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**Calendario de actividades /
Calendar of activities**

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Reuniones comunitarias sobre el acuerdo de Columbia Gas



El abogado Adam Gómez y la intérprete Mari Torres explicando a la audiencia cómo llenar la planilla de reclamo.

Attorney Adam Gómez and interpreter Mari Torres explaining to the audience how to fill out the claims form.

Casi 200 residentes asistieron a la Reunión Comunitaria celebrada en la Escuela Técnica de Greater Lawrence el sábado, 9 de noviembre. Ofrecieron tres reuniones separadas para cada ciudad afectada: Lawrence, Andover y North Andover.

Ellos escucharon a los abogados que representan las acciones colectivas consolidadas contra Columbia Gas. El Equipo de Liderazgo que presentó la demanda y negoció el acuerdo de \$143 millones explicó por qué era necesario unir fuerzas con los otros abogados y cómo lograron el acuerdo.

Fue un resultado sorprendentemente rápido ya que hay casos en los que pueden litigar durante años solo para perder al final.

Aprendieron sobre sus derechos y opciones en virtud del acuerdo y recibieron instrucciones sobre cómo completar formularios de reclamos.

Un período de preguntas y respuestas siguió a la presentación donde los abogados respondieron preguntas de la audiencia, y se animaron mucho.

Si no se enteró de la celebración de estas reuniones, puede ingresar a ColumbiaGasExplosionSettlement.com o llamar al 1-833-927-0819. El formulario de reclamo se puede descargar desde ese sitio y le explicarán cómo completarlo.

La semana próxima Rumbo le traerá más detalles y fotos.

Carta de los legisladores al Juez Lang pidiendo \$20 M de los \$143 millones

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Legislators' letter to Judge Lang asking for \$20 M of the \$143 millions

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(MA) Lawrence, Methuen, Haverhill, Andover, North Andover, Lowell
(NH) Salem, Nashua, Manchester

Lawrence paid tribute to Veterans



City Councilor David C. Abdoo and former Capt US Army was the Keynote Speaker at the event honoring all veterans held at South Lawrence East Elementary on 11/11/19.

Read David Abdoo's speech on page 6.

See pictures of the ceremony on page 15.

Gran victoria para Perry en Methuen



Neil Perry ganó las elecciones para alcalde en Methuen y en gran parte fue por el apoyo que recibió de los residentes latinos de esa ciudad.

El Sr. Perry hizo un esfuerzo enorme compareciendo en programas radiales y asistiendo a nuestros eventos como pocos candidatos tratan de hacer. Posiblemente esa fue la diferencia para que recibiera 6,386 votos y Jennifer Kannan 2,666.

Felicitaciones también al Sargento Mike Simard quien fue elegido concejal del West District.

Police Academy graduation

On November 8th was the most recent graduation of police academy trainees and one of the graduates was Francisco Tineo, stepson to former police officer William Green who was very proud to attend and send us this picture.

For more pictures of the event and the speech of guest speaker Lane Glenn, president of Northern Essex Community College, please go to page 12 and 13.



Líderes juveniles de Lawrence luchan contra el tabaco y el vaporizador en MA



Jóvenes líderes del Movimiento 84 de la Coalición de la Comunidad Lawrence Methuen asistieron a la Cumbre del Poder Juvenil recientemente en el Centro Médico UMass en Worcester.

El Movimiento 84, un movimiento juvenil que lucha contra el tabaco y el vaporizador en Massachusetts, organiza anualmente el Youth Power Summit para brindar a los jóvenes de todo el estado la oportunidad de aprender juntos y prepararse para el año que viene.

Los jóvenes aprendieron acerca de cómo la industria del tabaco se enfoca en las personas o el color, la historia del tabaco y el

racismo, y cómo la fijación del sistema de racismo para los afectados negativamente beneficia a todos.

La Cumbre terminó con discusiones sobre cómo los jóvenes planean abordar el tabaco y el racismo en sus comunidades.

En la foto, de izquierda a derecha, en la primera fila, de izquierda a derecha, están Destiny Perez, la asesora Evelyn Rodriguez y Chantel Diaz. En la fila de atrás de izquierda a derecha están Kendrys Arias, Joseph Trinidad, Jeremy Cornelio e Isaac Metivier. Destiny Perez es miembro del equipo de liderazgo estatal del Movimiento 84. (Foto de Gretchen Ertl.)

Lawrence Youth Leaders Fight Tobacco and Vape in MA

Young leaders of The 84 Movement from the Lawrence Methuen Community Coalition attended the Youth Power Summit recently at the UMass Medical Center in Worcester.

The 84 Movement, a youth movement fighting tobacco and vape in Massachusetts, hosts the Youth Power Summit annually to give youth from all over the state a chance to learn together and prepare for the year ahead.

The youth learned about how the tobacco industry targets people or color, the history of tobacco and racism, and

how fixing the system of racism for those negatively impacted benefits everyone.

The Summit ended with discussions about how the youth plan to address tobacco and racism in their communities.

Pictured from left to right in the front row from left to right are Destiny Perez, advisor Evelyn Rodriguez, and Chantel Diaz. In the back row from left to right are Kendrys Arias, Joseph Trinidad, Jeremy Cornelio, and Isaac Metivier. Destiny Perez is a member of The 84 Movement's Statewide Leadership Team. (Photo by Gretchen Ertl.)

EDITORIAL | EDITORIAL

¿A dónde vamos a parar?

Hace solo unos días fuimos a depositar nuestro voto. Tenemos que admitir que muchos fuimos a las urnas sin el embollo que nos deja unas elecciones preliminares, donde sólo hubo elección en un solo distrito por razones de falta de candidatos.

En las elecciones finales, que sepamos, sólo hubo un problema, por lo que fue necesario cambiar el lugar de votación de un colegio electoral en el Distrito F para otro sitio, ya que el indicado, la Biblioteca del Sur de Lawrence, no reunía las condiciones necesarias de acceso a minusválidos.

Tal vez luzca increíble, pero situaciones como las indicadas, son más que suficientes para que muchos la usen como excusa para no salir a votar, razón por la cual de 40,631 registrados para votar sólo 6,051 ejercieron su derecho. Esto tal vez trajo como consecuencia que todos los actuales concejales salieran re-electos, bien por popularidad o nombres conocidos no dando oportunidad a nuevas caras de formar parte del nuevo gabinete de la ciudad.

Pero siempre hay excepciones y decepciones. Entre las excepciones se encuentra el caso de una candidata at-Large que entró por la puerta grande, no solo porque un incumbente, más conocido como el más votado, decidió no re-elegirse por razones personales o si fue por estar apoyada por un popular alcalde o porque usaba dos nombres.

La razón de usar dos nombres era porque, según nos confesó, aquí la conocen por uno mientras que en su país la conocen por el otro y quería que allí se supiera. No nos consta si recibió algún voto en ausencia.

Entre las decepciones se encuentra la de un candidato, con credenciales más que suficientes para desempeñar el cargo, fue ignorado por los votantes.

La otra decepción fue la de otro candidato que estaba corriendo por sticker, pero sólo se lo dijo a cinco personas y fue derrotado por otro candidato que compartió su secreto con otras más personas.

¿Y qué nos trae el futuro? Sabemos o creemos saber, cuál es el candidato o candidata del Alcalde Rivera para su sucesión. Esta vez, es una candidata y nos han informado que hará su anuncio en una iglesia durante la misa.

Hay un fenómeno nunca visto antes visto en este país. Solo en Lawrence. Sólo dictadores y reyes escogen a sus sucesores, y ésta además, va a hacer su anuncio en una iglesia, con el sacerdote a su lado y Dios como testigo.

Pero aún hay más. Una joven que recién comenzó a trabajar dentro del cerrado círculo del Alcalde Rivera acaba de renunciar a su posición ya que planea correr para la posición de alcalde aunque no cuenta con el apoyo de éste.

Ella está entre los popularmente llamados milenarios. Jóvenes que ocuparán nuestras posiciones en la sociedad y principalmente el gobierno con ideas socialistas.

Son dignos de admiración por sus convicciones. Aunque no sepan nadar, son capaces de lanzarse a lo más profundo del océano y mientras nadan entre tiburones, nos invitan a unirnos a ellos.

¿A dónde vamos a parar? Solo Dios lo sabe.

Where are we going to stop?

Only a few days ago we went to cast our vote. We have to admit that many went to the polls without the enthusiasm we feel after preliminary elections, where there was only election in a single district due to lack of candidates.

In the final elections, as far as we know, there was only one problem, so it was necessary to change the polling place in District F to the South Lawrence East School since the one indicated, the Lawrence South Library, did not meet the conditions necessary for disabled access.

It may seem incredible, but situations such as those indicated are more than enough for many to use as an excuse to skip voting, which is why out of 40,631 registered voters only 6,051 exercised their right. This may have resulted in all current councilors being re-elected, either by popularity or well known names, not giving new faces a chance to be part of the city's new cabinet.

But there are always exceptions and disappointments. Among the exceptions is the case of an at-Large candidate who entered through the big door, not only because an incumbent, better known as the most voted, decided not to go for re-election for personal reasons. Perhaps it was because she's being supported by a popular mayor or because she uses two names.

The reason for using two names was because, as she confessed to us, here she is known by one while in her country they know her by the other and she wanted to make sure people in her country know she was running. We do not know if she received any absentee votes.

Among the disappointments is that of a candidate, with credentials more than enough to serve, was ignored by the voters.

The other disappointment was that of another candidate who was running a write-in campaign, but he only told five people and was defeated by another candidate who shared his secret with more voters.

And what does the future bring? We know or believe we know who Mayor Rivera's candidate for his succession is. This time, is a she, and we have been informed that she will make her announcement in a Church during Mass.

There's a phenomenon never seen before in this country, only in Lawrence. Only dictators and kings choose their successors, and she will also make her announcement in a church, with the priest at her side and God as a witness.

But there is more. A young woman who has just started working within the closed circle of Mayor Rivera's has just given up her position as she plans to run for the position of Mayor although she does not have the support of the latter.

She is among the popularly called millennials. Young people who will occupy our positions in society and mainly the government with socialist ideas.

They are worthy of admiration for their convictions. Although they don't know how to swim, they are able to jump into the deepest ocean and while they swim among sharks, they invite us to join them.

Where are we going to end? God only knows.



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Greater Lawrence Technical School

Lawrence High School

glfhc.org/school



POR DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina

Notas de elecciones

Han pasado algunas semanas desde mi última entrega de esta columna, por lo que le daré un resumen rápido de varios elementos que tienen que ver con las recientes elecciones.

Problema con las máquinas nuevas: teníamos a alguien en el Distrito B que no procesó 27 boletas en ausencia antes de que la máquina se apagara y tuvieron que contarlas a mano. Después se dieron cuenta que las nuevas máquinas de votación no habían sido programadas para imprimir de manera legible y un técnico tuvo que venir a medianoche para reprogramarlas.

Mientras tanto, hubo problemas en Haverhill y Methuen con sus máquinas y nadie escribió sobre eso en ninguna parte.

Sandy Elizabeth Almonte - La recordamos cuando representó al Distrito A en el concejo. Ella era feroz, confiable, firme e inquisitiva; entonces tuvo que renunciar. Ella trató de regresar pero no ha hecho las cosas bien en absoluto. Falló en reunir sus firmas requeridas por solo 8 votos. Hizo su campaña llamando diariamente a programas de radio pidiendo consideración; incluso pagó por un programa de radio los sábados durante algunas semanas. Intentó ejecutar una campaña por escrito y al final recibió solo 32 votos.

Pensé que al Sandy postularse para concejal del Distrito A solamente le quitaría votos a Frankie Caraballo y mantendría a María De La Cruz allí por otro período, pero realmente no hizo una diferencia en los resultados finales. Espero que Frankie continúe involucrado en asuntos comunitarios y política porque lo necesitamos allí.

Los programas de radio, en general, carecen de noticias locales. Lo que sí tienen es mucha música, religión, política de la República Dominicana y oyentes que hacen preguntas o hacen comentarios locos o desinformados. Por ejemplo, cuando hablamos de los candidatos para el Comité Escolar de la Escuela Técnica, a menudo los escuchamos decir que estos jóvenes candidatos latinos deberían ayudar a devolver la capacitación "vocacional" a esa escuela. Debemos preguntarnos cuánto saben sobre el plan de estudios en GLTS porque eso es lo que hacen.

