



Eliminemos COVID-19 use su máscara

Beat COVID-19 wear a mask

Enero/January 1, 2021

EDICIÓN NO. 749

The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley



Happy New Year from **Rumbo** and the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Staff

We wish you a better year in 2021!

Apertura del Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico

Pg. 2

NECC's Free Mobile Farmers Market in Haverhill and Lawrence During Pandemic



These are some of the volunteers helping with the distribution. Shown left to right: Janel D'Agata Lynch (left in photo) and Courtney Morin (second from right) along with volunteers Student Life's Stephanie Haskell and Student Zoey Lauria (left to right) at NECC's December mobile farmers market.

Go to page 16 for story and more pictures.

Para información sobre la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad de Lawrence y sus cambios, vaya a la página 6.

For information on the Home Rule Petition with changes to the City Charter, go to page 6.

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rumbonews.com/blogs

Desde Mi Esquina

¿Quién es analfabeto en Lawrence?
Pregúntele a María De La Cruz.

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Por/By Dalia Diaz
rumbonews.com/blogs

From My Corner

Who's illiterate in Lawrence?

Ask María De La Cruz.

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Apertura del Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico

La Junta de Directores del Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico, Inc. anuncian oficialmente la realización de su primera entrega cultural más importante de la ciudad, el 6 de enero de 2021 a las 7:00 PM en formato virtual, usando las plataformas de Facebook Live y YouTube. Dicha actividad inaugural consistirá de un saludo de su Presidente, José A. Dávila con el propósito formal de inaugurar esta institución sin fines de lucro inscrita en Massachusetts a raíz de levantar el legado cultural y artístico de Puerto Rico al mundo entero.

Como invitado especial se presentará desde Puerto Rico a Juan R. Nieves y su Legado Musical, un talento de Humacao que desde los cuatro años toca el cuatro puertorriqueño. Y ahora estudia con una beca en Berklee College of Music en la ciudad de Boston, Massachusetts. Su trabajo arduo desde niño y su participación en la Rondalla de Humacao, sus estudios en la Escuela Libre de Música y su participación en la Banda Municipal de Humacao lo han llevado a este nivel profesional de hoy día. Ha participado en diferentes giras en Holanda, Francia, Bélgica y España. Este artista del cuatro puertorriqueño nos dice: “Mi misión y mi sueño es abrir puertas y llevar el instrumento a lugares donde nunca ha sido escuchado.”

El Presidente del Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico, José A. Dávila, se expresó



diciendo: “Sobre el Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico, Inc.:

El Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico, Inc., organización sin fines de lucro establecida en Massachusetts, tiene por misión brindar educación y actividades artísticas a la comunidad puertorriqueña y latina a la vez que proporciona a la comunidad latina becas y otros programas de desarrollo personal y pasantías para ayudarlos en su crecimiento y desarrollo y aumentar su intelecto cultural.

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Dr. Dolores C Calaf, EdD
 Eduardo A. Lebrón, MM, CHI, CNC

Official Opening of The Puerto Rican Culture Institute

The Board of Directors of the Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico, Inc. officially announces the launching of its first and most important cultural event in the city on January 6, 2021 at 7:00PM on virtual platforms of Facebook Live and YouTube. This inaugural event will consist of a welcoming speech from its President, Jose A. Davila to formally present the mission and purpose of this nonprofit organization incorporated in Massachusetts. The purpose of this organization is to extend the cultural and artistic legacy of Puerto Rico to the world.

As the special guest we will enjoy the musical concert from Puerto Rico of Juan R. Nieves and his Legado group. Nieves, a musical talent from Humacao since four years of age plays the Puerto Rican “cuatro” (a small to mid-sized viola shaped type of classical guitar with 10 strings and tuned in fourths) Nieves is a student with special scholarships at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. His hard work since a child and his participation in the Rondalla of Humacao, his Studies at the Escuela Libre de Music (Music school) and his participation in the Municipal Music Band of Humacao have taken him to the professional level he has today. Nieves has done tours in different countries such as Holland, France, Belgium, and Spain. This cuatro guitar artist believes that, “My mission and my dream is open doors and take this wonderful instrument to places that have never seen or listen to its beauty.”

The President of the Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico, José A. Dávila, expressed his joy by saying: “What motivated me to this project was the need to have an entity that could help us elevate our Puerto Rican culture. I believe in our youth and my focus is that we need to show our Puerto Rican youth and from other cultures our country’s culture. It is through programs where they can learn to play the Puerto Rican cuatro and many other musical and cultural skills. It will be my pleasure and the team to show our people that there are ways to develop our intellect through this brilliant project.”

About the Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico, Inc.:

The Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico, Inc., a nonprofit organization established in Massachusetts has its mission to bring education and artistic/cultural activities to the Puerto Rican community and Latinx while it provides scholarships and other personal development programs and internships to help them in their development and cultural knowledge growth.

Executive Board:

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 Eduardo A. Lebrón, MM, CHI, CNC

Iniciativa de desvío de desalojos: servicios legales gratuitos

A través del Proyecto de Ayuda Legal para Desalojos COVID-19 (CELHP), hay una expansión sustancial de la ayuda legal gratuita para inquilinos de bajos ingresos, así como propietarios-ocupantes de bajos ingresos de 2-3 propiedades familiares que navegan por el proceso de desalojo. Estos servicios se pueden usar antes de que comience el proceso de desalojo, así como una vez que se haya recibido un aviso, y se pueden usar en coordinación con los servicios de mediación comunitaria (www.resolutionma.org). Para los servicios legales, la elegibilidad por ingresos está limitada al 200% del nivel federal de pobreza.

Los servicios legales estarán

disponibles en todas las regiones y se pueden encontrar en www.evictionlegalhelp.org. Los hogares también pueden llamar al 2-1-1 y obtener más información en el sitio web del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario, www.mass.gov/CovidHousingHelp.

La ayuda legal está disponible en este momento para los inquilinos elegibles por ingresos que enfrentan un desalojo. Recomendamos encarecidamente a los inquilinos y propietarios que aprendan sobre la ayuda legal y los recursos de mediación comunitaria. Los inquilinos y propietarios elegibles deben buscar ayuda tan pronto como sea posible, antes de que ocurra una presentación judicial.

Eviction Diversion Initiative: Free Legal Services

Through the COVID-19 Eviction Legal Help Project (CELHP), there is a substantial expansion of free legal help for low-income tenants as well as low-income owner-occupants of 2-3 family properties navigating the eviction process. These services can be used before the eviction process begins, as well as once a notice has been received, and can be used in coordination with community mediation services (www.resolutionma.org). For the legal services income eligibility is capped at 200% of federal poverty level.

Legal services will be available in

every region and can be found at www.evictionlegalhelp.org. Households can also call 2-1-1 and learn more at the Department of Housing and Community Development’s website, www.mass.gov/CovidHousingHelp.

Legal help is available right now for income-eligible tenants facing eviction. We strongly encourage tenants and landlords to learn about legal help as well as community mediation resources. Eligible tenants and landlords should seek help as soon as possible, before a court filing occurs.

READ PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF RUMBO ON OUR WEBSITE

RUMBONEWS.COM

Registration Opens for Spring Semester at NECC

Northern Essex Community College is currently registering new and returning students for the Spring 2021 semester, which begins Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021.

Due to the pandemic, 90% of courses will be delivered online. Only those courses that require a face-to-face component—primarily Health and STEM courses—will be offered on campus.

You can learn more about the college’s over 60 academic programs.

You can also search for courses.

You can find out about the college’s many virtual admissions events.

For additional information on enrolling this spring, contact Enrollment Services, 978 556-3700 or admissions@necc.mass.edu

necc.mass.edu

NorthernEssexCommunityCollegehas 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.

Rumbo

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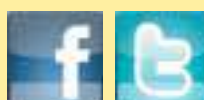
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NOW HIRING

Bilingual Medical Assistants & Nurses

Greater Lawrence Family Health Center is currently seeking bilingual (Spanish/English) Medical Assistants, Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses to provide the highest quality care to our patients.

Full-time positions are now available throughout our clinical sites in Lawrence and Methuen.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT REQUIREMENTS:

- Fluent in English and Spanish
- Graduate of a medical assistant program
- Current BLS certification

NURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Fluent in English and Spanish
- Must be a graduate of an accredited nursing program
- Current Massachusetts License in Registered or Licensed Practical Nursing
- Current BLS certification



CONTRATANDO

Asistentes médicos y enfermeras bilingües

Greater Lawrence Family Health Center está buscando asistentes médicos (MA) y enfermeras (RN/LPN) bilingües (Español/Inglés) para brindar atención de la más alta calidad a nuestros pacientes.

Tenemos disponibles posiciones a tiempo completo en nuestras clínicas de Lawrence y Methuen.

Requisitos para los asistentes médicos:

- Hablar bien Inglés y Español
- Graduado de un programa de asistente médico
- Certificación vigente en BLS

Requisitos para las enfermeras:

- Hablar bien Inglés y Español
- Graduado de un programa de enfermería acreditado
- Licencia de enfermera RN o LPN vigente en Massachusetts
- Certificación vigente en BLS



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POR DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



CARTAS AL EDITOR
RUMBO

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

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.

Eres un analfabeto

¡Eres analfabeto! ¡No puedes leer! Al menos eso es lo que acaba de decir la Concejala de la Ciudad de Lawrence, María De La Cruz, durante la reunión del Concejo Municipal del lunes. Ella dijo "Ustedes no saben leer" a los residentes de la Ciudad de Lawrence. Ella le está diciendo claramente que usted no es inteligente. No creo que haya entendido lo que acabo de escribir, así que lo escribiré una vez más: "No sabe leer".

La Concejala María De La Cruz es una política vendida. No digo esto solamente por ella estar a favor de aprobar la petición de autonomía que niega a sus electores el derecho a votar por un nuevo alcalde en elecciones especiales. Digo esto en parte porque ella cree que ser concejal es un trabajo y cree que merece que le paguen un salario de trabajo de tiempo completo. Lo llamamos basura. ¡Esto no es un empleo! Es un honor representar a los constituyentes de uno, no un trabajo con paga.

