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The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

NO PERMITA QUE EL CONCEJO MUNICIPAL DE LAWRENCE VIOLE SUS DERECHOS - VEA LOS SIGUIENTES ARTÍCULOS:

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¡Ya está bueno! No más a la supresión // Enough is enough! No more suppression

Por / By José A. Ayala - Pg. 6

Letter sent to Secretary of State William Galvin - Pg. 7

El Departamento de Comercio de EE.UU. Otorga \$600k a Lawrence Partnership

Los fondos se utilizarán para apoyar la expansión de la iniciativa Revolving Test Kitchen, para invertir en pequeñas empresas locales de alimentos en Lawrence.



Por Nate Robertson

La Comisión de Planificación de Merrimack Valley junto con la Congresista Lori Trahan, el Senador Edward J. Markey, la Senadora Elizabeth Warren, la Ciudad de Lawrence y Lawrence Partnership anunciaron que la Administración de Desarrollo Económico de los Estados Unidos (EDA) ha otorgado una subvención federal de \$600,000 a Lawrence Partnership, una amplia coalición de líderes empresariales y cívicos. Esta financiación federal se utilizará para apoyar la expansión de su iniciativa Revolving Test Kitchen (RTK), una incubadora para invertir en pequeñas empresas locales de alimentos en Lawrence, Massachusetts. Esta expansión permitirá que RTK aumente sus operaciones y preste servicios a una docena de negocios de alimentos en Lawrence a la vez. El proyecto fue posible gracias a los esfuerzos de planificación regional liderados por la Comisión de Planificación de Merrimack Valley.

“En un momento en que los restaurantes, empresas de catering, panaderos, camioneros de comida y otras empresas de alimentos

se enfrentan a desafíos sin precedentes debido al COVID-19, esta financiación no podría ser más importante”, dijo la Congresista Trahan. “Combinada con las contribuciones de los inversionistas locales, esta inversión federal en el modelo probado de la cocina giratoria de prueba brindará a más pequeñas empresas acceso a fondos vitales y, al mismo tiempo, creará 100 nuevos empleos en el proceso. Me enorgullece haberme asociado con el Senador Markey para apoyar la concesión de esta subvención, y espero con interés nuestro trabajo continuo con el Alcalde Rivera, la Comisión de Planificación Regional y Lawrence Partnership para cumplir con la ciudad”.

“El impacto del coronavirus está golpeando a Lawrence de manera desproporcionada”, dijo el Senador Markey. “Este financiamiento federal ayudará a mitigar el impacto en las empresas al otorgar fondos, así como la perspectiva de una mayor creación de empleo, una mayor resiliencia del vecindario y un desarrollo económico general. Estoy orgulloso de haber ayudado a asegurar los fondos federales con mis colegas y los

funcionarios de Lawrence necesarios para apoyar esta iniciativa vital”.

“Esta crisis está ejerciendo mucha presión sobre los propietarios de pequeñas empresas, sus familias y empleados”, dijo la Senadora Warren. “Esta inversión federal en la expansión de la iniciativa Revolving Test Kitchen (RTK) ayudará a impulsar

las pequeñas empresas de alimentos en Lawrence y ayudará a impulsar la economía local”.

“Gracias a los Senadores Markey y Warren y a la Congresista Trahan por su continua dedicación e inversión al espíritu empresarial, especialmente en Lawrence”, dijo el Alcalde Daniel Rivera. “Esta

Por favor vea **LAWRENCE PARTNERSHIP**

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Read it in English on page 18

4th Annual Mayor's Holiday Fest to End Youth Homelessness



Pictured Left to Right: Frank Heslin, Amanda Mallardo from CTI, State Senator Ed Kennedy, James Ostis, Carl Howell from CTI, John Geer, Mayor John Leahy, and Lucy the Dog.

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Por/By Dalia Diaz
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No deje que el Concejo se salga con la suya.

Desde Mi Esquina

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Por/By Dalia Diaz
rumbonews.com/blog

Don't let the City Council get away with it!

From My Corner

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4ta Fiesta Anual de la Alcaldía para acabar con la falta de vivienda de los jóvenes continúa con la rifa de recaudación de fondos

A pesar de las limitaciones de este año en las reuniones sociales, el Alcalde John Leahy tiene la intención de continuar la tradición de la exitosa campaña de recaudación de fondos Holiday Rock n' Roll del alcalde iniciada por el Senador Ed Kennedy y el ex Alcalde Bill Samaras, mediante la celebración de una rifa para recaudar fondos para esta importante causa. En los últimos tres años, los alcaldes Kennedy y Samaras han recaudado más de \$60,000.

Community Teamwork estima que hay más de 100 jóvenes en Lowell cada año que experimentan la falta de vivienda por una variedad de razones que incluyen conflictos y abusos familiares, identidad sexual, embarazo, adicción o problemas de salud mental, contacto con el sistema de justicia juvenil u orfanato. Esta población de jóvenes en riesgo a menudo se pasa por alto. En respuesta a la necesidad, el Programa de Servicios Juveniles de Community Teamwork ha construido el Youth Opportunity Center (YOC), un espacio capaz de tratar casos de traumas en 167 Dutton Street, para brindar servicios e intervención en crisis para jóvenes sin hogar y en riesgo entre las edades de 16 y 24.

“Aunque echaremos de menos las bandas musicales y, por supuesto, las canciones de Connie Martin, Miembro del Comité Escolar de Lowell y Directora de la División de CTI, esperamos que la comunidad se una para ayudarnos a

recaudar fondos nuevamente este año para continuar brindando servicios importantes a nuestra juventud más vulnerable de la ciudad,” dijo el Alcalde John Leahy.

El sorteo de FACEBOOK LIVE (@MayorofLowellMA) se llevará a cabo el MARTES 22 DE DICIEMBRE A LAS 4PM. Los boletos de la rifa cuestan \$50 cada uno y brindan la oportunidad de ganar uno de estos premios que se enumeran a continuación:

- Guitarra firmada por el dúo de música country Martin y Kelly, incluido el paquete de premios
- Un día de belleza en la boutique de maquillaje y cuidado de la piel de Joni
- Un día de belleza, corte de pelo y coloración por Swank Boutique
- Un pastel de pollo famoso de Lenzi's gratis cada mes durante 12 meses
 - Varios artículos icónicos de la estación de radio local 980 WCAP

Los boletos se pueden comprar en www.commteam.org/mayorsholidayfest.org. También hay patrocinios disponibles. Todas las donaciones recaudadas a través de la rifa del festival del alcalde ayudarán a Community Teamwork a continuar sus esfuerzos para prevenir la falta de vivienda de los jóvenes.

Visite www.commteam.org/youth-services para obtener más información.

4th Annual Mayor's Holiday Fest to End Youth Homelessness Carries on with RAFFLE Fundraiser

In spite of this year's limitations on social gatherings, Mayor John Leahy intends to continue the tradition of the successful Mayor's Holiday Rock n' Roll Fundraiser tradition begun by Senator Ed Kennedy and former Mayor Bill Samaras, by holding a Raffle to raise money for this important cause. In the three years past, Mayor's Kennedy and Samaras have raised over \$60K.

Community Teamwork estimates that there are over 100 young people in Lowell each year who are experiencing homelessness for a variety of reasons including family conflict and abuse, sexual identity, pregnancy, addiction or mental health issues, contact with the juvenile justice system or aging out of foster care. This at-risk youth population is often overlooked. In response to the need, Community Teamwork's Youth Services Program has built out the Youth Opportunity Center (YOC), a trauma-informed space at 167 Dutton Street, to provide low barrier services and crisis intervention to homeless and at-risk youth between the ages of 16-24.

“Although we will miss the bands, and of course singing from Connie Martin, Lowell School Committee Woman, and CTI Division Director, we hope the community will come together to help

us raise funds again this year in order to continue to provide important services to our most vulnerable youth in the city,” Mayor John Leahy said.

The FACEBOOK LIVE (@MayorofLowellMA) drawing will be held on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22ND AT 4PM. Raffle Tickets are \$50 each and provides a chance to win one of these prizes listed below:

- Guitar Signed by Country Music duo Martin and Kelly, including Prize Pack
- A Day of Beauty by Joni's Makeup and Skincare Boutique
- A Day of Beauty, Haircut and Coloring by Swank Boutique
- A Free Lenzi's Famous Chicken Pie each month for 12 months
- Various Iconic Items from Local Radio Station 980 WCAP

Tickets can be purchased at www.commteam.org/mayorsholidayfest.org. Sponsorships are also available. All donations raised through the Mayor's Holiday Fest Raffle will help Community Teamwork continue their efforts to prevent youth homelessness.

Visit www.commteam.org/youth-services for more information.

Datos de la FTC de nuevos casos destacan el amplio alcance de las estafas que hacen promesas falsas de grandes ingresos

La Comisión Federal de Comercio, junto con 19 socios del cumplimiento de la ley federales, estatales y locales anunciaron hoy una ofensiva a nivel nacional contra las estafas que apuntan a consumidores con promesas falsas de ingresos e independencia financiera fuera de toda realidad. El impacto de estas estafas se ha intensificado a medida que los estafadores se aprovechan de la crisis financiera y la pandemia de COVID-19.

Denominada “Operación Ilusión de Ingresos”, la operación incluye más de 50 acciones judiciales contra los operadores de estafas relacionadas con trabajo desde casa y empleo, esquemas piramidales, estafas de inversiones, cursos de capacitación falsos y otros esquemas que pueden terminar costando miles de dólares a los consumidores.

Las estafas de ingresos tienen un efecto masivo en los consumidores, según un nuevo análisis de los datos de denuncias de la FTC. Los consumidores han reportado a la FTC que perdieron más de \$610 millones en estas estafas desde 2016, con pérdidas reportadas de más de \$150 millones en los primeros nueve meses de 2020. Las estafas de ingresos que la FTC ha perseguido a través de sus acciones judiciales colectivamente defraudaron más de mil millones de dólares a los consumidores.

“Los estafadores se están aprovechando del desempleo y la ansiedad resultante de la pandemia haciendo promesas falsas de grandes ingresos con trabajos desde casa”, dijo Andrew Smith, Director del Buró de Protección del Consumidor de la FTC. “Si alguien le promete ingresos garantizados, pero luego le dice que le pague, reporte el hecho de inmediato a la FTC para que podamos cerrar ese tipo de estafa”.

Algunos de los esquemas perseguidos en la Operación Ilusión de Ingresos tuvieron un impacto notable en uno o más grupos específicos: estudiantes, familias de militares, personas con ingresos fijos limitados, inmigrantes, afroamericanos, latinos, comunidades de personas sordas y con discapacidad auditiva o adultos mayores. Un nuevo análisis explora qué grupos de consumidores eran más propensos a verse afectados en ciertas acciones de estafas de ingresos investigadas por la FTC.

La FTC anuncia nuevos casos y un nuevo acuerdo contra estafadores de ingresos

Digital Income System: La denuncia de la FTC alega que la estafa basada en Florida prometía falsamente a los consumidores que al vender membresías

en los programas de los acusados, los consumidores probablemente ganarían grandes sumas de dinero. Por ejemplo, el sitio web decía, “los consumidores ganarán entre \$500 y \$12,500 por venta” y “cada vez que uno de nuestros profesionales cierre una venta en su nombre, le enviaremos un suculento cheque de comisión directamente a su domicilio”. Los acusados supuestamente cobraron a los consumidores una cantidad sustancial de dinero, que fluctuaba entre \$1,000 y \$25,000. Sin embargo, la denuncia establece que la gran mayoría de los consumidores que pagaron a los acusados nunca obtuvieron ingresos sustanciales y, de hecho, muchos consumidores no ganaron nada. La denuncia alega que los acusados violaron tanto la Ley de la FTC como la Regla de Oportunidades Comerciales. El voto de la Comisión para autorizar al personal a presentar una demanda contra Digital Income System, Inc.; Derek Jones Foley, William Foley, Christopher Brandon Frye, Jennifer Hedrick y Kaitlyn Scott fue de 5-0. El caso fue presentado en la Corte Federal de Distrito para el Distrito Sur de Florida.

Moda Latina: La demanda de la FTC alega que la compañía dirige sus acciones específicamente a las consumidoras latinas en anuncios televisivos en español con promesas falsas de ganancias con trabajo desde el hogar. Los acusados supuestamente embaucan a los consumidores para que compren un negocio de trabajo desde casa con la falsa promesa de que los consumidores obtendrán “grandes ganancias” al revender productos de lujo como, por ejemplo, perfumes de marca. Las tergiversaciones alegadas en la demanda incluyen “¿Quiere tener su propio negocio y ganar hasta mil dólares por semana?” y “¿Crisis? ¿De qué crisis me habla? Me olvidé de eso desde que comencé a vender con Perfume Box. Me cambió mi vida y mi economía por completo.”) La demanda también alega que los vendedores telefónicos de los acusados amenazan habitualmente a los consumidores en violación de la Regla de Ventas de Telemercado. Desde marzo de 2017 hasta agosto de 2020, alega la FTC, los demandados defraudaron más de \$7 millones a consumidores que compraron sus oportunidades de trabajo desde casa, pero que nunca obtuvieron las ganancias prometidas. El voto de la Comisión para autorizar al personal a presentar una demanda contra Moda Latina BZ Inc., Esther Virginia Fernandez Aguirre y Marco Cesar Zarate Quiroz fue de 5-0. El caso se presentó ante la Corte Federal de Distrito para el Distrito Central de California.

Rumbo

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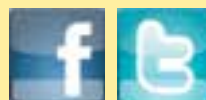
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POR DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



¡No deje que el concejo se salga con la suya!

Hay otros artículos en esta edición sobre la renuncia del alcalde y las próximas elecciones especiales, así que no voy a detenerme en el mismo tema. Quiero aclarar por qué estamos en este lío como resultado de su partida.

