



Diciembre/December 1, 2019

EDICIÓN NO. 697

The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

The Census is the Most  
Important Thing in 2020

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

## ¡Piñeyro lo hizo de nuevo!



Josué E. Leger, Gabriela Arias, Marina García y Joaquín García, actores de la obra Mi Mascota Favorita escrita y dirigida por el dramaturgo y director de la Escuela de Teatro Maestro Salvador Pérez Martínez, Juan Luis Ogando. Esta obra fue dedicada a la protección de animales y fue presentada por Don Luis Piñeyro en el salón de actos del Everett Mills en Lawrence, el sábado, 23 de noviembre, 2019.

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## Piñeyro did it again!

Josué E. Leger, Gabriela Arias, Marina García and Joaquín García, actors of the play My Favorite Pet written and directed by playwright and director of the Theater School Maestro Salvador Perez Martinez, Juan Luis Ogando. This play was dedicated to the protection of animals and it was presented by Don Luis Piñeyro in the Everett Mills auditorium in Lawrence, Saturday, November 23, 2019.

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## Family Institute for Student Success en LPS



Entre los padres también hubo elogios para el programa. José y Xiomara Vázquez participaron juntos en el programa. "Esto es lo mejor que podríamos hacer por nuestros hijos porque también nos hizo parte de la escuela".

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## Thanksgiving Day at Lawrence Boys & Girls Club

Approximately 450 youth members of the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving dinner donated and prepared by the Exchange Club of Lawrence and served by volunteers. Pg. 9

Aproximadamente 450 miembros del Boys and Girls Club de Lawrence disfrutaron de una cena tradicional del Día de Acción de Gracias donada y preparada por el Exchange Club de Lawrence y servida por voluntarios. Pg. 9



## Creando familias felices en National Adoption Day

Hazel Lummus fue una sensación desde el momento de su llegada esa mañana. Ella le dijo a la Magistrada Judith M. Brennan que le trajo un regalo para cada uno de los otros seis niños adoptados ese día y que quería dirigirse a la audiencia.

Incluso su madre, Kristen Lummus, no tenía idea de lo que quería decir, pero sabiendo que no era tímida y se portaba bien, la dejó que lo hiciera. Después de todo, su camiseta dice: "Olvidese de Princesa. Llámeme Su Señoría."

La Pequeña Jueza tenía a todos muriéndose de la risa dando consejos de adopción a los padres.

"Ser adoptado es genial porque tienes a alguien que te ama y porque tienes dos cumpleaños: uno el día de nacimiento y el día de la adopción. También debe darle deliciosos almuerzos y llevarlo a lugares para divertirse. Y ustedes abuelos, no se preocupen; pueden malcriarlos porque ustedes no son los padres". Pg. 12



## Adoption Day

Hazel Lummus was a sensation from the moment of arrival that morning. She told Clerk Magistrate Judith M. Brennan that she brought a gift for each of the other six children being adopted and that she wanted to address the audience.

Even her mother Kristen Lummus had no idea of what she wanted to say but knowing that she is not shy and well behaved, she obliged. After all, her T-shirt says, "Forget Princess. Call me Your Honor."

The Little Judge had everyone in stitches giving adoption advice to parents.

"Being adopted is great because you have someone who loves you and you have two birthdays: one the day you were born and another one the adoption day. You should also give them yummy lunches and take them places to have fun. And you grandparents, don't worry; you can spoil them because you are not the parents."

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# ¿Nuevo Año y tú igual?

Por Catherine Storing

¿Estás planeando tu nuevo año ya? Ya sabes, el ejercicio, "Año nuevo, nuevo yo". Sentimientos como ese están apareciendo en todas partes en las redes sociales y en conversaciones personales en todo el mundo. Lo he hecho yo misma. Pero si no cambiamos nuestros ojos, terminaremos teniendo una réplica exacta del año anterior. Atrapado en el mismo lugar y haciendo las mismas cosas de antes.

¿Qué quiero decir con tener ojos nuevos? Me mudé al área de Merrimack Valley hace solo unos meses; debo decirte que la costa sur de Boston es muy diferente a la costa norte. Pero, puedo decirte que estoy muy contenta por estar en esta área. Estoy contenta porque en el corto tiempo que he estado aquí, he visto muchos eventos culturales y grandes cosas en el Merrimack Valley.

Eventos como una feria del libro, autores firmando de libros, concurso de dibujo/construcción de escuelas primarias, servicios de iglesias, negocios prósperos y en expansión, poetas y escritores, guarderías y centros educativos, etc. Todo eso ha tenido lugar aquí en el Valle de Merrimack (más todas las cosas que pasaron mucho antes de que yo llegara). Tal vez no se dio cuenta o no vio lo que estaba sucediendo aquí porque la distracción de lo que no tenemos le impidió ver todas las cosas lindas que si están sucediendo.

El nuevo año estará aquí muy pronto y si no tenemos cuidado podríamos tener otro año donde solo nos fijamos en lo que no tenemos. Te desafío a verte a ti mismo y a esta área con otros ojos. De hecho, te reto a verte escribiendo libros/novelas/poesías, presentando o hablando en eventos TEDx, viajando al extranjero para dar una charla,



comenzando o expandiendo tu negocio aquí mismo en el Valle de Merrimack.

Esta área es rica. Rica en talento, color, familia, amor y hambre. Un hambre de ser y hacer cosas mejores. Por mi parte, espero grandes cosas de esta área. Vengo con muchas herramientas técnicas para escritores (en otro artículo les traeré una de esas herramientas), y el deseo de ver prosperar a nuestra comunidad.

Me verás en eventos culturales locales tomando fotos y hablando con la gente hermosa de esta ciudad. Salúdame en español o inglés. De cualquier manera, te saludaré con una gran sonrisa de isla Caribeña porque el futuro se ve magnífico. ¡El futuro se ve magnífico!

## New Year Old You?

By Catherine Storing

Are you planning your New Year already? You know, the drill, "New Year New Me." Sentiments like that one are popping up everywhere on social media and in personal conversations all over the world. I have done it myself. But if you don't have your eyes checked you'll wind up with an exact replica of the previous year. Stuck in the same place and doing the same old things.

What do I mean by having your eyes checked? I moved to the Merrimack Valley area just a few months ago; I must confess that the south shore of Boston is very different from the North Shore. But I can tell you that I am very excited about being in this area. I am excited because in the short period of time I have been here I have seen many cultural events and great things take place.

Events like a book fair, book signing, lower school drawing/construction contest, church services, businesses thriving and expanding, poets and writers, childcare and education centers, etc. ALL of that has taken place right here in the Merrimack Valley (and who knows what else happened before

I moved here). Maybe you did not notice or see what has been going on here because the distraction of what you don't see is getting in the way.

2020 will be here very soon and if we are not careful, we might have another year of seeing what we don't have. I challenge you to see yourself and this area with new eyes. I actually dare you to see yourself writing books/novel/poetry, hosting or speaking at TEDx events, traveling abroad to speak, starting or expanding your business right here in the Merrimack Valley.

This area is rich. Rich in talent, color, family, love and hunger. A hunger to be and do better. I for one expect great things from this area. I come with lots of nerdy writing tools, resources and the desire to see our community thrive.

You will see me at local cultural events taking pictures and talking to the beautiful people in this town. Please say hi in English or Spanish. Either way I will greet you with a big island smile cause the future is bright baby. The future is bright baby!

"En política, el bolígrafo es más pesado porque está abrumado por la responsabilidad colectiva que tiene hacia su gente y su futuro en los ojos del mundo".

"In politics, the pen is at its heaviest because it is weighed down by the collective responsibility it holds towards its people and their future in the eyes of the world."

— Aysha Taryam

## EDITORIAL | EDITORIAL

### ¿Cuán largo será este invierno?

Mucho antes de que tuviéramos teléfonos celulares donde usted encuentra todo tipo de respuestas a sus preguntas, creo que le llaman "Apps" (corríjanos si estamos equivocados) existía y existe algo en el cual, el ciudadano corriente por 228 años ha confiado su futuro, nos referimos al Farmers' Almanac.

De acuerdo con el Farmers' Almanac, cuyo primer número vio la luz en 1792 bajo la autoría de Robert B. Thomas, cuando George Washington era presidente, hay veinte maneras de predecir cuan largo y crudo será el invierno. Una de la que más nos llama la atención es la abundancia de bellotas que produce el roble en una temporada. A juzgar por el Roble que nos da sombra a nuestra casa, fue abundante.

La otra predicción que combina con la primera, es observando a las ardillas como almacenan las bellotas para consumo posterior. En nuestro patio, están más acostumbradas a la ración de semillas de girasol dedicada a las palomas que vienen a diario no sabemos de dónde.

Otra de las predicciones es observando a las hormigas caminando en línea en lugar de moviéndose de un lado a otro. Y si quiere calcular cuán alta será la nieve, solo tiene que fijarse cuan alto construyó la avispa su nido.

Por falta de tiempo y espacio no hemos analizado las restantes predicciones aunque no queremos pasar por alto una de las más fáciles de observar, la que se refiere a la luna y/o el sol, anillos alrededor de esos astros, ellos nos dan una idea del pronóstico de nevadas a esperar.

Mientras escribimos estas líneas, estamos recibiendo la primera nevada del año, que de acuerdo a los pronósticos la están midiendo no por pulgadas sino por pies, ya que habrá nieve para dos días seguidos.

Cuando amanezca, aunque no salga el sol, veremos con cuanta nieve tenemos que lidiar.

Por el momento, ya nos parece que este invierno está siendo muy largo – y no ha comenzado todavía. Y usted, ¿qué cree?

### How long will this winter be?

Long before we had cell phones where you find all kinds of answers to your questions, I think they call it "Apps" (correct us if we are wrong) there was and there is something in which, the ordinary citizen for 228 years has entrusted his future, we refer to the Farmers' Almanac.

According to the Farmers' Almanac, which came to light in 1792 under the authorship of Robert B. Thomas, when George Washington was president, there are twenty ways to predict how long and crude the winter will be. One of the most striking is the abundance of acorns that the oak tree produces in a season. Judging by the oak tree giving shade to our house, it was abundant.

The other prediction that combines with the first, is watching squirrels as they store acorns for later consumption. In our yard, they are more accustomed to the ration of sunflower seeds dedicated to the pigeons that come daily and we don't know from where.

Another prediction is watching ants walking in line instead of moving from side to side. And if you want to calculate how high the snow will be, just look at how high the wasps build their nests.

Due to lack of time and space we have not analyzed the remaining predictions although we do not want to ignore one of the easiest to observe, the one that refers to the moon and/or the sun's rings around those stars, they give us an idea of the forecast of snowfall.

As we write these lines, we are receiving the first snowfall of the year, which according to the forecasts is being measured not by inches but by feet, since it will be snowing for two days in a row.

When the sun rises, even if the sun does not show, we will see how much snow we have to deal with.

At the moment, it seems to us that this winter is already very long – and it hasn't even started. What do you think?

## Rumbo

The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

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315 Mt. Vernon Street Lawrence, MA 01843-3206

Tel: (978) 794-5360 | [www.rumbonews.com](http://www.rumbonews.com)



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Published on the 1<sup>st</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of Every Month



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POR DALIA DÍAZ  
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READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

# Desde Mi Esquina

## Un comité escolar sin poder genera personas que no están interesadas en postularse para un cargo

¿Qué pasará con el Comité Escolar de Lawrence? Nos acaban de informar que Las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence tendrá suficientes funcionarios electos para reunirse como comité. Sin embargo, es una pena que no tengan poder. ¿Podrán los residentes elegidos gobernar su sistema escolar o el Alcalde Rivera continuará permitiendo que el Departamento de Educación Primaria y Secundaria y el estado controlen todos los aspectos de la ciudad?

A medida que la ciudad llega a su 172vo año de existencia, los residentes de Lawrence todavía no tienen derecho a autogobernarse. Esta avalancha de legislación que afecta a nuestra ciudad ya ha amenazado la provisión local y ha puesto a la política a trabajar sin transparencias para permitir que la persona o juntas de control no puedan ver el uso de esos fondos.

