

# Rumbo

Abril 8, 2005

Lawrence/Methuen

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## Trofeo de los Red Sox visitó Lawrence



El Alcalde Michael J. Sullivan leyendo la proclama que declara el 5 de abril Día del Trofeo de los Medias Rojas en Lawrence. El Representante David M. Torrisi, D-North Andover junto a él. (Página 9)

### Red Sox World Championship Trophy in Lawrence

Mayor Michael J. Sullivan proclaiming April 5<sup>th</sup>, Red Sox Trophy Day. Representative David M. Torrisi, D-North Andover standing next to him. (Page 9)

## Tai T. Pham recibió premio del Gobernador



Tai T. Pham recibió de manos de la Vicegobernadora Kerry Healey, el Premio del Gobernador, por su desinteresado trabajo voluntario. (Página 6)

### Tai T. Pham awarded by the Governor

Tai T. Pham was presented with the Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Award from Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey. (Page 13)

### Continúa dilema de torres celulares

(Página 4)

### Cell towers dilemma continues

(Page 15)

## N.E.P.R.A. celebra elecciones con una fiesta



Luis David Hiraldo, presidente de N.E.P.R.A. da la bienvenida al público asistente a la fiesta del pasado domingo. (Página 5)

### N.E.P.R.A. celebrates elections with a party

N.E.P.R.A. President Luis David Hiraldo, welcoming the guests at last Sunday's party. (Page 11)

Concilio no respeta derechos civiles - Página 2

Líderes políticos y las cartas anónimas - Página 3

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City Council ignores civil rights - Page 11

Political leaders and anonymous letters - Page 10

## Camboyanos celebraron Año Nuevo

Sonn Sorom y su cuñada Yin Savy, ambas de Lawrence, traen comida para ser bendecida, durante la celebración de su Año Nuevo. (Página 16)

### Cambodians celebrated their New Year

Sonn Sorom and sister in law Yin Savy, both from Lawrence, brings food to be blessed, during their New Year's celebration. (Page 16)



## Editorial

# Junta de Zonificación nos debe disculpa

La democracia en este país nos permite la libertad de confrontar a nuestros funcionarios gubernamentales cuando estamos en desacuerdo con ellos y este sistema se ha desarrollado de una manera que espera que lo hagamos. Por esa razón las reuniones del concilio y las juntas directivas locales permiten los comentarios de los residentes en los asuntos que van a ser discutidos.

Un problema que siempre está presente es la falta de participación de los lawrencianos en estas asambleas y el público se pregunta cómo algunas de las decisiones fueron hechas cuando se dan cuenta que no están de acuerdo con ellas.

El Lawrence Environmental Action Group ha estado asistiendo a sus reuniones con regularidad objetando a las torres celulares que diferentes compañías quieren construir en varias áreas de la ciudad. Ellos siempre se han portado en forma respetuosa, profesional y nunca han perseguido ningún interés personal sino su preocupación por la comunidad en general.

Lo que sucedió en la Junta de Zonificación la semana pasada fue un ataque a la libertad que disfrutamos. Uno de sus miembros se quejó airadamente en voz muy alta que ellos deben dedicar su tiempo a cosas más importantes tales como remover grafito, en lugar de retar el creciente número de antenas celulares en las áreas residenciales.

Ellos están tratando de demostrar que estas antenas están asesinando a personas. Usted puede leer un artículo sobre este tema en la página 4.

Entretanto, esta Junta le debe una disculpa al pueblo de Lawrence porque Lawrence Environmental Action Group estaba allí representándonos a todos nosotros.

## Zoning Board owes an apology

Democracy in this country allows us the freedom to face and disagree with our government officials and this system has developed in a way that expects us to do so. That is the reason why council meetings and the local boards permit the input from residents on the items they will be discussing.

A problem always arising is the lack of participation from Lawrencians to these meetings and the public also wonders how certain decisions are made when they realize that they are not in agreement.

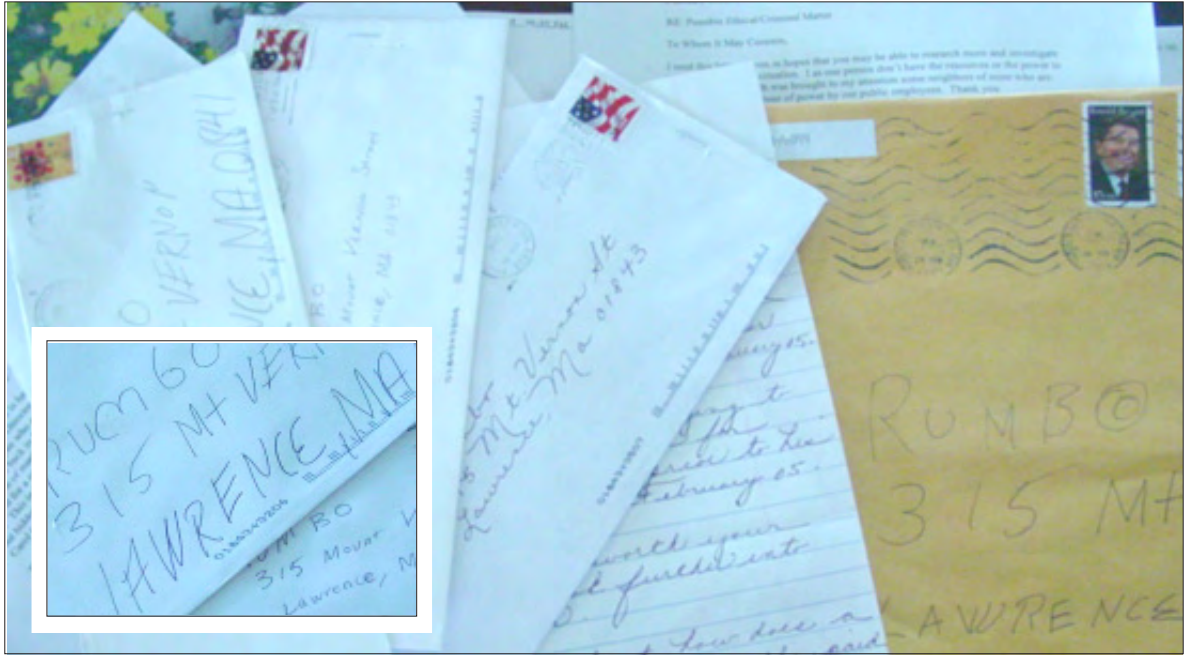
The Lawrence Environmental Action Group has been attending their meetings regularly in objection to the cellular towers that different companies want to build in many areas of the city. They have always behaved in a respectful, professional manner, and they never pursued a personal interest but their concern for the community at large.

What happened at the Zoning Board of Appeals a week ago was an affront to the free will we enjoy. One of their members complained angrily and loudly that they should be dedicating their time to more important things, such as the cleaning up of graffiti, instead of presenting challenges to the mushrooming of cell antennas in residential areas.

They are trying to make a point: the mushrooming cell antennas are killing people. You may read a related article on page 15.

Meanwhile, an apology by that Board to the people of Lawrence is in order because Lawrence Environmental Action Group was there representing us all.

# Concilio no respeta los derechos civiles



Por Dalia Díaz

La oficina del alcalde de Lawrence y el concilio están en disputa por unas cartas anónimas que han estado circulando por la ciudad y que han sido enviadas a los medios de comunicación. Mientras que esto parece ser un caso obvio de política en un año de elecciones y con un propósito claro en cuanto a su intención, hay consecuencias mucho más serias en esto. Esto significa que todos debemos tener nuestros derechos civiles protegidos.

Fue irónico que en la misma reunión del sub-comité de Personal que uno de los temas en la agenda fue el nombramiento de la nueva directora de Derechos Humanos donde los concejales estaban pontificando sobre la importancia de los Derechos Civiles, y seguidamente pisotearon esos mismos derechos de un empleado municipal, el asistente ejecutivo del Alcalde Michael Sullivan, Myles Burke y su esposa. He aquí donde las violaciones comenzaron.

Cuando alguien le dejó saber a Maria Burke que la información sobre el documento #44 podría interesarle, ella pidió al Escribano que le dijera a quién se refería tal documento. Nadie sabía nada. Esto consistía solamente de una hoja diciendo: "Empleado municipal - violación de ética."

El alcalde, para quien todos los empleados de la ciudad trabajan, pidió que le mostraran la documentación que apoyaba el tema en la agenda que había sido puesta en la agenda del sub-comité de Personal, así como la identidad del empleado al que se refería, pero le fue negada.

El Escribano de la Ciudad, William Maloney, quien está al cargo de preparar la agenda y es quien mantiene los récords, no pudo proveer documentación alguna cuando la alcaldía lo pidió.

El problema con esto es que el documento #44 está basado en una carta anónima; esto no fue referido al sub-comité de Personal por el concilio como debe ser, sino que fue colocado en la agenda por su Chairman, Israel Reyes. ¿Cómo es posible que haya llegado a la agenda de una asamblea pública es difícil de comprender y la negación del concilio de proveer la documentación que lo respalda viene a probar que los miembros del concilio sabían que lo que estaban haciendo era erróneo.

Tal carta en realidad acusa a más de un empleado municipal y su esposa. También acusa la ética y profesionalismo de diferentes departamentos municipales en Lawrence así como a un propietario privado y contribuyente. Aún cuando estos concejales sabían que no tienen jurisdicción sobre este empleado municipal o asuntos concernientes a este caso, se tomaron la atribución de sobrepasar al Director de Personal y otros procedimientos y prosiguieron hablando de esto en público sin dar al Sr. Burke y otros mencionados en la carta anónima el derecho a estar

presente o tener a su abogado presente para defenderlos.

Ellos también les negaron su derecho a ser discutido en sesión ejecutiva (y no ser discutido en público como lo fue) ya que estaban tratando sobre la reputación de estas personas. Entonces, lo dejaron en la agenda para ser discutido en futuras reuniones.