La Concejala De La Cruz ya tiene familiares trabajando en el gobierno de la ciudad debido a su posición como concejal de la ciudad y por su voto en el Concejo Municipal de Lawrence. Ella lo sabe y esa es la única razón por la que se pone del lado del alcalde saliente.

Fíjese, la Concejala De la Cruz quiere que los contribuyentes de Lawrence le paguen un salario de tiempo completo por ser una funcionaria electa, que ya usa su puesto para contratar a su familia. Necesita un trabajo y nadie está dispuesto a contratarla. Así que ahora asume el cargo de concejal con la oportunidad de intentar aumentar su salario. María ha vivido en Lawrence, Nueva York, Methuen, y nuevamente se mudó a Lawrence, todo mientras buscaba la oportunidad de encontrar dinero.

La Concejala De La Cruz solía trabajar para la Senadora Estatal Barbara L'Italien. Una vez que la Senadora L'Italien ya no se postuló para el cargo, María se encontró sin un empleo de tiempo completo y sin nadie más dispuesto a contratarla. Como nadie la ha contratado todavía, intentará hacer otra cosa. Ella colocó, en la agenda del Concejo de la Ciudad de Lawrence, un documento

para que los Concejales de la Ciudad voten aumentando su salario, sabiendo que una vez que el Alcalde Rivera se vaya, ella no tendrá una posición de influencia entre ella y el alcalde entrante a menos que haya un aliado suyo en la oficina de la esquina del tercer piso (como el Presidente del Concejo Kendrys Vasquez).

Esta no es la primera vez que hace que los contribuyentes de Lawrence paguen su salario. Obligó a la Ciudad de Lawrence a pagar su desempleo, cuando en realidad debería haber sido el estado el que debería haber pagado su compensación por desempleo. Fue entonces cuando presentó su solicitud porque había perdido su trabajo en la oficina de la senadora estatal.

Si se aprueba una petición de autonomía, el Concejal Vásquez asume el cargo de alcalde y María tendrá una relación más que cordial con el próximo alcalde temporal y la aprobación del voto del concejo para un aumento de salario, otro conflicto de intereses y una gran razón para que ella no vote por la petición de autonomía. Todos sabemos que cualquier otro candidato a alcalde (a menos que sea Vilma Martínez) no tolerará sus actitudes o acciones semi-corruptas.

Su intento actual es su interés en el puesto de secretaria municipal. ¡Deje de reírse! ¿Podría la concejala que llama a los electores "analfabetos" ser un deleite en un puesto de servicio al cliente? Quiere que el concejo solicite una petición de autonomía similar a la que se solicitó cuando se le permitieron a Eileen Bernal convertirse en jefa de gabinete bajo el Alcalde Rivera. La ley requiere que un concejal de la ciudad espere un año completo antes de aceptar un trabajo remunerado en la ciudad.

Durante las próximas elecciones, los residentes de Lawrence deben votar en contra de los políticos que tienen un interés en sí mismos, en lugar de un interés en las personas que representan y particularmente a una que llama estúpidos a sus propios ciudadanos. Mientras tanto, María usará un manual de su país de origen usando el voto corrupto para enriquecerse.

Espero que alguien le lea esto a María porque, según sus votos en el concejo, no comprende lo que está haciendo.

Estos son los traidores de Lawrence



Senador Barry Finegold



Alcalde Daniel Rivera



Representante Estatal Marcos Devers



Representante Estatal Frank Morán

No hay otro nombre apropiado para estos políticos que han traicionado a los residentes de Lawrence. Si bien fue el Senador Finegold quien llevó el Proyecto de Ley #2993 con los cambios al Charter de la Ciudad a la Casa de Estado para ser aprobado, todos son culpables.

Ninguno de nuestros representantes estatales han dado la cara para defender nuestra opinión y evitar el abuso que conlleva.

Votar contra ellos cuando les llegue la reelección no es suficiente; la gente se habrá olvidado para entonces. El momento de hacer algo es ahora para que los legisladores en Boston nos escuchen.

La próxima semana les traeremos el resto de los traidores.



Representante Estatal Christina Minicucci

These are Lawrence Traitors

There is no other appropriate name for these politicians who have betrayed the residents of Lawrence. While it was Senator Finegold who brought Bill #2993 with the City Charter changes to the State House for approval, they are all guilty.

None of our state representatives have stood up to defend our opinion and prevent

the abuse it entails.

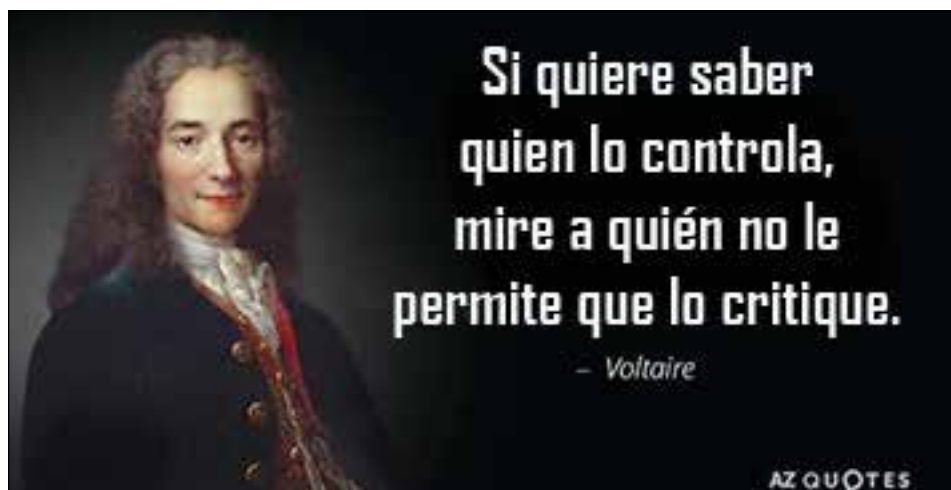
Voting against them when they get reelected is not enough; people will have forgotten by then. The time to do something is now for lawmakers in Boston to listen to us.

Next week we'll bring you the rest of the traitors.

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

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

- Thomas Jefferson



Las agencias federales advierten sobre esquemas de fraude emergentes relacionados con las vacunas de COVID-19

La Oficina Federal de Investigaciones (FBI), la Oficina del Inspector General del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos (HHS-OIG) y los Centros de Servicios de Medicare y Medicaid (CMS) advierten al público sobre varios esquemas de fraude emergentes relacionados con las vacunas de COVID-19.

El FBI, HHS-OIG y CMS han recibido quejas de estafadores que utilizan el interés del público en las vacunas de COVID-19 para obtener información de identificación personal (PII) y dinero a través de varios esquemas. Continuamos trabajando diligentemente con los socios encargados de hacer cumplir la ley y el sector privado para identificar las amenazas cibernéticas y el fraude en todas sus formas.

El público debe conocer los siguientes indicadores potenciales de actividad fraudulenta:

- Anuncios u ofertas para acceso temprano a una vacuna mediante el pago de un depósito o tarifa.
- Solicitudes que le piden que pague de su bolsillo para obtener la vacuna o que ponga su nombre en una lista de espera para la vacuna de COVID-19.
- Ofertas para someterse a pruebas o procedimientos médicos adicionales al obtener una vacuna.
- Comercializadores que ofrecen vender y/o enviar dosis de una vacuna, a nivel nacional o internacional, a cambio del pago de un depósito o tarifa.
- Correos electrónicos, llamadas telefónicas o contacto personal no solicitado de alguien que dice ser de un consultorio médico, una compañía de seguros o un

centro de vacunación de COVID-19 solicitando información personal y/o médica para determinar la elegibilidad de los destinatarios para participar en ensayos clínicos de vacunas u obtener la vacuna.

- Declaraciones de aprobación de la FDA para una vacuna que no se puede verificar.
- Anuncios de vacunas a través de plataformas de redes sociales, correo electrónico, llamadas telefónicas, en línea o de fuentes no solicitadas/desconocidas.
- Personas que se comuniquen con usted en persona, por teléfono o por correo electrónico para informarle que el gobierno o los funcionarios del gobierno requieren que reciba una vacuna de COVID-19.

Consejos para evitar el fraude relacionado con la vacuna COVID-19:

- Consulte el sitio web del departamento de salud de su estado para obtener información actualizada sobre los canales de distribución de vacunas autorizados y solo obtener una vacuna a través de dichos canales.
- Consulte el sitio web de la FDA (fda.gov) para obtener información actualizada sobre las autorizaciones de uso de emergencia de vacunas.
- Consulte a su médico de atención primaria antes de recibir cualquier vacuna.
- No comparta su información personal o de salud con nadie más que profesionales médicos conocidos y de confianza.
- Verifique sus facturas médicas y la explicación de beneficios del seguro (EOB) en busca de reclamos sospechosos e informe de inmediato cualquier error a su

proveedor de seguro médico.

- Siga la guía y las recomendaciones de los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) de EE.UU. y otros profesionales médicos de confianza.

Técnicas generales de prevención del fraude en línea/cibernético:

- Verifique la ortografía de direcciones web, sitios web y direcciones de correo electrónico que parezcan confiables pero que puedan ser imitaciones de sitios web legítimos.
- Asegúrese de que los sistemas operativos y las aplicaciones estén actualizados a las versiones más actuales.
- Actualice el software anti-malware y antivirus y realice análisis de red regulares.
- No habilite macros en documentos descargados de un correo electrónico a menos que sea necesario y después de asegurarse de

que el archivo no sea malicioso.

- No se comunique ni abra correos electrónicos, archivos adjuntos o enlaces de personas desconocidas.
- Nunca proporcione información personal de ningún tipo por correo electrónico; Tenga en cuenta que muchos correos electrónicos solicitando su información personal pueden parecer legítimos.
- Si es posible, utilice una autenticación sólida de dos factores, mediante biometría, tokens de hardware o aplicaciones de autenticación.
- Deshabilite o elimine aplicaciones de software innecesarias.

Si cree que ha sido víctima de un fraude de COVID-19, denúncielo inmediatamente al FBI (ic3.gov, tips.fbi.gov o 1-800-CALL-FBI) o al HHS OIG (tips.hhs.gov o 1-800-HHS-TIPS).