Danny ha estado buscando trabajo durante los últimos dos años y sabíamos que quería salir de aquí antes de que la proverbial suciedad explote. Ha estado asistiendo a entrevistas para muchos puestos importantes, incluso para aquellos para los que no estaba calificado, como el de la UMass porque no tiene experiencia en educación. ¡Por supuesto, no fue considerado!

Finalmente, nos estamos deshaciendo de él pero, como muchos que dejan la administración o incluso se mudan de Lawrence, quieren mantenerse al tanto de todo lo que sucede aquí. Se sabe que algunos permanecen como votantes registrados durante muchos años. Dan quiere irse pero tiene ciertas condiciones antes de irse.

Se ha estado reuniendo en su casa con sus seguidores más cercanos confabulando cómo manejarían su partida, incluido dejar a Kendrys Vásquez cobrando su salario ahora que está desempleado y darle nueve meses a su reemplazo escogida para hacer campaña para las primarias de septiembre.

El plan que surgió de eso violaba las reglas estipuladas en los Estatutos de la Ciudad que requieren que se realice una Elección Especial dentro de los 90 días. El alcalde interino debe servir durante ese período y debe ser designado por los miembros del concejo de la ciudad. En este caso, el alcalde decidió que Kendrys debería ser el indicado, ignorando una vez más los mandatos de la Carta Constitucional. Mi interpretación es que quiere mantener sus dedos encima de las cosas. ¿Por qué no Marc Laplante? Es el concejal mejor calificado para convertirse en alcalde interino durante los próximos 90 días.

Entre las razones mencionadas para no tener una Elección Especial es que ya no tenemos un Secretario Municipal. ¡Eso es un gran insulto para Richard Reyes! Solo mire la última reunión del concejo cuando otorgaron \$275 a Eileen Bernal por asistir a las reuniones del concejo, Richard, quien asumirá toda la responsabilidad como secretario interino, no recibió un aumento o estipendio, y eso que trabaja para el concejo, no para alcalde.

Sin embargo, la variable faltante que no se está considerando es la culminación de continuos ataques a la Oficina del Secretario y la Oficina de Elecciones durante muchos años. No es ningún secreto lo mucho que este alcalde ha intentado despedir a Bill Maloney (probablemente para acomodar a otro amigo) y las consecuencias adversas de estos "ataques" hicieron que asumiera muchas de las funciones y responsabilidades provocadas por la pérdida de personal.

Cuando se anunció su retiro en la reunión del concejo el mes pasado, el concejal Laplante habló muy bien de sus 29 años al servicio de la ciudad y agregó algo relativo al hecho de que se va por decisión propia. Entendí que se refería a la forma en que el alcalde lo había amenazado durante años.

Esto no debe restar valor al extraordinario personal permanente que superó el impacto de la reducción de personal e incluso la pandemia trabajando durante dos semanas de cuarentena cuando el personal electoral contrajo el coronavirus en septiembre de 2020 y se intensificó para asegurar que se brindaran todos los servicios electorales requeridos, sin problemas a pesar de las probabilidades a favor del fracaso. El trabajo de Richard Reyes, Dan Tavor, Rubén Pérez, Lourdes Alvarado, Henry Checo, Carole Morin, Damarys Ruiz, e incluso las recientes nuevas integrantes del personal Lisbeth Perdomo y Jenniffer Jiménez deben ser aplaudidos y destacados por hacer posible lo imposible.

"La pérdida de cualquiera de estos trabajadores en cualquier momento durante los últimos 6 a 9 meses puede resultar en la falla del servicio prestado por la Secretaría y/o la Oficina de Elecciones o peor aún, una Elección Primaria o Estatal fallida", Bill Maloney me dijo con orgullo después de las elecciones de noviembre. "Sin embargo, los extraordinarios esfuerzos del personal para brindar los servicios requeridos/obligatorios siguen sin ser reconocidos ni recompensados".

Negar un apoyo presupuestario significativo y la falta de asegurar la dotación de personal adecuada para las funciones constitucionales (elecciones) y los servicios públicos obligatorios (oficina del secretario de la ciudad) mediante reducciones de personal y permitir que los puestos permanezcan vacantes durante seis meses como método para recuperar los fondos perdidos en el pago del servicio llegó a un punto culminante con la jubilación de la secretaria asistente

Carole Morin, seguida por la jubilación del secretario municipal seis meses después. Este no es un desarrollo nuevo, sino el resultado de una mala política y operación administrativa a lo largo de los años".

La pregunta es si abordar estos asuntos ahora revertirá el impacto de las políticas implementadas a lo largo de los años para permitir que se lleve a cabo una Elección Especial como lo requiere la Carta de la Ciudad.

El Estatuto de la Ciudad asigna al Concejo Municipal para llevar a cabo y supervisar las elecciones mientras permite que la Administración proporcione el personal del que depende el Concejo Municipal para implementar funciones que el Concejo es responsable de implementar. Las dos funciones se oponen si cualquiera de las ramas del gobierno decide no cumplir con sus obligaciones de la Carta Constitucional. Sin embargo, es el concejo el que conserva la máxima autoridad en todos los aspectos.

Esta no es una crítica a las operaciones gubernamentales. Lejos de eso; es una

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.

"observación".

No creo que el virus sea una buena razón para cancelar las Elecciones Especiales. Acabamos de tener una elección presidencial y el 58% de los votantes registrados salió a cumplir con su deber. ¡Eso fue increíble! Con la votación en ausencia, la votación por correo, la votación anticipada y la votación en persona, es muy seguro participar en esta elección.

Lo mismo ocurre con el dinero. El alcalde acaba de pedir prestados \$6 millones este año y nadie sabe dónde se están gastando. Además, presume de tener \$15 millones en la cuenta de efectivo. Podemos tomar fácilmente de allí, independientemente de los costos de las elecciones especiales.

La excusa más pobre que escuché hasta ahora es que la ciudad pasará por la molestia de demasiados cambios para el próximo año, pero eso no es lo suficientemente bueno. Dejemos que el pueblo elija lo que manda la ley.

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Por José A. Ayala

¿Qué es lo que pasa?



El Alcalde de Lawrence Daniel Rivera está dejando el puesto después que el Gobernador Charlie Baker lo nominó y fue confirmado como presidente de Mass Development.

Todos en Lawrence estamos super felices por este gran logro para él, su familia, la comunidad latina y los residentes de Massachusetts.

¿Y ahora qué pasará con la silla de Rivera?

Simple y lamentable. Algunos concejales proponen arrebataros nuestro derecho a elegir un nuevo alcalde como dice la ley. Ellos se refugian en la pandemia y el gasto que conlleva la celebración de unas elecciones especiales.

Tuvimos unas elecciones primarias en septiembre entre Markey y Kennedy, y luego celebramos elecciones presidenciales y congresuales, y sí: ¡Todo en medio de la pandemia! Y se hicieron elecciones porque algunos de estos concejales no tenían otra opción porque eran elecciones estatales y nacionales.

El Charter de la Ciudad (la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad), requiere que en los próximos 90 días a partir de cuándo el alcalde abandona oficialmente el cargo los votantes de Lawrence deben elegir un nuevo alcalde a través de una elección especial. Quien resulte ganador/a completaría el período restante del alcalde saliente. (Mire lo que establece la Constitución de Massachusetts y el Charter de la Ciudad de Lawrence sobre la ley del Home Rule Petition y la elección de un alcalde interino).

Esta es una traducción íntegra de lo que dice el Charter de Lawrence en su párrafo (b), sección 4.11 (Vacante en el Puesto de Alcalde):

“Si se produce una vacante en el cargo de alcalde después de los primeros cuarenta y dos meses del término para el cual se elige al alcalde, el secretario municipal convocará inmediatamente una reunión especial del Concejo de la Ciudad y este elegirá por mayoría de votos, uno de sus miembros para servir como alcalde. Si el concejo de la ciudad no elige a uno de sus miembros dentro de los catorce días siguientes de la fecha de la reunión convocada por el secretario, el presidente del concejo deberá convertirse en el alcalde. Tras la elección y calificación de cualquier miembro del concejo como Alcalde Interino, se considerará vacante su cargo de concejal.”

El plan de los concejales tiene dos etapas, pero lograrlo depende de usted y nuestros legisladores.

Etapas 1: Escuchar el anuncio oficial del Alcalde Dan Rivera sobre su partida. Luego seleccionar al concejal del Distrito C, Kendrys Vásquez, como alcalde

interino, no por 90 días como dice la ley, sino hasta enero del 2022.

Etapas 2: Utilizar como “mensajeros y promotores” de esta idea a la delegación de Lawrence: el Senador Barry Finegold y los Representantes de Lawrence Frank Morán y Marcos Devers con el apoyo de otros legisladores locales para que presenten y empujen su aprobación en nombre de los residentes de Lawrence una “Petición de Autonomía” (Home Rule Petition) para lograr que no se lleve a cabo una elección especial para un alcalde interino sino que sea seleccionado por los concejales, no por 90 días, sino hasta enero del 2022.

No pude encontrar ningún caso donde la ley del Home Rule Petition haya sido utilizada por una ciudad de Massachusetts para impedir el derecho de la gente a elegir y ser elegido. Este es uno de los derechos punteros protegidos por la Constitución y ninguna ordenanza local ni ley estatal puede entrar en contradicción con la Constitución.

No sólo sería anti-democrático sino que ellos estarían abusando el uso de la Autoridad de Autonomía que la Constitución de Massachusetts otorga a las ciudades y pueblos desde que ésta fue enmendada en 1966.

Lo que pretenden hacer los proponentes de este plan, quizás sin quererlo, es abusar de su poder de concejal y mostrar una impresionante insensibilidad precisamente por la pandemia del COVID-19. Y lo que molesta es que ellos saben que al residente se le hace imposible asistir a la reunión del martes, 15 de diciembre por las restricciones sanitarias impuestas por la Ciudad y el Estado. La reunión del martes será entre ellos, pero de forma virtual. ¡Así sí es bueno! ¿Verdad?

El impedir que los residentes de Lawrence seleccionen a quién los va a dirigir, agrede una tradición establecida por décadas; viola el juramento de los concejales sobre su compromiso con los contribuyentes y los votantes, y su promesa de cumplir y hacer cumplir las ordenanzas del Charter de la Ciudad y las leyes de Massachusetts.

Los concejales que empujan esta propuesta quieren hacer un traje a la medida de la persona que quieren dejar en el puesto de alcalde. Esta es una manera sutil disfrazada de legalidad para suprimir una vez más el derecho las comunidades inmigrantes como Lawrence a su derecho al libre ejercicio de la democracia a través de la elección de sus autoridades.

¿Qué puedes hacer para reclamar tu derecho a elegir al Alcalde de Lawrence?

Los concejales necesitan escuchar de ti y todos tus amigos y familiares de Lawrence. Déjales saber que a pesar de la pandemia, tú sólo quieres un concejal como alcalde por un máximo de 90 días y votar luego por el alcalde que tú quieras, no el que te impongan lo cual es una violación a tu facultad de elegir a tus autoridades. Es tu derecho. ¡Defiéndelo!

Enough is enough! No more suppression of the voting rights of Lawrence residents.

Wake up resident of Lawrence. Your turn is at this very moment. Get on the ball and report it.

Tell councilors and legislators in Boston not to deny you your right to vote for the next mayor.

By José A. Ayala

What is the matter?



Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera is stepping down after Governor Charlie Baker nominated him and he was confirmed as president of Mass Development. Everyone in Lawrence is super

happy about this great achievement for him, his family, the Latino community, and the residents of Massachusetts.

And now what will happen to Rivera's chair?

Simple and unfortunate. Some councilors propose to take away our right to elect a new mayor as the law says. They are taking refuge in the pandemic and the expense of holding a special election.

We had a primary election in September between Markey and Kennedy, and then we held presidential and congressional elections, and yes: all in the middle of the pandemic! And elections were held because some of these councilors had no other option because they were state and national elections.

The City Charter requires that within the next 90 days from when the mayor officially leaves office, Lawrence voters must elect a new mayor through a special election. The winner would complete the remaining term of the outgoing mayor. (See what the Massachusetts Constitution and the Lawrence City Charter say about Home Rule Petition law and the election of an interim mayor.)

This is what the Lawrence Charter says in its paragraph (b), section 4.11 (Vacancy in Mayor's Office):

“If a vacancy occurs in the position of mayor after the first forty-two months of the term for which the mayor is elected, the municipal secretary will immediately call a special meeting of the City Council and it will elect by majority vote, one of its members to serve as mayor. If the city council does not elect one of its members within fourteen days of the date of the meeting called by the secretary, the president of the council shall become the mayor. After the election and qualification of any member of the council as Interim Mayor, his position as councilor will be considered vacant.”

The councilors' plan has two stages, but achieving it is up to you and our legislators.

Stage 1: Hear the official announcement from Mayor Dan Rivera about his

departure. Then select the councilman of District C, Kendrys Vásquez, as interim mayor, not for 90 days as the law says, but until January 2022.

Stage 2: Use as “messengers and promoters” of this idea the Lawrence delegation: Senator Barry Finegold and Representatives of Lawrence Frank Morán and Marcos Devers with the support of other local legislators to present and push their approval on behalf of Lawrence residents a “Home Rule Petition” to ensure that a special election for an interim mayor does not take place but is selected by councilors, not for 90 days, but until January 2022.

I could not find any case where the Home Rule Petition law was used by a Massachusetts city to impede the right of the people to choose and be elected. This is one of the ultimate rights protected by the Constitution and no local ordinance or state law can contradict the Constitution. Not only would it be anti-democratic but they would be abusing the use of the Home Rule Authority that the Massachusetts Constitution grants to cities and towns since it was amended in 1966.