Si este abuso es permitido, esto puede erradicar el derecho básico de todos nosotros haciendo posible poner cartas anónimas en la agenda, mintiendo públicamente sobre una persona y sin permitirle que se defienda. Estos derechos son garantizados en la Decimocuarta Enmienda de la Constitución de los Estados Unidos y no debe ser violada a ningún nivel, especialmente por nuestros propios funcionarios electos o el Concilio Municipal.

Ahora algunos concejales están tratando de interferir en la investigación de quién envió estas cartas anónimas. En un artículo publicado por el Eagle-Tribune el lunes, 4 de abril, 2005, el Presidente del Concilio Patrick Blanchette parece ser quien está obstruyendo la justicia preguntando por qué el alcalde está investigando a empleados de la ciudad por usar equipo de la ciudad para enviar las cartas anónimas conteniendo información personal sobre otros empleados municipales incluyendo información médica e información sobre su CORI. Ambas violaciones serán consideradas entonces como criminales. (Vea en el cuadro aparte la información que provee el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos en cuanto a la privacidad de esta información.)

Pero las personas involucradas en estas violaciones no han sido mencionadas todavía. ¿Por qué está tan preocupado tan temprano? Al Sr. Blanchette no le preocupó mucho los derechos de por lo menos ocho empleados listados en las cartas anónimas. El quiere que el Director de Personal tome parte en esta investigación, sin embargo, no lo consultó cuando permitió que el Concejales Reyes pusiera este documento en la agenda y la cual trataba sobre un empleado municipal.

El Concilio es la rama legislativa del gobierno y no tiene jurisdicción sobre las operaciones de la policía o los empleados de la ciudad. El Concejales Blanchette puede que esté tratando de distraer la atención del público al acusar a la policía de no hacer su trabajo investigando un tiroteo en lugar de desperdiciar su tiempo siguiendo este caso. La policía está capacitada para conducir múltiples investigaciones a la vez.

Recuerde que usted también pudiera estar forzado a defenderse y defender su reputación contra acusaciones falsas de las cuales ni siquiera ha sido informado, especialmente cuando cartas anónimas reciben tanto crédito. Todos sabemos que no es legal ni justo.

## Rumbo

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# Líderes políticos pesan sobre cartas anónimas

Debido a la gravedad del escándalo teniendo lugar en el ayuntamiento de Lawrence, Rumbo envió la siguiente pregunta al Presidente del Concilio Patrick Blanchette y los candidatos a la alcaldía el Concejal Marcos Devers y el Concejal Carlos Matos. Matos no respondió.

**¿Podiera darme su opinión sobre lo que está sucediendo en el ayuntamiento con respecto a la investigación de las cartas anónimas y cómo usted obraría si fuese Alcalde de Lawrence en estos momentos?**



## Respuesta del Concejal Marcos Devers:

Primero, no perdono la acción de la fabricación a c u s a c i o n e s anónimas sobre alguien de una naturaleza personal o profesional. Tales acciones no deben ser toleradas, nunca. De la única forma que una carta anónima podrá ser aceptable para mí es en una situación de alguien informando que un acto incorrecto o ilegal está ocurriendo o ha ocurrido y el escritor teme de venganza profesional. Sin embargo, la situación actual es un síntoma de un problema más grande en el ayuntamiento. Es indicativo de la carencia de respeto entre el personal y los funcionarios en esta ciudad. Como dije la otra noche en mi discurso, esa mentalidad comienza con el alcalde. No veo cómo la escritura de la carta y la respuesta del alcalde y de su personal sean las aplicaciones sabias, el uso prudente del dinero de los contribuyentes diseñado para mejorar las condiciones de nuestra ciudad y sus ciudadanos.

En segundo lugar, como alcalde yo diré claramente que no voy a tolerar ningún uso de equipo o de máquinas de la ciudad por empleados municipales en horas de trabajo para uso personal o para actividades relacionadas a algo ajeno a la ciudad. Si descubro a alguien en mi administración o quién está trabajando para la ciudad - no me preocupa quién él o ella pueda ser - está violando esta regla, esa persona sería disciplinada bajo los procedimientos apropiados que la ciudad emplea. Una vez más como autoridad máxima de la ciudad, promoveré un ambiente de profesionalismo, responsabilidad, sentido común y orgullo - todo de lo que carece la administración actual según lo indicado por la carta.

Marcos A. Devers  
Concejal At-Large



## Respuesta de Patrick Blanchette:

Creo que la investigación actual en una serie de cartas recientes está siendo conducida por

motivaciones políticas. Primero, no perdono ninguna mala conducta de los empleados de la ciudad; sin embargo, creo que la ciudad necesita aprender de experiencias previas y tratar las investigaciones cuidadosamente.

El alcalde debió primero haberse puesto en contacto con el abogado de la ciudad con este material para determinar si tal investigación era necesaria. En segundo lugar, el director de personal debió haber sido consultado para conducir una investigación interna sobre el asunto. Si los técnicos de computadoras fuesen sido necesitados, también se les debió autorizar a investigar. Si determinaron que el asunto fue criminal por naturaleza, el informe del director de personal sería enviado al departamento de policía para una investigación. De no ser determinado como algo criminal, entonces yo, como alcalde, le pediría al director de personal que haga una recomendación para la acción disciplinaria adecuada contra cualquier persona que sea encontrada culpable. También habría enviado una carta al cuerpo legislativo del gobierno de la ciudad, al concilio, manteniéndolos informados en cuanto a la investigación interna. De esta manera, los concejales no tendrían que enterarse de asuntos del ayuntamiento a través del periódico local. Lo más importante es que los empleados de la ciudad entiendan la regla de que cualquier uso erróneo de los recursos de la ciudad es un uso erróneo del dinero de los contribuyentes y estos empleados deben ser responsables.

Es muy alarmante para mí que el alcalde inmediatamente involucró al departamento de policía de Lawrence en lugar de utilizar los canales apropiados tales como el abogado de la ciudad y el director de personal. Los hechos fueron juzgados inmediatamente como un caso criminal por parte del público al ver a la policía envuelta. ¿Qué evidencia tenía el alcalde para incautar las máquinas de escribir de una oficina específica en el ayuntamiento? Esto no ha sido contestado en la prensa. ¿Por qué el alcalde no incluyó al departamento de personal o el abogado de la ciudad en el problema desde el principio? El Departamento de Policía asignó este asunto al Departamento de Asuntos Internos para investigar, cuando el propósito de ese departamento es investigar la mala conducta de los oficiales de policía. El departamento apropiado para investigar asuntos internos del ayuntamiento es el departamento de personal. Si el Departamento de Asuntos Internos de la policía va a manejar los problemas internos del ayuntamiento quizás debemos dejar que investiguen algunas de las quejas y alegaciones mencionadas en las cartas anónimas. Quizás debemos hacer que investiguen el uso erróneo de violaciones de poder o de ética tales como llevar un auto de la ciudad a las fiestas para recaudar fondos para políticos, o solicitando donaciones dentro del *city hall*, o asistiendo a juegos de los Patriotas con comerciantes que hacen negocios con la ciudad, o la práctica ilegal de dar empleos dentro del ayuntamiento, o de violaciones de las leyes que envuelven licitaciones y una larga lista de otros abusos.

El alcalde debe removerse de esta investigación por el solo hecho de que su asistente ejecutivo fue nombrado como

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## Protección y regulaciones bajo HIPAA

El Congreso pidió al Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos que publicara las protecciones de los pacientes como parte del Acta de Portabilidad y Responsabilidad del Seguro Médico de 1996 (HIPAA).

### ¿Qué información es protegida?

- La información que sus doctores, las enfermeras y otros abastecedores del cuidado médico hayan puesto en su expediente médico
- Conversaciones que su doctor tiene sobre su cuidado o tratamiento con las enfermeras y otros
- Información sobre usted en el sistema informático del asegurador de salud
- Información de la facturación sobre usted en su clínica
- La mayoría de la otra información de salud sostenida sobre usted por las personas que deben seguir esta ley

**La información sobre su salud no se puede utilizar o compartir sin su permiso por escrito a menos que esta ley la permita. Por ejemplo, sin su autorización, su abastecedor no pueda generalmente**

- proveer su información a su patrón
- usar o compartir su información para la comercialización o con propósitos de publicidad
- compartir sus notas privadas sobre su salud mental durante sesiones de consejería

Si cree que una persona, organización o institución regidos por la Regla de Privacidad contemplada bajo la ley HIPAA (Ley de responsabilidad y portabilidad del seguro médico), en lo sucesivo, una "entidad regida" ha violado su derecho a la privacidad de la información médica (o el de otra persona) o cometido alguna otra violación de la Regla de Privacidad, puede presentar una queja ante la Oficina de Derechos Civiles. La OCR tiene autoridad para recibir e

investigar quejas contra entidades regidas relacionadas con la Regla de Privacidad.

### Investigaciones sobre una queja.

Las quejas que reciban serán investigadas. La OCR investigará para cerciorarse de que los consumidores reciben el aislamiento de sus derechos y protecciones requeridas bajo nuevas regulaciones. Cuando es apropiado, la OCR puede imponer las penas monetarias civiles por las violaciones de las reglas de privacidad. Las violaciones de la ley potencialmente criminales serían referidas al Ministerio de Justicia de los Estados Unidos para una investigación adicional y la acción apropiada.

### Castigos Civiles y Criminales.

El Congreso proveyó las penas civiles y criminales para las personas que emplean mal la información personal de salud. Para las violaciones civiles de las normas, OCR pueden imponer penas monetarias hasta \$100 por violación, hasta \$25,000 por año, por cada requisito o prohibición que haya sido violada. Las penas criminales se aplican por ciertas acciones tales como haber obtenido información privada de salud teniendo conocimiento que esto es en violación de la ley. Las penas criminales pueden extenderse hasta \$50,000 y un año de prisión por ciertas ofensas; hasta \$100,000 y hasta cinco años de prisión si mintió para poder conseguirla; y hasta \$250,000 y hasta 10 años de prisión si las ofensas fueron con el intento de vender, transferir o usar información de salud para ventaja comercial, alguna recompensa personal o simplemente por hacer daño.