Federal Agencies Warn of Emerging Fraud Schemes Related to COVID-19 Vaccines

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG), and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) are warning the public about several emerging fraud schemes related to COVID-19 vaccines.

The FBI, HHS-OIG, and CMS have received complaints of scammers using the public's interest in COVID-19 vaccines to obtain personally identifiable information (PII) and money through various schemes. We continue to work diligently with law enforcement partners and the private sector to identify cyber threats and fraud in all forms.

authorized vaccine distribution channels and only obtaining a vaccine through such channels.

- Check the FDA's website (fda.gov) for current information about vaccine emergency use authorizations.
- Consult your primary care physician before undergoing any vaccination.
- Don't share your personal or health information with anyone other than known and trusted medical professionals.
- Check your medical bills and insurance explanation of benefits (EOBs) for any suspicious claims and promptly reporting any errors to your health insurance provider.
- Follow guidance and recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other trusted medical professionals.

The public should be aware of the following potential indicators of fraudulent activity:

- Advertisements or offers for early access to a vaccine upon payment of a deposit or fee.
- Requests asking you to pay out of pocket to obtain the vaccine or to put your name on a COVID-19 vaccine waiting list.
- Offers to undergo additional medical testing or procedures when obtaining a vaccine.
- Marketers offering to sell and/or ship doses of a vaccine, domestically or internationally, in exchange for payment of a deposit or fee.
- Unsolicited emails, telephone calls, or personal contact from someone claiming to be from a medical office, insurance company, or COVID-19 vaccine center requesting personal and/or medical information to determine recipients' eligibility to participate in clinical vaccine trials or obtain the vaccine.
- Claims of FDA approval for a vaccine that cannot be verified.
- Advertisements for vaccines through social media platforms, email, telephone calls, online, or from unsolicited/unknown sources.
- Individuals contacting you in person, by phone, or by email to tell you the government or government officials require you to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

General online/cyber fraud prevention techniques:

- Verify the spelling of web addresses, websites, and email addresses that look trustworthy but may be imitations of legitimate websites.
- Ensure operating systems and applications are updated to the most current versions.
- Update anti-malware and anti-virus software and conduct regular network scans.
- Do not enable macros on documents downloaded from an email unless necessary and after ensuring the file is not malicious.
- Do not communicate with or open emails, attachments, or links from unknown individuals.
- Never provide personal information of any sort via email; be aware that many emails requesting your personal information may appear to be legitimate.
- Use strong two-factor authentication if possible, using biometrics, hardware tokens, or authentication apps.
- Disable or remove unneeded software applications.

If you believe you have been the victim of a COVID-19 fraud, immediately report it to the FBI (ic3.gov, tips.fbi.gov, or 1-800-CALL-FBI) or HHS OIG (tips.hhs.gov or 1-800-HHS-TIPS).

Tips to avoid COVID-19 vaccine-related fraud:

- Consult your state's health department website for up-to-date information about

Protect Yourself
AVOID COVID-19 Vaccine Scams

As COVID-19 vaccine distribution begins, here are signs of potential scams:

- You are asked to pay out of pocket to get the vaccine.
- You are asked to pay to put your name on a vaccine waiting list or to get early access.
- Advertisements for vaccines through social media platforms, email, telephone calls, online, or from unsolicited/unknown sources.
- Marketers offering to sell or ship doses of the vaccine for payment.

✓ **Protect Yourself. Do not give out your personal information to unknown sources.**

! If you believe you have been the victim of COVID-19 fraud, immediately report it to:

- HHS-OIG Hotline: 1-800-HHS-TIPS | tips.hhs.gov
- FBI Hotline: 1-800-CALL-FBI | ic3.gov
- CMS/Medicare Hotline: 1-800-MEDICARE

For accurate, up-to-date information about COVID-19, visit:
oig.hhs.gov/coronavirus
fbi.gov/coronavirus
justice.gov/coronavirus

HHS Office of Inspector General | Federal Bureau of Investigation | Department of Justice | CMS

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 3145 FILED ON: 12/29/2020

SENATE No. 2993

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:
Barry R. Finegold

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the Office of the Mayor in the city of Lawrence.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Barry R. Finegold	Second Essex and Middlesex	
Marc Laplante		12/30/2020
Maria De La Cruz		12/30/2020
Estela Reyes		12/30/2020
David Abdo		12/30/2020
Celina Reyes		12/30/2020
Mayor Daniel Rivera		12/30/2020

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 3145 FILED ON: 12/29/2020

SENATE No. 2993

By Mr. Finegold, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2993) of Barry R. Finegold, Marc Laplante, Maria De La Cruz, Estela Reyes and others (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation relative to the Office of the Mayor in the city of Lawrence. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)

An Act relative to the Office of the Mayor in the city of Lawrence.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of subsection 11 of Section
2 4 of Chapter 425 of the Acts of 1983, or any general or special law to the contrary, if a vacancy
3 in the office of the mayor occurs in the year two thousand and twenty-one, the president of the
4 city council shall become acting mayor until the mayor elected in the regularly scheduled 2021
5 municipal election is provided the oath of office immediately upon certification of that election.
6 Upon the qualification of the president of the city council as acting mayor, his office of councilor
7 shall be appointed as provided for by the City of Lawrence City Charter, paragraph (a) or (b) of
8 subsection 9 of Section 3.

9 The president of the city council as acting mayor shall have all the powers of the mayor
10 and shall serve for the balance of the then unexpired term of the mayor.

11 The council vice president, as the successor of the council president shall not receive any
12 added financial benefit for the remainder of this term.

13 The mayoral candidate elected in the regularly scheduled 2021 municipal election will be
14 immediately seated, administered the oath of office, and assume all the powers of mayor
15 immediately upon the proper certification by the board of registrars, and serve for the balance of
16 the then unexpired term of mayor.

17 The acting mayor, provided for by this petition, will resume their city council role for the
18 remaining term of the current city council term. The appointed city councilor filling the
19 president's seat as provided by the City of Lawrence City Charter, paragraph (a) /or (b) of
20 subsection 9 of Section 3 shall immediately be relieved of their service once the oath of office is
21 administered to the elected mayor; and the former acting mayor resumes his/her elected duties as
22 a city councilor, resumes the role of President; and at which time the acting city council
23 president therefore resumes his/her role as the Vice President.

24 SECTION 2. It is hereby provided that the General Court may reasonably vary the form
25 and substance of the required legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of the
26 petition. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

Proyecto de Ley fraudulento llevado a la Legislatura por el Sen. Barry Finegold

No es necesario escribir sobre la trampa contra los residentes de Lawrence por el alcalde, los concejales y el senador más que citar a la ex Representante Estatal Juana Matías:

"Una petición para cambiar la carta constitutiva – ustedes están iniciando la Petición de Autonomía que nunca sería considerada en la Legislatura a menos que haya iniciado el asunto antes que ustedes. Tiene a toda la delegación de representantes estatales de Lawrence y al senador que han sido parte de este plan desde el primer día. Sean honestos y transparentes con quienes le confiaron su voto, por lo menos hágalo.

"¡Lo que está haciendo este concejo municipal es abominable! Otras ciudades están teniendo elecciones y elecciones especiales. Pero quieren aprovechar una comunidad privada de derechos, que está desatendida, una de las más pobres del estado y que carece del privilegio de estar informada.

"Dejen de justificar tu decisión injustificada con verdades sin fundamento".

Juana Matías

Fraudulent bill brought to the Legislature by Sen. Barry Finegold

There's no need to write anything about the trap tendered to the residents of Lawrence by the mayor, city councilors and Senator than simply quoting Former State Representative Juana Matías:

"A petition to change the charter —you are starting the Home Rule Petition which, would never be considered in the Legislature unless you had initiated the matter before you. You have the entire Lawrence delegation of State Representatives and the Senator who have been a part of this scheme from day one. Be honest and transparent with those who entrusted you with their vote, minimally do that.

"What this city council is doing is abhorrent! Other cities are having elections and special elections. But you want to take advantage of a disenfranchised community, who is underserved, one of the poorest in the state, and lacks the privilege of being informed.

"Stop justifying your unjustified decision with baseless truths."

Juana Matías



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

- Thomas Jefferson

IVCS served Christmas lunch to Veterans and first responders in the Valley

Photos courtesy of Richard Russell and Kelly Fraxier



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This is our 4th year setting this up. Kelly Frazier, Debo Brown, Rich Russell, Vicki Spinner & David Safer get together with a bunch of volunteers some from here some as far as Fall River, Ma.

The food comes from Henry's Market in Beverly, MA. We had 200+ sandwiches made up with some yummy sides then we deliver to our Veterans and families for Christmas and also help the first responders who have to work on Christmas day - LPD LFD, MPD, MFD. Its a great feeling to get together and get that smile on people's faces for Christmas.



Greater Lowell Community Foundation awards additional \$55K in COVID-19 response grants in latest round

LOWELL – A dozen local nonprofits, from organizations that provide essential supplies to individuals in need to those who serve the hungry, have been announced as the recipients of the Greater Lowell Community Foundation’s most recent round of COVID-19 response grants. The Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) announced that it granted an additional \$55,000 in emergency grant funds from the GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund.

“It has been eye-opening to see how COVID-19 has compounded the profound inequities in Greater Lowell. Local nonprofits are stretched beyond capacity to provide services to vulnerable populations due to growing needs,” said GLCF president & CEO Jay Linnehan. “There has never been a more critical time for our community to work together on solutions to address long-term challenges, and we are incredibly grateful to our donors who have continued to step up to offer support.”

In total, the community foundation awarded \$55,125 to 12 organizations serving Greater Lowell. The GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund awards were the 11th round of grants disbursed by the community foundation this year. Since March, through grants from the GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund and the Massachusetts COVID Relief Fund, the foundation has supported more than 100 local nonprofit organizations with grants totaling over \$2.9 million.

This round of grants has aided organizations such as Lowell Alliance, an organization that helps Lowell families and neighborhoods thrive by connecting them with critical resources, including diapers. “Since the pandemic began in March, Lowell Alliance has distributed almost 50,000 diapers to families in need, triple the amount of diapers we usually give out,” said Lowell Alliance Director Nancy Coan.

