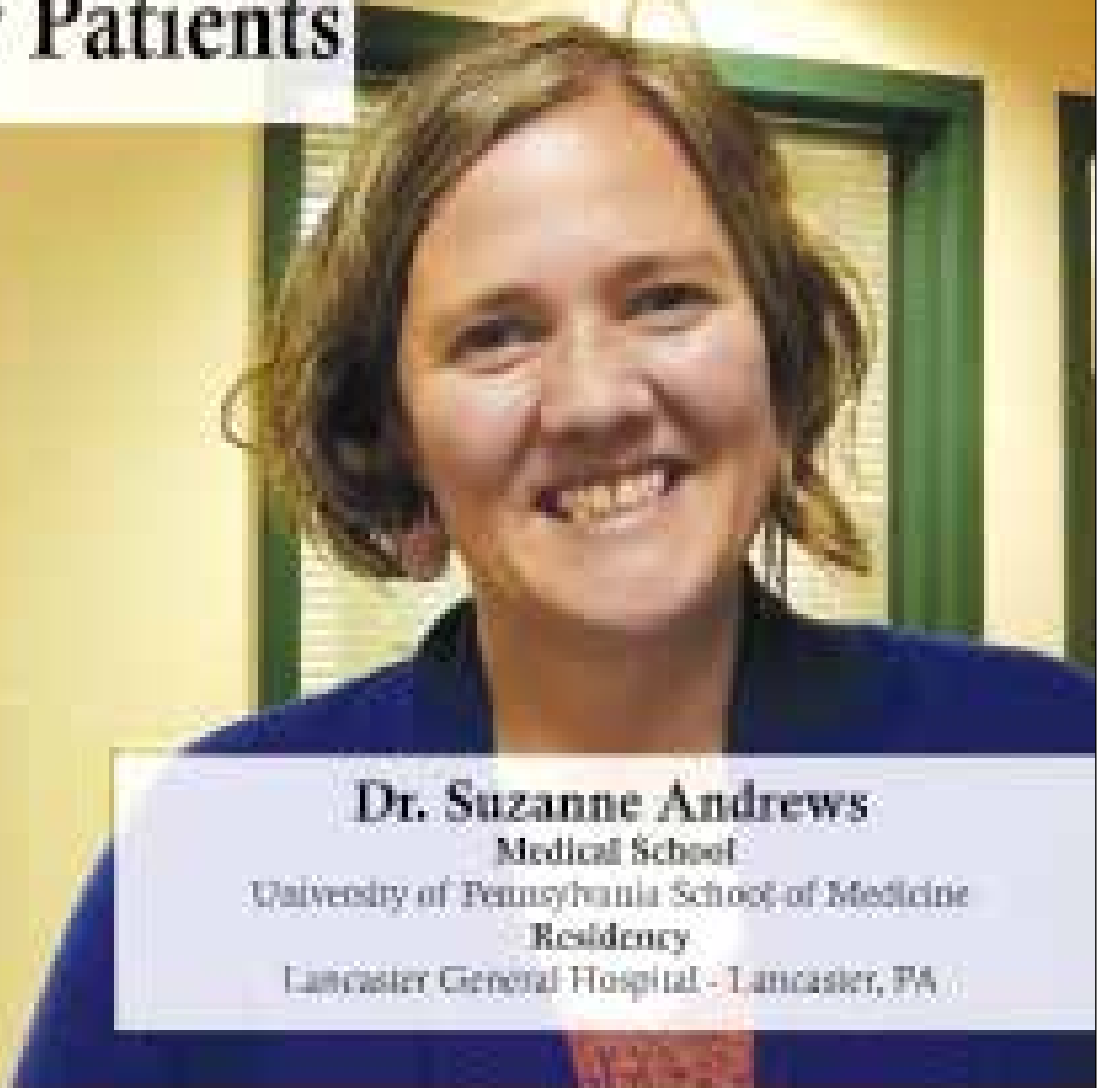
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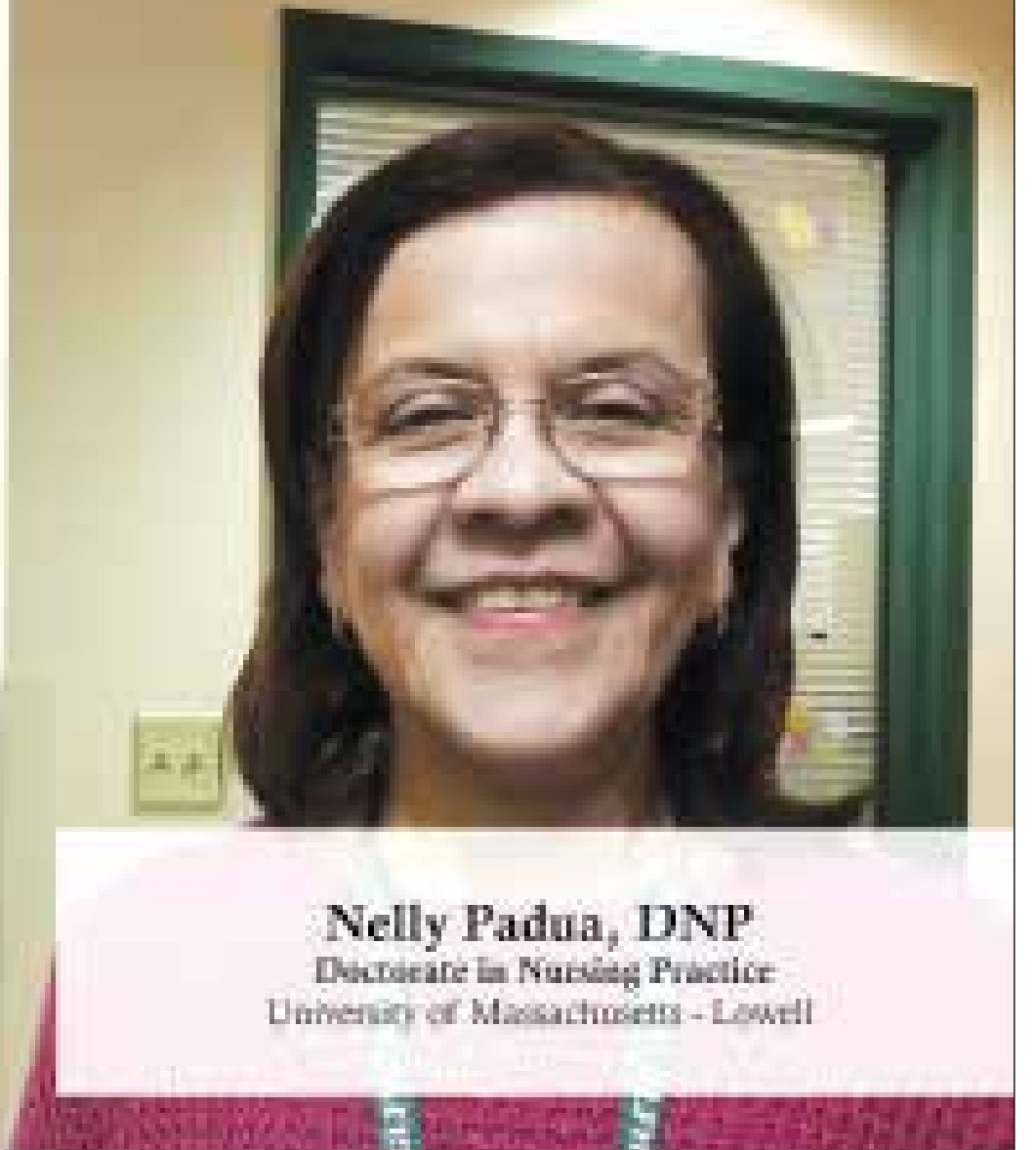
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POR DALIA DÍAZ
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READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



Mi opinión sobre el Estado de la Ciudad 2018

El Alcalde Daniel Rivera comenzó diciendo: "Esta noche les informaré sobre el estado de nuestra Ciudad", repitiendo algo que todos los presidentes dicen en el Estado de la Unión: "El Estado de nuestra Ciudad es Fuerte".

También advirtió que estamos viviendo en tiempos interesantes y en tiempos interesantes todo en la vida es más difícil entonces, pasó la mitad del tiempo hablando mal de la Administración de Trump, el Mercado de Valores y todavía, la Administración de Lantigua. Incluso mencionó el plan de la Ciudad de Brockton para despedir a más de 190 maestros y Everett planea despedir a más de 100 empleados de las escuelas, con más de 50 de ellos maestros.

Continuó diciendo: "Las mujeres y los hombres salen a la calle para protestar por los derechos de las mujeres, el tratamiento de los inmigrantes y el tratamiento de los hombres negros por parte de la policía.

Pero no se preocupen; el estado de nuestra ciudad es fuerte.

¿Cuándo va a hablar de Lawrence!

"La buena noticia para nosotros es que si bien seguimos siendo una comunidad que no es tan rica como las que nos rodean, hemos logrado enormes avances en la creación de estabilidad fiscal para lidiar con estas tormentas y reducir el impacto de estos 'tiempos interesantes'", dijo Rivera.

Si tiene confianza, escuche esto: después de eso, dijo, "la comisión de seguro del estado casi nos echó de nuestros planes de seguro". Me pregunto cuántos residentes que escucharon entendieron lo que eso significaba. Si fue relativo al seguro de salud de los empleados, creo que tienen algo de qué preocuparse porque el alcalde fue muy subrepticio al respecto.

Commonwealth Magazine el 1 de febrero del 2018, publicó un artículo titulado Group Insurance Commission reverts status quo by Bruce Mohl. Según este artículo, el 18 de enero del 2018, la Comisión Estatal de Seguros del Grupo eliminó una propuesta ambiciosa de ahorrar \$21 millones, recortando el número de compañías de seguros médicos disponibles para sus 430,000 clientes estatales y municipales.

Las elecciones del 18 de enero descartaron la decisión anterior y restablecieron a los tres transportistas que habían sido expulsados del seguro de salud

de la ciudad. Todo sigue normal para ellos pero el alcalde debió explicarlo.

En julio del 2017, la ciudad aprobó el 7° presupuesto municipal equilibrado, a tiempo... sin pedir dinero prestado para equilibrarlo gracias a planes de gastos básicos. "También hemos sido frugal a lo largo del año e implementamos políticas para garantizar las operaciones diarias en cada departamento para mantenerlos dentro de sus presupuestos".

No es así. Los empleados están sobrecargados de trabajo y cubren más de un puesto porque la ciudad se niega a cubrir puestos de trabajo para verse bien en papel mientras presumen de la reserva en efectivo de \$14 millones.

"En los últimos 4 años hemos recaudado más impuestos atrasados que en los 9 años anteriores combinados; por una suma de \$ 8,710,000", pero tuvo cuidado de evadir la investigación de la escuela General Donovan.

Al referirse a la alta tasa de epidemias de homicidios y opiáceos, el alcalde simplemente dijo que se tratarán.

El siguiente párrafo es algo que no quiero parafrasear y lo estoy reproduciendo como él lo dijo.

"También se debe hablar de las otras categorías de delitos que han roto los registros de manera positiva. Hubo una reducción del 7% en todos los delitos graves de la Parte I, reducción del 24% en robo, reducción del 30% en robos residenciales, el más bajo desde al menos 1999 junto con una reducción del 30% en el robo de vehículos de motor; el más bajo desde 2008. La policía de Lawrence pudo mantener estas tasas al tiempo que respondió a 65,912 llamadas de servicio, 18,874 paradas de M/V y 2,355 arrestos. Esto requiere más llamadas de servicio que un departamento grande como Lowell reciben anualmente. Créame; sé que no se considera que logramos ganancias en la seguridad pública hasta que las personas realmente se sientan seguras. Ese es nuestro objetivo".

¿Hay alguien en Lawrence que crea esos números? Como residentes de esta ciudad, vemos crímenes sucediendo a nuestro alrededor que no se informan en los registros policiales. Aquellas llamadas que hacen la lista generalmente se degradan en importancia, por ejemplo: CHEQUE ESPECIAL. Creo que esa categoría es ampliamente usada porque no significa nada. Responder a 65,912 llamadas de servicio

en el año me hace pensar que no estaban pidiendo pizzas.

Esto es a mediados de febrero y las estadísticas del crimen para el mes de diciembre de 2017 no se han publicado. Ahí es donde encontramos las cifras totales de todo tipo de crímenes cometidos durante el año y cómo se compara con los anteriores.

En educación, elogió el trabajo del Superintendente Escolar / Receptor Jeff Riley y los éxitos que tuvimos, pero cuando mencionó que la Alianza Lawrence para la Educación será abierta y transparente con un considerable control local, no se mencionó el Comité Escolar. La Alianza seleccionará un nuevo superintendente de escuelas. Me pregunto por qué el Comisionado no optó por designar a otro receptor/superintendente para reemplazar a Jeff Riley en lugar de hacer que la nueva persona reporte a la junta que luego informará al Estado, aboliendo así la necesidad de un comité escolar elegido por nosotros.

En el frente del desarrollo económico, el alcalde piensa que la construcción de más apartamentos es la solución y promete construir 1,000 unidades adicionales. Después de las tres de la tarde es imposible viajar del norte a sur y viceversa con la congestión del tráfico. Nunca he oído hablar de un estudio de tráfico o cómo este aumento afectará el sistema escolar, la policía, el departamento de bomberos y todos los servicios de la ciudad. Pregunte a los bomberos sobre lo que descubren cada vez que hay un incendio; generalmente encuentran 3 familias que viven en un apartamento porque los alquilan por habitación. ¡Ese es un problema para abordar!

Él afirma que estas construcciones crean empleos. La realidad es que los sindicatos se quejan de que los promotores traen trabajadores de bajos salarios de otros estados y muy pocos trabajos son permanentes o se les da a lawrencianos.

Rivera presumió de los mismos nombres y proyectos que todos los años (Showcase Cinema, Tombarello, Riverwalk, etc.) y los únicos planes del futuro fueron contratar un jefe de policía permanente, \$1 millón para arreglar aceras, \$1/2 millón para árboles y \$1 millón para arreglar canchas de baloncesto. Esas canchas de baloncesto al aire libre solo se pueden usar cuando hace buen tiempo. ¿Por qué no invierte en hacer que las escuelas estén disponibles todo el año para mantener a los muchachos fuera de las calles?

Hasta se acredita los logros del Lawrence Partnership con los préstamos a comerciantes.

Rivera considera la instalación de una nueva pista de baile en el Centro para Ancianos y la nueva unidad de aire acondicionado y calefacción instalados en la Biblioteca como logros en lugar de mantenimiento rutinario.