Información sobre la forma de hacer una queja formal debe ser incluida en el aviso de cada centro de salud en cuando a sus prácticas de confidencia. Los consumidores pueden encontrar más información sobre cómo formalizar una queja en [HTTP://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa) o llamando al (866) 627-7748.

blanco de una de las cartas. El conflicto de intereses continúa fluyendo en el ayuntamiento de la ciudad mientras que los problemas de la ciudad continúan estancados.

Los acontecimientos de esta última semana me recuerdan la película de los años 50, "Motín a Bordo" cuando capitán Queeg solicitó una investigación para saber quién se comió el cuarto de galón de fresas que faltaba a bordo de nave. La Ciudad de

Lawrence tiene muchos problemas más grandes a tratar que estas cartas que han tocado un nervio. La Ciudad de Lawrence se tranzó por cerca de medio millón de dólares con alguien que fue intimidado por administración. Aprendamos de nuestros errores y veamos lo que está pasando.

Patrick J. Blanchette  
Presidente del Concilio de Lawrence

# El dilema de las torres celulares continúa

Por Kathy Moyes

Lawrence Environmental Action Group

La colocación de las antenas y torres celulares en los vecindarios de la ciudad presenta un gran dilema, pero el reciente ataque verbal a un antiguo residente muy respetado en Lawrence por parte de un miembro de la Junta de Zonificación durante una audiencia fue completamente sin justificación.

Esa noche, la Junta votó negar la petición para colocar antenas en edificios de apartamentos y complejos para ancianos, uno de los cuales está al frente del Centro Headstart. Después del voto, el cual terminó a medianoche, uno de sus miembros comenzó un ataque sin provocación contra un residente y otros que trabajan voluntariamente por el bien de este pueblo. El se quejó que deben involucrarse en cosas más importantes, tales como la limpieza del grafito, en lugar de presentar retos a la creciente cantidad de antenas celulares en áreas residenciales. El problema es que, como podemos ver, la ciudad nunca ha tenido un plan general para responder debidamente a las peticiones de antenas celulares; el resultado ha sido que muchos residentes están viviendo en mucha proximidad a la radiación que emana de

ellas.

A pesar que los residentes tienen razón para creer que las ondas de tal frecuencia radial puede causar efectos de salud, bajo el Acta Federal de Comunicaciones de 1996, los residentes ni los miembros de la Junta de Zonificación están permitidos considerar preocupaciones sobre la salud o el medio ambiente en las decisiones sobre la colocación de las antenas. Esta absurda estipulación fue enterrada en el Acta escrita por la industria (del tamaño de una guía telefónica de New York) y aprobada por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos a media noche dos días antes de Navidad.

Cuando los residentes locales, incluyendo la víctima de la arenga, basó su argumento en la pregunta de si necesitamos más cobertura adicional de señales celulares que preocuparnos por la salud, el miembro de la junta enojado nos acusó de no estar hablando claro. ¿Cómo podemos hablar más claro cuando las manos de todos nosotros están atadas por la absurda estipulación del Acta de la FCC?

Una sugerencia que los residentes hicieron fue que colocaran esas antenas que realmente necesitan a lo alto de los edificios que no están ocupados las 24 horas al día. Nosotros hemos recomendado que la ciudad contrate a un ingeniero en frecuencia radial

independiente para que estudie la necesidad general para ponerlas. Esto puede resolver el problema en parte. Pero, ¿por qué es que residentes comunes que trabajan como voluntarios son los que tienen que buscar

la solución a estos problemas y después ser atacados por hacerlo? Aún cuando solamente uno de sus miembros "se desesperó", la Junta de Zonificación debe ofrecer una disculpa en público.

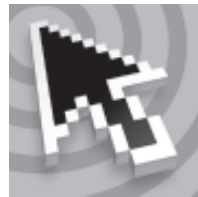
## Elegiran la Nueva Directiva

El Comité del Desfile Dominicano de la Ciudad de Lawrence realizará su asamblea eleccionaria este viernes 8, en los salones de Casa Dominicana, a partir de las 7 p.m.

De acuerdo con la información, la directiva que resulte electa del proceso electoral deberá encaminar los trabajos de la organización de inmediato, con la finalidad de buscar el éxito que años anteriores han tenido.

La presidenta, Marina Acosta ha hecho una convocatoria a todos los miembros, incluyendo a los que deseen formar parte de la entidad para que acudan a Casa Dominicana este viernes y puedan participar en las elecciones de la nueva directiva.

Cualquier persona que se inscriba antes del proceso de elecciones tendrá la oportunidad de votar como miembro, aunque no puede ser elegido a uno de los cargos principales, según lo establecen los estatutos.



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# N.E.P.R.A. celebra elecciones con una fiesta



El Representante Estatal William Lantigua, D-Lawrence, conjuntamente con Luis David Hiraldo, reelecto presidente de NEPRA sostienen la maqueta del cheque de \$60,000 que la Legislatura adjudicó a NEPRA gracias a la gestión de Lantigua.

Por Alberto Surís

La Alianza puertorriqueña de Nueva Inglaterra, NEPRA, dio una comida bailable gratis a más de 200 personas que asistieron al Gaythorn Hall en Methuen, el 3 de abril, 2005.

La ocasión fue para celebrar la elección de la nueva directiva de NEPRA y la entrega de \$60,000 a la organización de parte de la Legislatura, gracias al esfuerzo del Representante Estatal William Lantigua, D-Lawrence.

Quince de sus diez y siete miembros escogieron la nueva directiva de NEPRA, compuesta de, Presidente: Luis David Hiraldo; Secretaria: Sarah Álvarez; Sub Secretaria: Lizzi Espéndez; Tesorero:

Richard Rodríguez y tres vocales.

Nepra fue fundada en 2002 por un grupo de puertorriqueños con una meta en mente: el avance de su propia gente, dándoles las herramientas necesarias para el éxito. NEPRA está invirtiendo los recién obtenidos recursos en clases de inglés, computadora y tutores, las cuales están abiertas a todos en la comunidad.

De acuerdo con Hiraldo, las clases están siendo impartidas en el 305 de la Calle Essex, hogar del Greater Lawrence Community Action Council. "Como el dinero viene del Estado, nuestro programa está abierto para todo el mundo, no sólo puertorriqueños. Cualquier persona que quiera avanzar, es bienvenido, no importa su nacionalidad", declaró Hiraldo para Rumbo.

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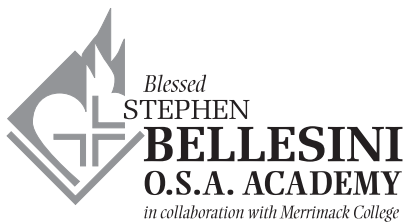
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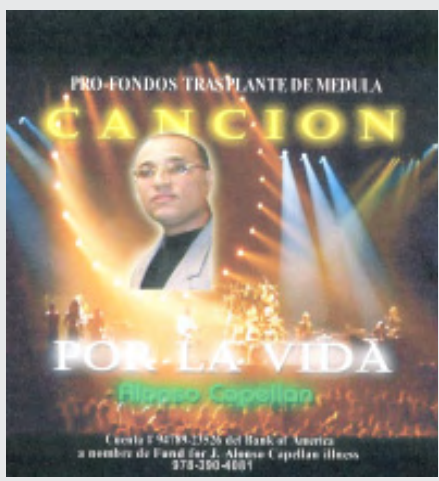
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**Tai T. Pham recibió premio del Gobernador**



Tai T. Pham en su oficina de la tintorería, sosteniendo una foto de él tomada en 1971, vistiendo el uniforme de Viet Nam del Sur.

Por Alberto Surís

En reciente visita a Lawrence, la Vicegobernadora Kerry Healey entregó a Tai T. Pham el *Premio Distinguido Ciudadano* del Gobernador por su desinteresado trabajo voluntario sirviendo como mentor del Centro Asiático Seton, asistiendo a aquellos que no saben inglés.

Tai T. Pham es un inmigrante de Vietnam del Sur, es dueño y opera el negocio de lavandería llamado ABC Cleaners, localizado en el 610 de la Calle Andover en Lawrence.

El mayor de 4 hermanos, Tai nació un 11 de enero de 1939, en CanTho, Vietnam del Sur. En 1963, se unió al Ejército de su país, donde llegó al grado de Capitán. "Yo tuve el honor de pelear hombro con hombro junto a los soldados norteamericanos", dice Tai.

Cuando la guerra terminó, Tai fue capturado y enviado a una cárcel comunista en el Norte por 8 años. Al final de la condena, fue enviado de nuevo para el sur, donde él y un grupo de soldados del ejército de Vietnam del Sur, lograron escapar en un pequeño bote.

El año era 1983, el bote tenía 27 pies de largo por 9 de ancho. Pham se encontró él y 89 otros navegantes en alta mar, sin agua que beber o alimento que comer. 39 de ellos eran militares, el resto, hombres, mujeres y niños, todos civiles. "No teníamos brújula, conocimientos de navegación o lugar de destino. Sólo queríamos escapar del comunismo", dijo Tai.

Después de seis días con seis noches de estar perdidos en el mar, con los niños llorando todo el tiempo, por la falta de agua y alimento, fuimos reconocidos por un barco. "Todos nos pusimos muy contentos, pero a la vez con miedo, ya que no sabíamos



El Alcalde Michael J. Sullivan aplaude mientras la Vicegobernadora Kerry Healey presenta a Tai T. Pham con el preciado premio Distinguido Ciudadano del Gobernador Mitt Romney.



Tai T. Pham, rodeado de un grupo de amigos que vino a felicitarlo por el premio.

qué clase de barco era aquel", confesó Tai.