“While some of the diapers are donated, we purchase most of the diapers we distribute, and we’ve struggled this year to keep up with the increased demand. GLCF’s grant for our diaper bank is critical in allowing us to continue to help meet the basic needs of vulnerable families in Lowell.”

The funding has also helped the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation to help local veterans and military families through its Food4Vets program. “Massachusetts Military Support Foundation is pleased to continue its Food4Vets program, which serves our Veteran Families in the greater Lowell region and throughout Massachusetts during the COVID-19 Emergency. Partners, like the Greater Lowell Community Foundation, enable us to respond to the needs of our partners, families, and other nonprofits who continue to meet the needs of those who are food insecure during this horrible pandemic,” said Don Cox, president of the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation.

Donations to the GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund can be made online at www.glcfoundation.org or by mail to the GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund c/o GLCF, 100 Merrimack Street, Suite 202, Lowell, MA 01852.

The Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF), founded in 1997, is a philanthropic organization comprised of over 350 funds, currently totaling over \$40MM, 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. GLCF is powered by the winning combination of donor-directed giving, personal attention from its staff, and an in-depth understanding of local needs. Our donors’ generosity has enabled GLCF to award more than \$20 million to the Greater Lowell community.



CTI YouthBuild of Greater Lowell students help unload a donation of diapers at Lowell Alliance’s Diaper Bank, a recent GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund grant recipient.



Massachusetts Military Support Foundation, a recent GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund grant recipient, has engaged over 1,000 volunteers in its Food4Vets program. Volunteers pictured here packed Food4Vets holiday food boxes to be distributed to families in the Greater Lowell region and across the state.

The twelve nonprofits receiving grants in the latest round of the GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund are:

- Alternative House, Inc. - Technology for Senior Volunteers Remote Mentoring
- Budget Buddies, Inc. - Equal Access for Virtual Financial Empowerment Programs
- Chelmsford Community Exchange - Freezer and Fridge replacement
- Community Teamwork, Inc. (CTI) - Technology for Senior Volunteers Remote Mentoring
- Dignity Matters, Inc. - Dignity in Lowell Schools underwear program
- Life Connection Center, Inc. - Homeless Winter Outreach Project
- Lowell Alliance - Lowell Diaper Bank
- Lowell TeleMedia Center - COVID-safe audio/video production
- Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless - Operation Liquid Gold
- Massachusetts Military Support Foundation - MMSF’s Food4Vets and Farmers to Families Programs
- Nature Connection, Inc. - Interactive Virtual Nature Program
- St. Paul’s Soup Kitchen, Inc. - Personal protection equipment support

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The Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

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

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

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

Herman Bazin funeral service at Bellevue cemetery



On Monday, December 14, 2020, there was a funeral service for our WWII Veteran Sgt Herman Bazin at Bellevue Veteran Cemetery in Lawrence MA.

Kelly Frazier, founder and executive director of International Veteran Care Services organized the ceremony that was attended by a surprising number of residents of this city; many of them didn't know Mr. Bazin but felt the need to honor him.

On December 8, 2020, Rumbo offered a tribute for Mr. Bazin celebrating his service to his country and love for the City of Lawrence.



Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

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

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

<http://heallawrence.org/>

heallawrence@aol.com

<https://www.facebook.com/heallawrence.mass>



International Veterans Care Services

Kelly Frazier
 Founder
 978-609-7239 Cell
kfrazier.ives@gmail.com

49 Blanchard St. Ste 208
 S. Lawrence Ma. 01843
 978-655-6295 office
 978-655-8264 Fax

Merrimack Valley Chamber Recognizes Holy Family Hospital Award



Seen left to right: Tony Slabacheski, Joe Bevilacqua, Wayne Dodwell, Craig Jesiolowski, Christine Basil, Dr. William Goodman, Jeff Dion, Michael Bevilacqua

The Merrimack Valley Chamber recognized Holy Family Hospital for its 2020 "Top General Hospital" with a special citation. Chamber President & CEO Joe Bevilacqua and Vice President Michael A. Bevilacqua said they were "very proud of the work the hospital is doing and the excellent staff that helps to achieve such high levels of excellence."

HFH President Craig Jesiolowski

received the award and said, "COVID has required us to be hyper-focused on rising to the challenge of a pandemic. That intense focus on the work has made us all better and resulted in us improving performance in all areas. That is why we are able to achieve such high levels of excellence on things like lowering infection rates in the midst of a pandemic. It's a great testament to our staff and our physicians."

MVCC Announces Vice-President Michael Bevilacqua as a New Board Member to Mass. Economic Development Council

Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce announced the election of Michael Bevilacqua, Vice-President of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce to the Board of Directors of the statewide Massachusetts Economic Development Council.

The Massachusetts Economic Development Council (MEDC) is a professional association of economic development practitioners serving the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Established in 1963, the Council provides an opportunity for professional development through Council Committees, programs, and has as its primary objective the promotion and development of the economic welfare of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through industrial and economic development.

Members of the Council include state economic development officials, in addition

to those individuals who are engaged in industrial, economic, or community development organizations, as well as executives of Chambers of Commerce, utility officials and staff members of private, public or quasi-public industrial/economic development corporations.

The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce (MVCC) is a non-profit, membership organization that creates connections and opportunities for businesses to grow in the Merrimack Valley. The MVCC provides it's almost 1,000 members with over 100 events and networking opportunities throughout the year, along with focusing on ways to help every business create new relationships. Interested in more information or becoming a member? Contact the MVCC today! 978.686.0900 or merrimackvalleychamber.com

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Cor Unum: La perspectiva de un visitante

Por Richard Spain

Cuando llegué a Lawrence en diciembre de 2015 para visitar a un amigo que se había mudado de Manhattan en la ciudad de Nueva York varios meses antes, muchas preguntas llenaron mi mente. ¿Cómo es Lawrence? ¿La gente es amigable? ¿Es fácil llegar desde Boston? ¿Es razonable el costo de los bienes y servicios? ¿Están las principales comodidades a poca distancia? ¿Es seguro el barrio? Estas, junto con un millón de consultas más, me hicieron pensar en el éxito de la visita.

Además, cuando mi amigo se refirió a Cor Unum como un "comedor de beneficencia", habría sido menos que honesto no admitir que no estaba algo aprensivo. Después de todo, "los comedores de beneficencia tenían la connotación de la era de la Depresión de largas filas de personas vestidas de manera descuidada que sostenían platos de papel endebles y que se servían en ollas enormes, lo que solo podría describirse como "masa".

Sin embargo, al estar exhausto por el viaje de seis horas desde la Gran Manzana, mis papilas gustativas se apoderaron de mí, y estaba ansioso por devorar algunos comestibles y poner los dolores de hambre por delante de cualquier idea preconcebida.

Cuando llegué a Cor Unum, para mi feliz sorpresa, en lugar de tener que hacer fila para recibir nutrición, un personal saludó cordialmente y sentó a las partes.

A continuación, nos ofrecieron a todos una opción de leche, café o jugo, y luego

nos sirvieron una ensalada. Me quedé aún más sin palabras cuando el plato principal resultó ser un plato maravilloso de espaguetis y albóndigas. Si eso no fuera suficiente, los postres resultaron ser una selección de galletas de mantequilla y un pastel maravilloso que fue donado por una panadería local. Maravillosa comida hechizada de Cor Unum, comencé a esperar la próxima visita.

Dado que la conversación es, además de la comida, la característica más importante de la cena, descubrí felizmente que mis compañeros de mesa eran un grupo diverso y amistoso de personas interesantes.

En visitas posteriores a Cor Unum, los platos principales incluían pollo tierno y jamón succulento, mientras que los postres consistían en helado fresco y pastel recién horneado. Si bien, por supuesto, no sería realista comparar la tarifa de Cor Unum con la de los restaurantes gourmet de la ciudad de Nueva York, la excelente comida y el maravilloso servicio amigable de Cor Unum supera fácilmente a muchos restaurantes mucho más caros.

La maravillosa generosidad de Cor Unum tampoco se limita a la comida. De hecho, en numerosas ocasiones, Cor Unum ha donado una gran cantidad de bienes duraderos, que van desde guantes y gorros hasta mochilas y cuadernos.

Cor Unum es ahora una prioridad en todas las visitas a Lawrence. De hecho, si uno no ha estado en Cor Unum, ¿no ha estado en Lawrence!

Cor Unum: A Visitor's Perspective

By Richard Spain

When I arrived in Lawrence in December 2015 to visit a friend who had moved from Manhattan in New York City several months before, so many questions filled my mind. What is Lawrence like? Are the people friendly? Is it easy to get to from Boston? Is the cost of goods and services reasonable? Are the major amenities within walking distance? Is the neighborhood safe? These, along with a million other queries, caused me to wonder about the visit's success.

Furthermore, when my friend referred to Cor Unum as a "soup kitchen", it would have been less than honest not to admit that I wasn't somewhat apprehensive. After all, "soup kitchens had Depression Era connotation of long lines of shabbily dressed individuals holding flimsy paper plates and being served from huge pots what could be only be described as "glop".

Being exhausted from the six-hour-trip from the Big Apple, however, my taste buds got the better of me, and I looked forward to devouring some edibles and put the hunger pangs ahead of any preconceived notions.

When I arrived at Cor Unum, to my happy surprise, instead of having to line up for nutrition, a staff cordially greeted and seated the parties.

Next, we were all offered a choice of milk, coffee, or juice, and then served a salad. Became even more speechless

when the main entree turned out to be a wonderful dish of spaghetti and meatballs. If that weren't enough, the desserts turned out to be a selection of butter cookies and a wonderful cake that was donated by a local bakery. Spellbound Cor Unum's wonderful food, I began to look forward to the next visit.

Since conversation is, next to the food, the most important feature of dining, I happily discovered that my tablemates were a friendly diverse group of interesting individuals.