"Nuestros vecindarios están experimentando una nueva vida con cientos de unidades que vuelven a ponerse en línea por los desarrolladores locales. Gracias al trabajo del grupo de trabajo sobre propiedades en dificultades (Distressed Property Task Force), el ritmo de transformación de edificios abandonados y en ruinas a viviendas de calidad es más rápido que nunca. Este proceso nos ha ayudado a estabilizar los vecindarios", dijo el Alcalde Rivera.

La fuerza de trabajo de Distressed Property está compuesta por el Alcalde Daniel Rivera, la Gerente de Vivienda de Desarrollo

CARTAS AL EDITOR RUMBO

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Las cartas deben tener menos de 300 palabras de largo. Favor de incluir un número de teléfono o dirección electrónica para confirmar quién la envía.

Comunitario Evelyn Ureña y la Oficial de Activos Laiza St. Onge, el Abogado Brian Corrigan, la Jefa de Gabinete Eileen Bernal, el Inspector de la Construcción Horacio Rodríguez y el Teniente del Departamento de Bomberos Mike Armano.

La presentación de PowerPoint que trajo no funcionó y lo mismo la de NECC que trajo una. Lawrence Community Access Television (LCAT) está a cargo del Canal 22 y su equipo. Eso explica las pobres cámaras y equipos de sonido que tienen. Pero, en este caso, eso es algo por lo que se debe culpar a la ciudad. Se suponía que debían tener una persona de TI allí y no lo hicieron.

Cosas de las que el alcalde no hablará

Hubo un tiempo en que Lawrence tenía una Comisión Asesora de Cable por medio de la cual los residentes podían ir y quejarse de cualquier cosa que tuviera que ver con los canales de cable locales que pagamos como parte de nuestras facturas mensuales. Fue convenientemente desmantelada durante la Administración de Sullivan, cuando se creó Lawrence Community Access Television.

Estoy convencida de que hay un esfuerzo concertado para mantener a esta comunidad ignorante. La falta de información sobre asuntos locales es la razón para tomar decisiones equivocadas en el momento de las elecciones.

La Comisión de Derechos Humanos nunca fue apoyada como debería haber sido, como si la intención fuera hacer que fallara. Otra razón para la confusión interna era que se había vuelto muy política y una herramienta para el jefe de policía John Romero. Nunca se perdió una reunión y el público en general nunca se enteró cuándo y dónde se celebrarían. Aguantaron tanto como pudieron hasta que los miembros estuvieron tan disgustados que se dieron por vencidos.

Más recientemente, la Comisión de Discapacitados sufrió la misma suerte. Intentaron ser una voz para los necesitados sin el apoyo de la oficina del alcalde. El Alcalde Rivera se negó a nombrar nuevos miembros para que pudieran tener quórum, tal como lo hizo con la Comisión de Derechos Humanos. Finalmente, se dieron por vencidos.

Mantenerse callados y darse por vencido es lo peor que se puede hacer. Permanecer en silencio no está en mi libro.

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'Seeds of Hope' helps grow Puerto Rico's future

UMass Lowell project unveiled during campus' MLK Week

UMass Lowell's "Seeds of Hope" initiative aims to regrow Puerto Rico's agricultural base in the wake of Hurricane Maria.

The community service effort was announced as part of the university's MLK Awareness Week, which honors the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. by promoting student volunteer opportunities, engaging Lowell schoolchildren in King's teachings and recognizing individuals who emulate his work with Distinguished Service Awards. More than 150 people gathered at the University Crossing student center on campus recently to learn about the "Seeds of Hope" campaign and honor this year's award recipients during the MLK Celebration Dinner.

"Tonight is about dreams and aspirations; tonight is about celebrating the future and potential of young people. It's about the rise of all people and UMass Lowell's commitment to social justice," said Chancellor Jacquie Moloney at the event.

Through "Seeds of Love," UMass Lowell students, faculty, staff, alumni and the public are donating non-genetically modified seeds to the Puerto Rican Resiliency Fund. In turn, the organization is distributing the seeds – which will give root to beans, cucumbers, squash, radishes, turnips and more – to Puerto Rico's small-scale farms, communities and schools, as the U.S. territory continues to recover from Hurricane Maria. The storm, ranked as a Category 4 hurricane as it made landfall on

Sept. 20, lashed the island with pounding winds and rain and is considered the worst natural disaster in the U.S. territory's history.

"Puerto Rico's agriculture took a massive hit from the hurricane, which decimated 80 percent of the islands crops; now the island is importing 90 percent of its food," said Elsie Otero, associate director of UMass Lowell's Office of Multicultural Affairs, which is organizing the drive and annually presents MLK Awareness Week. "As a campus community that promotes sustainability, we are proud to play a role in long-term relief focused on helping the people of Puerto Rico regrow their food supply."

Individuals behind other community-focused initiatives were honored at the event, as Distinguished Service Awards were presented to an outstanding Lowell-based organization and a UMass Lowell student, faculty and staff member. The award recipients were:

The African Community Center of Lowell, which provides social, cultural and educational opportunities for African immigrants living in Lowell, often working with the most vulnerable migrant families in the community. UMass Lowell graduate Gordon Halm, the organization's founder and executive director, accepted the award on behalf of the center. Halm received his undergraduate degree in liberal arts from UMass Lowell in 2012 and a master's degree in peace and conflict studies the following year.

Fang Zhang, a doctoral student who lives in Dracut and is studying chemistry

in UMass Lowell's Kennedy College of Sciences. Zhang serves as a student alumni ambassador, president of the Graduate Student Association and a volunteer with UMass Lowell's Pair Up Program, which brings together international and American students to promote diversity and inclusion. Beyond campus, he works to eradicate hunger as a volunteer at the Living Waters Center of Hope in Lowell and the Cor Unum Meal Center in Lawrence. He also builds affordable housing through Matthew 25, a nonprofit organization in Worcester.

Phitsamay Uy, an associate professor of leadership in schooling in UMass Lowell's College of Education. A Boston resident, she also co-directs the university's Center for Asian American Studies. In these roles, she provides professional development workshops to teachers so they can better meet the needs of a diverse student population and promotes research and education on the cultures, histories and experiences of Asian Americans.

Ruby Carnevale, who serves as UMass Lowell's director of employment services and as a member of the Human Resources/Equal Opportunity Office leadership team. The award honors her work with hiring managers and committees to develop diversity and understanding among the university's workforce. Carnevale lives in Lowell.

The event's keynote remarks were offered by Franklyn Webb, a UMass Lowell graduate student in mechanical engineering who received his bachelor's degree in the

field from the university in 2014. Webb, a member of the National Society of Black Engineers, credits UMass Lowell's Career Services and Cooperative Education Center and his determination to succeed as factors that helped him land his job at Charles Stark Draper Laboratory in Cambridge.

The ceremony also recognized the work of Lowell's schoolchildren. Pupils from St. Patrick's School, Charlotte M. Murkland Elementary and Kathryn P. Stoklosa Middle School, some of whom worked with teachers from Refuge Lowell art studio, created paintings, mixed-media collages and poetry displayed as part of the program. The works were inspired by the theme "Dignity, worth, excellence – what's your life's blueprint?," a phrase taken from a speech King delivered in 1967.

The "Seeds of Hope" donation drive concludes on Thursday, March 1. Members of the public who would like to contribute may do so at www.uml.edu/student-services/Multicultural/puerto-rico-relief/default.aspx.

UMass Lowell is a national research university located on a high-energy campus in the heart of a global community. The university offers its more than 18,000 students bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in business, education, engineering, fine arts, health, humanities, sciences and social sciences. UMass Lowell delivers high-quality educational programs, vigorous hands-on learning and personal attention from leading faculty and staff, all of which prepare graduates to be ready for work, for life and for all the world offers. www.uml.edu



Mike Shea, paciente de Lawrence General Hospital y residente de Haverhill

AHORA:

MIKE LEVANTA MÁS QUE EL ÁNIMO DE MUCHOS

Como coordinador de una despensa de alimentos, Mike Shea nunca perdió la compasión por sus vecinos, pero el dolor de rodilla lo había limitado para hacer el trabajo que le encanta. Escogió el Programa de Articulaciones de Lawrence General para su reemplazo de rodilla y quedó sorprendido por el apoyo que recibió en la clase de Articulaciones en Movimiento, y del personal del programa durante su cirugía y la recuperación. "Sabía qué esperar y quiénes me estaban atendiendo, y tenía confianza en que me librarían del dolor para volver a servir a nuestros clientes."

Para obtener más información sobre la experiencia de Mike o para hacer una evaluación del dolor una línea, visite lawrencegeneral.org/joints o llama al 978-946-8122.

Lawrence General. La misma atención de calidad que en Boston, cerca de su casa.

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MILAGROS

Walmart Celebrates 25 years in Plaistow

The Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce was pleased to conduct a Ribbon Cutting with Walmart for the 25th Anniversary celebration of their Plaistow location. Walmart in Plaistow employees close to 200 full time employees and is still growing. Walmart is a great community partner for Plaistow as well as surrounding communities. "Walmart has been a staple in the Plaistow Community for so long and we hope to see them grow in the next 25!" said Beverly Donovan President of the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce.

About the Haverhill Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce is a private, non-profit business organization composed of nearly 500 area businesses, and we are growing by the day. The Chamber creates and fosters a prosperous business environment and support the growth and profitability of their members, providing the resources, advocacy, information, networking and marketing opportunities for members' success.



Employee for 25 years, Stella Antonopoulos cuts the ribbon alongside co-workers and Greater Haverhill Chamber Representatives

Pensar es el trabajo más difícil que existe. Quizá esa sea la razón por la que haya tan pocas personas que lo practiquen.

Thinking is the hardest work there is. Perhaps that is why there are so few people who practice it.

- Henry Ford

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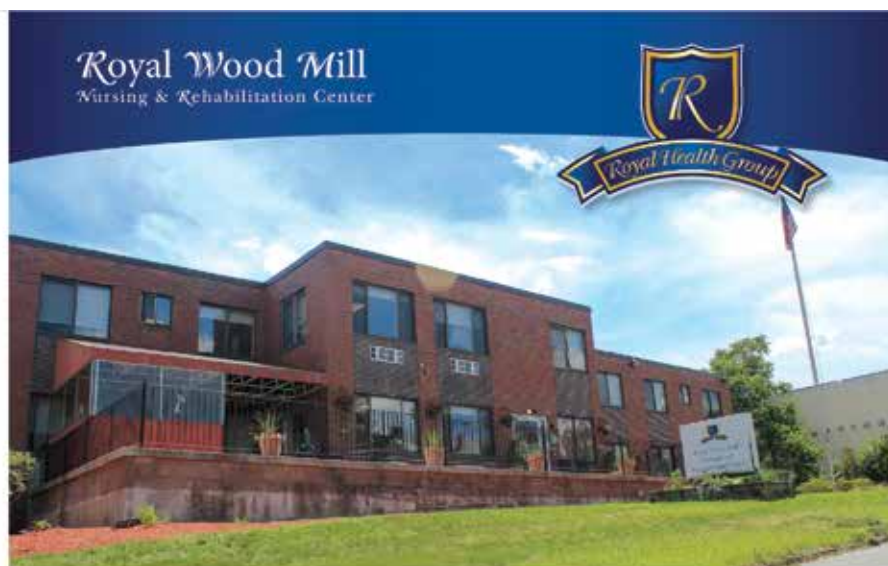
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Nazario Esquea abrió su oficina de contabilidad

Por Alberto Surís

El pasado viernes, 9 de febrero, 2018, Nazario Esquea hizo el anuncio de apertura de su oficina de contabilidad ante un nutrido grupo de amigos que acudieron a felicitarlo.

En su oficina, Esquea, además de ofrecerles servicios de contabilidad a sus clientes, podrá servirle de planificador de impuestos así como de asesor financiero.

Su oficina está convenientemente situada en el 18 de Broadway, Suite 01, aquí mismo en Lawrence, con teléfono 978-364-2992 y su correo electrónico es nazario@esquea.net



Nazario Esquea dando la bienvenida a una parte del público asistente.

Nazario Esquea welcomes part of the audience in attendance.



Nazario Esquea se apresta a cortar la cinta para dejar inaugurada su nueva oficina.

Nazario Esquea is preparing to cut the ribbon and open his new office.

“Obstáculos son las cosas que una persona ve cuando no sigue su meta.”

“Obstacles are things a person sees when he takes his eyes off his goal.”

- E. Joseph Cossman

Nazario Esquea opened his accounting office

Last Friday, February 9, 2018, Nazario Esquea made the announcement of the opening of his accounting office before a large group of friends who came to congratulate him.

At his office, Esquea, in addition to offering accounting services to his clients, can serve as tax planner as well as financial advisor for them.

His office is conveniently located at 18 Broadway, Suite 01, right here in Lawrence, with telephone 978-364-2992 and his email is nazario@esquea.net



Con este bizcocho celebraron la apertura de la oficina.

With this cake the opening of the office was celebrated.

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>

Northern Essex Community College

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, March 3, 10 a.m. – noon

Northern Essex Community College Lawrence Campus
 Dr. Ibrahim El-Hefni Allied Health & Technology Center
 414 Common Street, Lawrence, MA 01840

- Learn about the admission and enrollment process.
- Resource Fair — learn about various NECC programs and services!
- Application Room — apply to NECC right on the spot!
- Enjoy morning refreshments while touring our Lawrence Campus facilities.
- Bring your family and friends.

For more information, visit www.necc.mass.edu, or contact Enrollment Services at 978-556-3700 or admissions@necc.mass.edu.

Wherever You Want to Go, NECC Can Help You Get There.
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MCC Biotechnology Programs Receive Highest Industry Rating



Dr. Mariluci Bladon (left), founder and coordinator of Middlesex Community College's Biotechnology Technician Program, works closely with students. MCC's Biotech degree and certificate programs have received a Platinum endorsement – the highest rating – from the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation's 2017 Biotechnology Endorsement Program.

Middlesex Community College's Biotechnology Technician degree and certificate programs have received a Platinum endorsement – the highest rating – from the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation's (MassBioEd) 2017 Biotechnology Endorsement Program.

"This endorsement from the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation is certainly an honor," said Middlesex President James C. Mabry. "Biotechnology is an economic engine powering the Commonwealth, and the college works hard to ensure our graduates are prepared to meet the workforce needs of our partners in the region."

"We are pleased to have our Biotechnology programs recognized with the highest endorsement from MassBioEd," said Kathleen Sweeney, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM). "It validates the work our Biotechnology coordinator and faculty do on behalf of the program and our students. It also highlights the valuable work faculty members do to collaborate with our industry partners in

preparing our students for the workforce."