What the proponents of this plan intend to do, perhaps unwittingly, is to abuse his power as a councilor and show impressive callousness precisely because of the COVID-19 pandemic. And what is annoying is that they know that the resident is unable to attend the meeting on Tuesday, December 15, due to the sanitary restrictions imposed by the City and the State. Tuesday's meeting will be between them, but virtually. This is good! Truth?

Preventing Lawrence residents from selecting who to lead them violates a decades-long tradition; violates the councilors' oath on their commitment to taxpayers and voters, and their promise to abide by and enforce the ordinances of the City Charter and the laws of Massachusetts.

The councilors who push this proposal want to make a suit tailored to the person they want to leave in the position of mayor. This is a subtle way disguised as legality to once again suppress the right of immigrant communities like Lawrence to their right to the free exercise of democracy through the election of their authorities.

What can you do to claim your right to elect the Mayor of Lawrence?

Councilors need to hear from you and all of your Lawrence friends and family. Let them know that despite the pandemic, you only want a councilor as mayor for a maximum of 90 days and then vote for the mayor you want, not the one imposed on you, which is a violation of your ability to choose your authorities. It's your right. Defend it!

Letter sent to Secretary of State Francis Galvin. It has been confirmed that he received it

December 13, 2020

Honorable William F. Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
McCormack Building
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Civil Rights Violation – Coming Right Up

Honorable Secretary Galvin:

Salutation. I hope that this letter finds you well and safe during this pandemic, and we wish you and yours are having good holidays.

You will find the grievance of the residents of Lawrence, in this letter in regards to what we believe is a violation of the 1964 Civil Rights, and the 1965 Civil Rights amendment. Most of us are afraid to individually report our complaints for fear of our safety. As you know, during this period, this nation is not safe when individuals speak up for voting rights or violations of rules and powers. Violence has taken abruptly the streets of the US.

Occasionally, a group of individuals will congregate to establish an end without caring for the means. It's happening more often now, in this period of time, than it has at any time in history. It is occurring nationally, regionally, and now locally.

The most liberal democrat state in the nation is about to get a request, from a handful of elected officials, in its attempt to violate a voting act and mute the residents choice and voice.

A home rule petition conversation had already been surfacing since way before the announcement to replace outgoing Lawrence Mayor Rivera. A conspiracy and a plan, between the mayor, the city council, and his selected mayoral candidate had already begun before the announcement of Mayor Rivera's departure. The plan:

to delay elections on purpose to allow three things to possibly occur. But in any event, it's to not allow others the rights to be considered in the special election and not allow the voters to exercise their rights under the City's charter.

The first reason is to allow Council President Kendrys Vasquez an opportunity to gain the \$100,000 income, that he would make while the Acting Mayor, pay until the beginning of January 2022. As you may know, Kendry's employer fired him and kept Council President out of a decent paying job, until now.

The second is to allow Kendrys to get motivated, while in the Acting in the Mayor's office, to run for Mayor seeing that he may have a better shot at winning than Vilma Dominguez Martinez (Mayor Rivera's candidate).

The third is to allow the Mayor's candidate (Vilma Dominguez-Martinez) more time to get her campaign going, because the numbers are not there for her yet.

The mayoral campaign has been a given, seeing that Mayor Rivera and his favorite news sites have been mentioning only Vilma in every article or press conference that has nothing to do with her position, only to get her to gain recognition. I would remind you of prior Secretary of the Lottery, Tim Cahill, and how he was found to have manipulated the press and locals into having his name of work-related ads and tasks when he contemplated for elected office. It is the very same thing that is occurring with Rivera and Dominguez-Martinez. Mayor Rivera has made sure she is at (events) with him) that make it seems she was involved, when in fact the reason for the attendance is to somehow show support for her candidacy, while working, but not job-related. An investigation will find numerous articles in which both are pictured together. The

same communication has been passed to The Eagle-Tribune as was evident that they only interviewed Martinez-Dominguez for an article of the Mayor's departure.

One would like to believe that a minority lead city such as Lawrence would not want their elected officials to override the constitution of the City of Lawrence. It's hypocrisy at least and a violation of rights at worst. These are the exact things that many Democrats, in 2020, have been grieving throughout the United States – that the Republicans are looking to legislative bodies or courts to change the rules, of the elections, results, or rules, to benefit the party and its party leaders, or specific individuals. This is the same that is to be tried in Lawrence in the coming weeks.

Lawrence residents now face a tremendous obstacle to voting in a special election, by a bureaucratic restriction of the city council, to deny them the right to vote in a special election. Let's break down the council by race. Two whites councilmembers (who have provided news-press their affirmative to canceling the special election). Additionally, there are seven minority councilmembers (all from the Dominican Republic and have knowing knowledge of their island's historical abuses of elections and corrupt politicians). Additionally, a home rule petition would require the Massachusetts States Legislative to approve the Lawrence City Council request (most of the white Anglo-Saxon elected officials – that if approved would deny the rights to thousands of minorities in Lawrence the right to vote in a special election. If home rule petitions are to change the city charter is going when the powers do not want to lose power or is in their way, then why does the City have a Charter? Why not just run the city without one? This is a sarcastic question, no need to answer. It shows that when the powers to be do not like the rules they tend to want it no applied to them. The city charter was created with the intention that the rules and ordinances would be followed.

The City Charter (Lawrence's constitution) was designed with the US Constitution in mind, and its amendments to enforce the voting rights guaranteed by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, the Act secured the right to vote for racial minorities (not only Latinos but minorities that arrived in Lawrence in prior years). The request to send a home rule petition disenfranchises the minority population of Lawrence.

Now let's speak as to the reasons why the council would what to do the home rule petition. Councilmember Marc Laplante spoke about the funding issues and the departure of the city clerk (through the regional newspaper), while Mayor Rivera has spoken about the virus, as to some of the reasons they find it necessary to cancel Lawrence elections, to Governor Baker.

Let us just get the injudicious excuse that the virus is one of the reasons for canceling special elections. Let me remind you that the national elections just occurred in November 2020, and neither the Commonwealth's nor was the City's election stopped because of COVID19. People could vote by mail, vote early, and polling places were open – you did a great job in sending that message out to Massachusetts and we took it to heart as a safety message to our right to vote. No COVID19 clusters occurred, in

Lawrence, because of the virus – at least none supported by Mayor Rivera's contact tracing team data. You were adamant to our elected officials that the city did not block any intent to delay or violate the voting of its residents. We ask that of you again.

Additionally, the city council has decided to ask former City Clerk Maloney to return on a consultant, or part-time basis, if they needed him soon and to close out some work. Also, the reason why the council is using "lack of city clerk" is a smack to the face of Acting City Clerk Richard Reyes as to his abilities to do his job. You as Secretary of State, have been nothing more than over the top on Richard's experience and ability to move the Lawrence Election Office forward. This was evident when Richard departed the City and was asked to return due to a lack of experience of Lawrence election staff; City Clerk Maloney had an awful difficult time without Mr. Reyes for the few weeks that he was at another gained employment (he is a hero). You applauded his return and had concerns over the election office staff.

The next excuse that was given was lack of funding. The funding is available. The city has enough free cash to allow for these elections to go forward. The city is in a healthy funding savings and a healthy funding spree. The Mayor stated that the city was financially healthy during his last budget hearing, and in March 2020 asks the Commonwealth to borrowed \$6.9 million while increasing the people's taxes by the maximum of 2.5%. Are we to believe that upon his departure the City's finance are in dire straits? No, of course not and even if they were, he would not tell you especially when he is departing to a state job (so much regarding his saying of "I am not going anywhere, I am here until my last day serving as Mayor").

So, all these excuses (and more to come, we are sure) are only a veil to real reasons that Mayor Rivera, some members of the city council, and Vilma Dominguez-Martinez are looking to delay the elections until next September 2021.

Let us not allow this small group to do this and let us allow the people of Lawrence to speak, by allowing them to vote in a special election as it's written in our city charter. The end does not justify the means, it just violates the rights of its people. It is a work around for those who are corrupted (or are afraid to lose power) in Lawrence. I am sure that many reasons could be placed that this action may have implications due to the protection of the Civil Rights.

This is not different than what he and others have allowed the state to do, and that is to take away the rights of the people of Lawrence to vote for school committee as per the city charter. This has been like this for 10 years – no school election = civil rights violation for the people of Lawrence.

I hope that you can assist us once again!

Respectfully,

The People of the City of Lawrence
Los Residentes de la Ciudad de Lawrence

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are withholding the writer's name to protect his/her privacy.

These are the councilors from Lawrence. Call or write them. If they don't take your call, keep trying and leave them messages. They've already removed their numbers and emails from the City's website. Anyway, these are the numbers I have from them. Do not be surprised if they also cut off the phone to close all communication possibilities for your rights.

Estos son los concejales de Lawrence. Llámalos o escríbeles. Si no te toman la llamada, sigue tratando y déjales mensajes. Ya quitaron sus números e emails del website de la Ciudad. De todos modos, estos son los números que tengo de ellos. No te sorprendas si también cortan el teléfono para cerrarte todas las posibilidades de comunicación por tus derechos.

PAVEL PAYANO	978-771-5296
ESTELA REYES	978-912-3476
JEOVANNY RODRIGUEZ	978-566-1513
KENDRYS VASQUEZ	978-620-3214
CELINA REYES	978-566-2714
ANA LEVY	978-566-0325
MARIA DE LA CRUZ	978-303-7243
MARK LAPLANTE	978-376-6702
DAVID ABDOO	978-620-3216

Parte de prensa del Gobernador Charlie Baker

Alcalde Rivera de Lawrence escogido para liderar MassDevelopment

Con fuertes habilidades a nivel ejecutivo, Rivera se une a una agencia clave encargada de estimular el crecimiento económico

La Junta Directiva de MassDevelopment votó por unanimidad para permitir al Secretario de la Oficina Ejecutiva de Vivienda y Desarrollo Económico, Mike Kennealy, el presidente de la junta, para extender una oferta de contrato al alcalde de Lawrence, Daniel Rivera, para el puesto de Presidente y Director Ejecutivo. En octubre, MassDevelopment, la agencia de desarrollo económico y financiero del estado, anunció que después de tres años como presidenta y directora ejecutiva, Lauren A. Liss dejaría el cargo al final del año calendario.

“Dan Rivera aportará experiencia de liderazgo dedicado, compasión y un firme compromiso con la recuperación económica y el crecimiento de las ciudades y pueblos de Massachusetts en su nuevo cargo en MassDevelopment,” dijo el Gobernador Charlie Baker. “En su papel de alcalde de la ciudad de Lawrence, Dan enfrentó todos los desafíos y aprovechó cada oportunidad para apoyar a sus residentes y crear una economía más fuerte, incluyendo más empleos y viviendas. Estoy seguro de que trabajará incansablemente en su nuevo cargo para apoyar el crecimiento económico estatal para todos los residentes de Massachusetts.”

“Durante su tiempo como alcalde de Lawrence, una ‘Gateway City’ clave, Dan Rivera se ha distinguido como una persona con fuertes habilidades gerenciales y con una habilidad inigualable para entender las necesidades únicas de sus electores,” dijo la Vicegobernadora Karyn Polito. “Dan Rivera pondrá en uso su experiencia de liderazgo y compromiso a la excelencia en el gobierno para las diversas ciudades y pueblos del estado, durante un momento en que nuestras empresas y residentes

necesitan más apoyo.”

“Me siento honrado de ser elegido como Presidente y Director Ejecutivo de MassDevelopment y estoy emocionado por la oportunidad de enfocarme en el desarrollo económico, especialmente durante estos tiempos difíciles,” dijo el Presidente y Director Ejecutivo designado de MassDevelopment Daniel Rivera. “A raíz de la pandemia de COVID-19, MassDevelopment está en posición de jugar un papel en la reconstrucción de una economía que es inclusiva, equitativa y se enfoca en vecindarios y distritos comerciales en todos los rincones del estado.”

Rivera se une a MassDevelopment después de servir como alcalde de la ciudad de Lawrence durante siete años, donde administró un presupuesto operativo de \$341 millones, un plan de mejoras de infraestructura de \$92 millones y supervisó aproximadamente a 3,500 empleados. Como director ejecutivo de Lawrence, Rivera dirigió los esfuerzos para invertir en infraestructura, atraer cientos de millones de dólares en desarrollo privado, al mismo tiempo que supervisaba la creación de más de 2,400 unidades de viviendas económicas y a precio de mercado.

Con un enfoque agudo en la mejora de la calidad de vida como alcalde, el registro de logros de Rivera incluye numerosas inversiones que resultaron en la remodelación de sitios contaminados y áreas dirigidas del centro de la ciudad; construcción de desarrollos equitativos orientados al tránsito; y la creación de parques e iniciativas para el embellecimiento de la ciudad. Rivera también dirigió a la ciudad durante el

desastre de Columbia Gas del Merrimack Valley en el 2018 y el comienzo de la actual pandemia global COVID-19.

“Dan Rivera no es un extraño a los programas de MassDevelopment, ya que ha utilizado notablemente muchos en beneficio de los residentes de Lawrence, una de las diversas y emergentes ‘Gateway Cities’ de nuestro estado,” dijo el Secretario de Vivienda y Desarrollo Económico Mike Kennealy, quien sirve como presidente de Junta Directiva. “Al responder al llamado para servir en esta nueva función, Dan pondrá sus habilidades, experiencia y trayectoria comprobada a trabajar en todo el estado y espero trabajar con él en nuestras prioridades compartidas. También estoy agradecido con Lauren Liss por sus años de dedicación a los objetivos de MassDevelopment.”