On subsequent visits to Cor Unum, entrees included tender chicken and succulent ham, while desserts consisted of fresh ice cream and freshly baked pie. While it would, of course, be unrealistic to compare the fare of Cor Unum to that of New York City's gourmet restaurants, Cor Unum's excellent food, and wonderful friendly service easily surpasses many eateries far more pricey.

Nor is Cor Unum's wonderful generosity limited to food. Indeed, on numerous occasions, Cor Unum has donated a wealth of durable goods, ranging from gloves and hats to backpacks and notebooks.

Cor Unum is now a priority on all visits to Lawrence. Indeed, if one hasn't been to Cor Unum, they haven't been to Lawrence!

ECCF to Distribute \$1.2 Million in COVID Relief Thanks to New State Grant

Over the next four months, Essex County Community Foundation (ECCF), which serves the 34 cities and towns of Essex County, will distribute \$1.2 million to select area nonprofits serving and supporting those most vulnerable to the devastating effects of the pandemic.

This new wave of COVID aid is made possible by the Baker-Polito Administration's \$10 million Community Foundations Grant Program for COVID-19 Relief. Announced in late November, the program is being administered by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development and the Department of Housing and Community Development through community foundations across the state.

"This pandemic has created challenges for families across Massachusetts, including food insecurity, housing instability, and a lack of childcare, and these grants build on the Commonwealth's efforts to help residents access these essential services and items," said Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy in the state's announcement.

ECCF is one of 14 Massachusetts community foundations to apply for and receive a portion of the \$10 million, and it will leverage this vital state support to meet the basic needs of Essex County residents, including housing, utilities, food security, emergency childcare, technology for remote learning and transportation.

"Like other Massachusetts community foundations, ECCF has developed a deep knowledge of and trusted relationships with the nonprofits in our service area and is therefore in a unique position to deliver state funds locally," said ECCF President and CEO Beth Francis, who also serves as the co-chair of the new Massachusetts Community Foundations Partnership. "Over the last nine months, ECCF has worked with so many incredible nonprofit organizations that have effectively and efficiently navigated the continuing challenges faced by Essex County's cities and towns."

"Our local nonprofits have really been the boots on the ground since the pandemic began, and we are so thrilled to have these

additional resources, which will help them continue their critical work for residents in our region," added Carol Lavoie Schuster, ECCF's vice president for grants, nonprofit and donor services.

ECCF will partner with its previous COVID relief grantee-organizations, which have the infrastructure to deliver this critical funding to those who need it most; there will be no open application process. In addition, these grants will be distributed in accordance with state guidelines.

"ECCF will administer these funds specific to a set of outcomes the Commonwealth is striving to achieve in reaching underserved and hard-hit individuals and families across the state," said Lavoie Schuster. "The nonprofit partners that will deliver this aid have a history of serving low-income, non-English speaking communities where residents have seen deep economic hardship and have had limited or no access to other economic relief."

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to intensify, ECCF remains committed to working closely with local nonprofits to monitor Essex County's ever-changing needs and seeking out ways to meet the inevitable challenges that will continue to arise for its residents.

"While we anxiously await the vaccine, we know the economic effects of COVID-19 will persist into the foreseeable future," said Francis. "But ECCF will also persist in our work to bring people together to rise up to the challenges we face together."

The mission of Essex County Community Foundation is to inspire philanthropy that strengthens the communities of Essex County. We do this by managing charitable assets, strengthening and supporting nonprofits and engaging in strategic community leadership. Since 1998, ECCF and its family of more than 230 charitable funds have granted \$85 million to nonprofits, schools and students in Essex County and beyond. Our ultimate goal is to have 34 thriving cities and towns in Essex County and to improve the quality of life for the region's nearly 800,000 residents. Learn more at eccf.org.

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RUMBONEWS.COM

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

When a fire occurs in Lawrence, usually many families are left homeless and in need of everything. Please contact Heal Lawrence if you wish to make a contribution to the victims. The website has a list of items and things that are needed as well as victims' names, ages, sizes, etc. but they suggest giving them gift cards to grocery stores and department stores in any denomination.

Cuando un incendio ocurre en Lawrence, por lo regular muchas familias se quedan sin hogar y necesitados de todo. Favor de ponerse en contacto con Heal Lawrence si desea hacer una contribución a las víctimas. El sitio en la internet tiene una lista de artículos que necesitan así como nombres, edades, tallas, etc. de las víctimas pero ellos sugieren que les compren tarjetas de mercados o tiendas por departamentos de cualquier denominación.

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

Cartas al Editor / Letters to the Editor

Palabras de Agradecimiento Para Este Fin de Año

Hola Dalia,

Espero que al recibo de este mensaje te encuentres bien. No quería dejar pasar esta oportunidad para expresar mi agradecimiento hacia ti por realizar una labor loable aun en medio de grandes retos cotidianos. No podemos negar lo difícil que ha sido este año para todos nosotros.

Por ello, en nombre de Earthjustice, extiendo mi apreciación por atender a nuestros llamados por defender el medio ambiente y los que se benefician del mismo. Sin tu apoyo, el público no se hubiese enterado de grandes victorias que alcanzamos este año, desde la protección

de algunas especies hasta la defensa del aire y agua que necesitamos.

Que el 2021 traiga mejores tiempos y prosperidad para ti y tus seres más queridos. Entre tanto, espero que podamos seguir siendo un referente de información sobre temas ambientales, ahora que estamos ad portas de una nueva administración presidencial.

¡Un abrazo y a seguir adelante!

Robert Valencia
 Earthjustice
rvalencia@earthjustice.org

Words of Thanks for this New Year's Eve

Hello Dalia,

I hope that upon receipt of this message you are well. I did not want to miss this opportunity to express my gratitude to you for doing a commendable job even in the midst of great daily challenges. We cannot deny how difficult this year has been for all of us.

Therefore, on behalf of Earthjustice, I extend my appreciation for heeding our calls to defend the environment and those who benefit from it. Without your support, the public would not have known about the great victories we achieved this year, from the protection of some species to the

defense of the air and water we need.

May 2021 bring better times and prosperity for you and your loved ones. In the meantime, I hope that we can continue to be a benchmark for information on environmental issues, now that we are on the verge of a new presidential administration.

A hug and move on!

Robert Valencia
 Earthjustice
rvalencia@earthjustice.org

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MCC's Corporate Ed. Trains Employees to Develop Leadership Skills

Middlesex Community College's Corporate Education and Training program partners with local businesses and organizations to help companies identify their workforce training needs. These partnerships use a collaborative process to develop programs that offer the most relevant and effective professional development opportunities for companies.

MCC's Corporate Ed. collaborated with Jeffrey Davis, MCC adjunct faculty member; Joanna Dowling from the Center for Manufacturing Technology (CMT); and Natasha Simmers, Human Resources Manager for Accumet Engineering, to build a 50-hour training program focused on leadership for Accumet employees.

"Joanna Dowling hired us to teach the leadership portion of a training for Accumet at CMT," said Lisa Tuzzolo, MCC's Director of Corporate Education and Training. "Although this is the first of its kind, Middlesex has been partnering with community businesses and organizations for over 30 years to deliver tailored and comprehensive training opportunities for employees. Not only do our trainings strengthen companies, but they also hone the talents and skills of people within the Commonwealth, leading to a more advanced, capable and well-rounded workforce."

Middlesex has partnered with CMT for several years. With a strong foundation of knowledge in advanced manufacturing, Dowling understands what makes a company successful in the industry. According to Dowling, CMT works

with MCC because of Corporate Ed.'s "flexibility and dedication," and believes the pandemic presents an opportune time for companies to offer training to their employees.

"We were extremely happy with the professionalism and content delivery with Jeff Davis and the support team/staff at Middlesex," Dowling said. "If employers are faced with downtime for their employees, it is a perfect time to invest in training to give their employees an opportunity to improve on critical skills that they might be lacking or in need of for that next promotion."

Before developing his program, Davis engaged in conversations with Simmers to find out why Accumet was looking for trainings. Through these conversations, he understood there was a desire to provide employees with ways to build their leadership skills, "preparing them for roles with expanded responsibility, visibility and influence." These types of conversations between the group were continuous throughout the duration of the trainings to ensure Accumet and their employees were learning the information they needed to be more effective leaders.

"We all agreed to re-visit the training program every few weeks and make adjustments in the content and the training activities, based on observations and feedback from the participants," Davis said. "These regular meetings were very helpful in the tailoring of the training, especially when a second cohort of participants was identified."



Topics included defining effective leadership, building leadership credibility, communicating in the workplace, having productive difficult conversations, and increasing accountability, among others. Davis describes his method of teaching the program as an "inside-out model."

"Leaders cannot credibly influence others to grow and change unless they are on their own professional development journey that is resulting in genuine change, from the 'inside-out,'" he said. "As leaders, we are less capable to offer others what they need – encouragement, acknowledgement, improvement feedback, confidence, courage, humility, curiosity – unless we first give those important qualities and characteristics to ourselves."

Simmers appreciates MCC's ability to tailor the program to meet Accumet's needs, as well as the leadership Davis has shown throughout the trainings. She also believes the program has improved employees' communication and self-awareness skills.

"The employees keep raving about the instructor Jeff and the class content, and say that their co-workers absolutely must take the class," Simmers said. "Jeff was great about establishing communication with me to create content catered specifically to employees in each cohort."

PLEASE SEE **LEADERSHIP**
 ■ CONTINUES ON PAGE 17

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(PARA CUALQUIER RECLAMO, DEBE PRESENTAR SU REGISTRO)

MCC Students Excelling in Biotech Learn & Earn Experience

The Biotechnology Learn and Earn Experience is off to a strong start at Middlesex Community College. For 50 years, Middlesex has had a mission of guiding students on their paths to success. The Learn and Earn Experience – created to scale up the college’s already successful biotech program with an \$841,000 grant from the Strategic Grant Partners (SGP) – is another way that MCC prepares students to reach their academic and professional goals.

The program allows eligible biotech students the opportunity to earn an associate degree while working full- or part-time as Manufacturing Technicians at a participating employer, including Takeda and Abbvie. Students are paid for their work and gain practical experience while completing their studies.