Middlesex has the largest biotechnology program in the state, with an average of 32 associate degree graduates and 40 certificate recipients each year. MCC's Platinum endorsement is a recognition that the college's Biotechnology Technician curriculum aligns with core competencies developed by a working group of leaders from academia and the biotechnology industry.

Through its endorsement process, MassBioEd recognizes the contributions community-college programs make in developing a skilled life-sciences workforce across the commonwealth. For a complete list of MassBioEd's 2017 Endorsed Biotechnology Programs, visit:

https://www.massbioed.org/career_pathways/college_programs/endorsed_biotechnology_programs

For more information about MCC's Biotechnology Technician programs, contact Kathleen Sweeney, Dean of STEM, at sweeneyk@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3609.

Scholar of Online Learning to Speak at MCC Anniversary Celebration

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of its Online Learning Program, Middlesex Community College will host one of the country's foremost scholars of online learning, Harvard Professor Christopher Dede, in a special program to be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, in the Federal Building Assembly Room, 50 Kearney Square, on the Lowell campus.

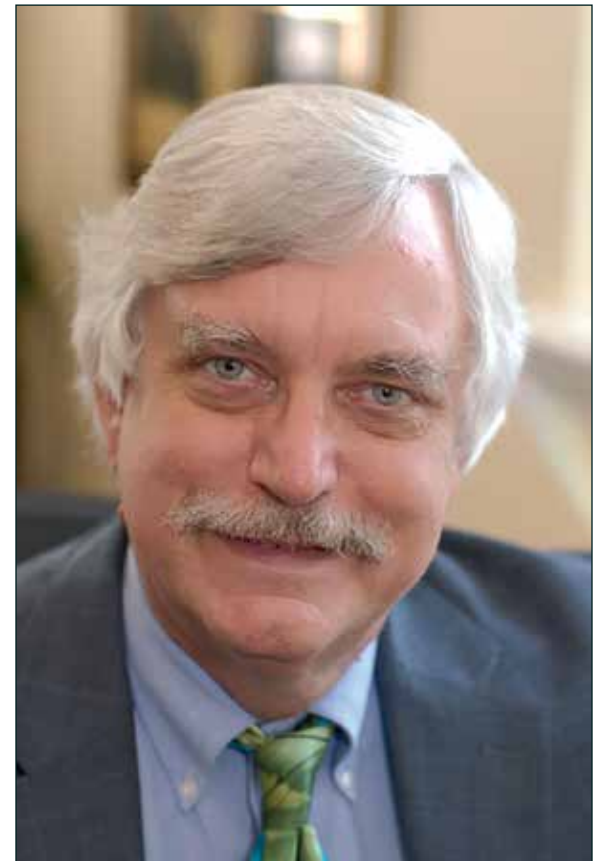
Titled "Online Learning at Your Fingertips: On-Demand, Just-in-Time, Life-Wide," the program is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the talk.

"We are very honored to have Dr. Dede speak at Middlesex to commemorate the 20th anniversary of our Online Learning Program. He is, and has been, a leader in the evolution of online technologies for teaching and emerging-teaching models," said Matthew Olson, Dean of Social Science, Interdisciplinary Studies & Online/Weekend Education.

"Online learning is a growing area at MCC. But more importantly, it is a way for people to advance their education to earn the necessary credentials for the

21st century job market," continued Olson. "In addition to the content you learn in online courses, you also learn how to work effectively with other people in a virtual environment – a skill so necessary in many jobs today."

Dede is the Timothy E. Wirth Professor in Learning Technologies at Harvard's Graduate School of Education. His research spans emerging technologies for learning, infusing technology into large-scale educational improvement initiatives, developing policies that support educational transformation, and providing leadership in educational innovation. In 2007, Dede was honored by Harvard University as an outstanding teacher, and in 2011 he was named a Fellow of the American Educational



In celebration of the 20th anniversary of its Online Learning Program, Middlesex Community College will host Harvard Professor Christopher Dede in a special program to be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, in MCC's Federal Building Assembly Room, 50 Kearney Square, Lowell. The program is free and open to the public, and a reception will follow the talk.

Research Association.

For 20 years, MCC has been a leader in online education. In the fall of 1998, the college offered six inaugural online courses, with 77 students enrolling. Today, MCC has developed more than 300 unique online courses, and offers approximately 120 online courses each semester – serving thousands of online students annually.

For more information about Christopher Dede's talk, please contact Peter Shea, Director of Professional Instructional Development, at sheap@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3561.

For more information about Middlesex Online, visit: <https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/fit/> or call 1-800-818-3434.

MCC to Host Transition Program Info Session

Middlesex Community College offers a nationally recognized two-year, noncredit vocational certificate program for students with learning/cognitive disabilities called the Transition Program.

A Transition Program Information Session will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1, in MCC's Bedford Campus Center's Café East, 591 Springs Road.

"MCC's Transition program is designed for students with significant learning disabilities who would find traditional college-level academics too challenging, even with extensive support services," said Patricia Bruno, MCC's Associate Dean of Student Support Services. "The Transition Program helps students achieve their potential through coursework and hands-on experience in work settings."

Three days a week, Transition Program students attend classes designed to teach independent-living skills, computer and

job-survival skills, and social skills. Small class size ensures that students receive individualized attention and a program tailored to meet their needs. Two days a week, students work as interns in competitive employment situations in office and business support environments. Transition students may participate in all Middlesex student activities and student support services.

Graduates of MCC's Transition Program receive a Certificate of Completion in Office and Business Support Skills and typically obtain employment in office support, business support, or retail support.

Transition Program candidates should have a high school diploma, GED credential or certificate of completion, interest in training for entry-level work in business and industry, fifth- to eighth-grade level reading and math skills, and the maturity and emotional stability to effectively participate in a program on a college campus.

Information session participants will

receive an overview of the program, as well as in-depth information on the curriculum, application procedures, details of the required internship portion of the program, and prospective job opportunities.

For more information about MCC's Transition Program, or to register for an information session, contact Nancy Sleger, Transition Program Coordinator at 781-280-3676 or slegern@middlesex.mass.edu.

Middlesex Community College is your

pathway to success. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state, we educate, engage and empower a diverse community of learners. MCC offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, on our campuses in Bedford and Lowell, as well as online. Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!

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Two NECC Students Receive Scholarship to Attend Conference

Two Northern Essex Community College students, Sara Ramirez of Haverhill and Eridania Rodriguez of Lawrence, recently received scholarships to attend a national conference of women leaders at the University of Maryland this spring.

Each year the North Shore Area Branch of The American Association of University Women (Massachusetts) awards two scholarships to two local female students so they can attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), according to Tia Roy, Admission & Enrollment Counselor in NECC's Office of Admission & Enrollment services. Roy, who also

serves as communications coordinator for the organization's state branch, received the scholarship when she was an undergraduate.

"I had an amazing time and therefore brought NECC into the mix of schools the organization reaches out to for possible applicants. That opportunity as an undergrad led me to have the role of communications coordinator for the state organization now."

This year the conference is May 30 through June 2.

Ramirez, a general studies major at NECC is the liaison for NECC's Gender and Sexuality Alliance. She also works for Student Life as a work-study student and is an orientation leader. Following graduation,



Northern Essex Community College students Sara Ramirez of Haverhill (left) and Eridania Rodriguez (right) of Lawrence will travel to the University of Maryland this spring for a national conference of women thanks to a recent scholarship.

NECC Plans Spring Open House on Lawrence Campus



Northern Essex Community College will hold its annual spring open house and tour on Saturday, March 3, from 10 a.m. until noon in the El-Hefni Allied Health & Technology Center, 414 Common St., and at 420 Common Street, Lawrence.

Individuals interested in attending the spring open house are encouraged to pre-register to attend. For additional information or to sign-up, go to <https://www.necc.mass.edu/open-house> or call 978-556-3700 or email admissions@necc.mass.edu.

The event will include a resource fair where attendees will learn about NECC programs and services. This year, there will be a designated "application room" where individuals can apply for enrollment on the spot.

Light refreshments will be served. Friends and relatives are invited to attend.

If someone has been thinking about enrolling in college, this is a great opportunity to get an overview of what Northern Essex has to offer," said Danny Richer, NECC's director of recruitment and admissions.

Northern Essex offers over 60 academic programs leading to certificates and associate degrees in areas such as health care, business, engineering, computer science, criminal justice, liberal arts, and much more. Courses and programs are offered days, evenings, weekends, and online.

For additional information, contact Richer at dricher@necc.mass.edu

she hopes to transfer to either Bridgewater State or UMass Lowell.

"This (scholarship) is an opportunity for me to reach a new level of leadership," Ramirez said. "To learn what success can look like for me."

Rodriguez is a liberal arts major at NECC. She is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, a staff member of NECC's literary arts magazine Parnassus, a 2017 NECC Writing Award recipient,

a member of the PACE program, and a volunteer at the College for a Day event.

"I am really, really excited for the opportunity and I know I am going to learn so much," Rodriguez said. "I am really excited to learn the tools to become a better person and to help society."

For additional information on the scholarship, contact Roy at troy@necc.mass.edu, call 978-556-3716 or visit the organization's website at <https://www.nccwsl.org/>

Community Dentists of Lowell, PLLC Meet Dr. Mary Scannell



Dr. Mary Scannell

La Dra. Mary Scannell ha estado practicando en Lowell por más de 20 años. La Dra. Scannell se complace en anunciar la apertura de su consultorio dental para atender a sus pacientes. Ella continuará ofreciendo todas las necesidades odontológicas desde niños hasta personas mayores y aceptará nuevos pacientes. Experimentará una atmósfera profesional relajada con todos los equipos nuevos, aquí en su vecindario. Mass Health y la mayoría de las compañías de seguros son bienvenidas. Gracias por su paciencia durante este período de transición.

**Contáctenos para hacer su cita
Llámenos hoy at 978-459-4949**

Dr. Mary Scannell has been practicing in Lowell for over 20 years. Dr. Scannell is excited to announce the opening of her dental practice to service her patients. She will continue to offer all dental needs from children to seniors and is accepting new patients. You will experience a relaxed professional atmosphere with all new equipment, right here in your neighborhood. Mass Health and most insurance companies are welcome. Thank you for your patience during this period of transition.

**Contact us to schedule your appointment
Call Us Today! 978-459-4949**

Nuestra localidad/Our Location

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1484 Gorham St.
Lowell, Massachusetts 01854**

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Departamento de Salud Pública de Massachusetts

La inexplicable tolerancia con los incompetentes

Por Alberto Medina Méndez

Un desgastado y recurrente debate sobre las nuevas versiones del nepotismo ha vuelto al ruedo. Aquella vieja costumbre de la política de contratar familiares en cargos estatales permanece totalmente intacta.

Es evidente que esta inextinguible impronta de los dirigentes clásicos goza de muy poca transparencia, especialmente cuando se lo oculta deliberadamente y se esmeran en que nadie lo divulgue demasiado.

Puede ser una decisión éticamente cuestionable, sobre todo cuando se sabe que en ciertas posiciones existen personas más preparadas para cubrir esos puestos que requieren de un cúmulo de conocimientos técnicos.

Este esquema tradicional no solo sigue su curso de rutina, sino que ahora se ha perfeccionado apelando a nuevos ardides,

mucho más ocurrentes, que le permitieron ampliar su campo de acción hasta límites insospechados.

Para los lugares electivos ya se ha constituido en una infame costumbre postular a quienes llevan el mismo apellido de quien, circunstancialmente, está impedido normativamente de aspirar a un nuevo mandato. Hijos, hermanos, primos y hasta padres, son una opción para esta maniobra.

Con mucho mayor cinismo, y sin pudor alguno, se utilizan espacios femeninos para proponer a esposas, hermanas, primas, madres e hijas para colarse en ese indignante cupo de género disfrazado de conquista social.

El enfoque de la discusión ha sido, hasta ahora, alevosamente sesgado. Unos y otros han intentado generar un clima muy

particular llevando agua para su molino y utilizando esta controversia con un sentido demagógico.

La portación de un apellido no es, necesariamente, un ingrediente negativo. En ciertas tareas específicas de extrema confianza hasta podría ser considerado como un meritorio atributo de valor nada despreciable.

Lo absolutamente llamativo en esta polémica, tan escandalosa como hipócrita, es que se ha decidido ignorar, sin decoro alguno, el verdadero meollo de la cuestión, ese que realmente impacta en los ciudadanos.

El punto central, cíclicamente desdeñado, es la ineficiencia intrínseca del Estado en todas sus formas. La indisimulable incapacidad de sus miembros para resolver asuntos y su inercia dilapidadora es la verdadera tragedia.

Nadie parece estar dispuesto a cuestionar la eterna discrecionalidad política para designar a sus integrantes de todos los niveles, ni tampoco a revisar la patética dinámica usada para seleccionar a los funcionarios de mayor rango.

Los mecanismos arbitrarios solo alimentan la inagotable inoperancia, generan resquicios por donde se desliza irremediamente la corrupción, se escurre el favoritismo partidario y la mediocridad le gana a la excelencia.

No sería demasiado sofisticado intentar una deseable jerarquización de la gestión de los servidores públicos, sometiéndolos a exigentes concursos y exámenes de calidad en los que demuestren sus talentos para la labor.

A la ya objetable potestad de los políticos para proclamar funcionarios se agrega su inescrupulosa tendencia a hacerlo sin criterio suficiente. Mucho más preocupante es esto aún, cuando se trata de sus colaboradores más cercanos y de esos que tendrán las mayores responsabilidades.

La inmensa mayoría de esos funcionarios han sido elegidos unilateralmente por el poderoso de turno, sin sensatez, método profesional alguno, ni la necesidad de alcanzar un estándar mínimo para cumplir su cometido.

Así las cosas, los resultados de ese desordenado proceso son totalmente predecibles. Un grupo de personas, con escasa preparación, que nunca trabajó en equipo, con conocimientos difusos e incompletos, no puede lograr nada de lo que luego se pueda estar genuinamente orgulloso.

Este combo que no tiene justificación alguna, que ninguna persona de bien podría defender sin sonrojarse, permanece indemne sin que nadie proponga abordar una urgente reforma profunda que modifique este rumbo.

No se puede esperar que la clase política lidere esas imprescindibles transformaciones. Son ellos los principales beneficiarios de este enorme desmadre. Es ese caos el que los habilita sin restricciones, para hacer lo que sea necesario y "acomodar" a sus alfiles sin pasar por filtro alguno.

Por eso es muy difícil comprender, desde la racionalidad, la actitud ciudadana de crisparse ante la designación de algunos parientes de ciertos políticos mientras se pasa por alto la inmensa cantidad de inútiles que pululan en todas las jurisdicciones de la administración estatal.