Resultados: todos sabemos quiénes fueron los ganadores con el único cambio en el concejo que fue Celina Reyes, pero más sobre ella más tarde. La sorpresa fue a nivel del Comité Escolar ya que los Distritos B, C y F no tenían candidatos en las papeletas. No fue ninguna sorpresa que Patricia Mariano recibió 1,115 votos en el Distrito E, pero Donna Bertolino perdió ante Kassandra

Infante por 283 a 416, respectivamente, en el Distrito A.

Ahora, para los recién llegados con calcomanías o campañas por escrito, en el Distrito B, Martina Cruz tuvo 3 votos, mientras que Enrique Matos ganó con 16 votos. Hubiera sido genial que Martina regresara al comité escolar. Cuando estuvo allí hace años, hizo su tarea y tomó buenas decisiones.

El candidato del Distrito C, William Green, reunió 5 votos, pero nadie sabía que estaba postulando y se lo dijo solamente a 5 personas. Me hubiera encantado verlo ser parte de un grupo que no proporciona información sobre lo que sucede en las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence o la capacitación necesaria a los miembros del comité escolar para poder hacerse cargo de la administración del sistema escolar en el futuro. William Green habría estado haciendo preguntas e insistiendo en obtener respuestas. Perdió ante Rafaela Pichardo que recibió 17 votos.

Joshua Alba fue un candidato formal en la boleta electoral para el comité escolar del Distrito D y ganó fácilmente con 615 votos.

En el Distrito F, Jonathan Guzmán realizó una campaña por escrito que recibió 98 votos contra los 11 de Francisco Brea.

Jonathan era dinámico en la escuela secundaria y Rumbo cubrió varias de sus actividades. Sabía que llegaría lejos en la vida y ahora que se graduó de la universidad, está demostrando que quiere dejar una marca en la ciudad. Esta fue la mejor noticia que salió del proceso electoral.

Imaginemos que si el candidato a concejal at-large Richard Russell y William Green para el comité escolar hubiesen sido elegidos, habríamos tenido algunos combatientes para nuestros residentes en lugar de lo que tendremos en el concejo municipal y el comité escolar. Lo que me lleva a Celina Reyes: estamos atrapados con ella.

Danny seleccionó a Celina y le brindó todo su apoyo no solo usando sus recursos, sino que también le permitió a su gerente de campaña salir de sus tareas de estacionamiento para asistir a eventos y entrevistas de radio con ella en cualquier momento del día. Era divertido en la radio, cada vez que se sentía atrapada respondiendo a una pregunta, él se hacia cargo de responder.

Hace unos días nos encontramos en una reunión pública y después de besarme en la mejilla, me agradeció por toda la publicidad que le di. Nada de lo que dije fue positivo, pero Celina es como aquellos que creen que toda la publicidad es buena siempre que se logre el resultado deseado. Si hubiera perdido, me habría culpado.

Political corruption

Political corruption is the use of powers by government officials or their network contacts for illegitimate private gain. An illegal act by an officeholder constitutes political corruption only if the act is directly related to their official duties, is done under color of law or involves trading in influence.

Corrupción política

La corrupción política es el uso de poderes por parte de funcionarios del gobierno o sus contactos de la red para obtener ganancias privadas ilegítimas. Un acto ilegal cometido por un funcionario público constituye corrupción política solo si el acto está directamente relacionado con sus funciones oficiales, se realiza bajo la ley o implica un intercambio de influencias.



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.

los Representantes Estatales Frank Moran, Christina Minicucci y Marcos Devers que estaban pidiendo \$20 millones de esa cantidad total. Su razonamiento para esta solicitud fue compensar a los residentes por la infraestructura de seguridad pública resultante de las recientes fugas de gas de este año.

No es necesario decir que el juez James F. Lang se negó a concederlo, pero no sin antes decirles que no tenían derecho a ese dinero. Puede leer la carta al Juez Lang en la página 5.

Cositas sueltas

1. Ahora, ¿dígome una buena razón para que Dan Rivera envíe invitaciones a su fiesta navideña a Gilda Duran en Florida? No, él no es estúpido; él quería ser mencionado aquí! Es hora de actualizar esa lista.

2. ¿Sabía que uno de los autobuses por los que pagamos \$225,000 a la MVRTA ya no funciona? El autobús número 83 no ha estado funcionando y los pasajeros no han sido informados del motivo.

"Nuestra libertad depende de la libertad de prensa y no puede ser limitada pues la perderemos."

"Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost."

- Thomas Jefferson

Proyecto de ley DiZoglio responsabilizaría a las compañías de gas

(BOSTON) - En respuesta a las devastadoras explosiones de gas del año pasado en el Valle de Merrimack, que destruyeron casas y edificios en comunidades en todo North Andover, Lawrence y Andover, la Senadora Estatal Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) ha patrocinado una legislación diseñada para hacer que las compañías de gas rindan cuentas y prevenir futuros incidentes.

El proyecto de ley 1952 del Senado, una ley relativa a las fugas de gas y la infraestructura, aumenta los requisitos de información de las compañías de gas cuando se enteran de las fugas de gas a las agencias locales de bomberos y de aplicación de la ley y para hacerlo público, tanto en el sitio de internet de la compañía de gas como en el Departamento de Servicios Públicos (DPU).

La legislación, que se escuchó recientemente ante el Comité Conjunto de Telecomunicaciones, Servicios Públicos y Energía de la legislatura, exige que las tres entidades, la compañía de gas, la policía local y el departamento de bomberos local, registren la ubicación de la fuga y cualquier mitigación realizada para resolver este problema. El proyecto de ley también requiere que las compañías de gas sigan siendo responsables de cualquier proyecto importante de manera pública y autoriza sanciones financieras por incumplimiento de cualquier disposición.

Además, la legislación requiere una revisión anual por parte de DPU de los inspectores de tuberías certificados para garantizar que un número adecuado de

inspectores certificados participen en la inspección de tuberías en todo el Estado.

"Las explosiones de Columbia Gas del otoño pasado perturbaron la vida de mis electores, ya que la restauración del servicio no solo resultó lenta, sino que la comunicación a los afectados no era confiable", dijo DiZoglio. "Con una asistencia mediocre de Columbia, los residentes recurrieron a las redes sociales para obtener ayuda y pidieron ayuda diaria de mi oficina mientras iban de un ajustador a otro obteniendo menos de lo prometido, y mucho menos de lo que merecían. A medida que los afectados continúen recuperándose más de un año desde las explosiones, y mucho más recientemente desde la fuga de gas de septiembre en la Ciudad de Lawrence, este proyecto de ley proporcionará herramientas clave en nuestros esfuerzos para evitar futuros desastres y garantizar que las compañías de gas sean responsables de sus acciones."

Además de esta legislación, DiZoglio es también la patrocinadora del Proyecto de Ley del Senado de 1953, una Ley que crea un Fondo de Ayuda para Desastres del Departamento de Servicios Públicos, y el Proyecto de Ley del Senado de 1954, una Ley relativa a la transparencia, la rendición de cuentas y la imparcialidad que afectan las tarifas de los servicios públicos, que en conjunto crean un fondo de ayuda por desastre de gas para ayudar a garantizar que los contribuyentes no carguen con la mayor parte de los costos asociados con tal evento.

Carta entregada al Juez James F. Lang que fue firmada por estos legisladores

Los términos de la demanda colectiva de Columbia Gas deben renegociarse

Nosotros, como miembros de la delegación legislativa estatal que representa a la Ciudad de Lawrence, así como el Alcalde de Lawrence Dan Rivera, estamos escribiendo para expresar nuestro disgusto con el acuerdo de demanda colectiva actual con Columbia Gas.

Aunque estamos de acuerdo con el sentimiento general del acuerdo y creemos firmemente que los residentes de nuestra comunidad deben ser compensados por las dificultades que soportaron, los recientes eventos relacionados con Columbia Gas demuestran que los residentes continúan sufriendo, especialmente en la ciudad de Lawrence.

Estamos particularmente preocupados por los residentes y las empresas en South Lawrence que ahora han experimentado múltiples emergencias relacionadas con el gas durante el año pasado.

A la luz de los acontecimientos recientes, incluido el Departamento de Servicios Públicos de Massachusetts que pone una moratoria sobre el trabajo de Columbia Gas en todo el estado y la audiencia de la Junta Nacional de Seguridad del Transporte de la semana pasada sobre las explosiones de gas de Merrimack Valley, creemos que los términos del acuerdo deben actualizarse

para tener en cuenta por las dificultades adicionales que los residentes han enfrentado.

Nuestra experiencia en el terreno, como residentes y representantes de las ciudades y pueblos afectados, nos ha proporcionado una idea de cómo se han recuperado las comunidades. Si bien muchos se han recuperado a través del proceso de recuperación y reclamos de Columbia, hay residentes y propietarios de pequeñas empresas que nunca se recuperaron por completo de la explosión del 2018, solo para ser evacuados de sus hogares nuevamente la semana pasada debido a una fuga de gas.

El año pasado, muchos vivieron en hoteles y remolques móviles durante meses mientras sus hogares eran inhabitables, y las pequeñas empresas perdieron su base de clientes al estar cerradas por varias temporadas. Más recientemente, las familias fueron evacuadas de sus hogares en medio de la noche, pasaron un día entero en un refugio improvisado, y muchos una vez más se quedaron en un hotel mientras no podían regresar a sus hogares. Los restaurantes y las bodegas perdieron mercancía y productos refrigerados; y algunos volvieron a estar cerrados durante días mientras se restauraba el servicio de gas.

Mientras escribimos esto, Columbia Gas



Barry Finegold



Dan Rivera



Marcos Devers



Christina Minicucci



Frank Moran

está en proceso de re inspeccionar 700 líneas de servicio que la compañía abandonó o reemplazó durante el trabajo del año pasado. Claramente, este trabajo está en curso y la crisis del año pasado todavía se siente en nuestras comunidades.

Teniendo en cuenta estos hechos, creemos que cualquier negocio que se haya visto afectado dos veces, tanto por las explosiones del año pasado como por la fuga más reciente, debería recibir un mínimo de \$5,000 a través del acuerdo. Del mismo modo, creemos que cualquier residente que se haya visto afectado por ambas filtraciones debe recibir un mínimo de \$1,000.

Dada la carga que se ha impuesto a los socorristas, también creemos que \$20 millones del acuerdo deberían usarse para mejorar la infraestructura de seguridad pública en nuestras comunidades.

A la luz de estos desarrollos recientes y un segundo incidente relacionado con el gas, creemos que Columbia Gas debería

contribuir más al acuerdo para cubrir estos costos, o que el monto total reservado para los honorarios de los abogados se reduzca para que pueda ir hacia una compensación justa residentes e infraestructura de seguridad pública.

Esperamos ver mejores términos de liquidación que reflejen la realidad vivida de nuestros electores.

Senador Estatal Barry Finegold, Andover

Representante Estatal Marcos Devers, Lawrence

Representante Estatal Christina Minicucci, North Andover

Representante Estatal Frank Moran, Lawrence

Alcalde Daniel Rivera, Lawrence



AHORA:
DAMARYS TIENE
100 LIBRAS MENOS Y 4
PULGADAS MÁS ALTA

La cirugía para perder peso ayudó a Damarys Morales a recuperar su antigua pasión: usar tacones altos. Damarys pesaba 280 libras cuando se inscribió en nuestro programa de cirugía para perder peso. Pero con el continuo apoyo no sólo de su familia sino también del equipo médico especializado, de las nutricionistas y de los entrenadores físicos, Damarys rebajó a 165 libras y pudo lucir sus tacones sofisticados.

Ahora, las milagros son sorprendentes en Lawrence General Hospital.

Para leer más sobre la historia de Damarys y realizar la autoevaluación de la cirugía para perder peso vía internet, visite lawrencegeneral.org.



Lawrence
General
Hospital
MILAGROS

Lawrence paid tribute to Veterans

City Councilor David C. Abdoo and former Cpt US Army was the Keynote Speaker at the event honoring all veterans held at South Lawrence East Elementary on 11/11/19.

By Alberto Surís

The SLE School event hall was pack with people that came to thank the veterans for their selfless sacrifice. All the people in attendance were there for the same reason, to thank the men and women who have served over the years.

Probably, inspired by this sentiment, Br. Rene D. Roy, F.M.S., Campus Minister, Central Catholic High School offered this wonderful opening prayer "Heavenly Father, we have come together this morning to honor and thank those who have served and are now serving in our armed forces. We remember the valiant men who enlisted immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and the women who joined the military soon after or who worked in defense plants.