From Methuen, Alissa Gannon is working at Takeda and may have the opportunity to continue at the company in a permanent position after she graduates from Middlesex by the end of next year. Gannon chose MCC’s Learn and Earn Experience because it allowed her to go to school and work at the same time – something she was not certain she would be able to do elsewhere. It was important to her that she start her career as soon as she could.

“My overall experience has been great,” Gannon said. “I have gained so much hands-on experience. I was eager to start my future career and was presented with an opportunity to do so.”

Gannon’s goal – both at MCC and

Takeda – is to learn as much as she can. In the Learn and Earn Experience, she receives both academic and professional development from her professors and professionals in the field. In the future, she is interested in continuing her education to earn a bachelor’s and master’s degree in biotechnology.

“MCC’s biotech program gives a lot of insight into the field; especially with the new lab, it shows you exactly how to work proficiently,” she said. “You are learning how and why, then performing the tasks you have studied. You know exactly why you are doing things and how it all works.”

Takeda has also appreciated Gannon’s efforts.

“The team is thoroughly impressed with Alissa’s dedication to learning, positive attitude and team spirit,” said Steven Li, Manufacturing Supervisor at Takeda. “We’re blessed to have such good synergy from the get-go!”

As she is working during the pandemic, Gannon believes Takeda has put measures in place to keep her healthy and safe. She also finds working in biotechnology to be relevant to the science behind COVID-19, including learning about immunology and how viruses work. Overall, Gannon is grateful for the opportunity MCC and Takeda have provided to her, as well as for her professors for guiding her through the experience.

“I am only 22-years-old and have found my future career at a job I love,” she said. “It feels amazing to come home from work happy every single day.”



For more information about the Biotechnology Learn and Earn Experience at Middlesex, visit <https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/biotechnology/learnandearn.aspx> or contact Stefana Soitos at soitoss@middlesex.mass.edu.

Registration is open for both MCC’s Spring semester and WinterSession. The Spring semester starts on January 26 and students can take courses during MCC’s accelerated WinterSession from January 4 to 22. To register, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration/ or call 1-800-818-3434.

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!

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Comience bien el año nuevo: deseche los árboles de Navidad naturales

El Jefe de Bomberos del Estado Peter J. Ostroskey dijo: "Empiece bien el nuevo año: deshágase rápidamente de su árbol de Navidad. Un árbol de Navidad seco se encenderá rápidamente y propagará el fuego muy rápido".

Los árboles secos son combustible para incendios en interiores y exteriores

En los últimos años, ha habido varios incendios relacionados con árboles de Navidad que se habían secado. Si los árboles se levantan temprano, pueden secarse antes de Navidad. Ostroskey dijo: "Mantenga el árbol regado y alejado de todas las fuentes de calor. Después de Navidad, deseche su árbol de inmediato. Si se inicia un incendio por cualquier motivo, un árbol ayudará a propagar el fuego extremadamente rápido".

El 3 de enero de 2020 a las 4:30 p.m., el Departamento de Bomberos de Westfield respondió al incendio de un árbol de Navidad en una casa unifamiliar. El fuego comenzó en la sala de estar. Nadie salió herido. La casa no tenía rociadores y los daños se estimaron en 160.000 dólares.

El 6 de enero de 2020 a las 9:59 p.m., el Departamento de Bomberos de Belmont respondió al incendio de un árbol de Navidad en una casa unifamiliar. El fuego comenzó en la sala de estar, donde una vela cercana encendió un árbol extremadamente seco. Las alarmas de humo funcionaron

y nadie resultó herido. La casa no tenía rociadores y los daños se estimaron en \$ 2,500.

Eliminación del árbol

Aproveche los días de recogida de la comunidad o los programas de reciclaje, muchos de los cuales comienzan la próxima semana. Para averiguar si su comunidad tiene un programa de reciclaje de árboles de Navidad, comuníquese con el departamento de obras públicas o el comité de reciclaje de su localidad. El Departamento de Protección Ambiental de Massachusetts (MassDEP) tiene información sobre el reciclaje de árboles de Navidad en: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/02/05/xmastree-recycling.pdf>. Algunas granjas de cabras locales aceptan donaciones de árboles desnudos y coronas, ya que buscan cosas verdes para comer.

El 2 de enero de 2020, a las 5:15 p.m., el Departamento de Bomberos de Sheffield fue llamado a un incendio en la chimenea de un restaurante. El dueño estaba intentando quemar un árbol de Navidad en la chimenea. Nadie resultó herido en este incendio.

El Jefe de Bomberos del Estado Ostroskey dijo: "No deje su árbol de Navidad junto a la acera hasta el día de la recogida para evitar brindar una oportunidad de incendio provocado".

El 27 de diciembre de 2019, a las 9:01 p.m., el Departamento de Bomberos de Quincy respondió al incendio de un árbol de Navidad en el exterior que se había incendiado intencionalmente.

El 31 de diciembre de 2019, a las 11:13 p.m., el Departamento de Bomberos de Fall River respondió a un incendio de un árbol de Navidad en el exterior. El árbol

estaba en la acera listo para la recolección en la acera cuando fue intencionalmente incendiado.

Para obtener más información sobre seguridad contra incendios, comuníquese con el departamento de bomberos local o con la Oficina del Jefe de Bomberos del Estado al 1-877-9 NO FIRE o en línea en www.mass.gov/dfs.

Start the New Year off Right: Promptly Dispose of Natural Christmas Trees

State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey said, "Start the new year off right: promptly dispose of your Christmas tree. A dried out Christmas tree will ignite quickly and spread a fire very fast."

Dried Out Trees Are Fuel for Fires Indoors and Out

Over the past few years, there have been several fires involving Christmas trees that had dried out. If trees are up early, they can dry out before Christmas. Ostroskey said, "Keep the tree watered, and away from all heat sources. After Christmas, dispose of your tree promptly. If a fire should start for any reason, a tree will help spread the fire extremely rapidly."

On January 3, 2020 at 4:30 p.m., the Westfield Fire Department responded to a Christmas tree fire in a single-family home. The fire began in the living room. No one was injured. The home did not have sprinklers and damages were estimated to be \$160,000.

On January 6, 2020 at 9:59 p.m., the Belmont Fire Department responded to a Christmas tree fire in a single-family home. The fire began in the living room where a nearby candle ignited an extremely dry tree. Smoke alarms operated and no one was injured. The home did not have sprinklers and damages were estimated at \$2,500.

up days or recycling programs, many of which start next week. To find out if your community has a Christmas tree recycling program, contact your local public works department or recycling committee. The Mass. Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has information on Christmas tree recycling at: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/02/05/xmastree-recycling.pdf>. Some local goat farms accept bare tree and wreath donations as they are looking for greens things to eat.

On January 2, 2020, at 5:15 p.m., the Sheffield Fire Department was called to a chimney fire in a restaurant. The owner was trying to burn a Christmas tree in the fireplace. No one was injured at this fire.

State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said, "Don't put your Christmas tree curbside until the day of pick up to avoid providing an opportunity for arson."

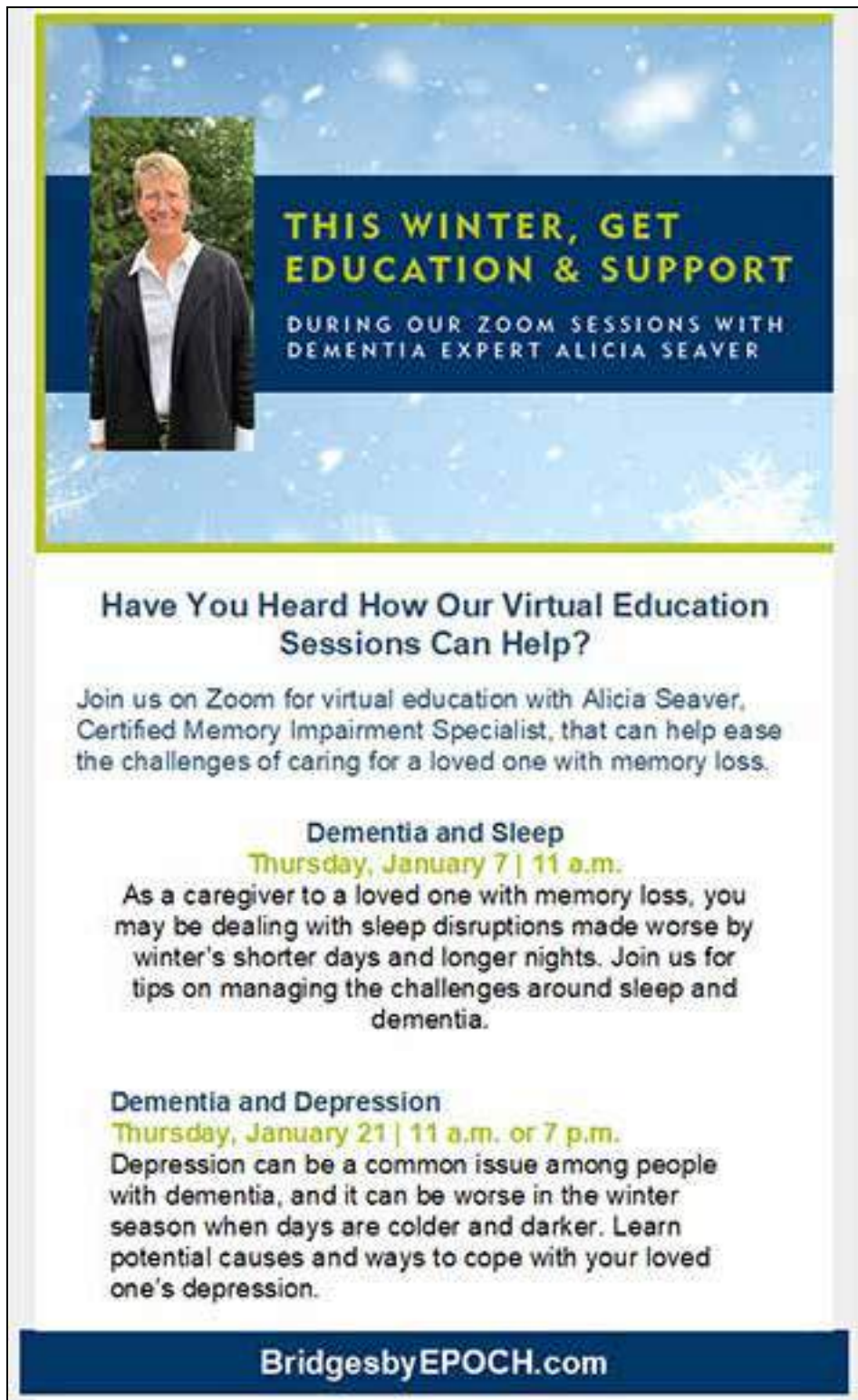
On December 27, 2019, at 9:01 p.m., the Quincy Fire Department responded to an outside Christmas tree fire that had been intentionally set on fire.