La sociedad se ofende por lo que parece burdo, pero admite livianamente que miles de agentes públicos, trabajen a desgano, sin compromiso alguno, abusando de las ventajas que una maraña de leyes ridículas les permiten.

Hasta que la gente no comprenda la verdadera gravedad del asunto, el impacto que tiene en sus vidas esta perversa maquinaria y los pésimos servicios que recibe del Estado como supuesta contraprestación a los abultados e impagables impuestos que abona, nada bueno sucederá.

El primer paso consiste en dejar de naturalizar lo inadmisibles. No se puede soportar, con tanto desdén, la interminable lista de situaciones inaceptables con las que se convive. Hasta que eso no ocurra, todo seguirá igual.

Reaccionar desmesuradamente ante la presunta inmoralidad que se deriva de la presencia de familiares en los gabinetes políticos mientras se acepta mansamente que una abrumadora mayoría de empleados estatales estafen a la comunidad a mansalva no parece una postura demasiado inteligente.

Si la gente se siente insultada por los políticos que promueven parientes para ocupar puestos públicos y, al mismo tiempo, no tiene la decisión de ser más vehemente para exigir mayores niveles de competencia y eficiencia a los estatales, seguirá cayendo en la trampa de minimizar lo importante.

Se puede entender que ciertas determinaciones políticas incomoden a la sociedad y que sean asumidas como una falta de respeto, pero resulta muy difícil comprender la inexplicable tolerancia con los incompetentes.

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IRS: Mayoría de asuntos, preguntas de impuestos se resuelven con recursos en línea; oficinas proveen servicio por cita previa

La temporada de presentación de impuestos federales comenzó el lunes, 29 de enero de 2018. El Servicio de Impuestos Internos, IRS, les recordó hoy a los contribuyentes que necesitan ayuda tributaria que todos los Centros de Asistencia al Contribuyente del IRS ahora brindan servicio por cita.

Muchas personas acuden a los Centros de Asistencia al Contribuyente en busca de formularios de impuestos cuando éstos están disponibles en IRS.gov. Los contribuyentes también pueden encontrar fácilmente las respuestas a sus preguntas en IRS.gov, así como muchos otros servicios.

Otras opciones de autoservicio, y las razones por las que las personas visitan las oficinas del IRS, incluyen el estado del reembolso, transcripciones y pagos de impuestos. Los contribuyentes que visitan regularmente para realizar pagos rutinarios deben considerar alternativas en línea de pago. Los contribuyentes pueden pagar en línea, por teléfono o a través de su dispositivo móvil y obtener confirmación instantánea de que su pago ha sido enviado.

Los contribuyentes que necesitan su ingreso bruto ajustado del año anterior para completar el proceso de presentación electrónica pueden usar Ordenar Transcripción en línea o por correo, o revisar otras opciones. Los contribuyentes pueden obtener el estado más actualizado de su reembolso con la herramienta "¿Dónde está mi reembolso?"

Las opciones de servicio por cita y por llamadas telefónicas sin cargo ayudan a garantizar que el IRS atienda a los contribuyentes que no tienen otra opción que visitar o llamar al IRS para obtener asistencia. Los contribuyentes que no pueden resolver su problema con las herramientas en línea o a través de la línea de ayuda gratuita pueden llamar a la línea de citas al 844-545-5640 para hablar con un representante del IRS y programar una cita. La mayoría de los contribuyentes encontrarán que pueden resolver su problema por teléfono. Si el servicio en persona es necesario o se solicita, el representante programará una cita en la oficina del IRS más cercana o en el sitio de Entrega de servicio virtual, en una ubicación

local de socio comunitario, donde esté disponible.

Como recordatorio, IRS.gov ofrece numerosas opciones en línea para ayuda con los impuestos que pueden ahorrarle tiempo y esfuerzo. Éstas incluyen:

Free File, software gratuito de impuestos ofrecido a través de los socios del IRS para permitir que los contribuyentes presenten sus impuestos en línea.

Pago Directo (en inglés), realice pagos de impuestos o pagos de impuestos estimados directamente desde una cuenta de cheques o de ahorros.

Sistema de pago electrónico de impuestos federales, las personas o empresas pueden realizar todo tipo de pagos de impuestos federales.

Acuerdo de pago en línea, los contribuyentes elegibles pueden establecer pagos a plazos por impuestos adeudados.

¿Dónde está mi reembolso? Las

personas pueden verificar el estado de su reembolso y la fecha estimada de entrega.

¿Dónde está mi declaración enmendada? Los contribuyentes pueden rastrear el estado de su declaración de impuestos enmendada.

Respuestas a preguntas sobre la ley tributaria (en inglés), proporciona enlaces directos a recursos útiles para responder muchas preguntas sobre impuestos.

Acerca de su Aviso o Carta del IRS, información importante para un contribuyente que recibe una carta o un aviso.

Formularios y publicaciones del IRS, encuentre y descargue formularios, instrucciones y publicaciones actuales de impuestos.

Para obtener información adicional acerca de los servicios disponibles, consulte la Publicación 5136, la Guía de Servicios del IRS.

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Message from James Fiorentini, mayor of Haverhill Selection of the next School Superintendent

Greetings!

As you know, Superintendent Scully is retiring at the end of the school year.

I am writing to give you an update on the process to find Mr. Scully's successor, including when our three finalists will be coming to Haverhill to visit our schools and meet the community. This is your opportunity to meet and talk with the candidates prior to their public interviews and the School Committee's selection of our next superintendent.

Sticking with the critically important issue of local education and our schools, I am also providing an early look at our 2019 city budget picture, especially as it pertains to education and public safety funding.

Finally, I have included a brief update about this year's unusually bad flu season. We are offering free flu shots at the Citizens Center and I strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated, especially children and the elderly.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Fiorentini

Our 19-member Superintendent Search Advisory Committee voted Feb. 6 to send three finalists to the School Committee for consideration.

The finalists are Jared Fulgoni, Haverhill's current assistant superintendent; Dr. Anthony Pope, instructional chief for Boston's high schools; Margaret Marotta, head of pupil personnel services for the Salem, Mass. Schools. (Here is a link to the Haverhill Public Schools website that includes links to the finalists' biographies and full resumes).

Pending his or her selection by majority vote of the School Committee and successful contract negotiations, one of the finalists will succeed Mr. Scully.

The district's search consultant, the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, received 25 applications for Haverhill's top school position, and trimmed the pool to eight candidates for the Search Committee to interview and consider. Applicants came from Connecticut, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts and North Carolina.

The next step in the process is for members of the School Committee to visit each candidate's home district to meet with their local school leadership team as well as focus groups including parents and teachers to discuss issues that specifically impact elementary schools, middle schools and the high school. A fourth focus group will include city/town officials and members of the district's School Committee to discuss candidates' accomplishments and challenges in the community.

Superintendent Finalists To Meet Community, Public Interviews



Tuesday, March 6 - Ms. Margaret Marotta



Wednesday, March 7 - Mr. Jared Fulgoni



Thursday, March 8 -- Dr. Anthony Pope

Then, in early March, the candidates will come here to meet the community.

Candidates visit Haverhill

Tuesday, March 6 - Ms. Margaret Marotta

Wednesday, March 7 - Mr. Jared Fulgoni

Thursday, March 8 -- Dr. Anthony Pope

Candidates' visits to Haverhill will include meetings with school administrators, followed by tours of our elementary schools, middle schools and Haverhill High School, where they will visit classrooms and talk with teachers and students. They will also meet with groups of teachers and other staff at individual schools. Candidates will have lunch with city officials including members of the City Council and School Committee.

In the evening, the School Committee will host a reception for each candidate with parents, community members and city officials. These Meet & Greet sessions are open to the public and will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Locations will be announced soon.

Immediately following the Meet & Greets, the School Committee will conduct public interviews with each candidate from 7 to 8 p.m. These are expected to consist of an opening statement, questions from the School Committee and a closing statement. The interviews will be recorded and televised at a later date.

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.

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Rinden homenaje de agradecimiento a Roger Farah

Por Dalia Díaz

Roger Farah, fundador de The House of Mercy, fue sorprendido por el grupo de voluntarios que con él mantienen funcionando el refugio de hombres y mujeres carentes de un techo que los cubra, con una placa de reconocimiento por la labor que viene realizando.

Entre cánticos al Señor, testimonios de voluntarios y recipientes, vimos a Roger llorar de emoción y humildad al recibir la placa que le presentaron. En su comportamiento usual y sin tomar consideración por la labor que está realizando, acreditó los logros al grupo de voluntarias y voluntarios que allí laboran.

También mencionó el apoyo que recibió de varios familiares allí presentes.

Las fotos que mostramos revelan el cariño con que todos en The House of Mercy expresan entre sí.

The House of Mercy fue creada por Roger Farah respondiendo a la necesidad que él veía en esas personas desamparadas. En este local situado en el 85 de Bay State Rd., Lawrence, pueden venir a desayunar y almorzar, darse una ducha, cambiarse de ropas y lavarla. Si necesitan una muda de ropas, tiene un enorme armario donde pueden escoger lo que quieran. El desayuno y el almuerzo son donados por diferentes entidades todos los días.

Entre los servicios sociales que prestan tienen consejeros espirituales, les buscan viviendas, empleos, transportación y cuidado médico. Al final del día, hay un servicio religioso donde simplemente leen de la Biblia, en el que pueden participar.

Todo esto, sin el beneficio de dádivas gubernamentales, gracias a Roger y sus voluntarios.



Roger Farah honored

By Dalia Diaz

Roger Farah, founder of The House of Mercy, was surprised by the group of volunteers who have been working with him, have maintained the shelter of men and women lacking a roof to cover them, with a plaque of recognition for the work he has been doing.

Among songs praising the Lord, testimonials from volunteers as well as recipients, we saw Roger weep with emotion and humility when receiving the plaque that was presented to him. In his usual modus operandi, without taking credit for the work he is doing, he credited the group of volunteers who work there.

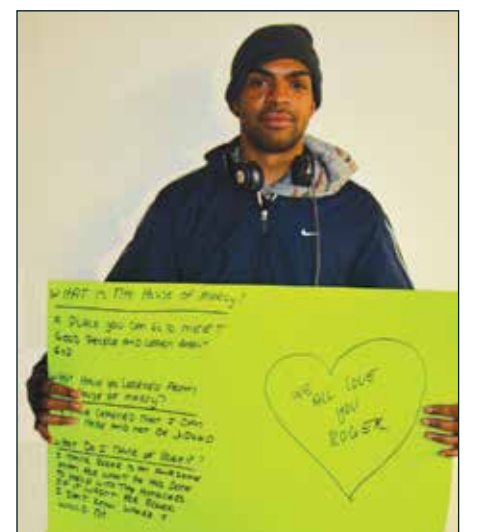
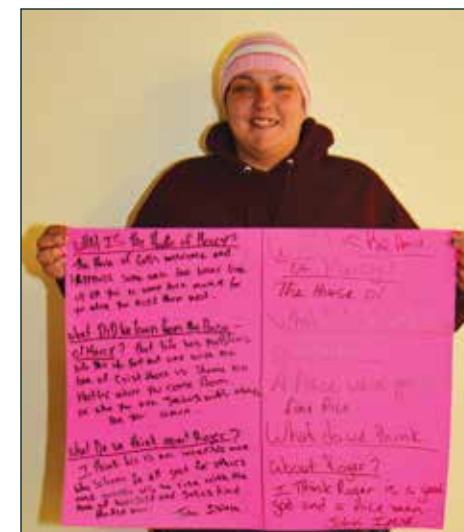
He also mentioned the support he received from several relatives also present.

The photos we show reveal the love that everyone at The House of Mercy expresses with each other.

The House of Mercy was created by Roger Farah responding to the need he saw in those homeless people. In this place located at 85 Bay State Rd., Lawrence, they can come to have breakfast and lunch, take a shower, change clothes and wash it. If they need a change of clothes, there is a huge closet where they can choose whatever is needed. Breakfast and lunch are donated by different sources every day.

Among the social services they provide, they have spiritual counselors, they look for housing, jobs, transportation and medical care. At the end of the day, there is a religious service where they simply read from the Bible, in which they can participate.

All this, is achieved without the benefit of government gifts, thanks to Roger and his volunteers.



Más personas se inscriben en el Health Connector, a pesar del incremento de precios

A pesar de los precios más altos, este año se inscribieron más personas en los planes de seguro de Massachusetts Health Connector.

Según el Massachusetts Health Connector, 252.700 personas adquirieron cobertura en este período de inscripciones abiertas, a diferencia 246.800 el año pasado. La inscripción abierta finalizó el 23 de enero.

"En cada período de inscripciones abiertas, tenemos como objetivo ampliar el acceso a la cobertura asequible a las personas que no tienen seguro de salud y garantizar que nuestros miembros actuales puedan mantener la cobertura de calidad que mejor se adapte a sus necesidades", dijo Louis Gutiérrez, director ejecutivo de Massachusetts Health Connector.

Health Connector es la plataforma en donde las personas y las pequeñas empresas pueden comprar cobertura subsidiada o a bajos costos.

Bajo el mandato de Donald Trump, el gobierno federal ha reducido los pagos compartidos a las aseguradoras. Por ello, las personas que tienen planes no subsidiados se han encontrado con que sus primas han aumentado en promedio un 26%.

Alrededor de 70.000 personas que estaban en planes de Health Connector el año pasado enfrentaron esos aumentos en el costo de sus primas. De ellos, el 45% cambió de plan, el 27% permaneció en el mismo plan y el resto terminó su cobertura, según funcionarios de Connector. Aquellos que terminaron su cobertura podrían haber conseguido seguro de salud a través de

un trabajo, el plan de su pareja, o tal vez son elegibles para una forma diferente de cobertura.

Los funcionarios de Health Connector atribuyeron la alta tasa de inscripción a una campaña marketing y actividades para informar a las comunidades.

Lora Pellegrini, presidenta de Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, dijo que el estado ha creado una "cultura de seguro" a través de su compromiso con el seguro de salud universal.

"Hemos creado una cultura de personas que tienen seguro. Si están sanos o enfermos, hay un entendimiento que es una parte importante de la vida", dijo Pellegrini.

Aunque el Congreso recientemente eliminó la ley que exige que cada individuo compre seguro de salud, Massachusetts continúa teniendo un mandato individual al nivel estatal.

De acuerdo con Kaiser Health News, la experiencia de Massachusetts no fue inusual. Los intercambios estatales en todo el país registraron pequeños aumentos de matrícula, en promedio 0.2 por ciento.