Con la partida del supervisor designado por el estado (el overseer), la ciudad ha otorgado al Director de Presupuesto y Finanzas Mark Iannello más autoridad. En este momento, sin un agente de compras desde que Rita Brousseau renunció, el Sr. Iannello cambió la forma en que los departamentos pueden aprobar solicitudes y facturas y ahora es mucho más laxo.

Mientras se reduce el control local, los miembros del Concejo Municipal solo buscan su parte del pastel y no cuidan los intereses de los residentes. Para ser honesta, esa preferencia no muestra signos de desaceleración. El Alcalde Rivera (y el candidato que él ha escogido para continuar con esta tendencia) no luchará por la eliminación de Lawrence Alliance for Education. Este es un grupo de personas que aprueba el gasto de dinero y es un caso también poco ético. El presidente de la Alianza, John R. Connolly, es cofundador y director ejecutivo de 1647 y su compañía sin fines de lucro creó ENLACE\_Lawrence en Lawrence High School, una de sus escuelas asociadas.

En realidad, dan la bienvenida a estas juntas, ya que tiene todo el control sobre todo el sistema escolar y su presupuesto, creando así una atmósfera de residentes que necesitan posturarse ante ellos para cualquier solicitud.

Es un movimiento agresivo creado por quienes se oponen a la administración de Lantigua. Esta preferencia que impide que las ciudades expandan sus derechos, construyan economías más fuertes y promuevan la

innovación son contraproducentes cuando la toma de decisiones está divorciada de los deseos y necesidades centrales de los miembros de la comunidad. Es una toma de poder que buscaba anular la voluntad de la gente. Ha permitido que los contratos escolares vayan a compañías más grandes que no están ubicadas en Lawrence o en el estado, en lugar de permitir que prosperen los negocios más pequeños de Lawrence. Todos los contratos de las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence son de compañías cuya sede se encuentra fuera de Lawrence, todos ellos. Bueno, tal vez con la excepción de Sal's pizza. Este es su alcalde actual y es igual que el candidato títere que ha seleccionado para continuar con estas tendencias.

No debería sorprender a nadie que estos legisladores se apresuraron a abandonar sus principios y anular la toma de decisiones locales cuando las cosas no salieron como se esperaba. Es un sistema diseñado por legisladores y cuando no cumple con su voluntad, entran y se hacen cargo y colocan títeres para dirigir estas organizaciones y ciudades.

La descentralización de Las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence ha enviado literalmente un mensaje a sus residentes de que son demasiado estúpidos para dirigir un comité escolar y, en cambio, permiten que "nosotros" eduquemos a sus hijos. Estas son tácticas sacadas directamente de una república bananera o de un gobierno comunista y no estoy segura de por qué no hay ira del pueblo de Lawrence. Tal vez, es porque ya se han resignado a este tipo de gobierno o tal vez porque provienen de otros países donde esto es algo normal. De cualquier manera, debe haber una educación de empoderamiento para los residentes de Lawrence y no vemos que provenga de representantes estatales actuales o senadores estatales, ya que parece que no les importa lo suficiente como para exigir que el estado devuelva el poder a su gente.

De la misma manera que los legisladores le entregaron una carta al Juez James F. Lang con respecto a su decepción por el acuerdo de Columbia Gas con el fin de tomar \$20 millones de los \$143 millones que pertenecen a los residentes de las tres ciudades, debería ser que estos mismos legisladores escriban una carta al estado para devolver el poder a los residentes de Lawrence.

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**Si quiere saber  
quien lo controla,  
mire a quién no le  
permite que lo critique.**

- Voltaire

AZ QUOTES



## 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.



## El fracaso de Rock the Register

El verano pasado, durante una conferencia de prensa, el alcalde Dan anunció la creación de una campaña publicitaria llamada ROCK THE REGISTER. El financiamiento provino de Columbia Gas y \$10 millones dedicados a esa campaña ayudarían a la comunidad empresarial impactada en Lawrence, Andover y North Andover.

Ese dinero se dividió entre EparaTodos y una agencia de publicidad de Boston. Cuando se anunció, escribí que no tenía sentido contratar una empresa que no conoce a nuestra comunidad. Esperé pacientemente para ver los resultados y ahora puedo decir que fue un fracaso o una forma de engañar al público mientras lo hacía ver como algo significativo.

Caso específico, no hubo campaña para Rock the Register en Lawrence. La campaña local fue en inglés y en español solo en Boston. No había nada en la radio.

Una gran parte del dinero se destinó a EparaTodos para crear cursos que enseñen a emprendedores cómo administrar un negocio, cómo usar Quickbooks, etc. Pueden ser buenas herramientas de enseñanza que son necesarias para muchos en nuestra comunidad, pero el dinero fue destinado a los residentes que sufren resultado de las explosiones de gas, no repartirlo entre amigos.

Ahora, Lawrence Partnership emitió un tipo de tarjeta de crédito por valor de \$30 que la gente no tiene idea de cómo usarla. Las empresas locales las han rechazado porque no saben lo que son y muchas tarjetas han sido descartadas debido a la frustración.

Una vez más, ignorantes de las necesidades de esta comunidad, nos tratan como lo hacen normalmente en Andover o North Andover. ¡Lawrence es muy diferente! Tenemos muchas personas que no hablan el idioma y no ha habido ningún esfuerzo para

comunicarse con ellos en español. Muchos residentes no tienen computadora y si hay una en la casa, no tienen idea de qué hacer con ella.

Alguien me trajo su tarjeta porque no pude ayudarlo por teléfono ya que nunca había visto una. El había ido a la oficina del alcalde y alguien le dijo que se había vencido el 15 de noviembre. Seguí las instrucciones en el reverso de la tarjeta y las únicas opciones ofrecidas fueron un restaurante japonés o \$15 (no los \$30) para una cafetería. Frustrado, la tiró a la basura.

Más tarde escuché acerca de alguien que fue a un restaurante de pizza con la copia impresa de la computadora y fue rechazada porque no pueden aceptar copias impresas de la computadora. Tiene que ser desde un teléfono celular, pero eso no estaba en ninguna de las instrucciones. Imagínense que mi esposo no tiene uno de esos teléfonos porque no quiere molestarlos con los vendedores y los mensajes de texto.

Simplemente, hicieron que fuera muy difícil cobrar los pésimos \$30 que me preguntó dónde terminaría ese dinero o en el bolsillo de quién.

## Hablando de mi dinero...

Sí, esta vez es mi dinero porque la Ciudad de Lawrence pagó \$225,000 a MVRTA por tres autobuses que servirían a la población de forma gratuita. Lo mencioné la semana pasada y, como resultado, recibí un correo electrónico de alguien enojado que me insultaba. No tengo permiso para mencionar su nombre y no sería justo.

Su insulto tuvo que ver con un error que cometí al decir que era el #83 y que ese es el que va a las playas en el verano. Le expliqué que verifiqué con la oficina del Buckley Garage y se confirmó, por eso lo escribí así. La información correcta es el bus #85

Por supuesto, solo señaló mi error y no dijo nada sobre la cancelación o suspensión del autobús. Si alguien tiene información adicional o corrección, será muy apreciado.

# El censo es lo más importante en 2020

... y, al parecer, no estamos haciendo nada al respecto



Las tres acciones más importantes que todo residente estadounidense debe tomar en 2020 son las siguientes:

- presentar impuestos
- votar
- tomar el censo

Podría decirse que la más importante de esas tres actividades es la plena participación en el Censo. Esta tarea es uno de los imperativos más cruciales, si no el más crucial, de vida o muerte o existencial para los negros en los Estados Unidos.

Y, sin embargo, hay poco ruido al respecto. Colectivamente, las comunidades negras están hablando más sobre el asunto de Colin Kaepernick con la NFL y la demanda de Byron Allen contra Comcast que del Censo, este último sobre el cual tienen mucho más control directo que los dos primeros temas.

Es fácil que un tema tan torpe y técnico como el Censo se pierda en la mezcla de problemas. Después de todo, hay mucho más de qué hablar. Pero, es trágico y dice que la única vez que ha sido un gran problema es sobre la pregunta de la

"ciudadanía" en el cuestionario del Censo. Esa pregunta se resolvió, pero tenía poco que ver con la posibilidad mucho más atroz y peligrosa de otra subvaloración masiva de la población negra de EE.UU. El Urban Institute proyecta un recuento insuficiente de la población negra nacional de casi el 4 por ciento.

Esto es serio. La Constitución - Artículo 1, Sección 2 - exige un recuento completo de todos los residentes en los Estados Unidos. Sin embargo, desde su inicio en 1790, el gobierno federal ha buscado todas las oportunidades que pueda encontrar para hacer que la población negra en los EE.UU. sea lo más invisible e impotente posible a través del decenio (cada 10 años los cuenta). Lo ha hecho a través de una variedad de métodos siniestros a lo largo de los siglos. Atacar contra este esfuerzo sistemático simplemente requiere un esfuerzo masivo para asegurar que hasta el último residente negro en los Estados Unidos tome el Censo, una actividad de 10 preguntas gratuita (sin cargo, sin tarifa) que no debería tomar más de 10-15 minutos del día de una persona. ¿Dónde está la indignación y dónde está el movimiento?

Read it in English on page 7.

Demographic	2020 Projection	Potential miscounts
Overall	332,092,300	—
Race		
White, non-Hispanic/Latinx	202,182,900	—
Black	46,934,300	-7% 0% +2%
American Indian/Alaska Native	4,834,400	High: -3.68% Medium: -3.24% Low: -2.42%
Asian American/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	22,487,900	—
Ethnicity		
Hispanic/Latinx	62,076,900	—
Age		
0-4	20,466,500	—
5-17	53,568,800	—
18-29	54,035,700	—
30-49	85,320,700	—
50+	118,700,600	—



**AHORA:**  
DAMARYS TIENE  
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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](http://lawrencegeneral.org).



Lawrence  
General  
Hospital  
MILAGROS

# Nadie se preocupa por los bomberos de Lawrence

## Aun cuando su salud peligra

Por Dalia Diaz

Como resultado del ataque al 911, los rescatistas se vieron obligados a inhalar el polvo que emanaba de las torres caídas. Años más tarde, los bomberos y policías están muriendo por todo tipo de enfermedades relacionadas con el asbestos causadas por los químicos que inhalaron en esos días. Ha sido muy triste ver cómo tuvieron que luchar por los derechos a la atención médica y la compensación de sus familias hasta que se aprobó recientemente.

El 7 de noviembre de este año, mientras conducía por la Estación Central de Bomberos en Lowell St., noté que la entrada de los camiones de bomberos estaba cubierta con lonas de plástico y me pregunté qué estaba pasando. He escrito mucho sobre las condiciones del piso porque representan un peligro para los bomberos y finalmente se está reparando.

Al entrar, el 911 me vino a la mente porque todo estaba cubierto con el mismo polvo blanco. Los bomberos caminaban descubiertos mientras los trabajadores tenían el equipo adecuado: ropa, protectores auditivos y máscaras.

Las imágenes pueden mostrar la gravedad de la situación, por lo que, después de contactar a OSHA, los inspectores vinieron y emitieron una advertencia a la ciudad por la falta de protección para nuestros hombres y mujeres y ahora hay un registro de posibles problemas de salud que puedan encontrar.



OSHA también dejó en claro que la empresa constructora es responsable de la limpieza del polvo contaminado, no los bomberos.

Curiosamente, la misma situación tuvo lugar en la Ciudad de Plymouth, MA y cerraron la estación de bomberos hasta remediar el problema de asbestos. Ahora todos los bomberos deben tener radiografías del pecho y otras pruebas médicas anualmente porque esas enfermedades pueden tomar entre 10 y 20 años en aparecer.

El silencio es el peor asesino. Cuando no exigimos nuestros derechos, es fácil violarlos.