"Afortunadamente fue un barco de carga de bandera Belga". Ellos nos trataron muy bien", dijo Tai. Más tarde, el grupo fue llevado a Singapur e internado en un campo de refugiados. Allí Tai fue interrogado por un grupo de inteligencia norteamericano. Sólo cuatro del grupo de 39 soldados fueron seleccionados y enviados a Indonesia a aprender inglés. Cinco meses después, él fue patrocinado por United States Catholic Caritas de Phoenix, Arizona, para venir a los Estados Unidos.

De Arizona, Pham viajó por distintas ciudades de los Estados Unidos, hasta que 6 años atrás, abrió la tintorería en Lawrence. Mientras tanto y como venganza por él haberse escapado, el gobierno comunista envió a su esposa y sus tres hijos a un campo de concentración. En 1989, gracias a un tratado de unificación de las familias entre

los dos gobiernos, la familia se le unió aquí.

Pham está muy envuelto en actividades cívicas. Conjuntamente con la gran comunidad vietnamita de Lawrence, él ha estado envuelto en actividades tales como el izamiento de la bandera de su país, organizando celebraciones de fin de año vietnamita y participando en la Parada de San Patricio por dos años consecutivos.

Dirigidos por los colores de sus banderas, un grupo de ex militares del ejército de Viet Nam del Sur, vistiendo fatigas militares, marchó y obtuvo el Primer Premio de la Parada de San Patricio 2003, en Lawrence.

Pham no puede olvidar a su querido Viet Nam, pero aprecia mucho a la tierra que le ha dado tanto a él y a su familia. "Los Estados Unidos son un gran país para criar a su familia y lo mejor que tiene es la libertad y las oportunidades que ofrece a todo el mundo", dijo Pham.

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# Notas de su Bibliotecaria



¡Saludos nuevamente amigos lectores! Como les había informado en el pasado artículo, el personal de la biblioteca que no habla el idioma español comenzó a tomar clases para aprender el lenguaje. Las clases van muy bien y el personal está bien emocionado y ansioso por aprender español. Todo el personal de habla española ha tomado las riendas de la biblioteca y sus servicios, mientras los demás se encuentran estudiando, proveyendo un servicio de buena calidad a nuestros clientes. Los empleados ya me han pedido que se ofrezca una clase avanzada cuando esta termine, lo cual me llena de satisfacción. El servicio al cliente es nuestra mayor meta y sus empleados están dispuestos a trabajar duro para asegurarse que el servicio brindado a nuestros clientes sea excelente.

¡Buenas noticias! Durante esta semana la Biblioteca Pública de Lawrence ha recibido una beca otorgada a nivel nacional por el programa "Leyendo America" de la Fundación MetLife.

La biblioteca trabajará conjuntamente con el Centro Asiático del Valle de Merrimack con esta beca. Los fondos se usarán para crear talleres, los cuales durarán seis semanas cada uno, donde familias de emigrantes compartirán historias con el propósito de intercambiar experiencias de las diferentes generaciones. A veces es muy difícil para los padres e hijos compartir y

comprenderse cuando cada uno de ellos ha crecido en diferentes culturas. Este tema es especialmente difícil para las familias del Sur de Asia.

Este programa incluirá familias de Vietnam, Cambodia, como también familias de la República Dominicana. Cuando el programa haya finalizado, escribiremos un libro que expondrá las historias de las diferentes generaciones. Este programa ayudará a las nuevas familias a sentirse bienvenidas dentro de la familia de la biblioteca. Quiero expresar mi gratitud hacia Dawna Perez del Lawrence Literacy Works por la ayuda prestada a este proyecto. Ella es otro gran ejemplo de como los lawrencianos podemos trabajar juntos para la mejoría de nuestra comunidad.

No se olviden que estaremos llevando acabo un taller de *anime* el sábado, 9 de abril. (Para los adultos: *anime* y *manga* son unos estilos populares de gráficas japonesas. Pero los niños, ¡ya ellos conocen de esto!) También tenemos muchas actividades planeadas para la semana de vacaciones escolares así que asegúrese de pasar por aquí y sacar una tarjeta de la biblioteca mientras nos visita. ¡Nos vemos en la biblioteca!

Maureen Nimmo, Directora  
 Biblioteca Pública de Lawrence

**Letters to the Editor**  
 E-mail your letters to: [rumbo@rumbonews.com](mailto:rumbo@rumbonews.com)  
 Letters must be less than 300 words in length. Please send a telephone number or email address by which we may confirm the sender.



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**[www.rumbonews.com](http://www.rumbonews.com)**

# Healthy Kids' Day 2005

Family fun and fitness was the theme of the YMCA's annual open house Healthy Kids Day celebration. The YMCA provided a opportunity for parents and children to have fun together. More than 750 children joined in the festivities held at the Lawrence YMCA, Andover/North Andover YMCA, and Methuen YMCA on Saturday, April 2.

Healthy Kids' Day participants enjoyed such activities as indoor relay races, family wallyball, face painting, family obstacle course, moon-bounce, indoor hockey, volleyball, swimming, arts and crafts and much more.



Audrey Adam, age 5, and Sara Adam, daughters of George and Allison Adam of Andover, enjoy swimming at the YMCA's Healthy Kids' Day.



As always, basketball was popular at Healthy Kids' Day.



Christopher Wilkinson, age 4 of Methuen, enjoys indoor bounce time at the Methuen YMCA's Healthy Kids' Day.



Chelsea Paquette, age 6 of Methuen, shows off an art project.



YMCA Childcare Director MaryEllen King and teacher Andrea Brown pose with Jesus Martinez, age 9 of Lawrence, at the indoor obstacle course at the Lawrence YMCA.



Andover's Carol Minasian enjoys family time with her children Ani, age 6, and Richard, age 5, at Healthy Kids' Day last Saturday.



Sean Kenneally of Haverhill tries out the full drum set at the YMCA's Lawrence Branch Music Clubhouse which was open on Healthy Kids' day



Jeannie Zuniga plays foosball with daughter Francesca, age 11. The Zuniga's live in Methuen.



Methuen triplets Sara, Amanda, and Amy Kerr, play challenge their mom Grace Kerr is a game of ping pong. The triplets are age 11.



David Lee, age 5 of Andover shows off a decorated Frisbee art project. He's with his mother Lin Lee.



# Trofeo de los Red Sox en Lawrence

Por Alberto Surís

Para el regocijo de todos los niños entre las edades de 4 a 90 años, el Trofeo de la Serie Mundial de los Medias Rojas visitó Lawrence el martes, 5 de abril, 2005. El trofeo recorrió la ciudad escoltado por la Policía de Lawrence, haciendo tres paradas: Adams Café, el Campagnone Common y el Boys and Girls Club.

Patrocinado por la Lotería de Massachusetts, la gira del Trofeo

comenzó el 28 de octubre, 2004 – un día después que el equipo de los Medias Rojas capturó su primera Serie Mundial en 86 años con una victoria sobre Los Cardenales de San Luis.

El nombre oficial del Trofeo es “El Trofeo del Comisionado” y fue diseñado en el 2000 por Tiffani and Co., tiene 24 pulgadas de alto, pesa 35 Lbs. y consta de 30 banderas, una por cada equipo que componen las Ligas Mayores de Baseball.



En el parque Common, un grupo de fanáticos se prepara para retratarse junto al trofeo.

*At The Common, a group of fans is getting ready to have their picture taken with the trophy.*



Aleida Rodríguez, David Burke y el Sargento Michael McGrath junto al trofeo.

*Aleida Rodríguez, David Burke and Sergeant Michael McGrath, with the trophy.*



Drew Thurlow, del Departamento de Relaciones Públicas de los Red Sox saludando a los chicos del Boys Club.

*Drew Thurlow, Red Sox Public Relations Department talking to the boys at the Boys Club.*



José Flores Jr. con su hija Samantha. Flores fue uno de los Oficiales de la Policía que escoltó el Trofeo.

*José Flores Jr. and his daughter, Samantha. Officer Flores was one of the Police Officers who escorted the trophy.*



Niños y niñas del Boys and Girls Club admirando el trofeo.

*Children from the Boys and Girls Club, admiring the trophy.*



Grupo de niñas del Girls Club esperando ver el trofeo.

*Girls from the Girls Club waiting to see the trophy.*

# Political leaders' opinion on City Hall's anonymous letters

Due to the gravity of the scandal going on at Lawrence City Hall, Rumbo sent the following question to Council President Patrick Blanchette and mayoral candidates Councilor Marcos Devers and Councilor Carlos Matos. Matos did not respond to our request.

**Could you give me your thoughts about what is happening inside City Hall regarding the investigation on the anonymous letters issue and how you would handle it if you were Mayor of Lawrence right now?**

**Councilor Marcos Devers' response:**

First, I do not condone the action of making anonymous accusations about someone of a personal or professional nature. Such actions are not to be tolerated, ever. The only time an anonymous statement will be acceptable to me is if it covers a whistleblower situation where an improper or illegal act is occurring or has occurred and the writer fears professional retribution. Nevertheless, the current situation is a symptom of a bigger problem in City Hall. It is indicative of the lack of respect personnel and public officials have for each other in this city. As I said the other night in my speech, such a mindset starts at the top with the mayor. I do not see how the letter writing and the response from the mayor and his staff are wise, prudent uses of taxpayer money designed to improve the condition of our city and her citizens.

Second, as mayor I will make clear that I will not tolerate any use of city equipment or machines on city time by city personnel for personal or non-city related activities. If I find out someone in my administration or who is working for the city – I do not care who he or she may be – is violating this rule, that person would be fully disciplined under the appropriate procedures the city has in place. Again, as the city's CEO, I will promote a mindset of professionalism, accountability, common sense, and pride – all of which seem to be lacking in the current administration as indicated by the letter situation.

Marcos A. Devers  
City Councilor At-Large

**Response by City Council President Patrick Blanchette:**

I believe that the current investigation into a series of recent letters is being driven by political motivations. First and foremost, I don't condone any misconduct by city employees; however, I do believe the city needs to learn from past experiences and treat investigations carefully.