Además de servir como alcalde de Lawrence, Rivera también fue un miembro invaluable de la Junta Asesora de Reapertura de la Administración de Baker-Polito, llevando el punto de vista municipal al grupo encargado de desarrollar la estrategia del estado para reabrir la economía durante COVID-19, y el COVID -19 Grupo Asesor de Vacunas. En 2017, el Gobernador Baker nombró a Rivera para formar parte de la Comisión Asesora Latina, recién establecida, encargada de abordar las preocupaciones de la comunidad latina de Massachusetts y promover la prosperidad económica y el bienestar.

Rivera, un veterano del Ejército de los Estados Unidos y residente de Lawrence, tiene un bachillerato de la Universidad de Massachusetts Amherst y una Maestría en Administración de Empresas de la

Universidad de Suffolk.

Rivera sucederá a la actual Presidenta y Directora Ejecutiva Lauren A. Liss, quien durante su mandato expandió el trabajo de MassDevelopment en “Gateway Cities” a través de una variedad de programas financieros y servicios inmobiliarios, como la Iniciativa de Desarrollo Transformativo (TDI) y el programa Commonwealth Places, y supervisó un enorme crecimiento en Devens, la icónica remodelación de uso mixto de MassDevelopment del antiguo Fort Devens.

Este año, en respuesta a la pandemia de COVID-19, MassDevelopment impulsó programas y herramientas para apoyar a las pequeñas empresas en algunas de las comunidades más afectadas del estado y ayudar en la recuperación económica. Estos esfuerzos ayudaron a estabilizar las empresas en los distritos de TDI y crearon oportunidades de financiación colectiva para que los socios de la comunidad preparen espacios públicos y distritos comerciales para atender de manera segura a los residentes y visitantes.

MassDevelopment, la agencia estatal de desarrollo y finanzas, trabaja con empresas, organizaciones sin fines de lucro, bancos y comunidades para estimular el crecimiento económico en todo el Commonwealth. Durante el año fiscal 2020, MassDevelopment financió o administró 341 proyectos que generaron una inversión de más de \$ 2.69 mil millones en la economía de Massachusetts. Se estima que estos proyectos crearán o respaldarán 10,871 puestos de trabajo y construirán o preservarán 1,787 unidades de vivienda.

Rompemos Barreras

El sistema migratorio es complejo y frustrante. Si usted o un familiar enfrenta retos de inmigración, trabajar con alguien que entiende este sistema, se preocupa de su situación, y puede proveer asesoría legal correcta es más importante ahora que nunca.

Nuestros abogados de inmigración protegen sus derechos, responden a sus preguntas en español o inglés, y lo guían por el sistema migratorio para que usted y sus seres queridos puedan permanecer juntos y unidos. Luchamos por usted y su familia como si fuera la nuestra.

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- Visas de empleo
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- Asesoría de consecuencias migratorias en casos penales
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Workplace English Classes Forming at the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

Registrations are now being taken for Workplace English classes at the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center (the former Asian Center), 439 S. Union Street, building 2, Level B, Lawrence, MA 01843. These classes are free to Lawrence residents but students must have a high beginner level of English.

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

Press release sent by Governor Charlie Baker

Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera to serve as president and CEO of MassDevelopment

With strong executive-level skills Rivera joins key agency charged with spurring economic growth

The MassDevelopment Board of Directors voted unanimously to empower Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy, the board chair, to extend a contract offer to Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera for the position of President and Chief Executive Officer. In October, MassDevelopment, the Commonwealth's finance and economic development agency, announced that after three years as President and CEO, Lauren A. Liss would be stepping down from the position at the end of the calendar year.

"Dan Rivera will bring dedicated leadership experience, compassion and a steadfast commitment to economic recovery and growth for Massachusetts' cities and towns in his new role at MassDevelopment," said Governor Charlie Baker. "In his role as Mayor for the City of Lawrence, Dan met every challenge and seized every opportunity to support his residents and create a stronger economy—including more jobs and housing. I'm confident he will work tirelessly in his new role to support economic growth statewide for all the residents in Massachusetts."

"During his time as mayor of Lawrence, a key Gateway City, Dan Rivera distinguished himself as someone with both strong managerial skills and with an unmatched ability to understand the unique needs of his constituents," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "Dan Rivera will put his leadership experience and commitment to excellence in government to work for the diverse cities and towns of the Commonwealth, during a time when our businesses and residents need support the most."

"I am both honored and humbled to be chosen as the President and CEO of MassDevelopment and I'm excited for the opportunity to hone my focus on economic development, especially during these trying times," said MassDevelopment President and CEO-designee President

Daniel Rivera. "In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, MassDevelopment stands to play a role in reconstruction of our economy that is inclusive, equitable, and focuses on neighborhoods and business districts in every corner of the Commonwealth."

Rivera joins MassDevelopment after serving as mayor of the City of Lawrence for seven years where he managed a \$341 million operating budget, a \$92 million Capital Improvement Plan, and oversaw approximately 3,500 employees. As Lawrence's chief executive, Rivera led efforts to invest in infrastructure, attract hundreds of millions of dollars in private development, while also overseeing the creation of over 2,400 units of both affordable and market-rate housing.

With an acute focus on quality-of-life improvements as mayor, Rivera's record of accomplishment includes numerous investments that resulted in the redevelopment of contaminated sites and targeted downtown areas; construction of equitable transit-oriented developments; and the creation of parks and placemaking initiatives. Rivera also led the city through the Merrimack Valley Columbia Gas Disaster of 2018 and the beginning of the current COVID-19 global pandemic.

"Dan Rivera is no stranger to MassDevelopment's programs, having masterfully utilized many to the benefit of the residents of Lawrence, one of our Commonwealth's diverse and rising Gateway Cities," said Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy, who serves as chair of MassDevelopment's Board of Directors. "By answering the call to serve in this new role, Dan will put his skillsets, experience, and proven track record to work statewide and I look forward to working with him on our shared priorities. I am also grateful to Lauren Liss for her years of dedication to MassDevelopment's goals."

In addition to serving as mayor of Lawrence, Rivera was also an invaluable member of the Baker-Polito Administration's Reopening Advisory Board, bringing the municipal viewpoint to the group tasked with developing the Commonwealth's strategy to reopen the economy during COVID-19, and the COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group. In 2017, Governor Baker tapped Rivera to serve on the newly established Latino Advisory Commission charged with addressing the concerns of the Massachusetts Latino community and promoting economic prosperity and well-being.

Rivera, a veteran of the United States Army and resident of Lawrence, holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a Master's in Business Administration from Suffolk University.

Rivera will succeed current President and CEO Lauren A. Liss who during her tenure expanded MassDevelopment's work in Gateway Cities through an array of finance programs and real estate services – such as the Transformative Development Initiative (TDI) and Commonwealth Places program

– and oversaw tremendous growth at Devens, MassDevelopment's iconic mixed-use redevelopment of the former Fort Devens.

This year, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, MassDevelopment pivoted programs and tools to support small businesses in some of the state's hardest-hit communities and aid in economic recovery. These efforts helped to stabilize businesses in TDI districts, and created crowdfunding opportunities for community partners to prepare public spaces and commercial districts to safely serve residents and visitors.

MassDevelopment, the state's finance and development agency, works with businesses, nonprofits, banks, and communities to stimulate economic growth across the Commonwealth. During FY2020, MassDevelopment financed or managed 341 projects generating investment of more than \$2.69 billion in the Massachusetts economy. These projects are estimated to create or support 10,871 jobs and build or preserve 1,787 housing units.

CONTINÚA DE LA PÁGINA 1

LAWRENCE PARTNERSHIP

inversión significa oportunidades para los empresarios inmigrantes, haciendo de la propiedad empresarial un sueño alcanzable, al mismo tiempo que alimenta la economía de Lawrence. Lawrence Revolving Test Kitchen ha demostrado ser un activo para las empresas emergentes locales, ya que ofrece el espacio, la capacitación y las herramientas para poner a las empresas en el camino del éxito y la Ciudad se enorgullece de ser un socio. Felicitaciones a Lawrence Partnership, Inc. y gracias a todos por continuar mejorando Lawrence".

"La cocina giratoria de pruebas ha sido un programa valioso para el desarrollo empresarial y comunitario durante los últimos tres años y esta inversión adicional apoyará la ampliación del modelo, ya que las necesidades de nuestros negocios basados en alimentos nunca han sido mayores", dijo Derek Mitchell, Director Ejecutivo de Lawrence Partnership. "Estamos agradecidos por el liderazgo de colaboración de tantos socios, incluida nuestra delegación federal, Lupoli Co., NECC y la Ciudad de Lawrence, entre otros, para ayudar a hacer realidad esta visión".

"La Ciudad de Lawrence es un centro de empresarios alimentarios y la inversión de EDA en la cocina giratoria de prueba ayudará a las microempresas y las pequeñas empresas a probar su prueba de concepto y tener éxito en sus proyectos culinarios", dijo Theresa Park, directora ejecutiva de la Comisión de Planificación del Valle de Merrimack.

"Lawrence Revolving Test Kitchen brinda a las empresas locales de alimentos el espacio y los programas de capacitación empresarial que necesitan para tener éxito",

dijo Dana Gartzke, desempeñando las funciones delegadas de la Subsecretaria de Comercio para el Desarrollo Económico. "La instalación ampliada servirá a una amplia gama de empresas y empresarios de alimentos en toda la región, y la ubicación del proyecto en una Zona de Oportunidad atraerá inversiones adicionales y diversas a la región de Merrimack Valley".

"La Comisión de Planificación de Merrimack Valley se enorgullece de haber luchado por esta inversión transformadora. Los empresarios son uno de los activos más valiosos de Merrimack Valley. La expansión de la cocina giratoria de pruebas es una inversión en el espíritu empresarial, que brinda a las personas más caminos hacia la riqueza. El liderazgo de Lawrence Partnership en esto hará que todo el Valle de Merrimack sea más resistente y próspero", dijo Nate Robertson, planificador de desarrollo económico y comunitario de la Comisión de Planificación de Merrimack Valley.

La Comisión de Planificación de Merrimack Valley (MVPC) actúa como el Distrito de Desarrollo Económico de la región, lo que nos permite actuar como un conducto entre la Administración de Desarrollo Económico de los EE.UU. y las organizaciones locales. MVPC produce la Estrategia de Desarrollo Económico Integral (CEDS) de la región y supervisa su implementación. Nuestra asociación con EDA nos permite dirigir proyectos de desarrollo económico clave a través de sus diversos programas de subvenciones, lo que lleva la inversión federal necesaria al Valle de Merrimack.

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Ciudad de Methuen auspicia Gira de Luces Históricas Navideñas

El mapa interactivo destaca las ubicaciones festivas y la historia de la ciudad

El Alcalde Neil Perry se complace en anunciar que la gira histórica de luces navideñas de Methuen está en marcha y se extenderá durante el resto del mes.

La ciudad ha creado un mapa interactivo que señala los edificios históricos de la ciudad que se han iluminado para las fiestas, junto con información histórica de cada uno. El mapa también incluye la ubicación de coronas de flores y decenas de árboles patrocinados por empresas e individuos locales a través del Rotary Club, así como información sobre los eventos del Festival de los Árboles de Methuen.

Lugares emblemáticos como la Biblioteca Nevins Memorial, el Methuen Memorial Music Hall, el Edificio Searles y el Edificio de la Escuela Central se han engalanado con luces para celebrar la temporada navideña. Varios departamentos de la ciudad han sido decorados y también están incluidos en el recorrido, como el Departamento de Policía de Methuen, el Departamento de Agua, el Edificio Administrativo Central de las Escuelas Públicas de Methuen y el Centro de Ancianos.

“Este evento ofrece a nuestros residentes la oportunidad de sumergirse en el espíritu navideño de manera segura durante la pandemia, y también de aprender y celebrar la rica historia de Methuen”, dijo el Alcalde

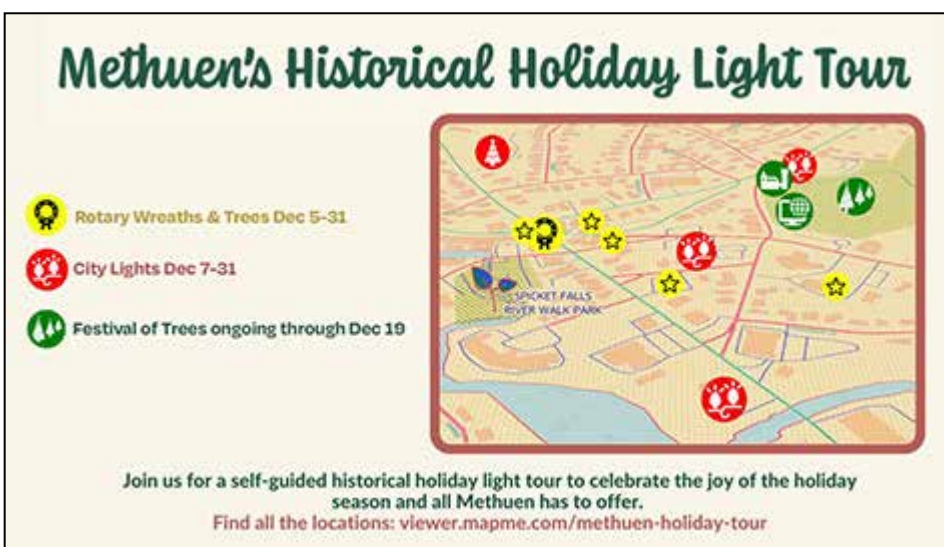
Perry. “Gracias a todos los que ayudaron a organizar esto para nuestra comunidad. Esperamos que todos tengan una temporada navideña segura, saludable y feliz”.

El Club Rotario de Methuen y sus miembros han donado 52 coronas y 39 árboles para el evento, que se ha colgado y decorado en toda la ciudad y estará vigente hasta el 31 de diciembre.

El 27º Festival Anual de Árboles de Methuen también es virtual este año y los eventos del festival continúan hasta el 19 de diciembre. El evento virtual incluye rifas, subastas y la oportunidad de conocer a Santa. Para obtener más información, visite el sitio web del evento <https://www.methuenfestivaloftrees.com/>.