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**ESPAÑOL**

## Nobody worries about Lawrence firefighters

Even when their health is jeopardized

By Dalia Diaz

As a result of the 911 attack, rescue workers were forced to inhale the dust emanating from the fallen towers. Years later, firefighters and police officers are dying from all kinds of asbestos related diseases caused by the chemicals they ingested on those days. It's been very sad seeing how they had to fight for the rights to medical care and compensation for their families until it was recently approved.

On November 7 of this year, while driving by the Central Fire Station on Lowell St., I noticed that the entrance for the fire engines was covered with plastic tarps and wondered what was going on. I have written a lot about the floor conditions because they represent a danger for the firefighters and finally it's getting repaired.

Upon entering, 911 came to mind because everything was covered with the same white dust. Firemen were walking around uncovered while the workers had the proper gear – clothing, ear protectors and masks.

The pictures can show the severity of the situation so, after contacting OSHA, the inspectors came and issued a warning to the

**Hazard:** Exposure to cement dust can irritate eyes, nose, throat and the upper respiratory system. Skin contact may result in moderate irritation to thickening/cracking of skin to severe skin damage from chemical burns. Silica exposure can lead to lung injuries including silicosis and lung cancer.

● [https://www.osha.gov/Publications/Worker\\_Safety\\_Series-Concrete\\_Manufacturing\\_Occupational\\_Safety.html](https://www.osha.gov/Publications/Worker_Safety_Series-Concrete_Manufacturing_Occupational_Safety.html)

city for the lack of protection to our men and women and now there is a record for potential health problems they may encounter.

OSHA also made it clear that the construction company is responsible for the cleanup of the contaminated dust, not the firefighters.

Interestingly, the same situation took place in the City of Plymouth, MA and the fire station closed until the asbestos problem was remedied. Now all firefighters should have annual chest x-rays and other medical tests because these diseases can take 10-20 years to appear.

Silence is the worst killer. When we don't demand our rights, is easy to violate them.

# The Census is the Most Important Thing in 2020

... and, it seems, we're not doing a damn thing about it

Léalo en español en la página 6.



The three most important actions every American resident should take in 2020 are the following:

- file taxes
- vote
- take the Census

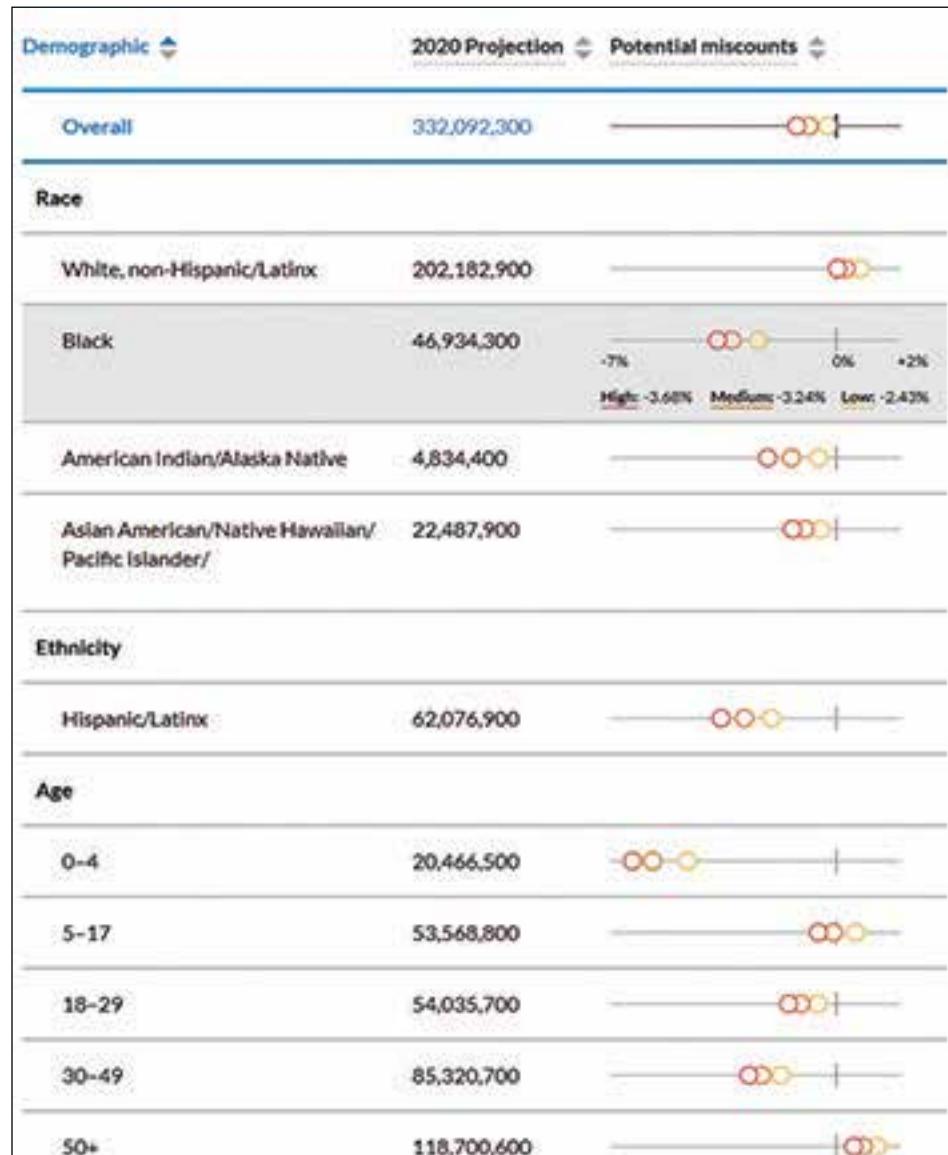
Arguably, the most important of those three activities is full participation in the Census. This task is one of the most crucial, if not the most crucial, life-and-death or existential imperatives for Black people in the United States.

And, yet, there's little noise being made about it. Collectively, Black communities are talking more about Colin Kaepernick's beef with the NFL and Byron Allen's lawsuit against Comcast than they are the Census - the latter which they have much more direct control over than the first two issues.

It's easy for a topic as wonkish and technical as the Census to lost in the issue mix. After all, there's so much else to talk about. But, it's tragic and telling that the only time it has been a big deal is on the question of a "citizenship" question in the

Census questionnaire. That question was settled - but, it had little to do with the much more egregious and dangerous possibility of yet another massive undercounting of the U.S. Black population. The Urban Institute projects an undercount of the national Black population as high as nearly 4 percent.

This is serious. The Constitution - Article 1, Section 2 - mandates a full count of all residents in the United States. Yet, since its start in 1790, the federal government has looked for every opportunity it could find to make the Black population in the U.S. as invisible and as powerless as possible through the decennial (every 10 year count). It's done this through a variety of sinister methods over the centuries. Fighting back against this systematic effort simply requires a massive effort to ensure every last Black resident in the United States takes the Census - a very free (no-charge, no-fee), 10-question activity that shouldn't take more than 10-15 minutes out of a person's day. Where's the outrage and where's the movement?



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Action Council  
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978-620-4784

# Columbia Gas completa trabajo en las líneas de servicio abandonadas

**El proyecto verificó aproximadamente 5,000 líneas de servicio abandonadas durante el esfuerzo de recuperación del otoño de 2018**

LAWRENCE, Mass. — Columbia Gas de Massachusetts anunció hoy que ha completado las verificaciones en todas las aproximadamente 5,000 líneas de servicio que fueron abandonadas como parte del esfuerzo de recuperación del otoño pasado en el Valle de Merrimack, concluyendo el trabajo de verificación que comenzó en septiembre de 2019. La finalización de este proyecto de verificación ha confirmado que todas las líneas de servicio abandonadas ahora cumplen con los requisitos federales y estatales y con los procedimientos y protocolos de Columbia Gas.

"Reconocemos que parte del trabajo del otoño pasado no se completó de acuerdo con las regulaciones federales y estatales y los protocolos de CMA y asumimos toda la responsabilidad", dijo Mark Kempic, presidente y director de operaciones de Columbia Gas de Massachusetts. "Desde el evento de gas del pasado mes de septiembre, hemos estado trabajando para identificar formas de mejorar nuestros procedimientos operativos y de seguridad en toda nuestra huella de Massachusetts para identificar y mitigar proactivamente los problemas a medida que trabajamos para reconstruir la confianza de los clientes y el público en nuestra empresa".

En total, Columbia Gas verificó aproximadamente 5,000 líneas de servicio abandonadas. En los casos en que la inspección encontró que la línea de servicio abandonada no se abandonó de acuerdo con los requisitos de Massachusetts, la tripulación completó el trabajo de remediación necesario, que puede haber incluido la eliminación de tuberías viejas, la instalación de tapones y tapas de expansión o la desconexión del servicio abandonado línea del antiguo sistema de gas inactivo. El siguiente es un resumen del trabajo realizado a lo largo de este proyecto:

En septiembre de 2019, en la directiva del Departamento de Servicios Públicos de Massachusetts (DPU), Columbia Gas inició la verificación de aproximadamente 700 antiguas líneas de servicio, de las cuales 188 requirieron algún tipo de remediación. Este grupo incluía clientes cuyas líneas de servicio abandonadas estaban anteriormente conectadas a la red de distribución donde se utilizó un cierto tipo de técnica de construcción estándar de la industria para restaurar el servicio de gas el otoño pasado.

En octubre de 2019, el DPU requirió la verificación de aproximadamente 2,200 líneas de servicio anteriores adicionales, de las cuales 688 requirieron alguna forma de

remediación. Este grupo incluía clientes que anteriormente tenían una línea de servicio conectada a un medidor que estaba ubicado dentro de la casa o negocio del cliente antes del evento de gas de septiembre de 2018.

En octubre de 2019, Columbia Gas comenzó la verificación voluntaria de un conjunto final de aproximadamente 2,000 líneas de servicio anteriores, no requeridas por el DPU, por precaución. El conjunto final se completó este mes y 53 requirieron alguna forma de remediación. Este grupo incluía clientes que tenían líneas de servicio que estaban conectadas a medidores ubicados fuera de la casa o negocio del cliente antes del evento de gas de septiembre de 2018.

Las verificaciones se realizaron a través de citas en el hogar o verificaciones de campo externas, dependiendo de una serie de factores, incluida la preferencia del cliente y la ubicación del medidor de gas del cliente. A

lo largo del proyecto, el equipo de Columbia Gas envió más de 3,000 correos electrónicos y 4,900 cartas a los clientes, realizó más de 17,000 llamadas salientes, se publicitó en la radio y en los periódicos, y distribuyó más de 6,500 colgadores con información del proyecto.

Kempic agregó: "Hemos apreciado la paciencia y la cooperación de nuestros clientes y las comunidades durante los últimos dos meses, lo que nos permitió completar este proyecto antes de lo previsto y de manera segura".

Además, los clientes en el área metropolitana de Lawrence pueden continuar visitando el Centro de atención al cliente en 439 South Union Street en Lawrence, llamar al 1-866-388-3239 o visitar ColumbiaGasMA.com para obtener información adicional relacionada con la restauración de Merrimack Valley.

## Columbia Gas Completes Verifications of All Abandoned Service Lines in the Merrimack Valley Gas System

**Project Verified All of the Approximately 5,000 Former Service Lines Abandoned During Fall 2018 Recovery Effort**

LAWRENCE, Mass. — Columbia Gas de Massachusetts announced today it has completed verifications on all of the approximately 5,000 former service lines that were abandoned as part of last fall's recovery effort in the Merrimack Valley, concluding verification work that began in September 2019. The completion of this verification project has confirmed that all abandoned service lines are now compliant with federal and state requirements and in compliance with Columbia Gas' procedures and protocols.

"We acknowledge that some of last fall's work was not completed in accordance with federal and state regulations and CMA protocols and we take full responsibility," said Mark Kempic, President and COO of Columbia Gas of Massachusetts. "Since last September's gas event, we have been working to identify ways to enhance our operational and safety procedures across our Massachusetts footprint to proactively identify and mitigate issues as we work to rebuild customer and public confidence in our company."