On December 31, 2019, at 11:13 p.m., the Fall River Fire Department responded to an outside Christmas tree fire. The tree was on the sidewalk ready for curbside collection when it was intentionally set on fire.

For more information on fire safety, contact your local fire department or the Office of the State Fire Marshal at 1-877-9 NO FIRE or on-line at www.mass.gov/dfs.

Disposal of the Tree

Take advantage of community pick-



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Join us on Zoom for virtual education with Alicia Seaver, Certified Memory Impairment Specialist, that can help ease the challenges of caring for a loved one with memory loss.

Dementia and Sleep
Thursday, January 7 | 11 a.m.
As a caregiver to a loved one with memory loss, you may be dealing with sleep disruptions made worse by winter's shorter days and longer nights. Join us for tips on managing the challenges around sleep and dementia.

Dementia and Depression
Thursday, January 21 | 11 a.m. or 7 p.m.
Depression can be a common issue among people with dementia, and it can be worse in the winter season when days are colder and darker. Learn potential causes and ways to cope with your loved one's depression.

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USCIS Cancelará Dos Programas de Permisos de Permanencia Temporal por Categorías

El Programa de Permisos para Reunificación de Familias Haitianas y el Programa de Permisos para Veteranos Filipinos de la Segunda Guerra Mundial serán Cancelados

De acuerdo con el anuncio de la agencia de agosto de 2019, el Servicio de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de Estados Unidos anunció hoy una notificación en el Registro Federal donde solicita comentarios del público acerca de las revisiones del Formulario I-131, Solicitud de Documento de Viaje, a fin de eliminar secciones relacionadas con el Programa de Permisos para Reunificación de Familias Haitianas (HFRP) y el Programa de Permisos para Veteranos Filipinos de la Segunda Guerra Mundial (FWVP). La notificación será publicada formalmente el 28 de diciembre, y USCIS aceptará comentarios del público durante 60 días. Estos cambios cancelarán los programas HFRP y FWVP cuando los cambios a las instrucciones de los formularios sean finalizados.

USCIS cancela estos dos programas de permisos por categorías para ser consistentes con la Orden Ejecutiva 13767, titulada Mejoras a la Seguridad en la Frontera y Control de Inmigración, y para garantizar mejor que el permiso ("parole") sea utilizado solo caso por caso, consistente con la sección 212(d)(5) de la Ley de Inmigración y Nacionalidad (INA), y sin criterios predeterminados.

El permiso de permanencia temporal es un proceso que permite que nacionales extranjeros entren o permanezcan temporalmente en Estados Unidos, incluidos aquellos que de otra manera son inadmisibles. El permiso de permanencia temporal por categoría (conocido en inglés como "categorical parole") se refiere a programas diseñados para considerar el permiso de permanencia temporal para grupos completos de extranjeros basados en unos criterios predeterminados. Bajo ambos programas de permisos por categorías, los familiares de extranjeros que tienen peticiones basadas en la familia aprobadas han sido autorizados a entrar a Estados Unidos y son elegibles para autorización de empleo mientras esperan que su tarjeta de residente permanente esté disponible.

"El permiso de permanencia temporal es para ser utilizado caso por caso, por motivos humanitarios urgentes o de

beneficio público significativo. Con la cancelación de estos programas por categorías, cualquier nuevo solicitante será considerado al permiso de permanencia temporal de acuerdo con los criterios que aplican a cualquier otro extranjero que busca obtener un permiso de permanencia temporal", dijo el subdirector de Políticas de USCIS, Joseph Edlow. "USCIS está comprometido con ejercer esta autoridad limitada en una manera que preserve la integridad de nuestro sistema de inmigración".

USCIS procesará todos los casos pendientes bajo estos programas hasta que sean completados, así como todas las nuevas solicitudes que estén mataselladas en o antes de la fecha de efectividad de las instrucciones del nuevo formulario. USCIS publicará la fecha de vigencia de este cambio tan pronto como se finalicen los plazos, lo que podría ser tan temprano como febrero de 2021. Las personas que actualmente tienen permisos de permanencia temporal ("parolees") retendrán su actual periodo hasta que venza, a menos que se le cancele de alguna otra manera. USCIS emitirá notificaciones de casos individuales a las personas afectadas que tienen permisos de permanencia temporal, a fin de proporcionarles información acerca de la cancelación del programa y recordarles que deben proporcionar su dirección de correo actual, según requerido.

Ciertas personas con permisos de permanencia temporal bajo HFRP o FWVP que están en Estados Unidos pueden ser elegibles para ajustar su estatus a fin de convertirse en residentes permanentes legales. Aquellos que no hayan ajustado su estatus pueden solicitar que se les renueve el permiso de permanencia temporal (conocido en inglés como "re-parole") mediante la presentación del Formulario I-131 y el Formulario I-134. Renovar el permiso de permanencia temporal le permite a la persona que tiene dicho permiso a permanecer en Estados Unidos por un periodo adicional autorizado. USCIS considerará las peticiones de renovación de permiso de permanencia temporal caso por caso bajo los términos del programa HFRP

y FWVP. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo solicitar el permiso de permanencia temporal o el reexpido del permiso de permanencia temporal en las páginas HFRP y FWVP.

Para más información sobre USCIS y sus programas, por favor visita uscis.gov/es o síguenos en Twitter (@uscis), Instagram (/uscis), YouTube (/uscis), y Facebook(/uscis).

USCIS Ending Two Categorical Parole Programs

Haitian Family Reunification Parole and Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Programs to be Terminated

In keeping with the agency's August 2019 announcement, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services today announced a Federal Register notice requesting public comments on revisions to Form I-131, Application for Travel Document to remove sections relating to the Haitian Family Reunification Parole (HFRP) and the Filipino World War II Veterans (FWVP) Parole programs. The notice will formally publish on Dec. 28, and USCIS will accept public comments for 60 days. These changes will terminate the HFRP and FWVP programs when those form instruction changes are finalized.

USCIS is terminating these two categorical parole programs to be consistent with Executive Order (E.O.) 13767, Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements and to better ensure that parole is used only on a case-by-case basis, consistent with section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), and without using pre-set criteria.

Parole is a mechanism that allows aliens to temporarily enter or remain in the United States, including those who are otherwise inadmissible. Categorical parole refers to programs designed to consider parole for entire groups of aliens based on pre-set criteria. Under both categorical parole programs, aliens with approved family-based immigrant petitions have been authorized to enter the United States and are eligible to apply for employment authorization while waiting for their Green Card to become available.

"Parole is to be used on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. With the termination of these categorical programs,

any new applicants will be considered for parole consistent with the criteria that apply to any other alien seeking parole," said USCIS Deputy Director for Policy Joseph Edlow. "USCIS is committed to exercising this limited authority in a manner that preserves the integrity of our immigration system."

USCIS will process all pending cases under these programs to completion, and all new applications that are postmarked on or before the effective date of the new form instructions. USCIS will publish the effective date of this change as soon as timelines are finalized and could be as early as February 2021. Current parolees will maintain their current period of parole until it expires, unless it is otherwise terminated. USCIS will issue individual case notices to affected parolees to provide information about the termination of the programs and remind parolees to provide their updated mailing address, as required.

Certain HFRP or FWVP parolees who are in the United States may be eligible to adjust their status to become lawful permanent residents. Those who have not adjusted status may request re-parole by filing Form I-131 and Form I-134. Re-parole allows a parolee to remain in the United States for an additional period of authorized parole. USCIS will consider requests for re-parole on a case-by-case basis under the HFRP and FWVP program terms. Additional information on applying for parole and re-parole is available on the HFRP and FWVP pages.

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

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BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR RUMBO

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

You Are Illiterate

You are illiterate! You can't read! At least that is what Lawrence City Councilor at-Large Maria De La Cruz just said during Monday's City Council meeting. She said "You can't read" to the residents of the City of Lawrence. She is literately saying to you that you are unintelligent. I don't believe you understood what I just wrote so I'll write it once again – "You can't read."

Councilor Maria De La Cruz is a sold-out politician. I am not saying this just because she is for approving the home rule petition denying her constituents the rights to vote for a new mayor in special elections. I am saying this in part because of that she believes that being a city councilor is a job and believes she deserves to be paid a full-time job salary. We call bull. This is not a job! It's an honor to represent one's constituents, not a job.

Councilor De La Cruz already has family members working in city government because of her position as a city councilor and because of her vote on Lawrence's City Council. She knows it and that's the one reason she is siding with the current outgoing mayor.

You see, Councilor De la Cruz wants the taxpayers of Lawrence to pay her a full-time wage for being an elected official, who already uses her positions to hire her family. She needs a job and no one is willing to hire her. So now she takes the council position with an opportunity to try to increase her pay. Maria has lived in Lawrence, New York, Methuen, and again moved back to Lawrence – all while searching for the opportunity to find money.

Councilor De La Cruz used to work for State Senator Barbara L'Italien. Once Senator L'Italien no longer ran for office, Maria found herself without full-time employment and no-one else willing to hire her. Because no one has yet hired her, she will try to do something else. She placed, on the Lawrence City Council agenda,

a document for City Councilors to vote increasing her salary - knowing that once Mayor Rivera departs, she will not have a position of influence between herself and the incoming Mayor unless there is an ally of hers on the third-floor corner office (such as Council President Kendrys Vasquez).