Para ver el mapa del Tour de Luces Navideñas Históricas de Methuen, haga clic en <https://viewer.mapme.com/methuen-holiday-tour>. Se anima a los residentes que deseen visitar todos los lugares en el mapa interactivo a hacer presione cada pin y luego en la dirección correspondiente, que automáticamente redirigirá a las direcciones de Google Maps para cada ubicación. El mapa interactivo está diseñado para usarse fácilmente en un dispositivo inteligente. Disfrute de este evento de forma segura, no utilice el mapa interactivo mientras conduce.

¡Manténgase seguro Methuen y Feliz Navidad!



City of Methuen Hosting Historical Holiday Lights Tour

Interactive Map Highlights Festive Locations and City History

Mayor Neil Perry is pleased to announce that Methuen's Historical Holiday Light Tour is underway and will run through the rest of the month.

The City has created an interactive map that pinpoints the historic city buildings that have been lit up for the holidays, along with historical information for each. The map also includes the locations of wreaths and dozens of trees sponsored by local businesses and individuals through the Rotary Club, as well as information about Methuen's Festival of Trees events.

Landmarks like the Nevins Memorial Library, the Methuen Memorial Music Hall, the Searles Building, and the Central School Building have all been decked out in lights to celebrate the holiday season. Several city departments have been decorated and are included in the tour as well, such as the Methuen Police Department, Water Department, Methuen Public Schools Central Administrative Building, and Senior Center.

“This event offers our residents the opportunity to get into the holiday spirit safely during the pandemic, and to also learn about and celebrate the rich history of Methuen,” Mayor Perry said. “Thank you to everyone who helped to

organize this for our community. We hope everyone has a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season.”

The Methuen Rotary Club and its members have donated 52 wreaths and 39 trees for the event, which has been hung and decorated throughout the City and will be up until Dec. 31.

The 27th Annual Methuen Festival of Trees is virtual this year as well and festival events continue through Dec. 19. The virtual event features raffles, auctions, and the opportunity to meet Santa. For more information, please visit the event website <https://www.methuenfestivaloftrees.com/>.

To view Methuen's Historic Holiday Light Tour map, click <https://viewer.mapme.com/methuen-holiday-tour>.

Residents who want to visit all of the spots on the interactive map are encouraged to click each pin and then click the corresponding address, which will automatically redirect to Google Maps directions for each location. The interactive map is designed to be used easily on a smart device. Please enjoy this event safely, do not operate the interactive map while driving.

Stay safe Methuen and Happy Holidays!

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Cartas al Editor /// Letters to the Editor

Estimado editor,

En esta temporada navideña, me gustaría recordarle a los lectores que deben agradecer a un compañero de trabajo, amigo o familiar que haya dejado de vapear, fumar o usar otros productos de tabaco. El 2020 ha sido un año lleno de tensiones para muchos de nosotros y mantenerse libre de tabaco puede haber sido difícil para las personas que conoce. Esto es especialmente importante ahora, ya que fumar y vapear pueden dañar la capacidad de los pulmones para combatir infecciones, incluido el COVID-19.

La nicotina es una sustancia muy adictiva del tabaco y de muchos productos para vapear. La mayoría de las personas con adicción a la nicotina necesitan varios intentos para dejar de fumar definitivamente. Por lo tanto, comuníquese con aquellos que han conquistado esta adicción. Hágales saber que está orgulloso de lo duro que están trabajando para mejorar su bienestar. Agradézcales por mejorar su salud y la salud de las personas que los rodean.

Las Navidades también son un buen momento para apoyar a sus amigos y seres queridos que están tratando de dejar de vapear, fumar u otros productos de tabaco. Incluso si han intentado dejar de fumar en el pasado, animelos a seguir intentándolo: aprenden algo nuevo cada vez que intentan dejar de fumar.

Los fumadores y vapeadores pueden llamar al 1-800-QUT NOW (1-800-784-8669) para recibir asesoría GRATUITA de la Línea de ayuda para fumadores de Massachusetts a través del teléfono y la web, las 24 horas del día, los siete días de

la semana (excepto Navidad) o inscribirse en línea a través de makesmokinghistory.org. Los adultos que trabajan con un entrenador pueden recibir hasta ocho semanas de parches, chicles o pastillas de nicotina gratis (con elegibilidad médica). Y, este año, la línea de ayuda para fumadores de Massachusetts también ofrece hasta \$50 en tarjetas de regalo a los residentes de Massachusetts que usan productos de tabaco mentolado y participan en servicios de capacitación.

Dejar de fumar es difícil; dé gracias a alguien en su vida por dejar de fumar o por intentar dejar de fumar. Cada correo electrónico, mensaje de texto, llamada telefónica o palabra de aliento marca la diferencia.

Sinceramente,
Ashley Hall
Gerente de programa, Asociación Comunitaria Libre de Tabaco del Noreste

Dear Editor,

This holiday season, I'd like to remind readers to thank a co-worker, friend or family member who has quit vaping, smoking, or using other tobacco products. 2020 has been a year full of stresses for many of us and staying tobacco free may have been hard for people you know. This is especially significant now since smoking and vaping may harm the lung's ability to fight off infections, including COVID-19.

Nicotine is the very addictive substance in tobacco and many vape products. It takes most people with a nicotine addiction several tries to quit for good. So reach out to those who have conquered this addiction. Let them know you are proud of how hard they're working to better their wellbeing. Thank them for improving their health and the health of the people around them.

The holidays are also a great time to

support your friends and loved ones who are trying to quit vaping, smoking or other tobacco products. Even if they have tried quitting in the past, encourage them to keep trying – they learn something new every time they try to quit.

Smokers and vapers can call 1-800-QUT NOW (1-800-784-8669) for FREE coaching from the Massachusetts Smokers' Helpline through phone and web, 24 hours each day, seven days a week (except Christmas) or enroll online through makesmokinghistory.org. Adults who work with a coach can receive up to eight weeks of free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges (with medical eligibility). And, this year, the Massachusetts Smokers' Helpline is also offering up to \$50 in gift cards to Massachusetts residents who use menthol tobacco products and participate in coaching services!

Quitting is hard—give thanks to someone in your life for quitting or for trying to quit. Every email, text message, phone call, or encouraging word makes a difference.

Sincerely,
Ashley Hall
Program Manager, Northeast Tobacco-Free Community Partnership

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MCC Offers Free Training to Bedford and Burlington Residents

Middlesex Community College – in partnership with MassHire Metro North Career Center – is offering free job training in the healthcare or life science industries for residents of Bedford and Burlington. Eligible residents who are seeking a start or change in their careers can learn knowledge and skills that will make them competitive in high demand industries. The initiative is funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

Judy Burke, MCC’s Executive Director of Institutional Advancement, said Middlesex is proud to offer relevant training thanks to funding from CDBG.

“The economic development managers in Bedford and Burlington care about their respective communities – as does Middlesex,” Burke said. “We are excited to provide education and training that will help so many people hone skills and re-enter the workforce in these tumultuous times. It is a remarkable opportunity and we are proud to be a partner in this initiative that will allow residents a chance to get back on their feet and start exciting careers.”

Middlesex is one of the training vendors partnering with MassHire to offer skills training. A leader of workforce development in Massachusetts for over 30 years, MCC strives to provide students with interactive and hands-on experiences – including internship and externship components – that lead to better prepared and more hireable employees.

“At MCC we know that many

local families have been hit hard by the pandemic,” said Jillian Freitas-Haley, MCC’s Assistant Dean of Admissions. “We are so fortunate to be able to participate in this grant to provide qualified Bedford and Burlington residents access to a variety of training opportunities. Options are available in both our credit certificate programs and our workforce development offerings at no cost to the student.”

Examples of MCC’s credit certificate programs include Medical Coding and Billing, Healthcare Administration, Medical Assistant, Dental Assistant, Phlebotomy and Biotechnology. MCC’s noncredit career training programs include Pharmacy Technician, Nurse Assistant/Home Health Aide, Technical Writing Certificate, Google IT Help Desk Certificate and Medical Interpreting.

Visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/academics/ for more information on MCC’s credit certificate programs and www.middlesex.mass.edu/careertraining/ for more information on MCC’s noncredit career training programs.

Discover your path at Middlesex Community College. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in Massachusetts, MCC has been a proven leader in online education for more than 20 years. We educate, engage and empower a diverse community of learners, offering more than 80 degree and certificate programs – plus hundreds of noncredit courses. Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!



Middlesex Community College – in partnership with MassHire Metro North Career Center – is offering free job training in the healthcare or life science industries for residents of Bedford and Burlington. The initiative is funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.



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TO:: United State Senators: Ed Markey, Elizabeth Warren
 Representative in Congress: Lori Trahan
 State Senator: Barry Finegold
 State Representatives: Marcos Devers, Frank A. Moran,
 Christina Minicucci
 City Councilors: Kendrys Vasquez, Jeovanny Rodriguez,
 Ana Levy, Pavel Payano, Celina Reyes, Maria De La Cruz,
 Estela Reyes, David Abdo, Marc Laplante
 American Civil Liberties Union: Executive Director, Carol Rose

RE: Home Rule Petition

As a Nation, we just got through a Presidential Election, exercising one of the most Fundamental Rights in our Constitution, Our Right to Vote.

For the past couple of months Lawrence residents have been hearing rumors that Mayor Daniel Rivera is planning on leaving by the end of the year.

Those rumors have materialized with the news that Mayor Rivera is going to become the President and CEO of MassDevelopment.

Additionally, Mayor Rivera has been meeting with some of his supporters, planning to suppress the rights of all Lawrencian voters to choose who can lead the future of our city, as if we are not capable of deciding for ourselves.

There is no excuse or reason as to why, we, the Citizens of Lawrence cannot elect who we think should lead our City.

They are not only planning to appoint Council President Kendrys Vasquez as interim mayor for a year while requesting the Massachusetts Legislature to approve a Home Rule Petition denying the rights of the voters under the law for a special election that must be held according to our City Charter within 90 days, in violation of the law and the wishes of Lawrencians.

The excuses they will be presenting for the Home Rule Petition are the high concentration of COVID-19 cases in Lawrence which did not stop a large percentage of voters to cast their choices in the presidential election that just ended. Also, that our City Clerk William Maloney retired last week and he has not been replaced as yet.

The Election Department is very well-equipped to handle a local mayoral election with Richard Reyes who was appointed interim city clerk with many years of experience. Richard also has well-qualified personnel who could handle it and we can even request assistance from the Secretary of State's office or surrounding cities and towns to see it through.

Above all, the rights of Lawrencians should not be infringed upon under any circumstance, particularly to satisfy the political desires of the outgoing mayor.

We hope that we can count on your support for justice, and fairness to prevail.

Thank you,

William Lantigua

PARA: United State Senators: Ed Markey, Elizabeth Warren
 Representative in Congress: Lori Trahan
 State Senator: Barry Finegold
 State Representatives: Marcos Devers, Frank A. Moran,
 Christina Minicucci
 City Councilors: Kendrys Vasquez, Jeovanny Rodriguez,
 Ana Levy, Pavel Payano, Celina Reyes, Maria De La Cruz,
 Estela Reyes, David Abdo, Marc Laplante
 American Civil Liberties Union: Executive Director, Carol Rose

RE: Petición de autonomía

Como nación, acabamos de pasar una elección presidencial, ejerciendo uno de los derechos más fundamentales de nuestra Constitución, nuestro derecho al voto.

En los últimos meses, los residentes de Lawrence han estado escuchando rumores de que el Alcalde Daniel Rivera planea irse para fin de año.

Esos rumores se han materializado con la noticia de que el Alcalde Rivera se convertirá en el presidente y CEO de MassDevelopment.

Además, el Alcalde Rivera se ha estado reuniendo con algunos de sus partidarios, planeando suprimir los derechos de todos los votantes de Lawrence a elegir quién puede liderar el futuro de nuestra ciudad, como si no fuéramos capaces de decidir por nosotros mismos.

No hay excusa o razón de por qué nosotros, los ciudadanos de Lawrence no podamos elegir quién creemos que debe dirigir nuestra ciudad.

No solo planean nombrar al presidente del Concejo, Kendrys Vasquez, como alcalde interino por un año, mientras solicitan a la Legislatura de Massachusetts que apruebe una Petición de Autonomía que niega los derechos de los votantes bajo la ley para una elección especial que debe realizarse de acuerdo con nuestros Estatutos de la Ciudad, dentro de los 90 días, en violación de la ley y los deseos de lawrencianos.

Las excusas que presentarán para la Petición de Autonomía son la alta concentración de casos de COVID-19 en Lawrence, que no impidió que un gran porcentaje de votantes emitieran sus opciones en las elecciones presidenciales que acaban de finalizar. Además, nuestro Secretario Municipal William Maloney se retiró la semana pasada y aún no ha sido reemplazado.

El Departamento de Elecciones está muy bien equipado para manejar una elección de alcalde local con Richard Reyes, quien fue nombrado secretario municipal interino con muchos años de experiencia. Richard también cuenta con personal bien calificado que podría manejarlo e incluso podemos solicitar ayuda de la oficina del Secretario de Estado o de las ciudades y pueblos circundantes para llevarlo a cabo.

Sobre todo, los derechos de los lawrencianos no deben ser violados bajo ninguna circunstancia, particularmente para satisfacer los deseos políticos del alcalde saliente.

Esperamos poder contar con su apoyo para que prevalezca la justicia y la equidad.

Gracias,

William Lantigua

“Mi abuelo me dijo una vez que hay dos tipos de personas: los que hacen todo el trabajo y los que se llevan el mérito. También me dijo que debo estar en el primer grupo; hay menos competencia.”