"We honor all those who responded to fight in the Korean Conflict, Viet Nam, Operation Desert Storm, The Iraq War, and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and who serve today in trouble spots around the world.

We offer our sincere gratitude to them for the sacrifices that they have made and are making as well as the support of our prayers, time and financial aid. May we never forget these good men and women, many of whom are disabled or bear in some way the scars of battle.

They put their lives in danger for the cause of freedom and for our beloved

country. Our debt to them is beyond payment and our ceremony today, only a small part of the recompense due to them. Yet we continue to offer whatever we can to recognize and thank them for their service with sincere and indebted hearts. May they find comfort in our presence here and in the appreciation we extend to them... God bless them and God bless America! Amen"

That prayer seemed to set the mode for perfection on the JROTC Drill Team performing their routine, specially on the passing of the rifle, done with such perfection; that perfection includes the JROTC Step Team. Their performance was without any doubt, brilliant.

Good Bless America was sang by the Lawrence High School Ensemble and then, Bella Perrotta, a High School student in Methuen, MA. If her rendition of the National Anthem was great, when she finished God Bless the USA, many eyes in the audience were wet.

In every event honoring veterans we hear stories of valor, sacrifice and heroism, but is not common to hear from one of them, what makes them enroll into military. This time Keynote Speaker David Abdoo offered his personal reasons:

These men are examples of people who have served their Nation, and continue to serve their community, and for the purposes

of messaging - I want the opportunity to serve to be the message that you take away from my remarks today. Clearly said Abdoo, and continued, "In 2019, I believe it to be of the upmost importance to recognize those who contribute to our community, at a time in the 21st-century when many people in our society are focused inward and live their lives primarily on social media.

The service of the aforementioned public servants did not end when they hung up their uniforms; they chose to continue their service in other ways. Military service teaches its soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen/women and Coast Guardsmen/women to fully understand the concepts of service to one another and selfless sacrifice. A deep respect is developed towards one another and encourages one to be selfless in their actions... expecting nothing in return. These types of values are not simply left at the door when clearing post for the last time, but instead, it often continues with each person as they settle back into their lives back home... like it obviously has for Dan and Roger.

Suffice to say, I am humbled to be at this days this morning. I am thankful for the invitation and the opportunity to address the veterans assembled here today.

My experience, like many others, was a unique one. I was a student at Salem State College, and it wasn't really working out for me. I was missing something. A buddy of mine and I went down to the recruiter several times, and when I could not get a commitment to serve on one of the battleships in the United States Navy, I enlisted in the Army National Guard as a combat medic, or 91A. On the day I graduated basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. This global event set my azimuth for the next couple of years. I proceeded to my Advanced Individual Training as a Combat Medic where I would remain throughout Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

I was hooked. I loved what I was doing and wanted more of it!

When the opportunity to apply to OCS made itself available, I committed. Unfortunately, I did not have the requisite civilian education to continue in the Medical Service Corps, but then had the opportunity to commission as an armor officer. After completing Officer Basic Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky, I volunteered for an engagement with NATO's "Operation: Atlantic Resolve". There I served as a liaison between British and other allied forces. Later in the 90s, I completed my college education at Salem State, finished military assignments as a platoon leader, company commander, and settled into my civilian career.

My series of active-duty engagements and National Guard service provided me a gift beyond all gifts, a better understanding of service, and how to be responsible for your fellow man and woman and be part of something much larger than myself. Along the way, you learn to look beyond yourself, care for others, and the meaning of a ... "buddy check".

This enhanced understanding of service carried over to my civilian life as a twelve-year trustee at Salem State University, long time Lawrence Planning Board

member, twenty-year volunteer at Saint Patrick Church and many other volunteer commitments that I have been fortunate enough to be associated with. In addition to my civilian pursuits, I continued to volunteer for opportunities with the National Guard to serve the community. Whether it was post-9/11 security missions and other related activities, or to provide 2-months of security and support services to the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston, or to work locally for the Mother's Day Flood of 2006 ... each time, I was able to do something I loved doing while serving our Nation, our Commonwealth and our community.

These experiences taught me about stewardship and selfless service towards your fellow man and woman. Military service ingrained in me respect for institutions and the importance of tradition.

Here in our community we have individuals like the mayor and Councilor Roger Twomey as well as community leaders such as Don Silva, Carlos Cameron, Tom Murphy, Yoed Cameron Santos, Joe Hey, Frank Bonet, John Cuddy and many other ordinary men and women that commit themselves to our community. They serve other veterans in need, lead Cub Scout Packs, lead Girl Scout troops, serve hospice care, support organized veterans' groups and much much more. These are but a few examples of ordinary men and women that give of themselves to the betterment of our community each and every day.

As many of you know, there are many opportunities to contribute to the betterment of our community. You do not have to have prior military service to commit to selfless service; you just have to have the desire, the commitment and heart to do something for others without the expectation of anything in return.

There is no greater feeling of satisfaction than service to one another. You can exhibit the same selfless values with service to your community. The benefit to others is great, and your reward to self is subtle, yet will fill you.

The service opportunities are bountiful in Lawrence and the Merrimack Valley. There are many organizations and opportunities to do "good" and enrich other people's lives. Volunteerism is everywhere if you just look. For instance, you can seek out volunteer opportunities on several boards here in the city, as well as service opportunities at nonprofit organizations focused on housing needs, environmental consciousness, opioids, our homeless, our youth, mental health, and other organizations focused on the most vulnerable people amongst us. Regardless of your available time, I can assure you that your service to others can be the most rewarding thing you ever experience.

An added benefit is that your service will also contribute to the overall stewardship of your community. Your actions will make lives better, improve community assets, and enrich the experience of many. Your contribution of time, talent, or treasure to service will be fulfilling.

In closing, I ask that you remember our veterans not only today – but throughout the

PLEASE SEE DAVID ABDOO

CONTINUES ON PAGE 15

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COLUMBIA GAS HAS BEGUN ADDITIONAL VERIFICATIONS OF OLD SERVICE LINES

Residents will continue to see an increased presence of Columbia Gas crews in the community in the coming weeks as we verify a remaining set of 2,000 old service lines abandoned during last fall's Merrimack Valley recovery effort, completing verification work that began in September 2019.

The verification work is being conducted in coordination with the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities to confirm that the work on these abandoned service lines was executed in a manner consistent with applicable requirements and in compliance with Columbia Gas procedures and protocols.

The former service lines in this remaining set relate to homes and businesses that had outside meters prior to the September 2018 gas event. Due to the location of these gas meters, verifications will be conducted outside. Entrance into a customer's home or business is not required unless follow-up work is necessary. If the inspection finds the abandoned service line was not retired in accordance with applicable requirements, procedures and protocols, a crew will complete the necessary work.

If desired, customers can call to request an inside verification of their system out of an abundance of caution.

None of the abandoned service lines that will be verified are connected to the active gas system and there will be no disruption to gas service.

Customers may **visit the Customer Care Center at 439 South Union Street In Lawrence, call 866-388-3239** or **visit ColumbiaGasMA.com** for more information, including the list of addresses that will be checked.

Thank you for your patience as we conduct this work.

COLUMBIA GAS HA INICIADO VERIFICACIONES ADICIONALES DE LÍNEAS DE SERVICIO ANTIGUAS

Los residentes continuarán viendo una presencia aumentada de equipos de Columbia Gas en la comunidad en las próximas semanas a medida que verifiquemos un conjunto restante de 2,000 líneas de servicio viejas abandonadas durante el esfuerzo de recuperación del Valle de Merrimack el otoño pasado, completando el trabajo de verificación que comenzó en septiembre del 2019.

El trabajo de verificación se lleva a cabo en coordinación con el Departamento de Servicios Públicos de Massachusetts para confirmar que el trabajo en estas líneas de servicio abandonadas se ejecutó de manera consistente con los requisitos aplicables y de conformidad con los procedimientos y protocolos de Columbia Gas.

Las antiguas líneas de servicio en este conjunto restante se relacionan con hogares y negocios que tenían medidores externos antes del evento de gas de septiembre del 2018. Debido a la ubicación de estos medidores de gas, las verificaciones se realizarán en el exterior. No es necesario ingresar a la casa o negocio de un cliente a menos que sea necesario un trabajo de seguimiento. Si la inspección determina que la línea de servicio abandonada no se retiró de acuerdo con los requisitos, procedimientos y protocolos aplicables, un equipo completará el trabajo necesario.

Si lo desea, los clientes pueden llamar para solicitar una verificación interna de su sistema por precaución.

Ninguna de las líneas de servicio abandonadas que serán verificadas están conectadas al sistema de gas activo y no habrá interrupción en el servicio de gas.

Los clientes pueden **visitar el Centro de Atención al Cliente en 439 South Union Street en Lawrence, llamar al 866-388-3239** o **visitar ColumbiaGasMA.com** para obtener más información, incluyendo la lista de direcciones que serán verificadas.

Gracias por su paciencia mientras llevamos a cabo este trabajo.

Merrimack Valley Credit Union y Bridgewater Credit Union completan la fusión con la conversión de sistemas

Merrimack Valley Credit Union completó recientemente el paso final de su fusión con Bridgewater Credit Union, convirtiendo a todos sus miembros al mismo sistema informático de fondo. Merrimack Valley Credit Union y Bridgewater Credit Union comenzaron este proceso cuando sus miembros votaron a favor de fusionar las dos organizaciones en octubre de 2018. La organización combinada celebró su primer día como una entidad legal el 1 de febrero de 2019, creando uno de los 10 créditos más grandes. sindicatos en Massachusetts con \$1 billón en activos. Desde entonces, los miembros del equipo han estado trabajando diligentemente hacia una conversión de sistemas, que se implementó recientemente.

“Completar el paso final en el proceso de fusión es una ocasión trascendental para nuestra organización. Todos nuestros

miembros ahora tendrán acceso a todos los beneficios para miembros de MVCU, una amplia gama de productos y nuestro galardonado servicio”, dijo John J. Howard, presidente y CEO de Merrimack Valley Credit Union. “Gracias a nuestros miembros por planificar cuidadosamente con anticipación y a los miembros de nuestro equipo por ir más allá y asegurarnos de que podamos completar este importante paso de manera oportuna y eficiente”.

Los miembros que tengan preguntas sobre sus cuentas o necesiten ayuda para acceder a los servicios deben comunicarse con el Centro de atención telefónica al 800-356-0067.

Merrimack Valley Credit Union recently completed the final step of its merger with Bridgewater Credit Union, converting all of its members to the same back-

end computer system. Merrimack Valley Credit Union y Bridgewater Credit Union comenzaron este proceso cuando sus miembros votaron a favor de fusionar las dos organizaciones en octubre de 2018. La organización combinada celebró su primer día como una entidad legal el 1 de febrero de 2019, el mismo día que John J. Howard (en la imagen) se convirtió en Presidente y CEO, creando una de las 10 cooperativas de crédito más grandes de Massachusetts con \$1 billón en activos.

Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) es una cooperativa de crédito comunitaria autorizada por el estado con \$ 1 mil millones en activos. MVCU sirve a cualquiera que viva, trabaje, trabaje como voluntario o asista a la escuela en la región de Merrimack Valley, y a través de su división Bridgewater Credit Union, los condados de Barnstable, Bristol, Norfolk o Plymouth. MVCU ofrece una amplia gama de productos de ahorro



y préstamo para satisfacer las necesidades financieras de sus miembros, y tiene 10 sucursales en Bridgewater, Fairhaven, Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover, Plymouth y Quincy, Mass., así como Plaistow, y Seabrook, NH

Merrimack Valley Credit Union and Bridgewater Credit Union Complete Merger with Systems Conversion

Merrimack Valley Credit Union recently completed the final step of its merger with Bridgewater Credit Union, converting all of its members to the same back-end computer system. Merrimack Valley Credit Union and Bridgewater Credit Union began this process when their members voted in favor of merging the two organizations in October 2018. The combined organization celebrated its first day as one legal entity on February 1, 2019, creating one of the 10 largest credit unions in Massachusetts with \$1 billion in assets. Since then, team members have been diligently working toward a systems conversion, which was recently implemented.

“Completing the final step in the merging process is a momentous occasion for our organization. All of our members will now have access to all of MVCU’s member benefits, wide range of products and our award-winning service,” said John J. Howard, President and CEO, Merrimack Valley Credit Union. “Thank you to our members for carefully planning ahead of time and to our team members for going above and beyond to ensure we could complete this important step in a timely and efficient manner.”