Hay 34 estados que usan un intercambio administrado por el gobierno federal, y esos estados registraron una reducción de la inscripción de seguro de salud de un promedio de 5.3 por ciento. Eso podría ser porque el gobierno federal acortó el marco de tiempo para la inscripción abierta y recortó dinero para marketing y asistencia.

Funcionarios estatales le dijeron a Kaiser Health News que hicieron cambios al nivel estatal para mitigar la pérdida de subsidios federales.

La Administración Baker/Polito lanza una campaña en español para ayudar a los padres latinos a proteger a sus hijos del abuso de opioides

El Departamento de Salud Pública de Massachusetts (DPH) ha lanzado una nueva campaña de información pública a nivel estatal dirigida a padres latinos de adolescentes para crear conciencia sobre la adicción a los opioides recetados y ayudarlos a cómo hablar con sus hijos sobre los peligros del uso incorrecto o abuso de opioides. La campaña fue adaptada de la galardonada iniciativa del Departamento Pare la adicción antes de que comience.

"Nuestros últimos datos muestran que los latinos en Massachusetts están sufriendo la tasa de crecimiento más rápida de muertes por sobredosis de opioides", dijo la Comisionada de Salud Pública Monica Bharel. "Debemos informar y educar sobre este hecho y hacer todo lo posible para evitar el abuso de opioides entre los jóvenes, especialmente los más afectados por esta enfermedad".

La tasa de muerte por sobredosis relacionada con opioides entre los hispanos se duplicó en tres años: de 15.8 muertes relacionadas con sobredosis de opioides por cada 100.000 habitantes en 2014 a 31.5 muertes relacionadas con sobredosis de opioides por cada 100.000 habitantes en 2016, un aumento de casi 100 por ciento, según el reporte de muertes relacionadas con opioides más reciente del DPH.

Cuatro de cada cinco personas que usan heroína comenzaron abusando de medicamentos recetados para el dolor y uno de cada cuatro adolescentes ha reportado que usó incorrectamente o abusó de un opioide recetado al menos una vez. Según la Partnership for Drug Free Kids (Asociación para Niños Libres de Drogas), los adolescentes que hablan con sus padres acerca de opioides recetados para el dolor tienen hasta 42% menos de probabilidad de usarlos incorrectamente o abusar de ellos que aquellos cuyos padres no lo hicieron.

La nueva campaña incluye un anuncio en español que se transmite por canales de televisión de habla hispana en el estado y también incluye anuncios digitales, de YouTube y Facebook. El Departamento también ha producido una versión en español del folleto Stop Addiction Before It Starts (Pare la adicción antes de que comience) que brinda orientación para ayudar a los padres a iniciar la conversación con sus hijos adolescentes. Todos los materiales de la campaña incluyen un llamado para que los padres visiten www.mass.gov/stopaddiction para obtener más información en español y en inglés.

Los fondos para la campaña fueron proporcionados por la Oficina de Servicios de Adicción a Sustancias del DPH. La campaña se extenderá hasta junio de 2018.



Despite higher prices, more people enroll in Health Connector

By Shira Schoenberg
sschoenberg@repub.com

Despite higher prices, more people enrolled in Massachusetts Health Connector insurance plans this year than last year.

According to Health Connector officials, 252,700 people purchased coverage, compared with 246,800 last year. Open enrollment ended Jan. 23.

"Our goal every Open Enrollment is to expand access to affordable coverage to people who do not have health insurance, and to ensure that our current members are able to maintain quality coverage that best suits their needs," said Louis Gutierrez, executive director of the Massachusetts Health Connector, in a statement.

The Health Connector is the marketplace where individuals and small businesses can buy subsidized or unsubsidized coverage.

Because the federal government under President Donald Trump cut cost-sharing payments to insurers, people on unsubsidized plans saw their premiums increase by an average of 26 percent.

Around 70,000 people who were on Health Connector plans last year faced those

cost increases. Of those, 45 percent switched plans, 27 percent remained on the same plans and the rest ended their coverage, according to Connector officials. Those who ended their coverage could have found health insurance through a job, gone on a spouse's plan or become eligible for a different form of coverage.

Health Connector officials attributed the high rate of enrollment to an outreach and marketing campaign.

Lora Pellegrini, president of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, said the state has created a "culture of insurance" through its commitment to universal health insurance.

"We have created a culture in the state of folks having insurance, whether you're healthy or sick, and understanding it's an important part of daily life," Pellegrini said.

Although Congress recently eliminated the mandate requiring every individual to buy health insurance, Massachusetts continues to have a state-level individual mandate.



Jóvenes de Lawrence son seleccionados para recibir subsidio para combatir el tabaco

La Fuerza de Tarea Juvenil de Prevención del Abuso de Sustancias de Lawrence recibió \$2,000 del Movimiento 84

Recientemente, la Fuerza Juvenil de Prevención del Abuso de Sustancias de Lawrence de la Coalición Comunitaria Lawrence y Methuen recibió una mini-subvención de \$2,000 del Movimiento 84 para llevar a cabo un proyecto de fotovoz diseñado para identificar tácticas utilizadas por la industria tabacalera. Los jóvenes fotografiarán anuncios de tabaco, empaques y disponibilidad e informarán sobre sus hallazgos en una presentación a los encargados de tomar las decisiones.

La Fuerza Juvenil de Prevención del Abuso de Sustancias de Lawrence es un capítulo del Movimiento 84 que ayuda a movilizar a los jóvenes para tomar medidas para proteger a sus comunidades de la influencia de la industria tabacalera. La subvención se otorga a grupos de jóvenes seleccionados de todo el estado que se comprometen a luchar contra la industria tabacalera en sus vecindarios y escuelas.

Según la asesora del capítulo Evelyn Rodriguez, "el año pasado, nuestros líderes juveniles encuestaron la disponibilidad de tabaco en Lawrence y lo informaron a la Junta de Salud. Ahora, con este proyecto de fotovoz, los jóvenes pueden explorar sus preocupaciones sobre cuán accesibles son los productos de tabaco para los jóvenes y hacer algunas recomendaciones para abordar el problema". El personal del

Movimiento 84 ha capacitado recientemente a aproximadamente 20 jóvenes para llevar a cabo el proyecto.

El 84 es un programa del Programa de Cesación y Prevención del Tabaquismo del Departamento de Salud Pública de Massachusetts, desarrollado y administrado en asociación con Health Resources in Action.

Acerca de Northeast Tobacco-Free Community Partnership, un programa del Greater Lawrence Family Health Center

La Alianza para la Comunidad Libre de Tabaco del Noreste apoya los esfuerzos de las comunidades para reducir la prevalencia del tabaquismo y la exposición al humo de segunda mano; mejorar los esfuerzos estatales y locales de control del tabaco mediante la exposición de las tácticas de la industria tabacalera, la movilización de la comunidad para apoyar y adoptar políticas basadas en la evidencia, y el cambio de las normas sociales. Financiado por el Programa de Cesación y Prevención del Tabaquismo de Massachusetts Las Asociaciones Comunitarias sirven como un recurso para las coaliciones locales, las agencias de servicios humanos y de salud, los municipios y los lugares de trabajo en los esfuerzos de intervención del tabaco.

Lawrence youth selected to receive grant to fight big tobacco

Lawrence Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force Awarded \$2,000 from The 84 Movement

The Lawrence Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force of the Lawrence Methuen Community Coalition, was recently awarded a \$2,000 mini-grant from The 84 Movement to conduct a photovoice project designed to identify tactics used by the tobacco industry. The youth will photograph tobacco advertisements, packaging and availability and report on their findings in a presentation to decision makers.

The Lawrence Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force is a chapter of The 84 Movement which helps mobilize youth to take action to protect their communities from the influence of the tobacco industry. The grant is awarded to selected youth groups from across the Commonwealth who are committed to fighting the tobacco industry in their neighborhoods and schools.

According to chapter advisor Evelyn Rodriguez, "Last year our youth leaders surveyed the availability of tobacco in Lawrence and reported on it to the Board of Health. Now, with this photovoice project, the young people can further explore their concerns about how highly accessible tobacco products are to youth and make some recommendations to address the problem."

The 84 Movement staff has recently trained approximately twenty youth to conduct the project.

The 84 is a program of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program, developed and managed in partnership with Health Resources in Action.

About the Northeast Tobacco-Free Community Partnership, a program of the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center

The Northeast Tobacco-Free Community Partnership supports communities' efforts to lower smoking prevalence and exposure to secondhand smoke; enhance state and local tobacco control efforts by exposing tobacco industry tactics, mobilizing the community to support and adopt evidence-based policies, and changing social norms. Funded by the Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention program Community Partnerships serve as a resource for local coalitions, health and human service agencies, municipalities, and workplaces on tobacco intervention efforts.

Whittier Tech Students and Staff Attend Interactive Presentation on Marijuana

"Weeding Through The Myths" Provides Information on Smoking, Vaping, Side Effects and More



Left to right: Ally O'Connor, a junior from West Newbury, Shyann Moon, a junior from Rowley, and Zoe Vougaris, a junior from Haverhill walked through the "Weeding Through The Myths" informational booths. (Courtesy Photo Whittier Tech)

Superintendent Maureen Lynch announces that students and staff attended an interactive presentation on marijuana and its health effects in anticipation of recreational retail locations opening later this year.

On Tuesday, Jan. 23, as part of health class, 130 freshmen, sophomores and juniors walked through a series of stations set up in the auditorium outlining facts on marijuana and related substances, like nicotine. Staff also had the opportunity to view the exhibit Wednesday afternoon.

To serve as a guide through the stations, health teachers handed out a scavenger hunt, where students were asked to answer questions like, what states have legalized the use of recreational marijuana, what are three health or safety risks associated with the use of marijuana and what are three things someone can do to reduce stress without turning to the use of substances.

"A lot of students are aware of the uses of marijuana, but seeing the numbers around when students start using and the health problems that it causes is eye-opening," said junior Ally O'Connor, of West Newbury.

The last station featured a variety of mindfulness items that are designed to promote relaxation without substance use. This includes adult coloring, yoga and even peacock feathers that students tested out balancing in their hands to centralize their focus.

"Everything was really well received by students and staff," Health Teacher Roxanne Grover said. "We wanted to provide an

opportunity to clear up any misinformation that might be out there and offer healthy ways to deal with stress and anxiety that people may not have realized are available to them."

Advisers of Whittier's Above the Influence programs organized the "Weeding Through The Myths" workshop and South Shore Health System provided the information stations.



Front, Jacklyn Verrette, a senior from Haverhill, and Cameron LaFrance, a senior from Georgetown, practice balancing peacock feathers on their hands as part of a relaxation exercise. (Courtesy Photo Whittier Tech)

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BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



My take on the 2018 State of the City

Mayor Daniel Rivera started by saying, “Tonight I will report to you on the state of our City,” repeating something all presidents say at the State of the Union: “The State of our City is Strong.”

He also warned that we are living in interesting times and during interesting times everything in one’s life is harder then, he spent half the time bad-mouthing the Trump Administration, the Stock Market and still, the Lantigua Administration. He even brought up the City of Brockton’s plan to lay off over 190 teachers and Everett planning to dismiss over 100 school employees, over 50 of them teachers.

He went on about, “Women and men are taking to the streets to protest for women rights, the treatment of immigrants and treatment of black men by police.

But don’t worry; the state of our city is strong.

Come on, get to Lawrence!

“The good news for us is that while we remain a community that is not as affluent as many that surround us, we have made tremendous strides in building fiscal stability in order to weather these storms and reduce the impact of these ‘interesting times’”, said Rivera.

If you feel confident, listen to this: right after that, he said, “the State insurance commission almost kicked us all off our insurance plans.” I wonder how many residents listening understood what that meant. If it was relative to employees’ health insurance, I think they have something to worry about because the mayor was very surreptitious about it.

Commonwealth Magazine on February 1, 2018, had an article entitled Group Insurance Commission reverts to status quo by Bruce Mohl. According to this piece, on January 18, 2018 the State’s Group Insurance Commission eliminated an ambitious proposal they had to save an estimated \$21 million by paring back the number of health

insurance carriers available to its 430,000 state and municipal customers.

The January 18 vote tossed out the earlier decision and reinstated the three carriers that had been booted from the city’s health insurance. Everything is back to normal for them but the mayor should have explained it.

In July of 2017, the city passed the 7th balanced, municipal budget, on-time... without borrowing money to balance it thanks to barebones spending plans. “We have also been frugal throughout the year and implemented policies to ensure day to day operations in each department to keep them within their budgets.”

Not so. Employees are overworked covering more than one position because the city refuses to fill jobs in order to look good on paper while bragging about the \$14 million cash reserve.

“In the past 4 years and we have collected more back taxes than the previous 9 years combined; to the tune of \$8,710,000,” but was careful to avoid the General Donovan investigation.

Referencing the high rate of homicides and opioids epidemic, the mayor simply said they will be dealt with.

The following paragraph is something I don’t want to paraphrase and I am reproducing it as he said it.

“The other crime categories that have broken records in a positive way must be talked about too. There has been a 7% Reduction in all Part I Felony Crimes, 24% Reduction in Robbery, 30% Reduction in Residential Burglaries, the lowest since at least 1999 along with a 30% Reduction in MV Theft; the lowest since 2008. The Lawrence police were able to maintain these rates while responding to 65,912 Calls for Service, 18,874 M/V Stops and 2,355 Arrests. This is more calls for service than a big department like Lowell gets annually. Trust me; I know we are not considered making gains in public safety until people actually feel safe. That is our goal.”

Is there anyone in Lawrence who believes those numbers? As residents of this city, we see crimes happening around us that are not reported in the police logs. Those calls that make the list are usually downgraded in importance, for example: SPECIAL CHECK. I think that category is widely overused because it means nothing. Responding to 65,912 Calls for Service in the year makes me think that they were not ordering pizzas.

This is the middle of February and the crime stats for the month of December 2017 have not been posted. That’s where we find the total numbers for all sorts of crimes committed through the year and how it compares to previous ones.

In education, he praised the work of School Superintendent/Receiver Jeff Riley and the successes we had but when he mentioned the Lawrence Alliance for Education will be open and transparent with considerable local control, there was no mention of the School Committee. The Alliance will be selecting a new superintendent of schools. I wonder why the Commissioner didn’t opt for appointing another receiver/superintendent to replace Jeff Riley instead of having the new person report to this board that will then report to the State, thus abolishing the need for a school committee properly elected by us all.

In the economic development front, the mayor thinks building more apartments is the solution while promising to build an additional 1,000 units. After three o’clock is impossible traveling from north to south and vice versa with the congestion of traffic. I’ve never heard of a traffic study or how this increase will affect the school system, police, fire department and all city services. Ask the firefighters about what they discover whenever there’s a fire; they usually find 3 families living in one apartment because they rent them by room. That’s a problem to tackle!