“My grandfather once told me that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition.”

— Indira Gandhi

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Anuncio político pagado por la Campaña Para Elegir a William Lantigua.

Political ad paid by the Campaign to Elect William Lantigua.

Community Partners Come to the Aid of Seniors Facing Food Insecurity

By Kathy Register

Over the past nine months, the coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated food insecurity among local senior citizens, and the Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) is stepping up to help.

Last spring, as COVID-19 began infecting older adults in high numbers, nonprofit agencies providing support to this demographic -- like Minuteman Senior Services (MSS) and Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley & North Shore (ESMV-NS) -- were hit hard by another jolt: Most of the volunteers they depended on to distribute meals to their senior clients were seniors themselves.

"Before COVID we had robust Meals on Wheels programs, as well as popular 'congregate meal' programs, which allowed people to eat together at their local senior centers," explained Patti Dubielak, Director of Marketing & Development at MSS, which serves 16 towns, including Bedford, Burlington, Carlisle, Concord, Littleton and Wilmington.

"Once the pandemic hit in March, all our programs were impacted," said Dubielak. "Plus, we lost about 60 percent of our volunteers because they were from high-risk groups, too."

Compounding the situation is the fact that food insecurity among older people continues to grow, added Jennifer Raymond, Chief Strategy Officer of ESMV-NS, which serves seniors in 28 communities, including Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro and Westford.

"Hunger among seniors is not new, but COVID has shined a light on the problem in a much more visible way," said Raymond. "We've seen a 30- to 35-percent increase in the numbers we are feeding."

Realizing these unforeseen forces were having a profound impact on elder health, last spring and summer GLCF distributed two COVID-19 Relief Fund Grants each to MSS and ESMV-NS, two nonprofits that support seniors in 14 of the 20 communities in the foundation's service area.

The spring and summer grants were distributed by GLCF from the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund. Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund supported those across the state most

impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis, focused on essential frontline workers and vulnerable populations including the homeless, immigrant populations, people with disabilities, and those facing food insecurity. The fund worked in concert with regional community foundations and nonprofit leaders who partner with local leaders to understand the response and relief landscape, strategically filling in where gaps are pronounced.

And in November, GLCF continued addressing food insecurity among seniors by awarding another round of grants to both nonprofits from the foundation's own COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund.

"Food insecurity was a major focus of the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund, and we realized elder-food insecurity was a growing concern," said Jennifer Aradhya, GLCF Vice President of Marketing & Programs.

"Communicating with local Councils on Aging gave us a solid understanding of the situation, as well as a strategy for a funding solution that would have the most impact. Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley & North Shore, and Minuteman Senior Services support more than 1,000 food-insecure seniors in 14 of our communities. Partnering with these two nonprofits made perfect sense."

Once the pandemic lockdown began, both nonprofits had to quickly shift staff to work remotely, as well as (virtually) train a new crop of younger volunteers. With funding assistance from GLCF, group meals at senior centers were converted to "grab and go" sites, which allowed seniors to pick up meals and safely eat them at home. Both organizations adopted new "contactless" delivery protocols for their Meals on Wheels programs, and made other innovations.

"Grant funding from the Greater



Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley & North Shore (ESMV-NS) volunteer packages and later delivers hot lunch to homebound seniors. ESMV-NS received grants from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation to address elder food insecurity.



Minuteman Senior Services Dining Site Coordinator Marijana Petrovic packs frozen meals for delivery to homebound seniors in Burlington through Minuteman's Meals on Wheels program.

Lowell Community Foundation is helping us keep older adults safely in their homes during the pandemic," said Kelly Magee Wright, Executive Director of Minuteman Senior Services. "In addition to our daily Meals on Wheels delivery of a hot lunch, we are also delivering seven-day frozen meals packs, and grocery-store gift cards to seniors at risk of food insecurity."

ESMV-NS is also using some of its GLCF funding to pilot a food shopping/delivery program for at-risk seniors, according to Raymond. "We learned that some consumers had additional nutritional needs beyond what could be addressed through standard Meals on Wheels," she explained.

"This funding from GLCF allowed us to launch and continue a grocery store shopping-and-delivery program for people who are facing food insecurity, but may not have the transportation or other resources to shop for the special dietary items they need," she said.

"Our seniors are especially vulnerable

to serious complications from the COVID-19 virus, and is seeing food insecurity at much higher numbers," said Jay Linnehan, GLCF President & CEO. "These nonprofit partners have been very diligent and innovative in their approach to continuing services to Greater Lowell elders, while adapting to new safety rules. We are so grateful to them."

The Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF), founded in 1997, is a philanthropic organization comprised of over 350 funds, currently totaling over \$40MM, which is dedicated to improving the quality of life in 20 neighboring cities and towns. The Community Foundation annually awards grants and scholarships to hundreds of worthy nonprofits and students. It is powered by the winning combination of donor-directed giving, personal attention from its staff, and an in-depth understanding of local needs. The generosity of our donors has enabled GLCF to award more than \$20 million to the Greater Lowell community.



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

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

<http://heallawrence.org/>

heallawrence@aol.com

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BY DALIA DÍAZ
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LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



Don't let the council get away with it!

There are other articles in this edition regarding the mayor's resignation and the upcoming Special Elections so I'm not going to dwell on the same issue. I do want to clarify why we are in this mess as a result of his leaving.

Danny has been looking for a job for the past two years and we knew that he wanted out of here before the proverbial crap hits. He has been going on interviews for lots of high positions, even those he was not qualified for such as the one at UMass because he has no experience in education. Of course, he was not considered!

Finally, we are getting rid of him but, like many who leave the administration or even move out of Lawrence, want to keep their fingers of everything happening here. Some have been known to remain as registered voters for many years. Dan wants to leave but he has certain conditions before leaving.

He has been meeting in his home with his closest supporters conniving how they would handle his departure including leaving Kendrys Vasquez collecting his salary now that he's unemployed and giving nine months to his anointed replacement to campaign for a September primary.

The plan that came out of that was violating the rules stipulated in the City Charter requiring a Special Election to take place within 90 days. The Interim Mayor should serve for that period and it should be appointed by the members of the city council. In this case, the mayor decided that Kendrys should be the one, ignoring once again the Charter mandates. My interpretation is that he wants to keep his fingers on top of things. Why not Marc Laplante? He's the best-qualified councilor to become Interim Mayor for the next 90 days.

Among the reasons mentioned for not having a Special Election is that we no longer have a City Clerk. That's quite an insult to Richard Reyes! Just look at the last council meeting when they awarded \$275 to Eileen Bernal for attending the council meetings yet, Richard, who will be taking the entire responsibility as Interim Clerk did not get a raise or stipend – and he works for the council, not the mayor.

However, the missing variable not being considered is the culmination of continuous attacks on the Clerk's Office and Election Office for many years. It's

no secret how much this mayor has tried to fire Bill Maloney (probably to accommodate another friend) and the adverse consequences of these "attacks" resulted in his taking on many of the duties and responsibilities caused by the loss of staff.

When his retirement was announced at the council meeting last month, Councilor Laplante spoke very highly of his 29 years serving the city and adding something relative to the fact that he is leaving on his terms. I understood that he was referring to the way the mayor had threatened him for years.

This should not detract from the extraordinary the permanent staff who overcame the impact of reduced staffing and even the pandemic working through two weeks of quarantine when the coronavirus was contracted by the Election Staff in September 2020 and stepped up to assure all required election services were provided seamlessly despite the odds in favor of failure. The work of Richard Reyes, Dan Tavor, Ruben Perez, Lourdes Alvarado, Henry Checo, Carole Morin, Damarys Ruiz, and even the recent new staff members Lisbeth Perdomo and Jenniffer Jimenez must be applauded and highlighted for making the impossible - possible.

"The loss of any one of these workers at any time during the past 6 to 9 months potentially results in the failure of service provided by either the Clerk's Office and/or Election Office or worse – a failed Primary or State Election," Bill Maloney proudly told me after the November elections. "Yet, the extraordinary efforts by the staff to deliver required/mandated services remain unrecognized and unrewarded."

Denying meaningful budgetary support and the failure to assure proper staffing for mandated Constitutional functions (elections) and mandated public services (City Clerk's Office) through staff reductions and allowing positions to remain vacant for six months as a method of recouping funds lost on the payout of service was brought to a crescendo with the retirement of Assistant Clerk Carole Morin followed by the retirement of the City Clerk six months later. This is not a new development but a result of poor administrative policy and operation over the years."

The question is whether or not addressing these matters now will reverse the impact of policies implemented over the years to allow a Special Election to take

place as required by the City Charter.

The City Charter assigns the City Council to conduct and oversee elections while allowing the Administration to provide for staffing of the personnel the City Council relies on to implement functions that the Council is responsible to implement. The two functions become opposed if either branch of government decides not to meet its Charter obligations. However, it is the City Council that retains the ultimate authority in all respects.

This is not a critique of governmental operations. Far from it; it is an "observation".

I don't believe that the virus is a good reason for canceling the Special Election. We just had a presidential election and 58%

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RUMBO

315 Mt. Vernon St.
Lawrence MA 01843
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Letters must be less than 300 words in length. Please send a telephone number or email address by which we may confirm the sender.

of registered voters came out to do their duty. That was amazing! With absentee voting, mail voting, early voting, and in-person voting, it's very safe taking part in this election.

The same goes for money. The mayor just borrowed \$6 million this year and nobody knows where is being spent. Besides, he brags about having \$15 million in the free cash account. We can easily take from there, whatever the Special Election costs.

The poorest excuse I heard so far is that the city will be going through the hassle of too many changes for this coming year but that's not good enough. Let the people choose as the law requires.

Home Depot to Announce Support for Methuen Youth and Community Center

State Senator Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) and Carmen A. Fulchini, Methuen Home Depot store manager, will host a check presentation and press availability next Tuesday at the old Pleasant Valley School in support of the Methuen Youth and Community Center project.

Over the past year, DiZoglio has made the establishment of a formal youth and community center in the City of Methuen one of her top priorities, culminating in a 159-mile March Across Massachusetts this fall to raise awareness and support for the project. DiZoglio has noted that Methuen is among the few communities in the Merrimack Valley without a center like many surrounding cities and towns.

The local nonprofit Inspirational Ones, in collaboration with Methuen Public Schools and the City of Methuen, is initiating the project, creating and implementing a curriculum model to identify and expand outside-the-box learning experiences and career opportunities, with a focus on engaging underserved youth. An essential component of the project is participation by the Youth Advisory Council MY (Methuen Youth) Voice, whose members have been nominated by teachers and school staff and include representatives of that underserved population.

In October, the Methuen School Committee voted to approve the former Pleasant Valley School building as the location for a Methuen Youth and Community Center.



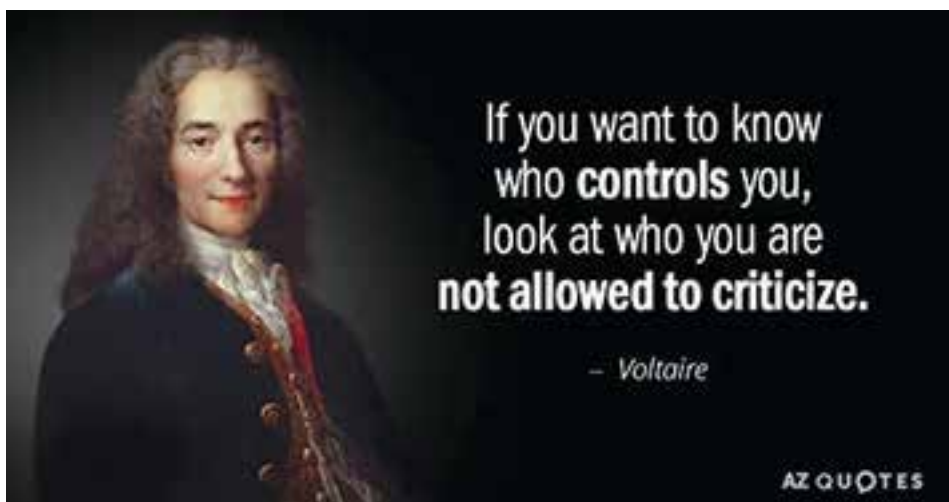
WHO: State Senator Diana DiZoglio and Carmen A. Fulchini, Methuen Home Depot store manager

WHAT: Check presentation with individual interview opportunities

WHEN: 11am; Tuesday, December 22

WHERE: 180 Pleasant Valley Street, Methuen, MA 01844 (the old Pleasant Valley School)

Contact: Diana DiZoglio (cell: 978-984-7747)



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PUBLIC NOTICE – Virtual Meeting

Haverhill –Thursday, December 17 - The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission will hold its virtual online monthly meeting on Thursday, December 17 at 11:00 am. The agenda includes updates of the Commission's activities and is available at the MVPC website www.mvpc.org.

For questions or details of this meeting contact Nancy Lavallee at nlavallee@mvpc.org.

Celebración de apertura en primavera

Comienza la renovación multianual de jardín en los espacios de jardines expandidos de Stevens-Coolidge House and Gardens con nuevas experiencias

The Trustees of Reservations (Trustees) se complace en anunciar una renovación multianual de Stevens-Coolidge House & Gardens (anteriormente llamado Stevens-Coolidge Place) en North Andover, MA. Actualmente, se están realizando trabajos en los jardines y en la casa para crear nuevas salas de jardines que complementan la casa y los jardines históricos principales mientras brindan nuevas experiencias para los visitantes. Este proyecto también reorienta el lugar con una nueva entrada sobre Chickering Road para que los peatones no tengan que cruzar Andover Street para ingresar al sitio. The Trustees creó un plan maestro junto a los arquitectos paisajistas de Mikyoung Kim Design y Maryann Thompson Architects para el lugar del jardín histórico. Las principales características del nuevo plan incluyen un acceso al jardín desde Chickering Road, un paisaje que hace que esta casa histórica sea más accesible, y diseños de jardines.