The Mayor should have first contacted the City Attorney with this matter to determine if any further investigation was needed. Secondly, the Personnel Director should have been contacted to conduct an internal investigation into the matter. If the MIS (computer techs) were needed then

they should have been authorized to investigate as well. If the matter was determined to be criminal in nature, the Personnel Director's report would then be sent to the Police Department for an investigation. If the matter was not determined to be criminal, then I as mayor I would ask the Personnel Director to make a recommendation for disciplinary action against anyone found at fault. I would have also issued a letter to the legislative body of the city government, City Council, keeping them informed as to an internal investigation. This way, councilors would not have to hear about city hall matters through the local newspaper. The most important issue is that city employees understand the computer policy and that any misuse of city resources is a misuse of taxpayers' money and these employees should be held accountable.

It is very alarming to me that the mayor immediately turned this matter over to the Lawrence Police Department rather than going through proper channels such as the City Attorney and the Personnel Director. The matter was immediately deemed to be criminal in nature by the public just by the police becoming involved. What evidence did the mayor have to seize typewriters from one specific office within city hall? This has not been answered in the press. Why did the mayor not include the Personnel Department or the City Attorney in the matter from the start? The Police Department assigned this matter to the Internal Affairs Department to investigate, when the whole purpose of the Internal Affairs Department is to investigate misconduct of police officers. The proper department to investigate internal city hall matters is in fact the Personnel Department. If the Internal Affairs Department is going to handle internal matters within city hall then perhaps we should have them investigate some of the very complaints/allegations mentioned in the anonymous letters. Perhaps we should have them investigate misuse of power or ethic violations such as taking a city car to political fundraisers, or soliciting donations within city hall, or attending Patriots games with city vendors, or illegal hiring practices within city hall, or violations of bidding laws, and a whole host of other abuses.

The mayor should remove himself from being involved in this investigation just by the very fact that his Chief of Staff is named as a target of one of the letters. The conflict of interest continues to flow in city hall while city business is clogged.

The events of this past week remind me of a movie from the late 1950s "The Caine Mutiny" when Captain Queeg requested the investigation into who ate the missing quart of strawberries on board the ship! The City of Lawrence has many larger issues to deal with than letters that may have touched a nerve. The City of Lawrence settled for close to half million dollars with the last "whistleblower" that was strong-armed by the administration. Let's learn from our mistakes and keep our eye on the issues at hand!

Patrick J Blanchette  
City Council President

# Permission Granted

Law Offices of Michelle Carnevale

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Salem, MA 01970  
Telephone (978) 741-5200  
Facsimile (978) 741-5201

Of Counsel: MARLEY JAYNE, ESQ.  
mjayne@earthlink.net

April 5, 2005

Ms. Dalia Diaz, Director  
Rumbo News  
315 Mt. Vernon Street  
Lawrence, MA 01843

**Re: Andrea Trafficante**

Dear Ms. Diaz:

Please be advised that Ms. Trafficante has contacted this office regarding articles written and published by you and Rumbo News relating to her employment with the City of Lawrence Department of Public Works.

For over a year now you have written, published and made false, defamatory and libelous statements regarding Ms. Trafficante. Please consider this letter to be a demand to cease and desist from making any such statements in the future.

You have continuously made reference to Ms. Trafficante fixing tickets, disposing of her work hours to run personal errands and interfering with other departments within the city. All of your allegations from 2003 to your most recent publication of April 1, 2005 have been baseless, without explanation or any factual evidence whatsoever. In this most recent article you stated that Ms. Trafficante's receipt of her award was a "glorification of smugness, gratification for pilfering and honoring wickedness". These statements could be construed by a neutral factfinder as defamatory. At a minimum these statements, as well as those made by you and Rumbo News in articles going back as far as 2003, have put Ms. Trafficante in a bad light and put her credibility and reputation in the community into question and could be viewed as rising to the level of harassment.

Due to the aforementioned actions taken by you and Rumbo News, as well as statements made by you on your talk show, Ms. Trafficante has suffered severe emotional distress and has been and presently is under the care of a physician for said condition.

I am hopeful that you will adhere to this demand to cease and desist from speaking, writing or publishing any further false and unsubstantiated comments about Ms. Trafficante. If you fail to adhere to this demand, I am prepared to recommend to Ms. Trafficante that she pursue all judicial remedies available to her.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

  
Michelle Carnevale, Esq.

Cc: Ms. Andrea Trafficante

The above-shown letter from Attorney Michelle Carnevale, representing Ms. Andrea Trafficante has given me permission to continue writing and talking about her on my radio show. Her last paragraph reads, "I am hopeful that you will adhere to this demand to cease and desist from speaking, writing or publishing any further false and unsubstantiated comments about Ms. Trafficante (sic)..."

I recommend that Ms. Carnevale reads my articles where I always backed up my accusations with material proof. I caught her having her hair colored in a beauty salon during work hours; we published her letters fixing her parking tickets; we took pictures

of her car parked in illegal spaces, etc. Nothing ever written could be construed as "false, defamatory and libelous statements." What could not be proven did not make it to the pages of Rumbo and we never aired anything about her private life. I tried sticking to her professional life and her duties as a municipal worker getting paid with taxpayers' money.

If she is now suffering from severe emotional distress and is under a doctor's care, she brought it on to herself. Many well-meaning people have been advising her to do the right thing and she disregards them.

By the way, you misspelled your client's last name.

**Do you have an interesting story?  
Send it to our email address:  
rumbo@rumbonews.com**

# City Council ignores residents' Civil Rights



By Dalia Díaz

Recently the Mayor's Office and the Lawrence City Council have been at odds over the anonymous letters which have been widely circulated and forwarded to the media. While this has clearly been a case of Election Year politics and easily transparent as to its intended purpose, there is a more serious consequence at stake. This is, for all of us to have our civil rights protected.

It was certainly ironic that at the same Personnel Sub Committee meeting one agenda item had all the councilors pontificating on the importance of Civil Rights with the appointment of the new Human Rights Director, just before they trampled on those very same rights of a city employee, Mayor Michael Sullivan's Executive Assistant Myles Burke and his wife. Here is where the violations start to pile up.

When information about document #44 was leaked to Maria Burke that this may also concern her, she requested from the City Clerk Document #44 and who it was concerning. No one knew anything. Only a single sheet stating: "City employee-ethics violation."

The Mayor, who all the employees of the city work for, requested the supporting documentation and the identity of an employee that had been put on a Personnel Sub Committee agenda but was denied any information. City Clerk William Maloney, who compiles the agendas and is the keeper of public records, could not even supply any supporting documentation when requested by the Mayor's office.

The problem with this is that document #44 is based on an anonymous letter; it was not referred to the Personnel Sub-committee by the City Council as customary, but placed on that agenda by its Chairman, Israel Reyes. How this even made it on to a public meeting agenda is beyond comprehension and the subsequent stone walling of the council to provide anyone with the supporting documentation, only serves to further exemplify that the City Council knew what they were doing was wrong.

The letter in question really indicts more than just one city employee and his wife. It calls into question the ethics and professionalism of different Lawrence city departments as well as a private property owner and taxpayer. Even though these councilors knew they have no jurisdiction over this city employee or matters concerning this case, they took it upon themselves to bypass the Personnel Director and other procedures and went forward and talked about this in public without giving Mr. Burke and others that are named in this anonymous letter, the right to be present or

have their attorney present to defend them.

They also denied them the right to go into executive session (and not be aired in public, as it was) if this was concerning people's reputations. Then, they tabled the item so it could stay on the agenda to be discussed again on another upcoming meeting.

If this abuse is allowed to continue they could erode the basic rights of all of us by putting anonymous letters on the agenda, publicly slandering you, and not allowing you to defend yourself. These rights are guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution and should not be violated at any level, certainly not by our own elected officials and/or City Council.

Now some councilors are trying to hinder the investigation on who sent these anonymous letters. In an Eagle-Tribune article published on Monday, April 4, 2005, Council President Patrick Blanchette appears to be obstructing justice by questioning why the mayor had an investigation conducted on city employees that were using city equipment to send out anonymous letters and personal information about other city employees including medical information and CORI information. Both violations would then be considered criminal. (See in a separate section, the information provided by the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the privacy of this information.)

But the persons involved in these violations have not been named yet. Why is he so concerned so early on? Mr. Blanchette wasn't very concerned about the rights of at least eight employees who are listed in the anonymous letters. He wants the Personnel Director to be involved in this investigation but bypasses him when allowing Councilor Reyes to pass a document that was not on the agenda and which involved a city employee.

The City Council is the legislative branch of government and has no jurisdiction over police operations or city employees. Councilor Blanchette may be diverting the public's attention when he accused the police of not doing their job investigating a shooting rather than wasting time pursuing this issue. Police are certainly capable of conducting multiple investigations at the same time.

Just remember, you too could be forced to defend yourselves and your reputation against false accusations that you haven't even been informed about, particularly when so much credit is given to anonymous letters. We all know this would not be legal or fair.

## Protection under HIPAA and regulations

Congress called on the Department of Health and Human Services to issue patient privacy protections as part of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

### What information is protected?

- Information your doctors, nurses, and other health care providers put in your medical record
- Conversations your doctor has about your care or treatment with nurses and others
- Information about you in your health insurer's computer system
- Billing information about you at your clinic
- Most other health information about you held by those who must follow this law

### Your health information cannot be used or shared without your written permission unless this law allows it. For example, without your authorization, your provider generally cannot

- Give information to your employer
- Use or share your information for marketing or advertising purposes
- Share private notes about your mental health counseling sessions

If you believe that a person, agency or organization covered under the HIPAA Privacy Rule ("a covered entity") violated your (or someone else's) health information privacy rights or committed another violation of the Privacy Rule, you may file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR). OCR has authority to receive and investigate complaints against covered entities related to the Privacy Rule.