Members who have questions about their accounts or need help accessing

services should contact the Call Center at 800-356-0067.

Merrimack Valley Credit Union recently completed the final step of its merger with Bridgewater Credit Union, converting all of its members to the same back-end computer system. Merrimack Valley Credit Union and Bridgewater Credit Union began this process when their members voted in favor of merging the two organizations in October 2018. The combined organization celebrated its first day as one legal entity on February 1, 2019, the same day John J. Howard (pictured) became President and CEO, creating one of the 10 largest credit unions in Massachusetts with \$1 billion in assets.

Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) is a state-chartered community credit union with \$1 billion in assets. MVCU serves anyone who lives, works, volunteers, or attends school in the Merrimack Valley region, and through its Bridgewater Credit Union division, Barnstable, Bristol, Norfolk or Plymouth counties. MVCU offers a wide range of savings and loan products to meet the financial needs of its members, and has 10 branch locations in Bridgewater, Fairhaven, Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover, Plymouth, and Quincy, Mass., and Plaistow, and Seabrook, N.H.



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Hablo Español.

Coalición asiste a sesión legislativa sobre seguridad futura

Veintidós de ellos asistieron incluyendo el Padre Joel Almonó pastor de la Iglesia Episcopal de Gracia y su esposa Susan Almonó quienes están al frente de dicha coalición.

Por Joel Almonó

Residentes y miembros de la comunidad de fe de Lawrence, Andover y North Andover dieron sus testimonios ante una audiencia del Senado de Massachusetts.

Este martes, 12 de noviembre, en apoyo a la legislación de Seguridad del Gasoducto y la propuesta de ley FUTURES la cual propone el uso de tecnología renovable térmica a raíz de la explosión de gas ocurrida el 13 de septiembre del 2018.

La coalición de pastores de las tres comunidades Lawrence, Andover y North Andover participamos con una delegación de 22 personas.

Ana Javier fue una de las personas de la coalición de pastores y líderes religiosos que se dirigió ante el Senado. Ella contó como anduvo albergue por albergue ayudando a las personas desalojadas de sus hogares.

“Estoy aquí para hablar por quienes no pueden hacerlo,” dijo Javier añadiendo, “Yo vi como muchas personas venían a mí con miedo y lo peor es que aún tienen el mismo temor.”

Semanas atrás Javier comunicó que tuvo que llamar a los bomberos porque olió gas en su casa. “Nuestra comunidad está traumatizada y creo que necesitamos una respuesta”, dijo Javier.

Cristian Borbón, pastor de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día en la calle Salem

narró cómo los 300 miembros de su iglesia fueron afectados.

Él y otros residentes del área hicieron hincapié en la desconfianza que tienen sobre Columbia Gas después de la explosión y escapes de gas un año después de la tragedia.

Lee Blumel, pastora de North Parish en North Andover fue una de ellas. Blumel quién es capellana del cuerpo de Bomberos en North Andover oró dándoles las gracias a Dios de que la explosión sucedió a las 4 de la tarde y no durante la noche, aunque muchos hogares y negocios fueron afectados y murió un joven.

“Necesitamos que los legisladores tomen una iniciativa audaz; es imposible expresar cuán impactante fue esta explosión para nuestro valle”, dijo.

“Nosotros tenemos una gran capacidad de recuperación pero también nos importa la vida, nos preocupamos por cada persona y nuestra comunidad,” concluyó Blumel.

Los participantes en la audiencia forman parte de una coalición de ministros de diferentes religiones para trabajar y abogar por las familias afectadas por la tragedia.

Fue sorprendente ver una coalición de Lawrence en primera fila. Uno de los logros no sólo fue expresarnos y dar testimonio sino también empoderarnos.

The Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

The former Asian Center at 439 South Union St., building 2, Level B, Lawrence, MA 01843 is enrolling students for an intensive ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes.

The classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays either from 9 AM to 11:30 AM or 6 PM to 8:30 PM.

Class fee is \$50. Call 978-683-7316 for more information.

Se ha abierto la inscripción Health Insurance Enrollment en seguros de salud para 2020 for 2020 is Open

LAWRENCE – El Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc., está ofreciendo un horario ampliado de atención al cliente para ayudar a las personas de la región a inscribirse en un seguro de salud.

El período de inscripción abierta en los planes ofrecidos por el Conector de Salud de Massachusetts (Massachusetts Health Connector) es del 1 de noviembre de 2019 al 23 de enero de 2020. Esta es la época del año en que cualquier persona sin seguro de salud puede inscribirse para tener cobertura y en que los miembros actuales del Conector de Salud pueden buscar el mejor plan para el próximo año.

“Si usted no tiene seguro de salud o desea comparar precios, este es un buen momento para hacer una cita con uno de nuestros navegadores, que están muy bien informados”, dijo Evelyn Friedman, la directora ejecutiva del GLCAC. “Elegir un plan de salud puede ser abrumador, pero nuestro personal está aquí para ayudar a las familias a encontrar una opción de calidad, con un precio que esté a su alcance”.

La ley estatal exige que los residentes de Massachusetts tengan un seguro de salud que cumpla con las reglas del estado. De lo contrario, se les podría aplicar una multa impositiva.

GLCAC ha sido designado como navegador oficial por el Conector de Salud de Massachusetts y atenderá en un horario ampliado durante el período de inscripción abierta para ayudar a la gente a obtener cobertura de su atención médica.

Llame a GLCAC al (978) 620-4784 para hacer una cita con un navegador. Le recomendamos que haga una cita para reducir el tiempo de espera.

Hasta el 23 de enero, los navegadores atenderán lunes, miércoles y viernes de 8:30 a. m. a 4:30 p. m., y martes y jueves de 8:30 a. m. a 6 p. m. La agencia también estará abierta los sábados 16 de noviembre, 14 de diciembre y 11 de enero, de 8 a. m. a 3 p. m. También atenderemos a las personas que lleguen sin cita previa, por orden de llegada, de lunes a jueves por la mañana.

Para los planes que comienzan el 1 de enero de 2020, el plazo para completar la solicitud, escoger un plan y hacer un pago es el 23 de diciembre.

GLCAC es una agencia de servicios sociales multifacética que en 2018 asistió a 32,648 personas mediante una variedad de programas, entre ellos, de educación para la primera infancia, asistencia de combustible, asistencia nutricional de WIC, servicios de inmigración, prevención del envenenamiento con plomo, prevención del maltrato infantil, clases de inglés y protección al consumidor.

LAWRENCE – The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. is offering extended customer service hours to help residents sign up for health insurance.

Open enrollment for plans offered through the Massachusetts Health Connector runs from Nov. 1, 2019 through Jan. 23, 2020. This is the time of year when anyone without health insurance can sign up for coverage and when existing Health Connector members can shop for the best plan for the new year.

“If you don’t have health insurance or are interested in shopping around, now is the time to set up an appointment with one of our knowledgeable navigators,” said Evelyn Friedman, GLCAC’s executive director. “Choosing a health plan can be overwhelming, but our staff is here to help families find a quality, affordable option.” State law requires Massachusetts residents to have health insurance that meets state standards or potentially face a tax penalty.

GLCAC has been designated an official Navigator by the Health Connector and will be open extra hours during the open

enrollment period to help residents gain access to health care coverage.

Call GLCAC at (978) 620-4784 to set up an appointment with a Navigator staff member. Appointments are recommended to reduce wait times.

Through Jan. 23, Navigator hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The agency will also be open Saturday, Nov. 16, Dec. 14 and Jan. 11 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Walk-in appointments will also be available on a first-come, first-served basis Monday through Thursday mornings.

For plans starting Jan. 1, 2020, the deadline to complete an application, pick a plan and make a payment is Dec. 23.

GLCAC is a multi-faceted social services agency that assisted 32,648 individuals in 2018 through a range of programs including early childhood education, fuel assistance, WIC nutrition assistance, immigration services, lead poisoning prevention, child abuse prevention, English-language lessons, and consumer protection.

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El período de inscripción termina el 23 de enero y es el momento para obtener cobertura o considerar un nuevo plan para el próximo año.



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Bob Rivers
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LAWRENCE PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING 2019

Join us at our premier event of the year, which brings together nearly 500 community and business leaders. We will discuss successes, challenges, and opportunities for continuing to advance inclusive economic strategies in the Greater Lawrence community.

Tuesday, December 3rd, 2019
11:00am to 1pm

Taste of Lawrence

This year we will feature a showcase of Lawrence most authentic locally owned restaurants.

Attendees will enjoy new and classic Latin American dishes that tell the stories of our city and the people who helped shape it.



At Cafe Azteca, they take pride in their exceptional, home-made, authentic Mexican cuisine.



Don Matias Fusion Cuisine is a family restaurant, with a fusion of Caribbean flavors and a mix of different culinary cultures.



Icelso vegetarian Restaurant is a place that offers the best quality to their customers. The food is completely healthy and free of preservatives.



Japú is a family owned restaurant. They specialize on Nikkei cuisine, which was born as a result of the fusion of Japanese recipes and traditions with Peruvian ingredients.



This is a family owned and operated restaurant located in Lawrence. They serve all your favorite, authentic Dominican and Puerto Rican meals. They also bring in some South American and Caribbean flavors to their cuisine.

Cartas al Editor / Letter to the Editor

Merrimack Valley Hospice supports local veterans

Americans across the country celebrate Veterans Day on November 11, a special day to salute the men and women who have bravely served our country in the military. Most of us may not realize, that within our aging population, is a segment of Veterans needing quality care as they reach the end of life. A generation of Veterans are facing end-of-life care decisions now, and they are quickly being followed by younger Veterans, many of whom are confronting serious illnesses at an even earlier age. Merrimack Valley Hospice is committed to providing Veteran-centric care for those Veterans facing a serious or life-limiting illness in our community.

Merrimack Valley Hospice is a part of an innovative program, We Honor Veterans, developed by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Through We Honor Veterans, we are ensuring that our organization is equipped to address the unique needs of our nation's Veterans. For the past 20 years, Veteran Volunteers have supported the organization, representing all branches of military service.

Throughout the year, we participate in the We Honor Veterans program by

connecting Veteran patients with Veteran volunteers, recognizing their service, and connecting them with Veteran-specific resources in our community and the VA. On any given day, 20-25% of the patients on our hospice service are Veterans, including those at High Point House, our in-patient residence. In this way, we make sure every day is Veterans Day at Merrimack Valley Hospice.

We can never repay our heroes for what they have given each and every one of us, but we can do our best to ensure we care for them when they need us most. Just as they have been there for all of us, we want to let them know we're here for them.

To all our nation's Veterans, we thank you for your service.

For more information about Merrimack Valley Hospice's work with Veterans and how to support us or volunteer, visit HomeHealthFoundation.org/veterans. To learn more about the national We Honor Veterans program, please visit WeHonorVeterans.org/support.

Karen Gomes, RN, MS, CPHQ
President & CEO
Home Health Foundation

Disabled American Veterans Queen City Chapter 2 observed Veterans Day



By Bill Collins

Disabled American Veterans Queen City Chapter 2 observed Veterans Day 2019 with a wreath laying ceremony at the Tower Hill War Memorial located at the end of Ames St. above the reservoir.

This memorial was originally dedicated July 4th, 1946 at the original Bruce School and was subsequently moved here after a fire, decades ago.

Part of the inscription reads "... Donated by the people of this district in acknowledgment of the brave deeds of the boys from Tower Hill who served in World Wars 1 and 2 ..."

Remarks were delivered by Commander Joe Augusta and Past District Commander Don Silva, local residents who attended were invited to the Chapter 2 Service Center at 112 East Haverhill St. Lawrence.

Refreshments were provided by Tower Hill resident Ann Clegg, in memory of her husband Scott Clegg.



Exhibición de arte en Quality Life

Por Dalia Diaz

Quality Life abrió hace menos de un año y se ha convertido en el lugar ideal para personas mayores ya que encuentran la atención que no tendrán disponible en su propio hogar.

Todos tienen la opción de hacer ejercicios, manualidades o simplemente relajarse en compañía de personas con similares intereses.

En esta ocasión, organizaron una competencia de arte y fue realmente innovador y estimulante ver cómo desarrollan talento y destrezas que no sabían que tenían. Al final del día, votaron por sus favoritos y repartieron premios.

Quality Life se encuentra en el 102 de Glenn St. en South Lawrence.