In total, Columbia Gas verified approximately 5,000 abandoned service lines. In instances where the inspection found the abandoned service line was not abandoned in accordance with Massachusetts requirements, the crew completed the necessary remediation work, which may have included the removal of old pipe, installation of expansion plugs and caps or the disconnection of the abandoned service line from the old, inactive gas system. The following is a summary of the work completed throughout this project:

In September 2019, at the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities' (DPU) directive, Columbia Gas initiated the verification of approximately 700 former service lines, of which 188 required some form of remediation. This group included customers whose abandoned service lines were formerly connected to distribution

mains where a certain type of industry standard construction technique was used to restore gas service last fall.

In October 2019, the DPU required verification of an additional approximately 2,200 former service lines, of which 688 required some form of remediation. This group included customers who had service lines that were connected to meters that were located outside of the customer's home or business prior to the September 2018 gas event.

In October 2019, Columbia Gas began the voluntary verification of a final set of approximately 2,000 former service lines, not required by the DPU, out of an abundance of caution. The final set was completed this month and 53 required some form of remediation. This group included customers who had service lines that were connected to meters that were located outside of the customer's home or business prior to the September 2018 gas event.

The verifications were conducted via in-home appointments or outside field verifications, depending on a number of factors including customer preference and the location of the customer's gas meter.

Throughout the project, the Columbia Gas team sent more than 3,000 emails and 4,900 letters to customers, placed more than 17,000 outbound calls, advertised on the radio and in newspapers, and distributed more than 6,500 door hangers with project information.

Kempic added, "We have appreciated the patience and cooperation of our customers and the communities over the last two months, which allowed us to complete this project ahead of schedule and in a safe manner."

In addition, customers in the Greater Lawrence Area can continue to visit the Customer Care Center at 439 South Union Street in Lawrence, call 1-866-388-3239 or visit ColumbiaGasMA.com for additional information related to the Merrimack Valley restoration.



currently offer 15 associate degree and certificate programs that can be completed entirely online, plus 10 programs that are 80 percent online. We also offer hundreds of online course offerings, plus hybrid courses – which combine online and face-to-face instruction.

Middlesex recognizes that many students, after completing their MCC coursework, intend to transfer and pursue a bachelor's degree at another institution. For these students, the college offers the state's new Commonwealth Commitment/MassTransfer Pathways program, which can save an average of 40 percent from the cost of earning a bachelor's degree. Visit [www.mass.edu/masstransfer](http://www.mass.edu/masstransfer) for more information.

Visit [www.middlesex.mass.edu/wintersession](http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/wintersession) or call 1-800-818-3434 to register for classes.

## Wintersession Courses at MCC

Middlesex Community College offers quality education at an affordable price and on your time. MCC students can complete courses at an accelerated pace with our three-week Wintersession that runs Wednesday, January 2 to Friday, January 17, 2020 online and on the Bedford campus.

Registration is now open and financial aid is available for those who qualify.

Phil Sisson, MCC's Provost and Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs, said, "These popular accelerated sessions are just a few of the ways Middlesex strives to help our students discover they can fit education into their busy lives."

Wintersession classes cover the same content, maintain the same academic standards and contain the same number of in-class instructional hours as courses scheduled during MCC's traditional 15-week semester. Students can earn credits in a wide variety of subjects, including English, science, history, social science, mathematics and more.

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**"The only disability in life is a bad attitude."**

**"La única discapacidad en la vida es una mala actitud."**

- Scott Hamilton

# Lawrence Boys and Girls Club Celebrate Thanksgiving Day



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**Lo que nos entregues ayudará a los niños locales que participan en nuestro programa de tutoría. Debes saber que tu donación es deducible de impuestos.**

**¡Gracias por tu apoyo!**

Area youth and their families turn to the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence as a safe haven, far removed from the substance abuse, gangs, gun violence, crime, poverty and neglect of the streets.

In addition to annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, youth members are given supper each night as part of their \$40 annual membership fee. However, many

families rely on scholarships in this city in which nearly one-third of the population lives below the poverty level. Individual and corporate donors bridge the gap between the actual cost of programming, which exceeds \$850 per child annually. Through their generosity, our donors are ensuring that club kids will enjoy the holidays and beyond.

## New England Patriots Special Teamer Justin Bethel Distributes Donated Turkeys

Justin Bethel, special teams standout on the New England Patriots, distributed donated turkeys to approximately 75 families at the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence on Saturday, November 23.

The club provides a safe, after-school haven offering nightly meals, homework help, fitness and nutrition programs, college and career planning, community involvement and lasting personal relationships with caring staff and volunteers for nearly 4,000 youth members.

For more information, visit [www.lawrencebgc.com](http://www.lawrencebgc.com).



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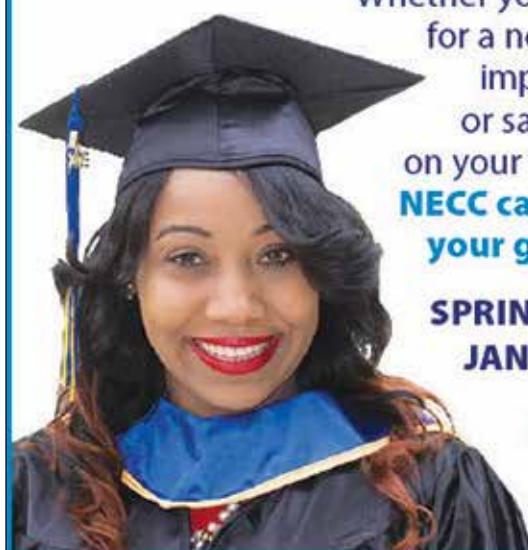
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# Methuen Exchange Club Celebrates Police Officer of the Year

Chief Joseph Solomon and Mayor James Jajuga are pleased to announce that Officer Kenneth Pilz is the recipient of the 2019 Methuen Exchange Club Police Officer of the Year.

Officer Pilz was recognized with the award at a ceremony at the Merrimack Valley Golf Course on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

In addition to his daily contributions to the city and the department in his role as a patrolman, Officer Pilz was recognized for his work to apprehend a murder suspect over the summer. On Saturday, July 27, Officer Pilz dedicated his time to searching for a New Hampshire murder suspect -- considered armed and dangerous -- who led police on a pursuit in a stolen vehicle and crashed in the area of Jackson and Swan Streets in Methuen.

Later that evening, after the pursuit had been called off for safety reasons,

Officer Pilz observed a man he believed to be the suspect in the area of Jackson Street. Officer Pilz began speaking with the man and building a rapport with him -- inviting him to share pizza during a break with other officers -- while waiting for those officers, whom he'd previously requested for backup, to arrive.

Upon their arrival, the officers placed the suspect under arrest without further incident and extradited to New Hampshire to face murder charges. However, Officer Pilz's assistance was still needed, as the rapport he developed with the suspect proved instrumental in gaining the suspect's cooperation with the ongoing investigation and led to his being positively identified as the suspect in that day's pursuit.

"Officer Pilz requested the opportunity to patrol an area of town he's not usually assigned to because his instincts told him he

could make an impact by locating this suspect and bringing him into custody," Chief Solomon said. "His proactive efforts, as well as his ability to build a relationship with a dangerous suspect, prevented a situation from escalating and helped keep our community safe."

Following in his father's footsteps, Officer Pilz joined the Methuen Police Department in 2008. This year's award marks the second of his career, after first earning the accolade in 2017.

"Officer Pilz's professionalism and experience guided him to take a strategic course of action to arrest a violent fugitive," Mayor Jajuga said. "I'm proud of his efforts on that particular day, and grateful for his contributions on a regular basis and congratulate him on this well-deserved honor."



## Newest Methuen Police Officer Graduates from Police Academy



Officer Robert Gordon (left) and Staff Instructor Nick Dore of the Methuen Police Department. (Courtesy Photo Methuen Police)

METHUEN -- Chief Joseph Solomon and Mayor James Jajuga are pleased to announce that the Methuen Police Department's newest officer completed his police academy training recently.

On Friday, Nov. 8, Officer Robert Gordon was one of 35 officers representing 13 cities and towns to graduate from the Northern Essex Community College Methuen Police Academy. The ceremony was held on the NECC campus in Haverhill.

The police academy is 24 weeks long and consists of more than 900 hours of a combination of practical and classroom training, certifications, and service to the community. Some of the classes include first aid, law, applied patrol procedures, firearms, report writing, active shooter training, specialized driving and bicycle patrol lessons and self defense.

Having completed the extensive academy program, Officer Gordon has

joined the Methuen Police Department and will undergo field training for the next three months.

Officer Gordon served in the U.S. Army from 2010-2013, including a one year tour in Afghanistan's Kunar Province. He has been a Reserve Officer with the Methuen Police Department since 2015. During his time in the full-time academy, Officer Gordon broke the academy record for most pull-ups.

"We're excited to welcome Officer Gordon to the department," Chief Solomon said. "He has been a valuable member of our team as a reserve officer in the past, and I'm confident he'll continue to make great contributions to the department in his new role."

"Congratulations to Officer Gordon on completing the rigorous training program at the police academy," Mayor Jajuga added. "I'm looking forward to his continued work on behalf of the citizens of our community."

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

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

- Henry Ford

## Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer Is Flying Into The North Andover Senior Center to Spark Its Holiday Celebration

True to its mission of serving the needs of the entire senior community, the North Andover Senior Center's 5th Annual Holiday celebration becomes a community-wide opportunity for giving. The multi-faceted event includes opportunities for local merchants, organizations and civic groups to participate.

"For many seniors, especially those with limited financial means, the holiday season can be a stressful time. So, our intention is to provide an atmosphere of caring and compassion to help make this season joyful and memorable," said Irene O'Brien, North Andover Senior Center Director.

### GIVING OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

To help "dress" the Senior Center for the holidays, areas of the Center are available for decorating. Using the Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer as a theme, nearly 30 separate "canvases" are waiting for decorations, including hallways, counter tops, walls, doors etc. "The interpretation of the theme is totally up to the organizations, and we expect to see some very artistic compositions," said Lya Morse, Senior Center Program Coordinator.

Organizations can get full details and

participation costs of claiming a decorating spot by calling Ms. Morse at the Senior Center, 978-688-9560. And, by email LMorse@northandoverma.gov.

### THE GIVING TREE

Since an integral part of the Christmas season revolves around giving to the less fortunate. The Senior Center is also providing an opportunity for neighbors and "townies" to contribute to a Giving Tree.

The tree is being decorated by Senior Center volunteers. Gifts to be distributed to seniors and young families in need. In particular, seniors need such items as food or pharmacy gift cards, flashlights, batteries (AA's), postage stamps, scarves, gloves and sugarless sweets.

On the other side of the age spectrum are young families in need of onesies, bibs, kids socks, small toys, and articles of clothing.

All Giving Tree Items can be dropped off or mailed to the Senior Center, 120R Main Street, North Andover, MA 01845.

"This community of North Andover has always opened its heart to others in need during the holidays, and we know they will respond this year as well", Ms O'Brien said. "We appreciate them, and all our volunteers who make what we do possible," she added.

## 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.

# SRO Thanksgiving dinner at the Lawrence Y

Wednesday, November 20, 2019



Lawrence YMCA Acting Executive Director Cathy Redard and Board member Deb Hope served guests.



The meal was an opportunity for residents to get together to catch up.

Delicious food and lots of smiles as volunteers served an early Thanksgiving dinner to the formerly homeless men who live in the Lawrence YMCA Single Room Occupancy (SRO).

For more information about this program that offers safe, affordable housing and supportive services to qualified single men over the age of 18 at the Lawrence Y, visit <https://www.mvymca.org/social-community-services> or call Kelly Osmer at 978-686-6190, ext. 359.