### Complaint investigations.

Enforcement will be primarily complaint-driven. OCR will investigate complaints and work to make sure that consumers receive the privacy rights and protections required under the new regulations. When appropriate, OCR can impose civil monetary penalties for violations of the privacy rule provisions. Potential criminal violations of the law would be referred to the U.S. Department of Justice for further investigation and appropriate action.

### Civil and Criminal Penalties.

Congress provided civil and criminal penalties for covered entities that misuse personal health information. For civil violations of the standards, OCR may impose monetary penalties up to \$100 per violation, up to \$25,000 per year, for each requirement or prohibition violated. Criminal penalties apply for certain actions such as knowingly obtaining protected health information in violation of the law. Criminal penalties can range up to \$50,000 and one year in prison for certain offenses; up to \$100,000 and up to five years in prison if the offenses are committed under "false pretenses"; and up to \$250,000 and up to 10 years in prison if the offenses are committed with the intent to sell, transfer or use protected health information for commercial advantage, personal gain or malicious harm.

Information about filing complaints should be included in each covered entity's notice of privacy practices. Consumers can find out more information about filing a complaint at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa> or by calling (866) 627-7748.

## N.E.P.R.A. celebrates elections with a party



Representative William Lantigua and reelected NEPR President Luis David Hiraldo holding the sample check for \$60,000 awarded to NEPR by the Legislature, thanks to Lantigua's efforts.

The New England Puerto Rican Alliance, NEPR, held a free dinner and dance for more than 200 people at the Gaythorn Hall in Methuen, on Sunday, April 3, 2005.

The occasion was to celebrate the election of the NEPR new board of directors and the allocation of \$60,000 to the organization from the legislature, thanks to State Representative William Lantigua, D-Lawrence.

Fifteen out of their seventeen

NEPR members chose their new board made of, President: Luis David Hiraldo; Secretary: Sarah Alvarez; Sub-Secretary: Lizzi Espéndez; Treasurer: Richard Rodriguez and 3 vocals.

NEPR was founded in 2002 by a group of Puerto Ricans with a goal in mind: the empowering of their own people, by giving them the tools to success. NEPR is investing the newly acquired resources in English, computers and tutoring classes, which are open

to every one in the community.

According to Hiraldo, the classes are being taught at 305 Essex Street, home of The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council. "Since the money is coming from the State, our program is open to everyone, not just Puerto Ricans. Every one who wants to advance is welcome, it doesn't matter their nationality", declared Hiraldo to Rumbo.

# Marcos Devers' Announcement Speech

This week we are publishing Marcos Devers' speech in English because we had no space available last week and Lawrence residents will enjoy reading what the candidate announced during his campaign announcement.

Anyone wishing to read it in Spanish will find it in our website [www.rumbonews.com](http://www.rumbonews.com) in the April 1, 2005 edition.



Mayoral candidate Marcos Devers with his wife Vicky and their son Marcos Jr.

My name is Marcos Devers, and I want to be your next Mayor.

Just as you, I love Lawrence. This is the home of my wife and I, and the home of our children. As generations before us have done, this is the very place where we have decided to earn our piece of the American Dream.

Today, however, we as a city stand at a crossroads: We need to decide in which direction we are going to go as a city.

In 8 months we will have an election that will decide the future of our city.

Today I am formally beginning my campaign to help make our city a better city - to improve every aspect of our quality of life that tests our very reasons for being proud Lawrencians.

As your at-large city councilor, I travel throughout the entire city. Many of you say the same thing to me: "Why can't things be better?"

My reply, one answer: "No leadership from the mayor."

I stand before you today to ask you for your help in steering our city in a better direction.

Somebody needs to tell the truth about what is happening - and in many cases, not happening - down at City Hall. As your mayor, I will always tell you the truth.

Today unfortunately, we have a mayor that has rejected his responsibility - a mayor who has turned his back on the pledges he made four years ago.

In three important areas we are not better today than we were four years ago. In education, in economic development, and in our quality of life - this mayor has taken us backward.

The citizens of our city today seek nothing more than the same things than those immigrants that came before them.

We only expect those things for which we work hard and pay taxes - clean streets, good schools, quiet and safe neighborhoods, jobs, and economic opportunity.

At a minimum, we need political leadership to work for us. On all counts, the mayor comes up short for ALL Lawrencians. I intend to provide that leadership our citizens' demand.

Unlike him, I have a dream—a belief in One City, One Vision... with all of us working together to make it happen.

I see neither North nor South, but one Lawrence. Not a city divided by a river but a community united by bridges, bonds of family, friendship, and common interests.

I see neither Anglo nor Latino but One Community—stronger together for our very diversity.

We need competent and active leadership in the three legs of the Devers Plan if Lawrence is to fully recover and be the vital city we know she can be.

The first part of my vision is to have a

true, sustainable and workable economic development plan.

The city needs to be a place of sustained prosperity.

We have an unemployment rate that is three times the state rate and is the highest of all the cities in Massachusetts. Under this mayor, our unemployment rate has rocketed up a whopping 20%.

As I stand before you today, the city has little credibility on economic development because of a lack of leadership in the mayor's office. The mayor said that he would be his own economic development director. Those were his words.

Take a look around the city - We have vacant buildings. We have vacant lots. We have vacant jobs programs. Frankly, we have vacant leadership at City Hall.

The mayor cannot even take the time to make critical city appointments. For example, for more than ten months and counting, our city has been without a permanent director for Planning and Development.

Frankly it is criminal that we lost nearly two years of opportunities and 4 million dollars frozen by HUD that should have been put to work because the mayor did not make it a priority to hire competent personnel. You deserve better.

When I was the city's acting mayor, I signed the petition to the federal government for Lawrence to be part of the Renewal Community Initiative. With the hard work of our congressional delegation, we received that designation. However, under this mayor, after 4 years, we have fallen behind and lack any measurable progress. As a result, the federal government may remove us from the program.

We have many resources available to us - our mill space, the river, a great hospital, an eager population that wants to work and work hard, the potential for a thriving restaurant and entertainment district. As part of our economic revival, I want to commit my resources as mayor to developing a performing arts and cultural center that will boost our image and economic prospects.

We need to put together a master plan by which development can be directed downtown and in each corner of our city.

We need a permanent, fully qualified HUD-approved Planning and Development director as well as an Economic Development director to help us realize our

potential. Without these things, Lawrence will never see the revival that others only talk about.

How can we expect businesses to have the confidence to come here when the city's web site has obsolete information as basic as the name of the City Clerk? I will make sure that the city's website has the updated information our citizens and potential businesses need. It is outrageous that our link for the outside world has information that no one can use.

My vision is to have a team of the best, most well trained, most committed appointed leaders working for me - so we can work for you.

Part two of my vision is a real and workable plan to improve education in our city.

Education is a vital part of any sustained economic development if we hope to move our city out of the dark ages.

Our school system today is not acceptable. Although some improvements have been made, we still have plenty of work to do. We rank at or near the bottom in every key category the Department of Education uses to measure the performance of our schools and children.

For years all anyone talked about was the need for a new high school. It was everyone's priority. Soon we will be opening that new high school, thanks to the generosity of the state's taxpayers. But new buildings are no substitute for quality education.

We need to deliver quality education to our children, but this mayor has not made a real commitment to education. The mayor is supposed to be the chairman of the School Committee. The mayor is supposed to be directly responsible for education, but not this mayor. He takes the title, takes the pay, but ignores the responsibility.

When there is more debate on non-educational matters and less focus on class size and textbooks, is it any wonder there are long waiting lists at the charter and parochial schools?

Leadership in our school system must start at the top with the mayor.

A mayor needs to set an agenda with priorities and move heaven and earth to make sure that the best interests of our children are addressed. The mayor needs to create a plan with the school committee, our teachers, and administrators that help

develop our children into productive, skilled members of society.

We need to improve our situation. We have not made enough progress, and unless we do, we risk losing another generation of school kids. As a teacher and parent I know the solutions.

In our city, slightly over 10% of our adults have a college education. I want our city to become a place that attracts and keeps educated professionals who will proudly say, "Lawrence is my hometown."

In addition, there are three colleges operating in our city. As your mayor, I intend to work closely with them to connect their resources with the needs of our citizens, and to connect our resources as a city, with their needs as institutions of higher learning.

As an engineer, successful business person and teacher—I know the struggle and value of education. Increasing not only our students' MCAS scores but also the percentage of college-educated Lawrencians is a vision we all share.

The third leg of my vision for our city is to improve our quality of life. The Quality of Life in this city demands great improvement right now.

I challenge any one to walk from their home to City Hall and take a look for yourself, or just walk down one end of Essex Street to the other. Do you like what you see?

Do you like the look of abandoned or burnt-out buildings and boarded up houses?

Do you like all the litter clogging our sidewalks and gutters, garbage tossed around like no one cares anymore?

Do you like the fact that many of our streets are difficult to drive because of a lack of proper upkeep and plowing, and the need for more street signage?

Have you seen the inadequate building in which our police are forced to work?

I for one do not know how one can see these problems day after day and not be stirred to action.

Well, I DO care.

We need to change the image of the city and the mindset people have about our city.

This all starts at the top, in the mayor's office. If the CEO of the city does not care how we look, how can we expect our citizens to care?

I have also observed a lack of respect that dominates the relationship between the Mayor and other city officials. How can we move forward as a city if our leaders do not demonstrate and demand respect for each other, or cannot even conduct themselves with common courtesy?

This must stop, and it will with me as your mayor.

I see what the city is now and have a vision of what we can be. I will not promote negativity. I will lead a city with pride and optimism.

I pledge to you today that I will create a city where we can walk proudly in our neighborhoods and parks and not come across litter, a syringe, cigarette butts on the sidewalk, or non-winning lottery tickets thrown around like the dreams of so many of our most desperate citizens.