He claims these constructions create jobs. The reality is that unions complain that developers bring low-wage workers from out of state and very few jobs are permanent or given to Lawrencians.

Rivera bragged about the same names and projects as every year (Showcase Cinema, Tombarello, Riverwalk, etc.) and the only plans outlined for the future were hiring a permanent police chief, \$1 million to fix sidewalks, \$1/2 million for trees and \$1 million to fix basketball courts. Those outdoors basketball courts can only be used in good weather. How about investing in making the schools available all year around to keep kids off the streets?

He even takes credit for the Lawrence Partnership loans to businesses.

Rivera considers installing a new dance floor at the Senior Center and the new A/C and heat unit installed at the Library

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR RUMBO

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

as accomplishments instead of routine maintenance.

“Our neighborhoods are experiencing new life with hundreds of units being brought back on line by local developers. Thanks to the work of the Distressed Property Task Force, the pace of transforming abandoned and dilapidated buildings to quality housing is faster than ever. This process has helped us stabilize neighborhoods,” said Mayor Rivera.

The Distressed Property Task Force is made up of Mayor Daniel Rivera, Community Development Housing Manager Evelyn Ureña and Asset Officer Laiza St. Onge, Attorney Brian Corrigan, Chief of Staff Eileen Bernal, Building Inspector Horacio Rodriguez and Fire Department Lt. Mike Armano.

The PowerPoint presentation he brought didn’t work and the same for NECC that had one. Lawrence Community Access Television (LCAT) is in charge of Channel 22 and its equipment. That accounts for the poor cameras and sound equipment they have. But, in this case, that is something for which the city must be blamed. They were supposed to have an IT person there and failed to do so.

Things the mayor won’t talk about

There was a time when Lawrence had a Cable Advisory Commission where residents could go and complain about anything having to do with the local cable channels that we pay for as part of our monthly bills. It was conveniently dismantled during the Sullivan Administration, when the Lawrence Community Access Television was created.

I am convinced that there is a concerted effort to keep this community ignorant. The lack of information on local issues is the reason for making the wrong decisions at election time.

The Human Rights Commission was never supported as it should have been as if the intent was making it fail. Another reason for the internal turmoil was that it had become very political and a tool for Police Chief John Romero. He never missed a meeting and the general public never heard when and where they would be held. They held on as long as they could until members were so disgusted that gave up.

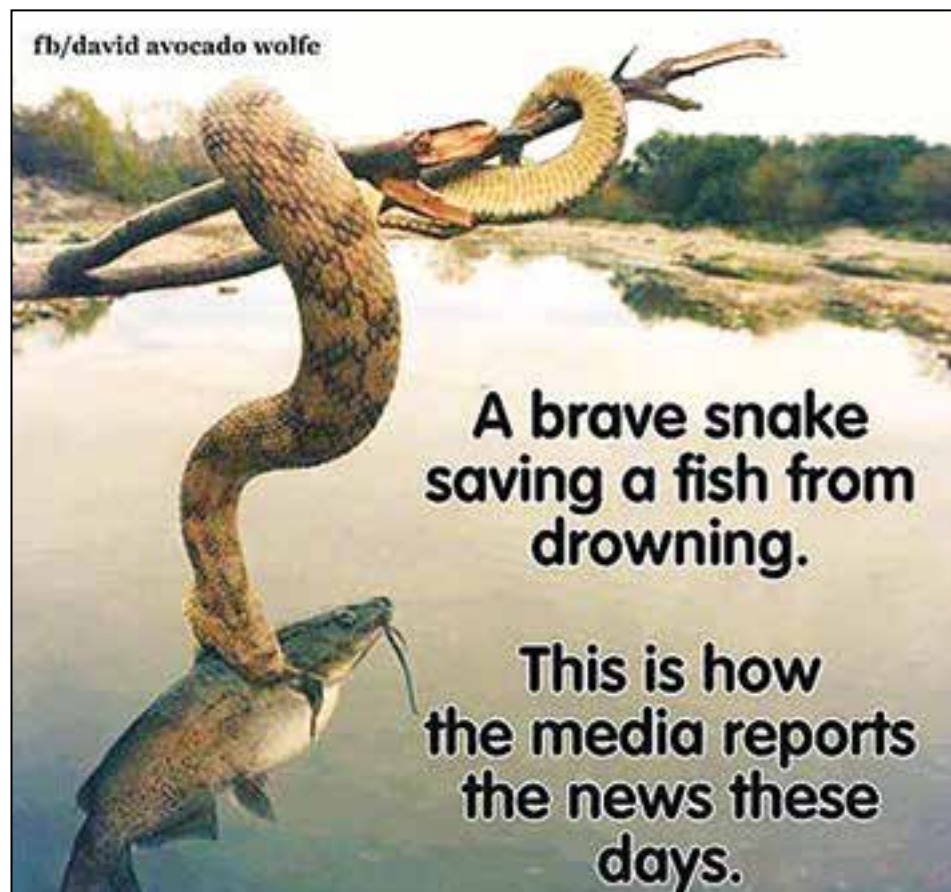
Most recently, the Commission on the Disabled suffered the same fate. They tried being a voice for those in need without support from the mayor’s office. Mayor Rivera refused to appoint new members so they could have a quorum, just like he did with the Human Rights Commission. Eventually, they gave up.

Keeping quiet and giving up is the worst thing to do. Keeping silence is not in my book.

“You can fool some of the people all of the time; you can fool all of the people for some of the time; but you cannot fool all the people all the time.”

“Uno puede engañar a algunas personas todo el tiempo; puede engañar a todos por algún tiempo; pero no puede engañar a todo el mundo todo el tiempo.”

- Abraham Lincoln



Baker-Polito Administration Supports Nine Community-Driven Initiatives

Urban Agenda Grant Program builds on community-driven initiatives to create new economic opportunities for residents

The Baker-Polito Administration awarded \$500,000 to nine projects through the Urban Agenda Grant Program. The program seeks to unlock community-driven responses to local obstacles, and promote economic development opportunities through partnership-building, problem solving, and shared accountability in urban centers. The competitive awards offer flexible funding for local efforts that bring together community stakeholders to pursue economic development initiatives. These awards will fund projects in Boston, Clinton, Framingham, Greenfield, Holyoke, Lowell, New Bedford, Revere and Springfield. Funding will support workforce development, small businesses, and entrepreneurship initiatives.

“Our administration utilizes the urban agenda grant program to support communities with strong local leadership committed to pursuing high-impact projects,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “These urban agenda awards will help residents re-enter the workforce, provide technical assistance to small businesses, support entrepreneurs and invest in collaborative partnerships.”

“Our administration understands the importance of local leadership and its impact on the lives of residents,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “The Urban Agenda Grant Program relies on the strong partnerships between local government, non-profits and the business community that are critical to fostering economic success and building stronger neighborhoods in every region in Massachusetts.”

The Urban Agenda Grant Program provides grants to communities working to provide residents with economic opportunities and workforce training. The program prioritizes projects that are based on collaborative work models that feature a strong partnerships between community organizations and municipalities. Awards prioritize collaboration, shared accountability and building leadership capacity at the local-level.

“Stable, vital communities have the support of effective non-profits, successful local businesses, and committed municipal leadership,” said Housing and Economic

Development Secretary Jay Ash. “Today’s awards address tough challenges in our urban centers by empowering these important coalitions to identify their resources, work together towards shared goals and create new opportunities for residents.”

The Commonwealth’s Urban Agenda is focused on promoting economic vitality and cultivating safer, stronger urban neighborhoods across Massachusetts. The Baker-Polito Administration recognizes that urban centers face unique economic and quality-of-life challenges, and that the path to success lies in tapping into the unique local assets that they already possess, rather than in one-size-fits-all directives from government.

In 2016, the Baker-Polito Administration awarded \$3 million in grant funding to thirteen communities for the inaugural round of the Urban Agenda Grant Program. Urban Agenda is administered by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED), and offers flexible grant funding to support creative local partnerships. The program is for neighborhoods across Massachusetts that have developed partnerships that leverage existing economic assets, target specific workforce populations, define their economic development and quality of life goals, and deliver on those goals.

In our area, Lowell, Coalition for a Better Acre receives \$50,000. Lowell’s project expands Coalition for a Better Acre’s (CBA) workforce development system, Supported Training and Education Program (STEP) by integrating resources provided by our Working Cities Lowell Initiative (WCLI) partners. STEP’s focus on communication, work ethic, leadership, workers’ rights, and conflict resolution combined with increased case management and wrap-around services from WCLI members will make a larger collective impact on low-income, immigrant and refugee neighbors we all serve. Together, they will prepare participants for and place them in career-track jobs, while providing support and resources to help them and their families become economically self-sufficient, breaking the cycle of multi-generational poverty



MR. B’S SPORT STORIES

BY FRANK BENJAMIN

1934 - 2018

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

Press your Memory Button!

A bumper sticker that reads, “Politicians and diapers both need changing often and both for the same reason.” I never drink water because of the disgusting things that fish do in it.

Until I was thirteen I thought my name was SHUT UP! Was the Exorcist one of the scariest movies ever? Remember the lines to see it and the controversy it created. The Movie The Outlaw starring Jane Russell also created long lines but I think for a different reason or make that two different reasons.

Another movie that was banned in many cities and had long lines and a long run was the Linda Lovelace movie.

One of the scariest movies for me was The Phantom of the Opera starring Claude Raines. It wasn’t a musical and I slept with the light on for many nights after seeing that one. The scene where in the cellar of the opera house the woman star slides up behind the phantom who was madly playing the organ and pulled his face covering mask off revealing a badly burned and disfigured face. Wow! Reliving it might make me sleep with the light on tonight. I’m sure the Jane Russell movie wouldn’t create the same situation.

Do you remember Jerry Lester and his late night show with the blonde bombshell called Dagmar? The show was called Broadway Open House. How about the Steve Allen late night show that introduced us to Andy Williams, Steve Lawrence, Eydie Gorme who later married Lawrence and they are still together today. Don Knotts and Tom Poston were regulars on this show.

How about the Ernie Kovacs show? I can remember him doing a bit about gorillas and he called them the Nairobi Trio.

The Rhythm Boys trio featured a young singer named Bing Crosby. His brother Bob had a group called the Bob Cats.

Ina Ray Hutton was a woman bandleader

that was also the featured singer of the band.

Harry James was a great trumpeter and the song Ciribiribeen was one of his great hits, he married the great and beautiful Betty Grable and together they bought and raised many race horses. Betty’s beautiful legs were supposedly insured by Lloyd’s of London for two million dollars.

Clyde McCoy’s big hit Sugar Blues was always a pleaser at the “hoodsie hops” and when the lights dimmed all the cool guys slinked onto the floor to show our “smoothness” to the wail of the lonely sounding trumpet that seemed to fit right in with our “peg pants” and loafers. Harlem Nocturne a saxophone solo was also another lure to the floor of the so called “wheels”.

Major Bowes was a talent show and a big one and Horace Heidt and his Musica Knights were stars of the day. Artie Shaw and his clarinet produced great sounds but he was more famous for his many marriages, I think there were at least ten.

Did you know that tires are male because they go bald and are often over inflated?

An hour glass is female because over time the weight shifts to the bottom.

Finally, I was really concerned about this and maybe you were, too. When I heard women were wearing “thongs” I wasn’t surprised, but then I heard they were wearing them as underwear and that concerned me. I felt that must be very uncomfortable and bulky; it didn’t make sense to me. Understand when we spoke of thongs we are talking about the little rubber slipperlike sandals that we would use to go into the shower, pool, or walk from our blanket to the water at the beach.

I guess I’m not the only one who was confused by that article of clothing.

Classes Forming at the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

Registrations are now being taken for ESOL (English-for-Speakers-of-Other-Languages), Citizenship Preparation and English Communication for Employment classes at the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center (the former Asian Center), 439 S. Union Street, building 2, Level B, Lawrence, MA 01843.

Anyone interested in signing up for morning or evening classes should call MVIEC, The Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center at 978-683-7316. Check out the MVIEC’s website at www.mviec.org for directions and more details.



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Massachusetts Department of Public Health

The Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus Reflects on 2017 Successes

As the Legislature embarks on year two of the 190th legislative session, the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus (MBLLC) proudly celebrates several victories from the prior year. These 2017 Caucus successes range from appointment, legislative and community victories.

“We had a busy year and have much to be proud of”, said MBLLC Chair, Representative Frank Moran (D-Lawrence). “Working together, our membership was able to accomplish many gains”, he continued.

Appointment Successes

Last March, the MBLLC welcomed its new chair, Representative Frank Moran (D-Lawrence), replacing Representative Russell Holmes (D-Mattapan), who transitioned from Chair in early 2017. Representative Moran had been a member of the MBLLC since entering the House of Representatives in 2013 and previously served on the MBLLC Executive Board for the past two legislative terms. In addition to appointing a new Chair, the MBLLC also elected Representative Aaron Vega to serve as Treasurer (formerly Representative Moran) and Representative Evandro Carvalho as Clerk (formerly Representative Aaron Vega). Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz remained in her prior role of MBLLC Vice Chair.

In addition to the new executive board, the MBLLC celebrated a major victory in the naming of Representative Jeffrey Sanchez (D-Boston) as Chairman of the powerful House Committee on Ways and Means. Representative Sanchez’s appointment marks a first for a legislator of color. As HWM chair, Rep. Sanchez is now responsible for considering all matters related to state finances. Other Caucus appointments included Senator Linda Dorcena Fory (D- Dorchester) (now retired) as Senate Assistant Majority Whip, Representative Evandro Carvalho as Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Health (D-Dorchester); Representative Frank Moran (D-Lawrence) as Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy; and Representative Aaron Vega (D-Holyoke)

as Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. In 2017, the MBLLC also welcomed its four newest members: Representative Juana Matias (D-Lawrence), Representative Chynah Tyler (D-Roxbury), Representative Bud Williams (D-Springfield), and Representative Andy Vargas (D-Haverhill). With the addition of the new members, the MBLLC membership grew from 13 to 14 members in 2017.

Legislative Successes

The MBLLC’s major legislative victory came in the passage of comprehensive criminal justice reform bills in the House of Representatives and Senate. After years of advocacy dating back to 2012, the MBLLC was able to finally deliberate criminal justice reform on behalf of its constituency. An Act implementing the joint recommendations of the Massachusetts criminal justice review (H.4012) and An act relative to criminal justice reform (H.4043/S.2170) featured provisions from several MBLLC priority bills including An Act Relative to the Expungement of Marijuana Arrests (H.2785), An Act to reduce the criminalization of poverty (Collateral Sanctions bill) (S.777), and An Act for justice reinvestment (S.791). Victories in H.4012, H.4043, and S.2170 included CORI reform, expungement, pre-trial bail and fine time reform, diversion, law enforcement training on implicit biases, compassionate release, evidence-based programming, and data collection provisions. These bills are currently before Conference Committee where the Caucus continues its advocacy.

