



Concejales de Lawrence que respetan a los votantes



Ana Levy



Jeovanny Rodríguez



Pavel Payano

Durante la reunión del Concejo Municipal del 29 de diciembre de 2020, solo estos tres concejales votaron en contra de los cambios a nuestra Carta Constitucional.

El proyecto de ley del Senado #S2993 fue llevado a la Legislatura por el Senador Barry Finegold para ser aprobado. El objetivo principal fue la eliminación de una elección especial tras la renuncia del Alcalde Dan Rivera. Pg. 5

Lawrence Councilors that respect voters' wishes

During the City Council meeting of December 29, 2020, only these three councilors voted against the changes to our City Charter.

Senate Bill #S2993 was brought to the State House by Sen. Barry Finegold to be approved by the Legislature. The main purpose was the elimination of a Special Election upon Mayor Dan Rivera's resignation. Pg. 5

Falta de justificaciones para suspender una elección especial

Lack of Justifications to Suspend a Special Election

Por / By Richard Rodriguez, Esq. Pg. 8

GLCF awarded \$829K for COVID-19 relief work

Over the next few months, the Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) will distribute \$829,983 to nonprofit organizations serving Lowell to alleviate hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic and address: emergency food, housing support, medical interpretation, educational program support, as well as youth program support. Pg. 13



Working on Frontlines of Pandemic



Now working on the frontlines of COVID-19 in the healthcare field, Alicia Gentile got her start at Middlesex Community College. As a Dual Enrollment student, Gentile appreciated MCC's small class sizes and opportunities for growth. Having received flexible course options, supportive advisors and professors, and a strong foundation of knowledge and experience, Middlesex put her on track to help her in her pursuit of a bachelor's degree and a career as a nurse. Pg. 7

Los Concejales de Lawrence que violaron los derechos del pueblo

The Councilors who disenfranchised voters

Por / By Richard Russell - Pg. 5



Ningún niño murió en incendios en Massachusetts en 2020

Primer año en que nadie menor de 18 años murió en incendios

El jefe de bomberos del estado, Peter J. Ostroskey, anunció que, por primera vez registrada, ningún niño murió en incendios en Massachusetts en 2020. Históricamente, los niños y las personas mayores han tenido mayor riesgo de morir en incendios. “No tener niños, nadie menor de 18 años, murió en un incendio en Massachusetts es un logro asombroso. A lo largo de los 26 años del Programa de Educación sobre Incendios para estudiantes (S.A.F.E.), los bomberos y los maestros de aula han estado ayudando a formar una generación de niños a salvo de incendios”.

El jefe de bomberos de Saugus, Michael C. Newbury, presidente de la Asociación de Jefes de Bomberos de Massachusetts, dijo: “Este hito habla del arduo trabajo de los educadores de bomberos para enseñar a los niños qué hacer para salvarse en un incendio. Encontramos menos niños escondidos debajo de las camas o en los armarios, porque saben cómo usar el plan de escape de su hogar”.

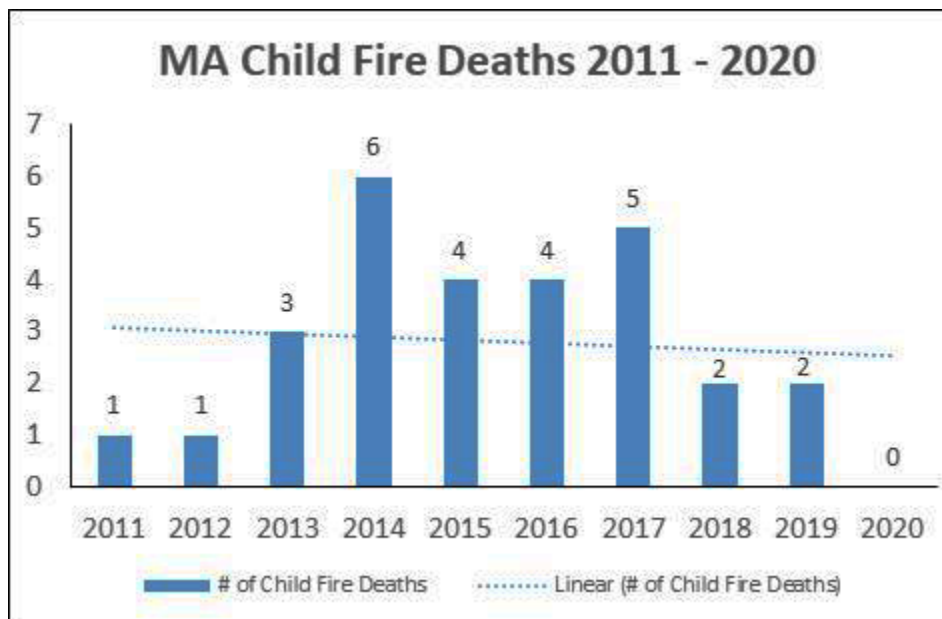
El Jefe de Bomberos del estado Ostroskey dijo: “En última instancia, la responsabilidad de la seguridad contra incendios en el hogar recae en los adultos en el hogar, pero el Programa SAFE ha brindado información de seguridad clave sobre el mantenimiento de alarmas de humo, la práctica de simulacros de