Deliciosa comida y muchas sonrisas mientras los voluntarios servían una cena temprana de Acción de Gracias a los hombres sin hogar que viven en las Habitaciones Individuales de la Lawrence YMCA.

Para obtener más información sobre este programa que ofrece viviendas seguras y asequibles y servicios de apoyo para hombres solteros calificados mayores de 18 años en Lawrence Y, visite <https://www.mvymca.org/social-community-services> o llame a Kelly Osmer al 978-686-6190, ext. 359.



Lawrence YMCA SRO Case Manager Milly Dominguez with a resident.



Board member Kathleen Costello with VP of Marketing and Membership Development Jim Kapelson.



Membership Coordinator Rocio Diaz with Welcome Center/SRO Assistant Case Manager Kaira Cabrera and Office Manager Dianne Andriolo.



Andover/North Andover YMCA Sr. Executive Director Claudia Soo Hoo, Board member Rosa Munoz and Alan Hope manned the dessert table.



A resident shares a laugh with Board member Charlie Nasser.

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# Massachusetts to Celebrate the Adoptions of Children from State Foster Care on National Adoption Day, November 22, 2019

By Dalia Diaz

On Friday, November 22, the Commonwealth celebrated the 17th annual National Adoption Day. In Massachusetts, 140 children who had been in state foster care found the forever home.

"As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of National Adoption Day, we are pleased to continue to be part of this necessary and focused opportunity to support the tens of thousands of children who have been adopted as a result of this initiative," said Lisa Funaro, Executive Director of MARE. "Our continued work, not just on National Adoption Day — but every day, provides support and critical connections for youth in foster care who are waiting for an adoptive family. We couldn't do any of this work without the support of our national and

local community partners and of course our families."

Why a National Adoption Day? Through no fault of their own, approximately 8,600 children are living in foster care in Massachusetts right now. While most will return to their birth parents, approximately 1,348 of these youth are among 123,000 children nationally who are waiting for adoption.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, in general, visit [mareinc.org](http://mareinc.org), or call 617-964-MARE (6273). Through its campaign, Foster MA, DCF continues to grow its community of foster parents and pre-adoptive parents. Information is available online, [mass.gov/foster-care](http://mass.gov/foster-care), or by calling (800) 543-7508.



Lawrence High School's One Voice Ensemble under the direction of Nancy McGhee, always gives a magnificent performance. On that morning, they were better than ever.

El viernes, 22 de noviembre, Massachusetts celebró el 17º Día Nacional de Adopción anual. En Massachusetts, 140 niños que habían estado en hogares de guarda bajo la tutela estatal encontraron el hogar para siempre.

"Mientras celebramos el vigésimo aniversario del Día Nacional de Adopción, nos complace seguir siendo parte de esta oportunidad necesaria y enfocada para apoyar a las decenas de miles de niños que han sido adoptados como resultado de esta iniciativa", dijo Lisa Funaro. Directora Ejecutiva de MARE. "Nuestro trabajo continuo, no solo en el Día Nacional de

Adopción sino todos los días, brinda apoyo y conexiones críticas para los jóvenes en cuidado de crianza que esperan una familia adoptiva. No podríamos hacer nada de este trabajo sin el apoyo de nuestro personal nacional y socios de la comunidad local y, por supuesto, nuestras familias".

¿Por qué un día nacional de adopción? Sin ser su culpa, aproximadamente 8,600 niños viven en hogares de guarda en Massachusetts en este momento. Si bien la mayoría regresará con sus padres biológicos, aproximadamente 1,348 de estos jóvenes se encuentran entre 123,000 niños a nivel nacional que esperan ser adoptados.



These are Julio and Carmen Peña from Lawrence with their children Zacariah and Janelis Peña.

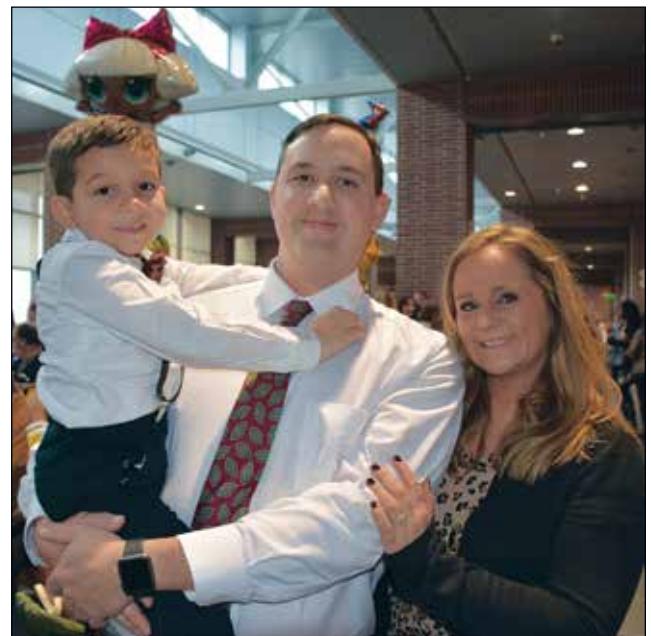
Julio y Carmen Peña, una familia de Lawrence con sus hijos Zacariah y Janelis Peña.



Two of the organizers of the event were Beth Clancy and Tara Sullivan.



Para obtener más información sobre la adopción del cuidado de crianza, en general, visite [mareinc.org](http://mareinc.org) o llame al 617-964-MARE (6273). A través de su campaña, Foster MA, DCF continúa creciendo su comunidad de padres adoptivos y padres preadoptivos. La información está disponible en línea, [mass.gov/foster-care](http://mass.gov/foster-care), o llamando al (800) 543-7508.



Mason was one of the children being adopted on that day and he's not letting his father Stephen Green put him down. His mother Krissy. They came from the South shore having started their process in Braintree.



Clerk-Magistrate of Essex County Juvenile Court Judith M. Brennan welcomed everyone expressing the joy of everyone at the Fenton Judicial Center.



Steve Roslonek of SteveSongs comes every year to entertain children and adults. He has a special talent to attract them to dance and sing along with him

# ¡Piñeyro lo hizo de nuevo!

## La exitosa obra de teatro “Mi Mascota Favorita”

Por Alberto Surís

El Pastor Luis Piñeyro presentó su anunciado evento dedicado a la protección de animales, donde participaron alumnos de las escuelas Frost, Guilmette, Oliver y Parthum además de la Escuela de Teatro Maestro Salvador Pérez Martínez y la de Escuela de Música Mariana Carter.

Los participantes, entre 7 y 15 años de edad, recibieron instrucciones de pintar o construir su mascota preferida, utilizando papel, cartón ó madera y para pintarlos utilizar lápices de color o acuarelas y se les advirtió no usar zinc o materiales tóxicos.

La obra de teatro presentada, Mi Mascota Favorita, fue escrita y dirigida por Juan Luis Ogando, dramaturgo y director de la Escuela de Teatro Maestro Salvador Pérez Martínez. La obra y concurso tenía un tema: La Protección de los Animales, y los dejaron a que su imaginación volara.

Los resultados no se hicieron esperar. Los alumnos de las Escuelas Oliver Partnership presentaron más de 260 trabajos de pintura y construcción por lo que obtuvieron el Primer Lugar.

Los alumnos de la Escuela Guilmette presentaron casi 100 trabajos de pintura por lo que la escuela obtuvo el Segundo Lugar.



Sarah Pérez, de Pérez Insurance and Financial Services LLC por su continuo apoyo a proyectos como My Favorite Pets, recibió una Medalla de Gratitud, de manos del Pastor Piñeyro.



Una afortunada ama de casa gano una de las bolsas de alimento rifada, por America's Food Basket, que le entrega su Manager Sergio Hernández. Detrás el Pastor Piñeyro.

Danelis Beato de la Escuela Parthum ganó una Medalla por la Mejor Pintura.

La Escuela Frost obtuvo el 3er lugar en pintura.

Por la Escuela de Música Mariana Carter participaron: Josué Leger al piano y Alex Leger en la batería.

Una pintura, obra de Nashelly Lozano, alumna de la Escuela Guilmette, fue enmarcada y subastada. Brian DePeña fue el mejor postor, pagando \$101.00 por ella.

El evento, así como los niños que participaron recibieron la bendición de Gelpys Sánchez, director de la escuela de música Mariana Carter.

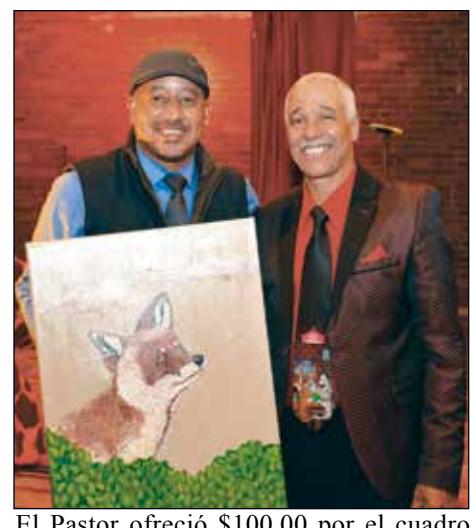
Por su arduo trabajo con los niños, la maestra de arte de la escuela Oliver Leslie Quinlan recibió una foto de sus amados perritos, algo que la conmovió mucho.

La maestra de arte de la Escuela Guilmette también recibió un premio por su gran trabajo.

Varias empresas entregaron bolsas de comida que fueron rifadas entre los padres asistentes al evento, entre ellos, Goya, Caribbean Supermarket, la Frutería Supermarket, y America's Food Basket.



Otro que recibió una bien merecida Medalla de Gratitud fue Nelson Silvestre, fotógrafo oficial de los proyectos del Pastor Piñeyro y otros muchos más, como Rumbo, que ha utilizado sus fotos de eventos a los cuales no nos ha sido posible asistir.



El Pastor ofreció \$100.00 por el cuadro pero Brian DePeña, generoso él, lo venció ofreciendo \$101.00 ganando la subasta. Aquí aparece Brian, sonriente con su cuadro junto al Pastor Piñeyro.



Leslie Quinlan maestra de arte de la Escuela Oliver recibió un trofeo. El Pastor Luis Piñeyro y su hija Catherine Storing hicieron entrega a Leslie Quinlan (centro) maestra de arte de la Escuela Oliver el trofeo por obtener el primer lugar entre las escuelas que participaron. Quinlan levantando el trofeo dijo a los niños, “Esto es por ustedes”.



Niños de distintas escuelas que recibieron medallas como premio por los trabajos presentados.



Como premio por su pintura, Nashelly Lozano recibió una computadora laptop, obsequio de T&C Computer Services.

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**RUMBONEWS.COM**

# Family Institute for Student Success en LPS

Por Dalia Diaz

Las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence han estado patrocinando una serie de programas de empoderamiento para padres llamado Lawrence Family Institute for Student Success (conocido como LFISS).

Este es un programa de capacitación para padres de nueve semanas de duración que ayuda a las familias a aprender sobre la educación de sus hijos y cómo pueden trabajar con los maestros para ayudarlos a tener éxito.

Comenzó el año pasado con 80 familias en dos escuelas, y creció este año a cerca de 155 padres que se graduaron en cuatro escuelas nuevas: Arlington, Wetherbee, Parthum y Tarbox. El pasado 21 de noviembre, unos 50 padres de la escuela John K. Tarbox celebraron la finalización del programa.

Algunos de los comentarios de los padres esa noche fueron que LFISS ofrece cursos de instrucción a los padres y tutores de los estudiantes (kindergarten hasta cuarto grado) con el objetivo de promover una mentalidad de universidad. Aparentemente, la instrucción recibida tuvo resultados porque uno de los padres en la graduación

había decidido regresar a la escuela. Él dijo: "Tengo que ser el ejemplo para mis hijos".

"Durante las últimas nueve semanas, nuestros padres han estado trabajando y aprendiendo cómo funciona el sistema escolar", dijo María Campusano, la administradora del programa. Aprenden acerca de la disciplina en el hogar y en la escuela y cómo lidiar con las preocupaciones dirigidas a los maestros o escalarlos al director de la escuela.