Pedro Vargas muestra su obra en la pared. Este fue la primera vez que lo intentó.



Ana Sandoval presentó varias piezas tejidas probando que este es un arte que está desapareciendo.



Maria Román tuvo una colección de tejidos hechos con materiales reciclables.



Maria Ramos disfrutó la clase de pintura.



Candida Vasquez se aventuró por vez primera a tejer y sus muñecas y adornos fueron exquisitos. Con ella Joselyn Rosario.



Tres de las trabajadoras que ayudaron a organizar la exhibición. Desde la izquierda, Janeira Del Rosario, Joselyn Rosario y Maria Bobadilla.



Luisa Pimentel es la experta haciendo rompecabezas que lucen como pinturas.



Rosa Ureña diseño estas increíbles muñecas con materiales reciclados y bolsas de supermercado. Con ella, su hija Luisa Marte.



Ana Diaz y Amanda Cruz muestran los dibujos que hacen. Ambas dicen que se entretienen pintando en vez de dedicarse a otro tipo de arte.



Maria Ramos hizo estos dos relojes a punto de cruz y son dignos de ser enmarcados y protegidos con cristal. Otro arte que se está perdiendo.

Running the Campus: Police Education and Training for the Commonwealth

(Courtesy photos)



By Lane Glenn, President
Northern Essex Community College

At a time when the task of community policing is becoming more challenging than ever, we need the best possible education and training for the men and women who choose to become police officers.

A college education has been shown to increase the ability of police officers to think critically, solve problems, handle conflict, and provide effective written and verbal communication. Just as importantly, police officers with college degrees demonstrate a better understanding of civil rights issues from multiple perspectives, experience fewer complaints and disciplinary actions, and are less likely to use deadly force.

Over the past few years, Northern Essex Community College has been expanding our role in police and public safety training in the Commonwealth.

In partnership with several local police departments, we launched a successful police academy that has graduated over 400 officers.

We collaborate with the Essex County Sheriff's Department to provide training for correctional officers and, new this year as part of a \$1 million grant, college courses for inmates in county jails to prepare them for employment and transition out of incarceration.

And, NECC led a statewide committee of police chiefs, state and local officials, and higher education faculty and administrators that examined police education and training in Massachusetts and provided a number of recommendations for improvement. As a result, colleges and universities are now able to provide credit for prior experience in Criminal Justice programs to military veterans and graduates of police academies;

and a bill that would require police officers in the Commonwealth to have a minimum of an associate's degree, House Bill 3810: An Act Relative to Police Education and Training, is working its way through the legislature this session.

I had the privilege of addressing and handing certificates to the most recent graduates of the Academy, who will soon be serving the communities of Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen, Amesbury, Andover, North Andover, and many more; and this is what I shared with them:

Good morning. It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you, the dignitaries here on the platform; the elected officials, chiefs of police, college trustees, family and friends of graduates in the audience; and of course, the members of the Recruit Officers Class of 2019, whose accomplishments we are here today to celebrate.

The mission of Northern Essex Community College is to provide high quality education and training to the people of the cities and towns that we serve here in the Merrimack Valley—and we are pretty good at that. I find myself speaking to groups all the time with great pride about our healthcare programs; our services for first-generation, low income, and minority students; special programs for veterans; outreach to area high schools, and a whole lot more.

But I will tell you that what we are here doing today is something I am particularly proud of—this partnership between NECC, the Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee, the Methuen, Haverhill, Lawrence, North Andover, and Amesbury police departments; and the dozens of other police departments sponsoring recruits in these academies for the past two years, which have now produced over 400 new municipal police officers for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts—that is something that fills me with pride for what we do.

Because walking out of here today, each of you, in your role as a police officer in the state of Massachusetts, will be responsible not only for upholding the laws of the Commonwealth, but for protecting the safety and lives of our friends and our family, for helping our children navigate some of the difficult choices they will have to make, and for being role models for everyone you meet—sometimes a teacher yourself, sometimes a coach, and sometimes that calm and commanding presence in the midst of a crisis—and all the while, being carefully watched by a more cautious public.



Yours is an incredibly important and difficult job, getting more difficult all the time—and worthy of even greater respect and support.

Nationwide, about 85% of first responders—police officers, firefighters, EMTs and paramedics—get their education at community colleges, and I am very pleased that NECC is able to contribute to that education in whatever way we can.

I hope that all of today's graduates, as well as the academy instructors and sponsoring chiefs, feel that our campus has provided you with a rich and rewarding academy experience, in an environment

where you were able to interact with many of the people you will be seeing when you begin the next stage of your careers at your chosen department.

Because I can tell you, that we have been grateful that you were here, giving our students, faculty, staff and visitors to campus the opportunity to see the hard work, professionalism, and commitment to community service that is involved in preparing today's Massachusetts police force.

Thank you—and I wish you all the very best in your career, and in your life of service.



Operando el Campus: Educación y Entrenamiento para policías del Estado

(Fotos de cortesía)



Por Lane Glenn, Presidente
Northern Essex Community College

En un momento en que la tarea de la policía comunitaria se está volviendo más desafiante que nunca, necesitamos la mejor educación y capacitación posible para los hombres y mujeres que eligen convertirse en oficiales de policía.

Se ha demostrado que una educación universitaria aumenta la capacidad de los oficiales de policía de pensar críticamente, resolver problemas, manejar conflictos y proporcionar una comunicación escrita y verbal efectiva. Igual de importante, los oficiales de policía con títulos universitarios demuestran una mejor comprensión de los problemas de derechos civiles desde múltiples perspectivas, experimentan menos quejas y acciones disciplinarias, y tienen menos probabilidades de utilizar la fuerza letal.

En los últimos años, Northern Essex Community College ha ampliado nuestro papel en la capacitación de la policía y la seguridad pública en el Commonwealth.

En asociación con varios departamentos de policía locales, lanzamos una exitosa academia de policía que ha graduado a más de 400 oficiales.

Colaboramos con el Departamento del Sheriff del Condado de Essex para proporcionar capacitación a los oficiales correccionales y, como novedad este año como parte de una subvención de \$1 millón, cursos universitarios para presos en las cárceles del condado para prepararlos para el empleo y la transición fuera del encarcelamiento.

Y, NECC dirigió un comité estatal de jefes de policía, funcionarios estatales y locales, y profesores y administradores de educación superior que examinaron la educación y capacitación policiales en Massachusetts y proporcionaron una serie de recomendaciones para mejorar. Como resultado, los colegios y universidades ahora pueden proporcionar crédito por experiencia previa en programas de Justicia Criminal a veteranos militares y graduados de academias de policía; y un proyecto de ley que requeriría que los oficiales de policía del estado tengan un mínimo de un título de asociado, el Proyecto de Ley 3810 de la Cámara: Una Ley Relativa a la Educación y Capacitación de la Policía, se está abriendo camino a través de la legislatura esta sesión.

Tuve el privilegio de dirigir y entregar certificados a los graduados más recientes de la Academia, quienes pronto estarán al servicio de las comunidades de Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen, Amesbury, Andover,



North Andover y muchos más; y esto es lo que compartí con ellos:

Buenos días. Es un gran placer darles la bienvenida a todos ustedes, los dignatarios aquí en la plataforma; los funcionarios electos, jefes de policía, administradores de la universidad, familiares y amigos de los graduados en la audiencia; y, por supuesto, los miembros de la Clase de reclutas oficiales de 2019, cuyos logros estamos aquí hoy para celebrar.

La misión de Northern Essex Community College es proporcionar educación y capacitación de alta calidad a las personas de las ciudades y pueblos a los que servimos aquí en el Valle de Merrimack, y somos bastante buenos en eso. Me encuentro hablando con grupos todo el tiempo con gran orgullo sobre nuestros programas de atención médica; nuestros servicios para estudiantes de primera generación, de bajos ingresos y minoritarios; programas especiales para veteranos; alcance a las escuelas secundarias del área, y mucho más.

Pero le diré que lo que estamos haciendo hoy aquí es algo de lo que estoy particularmente orgulloso: esta asociación entre NECC, el Comité de Capacitación de la Policía Municipal de Massachusetts, los departamentos de policía de Methuen, Haverhill, Lawrence, North Andover y Amesbury; y las docenas de otros departamentos de policía que patrocinaron reclutas en estas academias durante los últimos dos años, que ahora han producido más de 400 nuevos oficiales de policía municipales para el Commonwealth de Massachusetts, eso es algo que me llena de orgullo por lo que hacemos.

Porque al salir de aquí hoy, cada uno de ustedes, en su papel de oficial de policía en el estado de Massachusetts, será responsable no solo de respetar las leyes del Commonwealth, sino de proteger la seguridad y la vida de nuestros amigos y nuestra familia, por ayudar a nuestros niños a navegar algunas de las decisiones difíciles que tendrán que tomar, y por ser modelos a seguir para todos los que conoces, a veces un maestro, a veces un entrenador, y otras esa presencia tranquila y dominante en medio de una crisis -y todo el tiempo, siendo vigilado cuidadosamente por un público más cauteloso.

El suyo es un trabajo increíblemente importante y difícil, cada vez más difícil, y merece un mayor respeto y apoyo.

A nivel nacional, alrededor del 85% de los socorristas (oficiales de policía, bomberos, técnicos de emergencias médicas y paramédicos) reciben su educación en colegios comunitarios, y estoy muy contento de que NECC pueda contribuir a esa educación de cualquier manera que podamos.

Espero que todos los graduados de hoy, así como los instructores de la academia y los jefes patrocinadores, sientan que nuestro campus les ha proporcionado una

experiencia académica rica y gratificante, en un entorno en el que pudieron interactuar con muchas de las personas que verán cuándo comienzan la siguiente etapa de sus carreras en el departamento elegido.

Porque puedo decirte que hemos agradecido que estuvieras aquí, brindando a nuestros estudiantes, profesores, personal y visitantes al campus la oportunidad de ver el arduo trabajo, el profesionalismo y el compromiso con el servicio comunitario que implica la preparación de la fuerza policiaca de Massachusetts de hoy.

Gracias, y les deseo todo lo mejor en su carrera y en su vida de servicio.

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Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence le da la bienvenida a Elizabeth Suh como Subdirectora de Educación

El Boys and Girls Club de Lawrence designó a Elizabeth Suh de Topsfield como directora asistente de educación. En este rol, proporciona a los estudiantes de secundaria las herramientas y recursos necesarios para la universidad, incluido el asesoramiento en solicitudes de ayuda financiera, preparación para SAT/ACT y visitas a universidades.

"La experiencia de Elizabeth ayudará a cientos de jóvenes a alcanzar sus sueños académicos de convertirse en el primero de su familia en asistir a la universidad", dijo Karen Kravchuk, directora de educación del Boys & Girls Club de Lawrence. "Somos muy afortunados de tenerla como parte de la familia de nuestro club".

Suh obtuvo una maestría en educación bilingüe/multicultural del Instituto Franklin en Madrid, España en 2017. Obtuvo una licenciatura en estudios ambientales con una especialización en fotografía de arte de estudio de Allegheny College en Meadville, Pensilvania, en 2012.

Antes de unirse al Boys & Girls Club de Lawrence, Suh enseñó inglés, ciencias naturales y ciencias sociales en Madrid. Además, fue coordinadora académica en ASC English School en Boston.

Suh dijo que es gratificante estar en condiciones de proporcionar un espectro tan amplio de asistencia a los miembros jóvenes del club.

"En el mismo día, podría ayudar a un estudiante de secundaria a elaborar estrategias sobre la universidad y al mismo tiempo ser un mentor para nuestros estudiantes más jóvenes", dijo. "Veo que mi papel es proporcionar lo que los niños necesitan en ese momento en particular, lo cual es realmente emocionante para mí".

El Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence ofrece un refugio seguro después de la escuela para que cerca de 4,000 jóvenes vengan a comer todas las noches, ayuda con la tarea, programas de acondicionamiento físico y nutrición, planificación universitaria y profesional y relaciones personales duraderas. El club ofrece programas críticos que se centran en el éxito académico, estilos de vida saludables y participación comunitaria en dos ubicaciones: el Boys & Girls Club de Lawrence en 136 Water St. y el Beacon Boys & Girls Club en 71 Duckett Ave. Para más información, visite www.lawrencebgc.com.



Elizabeth Suh es la nueva subdirectora de educación del Boys & Girls Club de Lawrence.

Elizabeth Suh is the new assistant director of education at the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence.

Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity hosts Volunteer Appreciation Event

Volunteers, Supporters and Business Leaders are recognized during appreciation dinner

On Saturday, November 1, 2019 Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity hosted our volunteer appreciation dinner. This annual event recognizes dedicated volunteers, supporters, board members and business leaders who have contributed time towards building affordable housing for local families in need.

Volunteers are the foundation of our organization and during our 2018/2019 fiscal year, 1267 dedicated individuals contributed over 33,000 hours towards our mission. The value of these hours equates to approximately \$843,000 in savings, which under normal circumstances would have been paid to construction companies and experts in the building process. Since our founding almost 35 years ago, in 1985, volunteers have contributed upwards of 660,000 hours to our mission. These numbers round out to cost savings of over \$16 Million for the affiliate, which also translates to direct savings for Habitat families.

Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity staff and members of the board were joined by 100 of our most regular volunteers, at the Claddagh Pub in Lawrence, for a celebratory night of recognition. Awards were presented to volunteers who have contributed 500 or more hours over the previous year. Awards were also presented for 400, 300, 200 and 100 hours contributed. All in all, 59 of these awards were handed out.

Meegan O'Neil, our Executive Director points out that "It is only through the generous donation of volunteer time and talent, that we are able to build safe, decent and affordable homes for local families

throughout the Merrimack Valley." "It takes a village to build a home, not to mention building multiple homes at a time, and we are extremely lucky to have that village of dedicated individuals who come out and build with us on a weekly basis."

"Golden House Pins" were awarded to five volunteers who demonstrated an exemplary commitment to the affiliate over the last fiscal year. Congratulations to Jerry Rybicki, Sonia Kwon, Harvey Card, Art Tucker and Bob Genier who were all awarded a Golden House pin. You will almost certainly find these five dedicated individuals at one of our building sites, or ReStore, 2-3 days a week.

Two of our volunteers, who work for, or own local businesses, and who made a contribution, that resulted in significant cost savings, each received a "Golden Hammer" award. We are very grateful to Brian Brown from SPS Solutions, and Bob Williams who owns Star Construction, for their contribution!

Our most notable award, the "Margot Bixby leadership award" was presented to Stuart Johnson. We want to give a big thank you and congratulations to Stuart Johnson who is a volunteer member on our Board of Directors, on numerous committees, and joins us to build in Salisbury a number of times a week. He has had a tremendous impact on the affiliate's ability to bring building projects to a close through quiet leadership, both on the site and off. This leadership and personal commitment exemplify the values of our founder Margot Bixby and the spirit of the leadership award we bestowed to Stuart.

Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence Welcomes Elizabeth Suh as Assistant Director of Education

The Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence has appointed Elizabeth Suh of Topsfield as assistant director of education. In this role, she provides high school students with the tools and resources required for college, including counseling in financial aid applications, SAT/ACT preparation and college tours.

"Elizabeth's expertise will help hundreds of youths achieve their academic dreams of becoming the first in their family to attend college," said Karen Kravchuk, director of education at the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence. "We're so fortunate to have her as part of our club family."

Suh earned a master's degree in bilingual/multicultural education from Instituto Franklin in Madrid, Spain in 2017. She earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies with a minor in studio art photography from Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa. in 2012.

Prior to joining the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence, Suh taught English, natural science and social science in Madrid. In

addition, she was an academic coordinator at ASC English School in Boston.

Suh said it is gratifying to be in a position to provide such a wide spectrum of assistance to club youth members.

"In the same day, I might help a high school junior strategize about college while also acting as a mentor to our younger students," she said. "I see my role as providing whatever the kids need in that particular moment, which is really exciting to me."

The Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence provides a safe, after-school haven for nearly 4,000 youths to come for nightly meals, homework help, fitness and nutrition programs, college and career planning and lasting personal relationships. The club offers critical programs that focus on academic success, healthy lifestyles and community involvement at two locations: the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence at 136 Water St., and the Beacon Boys & Girls Club at 71 Duckett Ave. For more information, visit www.lawrencebgc.com.

ReStore

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Donations / Donaciones
(please call ahead for large donations)

Tuesday-Friday: 10am-5:00pm
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Open to the public, shop-donate-volunteer

Please do not drop off items after store hours

Bring this ad to either store (Lawrence or Billerica) for a 10% discount on your purchase

Merrimack Valley
Habitat
for Humanity

Veterans Day Observance

South Lawrence East School, November 11, 2019



David Abdoo, right, receiving a plaque from Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera in appreciation for his service to The Country, the City of Lawrence and the Community.



JROTC Altagracia Ceverino congratulates David Abdoo for his speech.



Members of the JROTC Drill Team performing a routine, passing of the rifle.



Members of the JROTC STEP TEAM



Good Bless America was sang by the Lawrence High School Ensemble and then, Bella Perrotta, a Methuen High School student delighted the audience with two patriotic songs. If her rendition of the National Anthem was great, when she finished God Bless the USA there wasn't a dry eye in the audience.

■ CONTINUES FROM PAGE 6

DAVID ABDOO

year. When you see the unit t-shirt or the black service ball cap with the military unit patch or ship designation, give him or her a smile and the courtesy of the day. Keep alive the traditions of honoring veterans. These ordinary people sacrificed extraordinarily for our Nation, and we give them thanks today on Veterans Day. On Memorial Day, we remember those heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice or are no longer with us. We must continue the traditions established years ago and make sure that these two days are more than a federal holiday but a day of reflection, celebration and honor. When you leave here today, ask Jamie Melendez how you can help support the next City recognition of Memorial Day at Bellevue Cemetery, seek out the Councilor Twomey or any member of the Twomey family and offer your help at next year's 11th Annual Veterans Day breakfast, or simply attend these events and encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to join you. Honor these traditions, and you will honor the Veteran.

As a community we must redouble our efforts to preserve and honor the two days set aside for Memorial Day and Veterans Day, recognizing the service of these men and women that sacrificed much for their Nation.

Take a moment, to reflect and pray for those that gave the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our freedom and liberty. As for me, this Veteran's Day Weekend, I am thinking of Army SGT Pierre Raymond and SGT Alex Jimenez. I am praying for the family and friends that each left behind on this Veterans Day.

As we leave this event today, ask yourself what you can do to give of yourself to your community... in a selfless manner... no social media and no expectation of recognition... just selfless service. Help a vet get to an appointment, see if they need some assistance with yard work, perhaps they would like company when they visit their counselor, or simply provide some human interaction. Believe me, that Veteran won't mind the "buddy check".

Go forth and serve. You will not regret it.

Thank you for attending this Veterans Day event and allowing me to share my thoughts with you. Thank you to the heroes in the room, and thank you to the public servants, volunteers and selfless citizens who serve others.

Thank you all, and may God Bless the Veterans, the City of Lawrence, and these United States of America".

Br. Rene D. Roy, F.M.S.
Campus Minister, Central Catholic High School in his opening prayer.



BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner

Elections notes

It's been a few weeks since my last installment of this column so I'll give you a quick rundown of several items having to do with the recent elections.

Problem with new machines – So we had someone on District B who did not process 27 absentee ballots before the machine was shut off and they had to be counted by hand. Then, the new voting machines had not been programmed to print legibly and a technician had to come at midnight to reprogram it.

Meanwhile, there were problems in Haverhill and Methuen with their machines and nobody wrote about that anywhere.

Sandy Elizabeth Almonte – We remember her when she represented District A in the council. She was fierce, dependable, firm and inquisitive; then she had to resign. She tried to come back but has not done things right at all. She failed at gathering her required signatures by only 8 votes. Campaigned daily calling radio programs asking for consideration; even paid for a radio show on Saturdays for a few weeks. Tried running a write-in campaign and in the end received only 32 votes.

My thought about Sandy trying run for District A councilor was that she would only take votes away from Frankie Caraballo keeping María De La Cruz there for another term but she really did not make a difference in the end results. I hope Frankie continues involved in community affairs and politics because we need him there.

Radio programs, in general, lack local news. What they do have is lots of music, religion, politics from the Dominican Republic and listeners asking questions or making crazy or uninformed comments. For example, when talking about the candidates for Greater Lawrence Technical School Committee we often heard them say that these young Latino candidates should help bring back "vocational" training to that school. We

must wonder how much they know about the curriculum at GLTS because that's what they do.

Results – We all know who the winners were with the only change in the council being Celina Reyes, but more about her later. The surprise was at the School Committee level since Districts B, C and F had no candidates on the ballots. It was no surprise at all that Patricia Mariano received 1,115 votes at District E but Donna Bertolino lost to Kassandra Infante by 283 to 416, respectively, on District A.

Now, for the newcomers running on stickers or write-in campaigns, on District B, Martina Cruz had 3 votes while Enrique Matos won with 16 votes. It would have been great having Martina return to the school committee. When she was there years ago, she did her homework and made good decisions.

District C candidate William Green gathered 5 votes but nobody knew he was running. I would have loved to see him be part of a group that doesn't provide any information about what goes on at Lawrence Public Schools or training to school committee members to be able to take over the school system's management in the future. William Green would have been asking questions and insisting on getting answers. He lost to Rafaela Pichardo receiving 17 votes.

Joshua Alba was a formal candidate on the ballot for school committee for District D and he won easily with 615 votes.

At District F, Jonathan Guzmán ran a write-in campaign which received 98 votes to Francisco Brea's 11.

Jonathan was a dynamo in high school and Rumbo covered several of his activities. I knew he would go far in life and now that he is a college graduate, he is showing that he wants to make a mark in the city. This was the best news coming out of the election process.

Let's imagine if candidate for councilor at-Large Richard Russell and William

Green had also been elected to the school committee we would have had a few fighters for our residents instead of what we ended up with in the city council and school committee. Which brings me to Celina Reyes – we're stuck with her!

Celina was handpicked by Danny and gave her full support not only using his resources but allowing her campaign manager time off from his parking lot duties to attend events and radio interviews with her at any time of the day. It was funny on the radio, whenever she was stuck responding to a question, he would take over.

A few days ago we met in a public gathering and after kissing me on the cheek, thanked me for all the publicity I gave her. Nothing I ever said was positive but Celina is like those who believe that all publicity is good as long as the desired result is achieved. Had she lost, she would have blamed me.

To my question of why she has two Facebook pages with different names Celina explained that her friends in the Dominican Republic know her as Lina Montesino and wouldn't know her by her new name. I still find it distrustful. Don't worry, she's not registered to vote twice.

Odds and ends

1. Now, tell me one good reason for Dan Rivera to be sending invitations to his holiday party to Gilda Duran in Florida? No,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RUMBO

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

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

he's not stupid; he wanted to be mentioned here! Time to update that list.

2. Did you know that one of the busses for which we paid \$225,000 to MVRTA is no longer running? Bus number 83 has not been running and passengers have not been told the reason.

Columbia Gas hearing in court

On October 7, there was a hearing at the Essex County Superior Court for the purpose of approving the \$143 million settlement from Columbia Gas to benefit the residents and businesses of Lawrence, Andover and North Andover that were affected on September 13, 2018 by the gas explosions.

At this hearing were present the attorneys representing the families and businesses that suffered and continue to be affected. In addition to that group, Mayor Dan Rivera, Senator Barry Finegold, and State Representatives Frank Moran, Christina Minicucci and Marcos Devers were asking for \$20M from that total amount. Their reasoning for this request was to compensate residents for public security infrastructure resulting from the recent gas leaks this year.

Needless to say that Judge James F. Lang refused to agree but not without telling them they had no right to that money. You may read the letter to Judge Lang on page 17.

Senate Passes DiZoglio Campaign Finance Reform Bill

Legislation Bolsters Transparency and Accountability

The Massachusetts State Senate has passed legislation sponsored by State Senator Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) to increase transparency and accountability in the Commonwealth's public elections.

Up to this point, the legislature and some mayoral candidates have been exempt from the law that requires statewide, county and many other municipal candidates use the depository reporting system.

The bill, An Act relative to campaign finance, seeks to remedy this disparity by requiring all legislative and mayoral candidates in Massachusetts begin participating in the system.

The legislation assists the Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) to identify, early on, discrepancies between a candidate's public disclosure of campaign finance activity and their bank accounting records.

The depository reporting system increases accountability by requiring the candidate or committee file a report that discloses all campaign finance activity, once a month, alongside their financial institution. Since depository finance reports are filed 12

times per year under this bill, transparency in campaign finance activity is significantly increased when compared with the current, outdated campaign finance requirements for legislative and certain mayoral candidates. Reports under the non-depository system are filed only two or three times a year.