In addition to criminal justice reform, the MBLLC secured several policy wins in the newly-enacted marijuana regulation legislation entitled, An Act to ensure safe access to marijuana (H.3818/S.2097), now Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017. This legislation sets regulatory framework for the new marijuana industry in Massachusetts and features Caucus amendments that promote inclusion of people of color and

minority-owned businesses in cannabis-related industries and regulation. These provisions include the establishment of a study aimed to increase diversity in the new industry and the establishment of participation goals for communities of color, women, and veterans; and funding for restorative justice, jail diversion, workforce development, industry technical assistance, and other services for economically-disadvantaged persons.

The MBLLC’s final legislative victory came with the passage of bilingual education legislation entitled, the An Act for Language Opportunity for Our Kids includes key reforms in English language education and dual language learning (S.262). Under the stewardship of MBLLC members Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz (D-Jamaica Plain), Representative Jeffrey Sanchez (D-Jamaica Plain), and Representative Frank Moran (D-Lawrence), the legislation improved supports to English language learners (ELLs) in public schools. Specifically, the statute provides flexibility to school districts to determine programs best suited to ELL students’ needs.

“I am thrilled to see this bill signed into law” said Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz (D – Jamaica Plain). “All children in our schools deserve to learn English, and now parents and educators will have the tools to serve each student’s needs and make sure no child falls between the cracks. At a time when the voices of bigotry and xenophobia threaten our country’s basic values, Massachusetts is taking a stand that we will do what’s right for all children, including immigrant children, and that we’ll put evidence and facts ahead of ideology” she continued.

Community Successes

Last year, one of the MBLLC’s earliest victories was the successful launch of the Communities of Color (COC) Budget Listening Tour. The Listening Tour served as an opportunity for residents to both learn about the FY18 State Budget process and provide input on MBLLC budget priorities and made stops in Chelsea, Randolph, and Worcester. In total, the Listening Tour welcomed over 150 attendees, in addition to several municipal and community partners.

Additionally, in an effort to increase diversity among the State House student population, the MBLLC collaborated with the Senate Office of Education and Civic Engagement to launch a pilot initiative

entitled, Civics Day on the Hill. This initiative engages 8th-11th grade classrooms in a full-day legislative education program featuring guest speakers, classroom activities, a historic tour of the State House, and Senate or House of Representatives informal/formal observations. Most critical to the initiative is the opportunity for students to engage with members of the MBLLC and staffers of color who share their pathway to the State House. Last year, in partnership with Boston Public Schools (BPS), the MBLLC hosted five BPS classrooms.

In 2017, the MBLLC spent much of the year serving as the voice for displaced and disadvantaged. Specifically, in the weeks following the Category 5 Hurricane Maria that hit Puerto Rico, the MBLLC responded by urging the Baker Administration to support emergency assistance relief efforts in Puerto Rico. The Caucus advocated for the transport of personnel, supplies, and equipment to the Island. The Caucus also called on the Massachusetts congressional delegation to advocate for federal hurricane relief funding to the federal government. Additionally, the MBLLC urged the Baker Administration to support the reinstatement of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The Caucus was pleased to later see the Baker Administration’s statement of support to the Trump Administration on behalf of TPS.

Lastly, following the suspension of two students of color at Mystic Valley Regional Charter School District, the Caucus stepped in to share its concern regarding the school’s dress code policy and urged Mystic Valley to permanently modify its policy to a more culturally inclusive one. Finally, in response to the series of racially charged incidents at Fenway Park last year, the MBLLC spearheaded an ongoing dialogue on race with the Boston Red Sox organization which has helped with the launch of their “Take the Lead Against Racism” campaign.

Looking ahead, the MBLLC looks forward to continuing its record of successes. Specifically, the Caucus will be focused on advancing its 22 legislative priority bills, advocating for FY19 budget needs, expanding the Civics Day on the Hill initiative to additional classrooms, continuing its efforts to support displaced residents from Puerto Rico, and resuming our Communities of Color listening tours in the fall.

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Chinese & Vietnamese New Year Celebration

A Chinese & Vietnamese New Year Celebration will take place on Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Lawrence Senior Center, 155 Haverhill St., Lawrence. The City of Lawrence Council on Aging and the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center are sponsoring this event. They are inviting the general public to experience an Asian Lunar New Year 2018 "Year of the Dog" celebration.

Tickets for lunch are \$8 must be purchased in advance. Entertainment will be provided by cultural Asian dancers from Lawrence known as the Dance Troupe at Lam Ty Ni Temple. They will perform dances of their own culture including the traditional Lion Dance, a fan favorite. For tickets or more information, contact the Lawrence Senior Center at 978-620-3540

The program is supported in part by a grant from the Lawrence Cultural Council, a



local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



Women's Lacrosse Picked 11th in NE10 Coaches' Poll

The Merrimack College women's lacrosse team has been selected to finish 11th in the Northeast-10 Conference, that according to the league's preseason coaches' poll, which was unveiled Tuesday morning.

Entering the second year of head-coach Julie Duffy's tenure, the Warriors' 11th-place selection would represent their highest finish in the league standings in five years. That recognition should not come as a surprise considering the infusion of young talent that has helped establish the team's foundation to grow upon. Merrimack nearly upset a pair of ranked teams last season and suffered three one-goal losses in total a year ago, a fact that indicates that the Warriors could be on the cusp of their best season in five years this spring.

Defending national champion Adelphi was been picked to win the NE10 crown for a fifth straight season, claiming 167 total points along with 11 first-place votes from the league's head coaches. Adelphi has won the conference title seven times in the last eight seasons and will be looking for their program-record and NE10-record fifth consecutive title this coming spring.

Le Moyne took the second spot in the poll with 159 points and received the other three first-place votes. New Haven was picked to finish third with 141 points, followed by Pace with 124 and Stonehill with 123.

Assumption (102 points), Bentley, Saint

Anselm, Southern New Hampshire and Franklin Pierce rounded out spots 6-10 in front of Merrimack. After the Warriors were AIC (36), Saint Michael's (28) and Southern Connecticut (27) to round out the 14-team field.

Merrimack's regular season starts next Monday, Feb. 12, at Roberts Wesleyan at 3 p.m. The 2018 NE10 Championship is slated to begin with Quarterfinal Round action on Wednesday, May 2. The Semifinals are scheduled for Saturday, May 5 with the finals to follow on Sunday, May 6.

2018 NE10 Women's Lacrosse Coaches' Poll

1. Adelphi - 167 (11)
2. Le Moyne - 159 (3)
3. New Haven - 141
4. Pace - 124
5. Stonehill - 123
6. Assumption - 102
7. Bentley - 88
8. Saint Anselm - 79
9. Southern New Hampshire - 77
10. Franklin Pierce - 68
11. Merrimack - 54
12. American International - 36
13. Saint Michael's 28
14. Southern Connecticut - 27

For continuing coverage of Merrimack College Athletics, visit MerrimackAthletics.com and follow the Warriors on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Women's Swimming Drafts Molly McBryan Through Team IMPACT

Continuing the rich department-wide tradition that does so much for the teams and players, the Merrimack College women's swimming team and head coach Erin Cammann in conjunction with the Team IMPACT program officially signed and welcomed Molly McBryan to the program this weekend.

Molly becomes the latest relationship that brings together Merrimack Athletics and Team IMPACT, which enriches the lives of young children facing life-threatening and chronic illnesses through the power of team. Sarah, age 9, of Amesbury, Massachusetts, was diagnosed in 2010 with Neurofibromatosis.

As a member of the team, Molly will attend Warrior practices, meets, team dinners, special events, and much more.

"As coaches, we are always looking for athletes with mental toughness and positive attitudes," explained head coach Cammann. "Molly is a shining example of both, and we are lucky that she is joining our squad. She's a great example to all of us, and she also makes everyone around her happier. She will be a great addition to the team."

This past Saturday, Molly visited the

Andover YMCA, the home venue for the Warriors, to officially sign as the newest member of the team. Cammann and many members of the women's swimming team were on hand to spend the morning with Molly at the pool and have lunch with her.

About Team IMPACT

Team IMPACT is a national nonprofit headquartered in Boston, MA that connects children facing serious or chronic illnesses with college athletic teams, forming life-long bonds and life-changing outcomes. Since 2011, Team IMPACT has matched more than 1,300 children with more than 500 colleges and universities in 47 states, reaching over 35,000 participating student-athletes. The child joins the athletic team and the student-athletes join the child's support team. Throughout the journey, the child gains strength, camaraderie and support while the student-athletes experience lessons of courage, resiliency and perspective they can't learn in a classroom.

For more information on Team IMPACT, please click here.

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.

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Wandering From Kipling's Burma to Today's Myanmar, Feb. 15, 7 PM

The date of Richard Greene's talk, "Wandering From Kipling's Burma to Today's Myanmar," at the Nashua Public Library has been changed to Thursday, February 15, at 7 p.m.

In 2017, Richard Greene, Ph.D., traveled extensively in Myanmar (Burma)—the country that inspired Orwell's "Burmese Days" and Kipling's poem "Mandalay"—taking thousands of photographs. During his library talk he will introduce you to the country's history, its cuisine, and the overwhelming influence of Theravada Buddhism on daily life and politics, including the plight of the Rohingya Muslims.



Children at a Buddhist monastery school in Mandalay, Myanmar.

The library is located at 2 Court Street, Nashua. For directions and parking information go to nashualibrary.org/visit/directions. For other information contact Carol at carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org or (603) 589-4610.

A tour guide in Indein, Myanmar, explaining that the shape of pagodas is meant to resemble a leaf from a tree the Buddha sat under to get enlightened.

Talk to a Human Book at Nashua Library Sunday, February 25, 2 PM

For one afternoon, on Sunday, February 25, books will come alive at the Nashua Public Library Human Book Festival.

The "books" at this festival are people with stories to tell, about interesting jobs or travels; causes they have championed; experiences of prejudice due to their religion, disability, or other identity; and more. At the event, participants can "check them out" for one-on-one, 15-minute conversations in the library.

All the human books participating in the festival live in the Nashua area and have a unique story to tell. Some will tell of their vocations—Nashua cop; Telegraph newsman; hydroponic lettuce farmer; engineer developing vital technology for the Apollo space program.

Some will tell of activism—taking on the fracking industry; serving medical missions to earthquake-ravaged Nepal.

Some will tell of flight—escaping persecution as a Rohingya Muslim; immigrating and becoming a US citizen.

And others will tell of personal journeys—from sudden blindness to marathoner, from substance misuse to recovery, from teenage motherhood to community activism; from child with

disabilities to college graduate.

Schedule for the event

The 15-minute conversations will begin at 2 p.m., 2:20 p.m., 2:40 p.m., 3 p.m., 3:20 p.m., and 3:40 p.m.

At 4 p.m., everyone will gather in the theater for refreshments and a brief discussion of what they have learned at the event.

Reserving a human book

A link to a catalog describing the human books will be available after February 20 at nashualibrary.org/attend/lectures. Books may be reserved on February 25 only, at the event, starting at 1 p.m., when participants may select up to two books. After 2 p.m., depending on attendance, participants may be able to reserve more.

The festival is free and open to the public. The snow date is March 11.

The library is located at 2 Court Street, Nashua. For directions and parking information go to www.nashualibrary.org/visit/directions. For other information contact Carol at carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org or (603) 589-4610.

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What workshop will you register for?

ADULT one-day workshops

EAC is hosting a drop-in life drawing session the last Sunday of each month. Artist, Mark Duff will facilitate the session. Artists may work in any medium they like as long as they carry out all materials that they carry in.

Art History Lecture: René Magritte: His Life and Legacy

Louis Bernieri, 1-day, Wednesday, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM 1/31/18, \$20

CHILDREN'S FEBRUARY Vacation 1-DAY ARTventures

Half day explorations

Adventure in Architecture!, AGE 4-5

Lisa Buglione-Desharnais, 1-day, Tuesday, 9 AM - 12 PM, 2/20/18, \$30

Texture & Textiles, AGE 4-5

Lisa Buglione-Desharnais, 1-day, Wednesday, 9 AM - 12 PM, 2/21/18, \$30

An Artist's Laboratory, AGE 4-5

Lisa Buglione-Desharnais, 1-day, Thursday, 9 AM - 12 PM, 2/22/18, \$30

Immerse yourself for a day

Shading, Value and Volume, AGE 6-8

Harshal Shah, 1-day, Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, 2/20/18, \$55

Color Games, AGE 6-8

Karen Nastuk, 1-day, Wednesday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, 2/21/18, \$55

Whimsical Treehouses, AGE 6-8

Cheryl Sirois, 1-day, Thursday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, 2/22/18, \$55

Imaginary Creatures, AGE 6-8

Mary Ann McArdle, 1-day, Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, 2/23/18, \$55

Charcoal to Watercolor, AGE 8-11

Karen Nastuk, 1-day, Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, 2/20/18, \$55

Drawing Illusions, AGE 8-11

Greg Orfanos, 1-day, Wednesday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, 2/21/18, \$55

Understanding Perspective, AGE 8-11

Harshal Shah, 1-day, Thursday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, 2/22/18, \$55

Color Blast, AGE 8-11

Luba Shapiro Grenader, 1-day, Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, 2/23/18, \$55

Comic Book Design, AGE 11-15

Don Mathias, 1-day, Tuesday, 9AM - 3PM, 2/20/18, \$55

Contemporary Portrait, AGE 11-15

Luba Shapiro Grenader, 1-day, Wednesday, 9AM - 3PM, 2/21/18, \$55

Charcoal & Pastels, AGE 11-15, Luba Shapiro Grenader, 1-day, Thursday, 9AM - 3PM, 2/22/18, \$55

Scenes in Fiber, AGE 11-15

Karen Nastuk, 1-day, Friday, 9AM - 3PM, 2/23/18, \$55

MUSIC IN THE GALLERY Free concert

Classics for Kids, Age 4+

Boston Baroque, 1-day, Friday, 10:30 am and 12:00 pm

2/23/18, 2 FREE PERFORMANCES

Join Boston Baroque and experience Classics for Kids, with the colorful and playful music of Vivaldi's The Four Seasons! This 30-minute version will be interactive and geared towards kids 4-12 years old, complete with an instrument petting zoo following the performance!