Entre los padres también hubo elogios para el programa. José y Xiomara Vázquez participaron juntos en el programa. "Esto es lo mejor que podríamos hacer por nuestros hijos porque también nos hizo parte de la escuela". Y algunos padres se han convertido en voluntarios regulares en la escuela.

"Espero que sigan ofreciendo otros seminarios como este porque aprendimos mucho", dijo Seelena Chapman Guzmán.

Mientras tanto, para Yerdis Reyes de Rosario, el programa tuvo un resultado diferente. "Mi hijo viene aquí pero no conocía a nadie. ¡Ahora, mira todos los amigos que

tengo!" Obviamente, también tuvo un impacto en su vida social.

Ese aspecto social se confirmó con la presencia de James O'Keefe, ex director de escuelas que pasó 42 años trabajando para las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence y continúa ofreciendo su tiempo como voluntario en eventos escolares.

Los padres asistieron con sus hijos quienes también disfrutaron de divertidas actividades y una deliciosa cena.



School Superintendent Cynthia Paris greeting one of the parents in the graduation. Her baby came to every session.



Families participating in the graduation at the LFISS program at the Tarbox School on November 21.



Yesenia Espinal Torres, Superintendente Cynthia Paris, Fiordaliza Marrero y Yerdis Reyes de Rosario.



Recently elected school committee member Enrique Matos with some children who had fun with their hair coloring.



Family Partnerships Manager María Campusano.



Retired Principal James O'Keefe and Eva Castro, LFISS Facilitator.

## LPS Family Institute for Student Success

By Dalia Diaz

Lawrence Public Schools has been sponsoring a series of empowerment programs for parents called Lawrence Family Institute for Student Success (known as LFISS).

This is a nine week parent education and empowerment program that helps families learn about their child's education and how they can work with teachers to help their child succeed – classes cover everything from how report cards work to dealing with peer pressure to understanding high school graduation requirements.

It started last year with 80 families in two schools, and grew this year to about 155 parents graduating in four new schools: Arlington, Wetherbee, Parthum and Tarbox. Last November 21st, about 50 parents from the John K. Tarbox School celebrated finishing the program.

Some of the comments from parents that night were that LFISS offers instructional courses to parents and guardians of students (kindergarten through fourth grade) with the goal of promoting a college bound mindset. Apparently, the instruction received had results because one of the fathers at the graduation had decided to go back to school. He said, "I have to be the example for my children."

"Over the past nine weeks, our parents

have been working and learning how the school system works," said María Campusano, program manager. They learn about discipline at home and at school and how to deal with concerns addressing the teachers or escalating them to the school principal.

Among parents there were praises for the program, too. José and Xiomara Vazquez participated in the program together. "This is the best thing we could do for our children because it made us part of the school as well." And some parents have become regular volunteers at the school.

"I hope they continue to offer other seminars like this one because we learned a lot," said Seelena Chapman Guzmán.

Meanwhile, for Yerdis Reyes de Rosario, the program had a different result. "My child comes here but I didn't know anyone. Now, look at all the friends I have!" Obviously, it had an impact on her social life as well.

That social aspect was confirmed with the presence of James O'Keefe, former school principal who spent 42 years working for the Lawrence Public Schools and continues to volunteer his time at school events.

Parents were encouraged to attend with their children who also enjoyed fun activities and a delicious meal.



Parents José and Xiomara Vazquez who participated in the LFISS program.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY****Communications and Member Networking Manager  
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The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, serving nearly 1,000 member companies, headquartered in Lawrence, Mass with membership throughout Lawrence, the Andovers, Methuen, and extending throughout Greater Haverhill, westerly to the Greater Lowell area and eastwardly to Great Newburyport area; seeks an experienced, highly motivated, qualified Communications and Member Networking Manager, working under the direction of the Vice President to lead and assist the Chamber with growing its electronic social/print media press release, narrative and photo presence; maintain and assist with the Chamber's website and online newsletter; post Chamber events within the Chamber's database system (weblink); contact Chamber members to schedule networking events such as, but not limited to, networking morning and evening mixers and addressing the related event requirements; create informational flyers for All Chamber events and programs; schedule and maintain daily Chamber e-mail blasts and work with members to schedule their e-blast; attend and assist in preparing for and coordinating Chamber networking morning and evening programs and some noontime programs; prepare chamber member name tags, print plaques, prepare name signs, etc. for Chamber events; work with the Chamber Vice President on member needs and prospect needs and assist in recruiting new members; assist in the development of the Chamber's Business Directory including seeking advertisement sponsors, etc.; attend ribbon cuttings, and special events of the membership; and other general office responsibilities as required.

The ideal candidate will have demonstrated experience working with, or for, a Chamber of Commerce or a membership based organization with a demonstrated experience with social media and all forms of communication and networking; have a strong ability to work independently and with great attention to detail. Bi-lingual helpful but not required. College degree in related field to work responsibilities.

Chamber offers usual benefits. Salary approximately \$40-45,000.00 annually commensurate with experience with benefits including paid vacation, sick leave, contributing health plan if required, retirement benefits, etc. Qualified candidates should email a resume to the Chamber President/CEO Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce c/o jjb@merrimackvalleychamber.com, or mail to 264 Essex Street c/o the above, with the words "Communications/Networking Manager" in the subject line, or the outside of the envelope if mailed, no later than December 5, 2019. 978-686-0900.

The MVCC is an equal opportunity employer.

All reasonable efforts will be made to protect the confidentiality of candidates.

**NECC Receives Recognition for Student Voting Rate**

Northern Essex Community College's was recently recognized for the high student voting rate of its students in the 2018 midterm elections.

The college received a silver seal for Excellence in Student Voter Engagement in the 2019 ALL IN Challenge Awards.

Close to 32% of Northern Essex students voted in the 2018 midterm elections which was an over 11% increase over the 2014 midterm elections.

Silver seals were presented to all colleges with a voting rate between 30% and 39%.

The All IN Campus Democracy Challenge is a nonpartisan, national initiative recognizing and supporting campuses as they work to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and full student voter participation. The Challenge encourages higher education institutions to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship, and make democratic participation a core value on their campus.

Janel D'Agata-Lynch, coordinator of civic engagement, service-learning, and community resources at Northern Essex, is 'thrilled' with the 2018 results, and she hopes to keep the momentum going for the 2020 elections. "We're working now to strategize how to educate the campus

community and get out the vote for 2020."

D'Agata-Lynch was hired in 2015 and she is responsible for promoting and supporting civic engagement on campus. In 2016, the college created an Election Working Group, including faculty, staff, and students, focused on educating the campus on election issues, including ballot initiatives.

One of the group's main goals is "encouraging faculty to bring the election into the classroom," says D'Agata-Lynch. For example, Professor Steve Russell's American Government and Politics class has been researching each of the candidates in the 2020 presidential primary and will be sharing their positions on topics such as climate change, immigration, and health care at a campus wide forum on Thursday, December 5 from 8 to 9:15 a.m. in Room 244 of the Dimitry Building, 45 Franklin St, Lawrence.

Professor Richard Padova has invited all presidential primary candidates to visit the campus for forums, which are being scheduled now through the primary.

The college is also sponsoring voting registration events on both campuses.

To learn more, contact D'Agata-Lynch, jdagatalynch@necc.mass.edu or 978 556-3471.

**NECC Announces Presidential Scholars**

Left to right- Michael McCarthy, vice president of administration and finance, with four of the 10 Presidential Scholars Kendra Adan, Jillian Stacy, Mincarys Trinidad Gomez, Neyshkaliz Plaza.

Ten local 2019 high school graduates were accepted into Northern Essex Community College's Presidential Scholars Program, an honors program devoted to high academic achievement.

In its 20th year, the Presidential Scholars Program is designed to reward motivated high school students who will be attending Northern Essex. Students are selected based on their high school academic record and recommendations from high school guidance counselors and teachers.

"Our Presidential Scholars Program targets academically motivated high school graduates who have decided to start their college education at Northern Essex," said Lane Glenn, president of Northern Essex. "Most plan to transfer to a four-year college or university after getting an associate's degree from Northern Essex."

Admission to the program includes a \$1,000 scholarship (over two semesters,) which is renewable provided the recipient maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher while attending NECC.

This year's Presidential Scholars include the following (by hometown):

Haverhill - Molly McCracken, Haverhill High School, Laboratory Science

Methuen - Jillian Stacy, Methuen High School, Criminal Justice

Lawrence - Kendra Adan, Greater Lawrence Technical High School, General Studies: Health Specialization

Daniella Cameron, Lawrence High School, Business Management

Jeranny Geraldo, Lawrence International High School, General Studies: Health Specialization

Cindy Pena, Greater Lawrence Technical High School, General Studies: Health Specialization

Neyshkaliz Plaza, Lawrence High School, General Studies: Health Specialization

Joshua Robles, Greater Lawrence Technical High School, General Studies: Art & Design

Mincarys Trinidad Gomez, Central Catholic High School, Liberal Arts

Erika Arias, Greater Lawrence Technical High School, Criminal Justice

For more information on the NECC Presidential Scholars Program, please contact Lindsay Graham at scholarships@necc.mass.edu or at 978-556-3629.

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"Remember, we all stumble, every one of us. That's why it's a comfort to go hand in hand."

- Emily Kimbrough

BY DALIA DÍAZ  
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

# From My Corner

## A school committee without power - results in people not interested in running for office

What will happen to the Lawrence Public Schools committee? We have just been informed that the LPS will have enough elected officials to meet as a committee. However, it's too bad that they hold no power. Will the elected residents be able to govern its school system or will Mayor Rivera continue to allow the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education and/or the Commonwealth to control every aspect of the city?

As the city comes into its 172nd year of existence, the residents of Lawrence are still not allowed the right to self-govern. This onslaught of legislation chipping away at our city has already threatened local provision and has placed politics to work without transparencies in order to allow the control person/boards to not view the use of those funds.

With the release of the state appointed overseer, the city has given Budget and Finance Director Mark Iannello more authority. At this moment without a purchasing agent since the departure of Rita Brousseau, Mr. Iannello changed how departments are able to approve requisitions and invoices and it's much lax now.

While local control is whittled away, the City Council members are just looking for their little bit of the pie and not looking after the residents. To be honest, that pre-emption shows no sign of slowing down. Mayor Rivera (and the candidate that he has lined up to continue this trend) will not fight for the removal of the Lawrence Alliance for Education. This is a group of people who approve the money expenditure, in one case unethical as well. The president of the Alliance, John R. Connolly, is the Co-Founder and Executive Director at 1647 and his non-profit company created ENLACE\_Lawrence at Lawrence High School, one of their partner schools.

Actually, they welcome these boards, as it holds all control over the entire school system and its budget, therefore creating an atmosphere of the residents needing to bow down before them for any request.

It's an aggressive move that was created by those opposing the Lantigua administration. This preemption that

prevents cities from expanding rights, building stronger economies, and promoting innovation are counterproductive when decision-making is divorced from the core wants and needs of community members. It's a power grab that sought to override the will of the people. It has allowed the school contracts to go to bigger companies that are either not located in Lawrence or the Commonwealth, instead of allowing the smaller businesses of Lawrence to thrive. All the contracts of the LPS are from companies whose headquarters are outside of Lawrence – all of them. Well, maybe with the exception of Sal's pizza! This is your current Mayor and is the same as his selected puppet candidate in order to continue these trends.

It shouldn't surprise anyone that these lawmakers were quick to abandon their principles and overrule local decision making when things didn't go their way. It's a system designed by lawmakers and when it does not comply with their will, they come in and take over and place puppets to run these organizations/cities.

The LPS decentralization has literally sent a message to its residents that they are too stupid to run a school committee and instead allow "us" to educate your children. These are tactics straight out of a banana republic or a communistic government and I am not sure why there is no rage from the people of Lawrence. Maybe, it's because they have already resigned themselves to this type of government or maybe it is because they come from other countries where this is a normal occurrence. Either way, there needs to be an education of empowerment to Lawrence residents and we don't see it coming from current state representatives or state senators as they seem not to care enough to demand that the Commonwealth give back the power to its people.