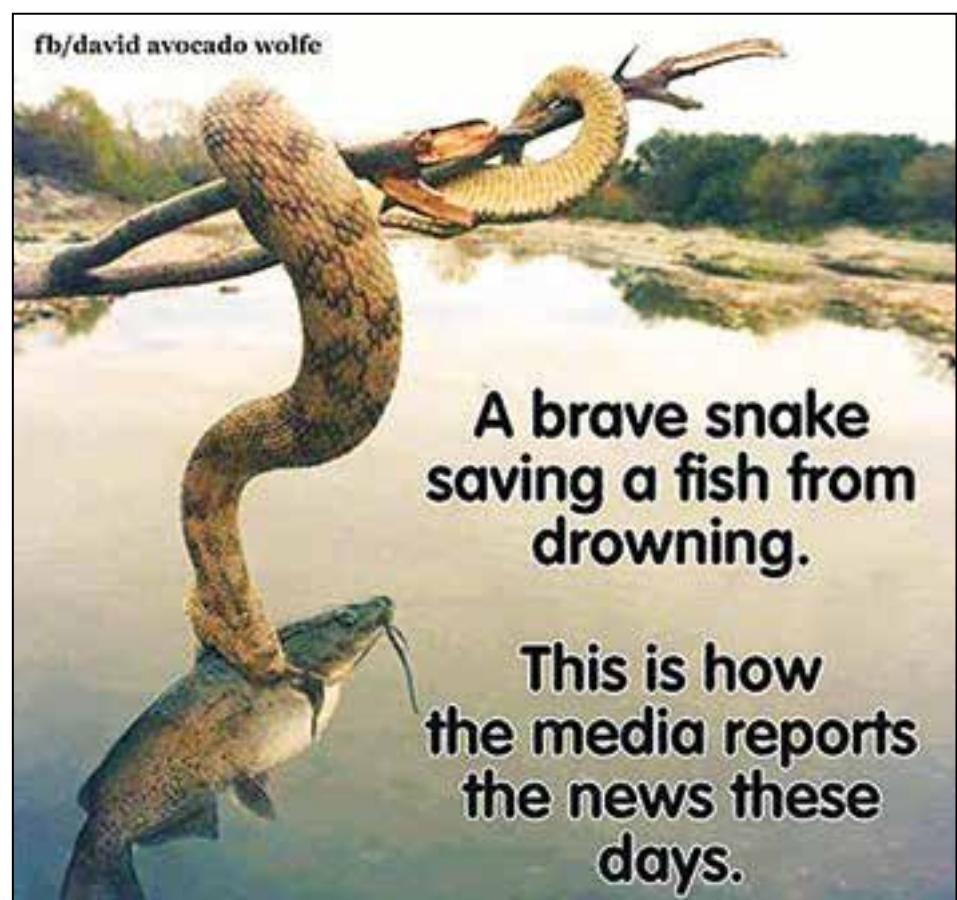
This legislation will assist OCPF to more promptly address issues associated with data entry errors, missed deposits, balance issues and uncashed checks. The change will also make it easier to see how much money a candidate is raising and spending during the course of the entire election cycle.

"Nearly all candidates, including statewide officers, county officers, Governor's Council, mayors and councilors in cities over a population of 65,000, have participated in this depository reporting system – with the exception of some mayoral and all legislative candidates," said DiZoglio. "This landmark legislation enhances transparency and accountability in our campaign finance law by requiring that bank statements are sent to OCPF and that we disclose our sources of campaign contributions and expenditures much more often for the public to see."

"Nuestra libertad depende de la libertad de prensa y no puede ser limitada pues la perderemos."

"Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost."

- Thomas Jefferson



Letter given to Judge James F. Lang which was signed by these legislators

Terms of gas settlement should be renegotiated

We as members of the state legislative delegation representing the city of Lawrence, as well as Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera, are writing to express our dissatisfaction with the current class action settlement with Columbia Gas.

Though we agree with the general sentiment of the settlement and strongly believe that the residents in our community should be compensated for the hardships they endured, recent events involving Columbia Gas demonstrate that residents continue to suffer, especially in the city of Lawrence.

We are particularly concerned about the residents and businesses in South Lawrence who have now experienced multiple gas-related emergencies over the past year.

In light of recent events, including the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities putting a moratorium on Columbia Gas' work throughout the Commonwealth and last week's National Transportation Safety Board hearing on the Merrimack Valley gas explosions, we believe that the settlement terms should be updated to account for the additional hardships that residents have faced.

Our experience on the ground, as both residents and representatives of the affected city and towns, has provided us with insight into how the communities have recovered. While many have been made whole through Columbia's recovery effort and claims process, there are residents and

small business owners who never fully recovered from the 2018 explosion, only to be evacuated from their homes again last week due to a gas leak.

Last year, many lived in hotels and mobile trailers for months while their homes were uninhabitable, and small businesses lost their customer base by being closed for multiple seasons. Most recently, families were evacuated from their homes in the middle of the night, spent an entire day in a makeshift shelter, and many once again stayed in a hotel while they were unable to return to their homes. Restaurants and bodegas lost produce and refrigerated goods, and some were once again closed for days while gas service was restored.

As we write this, Columbia Gas is in the process of re-inspecting 700 service lines that the company abandoned or replaced during last year's work. Clearly, this work is ongoing and last year's crisis is still being felt in our communities.

Given these facts, we believe that any business that was affected twice, both by last year's explosions and the most recent leak, should receive a minimum of \$5,000 via the settlement. Similarly, we believe that any resident who was affected by both leaks should receive a minimum of \$1,000.

Given the burden that has been placed on first responders, we also believe that \$20 million from the settlement should be used to improve public safety infrastructure in



Barry Finegold



Dan Rivera



Marcos Devers



Christina Minicucci



Frank Moran

our communities.

In light of these recent developments and a second gas-related incident, we believe that Columbia Gas should contribute more to the settlement to cover these costs, or that the total amount reserved for attorneys' fees be reduced so that it can go towards fairly compensating residents and public safety infrastructure.

We look forward to seeing improved settlement terms that reflect the lived reality of our constituents.

State Sen. Barry Finegold, Andover
State Rep. Marcos Devers, Lawrence
State Rep. Christina Minicucci, N. Andover
State Rep. Frank Moran, Lawrence
Mayor Daniel Rivera, Lawrence

DiZoglio Bill Would Hold Gas Companies Accountable

(BOSTON) – In response to last year's devastating gas explosions in the Merrimack Valley, which destroyed homes and buildings in communities across North Andover, Lawrence and Andover, State Senator Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) has sponsored legislation designed to both hold gas companies accountable and prevent future incidents.

Senate Bill 1952, An Act relative to gas leaks and infrastructure, increases the reporting requirements of gas companies when they learn of gas leaks to local fire and law enforcement agencies and to make information about gas leaks public, both on the gas company's and the Department of Public Utilities' (DPU) websites.

The legislation, which was recently heard before the legislature's Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy, mandates that all three entities – the gas company, local law enforcement and the local fire department – record the location of the leak and any mitigation done to resolve the issue. The bill also requires that gas companies remain responsible for any significant project on a public way and authorizes financial penalties for failure to comply with any provision.

Furthermore, the legislation requires an annual review by DPU pertaining to

certified pipeline inspectors to ensure that an adequate number of certified inspectors are engaged in pipeline inspection across the Commonwealth.

"Last fall's Columbia Gas explosions turned my constituents' lives upside down, as restoration of service not only proved slow but communication to those affected was unreliable," said DiZoglio. "With lackluster assistance from Columbia, residents turned to social media for help and called daily for assistance from my office as they went from adjuster to adjuster getting less than they were promised – and far less than they deserved. As those impacted continue to recover more than one year since the explosions, and much more recently since the September gas leak in the City of Lawrence, this bill will provide key tools in our efforts to avert future disasters and ensure gas companies are held responsible for their actions."

In addition to this legislation, DiZoglio is also the sponsor of Senate Bill 1953, An Act creating a Department of Utilities Disaster Relief Fund, and Senate Bill 1954, An Act relative to transparency, accountability, and fairness impacting utility rates, which together create a gas disaster relief fund to help ensure ratepayers don't bear the brunt of costs associated with such an event.

Coalition attends legislative session on future security

Twenty-two of them attended including Father Joel Almono pastor of the Grace Episcopal Church and his wife Susan Almonó who are leading this coalition.

By Father Joel Almonó

Residents and members of the faith community of Lawrence, Andover and North Andover gave their testimonies before a Massachusetts Senate hearing.

This past Tuesday, November 12, we went to support of the Gas Pipeline Safety legislation and the proposed FUTURES law which proposes the use of renewable thermal technology following the gas explosion that occurred on September 13, 2018.

The coalition of pastors from the three communities Lawrence, Andover and North Andover participated with a delegation of 22 people.

Ana Javier was one of the people in the coalition of pastors and religious leaders who addressed the Senate. She told how she walked shelter by shelter helping people evicted from their homes.

"I'm here to speak for those who can't do it," Javier said, adding, "I saw how many people came to me with fear and the worst thing is that they still have the same fear."

Weeks ago Javier said she had to call the fire department because she smelled gas in her house. "Our community is traumatized and I think we need an answer," Javier said.

Cristian Borbón, pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Salem Street told

how the 300 members of his church were affected.

He and other residents of the area emphasized their distrust of Columbia Gas after the explosion and gas leaks a year after the tragedy.

Lee Blumel, pastor of North Parish in North Andover was one of them. Blumel, who is a chaplain of the Fire Department in North Andover, prayed thanking God that the explosion happened at 4 p.m. and not at night, although many homes and businesses were affected and a young man died.

"We need legislators to take a bold initiative; it is impossible to express how shocking this explosion was for our valley," he said.

"We have a great capacity for recovery but we also care about life, we care about each person and our community," concluded Blumel.

Participants in the audience are part of a coalition of ministers of different religions to work and advocate for families affected by the tragedy.

It was amazing to see a coalition of Lawrence in the front row. One of the achievements was not only to express ourselves and testify but also to empower us.

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Comedian tells how to improve your life with Laughter



Dave Rattigan is an adjunct faculty member at Northern Essex Community College as well as a professional comedian. He will present an NECC Speakers Bureau Talk on creating "Laughter in your Life".

Northern Essex Community College professor Dave Rattigan is set to give his presentation "Laughter in Your Life" on Tuesday Nov. 19, 2019, from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Merrimac Public Library, 86 West Main St. in Merrimac.

This presentation will focus on how to bring more humor into work and life. Laughter reduces stress, improve outlook, and leads to a better quality of life according to Rattigan.

At Northern Essex, Rattigan has been making students laugh while helping them learn for two decades. As a professional

stand-up comedian, he has been making people laugh for nearly three decades, on Sirius Satellite Radio and at clubs and theaters, but also in less traditional venues like hospitals, libraries, a parking lot, warehouses, business lobbies, gazebos and lots of other places he says he'd like to forget. He has used humor to diffuse tense situations and deal better with stress. In this variation of his "Laughter in the Workplace" corporate presentation, Dave uses his stand-up material to lighten the mood, and then facilitates a combination of improv games, funny stories, stand-up, and Q&A's to help the audience create their own comedy experience.

As an adjunct faculty member at Northern Essex and UMass Lowell, Rattigan teaches public speaking, interpersonal communications, and professional communications.

This presentation is offered through the Northern Essex Community College Speakers Bureau. For additional information on the NECC Speakers Bureau, please visit the Speakers Bureau website at <https://www.necc.mass.edu/engage/community-resources/speakers-bureau/> or contact speakersbureau@necc.mass.edu or at 978-556-3862. For information on this presentation, contact Tracy Shaw at tshaw@merrimaclibrary.org or by calling 978-346-9441.

Essex Chamber Music Players Open New Season



The Essex Chamber Music Players will

open their new season with a program of classical and contemporary musical treasures on Sunday, November 17, 2019, at Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill. The concert starts at 3 p.m. in the Hartleb Technology Center, 100 Elliott Street. Featured on the program are Ludwig van Beethoven's Piano Trio in E-flat Major Op.1 No.1, Johann Christian Bach's Trio in C major, Sergei Rachmaninoff's Trio élégiaque No.1 in G minor and Edgar Girtain's Latin-influenced Trio. Girtain is a young composer living in Peru.