ART TOGETHER Create with your little one

Let's Explore What's in Season! AGE 3-5 with Adult

Nicole Pelletier, 6-WK, Monday, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

2/26/18 - 4/2/18, \$55

Using our whole body we will discover and delve into the natural world! Together we will explore listen, observe, smell, and touch the natural beauty of the season. Beginning with songs and movement, we will build a community of learners and introduce a new natural material to investigate each week. After our initial community meeting, we will thoughtfully and independently explore materials such as clay, paint, and paper. Limit 12.

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We are offering so many different classes from one-day art lectures to weekly mosaic classes. Browse our PDF to help you figure out which class you may be interested in!

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"Lo único que nos llega sin ningún esfuerzo es la vejez."

- Gloria Pitzer

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Daybreak Shelter needs help



Daybreak Shelter offers emergency shelter for individuals under the influence of alcohol and other drugs.

Every guest has access to a hot dinner, warm shower, and safe sleeping accommodations but they need help. They urgently need towels, sheets and pillow cases because they get washed every day.

You may also contribute with paper goods (plates, cups, etc.), toiletries and left over food from parties and events. They welcome everything including cash donations.

The work this shelter does is amazing helping people get their lives back with education, training, counseling or whatever they may need.

Go to their website to see more photos.

Daybreak Shelter ofrece refugio de emergencia para personas bajo la influencia del alcohol y otras drogas.

Todos los huéspedes tienen acceso a una cena caliente, una ducha caliente y un alojamiento seguro para dormir, pero necesitan ayuda. Necesitan urgentemente toallas, sábanas y fundas de almohada porque se lavan todos los días.

También puede contribuir con artículos de papel (platos, tazas, etc.), artículos de tocador y restos de comida de fiestas y eventos. Dan la bienvenida a todo, incluidas las donaciones en efectivo.

El trabajo que este refugio hace es increíble para ayudar a las personas a recuperar sus vidas con educación, capacitación, asesoramiento o lo que sea que necesiten.

Vaya a su sitio web para ver más fotos.

Greg Davenport, Program Director.
Daybreak Shelter
19 Winter Street, Lawrence, MA 01841
PHONE (978) 975-4547
FAX (978) 975-2672

PLAY BALL !!

Minor League (Ages 8-12) Baseball
Senior League (Ages 13-15) Baseball

Register in Person :

Dates: February 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 - 5:00pm to 6:00pm
Deadline April 29

Roberto Clemente League of Lowell Organization Inc.
517 Moody St. 3rd Floor Lowell Ma 01854
Any Information Please contact :Maria Claudio
978-608-7246 / Ray 978-257-5399



Please Bring Copy Birth Certificate
Make check payable : Roberto Clemente League

SUDOKU (Respuestas/Answers pg 23)

			1	5			8
			2	7		6	4
		9	3			7	1
6			4				9 3
	8						5
	9	1					7
	7			2			8
2		3	5				6

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Anuncio de Servicio Público / Public Service Announcement



City of Lawrence
Office of the City Clerk
Election Division
200 Common Street
Lawrence Massachusetts 01840
TEL: (978) 620-3290
FAX: (978) 722-9230
www.cityoflawrence.com

DANIEL RIVERA
MAYOR
WILLIAM J. MALONEY
CITY CLERK
CAROLE MORIN
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

La División de Elecciones de la Ciudad de Lawrence ha enviado el Censo Anual 2018, a todos los Residentes de la Ciudad de Lawrence. El Censo está impreso en inglés y español para la conveniencia de todos. Es importante que usted complete y devuelva el formulario del Censo para que la residencia de los miembros de su hogar esté establecida. La información del censo nos permite actualizar la Lista de Votantes. Su repuesta al censo además nos provee información estadística necesaria para la asignación de servicios públicos para los residentes de la Ciudad de Lawrence. Su inmediata atención y cooperación es solicitada y la División de Elecciones de la Ciudad de Lawrence le pide que por favor siga las instrucciones cuando esté completando el censo de la Ciudad.

1. Verifique que toda la información impresa en el formulario esté correcta
2. Asegúrese de incluir a todos los miembros de la familia cuya dirección legal es la misma.
Esto incluye miembros del núcleo familiar que puedan estar lejos debido a Servicio Militar, Estudiantes, o personas que por razones de salud se encuentran en reclusas en centros de cuidados de salud.
3. Tache cualquier miembro que ya no viva en su hogar y escriba su nueva dirección si la conoce.
4. Por favor identifique cualquier miembro que se haya mudado o fallecido.
5. Firme y escriba la fecha en el formulario.

Por favor complete y devuelva el formulario del Censo dentro de los próximos diez (10) días, o lo más pronto posible, en el sobre pre-pagado que está adjunto al formulario con la dirección de envío impresa para mayor facilidad. La dirección de retorno es: División De Elecciones, 200 Calle Common, cuarto #4, Lawrence MA. 01840. Número de Teléfono es: 978-620-3290, si necesita información adicional

Lawrence Election Division
Tel: (978) 620-3290

The City of Lawrence Election Division will soon mail the 2018 Annual Census the residents of the City of Lawrence. The Census is printed in Spanish and English for everyone's convenience. It is important to complete and return the Census Form so that the residence of each household member is established. The Census is also used to develop the voting list to be used during the year. Responses to the City Census also provides the City of Lawrence with statistical information necessary to plan and allocate the delivery of public services to the residents of Lawrence. Your immediate attention and cooperation is requested and The City Election Division asks that you please follow these instructions when completing the City Census:

1. Verify the accuracy of all information contained or provided on the form;
2. Be sure to list all family or household members whose legal address is the same. Include any member of the family members who may be away from the household due to military service, school attendance, or who may be at a rest home or convalescent facility;
3. "Cross off" any resident who may no longer reside at the address and provide their new address, if known;
4. Please identify anyone who has moved or is deceased;
5. Sign and date the form;

Please complete and return the Census Form within TEN (10) DAYS or as soon as possible. Postage on each return envelope provided by mail is pre-paid and the return address is pre-printed for your ease and convenience. If you prefer, the Census Form may be returned in person to: The City of Lawrence Board of Registrars, Room 4, 200 Common Street, Lawrence, MA 01840. Please contact the Election/Census Division at (978) 978-620-3290 if you need additional information.

Lawrence Election Division
Tel: (978) 620-3290

Pensar es el trabajo más difícil que existe. Quizá esa sea la razón por la que haya tan pocas personas que lo practiquen.

Thinking is the hardest work there is. Perhaps that is why there are so few people who practice it.

- Henry Ford

CALENDARIO | CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Job training for 16-24-year-olds

Job Corps, a federal government agency, is looking for young adults ages 16 to 24 who would like to take advantage of their free, residential, education and job-training program.

Come to the Nashua Public Library on Thursdays between 2 pm and 4:30 pm and meet with a Job Corps admissions officer who can help you apply to the program. No appointment is necessary. More information about Job Corps is available at www.jobcorps.gov.

What's Your Story?

How do we connect to one another despite different life stories, politics, and experiences? That's one of the questions to be examined at "What's Your Story?", a series of guided conversations at the Nashua Public Library aimed at building community.

The six workshops will be held on Thursday nights, February 8, 15, and 22 and March 8, 15, and 22, at 7 p.m. Each week a different presenter from Nashua will share a life story, and then human relations teacher Lisa Yates will lead a discussion that will allow participants to connect in a meaningful way.

The workshops are free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

The library is located at 2 Court Street, Nashua. For directions and parking information go to www.nashualibrary.org/visit/directions. For other information contact Carol at carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org or (603) 589-4610.

English Conversation Group at Nashua Library

On the third Thursday of each month, enjoy Coffee and Conversation at the Nashua Public Library.

The event is an opportunity for people learning English as well as native English speakers to talk about topics of everyday interest, share their languages, and enjoy refreshments. It's sponsored by the Cultural Navigators of One Greater Nashua. All are welcome.

Upcoming dates are February 15, March 15, April 19, and May 17, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the library's Activity Room.

Coffee and Conversation is free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

The library is located at 2 Court Street, Nashua. For directions and parking information go to www.nashualibrary.org/visit/directions. For other information contact Carol at carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org or (603) 589-4610.

BETTER TOGETHER

the Y

YMCA de Lawrence y Methuen
Better Together ofrece combinada.

A PARTIR DEL 1 DE FEBRERO

AHORA, los miembros de Lawrence & Methuen tienen privilegios de membresía y programas completos, sin restricciones y disfrutan de instalaciones y programas en ambas ubicaciones *.

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dos gimnasios • cuidado de niños gratuito para miembros de nuestra familia • gimnasio de última generación • personal extraordinario para ayudarlo a alcanzar sus metas de acondicionamiento físico • centros infantiles de calidad después de la escuela y guardería después de la escuela • regazo y tiempo recreativo abierto en nuestra hermosa piscina de seis carriles • vestuarios para todas las edades • vestuarios familiares, vapor y sauna • dos clubes de música • sala de reuniones comunitarias • registro de programas prioritarios • tarifas reducidas en programas basados en tarifas • clases gratuitas de ejercicios en grupo • entrenamiento personal • salud, deportes y especialidades programación para todas las edades • eventos familiares y comunitarios gratuitos • eventos especiales • alquiler de fiestas de cumpleaños • programa de recomendación para miembros • descuentos y reembolsos de seguro médico • ¡y mucho más!

Lawrence YMCA 978-685-6190 • Methuen YMCA 978-681-5266 mvymca.org

"If your dreams don't scare you, they are not big enough."

"Si tus sueños no te asustan, entonces no son lo suficientemente elevados."

- Muhammad Ali

Taller Gratuito

FEDERACIÓN PARA NIÑOS CON NECESIDADES ESPECIALES Child Development and Education

Los Derechos Básicos en Educación Especial
Un Taller para Padres y Profesionales

Este taller ofrece una comprensión básica sobre la complejidad y el procedimiento de las leyes en educación especial.

Día: 2/28/18
Hora: 10:00am-12:00pm
Lugar: Child Development & Education,
76 Merrimack St, suite 8B
Haverhill, Ma 01830

Ofecido por
La Federación para Niños con Necesidades Especiales y Child Development and Education estaremos ofreciendo un taller gratuito sobre los Derechos Básicos en Educación Especial para padres de familia/profesionales con niños con Discapacidad Intelectual.

Los Esperamos!!!!
Olga M. Lopez

Contacto:
Claudia Hoyos
Haverhill Regional Director
Tel: 978-372-0619

The Federation for Children with Special Needs | The Schrafft Center | 529 Main Street, Suite 1M3 | Boston, MA 02129
617-236-7210 or 800-331-0688 | fcin.org/ptc/workshops

dcr Massachusetts

Lawrence Heritage State Park
Interpretive Program

One Jackson Street at Canal
Lawrence, MA 01840
(978) 794-1655

2nd Lawrence High School...photo courtesy of Lawrence History Center

LHS Students as Historians

a display of historical exhibits on major themes in Lawrence history by Jerry Hayes' History of Lawrence class at Lawrence High School.

In our 3rd floor Gallery...
February 7 through 26, 2018
at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitor Center,
1 Jackson Street; Free admission; Open daily, 9 to 4.

Coming Event
Department of Conservation and Recreation

TRUE PHOTO STUDIO
By *Dario Arias*

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CUMPLEAÑOS
MODELOS
FOTOS FAMILIARES
FOTOS PARA PASAPORTES



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Lawrence, MA 01840
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Toda la ganancia de esta organización sin fines lucrativos ayuda a Blueskies Wellness, Inc. la cual provee programas de prevención contra el acoso escolar en el Valle de Merrimack.

Lunes a sábado de 10 a 6pm y domingo de 10 a 3pm.

436 Broadway, Methuen, MA 01844 - (978) 208-1138

 **The Law Office of Natalia D. Crisostomo, PLLC**

Immigration and Family Law

256 Essex St., 1st Floor
Lawrence, MA 01840

(978) 361-0529

email: natalia@crisostomolaw.com

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Daisy Martinez (owner)



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Mobile: 978-303-5298
250 Canal Street
Lawrence, MA 01841
canalstreetgym@yahoo.com

Canal Street Gym

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>

CLASIFICADOS | CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is Hereby given by Sheehan's Towing L.L.C. of 26 Lawrence St Methuen, MA, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L.c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after March 2, 2018 beginning at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keeper's lien for towing, storage, and lien fees. Vehicles are being stored at Sheehan's Towing and may be viewed by appointment only.

- 2003 Jeep Liberty VIN# 1J8GL48K93W616762
- 2007 Honda Fit VIN# JHMGD374X7S045831
- 2001 Honda Accord VIN# 1HGCG16511A071187
- 2010 Chevrolet Silverado PU VIN# 1GCSKSEA2AZ291145
- 2008 Honda Odyssey VIN# 5FNRL38858B063814
- 2008 Chevrolet Trailblazer VIN# 1GNDT13S182103365

Robert Sheehan
Owner, Sheehan's Towing L.L.C.
2/15, 2/22, 3/1

SUDOKU Respuestas/Answers

7	6	4	1	5	9	3	8	2
1	3	5	2	7	8	6	4	9
8	2	9	3	4	6	7	5	1
6	5	7	4	1	2	8	9	3
4	8	2	7	9	3	1	6	5
3	9	1	8	6	5	2	7	4
5	7	6	9	2	1	4	3	8
9	1	8	6	3	4	5	2	7
2	4	3	5	8	7	9	1	6

Es facil encontrar a

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www.rumbonews.com

dcr Massachusetts


Lawrence Heritage State Park Interpretive Program

One Jackson Street at Canal
Lawrence, MA 01840
(978) 794-1655



Movie Matinee: "I'd Rather Be Rich"
A classic 1960s romantic comedy starring Lawrence's own Robert Goulet! with Sandra Dee, Andy Williams, and Maurice Chevalier

Sunday, February 25, at 1:30 pm
FREE ADMISSION! DOOR PRIZES!
POPCORN & REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitor Center,
1 Jackson Street; Free admission
Sponsored by the Friends of Lawrence Heritage State Park; Memorabilia exhibit courtesy of Joseph Bella; Popcorn courtesy of New England Pretzel & Popcorn.

 **Coming Event**



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now covers
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Hablamos Español



LAWRENCE



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Aceptamos la mayoría de seguros privados y Medicaid-MassHealth/Commonwealth Care.
- **General Dentistry for Children & Adults**
Servicio dental general para niños y adultos
- **Walk-Ins Welcome**
Lo atendemos sin cita
- **Open Saturdays and Evenings**
Abrimos los Sábados y de noche
- **Emergencies Admitted Same Day**
Atendemos emergencias el mismo día
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Video juegos, Cine para niños, Area de juegos

Dr Sameera Hussain DMD and Assoc.

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