“Nos emociona ver comenzar la inversión en Stevens Coolidge House & Gardens”, indica Cindy Brockway, directora del Programa Cultural. “A fin de transformar el jardín y la programación de los visitantes que nuestros empleados y voluntarios han comenzado, estas inversiones transformarán la propiedad en una celebración de la belleza de la horticultura inspirada por el legado de las familias Stevens y Coolidge. Los nuevos espacios de jardines y programas interactivos les darán la bienvenida al público para que exploren las salas de jardines, ingresen a la casa histórica y regresen varias veces para disfrutar con toda la familia”.

El plan se basa en el trabajo realizado sobre esta propiedad de 91 cuerdas en los últimos años, primero por voluntarios, y más recientemente, por un personal dedicado. Los jardines restaurados previamente (que incluyen el jardín de rosas, el invernadero, la huerta, el jardín de plantas perennes y el jardín de flores de corte) le dan a la propiedad su principal enlace con el pasado. El plan preserva

la estructura arquitectónica general y el estilo de casa de campo estadounidense, mientras exhibe los nuevos espacios de jardines (que tienen plantaciones de las últimas especies ornamentales, variedades y cultivares en diseños contemporáneos) y crea exhibiciones de arbustos autóctonos y flores silvestres, y senderos naturales por los bosques, los campos y las praderas de la propiedad histórica de Ashdale Farm.

Mientras los visitantes se acercan a la propiedad, veintidós árboles estadounidenses (Tilia americana “Redmond”) flanquearán el nuevo carril de entrada y eventualmente le darán sombra a esta nueva extensión abierta. Para mantener el aroma y la sensación de los jardines históricos, The Trustees está incorporando setos como una característica que define al espacio en los nuevos espacios de jardines. Entre el jardín del humedal y el jardín de flores de corte, se encontrará un seto de acerbo rojo de invierno (Ilex verticillata o “Sparkleberry”). Esta pequeña, pero prolífica, variedad de plantas frutales se mantendrá como seto de 4-5’ de alto, que será el trasfondo del jardín de humedales, y brindará una sensación de recinto para el jardín de flores de corte. Además, este seto será un interés invernal y un alimento para las aves de invierno.

“Como la construcción en Stevens-Coolidge House & Gardens se ha estado llevando a cabo desde la primavera pasada, podría ser difícil imaginar cómo se verá cuando esté terminada”, agrega Katherine Macdonald, la directora de Stevens-Coolidge House & Gardens. “Pero la entrega reciente de más de 5,000 plantas y 165,000 focos es un gran indicador de lo hermosos y emocionantes que serán estos jardines. Ansio recibir a visitantes de todas las edades y capacidades para compartir la felicidad de visitar un jardín público como un lugar para relajarse y encontrar consuelo en la belleza de la naturaleza”.

La nueva entrada y orientación para visitantes, y las exhibiciones de jardines expandidos mejorarán Stevens-Coolidge House & Garden como espacio de jardín

de reunión para North Andover y las comunidades vecinas. Para los amantes de la historia, los espacios también revelarán más sobre la importancia de las familias Stevens y Coolidge en la historia local y regional.

El espectáculo de primavera, desde el 21 de abril al 16 de mayo de 2021, lanzará la celebración de la renovación. Más de 165,000 focos iluminarán nueve jardines de exhibición con los colores exuberantes de la primavera. Además de los jardines de exhibición, los visitantes disfrutarán una serie de programas y eventos representados entre la belleza del jardín.

Sobre Stevens-Coolidge House & Gardens

Stevens-Coolidge House & Gardens ejemplifica los retiros rurales de los ciudadanos adinerados de principios de la década de 1900. Fue la casa de verano de Helen Stevens Coolidge y su esposo, John Gardner Coolidge, un diplomático descendiente de Thomas Jefferson y sobrino de Isabella Stewart Gardner, desde 1914 hasta 1962.

Helen Stevens-Coolidge se dedicó a preservar y mejorar Ashdale Farm, que sus familiares adquirieron en 1729 y luego cultivaron durante seis generaciones. Con el apoyo de su esposo, transformó la granja en una propiedad agrícola elegante que disfrutaban los habitantes adinerados de Boston.

En 1914, la familia Coolidge contrató al arquitecto dedicado a la preservación Joseph Everett Chandler para que

remodelara las dos casas de hacienda de estilo federal conectadas a la propiedad, y creó una propiedad neocolonial británica refinada rodeada por jardines de plantas perennes, un jardín de rosas y un complejo de invernaderos, y un jardín francés de vegetales con una pared de ladrillos con patrón de serpentina. Dentro de la casa, la decoración colorida y ecléctica refleja los amplios intereses de la familia Coolidge y sus frecuentes viajes al extranjero. El mural del vestíbulo de entrada, pintado por el artista español Joseph Remidas, resalta los elementos de exterior dentro de la casa. Para obtener más información, visite thetrustees.org/stevenscoolidge

Sobre Trustees

Trustees fue fundada en la ciudad de Boston por el arquitecto paisajista y visionario de espacios abiertos Charles Eliot en 1891, y es la primera organización sin fines de lucro de preservación y conservación más grande de Massachusetts y del país. Durante más de 125 años, hemos trabajado para preservar y proteger lugares naturales y culturales dinámicos, desde playas y jardines de la comunidad hasta granjas, viviendas históricas, paisajes diseñados y rutas de senderismo, para el uso público. Hoy estamos trabajando para unir a un gran distrito de residentes de Massachusetts, miembros, visitantes y socios públicos y privados en nuestro trabajo para ayudar a proteger nuestros delicados sitios naturales, ecológicos, culturales y costeros para las generaciones actuales y del futuro. Para obtener más información, visite thetrustees.org

”La ignorancia mata a los pueblos, y es preciso matar a la ignorancia”

“Ignorance kills people, and it is necessary to kill ignorance”

José Martí.



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U.S. Dept. of Commerce Awards \$600k to Lawrence Partnership

Funding will be used to support the expansion of the Revolving Test Kitchen initiative, invest in small, local food-based businesses in Lawrence.

By Nate Robertson

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission along with Congresswoman Lori Trahan, Senator Edward J. Markey, Senator Elizabeth Warren, the City of Lawrence, and the Lawrence Partnership announced that the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) has awarded a federal grant of \$600,000 to the Lawrence Partnership, a broad coalition of business and civic leaders. This federal funding will be used to support the expansion of their Revolving Test Kitchen (RTK) initiative, an incubator to invest in small, local food-based businesses in Lawrence, Massachusetts. This expansion will allow for the RTK to increase operations and serve up to a dozen food-based businesses in Lawrence at once. The project was made possible by the regional planning efforts led by the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission.

“At a moment when restaurants, caterers, bakers, food trucks, and other food businesses are facing unprecedented challenges because of COVID-19, this funding could not be more important,” said Congresswoman Trahan. “Combined with contributions from local investors, this federal investment in the Revolving Test Kitchen’s proven model will give more small businesses access to vital funding while also creating 100 new jobs in the process. I’m proud to have partnered with Senator Markey to support the awarding of this grant, and I look forward to our continued work with Mayor Rivera, the Regional Planning Commission, and the Lawrence Partnership to deliver for the city.”

“The impact of the coronavirus is

hitting Lawrence disproportionately hard,” said Senator Markey. “This federal funding will help mitigate the impact on businesses by awarding funding, as well as the prospect of further job-creation, enhanced neighborhood resilience, and overall economic development. I am proud to have helped secure the federal funding with my colleagues and Lawrence officials needed to support this vital initiative.”

“This crisis is putting a ton of pressure on small business owners, their families, and employees,” said Senator Warren. “This federal investment in the expansion of the Revolving Test Kitchen (RTK) initiative will help jumpstart small food-based businesses in Lawrence and help boost the local economy.”

“Thank you to Senators Markey and Warren and Congresswoman Trahan for their continued dedication and investment to entrepreneurship, especially in Lawrence,” said Mayor Daniel Rivera. “This investment means opportunities for immigrant entrepreneurs, making business ownership an attainable dream, while also feeding the Lawrence economy. The Lawrence Revolving Test Kitchen has proved to be an asset to local start-ups as it offers the space, training, and tools to set businesses on a path for success and the City has been proud to be a partner. Congratulations to Lawrence Partnership, Inc. and thank you all for continuing to Make Lawrence Better.”

“The Revolving Test Kitchen has been a valuable program for business and community development over the last three years and this additional investment will support the scaling of the model as the



needs of our food-based businesses have never been greater,” said Derek Mitchell, Executive Director, Lawrence Partnership. “We are grateful for the collaboration leadership of so many partners—including our federal delegation, Lupoli Co., NECC, and the City of Lawrence among others—to help realize this vision.”

“The City of Lawrence is a hub of food entrepreneurs and EDA’s investment in the Revolving Test Kitchen will help micro-enterprises and small businesses test their proof-of-concept and succeed in their culinary ventures,” said Theresa Park, Executive Director, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission.

“The Lawrence Revolving Test Kitchen provides local food-based businesses with the space and business training programs they need to succeed,” said Dana Gartzke, Performing the Delegated Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development. “The expanded facility will serve a broad range of food-

based businesses and entrepreneurs throughout the region, and the project’s location in an Opportunity Zone will attract additional, diverse investment to the Merrimack Valley region.”

“The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission is proud to have fought for this transformative investment. Entrepreneurs are one of the Merrimack Valley’s most valuable assets. Expanding the Revolving Test Kitchen is an investment in entrepreneurship, giving people more pathways to wealth. The Lawrence Partnership’s leadership on this will make the entire Merrimack Valley more resilient and prosperous,” said Nate Robertson, Community and Economic Development Planner, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission.

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) serves as the region’s Economic Development District allowing us to serve as a conduit between the U.S. Economic Development Administration and local organizations. MVPC produces the region’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and oversees its implementation. Our partnership with EDA allows us to shepherd key economic development projects through their various grant programs, bringing needed Federal investment to the Merrimack Valley.





General Teacher Prospective Vacancy (Lawrence) SY21-22





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Latinos for Education and MA Joint Committee on Education Highlight Tech and Education Disparities Impacting Latino Students

Legislative briefing presented interventions to provide broadband access and technology for Latino students in Massachusetts during COVID-19.

Latinos for Education joined Massachusetts Representative Alice Hanlon Peisch and Senator Jason M. Lewis, co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Education, to discuss critical issues facing Latino students in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Moderated by former House Chair of Ways and Means and current Senior Advisor at Rasky Partners, Latinos for Education was accompanied by Tech Goes Home to provide lawmakers with solutions to close some of the opportunity gaps in education that continue to be exacerbated as schools work to adapt to the pandemic.

“Latino students are experiencing learning loss at higher rates than their peers, they have less access to support services that can address their social and emotional health, and they face gaps in access to tech devices and broadband,” said Amanda Fernández, Co-Founder & CEO, Latinos for Education. “COVID-19 has accelerated the need to bring new innovative solutions to these opportunity gaps and we need members of the Massachusetts State Legislature to work together to immediately get devices and broadband access into the households of all families in Massachusetts.”

“More than 468,000 households in the Commonwealth lack a computer while more than 390,000 lack a home internet subscription” said Tech Goes Home Co-CEO Dan Noyes. “These divides affect everything from academic advancement to economic opportunity and access to telehealth during a global pandemic,

making the digital divide a critical social justice issue as more and more of our world moves online, it is imperative that we work with legislators to ensure equitable access to technology and digital literacy.”

The briefing, titled “The Impact of COVID-19 and the Digital Divide on the State of Latino Education” focused on the gaps in access to technology and broadband during distance learning. Currently, 2,700 students in Boston alone don’t have reliable internet access at a time when distance learning will continue.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has shed more light on the resource and access disparities facing minority communities across the Commonwealth, including Latinx students,” said Representative Peisch (D-Wellesley). “Having been hit hardest by both the pandemic and subsequent economic downturn, it is critical to redouble efforts to help these students and their families access the highest quality education possible. The Legislature remains committed to working with groups such as Latinos for Education to ensure that the needs of these students and their school districts are met.”

“Every child in Massachusetts deserves access to equitable public education and educational opportunities, and over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted and increased technology, accessibility and equity challenges, especially for students and communities of color,” said Senator Jason Lewis, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Education. “I’m grateful to Latinos for Education for their work highlighting and

addressing the equity challenges in the Massachusetts Latino community and look forward to working closely with them and other stakeholders to make an excellent public education available to all.”

Latinos for Education highlighted the need for broadband access based on findings from their survey of 288 Latino families, where 21% indicated that access to technology was their biggest need to support their child’s education, and that 46% noticed their children were experiencing learning loss. As a result of this survey, Latinos for Education launched #TechParaTodos, a policy and advocacy campaign to ensure that all students have access to the devices and technology they need to be successful.

Speakers at the briefing included:

- Massachusetts State Rep Alice Hanlon Peisch, Chair of the Joint Committee on Education

- Massachusetts State Senator Jason M. Lewis, Chair of the Joint Committee on Education

- Amanda Fernandez, Co-Founder & CEO, Latinos for Education, Board Member, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

- Lorena Lopera, Executive Director of MA, Latinos for Education

- Manny Cruz, Advocacy Director, Latinos for Education, Board Member Salem School Committee

- Jeffrey Sánchez, Former Massachusetts House Ways & Means Committee Chair, current Senior Advisor, Rasky Partners

- Daniel Noyes, Co-CEO, Tech Goes Home

- Theodora Higginson Hanna, Co-CEO, Tech Goes Home

A recording of the briefing is available here: <https://youtu.be/kIxWpS59Vus>

NECC Dean is Leader in Paramedic Research

Scott Lancaster, Northern Essex Community College’s interim dean of health professions, took top honors at an international conference, hosted by the leading organization for emergency medical services research, on Nov. 20.