Performers will include pianist Constantine Finehouse, violinist Daniel Kurganov, cellist Joseph Gotoff and flutist

Michael Finegold.

Future concerts will include a solo performance by Finehouse on April 5 and premiers of works by Andover's Demetrios Spaneas and Reading's Elliott Miles McKinley, along with a historical reflection – Shostakovich's Piano Trio No.2 in E minor – on April 17. The season will close with a performance by the Essex Jazz Ensemble concert on June 23.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission. A season subscription for the four concerts is \$50. NECC students are admitted free with an NECC ID, and children ages 8 to 16 are free. Tickets can be purchased in advance at mktix.com/ecmp or at the door.

DRAWING CONTEST AND PLAY

MY FAVORITE PETS

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This contest consists of the following: Paint or build your favorite pet. Ages: 7 to 15 years.

3 winners will be chosen per course of each School.

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Do not use zinc or hazardous materials.

Written and directed by Juan Luis Ogando

Actors: Marina Garcia, Gabriela Arias, Alex Leger, Josue Leger, Joaquin Garcia, Benjamin Garcia

Place: Everett Mills 15 Union St. Lawrence MA 01840

Date: Saturday, November 23, 5:00 PM

Info. Luis Pineyro 978-885-1842

The drawings will be collected in the schools.



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CALENDARIO | CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Groups/Events at Nashua Library

The library is located at 2 Court Street. Visit nashualibrary.org/visit/ directions for directions and parking information. For other information, contact the Reference Department at 589-4611 or via email at reference@nashualibrary.org.

Public Health Clinics

The City of Nashua Division of Public Health holds regular clinics at the Nashua Public Library. Look for their van on the Library Plaza from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on these Wednesdays:

- November 27
- December 11
- January 8 and 22
- February 12 and 26

You can get immunizations, HIV and hepatitis C testing and counseling, and blood pressure screenings either free or at low cost. No one is turned away for inability to pay. If you have Medicare, please bring your card.

For the schedule of which services are available on which dates at the library, call the City of Nashua Division of Public Health at (603) 589-4500.

Spanish Class at Nashua Library

Adults are welcome to join the Tuesday morning Spanish class at the Nashua Public Library.

The group meets year-round from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Conference Room. Instruction is at the intermediate level; the class is not appropriate for beginners.

Library-cardholder discounts on concerts, plays

Nashua Public Library cardholders are eligible for discounts to Symphony NH and New Hampshire Philharmonic concerts, as well as plays at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre.

A limited number of \$10 tickets to Symphony NH concerts are available. Check out their 2019-2020 season at symphonynh.org.

Cardholders can get 20 percent off tickets to New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra concerts. Check out their 2019-2020 season at nhphil.org.

Merrimack Repertory Theatre offers \$10 off tickets. Their season is listed at mrt.org/show/2019-20-season-shows.

Instructions for getting these discounts are on the library's museum passes web page at nashualibrary.org/services/museum-passes-2. Or call 603-589-4611.

RISE Writers Read From Their Work

At the Nashua Public Library on Sunday, November 17, at 2 p.m., contributing writers from the Rivier Institute for Senior Education will read and discuss prose and poetry from DAWN, The Literary Journal of RISE. Copies of the journal will be available for sale and signing at the event.

The event will be held in the Nashua Public Library's Theater. It is free and open to the public; registration is not required.

Ecoprints by Tanya Prather

"A Sense of Place," an exhibit of ecoprints on fiber and pottery by Nashua artist Tanya Prather, is on display at the Nashua Public Library in November.

"Ecoprinting is a constant voyage of discovery between myself and the process," Prather says. "It requires both intention and

surrender." To create one, she lays organic materials (leaves, flowers, bark, or berries) directly onto the surface of fiber (silk, linen, cotton, or paper) and then bundles or compresses them. She submerges the bundles in water, enabling the dyes from the plant material to transfer and permanently bond with the fiber. Trace minerals in the water may influence color in subtle ways. The method of compression determines whether the resulting image is a direct print or more nuanced and abstract.

Because of variations in the season of foraging, the soil in which the plants grew, the freshness of the botanical material, and other factors, no two ecoprints are ever identical.

This summer, Prather created a series of her ecoprints at the Jardin Conservatoire des Plantes Tinctoriales, a conservatory garden of dye plants in France. These are contrasted in the exhibit with a similar series created in New England.

Prather studied art at George Mason and Washburn Universities. She has participated in numerous juried group exhibitions throughout the Northeast.

The exhibit can be viewed during regular library hours, and during the Winter Holiday Stroll on November 30. Meet the artist at a reception in the library gallery on Wednesday, November 20, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Sign up for Health Insurance

If you need health insurance, come to the Nashua Public Library on the following days, when a Certified Application Counselor from Lamprey Health Care will be available to give you one-on-one help in signing up through the Health Insurance Marketplace (Obamacare).

- Tuesday, December 3, from 9 a.m. to noon
- Wednesday, December 4, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

To find out what you need to bring, go to www.healthcare.gov/downloads/apply-for-or-renew-coverage.pdf.

Immigration Advice

If you have questions about applying to enter the U.S. or becoming a citizen, come to the Nashua Public Library for a private meeting with an expert from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. One of their staff members will be on hand to talk to you individually on Wednesdays, December 4, 2019, and February 12, 2020, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

No appointment is necessary for these meetings.

Book Club for Adults with Asperger's/Autism

Monthly book discussions for post-high school adults with autism spectrum disorder and related conditions will continue at the Nashua Public Library this winter.

The discussions are held on Mondays at 6 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room at the Nashua Public Library. Dates and titles are: 12/2 "Neverwhere" by Neil Gaiman
1/6 "And Then There Were None" by Agatha Christie
2/3 "Everything, Everything" by Nicola Yoon

The group, which is facilitated by the Asperger/Autism Network, is for people who can participate in discussions without help from a caretaker. Caretakers may wait nearby, but should not expect to attend.

Please register for each session at least three days in advance at aane.org/events.

Closings at Nashua Library

The library will be closed on the following holidays:

New Year's: Closing at 3 p.m. December 31, closed January 1

Thanksgiving: Closing at 5:30 p.m. November 27, closed November 28

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Closed January 20

Christmas: Closing at noon December 24, closed December 25

President's Day: Closed February 17

Census Holds Job Fairs at Nashua Library

Are you looking for work? The U.S. Census Bureau offers opportunities to get paid while helping your community. Jobs are available in many roles, requiring 20 to 40 hours a week with flexible hours, including some nights and weekends. The pay is up to \$18 per hour on a temporary basis.

You can get more information and apply for these jobs during the bureau's job fairs at the Nashua Public Library. Additional dates have been added to the schedule. They will now be held on the following Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.: November 14 and 21, December 12 and 19, January 16 and 30, February 6 and 20, March 3.

Nevins Memorial Library Children's Room Programs: October 2019

November brings a variety of special and seasonal programs, in addition to our usual collection of morning, after-school, and evening offerings. Highlights include a Frozen Party with the Snow Sisters, beautifully-costumed performers who will tell stories, sing songs, and take photos with children; "Ask the Vet" to help kids learn about the rewards and responsibilities of being a good pet owner; and a Holiday Craft program where kids can make some pretty trinkets for the holidays (maybe you'll even find one under the tree!). Check out our calendar, and join the fun! [www.nevinslibrary.org](http://nevinslibrary.org).

Babies & Books (up to 24 months)
Nov. 8, 15, 22 at 9:30am

"Busy as a Beaver" (Nov. 12, 6:30pm)
"Giving Thanks" (Nov. 26, 6:30pm)

Read & Play (ages 2-5)
"Construction Zone" (Nov. 15, 10:30am)
"Animals" (Nov. 22, 10:30am)

Sensory Storytime (ages 4 and up)
Nov. 23, 11am

Bilingual Play Group (ages 3-5)
Nov. 21, 10am

Story & Craft (grades K-3)
"Fish" (Nov. 14, 4pm)

Science Explorers (ages 3-5)
"Volcanoes" (Nov. 20, 10am)

LEGO Block Party (grades K-4)
Nov. 30, 2 pm

Storytime for 3-5s (ages 3-5)
"World Kindness Day" (Nov. 13, 10am)
"Squirrels" (Nov. 26, 10am)

"I Survived" Book Group: Hurricane Katrina, 2005 (grades 2-4)
Nov. 18, 4 pm

Ask a Vet: How to Choose and Care for a Pet (ages 3-8)
Nov. 18, 10am

Book Chatters Book Group: Three Times Lucky (grades 4-6)
Nov. 19, 7pm

Family Storytime (ages 3-8)

Holiday Crafts (grades 4-6)
Nov. 21, 4:30pm

North Essex Tech Training Program

Volunteers of America and the Sheriff Department need participants to help individuals recently released from prison to provide services for them to prevent them from returning. These include housing assistance, legal support, healthcare, and behavioral health treatment services.

For more information or volunteer, please see details below.

Volunteers of America y el Departamento del Sheriff necesitan participantes para asistir a personas que hayan salido de la prisión recientemente para proveerles servicios y evitar que regresen a la cárcel. Estos incluyen asistencia de vivienda, apoyo legal, atención médica y servicios de tratamiento de salud del comportamiento.

Para más información u ofrecerse de voluntario, favor de ver los datos abajo.

North Essex Tech Training Program

Essex County Pre-Release and Re-Entry Center (ECPRC)
165 Marston St., Lawrence, MA 01841- (978) 750-1900, ext. 4315
Or email NETTP@voamass.org

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Voluntario/ Empleo <i>Apoyo Comunitario</i>	Apoyo Comunitario 	Espacios Exteriores 	Inmigración 	

Si está interesado(a), por favor llame a:
Danetza Yachachin
Especialista de Salud (en) para la comunidad

If you are interested, please call:
Danetza Yachachin
Community Health Specialist
(978) 620-3544
DYachachin@cityoflawrence.com

"When a true genius appears in this world, you may know him by this sign, that the dunces are all in confederacy against him."

"Cuando un verdadero genio aparece en el mundo, lo podemos reconocer por esta señal, que los estúpidos están en confederación contra él."

— Jonathan Swift

SUDOKU (Respuestas/Answers pg 23)

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For more information contact:
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 ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER YMCA: Maureen Coniglio, 978-451-2414, mconiglio@mvymca.org
 MERRIMACK YMCA: Ryan Martini, 978-453-5204 ext. 213, rmartini@mvymca.org
 or visit mvymca.org/YBL

CALENDARIO | CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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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.

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 December 2, 2019 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.

1. 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan VIN 2C4RDGCG1GR266978
2. 2008 Honda Accord VIN 1HGCS12818A027070
3. 2003 Honda CRV VIN SHSRD78873U103008

Robert Sheehan
Owner, Sheehan's Towing L.L.C.
11/15, 11/21, 21/1

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*Roberto Clemente League
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The Nativity Play*

December 14 / 4pm-8pm/ 276 Broadway St. Lowell, MA / donations \$5

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.

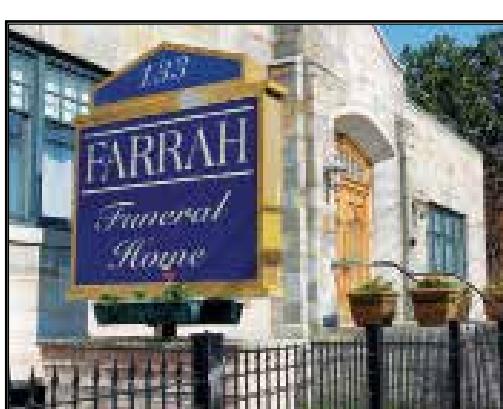
Favor de ponerse en contacto con Heal Lawrence si desea hacer una contribución a las víctimas de los incendios recientes en Lawrence. El sitio en la internet tiene una lista de artículos que han sido donados y lo que todavía necesitan.

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

SUDOKU Respuestas/Answers

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Appointment
TODAY!

Hablamos Español

700 Essex Street - Lawrence

IN THE ESSEX PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER,
NEXT TO MARKET BASKET SUPERMARKET
EN LA ESSEX PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER,
AL LADO DE MARKET BASKET SUPERMARKET



978.683.2200

NEW Patients

Oferta Introductoria

\$145

Adults & Children - Adultos & Niños

Includes: Exam, x-rays, consultation - Incluye: Examen, rayos-x y consulta

**30%
Off All**

DENTAL PROCEDURES

Descuento en todos los trabajos dentales

Patient FINANCING available - Financiamiento disponible