My priority will be to have the equipment and personnel to clean it up - and developing a pride to keep it from getting dirty. We can attack eyesores and blight with a simple yet comprehensive beautification program instituted block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood, that includes small (but generations long) improvements such as planting trees.

*Cont. on Page 13*

## Marcos Devers' Announcement Speech

Cont. from Page 12

We need to give our DPW the resources and personnel it needs to do their job properly -that is why you are paying taxes.

The only time I want to get a noise complaint is because the street sweepers are cleaning your street too late at night, or too early in the morning. Now that's a complaint that I can deal with!

We need a city that is not only safe but considered safe. The mayor four years ago in his inaugural made it a priority to have a new police station. Well, here we are four years later - where is it, Mr. Mayor?

Our police deserve a new headquarters that can effectively help them do the job they need to do everyday. With help from the state and federal government and our own capital allocation program, I will build that police station.

Under the three legs of the Devers Plan to create "One City with One Vision": safe and clean streets, good schools and educated citizens will allow us to attract businesses to help build and sustain prosperity so we can move forward. Without one of the other legs, the stool cannot stand.

In the end, I do not accept negativity or excuses, and I will not accept it from the people that I appoint to help turn this city around. Nothing hurts me more than when I hear people complain that our city "just can't do it."

I have a vision that with hard work, with leadership, with commitment, with cooperation, with absolute faith in our future legacy we can and will create a revitalized Lawrence.

I served as your interim Mayor during a particularly difficult time for the city upon the resignation of Mayor Dowling. I calmed a volatile political situation, confronted tough issues, and was unafraid to do the hard work and make the tough judgments a mayor must make. As your Mayor I will do it again.

I want to lead Lawrence to a new place—a place of pride, honor and prosperity.

If you are happy with double digit unemployment -

If you are happy with a school system that ranks at the bottom of the scale -

If you are happy with the way our city looks -

Then you can vote to keep the mayor.

But if you think we can do better, I ask for your support.

In a little over 200 days we will choose who will lead our city for the next four years and the direction we are going to take.

Will it be four more years of the same do-nothing, out-of-touch presence in the mayor's office?

Or, do we commit ourselves to real leadership and to working together to build what we all want and deserve as taxpayers, business owners, parents, and neighbors?

I am asking you to help me make our vision happen together.

I want you to demand of me and all our leaders to put away the petty battles and work together for One City and One Vision. You deserve it.

My name is Marcos Devers - and with your help, I want to be your next Mayor. Thank you.

## Tai T. Pham received award from the Governor



Tai T. Phan at his dry cleaning shop, holding a 1971 picture when serving with the South Vietnam Army.

By Alberto Surís

In a recent visit to Lawrence, Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey presented Tai T. Pham with Governor's *Distinguished Citizen Award* for serving as a mentor at the Seton Asian Center where he assists those people who cannot speak English.

Tai T. Pham, an immigrant from South Vietnam, owns and operates ABC Cleaners, located at 610 Andover St., in Lawrence.

The oldest of four children, Tai was born in CanTho, South Vietnam, on January 11<sup>th</sup> 1939. In 1963 he joined the South Vietnamese Army, working his grades up to Captain. "I had the honor to fight the Communists from the North, alongside with the American soldiers", said Tai.

When the war ended, Tai was captured and sent to a jail in North Vietnam for eight years in a communist prison. At the end of the jail term, he was sent back to South Vietnam, where he and a group of former South Vietnamese soldiers managed to escape in a small boat.

The year was 1983, the boat, a 27 feet long by 9 feet wide. Pham found himself packed with 89 more people in high seas, with no water or food. There were 39 army officers and the rest civilians, men, women and children. "We had no compass, navigational skills or destination. We just wanted to escape from de communists," said Tai.

After six days and nights lost at sea, with the children crying all the time for lack of water and food, they were spotted by a ship. "We were all very excited, but afraid because we didn't know what kind of a ship that was," confessed Tai.

"Fortunately, it was a Belgium cargo



Mayor Michael J. Sullivan applauded while Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey presented Tai T. Pham with the Distinguished Citizen Award from Governor Mitt Romney.



Tai T. Pham holding the award, with a group of friends who were on hand to congratulate him on his award.

ship! They treated us very nicely," said Tai. The group was later taken to a Refugee Camp in Singapore, where Tai was interviewed by U.S. Intelligence. Only four out of the group of 39 officers were chosen and sent to Indonesia to learn English. Five months later, he was sponsored by the United States Catholic Charities, USCC, in Phoenix Arizona, to come to the United States.

From Arizona, Pham traveled throughout various US cities, until six years ago, when he came to Lawrence and opened the dry cleaning business. In the meantime, as retaliation for having escaped, the communist government sent his wife and three children to a concentration camp. In 1989, thanks to a family reunion treaty between both governments, his family came

to join him here.

Pham is very much involved in civic activities. Himself, together with the large and progressive Vietnamese Community in Lawrence, he has been involved in raising their homeland flag, organizing New Year's celebrations, and participating in the Saint Patrick's Parade for two years in a row. Led by their Color Guard, former South Vietnamese Soldiers dressed in fatigues, captured First Prize on the 2003 St. Patrick's Parade in Lawrence.

Pham can't take his beloved Viet Nam out of his mind, but he's very much appreciative of the land that had given him and his family so much. "The United States is a good country to raise your family, and the best thing is the freedom and opportunities for everybody", said Pham.

### YMCA Spring Baseball Clinic

2-day Spring Baseball Clinic here at the Methuen YMCA on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. both days. The clinic will feature Hitting, Pitching, Fielding, and Catching instruction.

Open to youth ages 10-13.

The fees are: Merrimack Valley YMCA members: \$90; Methuen Branch YMCA Members, \$115; and non-members: \$130. The clinic will facilitated by YMCA staff and members of the Haverhill Diamonds semi-pro baseball team.

For more information call Brian Pecci at (978) 683-5266.

### Susie Castillo Honorary Chairperson at Holy family fundraiser

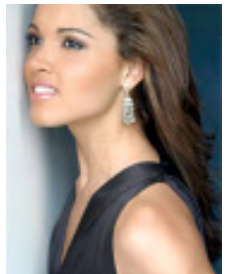
Former Miss USA, Susie Castillo, has accepted the invitation from Caritas Holy Family Hospital and Medical Center to be the Honorary Chairperson for the 20th Anniversary of the Sports for Life event which will take place on May 21-22, 2005. Sports for Life has brought over \$2 million and 100,000 people together in support of cancer care at the state-of-the-art William L. Lane Cancer Management Center.

Castillo states, "Having been born and raised in Methuen, MA, I'm biased... Holy Family Hospital provides the best care in the area, but the hospital's achievements and state-of-art facilities speak for themselves. As Miss USA 2003 I was a spokesperson for

breast and ovarian

cancer. Today, I am blessed to be named Honorary Chair of Sports for Life on its 20th anniversary in support of the Cancer Management Center at Holy Family Hospital. Cancer is a disease that affects all of us in one way or another, so I encourage our community to support this cause by coming to Sports for Life and having a great time!"

There will be a rally on April 12 at Holy Family. Anyone interested should call (978) 687-0156.



## City of Lawrence 2005 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day: Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>

**What should you bring?**

**From the Workbench:**

- ✓ Oil-based Paints, Shellac,
- ✓ Stains & Varnishes, Turpentine,
- ✓ Wood Preservatives,
- ✓ Paint Strippers & Thinners,
- ✓ Solvent Adhesives, Acids,
- ✓ Lighter Fluid, Aerosols, and
- ✓ Dry-Cell Batteries.

**From the Garage:**

- ✓ Fuels, Gasoline, Kerosene,
- ✓ Antifreeze, Radiator Flush,
- ✓ Engine Degreaser, Solvents,
- ✓ Brake Fluid/Carb Cleaners,
- ✓ Transmission Fluid, Oil Filters,
- ✓ Car Wax, Polishes, Tire Cleaners
- ✓ Driveway Sealer, Roofing Tar, &
- ✓ Swimming/Cess-Pool Chemicals.

**From the Yard:**

- ✓ Poisons, Pesticides, Herbicides,
- ✓ Insecticides, Fungicides,
- ✓ Chemical Fertilizers,
- ✓ Weed Killers, No-Pest Strips,
- ✓ Moth Balls, Flammables, and
- ✓ Flea Control Products.

**From the House:**

- ✓ Rubber Cement, Airplane Glue,
- ✓ Fiberglass Resins, Spot Remover
- ✓ Photo Chemicals/Chemistry Sets,
- ✓ Furniture, Floor & Metal Polish,
- ✓ Oven, Drain & Toilet Cleaners,
- ✓ Bleach, Detergents, Spray Starch,
- ✓ Brighteners/Softeners/Whiteners,
- ✓ Rug & Upholstery Cleaners,
- ✓ Hobby & Artist Supplies,
- ✓ Ammonia Cleaners, Acids,
- ✓ Floor Care, Wax Strippers,
- ✓ Aerosols, Deodorants, Hair Color
- ✓ Medicine, Cosmetics, Nail Polish

**How can you safely transport these dangerous materials or chemicals?**

- By leaving in original containers.
- By tightening caps and lids.
- By sorting & packing separately: oil paint, pesticides, and house-cleaners.
- Packing containers in sturdy upright boxes & padding with newspaper.
- By packing your car and driving directly to the site.
- **BY NEVER MIXING CHEMICALS, and NEVER SMOKING while handling.**

**What NOT to bring:**

- Drop-Off Center Items:  
Fluorescent Bulbs (mercury), Propane Tanks for gas grills, Car Batteries/Tires/Motor Oil, TVs & Computers (lead), Latex Paint (acrylic)
- PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls)
- Commercial or Industrial Waste
- Radioactive Waste, including Smoke Detectors, Infectious and Biological Wastes, Ammo, Fireworks, Explosives, Prescription Medicines/Syringes,

❖ **For more information, contact:**  
Lawrence Recycles program at (978) 794-5762, Hours → 8:30am-4:30pm

❖ **Proof of Residency Required.**

❖ **PLACE: Municipal Parking Lot, off Canal Street under Central Bridge over Merrimack River**

❖ **DO NOT BRING TRASH HERE.**

❖ **HOURS: 8AM UNTIL 12NOON.**

Write to us / Escribanos a:  
rumbo@rumbonews.com

# Notes from your Librarian



Hello again readers. I told you in my last article that the library would be starting Spanish language classes for our non-Spanish speaking staff. Well, the classes have begun and are going well. The whole staff of the library has gotten behind this project. Our Spanish-speaking staff has really pitched in by covering desks for staff while they are in class so that there is no problem maintaining top-notch service for our customers during the process. I have already had requests from part time workers for us to begin another class when this one is finished, so we are all pretty excited. Customer Service is the central goal of the library and it is great too see everyone so eager to do his or her part to make our service even better to all our citizens.