In the same manner that legislators gave a letter to Judge James F. Lang in regards to their disappointment of the Columbia Gas settlement in order to take \$20 million from the \$143 million belonging to the residents of the three cities, it should be that these very same legislators write a letter to the Commonwealth to give power back to Lawrence residents.



### 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.



## Rock the Register fiasco

Last summer, during a press conference, Mayor Dan announced the creation of a publicity campaign called ROCK THE REGISTER. The funding came from Columbia Gas and \$10 million dedicated to that campaign, would help the business community impacted in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover.

That money was divided between EforAll and an advertising agency from Boston. When it was announced I wrote that it didn't make sense hiring a company that doesn't know our community. I waited patiently to see the results and I can now say that it was either a failure or a way to cheat the public while making it look meaningful.

Case in point, there was no campaign for Rock the Register in Lawrence. The local campaign was in English and in Spanish was only in Boston. There was nothing on the radio.

A big chunk of the money went to EforAll to create courses teaching entrepreneurs how to run a business, how to use Quickbooks, etc. They may be good teaching tools that are necessary to many in our community but the money was meant for residents suffering as a result of the gas explosions, not to be distributed among friends.

Now, Lawrence Partnership issued some sort of credit cards with a \$30 value that people have no idea how to use. Local businesses have been rejecting them because they don't know what they are and many have been discarded due to the frustration.

Again, ignorant of this community needs, they deal with them the way they normally do in Andover or North Andover. Lawrence is very different! We have many people who don't speak the language and there has been no effort to reach out to them in Spanish. Many residents have no

computer and if there's one in the home, they have no idea what to do with it.

Someone brought me his card because I couldn't help him by phone since I had never seen one. He had gone to the mayor's office and was told that it had expired on November 15. I followed the instructions on the back of the card and the only options given were a Japanese restaurant or \$15 (not the \$30) for a coffee shop. In frustration, he threw it away.

Later I heard about someone who went to a pizza restaurant with the computer printout and it was refused because they cannot accept computer printouts. It has to be from a cellular phone but that was not in any of the instructions. Just imagine, my husband doesn't have one of those telephones because he doesn't want to be bothered with telemarketers and text messages.

They just made it very hard to collect the lousy \$30 that I wonder where that money is going to end up or in whose pocket.

## Speaking of my money...

Yes, this time it's my money because the City of Lawrence paid \$225,000 to MVRTA for three busses that would service the population for free. I mentioned it last week and as a result, I received an angry email from someone insulting me. I don't have permission to mention his name and it wouldn't be fair.

His insult had to do with a mistake I made saying it was #83 and that's the one going to the beaches in the summer. I explained that did check with the office at the Buckley Garage and it was confirmed so, I went with that. The correct information is bus #85.

Of course, he only pointed to my mistake and said nothing about the bus being canceled or suspended. If anyone has additional information or correction, it will be greatly appreciated.

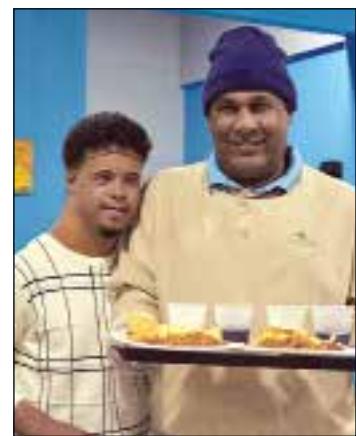
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If you want to know  
who controls you,  
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– Voltaire

AZ QUOTES

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# El Gobernador Firma Ley de Reforma Financiera de la Campaña de DiZoglio

Nueva ley refuerza la transparencia y la rendición de cuentas

El Gobernador Charles Baker (R-Swampscott) promulgó una ley relativa a la financiación de campañas, patrocinada por la Senadora Estatal Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen), que aumenta la transparencia y la rendición de cuentas en las elecciones del estado mediante la reforma de los requisitos de información fiscal.

El sistema de informes de depósito, administrado por la Oficina de Campañas y Finanzas Políticas (OCPF), la agencia estatal independiente que administra la ley de financiamiento de campañas de Massachusetts, ordena a los candidatos a cargos públicos que se sometan a estrictos requisitos de informes de financiamiento de campañas. Anteriormente, la legislatura y algunos candidatos a la alcaldía estaban exentos de la ley que exige que todo el estado, el condado y muchos otros candidatos municipales utilicen este sistema de informes. Una ley relativa al financiamiento de campañas remedia esta disparidad al exigir que todos los candidatos legislativos y alcaldes de Massachusetts participen en el sistema de depósito.

"Es importante que los votantes puedan acceder rápidamente a la información sobre quién está donando a los candidatos y dónde los candidatos están gastando su dinero", dijo DiZoglio. "Esta ley da un paso en la dirección correcta al trasladar a los legisladores al sistema de depósito y exigir que presentemos nuestros informes con más frecuencia. Es esencial que avancemos con la mejora de las buenas prácticas gubernamentales y estoy agradecida de que esta legislación se haya promulgado antes del Año Nuevo".

Al incluir a todos los candidatos legislativos y alcaldes en el sistema de informes de depósito, la ley aumenta la responsabilidad al exigir informes más frecuentes que revelen las contribuciones



de campaña y la confirmación de los gastos informados en los estados de cuenta mensuales presentados por sus instituciones financieras designadas. Al aumentar la frecuencia de presentación y combinar las divulgaciones de candidatos con los informes bancarios, la ley mejora la transparencia en la actividad de financiación de campañas en todo el estado.

El proceso revisado ayudará a OCPF a identificar discrepancias entre las divulgaciones públicas de los candidatos sobre la actividad financiera de la campaña y sus registros contables bancarios, lo que le permitirá a OCPF abordar más rápidamente los problemas asociados con errores de ingreso de datos, depósitos perdidos, problemas de saldo y cheques sin cobrar. Además, el cambio facilitará ver cuánto dinero está recaudando y gastando un candidato durante el transcurso de todo el ciclo electoral.

## Governor Signs DiZoglio Campaign Finance Reform Bill Into Law

New Law Bolsters Transparency and Accountability

Governor Charles Baker (R-Swampscott) signed into law An Act relative to campaign finance, sponsored by State Senator Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen), which increases transparency and accountability in the Commonwealth's elections by reforming fiscal reporting requirements.

The depository reporting system, run through the Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF)—the independent state agency that administers Massachusetts' campaign finance law—directs candidates for public office to submit to stringent campaign finance reporting requirements. Previously the legislature and some mayoral candidates were exempt from the law that requires statewide, county and many other municipal candidates to use this reporting system. An Act relative to campaign finance remedies this disparity by requiring that all legislative and mayoral candidates in Massachusetts participate in the depository system.

"It's important that voters be able to quickly access information about who is donating to candidates and where candidates are spending their money," said DiZoglio. "This law takes a step in the right direction by moving legislators into the depository

system and requiring that we file our reports more often. It's essential that we move forward with improving good government practices and I'm grateful that this legislation has been enacted into law before the New Year."

By including all legislative and mayoral candidates in the depository reporting system, the law increases accountability by requiring more frequent reports disclosing campaign contributions and confirmation of expenditures reported in monthly statements filed by their designated financial institutions. By increasing filing frequency and pairing candidate disclosures with bank reporting, the law enhances transparency in statewide campaign finance activity.

The revised process will assist OCPF in identifying discrepancies between candidates' public disclosures of campaign finance activity and their bank accounting records, allowing OCPF to more promptly address issues associated with data entry errors, missed deposits, balance issues and uncashed checks. In addition, the change will make it easier to see how much money a candidate is raising and spending during the course of the entire election cycle.

# GLCAC nombra una nueva directora de operaciones



El Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc., le da la bienvenida a Bobette Williams como nueva directora de operaciones de la agencia.

Williams viene a GLCAC con más de 16 años de experiencia en organizaciones sin fines de lucro, donde estuvo a cargo de operaciones, desarrollo de relaciones y fomento de la participación comunitaria.

"Bobbi le aportará un gran caudal

de conocimientos y compasión a nuestra agencia", dijo Evelyn Friedman, directora ejecutiva de GLCAC. "Estamos encantados de que se haya sumado a nuestro equipo, y esperamos con interés su orientación firme y visión positiva para seguir prestando servicios a la población más vulnerable de nuestra región".

Williams se desempeñó previamente como directora de operaciones en Westport Weston Family YMCA, en Connecticut, y como directora ejecutiva de la rama suburbana de la Región Norte de la YMCA del Gran Boston. También trabajó en The Granite YMCA, en Manchester, New Hampshire.

En su nueva función, Williams colaborará con Friedman para dirigir GLCAC. Trabajará directamente con el equipo de altos directivos de la agencia y con los directores de programas para garantizar su buen funcionamiento.

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.

## GLCAC Names New Chief Operating Officer

The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. welcomes Bobette Williams as the agency's new chief operating officer.

Williams comes to GLCAC with more than 16 years of experience in non-profit operations, relationship building and community engagement.

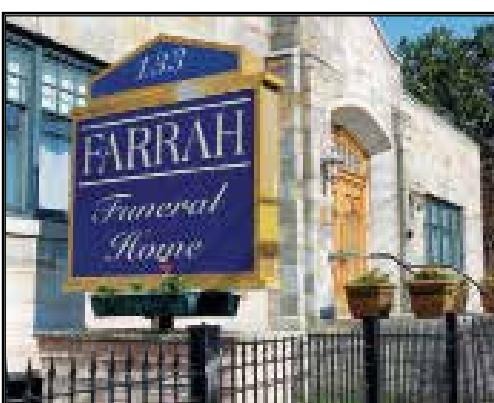
"Bobbi brings a wealth of expertise and compassion to the agency," said GLCAC Executive Director Evelyn Friedman. "We are thrilled she has joined our team and look forward to her steady hand and positive outlook as the agency continues to serve the region's most vulnerable population."

Williams has previously served as the COO at the Westport Weston Family YMCA

in Connecticut and the executive director of the YMCA of Greater Boston, North Suburban Branch. She has also worked at The Granite YMCA in Manchester, N.H.

In her new role, Williams will partner with Friedman to lead GLCAC. She will work directly with the agency's senior management team and program directors to ensure the smooth operation of all programs.

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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# A Cause for Giving Reception

## Held at the home of Maureen and Al Yadgood in North Andover

Friends and supporters of the Lawrence YMCA gathered on a beautiful September night to learn about how the Y makes an impact on so many children, adults and families in the community. The evening was held in support of the Lawrence YMCA

Capital Campaign, which is raising funds for a multi-phased expansion and renovation of the Lawrence YMCA to increase the Y's capacity to provide needed programs in the community.

The party was hosted by Maureen and Al Yadgood and Deborah and Greg Schmidt and was held at the Yadgood home in North Andover on September 19, 2019. For more information on the Lawrence YMCA Capital Campaign, please visit [www.mvymca.org/impact](http://www.mvymca.org/impact).



Gretchen Papineau, Patti Fouhy, Tom Papineau, and MVYMCA Board of Directors member John Fouhy.



Elisa Jacobs, MVYMCA Board of Directors member and Lawrence Y Board Chair Kathleen Costello, and John Jacobs.



MVYMCA President and CEO Frank Kenneally with Lawrence YMCA Board members Katherine Montero and Felix Garcia and Adelante teacher Bo Baird.

**Mayor Jim Fiorentini**

Thank you Haverhill!

Dear residents,

I am so deeply honored and humbled by the vote of confidence in the last election.

It was a hard fought election, and I was very grateful for support.

Haverhill is a city of around 63,000 people. There will always be problems to solve and challenges to meet—crime and schools and fire stations — the list is endless. I see the election not as an affirmation that we don't have problems. All cities do. I see it as confidence that I can continue to work on them.