This is not the first time that she has made Lawrence taxpayers pay her salary. She forced the City of Lawrence to pay for her unemployment, when in fact it should have been the state that should have paid her unemployment compensation. This was when she applied because she had lost her job with the State Senator's office.

If a home rule petition passes, Councilor Vasquez takes over as mayor Maria will have a more than cordial relationship with the next temporary mayor and an approval of the council's vote for an increase of salary - another conflict of interest and a great reason for her not to vote on the home rule petition. We all know that any other mayoral candidate (unless is Vilma Martinez) will not put up with her semi-corrupt attitudes or actions.

Her current attempt is her interest in the City Clerk position. Stop laughing! Could the councilor who calls constituents "illiterate" be a delight in a customer service position? She wants the council to request a home rule petition similar to the one requested when Eileen Bernal was allowed to become Chief of Staff under Mayor Rivera. The law requires that a city councilor waits one full year before taking a paid job with the city.

During the next election, the residents of Lawrence must vote out of office politicians who have an interest in themselves, rather than an interest in the people they represent and particularly the one that calls its own citizens stupid. In the meantime, Maria will use a playbook from her country of origin using corrupt voting to enrich herself.

I hope someone would read this to Maria because according to her votes in the council, she doesn't understand what she's doing.

NECC Farmers Market Fills a Growing Need During Pandemic

When the pandemic hit in March, Northern Essex suspended its free mobile farmers market for faculty, staff, and students, which is offered in partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank once a month during the academic year.

"We wanted to get it back up as quickly as possible because we knew food insecurity would increase with COVID-19," said Janel D'Agata-Lynch, Northern Essex's civic engagement, service-learning and community resources coordinator.

Over the summer, a plan was hatched to launch a socially-distanced farmers market in September. Individuals sign up in advance, receive a timed appointment, and drive on to campus and get their food without having to leave their vehicle.

D'Agata-Lynch estimates that an average of 50 to 60 cars visited each campus for each market and that from September through November about 250 distinct households and over 1,000 individuals were served.

One repeat—and very appreciative—customer is Tiffany Bell of Haverhill, a practical nursing student and the mother of six children ages 5 to 23. "You have no idea how helpful this is," said Bell. "I feel blessed."

At the December market, Northern Essex volunteers, led by Courtney Morin, the college's Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, who is overseeing the Haverhill market as well as food pantries on both campuses, unloaded carrots, cabbage, salad, mangos, onions, and sweet potato; packed a bag for each client; and loaded the produce into the cars.

Morin, who is also a Northern Essex Biology student, is passionate about food security. "It's very difficult to be successful in class if you're thinking about where your next meal is coming from."

According to statistics shared by the Greater Boston Food Bank, 47% of community college students and 39%



Phil Perkins from the Maintenance Department unloaded produce for NECC's December mobile farmers market.

of 4-year university students were food insecure before the pandemic.

"It is reasonable to assume that those numbers are much worse now," said Christina Peretti, Greater Boston Food Bank's assistant director of programs and community capacity. "We supply our partners and their clients with nutritious food because there are negative health consequences to hunger. Fresh fruit and vegetables are often some of the most expensive items to purchase in the grocery store."

Northern Essex's Farmers Market will start back up in January and run monthly on the 4th Tuesday of each month. To learn more, contact D'Agata-Lynch at jdagalynch@necc.mass.edu.

The college also offers food pantries and clothes closets on each of its campuses.

For more information, contact shopnecc@necc.mass.edu.

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.

Stephanie Haskell of Student Life volunteered at the NECC's December mobile farmers market.



"It's not our job to toughen our children up to face a cruel and heartless world. It's our job to raise children who will make the world a little less cruel and heartless."

"No es nuestro trabajo endurecer a nuestros hijos para que se enfrenten a un mundo cruel y sin corazón. Nuestro trabajo es criar niños que harán que el mundo sea un poco menos cruel y desalmado."

- L. R. Knost



Dos hermanos creciendo en el Boys & Girls Club



En nuestra carta reciente, leyeron sobre Elvin y su hermano Emmanuel, dos increíbles chicos del club.

A Emmanuel, de 8 años, le encanta nadar y aprender de su mentor, quien dice que es "como otro hermano". A pesar de todos los grandes y aterradores cambios en el mundo recientemente, el club está abierto de 7:30 A.M. a 9 P.M. para que niños como Emmanuel puedan comer y tener un lugar seguro al que ir todos los días.

Elvin, de 17 años, ha estado asistiendo al club desde que tenía 7 años y ahora es

un estudiante de último año en Central Catholic High School. Recibió la beca Montagne y le da crédito al club por sus éxitos educativos, así como por sus logros personales, ¡como ser capitán del equipo de natación!

"Nunca me di cuenta de lo afortunado que soy hasta que vi a otros con mucho menos. Mi hermano y yo cenamos en el club todas las noches. Miro a mi alrededor sabiendo que si no fuera por el programa de la cena, muchos de estos niños simplemente no comerían", dice Elvin.

Two brothers grow up at the Boys & Girls Club

In our recent letter, you read about Elvin and his brother Emmanuel – two amazing club kids.

Emmanuel, 8, loves swimming and learning from his mentor, who he says is "like another brother." Despite all the big, scary changes in the world recently, the club is open from 7:30am to 9pm for kids like Emmanuel to get meals and have a safe place to go every day.

Elvin, 17, has been attending the club since he was 7 years old and is now a senior

at Central Catholic High School. A recipient of the Montagne Scholarship, he credits the club for his educational successes, as well as personal achievements like being captain of the swim team!

"I never realized how lucky I really am until I saw others with so much less. My brother and I eat dinner at the club every night. I look around knowing if it weren't for the supper program, many of these kids just wouldn't eat," says Elvin.

JOB OPENING

Methuen Housing Authority

Category: Executive Director

Title: Executive Director

Description: The Methuen (MHA) Housing Authority is seeking highly qualified and experienced applicants for the position of Executive Director. The Executive Director is responsible for the management of State Housing Units: 289 Chapter 667 units of which 21 are congregate units; 60 Chapter 200 family units, 6 Chapter 705 units (scattered sites), 8 Chapter 705 & 8 Chapter 689 tenant units (this complex consists of 8 handicap accessible and 8 three bedroom units for which MHA does tenant selection); 3 Chapter 689 group homes (32 units); 1 Chapter 167 group home (8 units) and MRVP- 12 vouchers, as well as Federal units which include 42 family public housing and 558 HCV vouchers.

Qualifications: Required Minimum Qualifications: Eight years' experience in housing management, community development, public administration, or a closely related field. Must have a working knowledge of fiscal management, maintenance systems, personnel and administrative management systems in public or private housing. One year's supervisory experience of a staff of ten or more is required. Written and verbal skills required. Substantial background in the implementation of management controls and systems. Considerable knowledge of local, state, and federal governmental procedures and regulations as they relate to housing development, construction and the management of local housing authority operations. Experience working with people of various socio-economic backgrounds. Must be bondable. Certification as a Public Housing Manager from a HUD approved organization is required, but may be substituted by certification as a property manager or similar classification by a nationally recognized housing or real estate organization or by certification as a MPHA of a DHCD-approved Massachusetts Public Housing Administrator Certification Program. A bachelor's degree may substitute for up to two years of experience.

Start Date: To be determined

Salary Range: Commensurate with experience and education; negotiable to a maximum of \$135,719. The position will include excellent benefits in accordance with DHCD and HUD guidelines

Location: Methuen, Massachusetts

Instructions: Candidates will be subject to certain qualification verifications prior to employment. More detailed information will be required of applicants that advance to next level of consideration. Submit cover letter and resume to DVMainsail@gmail.com or mail to D&V MainSail, PO Box 3571, South Attleboro, MA 02703. Deadline for receipt of applications is January 15, 2021 by close of business. Late applications will not be accepted.

Methuen Housing Authority is and EOE



CONTINUES FROM PAGE 12

LEADERSHIP

Nine employees participated in the program, four in one cohort and five in another. Despite needing to follow strict health and safety protocols — including social distancing — due to the pandemic, Davis was able to build a community-feel within the program.

The training participants enjoyed working together to motivate each other throughout their learning, as well as engaging in deep conversations. Based on feedback from the participants, Davis believes the biggest takeaway was gaining more confidence in themselves.

"This has become the platform for taking more courageous leadership actions at work — talking to their coworker about a sensitive subject, after putting off that conversation for a long time," he said. "Advocating for their team with their manager. Asking questions with a curiosity and 'what can we learn' mindset, instead of troubleshooting an issue to find out who did something wrong."

Solinka Potter, a Sales Representative at Accumet, emphasizes how much confidence she gained from participating. When she was offered a place in the training, her first instinct was to say "why not?" After getting to the first session, she

realized how much she going to benefit from it.

"It will help me through my whole life," she said. "Before, I would keep my questions to myself and was quieter, hiding behind my computer. I'd be embarrassed thinking, 'am I going to say something stupid?' Now I feel that I have the confidence to speak up and help and encourage others too."

As a leader of professional development and workforce training for over 30 years, MCC's Corporate Education and Training program provides employees with the knowledge and skills they need to start or advance in their careers. Visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/bus_ind/ or contact Teresa Medina at medinat@middlesex.mass.edu for more information.

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!

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.

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.



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.

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

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.

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.

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¡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 sí 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!



Downtown Book Group to Discuss "The Darwin Affair"

The Nashua Public Library's Downtown Book Group is open to the public and welcomes new members. The group meets virtually on the second Friday of the month at 3 p.m. It is led by a reference librarian.

Upcoming titles for discussion include:

1/8 "The Darwin Affair" by Tim Mason. In this 2019 novel, a Victorian-era thriller, publication of "An Origin of Species" sets off a series of heinous crimes.

2/12 "Interpreter of Maladies" by Jhumpa Lahiri. The characters in this Pulitzer Prize-winning story collection must navigate between the customs of their adopted home and the Indian traditions in which they've been raised.

The library has electronic and print versions of these books. Reserve them using the online catalog at <http://nashualibrary.org>, by calling 603-589-4611 or by emailing information@nashualibrary.org.

Registration for each meeting is required to receive a Zoom invitation; go to <http://tinyurl.com/npldiscussion>.