I had some great news this week. The Lawrence Library has received one of only fifteen grants awarded nationally by the MetLife Foundation Reading America Program.

The library is partnering with The Asian Center of the Merrimack Valley on this grant. The funds will be used to create a six-week workshop for immigrant families to share their stories across generational lines. So often it is a challenge for families

when the parents and the children have grown up in completely different cultures. This issue is often particularly difficult for families of Southeast Asian background whose children are growing up Americans.

The program will include families from Vietnam and Cambodia, as well as families from the Dominican Republic. When the program is complete, we will produce a book showcasing stories from both generations. This program will help to welcome new families to the library community. Many Thanks to Dawna Perez of Lawrence Literacy Works for all her help on this project. Another great example of Lawrencians working together for our city and its people.

Don't forget we're having our anime workshop on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. (For you adults: anime and manga are very popular Japanese graphic styles. Kids already know this!)

We also have a lot of fun activities planned for school vacation week so be sure to drop by and make sure you get a card while you're here. See you at the library!

Maureen Nimmo  
Director, Lawrence Public Library

### Do you need help?

Parents Helping Parents- Are you feeling frustrated, overwhelmed, anxious, or isolated in your role as a parent or guardian? Parents Helping Parents offers free, confidential and anonymous weekly support groups for parents throughout Massachusetts. Share experiences and get support and encouragement from other parents. Call toll free, 1-800-882-1250, for information about groups in this area.

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## LMCC Clean Up Crusade this Saturday, April 9th

Join us on Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am for the LMCC's first Clean Up Crusade for 2005. Volunteers will gather at the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center Parking Lot 130 Park St. Lawrence and divide into groups to cover over graffiti, clean vacant lots to give the area a clean sweep.

Property owners are encouraged to

maintain the areas after the volunteers leave Refreshments will be served after the Clean Up. Raindate is April 16<sup>th</sup> same location, same time.

Sponsored by local contributors and the City of Lawrence's CDBG Block Grant Program GLCAC, Inc acts as the fiscal agent for the LMCC.

## Cell Towers Dilemma Continues

By Kathy Moyes

Lawrence Environmental Action Group

The placement of cell towers/antennas in city neighborhoods presents a many-horned dilemma, but the recent verbal attack on a trusted lifelong Lawrence resident by a Zoning Board member during a hearing was completely unjustified.

During the evening, the Board had voted to deny company requests for placement of antennas on apartment buildings and an elderly complex, one of which is across the street from a Headstart Center. After the voting, which ended at midnight, one Board member began an unprovoked castigation of the resident and others who work voluntarily for the well-being of the people of this city. He complained that "you people" should be involved in more important things, such as the cleaning up of graffiti, instead of presenting challenges to the mushrooming of cell antennas in residential areas. The trouble is that, as far as "we people" can see, there has never been any overall city plan to address the placement of cell towers and antennas; as a result, many residents are living in close proximity to the radiation emanating from them.

Though residents have reason to believe that such radio-frequency waves can cause

health effects, under the Federal Communications Act of 1996, neither residents nor the Zoning Board is allowed to consider health or environmental concerns in decisions about placement of antennas. This absurd stipulation was buried in the Act written by the industry (the size of a NYC phone book) and passed by the U.S. Congress in the middle of the night two days before Christmas.

When local residents, including the victim of the harangue, based their argument on the question of NEED for cell signal "coverage" rather than health concerns, the angry Board member accused us of not speaking forthrightly. How can we speak forthrightly when everyone's hands are tied by the absurd stipulation of the FCC Act?

One suggestion that residents made was to place those antennas that are truly needed on top of mill buildings not occupied 24 hours a day. We have also recommended that the City engage an independent radiofrequency engineer to study the overall need for placement. This could resolve the issue partly. But why is it ordinary volunteer residents that are left to figure out these issues, and then being attacked for doing so? Even though only one of their members "lost his cool," a public apology from the Zoning Board is in order.

## Genealogy book display by Lawrence Public Library, South Lawrence Branch

The Special Collections Department at the South Lawrence Branch, Lawrence Public Library, will have a display on Irish Genealogy for the entire month of March. The display will include 45 books and 32 CD-ROMS, which will be available for use and borrowing. This will be an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in tracing their Irish roots.

Over 150 Irish-Americans living in the Lawrence area will be able to receive a complimentary history of their name. Over 150 names are available.

The South Lawrence Branch library is open Mondays, 10-6, and Wednesdays & Fridays, 10-4. For information call 978-794-5789.

## Asian Centers offers English classes

Openings are now available for citizenship preparation and computer classes at the Asian Center of Merrimack Valley, Inc., 1 Ballard Way, Lawrence.

Citizenship classes which cost \$20 for 10 weeks and include a textbook are held on Monday morning or Thursday evening. The computer classes cost \$30 for 8 weeks will be held on Mondays (morning or evening.)

Registrations for the April term are now being taken and are open to any interested resident in the area. For more information please call the Asian Center at (978) 683-7316.

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Patrick J. Blanchette 683-7982  
Marcos A. Devers 685-5691  
Michael Fielding 688-6161  
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Nicholas J. Kolofoles 688-3705  
Carlos D. Matos 685-6249  
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### Comité Escolar (School Committee)

Jorge A. González 975-0327  
335-3526  
Nancy Kennedy (978) 688-3828  
Amy McGovern 682-0627  
Carlos Ramos  
Laura Vanderveer (978) 688-4315  
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Barry R. Finegold 474-8683  
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Susan C. Tucker (617) 722-1612  
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### Congresista (Congressman)

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# Camboyanos celebraron Año Nuevo

Los camboyanos del área del Valle de Merrimack se reunieron el sábado, 2 de abril para celebrar el Año Nuevo.

El Nuevo Año camboyano se celebra del 13 al 15 de abril, durante la temporada seca, cuando los agricultores no trabajan en los campos. Los astrólogos determinan el tiempo y la fecha exactos calculando el momento exacto en que arriba el nuevo animal protector (tigre, dragón o serpiente). "Este es el año del gallo", dijo Nikki Toeur, Organizadora Comunitaria del Seton Asian Center.

Los camboyanos pasan la mayor parte del tiempo durante el mes de abril preparándose para la celebración, limpiando y decorando la casa con velas, luces, flores y lámparas en forma de estrella. Durante los primeros tres días, todos viajan hacia las pagodas a ofrecerles comida a los monjes.

Música tradicional camboyana fue interpretada por la Banda de Tepyniyum, bajo la dirección del Sr. Sovann Kon. El grupo The GolapSaw entretuvo a la audiencia interpretando varias danzas ancestrales como el Robam Shourn Por o la Danza de las Bendiciones y otras más modernas tales como Oh Yea Oh Yea,



Nikki Toeur y Sister Elana Killilean, Organizadora Comunitaria del Seton Asian Center y Directora Ejecutiva, respectivamente, durante la celebración del Nuevo Año camboyano.

*Nikki Toeur and Sister Elana Killilean, Seton Asian Center Community Organizer and Executive Director, respectively, during the Cambodian New Year celebration.*

donde el Coreógrafo Corrí Voeun combina su conocimiento de las culturas camboyana y norteamericana.

El evento, que comenzó a las 10:00 A.M. terminó con la Banda The Golden Horse tocando hasta la medianoche. A los camboyanos les encanta bailar, y son buenos bailarines.

¡Feliz Año Nuevo!



Todos rezan a los Dioses.

*Everybody prays to the Gods.*



*Roneath*, tocado por Vith Chorm y Tror Soa, tocado por Sovann Khon.

*Roneath*, played by Vith Chorm and Tror Soa, played by Sovann Khon.



Los monjes.  
*The Monks.*



La comida está siendo bendecida.  
*Food is being blessed.*

## Cambodians celebrated New Year

Merrimack Valley area Cambodians gathered together on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005, at the Knights of Columbus in Lawrence, to celebrate their New Year.

The Cambodian New Year takes place from April 13th -15th, during the dry season when farmers do not work in the fields. Astrologers determine the exact time and date by calculating the exact moment the new animal protector (tiger, dragon, or snake) arrives. "This is the year of the rooster," said Nikki Toeur, Seton Asian Center Community Organizer.

Cambodians spend the entire month of April in preparation for the celebration, cleaning and decorating their house with candles, lights, star shaped lanterns and flowers. During the first three days, everyone travels to the pagodas to offer food to the monks.

Traditional Cambodian music was played by the Tepyniyum Band, under Mr. Sovann Kon's direction. The GolapSaw Troupe entertained the audience by performing several ancient dances like the Robam Chourn Por or The Blessing Dance and the more modern Oh Yea Oh



Yea, where the choreographer Korry Voeun combines his knowledge of Cambodian and American cultures.

The event that started at 10:00 A.M. ended with the Golden Horse Band playing till midnight. Cambodians love to dance and they are good dancers too!

Happy New Year!



*Sampo*, tocado por Sok Chea Sao; *Khim*, tocado por Sor Phal y Takay, tocado por Sakum Heng.

*Sampo*, played by Sok Chea Sao; *Khim*, played by Sor Phal and Takay, played by Sakum Heng.