So thank you Haverhill for the confidence you have shown in me. I worked very hard in this election. I make you only ONE promise. I will work just as hard to continue to move our city forward.

As always, if I can ever be of service, do not hesitate to call upon me.

Your Mayor,

Jim



Party hosts Alvin Yadgood, Lawrence YMCA Board Secretary Maureen Yadgood, Lawrence YMCA Board member Debra Schmidt and MVYMCA Board of Directors member Greg Schmidt.



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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/](http://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](mailto: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:

- 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](http://symphonynh.org).

Cardholders can get 20 percent off tickets to New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra concerts. Check out their 2019-2020 season at [nhphil.org](http://nhphil.org).

Merrimack Repertory Theatre offers \$10 off tickets. Their season is listed at [mrt.org/show/2019-20-season-shows](http://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](http://nashualibrary.org/services/museum-passes-2). Or call 603-589-4611.

### 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, 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.

## NECC Soccer Players Earn Recognition



Anthony Bellomo of Salem, NH



Ethan Rousseau of Haverhill

Anthony Bellomo of Salem, NH, and Ethan Rousseau of Haverhill, who are members of the relaunched Northern Essex Community College men's soccer team have been selected to the Region 21 All-Region teams as chosen and announced by the Region 21 men's soccer committee. The Knights concluded the season with a 6-8-1 overall record and 4-4 record in Region 21 play, to mark the return of the sport to the college for the first time since the mid 1990's.

Bellomo, a first team honoree was the regional leader in saves with 167 and was second in save percentage with a .852 mark. His save total also ranked fourth nationally. He played every minute in goal for the Knights over the course of the season as the team fell one game shy of a birth into the region 21 post-season tournament.

Rousseau, a second team selection anchored the team at the center midfield position. He started all 15 games on the season and finished with one goal and four

assists, while also stepping back to help the back line on the defensive side of the ball when called upon.

Looking to build upon their first season successes, the Knights are looking forward to their spring training season and the 2020 campaign, which is scheduled to open on September 3rd against Southern Maine Community College in Haverhill.

Those interested in the men's soccer program should contact head coach Eusebio Marote at [emarote@necc.mass.edu](mailto:emarote@necc.mass.edu).

NECC competes as a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and sponsors 12 varsity intercollegiate sports including baseball, men's basketball, women's basketball, softball, women's volleyball, men's and women's cross country, men's soccer, Esports and men's and women's track and field. For more information on Northern Essex Community College Athletics please visit the official website of Northern Essex Athletics).

### Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

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Haverhill –Tuesday, December 3, 2019. The MVPC Executive Director Steering Committee will meet Tuesday, December 3 at 2 p.m. at the MVPC offices, 160 Main Street, Haverhill.

For more information call Nancy Lavallee at 978-374-0519 or email [nlavallee@mvpc.org](mailto:nlavallee@mvpc.org)

## Buon Giorno Good Morning Buenas Tardes

Every Sunday, beginning at 9AM to 11AM with Sicilian, Italian, English, Rock 'n Roll music and Así es Colombia.



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## CALENDARIO | CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Nevins Memorial Library Children's Room Programs: December 2019

December brings a variety of special and seasonal programs, in addition to our usual collection of morning, after-school, and evening offerings. Highlights include a new weekly Creative Drama Club for grades 5-8, a new Craft Club for grades 4-6), our annual 'Twas the Night before Christmas program (don't forget to register!), and a Stuffed Animal Sleepover. Check out our calendar, and join the fun! [www.nevinslibrary.org](http://www.nevinslibrary.org).

Babies & Books (up to 24 months) Dec. 3, 10, 13, 17, 28 at 9:30am	'Twas the Night before Christmas (ages 3-8) Dec. 18, 6:30pm
Read & Play (ages 2-3) "Dancing" (Dec. 3, 10:30am) "Food" (Dec. 10, 10:30am) "Farm Animals" (Dec. 13, 10:30am)	Sensory Storytime (ages 4 and up) Dec. 7, 11am
Holiday Tales (ages 2-3) Dec. 17, 10:30am	Story & Craft (grades K-3) "Reindeer" (Dec. 21, 2pm)
Bilingual Play Group (ages 3-6) Dec. 12, 10am	Holiday Model Train Village (grades K-4) Dec. 26, 2pm
Preschool Storytime (ages 3-6) "Unicorns" (Dec. 4, 1pm) "Bath Time!" (Dec. 5, 10am) "Arctic Animals" (Dec. 9, 10am) "Dragons" (Dec. 11, 1pm)	LEGO Block Party (grades K-4) Dec. 14, 2 pm
Science Explorers (ages 3-6) "Snow and Ice" (Dec. 4, 10am)	Book Chatters Book Group: The Lost Hero (grades 4-6) Dec. 3, 7pm
Donuts with Dad (ages 3-8) "December Holidays" (Dec. 21, 10am)	Craft Club: Holiday String Ornaments (grades 4-6) Dec. 21, 4:30pm
Family Storytime (ages 3-8) "Winter Trees" (Dec. 10, 6:30pm)	Creative Drama Club (grades 5-8) Dec. 3, 10, 17, 5pm
	Stuffed Animal Sleepover (all ages) Dec. 26, 6pm

### 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) 416-2020, ext. 405  
Or email [NETTP@voamass.org](mailto:NETTP@voamass.org)

### SUDOKU (Respuestas/Answers pg 23)

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**Lawrence Firefighters Union, AFL-CIO Local 146**  
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**Friday, December 13, 2019**  
**Lawrence Firefighter's Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser**  
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Our floating obstacle course in the pool is fun for all ages. Please note that every child under 6 years old must have an adult in the water with them. We will have hot chocolate available after the swim.



For more information contact, Jess Murray at 978-686-6191 or email at [jmurray@mvymca.org](mailto:jmurray@mvymca.org).

# Ansha Sholum at 100



An exhibit celebrating 100 years of Congregation Ansha Sholum in Lawrence, MA

December 1- 28, 2019  
in the Gallery of Lawrence Heritage State Park  
1 Jackson Street, Lawrence, MA 01840  
Open daily 9-4

Opening reception Sunday, December 1, 1-3 p.m., which includes a discussion of the Children of Abraham Cemetery by Bill Porteous.

Congregation Ansha Sholum was once called "the Little Shul Across the Spicket." It is now the last surviving synagogue in the city. The exhibit chronicles the history of the congregation and the wider Jewish community, and was curated by members of the synagogue and artist Kate Delaney

The exhibit is made possible in part by a grant from the Mass Cultural Council.

More information:

Lawrence Heritage State Park: 978-794-1655

Congregation Ansha Sholum: 978-237-0241

[anshasholumlawrence@gmail.com](mailto:anshasholumlawrence@gmail.com)

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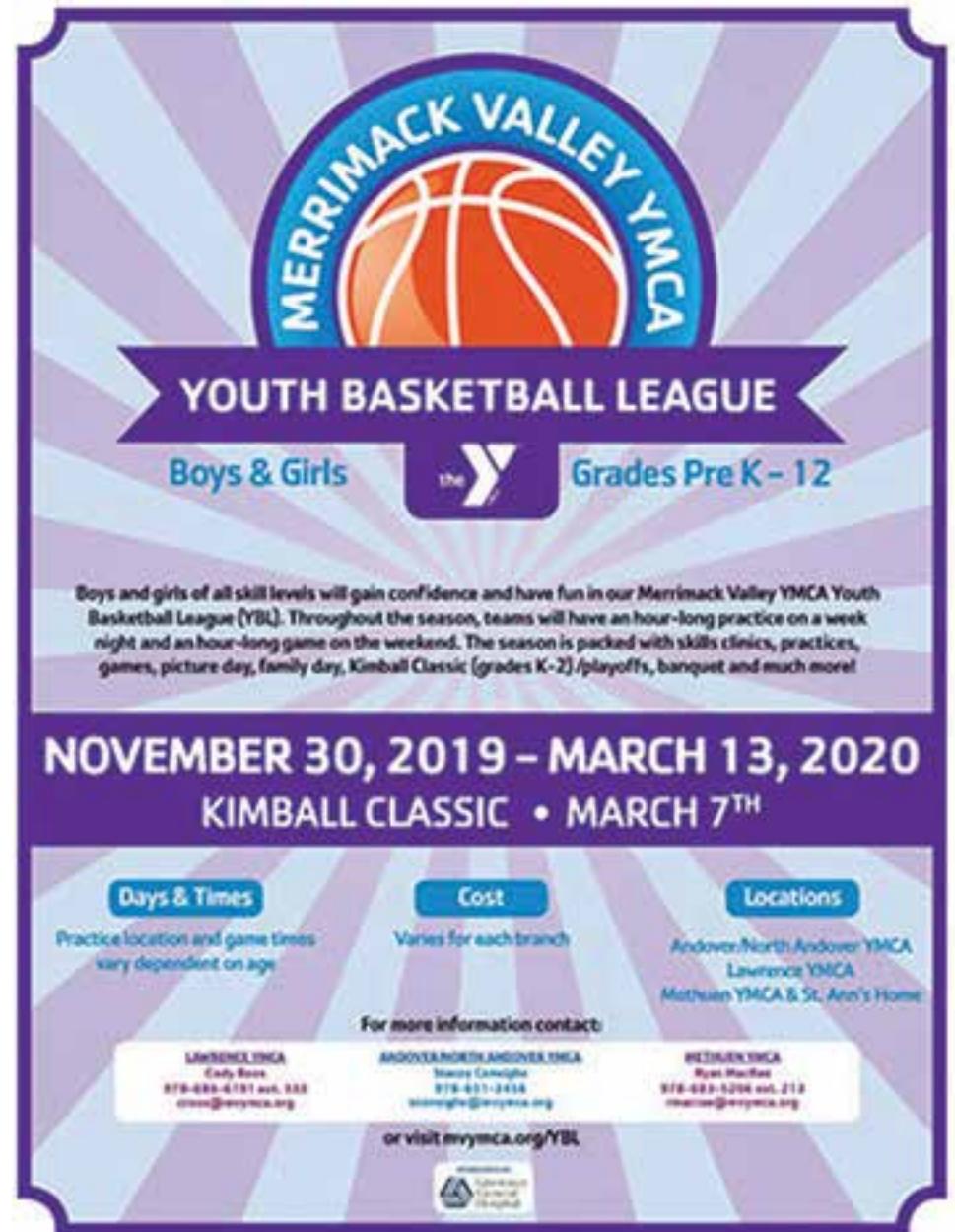
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*The Nativity Play*



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



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Boys & Girls      the Y      Grades Pre K - 12

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Days & Times	Cost	Locations
Practice location and game times vary dependent on age	Varies for each branch	Andover/North Andover YMCA Lawrence YMCA Methuen YMCA & St. Ann's Home
For more information contact: <b>Lawrence YMCA</b> Cathy Rose 978-488-6781 ext. 328 <a href="mailto:crose@mvymca.org">crose@mvymca.org</a>		
<b>ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER YMCA</b> Teresa Coniglio 978-651-2454 <a href="mailto:tconiglio@mvymca.org">tconiglio@mvymca.org</a>		
<b>METHUEN YMCA</b> Ryan MacLean 978-623-5204 ext. 213 <a href="mailto:rmaclean@mvymca.org">rmaclean@mvymca.org</a>		
or visit <a href="http://mvymca.org/YBL">mvymca.org/YBL</a>		

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— Warren Beatty



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Roberto Clemente League  
Invite you to our Event:

*The Nativity Play*

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



ROBERTO CLEMENTE LEAGUE  
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DECEMBER 14  
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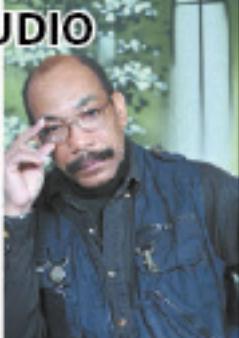
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**SUDOKU** Respuestas/Answers

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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](mailto:heallawrence@aol.com)  
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