Lancaster was selected from hundreds of applicants to give two of the ten presentations at the 2020 International Scientific Symposium, which was delivered virtually by the Prehospital Care Research Forum at UCLA.

Lancaster won the Best Educational Research Award for the first presentation, which focused on the effect of a paramedic’s personality when administering medications to trauma patients.

His second presentation examined the factors in a paramedic program that contribute to a higher passing rate on the paramedic licensure exam. This presentation was named Best Educational Oral Presentation, based on a vote of the 300-plus conference attendees.

The Prehospital Care Research Forum wants to encourage more research in the paramedic field. “The ultimate goal is to improve patient care,” said Lancaster. “A lot of the focus is on how we educate future paramedics.”

Currently most paramedic research is conducted by physicians, according to Lancaster, who believes it’s important to provide paramedics with master’s and doctorate degrees with the tools to do their own research.

A resident of Goffstown, NH, Lancaster joined Northern Essex in 2014 as department chair of the Paramedic Technology, EMS, and Health Care Management programs. He was promoted to assistant dean of health professions in 2019 and interim dean of health professions last June. He continues to work as a paramedic for the Amherst, NH Fire Department.



Lancaster has a bachelor’s and master’s in health care management and last year he was awarded a PhD from Simmons University.

Northern Essex offers an associate degree and certificate in Paramedic Technology and an EMT-Basic course. To learn more about the 22 health programs offered at Northern Essex, visit the website.

Northern Essex Community College has campuses in both Haverhill and Lawrence. It offers approximately 60 associate degree and certificate programs as well as hundreds of noncredit courses designed for personal enrichment and career growth. Each year, 6,000 students are enrolled in credit associate degree and certificate programs on the Haverhill and Lawrence campuses; and another 2,000 take noncredit workforce development and community education classes on campus, and at businesses and community sites across the Merrimack Valley. For more information, visit the website at www.necc.mass.edu or call 978-556-3700.

Avoid Holiday Shopping Scams
Don't Fall Victim to Online Schemes

‘Tis the season for holiday gifting, and many shoppers will go online this time of year to find the best deals on popular items. But the sellers you buy from may not be what they seem. Thousands of people become victims of holiday scams every year. Scammers can rob you of hard-earned money, personal information, and, at the very least, a festive mood.

Look out for scammers this holiday season:

- ✓ Always get a tracking number for items purchased online so you can make sure they have been shipped and can follow the delivery process.
- ✓ Be wary of sellers who post an auction or advertisement as if they reside in the U.S., then respond to questions by stating they are out of the country on business, family emergency, or similar reasons.
- ✓ Avoid sellers who post an auction or advertisement under one name but ask that payment be sent to someone else.
- ✓ Consider canceling your purchase if a seller requests funds be wired directly to them via a money transfer company, pre-paid card, or bank-to-bank wire transfer. Money sent in these ways is impossible to recover, with no recourse for the victim.
- ✓ Avoid sellers who act as authorized dealers or factory representatives of popular items in countries where there would be no such dealers.
- ✓ Verify the legitimacy of a buyer or seller before moving forward with a purchase. If you’re using an online marketplace or auction website, check feedback ratings.
- ✓ Avoid buyers who request their purchase be shipped using a certain method to avoid customs or taxes inside another country.
- ✓ Be suspect of any credit card purchases where the address of the cardholder does not match the shipping address.
- ✓ Always be wary of deals that seem too good to be true.

If you do become the victim of a holiday scam, contact your bank immediately. You should also inform your local law enforcement agency, and file a complaint at IC3.gov.

FBI COP
Community Outreach Program

Holiday closings at Nashua Public Library

The Nashua Public Library has modified its hours during the upcoming holidays. Here is the schedule:

Thursday, December 24: The library will close at 12 noon.

Friday, December 25-Sunday, December 27: Closed.

Thursday, December 31: The library will close at 3 p.m.

Friday, January 1-Sunday, January 3: closed.

If you have questions, call the library at 603-589-4600 or email information@nashualibrary.org.

Google App Classes at Nashua Library

The Nashua Public Library is offering free virtual classes on using Google apps this winter.

Learn to use Google Docs for word processing, Google Sheets for spreadsheets, Google Slides for presentations, Google Forms for surveys and Google Books for searching and browsing books. All of these apps are available free to anyone with internet access.

Beginners can start by taking Introduction to Google and Gmail, which includes how to use Google Drive.

For the schedule, descriptions of the classes, prerequisites and registration, go to tinyurl.com/nplcomputerclass. Sign up for the library's monthly computer class newsletter at tinyurl.com/nplenewsletter.

Nashua Library Services Limited

Due to a spike in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, the library building is again closed to the public. This closing will last until at least January 5, when the library trustees will meet to make a decision about a possible reopening.

Library customers can still reserve materials on nashualibrary.org for curbside pickup.

Curbside pickup is available:

- Monday to Thursday: 10 am to 7 pm
- Saturday: 10 am to 2 pm

Phones, email, and chat are answered:

- Monday to Thursday: 9 am to 7 pm
- Friday and Saturday: 9 am to 5 pm

Returning materials

Overdue fines are still not being charged, but customers will receive a notice two days before items are due and another

if they become overdue. Customers are asked to return items to the book drops by their due dates.

Online services available

Virtual library events and classes continue to be held.

Resources available at nashualibrary.org for free with a Nashua library card include:

Online catalog to reserve items to take home through curbside pickup.

- Downloadable audio- and e-books.

Streaming video.

- Research databases.
- Online classes.

Museum passes.

For people who don't have library cards, temporary ones, which allow access to all these services, are available on the library website.

Books by Mail

Eligibility for the Books by Mail program has been expanded. If you live in Nashua and meet at least one of the following criteria, you qualify for Books by Mail:

- You have disabilities that prevent you from visiting the library.
- You are visually impaired.
- You have a condition that puts you at high risk of serious illness from COVID-19.
- You are 60 or older.

For more details on how to sign up, go to nashualibrary.org/services/books-by-mail-2.

More information

For more information, call 603-589-4600 or email information@nashualibrary.org.

Nashua Library open for curbside pickup only

Due to a spike in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, as of November 20 the Nashua Public Library building is closed to the public until further notice.

Curbside pickup is still available Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Library phones, email and chat will be answered Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The book drops are closed. Keep

your materials until at least December 5. You will not be fined. After that, check nashualibrary.org or call 603-589-4600 for information about reopenings.

Virtual library events and classes will continue to be held as scheduled.

Holiday closings

The best way to keep up to date on library news is through the library's email newsletter. Subscribe at tinyurl.com/nplenewsletter.

Calling all poets and poetry lovers

The Nashua Public Library is partnering with Black Heritage Trail NH (BHTNH) for a virtual poetry conversation on Thursday, January 21, at 5 p.m.

The event is part of a BHTNH series, "The Black Matter Is Life: Poetry for Engagement and Overcoming." It will include the reading of a poem written by community members in Greater Nashua.

Join this conversation about how African American poetry sheds light on our nation's past and present, and on how we might imagine our nation's future. It will be hosted by UNH Professors Dennis Britton and Reginald Willard. The theme is "Love, Love, Love."

Special guest poet

Joining the event on January 21 will be the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "The Tradition," Jericho Brown. He will read his poem, "Like Father."

Submit your poetry

Greater Nashua poets and poetry lovers are invited to write poems in response to the "Love, Love, Love" theme and to the poems to be discussed on January 21. One of the Greater Nashua poems will be read at the January 21 event.

For more information on submitting poems, go to nashualibrary.org/news/calling-all-poets-and-poetry-lovers. Poems are due by January 13.

Register Now for Nature Exploration Program for Kids

Are you a kid between the ages of 8 and 14? Are you also a nature lover? Then you'll want to join Nature Quest, a joint program between the Nashua Public Library and the Nashua River Watershed Association.

At Nature Quest, you'll study natural habitats, try out science experiments at home and visit local parks. You'll learn how water, land, plants and animals are related.

Nature Quest will be held on five Saturdays: January 9, February 6, March 6, April 3 and May 1. From 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. we'll meet virtually and then from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. we'll go on a guided adventure in a Nashua park. Together the group will create "Discover Nashua's Nature," a guide to be displayed in the library and online.

Registration is open now. Email stacey@nashuariverwatershed.org



Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Jericho Brown will be a special guest at "The Black Matter Is Life" on January 21.

Before attending the conversation

Register for the virtual event at blackheritagetrailnh.org/the-black-matter-is-life. On that page are links to the poems being discussed, biographies of the poets, and a study guide. Attendees are encouraged to read and ponder the poems before the event.

Thanks to our sponsors

"The Black Matter Is Life" is generously sponsored by Tito's Handmade Vodka, Women of the Sea, and Centrus Digital.

¡La Fundación Big Brother Big Sister necesita tu ayuda!

Si tienes ropa usada y pequeños artículos del hogar que ya no usas, dónalos para quienes si los necesitan. Llegaremos a tu puerta para recibir lo que puedas entregar.

Para programar una cita, llama al 1.800.483.5503 o visítanos en nuestra página web en internet: www.bbbsfoundation.org.

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!




Workplace English Classes Forming at the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

Registrations are now being taken for Workplace English classes at the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center (the former Asian Center), 439 S. Union Street, building 2, Level B, Lawrence, MA 01843. These classes are free to Lawrence residents but students must have a high beginner level of English.

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

VAWA

Ley de Violencia contra la Mujer



Departamento de Justicia de New Hampshire

Aprenda a apoyar a las víctimas en su comunidad

Financiación de subvenciones

Solicitud en inglés y español publicada aquí

<https://www.doj.nh.gov/grants-management/funding-availability.htm>




INCRIPCIONES ABIERTAS

978-885-1842



"The political process does not end on Election Day. Young people need to stay involved in the process by continuing to pay attention to the conversation and holding their leaders accountable for the decisions they make."

"El proceso político no termina el día de las elecciones. Los jóvenes deben permanecer involucrados en el proceso al seguir prestando atención a la conversación y responsabilizar a sus líderes por las decisiones que toman".

Patrick Murphy

#GIVINGTUESDAY

What better day to give your year-end gift than #GivingTuesday
The International Day of Giving



We Need you
to help us continue turning fear, uncertainty and anxiety into solutions, support and services for our Guests.

These days after Thanksgiving, we see both COVID and our hopes for a vaccine on the rise. We want to kick this virus to the curb and return to hugs and smiles without masks, but we aren't there yet. Through this COVID crisis, Lazarus House has been a safety net for thousands. For our Guests, the pain of this pandemic on their health, jobs, and well-being is more profound than you or I can likely imagine. For the most vulnerable in Lawrence, the recovery may take years, and Lazarus House will be here for them - providing a place to safely heal, grow and write their own success stories.

As you see in the stats below, the Soup Kitchen and Food Party continue to serve higher-than-ever numbers of Guests and we expect a continued increase in the numbers of families facing food insecurity.

We are re-designing the Soup Kitchen to serve more Guests, incorporate our culinary training program into daily operations, and improve the lay out and function of the space so we can serve tasty, nutritious food for another 30 years! Our plan to renovate the Soup Kitchen is already underway as we continue to innovate and adapt to meet the current and future needs of our community.

Thank YOU for blessing Lazarus House so we can be a blessing to others.

FOOD PANTRY
(weekly average)

2019: 827 Guests → 2020: 1137 Guests

37% increase

SOUP KITCHEN
(weekly average)

2019: 938 Meals → 2020: 1698 Meals

81% increase

These days are full of promise for Lazarus House. God has blessed the work we've done to shore up our ability to provide food and shelter with dignity and care for each Guest during this time of crisis. Our hearts remain full of love for God, our supporters and our neighbors.

Together, we can continue to be a beacon of hope in the darkness of poverty.


Through it all, you have been with us, and we give God thanks for your generosity in these most challenging days.

We ask you to continue supporting us; our Guests need the food, shelter, and care your gifts provide.

Reverend Jeff Hassel, Executive Director

Lazarus House Ministries, Inc. | P.O. Box 408, Lawrence, MA 01842-0008
Visit www.LazarusHouse.org to find out more

MERRIMACK VALLEY YMCA



Y CARES
Remote Learning Program
Kindergarten – Grade 6

MONDAY – FRIDAY 7:30AM – 4:00PM OR 8:00AM – 5:00PM
Choose from two to five days/week.

Y CARES DETAILS

Program begins Wednesday, September 16, 2020

- Transportation from your child's school is available
- Meals and snack included (Lawrence & Methuen branches only)
- Financial assistance is available
- Children will be grouped in quiet rooms for study and remote learning with Wi-Fi
- Children will have time for "recess" during the school day and physical activities during after school hours

For more information, visit our website at mvyymca.org/kidscare or contact:

Executive Director of Child Care:
CATHY REDARD
redard@mvyymca.org • 978 725 6681

To contact our school age child care directors directly:

Andover/North Andover Julie LaBelle laelle@mvyymca.org 978 683 3541 ext. 406	Lawrence Ryan MacRae macrae@mvyymca.org 978 685 6311	Methuen Francine Hernandez hernandez@mvyymca.org 978 683 5266
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We know you have questions about how you can work while also supporting your child's modified school schedule and remote learning. The YMCA is here to ensure families will have flexible, affordable options for the time children are out of school.

Our Remote Learning Program is an EEC licensed program that combines digital learning with trusted, quality care for children in Kindergarten through 6th grade. The program day will be structured for your child to participate in their remote learning and schoolwork during the first part of the day, and then creative enrichment and physical activities for the remainder of the day. Transportation from your child's school is available. Sign your child up for a minimum of two days, or the entire week. You can choose the schedule that works best for your family!

SPOTS ARE LIMITED AND WILL BE FILLED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