incendio en el hogar, cocinar, calentar, velas, fósforos y encendedores seguridad en casa para esos adultos. Dios sabe que no hay nada más molesto que un alumno de tercer grado insistiendo para que pruebe su alarma de humo”.

“Justo después de que comenzara este nuevo año, un niño sufrió quemaduras graves en el incendio de una casa de Oxford. Eso refuerza la vigilancia que debemos tener para mantener a nuestros niños a salvo de incendios y quemaduras”, dijo Ostroskey.

39 muertes en Massachusetts en 2020

Los datos preliminares del Sistema de Notificación de Incidentes de Incendios de Massachusetts (MFIRS) indican que hubo 39 muertes por incendios en 2020, comparado a 42 en 2019. Todas las muertes fueron adultos y 15, o casi el 40%, adultos mayores de 65 años. La mayoría, 31 de ellos, murieron en la supuesta seguridad de sus propios hogares. La mitad de estas muertes ocurrieron en hogares donde no había alarmas de humo en funcionamiento. “Los detectores de humo que funcionan le brindan lo único que no tiene en un incendio: tiempo, tiempo para escapar”, dijo Ostroskey. Solo hay entre 1-3 minutos para escapar del incendio promedio de una casa sin rociadores contra incendios.



Source: Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System

No Children Died in Fires in Massachusetts in 2020

First Year No One Under 18 Died in Fires

State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey announced that for the first time on record, no children died in fires in Massachusetts in 2020. Historically, children and seniors have been most at risk of dying in fires. “To have no children, no one under the age of 18, die in a fire in Massachusetts is an amazing accomplishment. Through the 26 years of the Student Awareness of Fire Education Program (S.A.F.E.), firefighters and classroom teachers have been helping to raise a fire safe generation of children.”

Saugus Fire Chief Michael C. Newbury, president of the Fire Chiefs’ Association of Massachusetts, said, “This milestone speaks to the hard work of firefighter-educators to teach children what to do to save themselves in a fire. We find fewer children hiding under beds or in closets, because they know how to use their home escape plan.”

State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said, “Ultimately, responsibility for home fire safety rests with the adults in the home, but the S.A.F.E Program has brought key safety information on maintaining smoke alarms, practicing home fire drills, cooking,

heating, candle and match and lighter safety home to those adults. Goodness knows there’s nothing like being nagged by a 3rd grader to test your smoke alarm.”

“Just after this new year began, a child did suffer serious burns in an Oxford house fire. That reinforces how vigilant we must be to keep our children safe from fires and burns,” said Ostroskey.

39 Deaths in Massachusetts in 2020

Preliminary data from the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) indicates that there were 39 fire deaths in 2020, down from 42 in 2019. The deaths were all adults and 15, or nearly 40%, were older adults over the age of 65. The majority, 31, died in the so-called safety of their own homes. Half of these deaths occurred in homes where there were no working smoke alarms. “Working smoke alarms give you the one thing you don’t have in a fire – time – time to escape,” said Ostroskey. There is only 1-3 minutes to escape the average house fire in a home without fire sprinklers.

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.

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For additional information on enrolling this spring, contact Enrollment Services, 978

556-3700 or admissions@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.

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POR DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



Demandamos una Elección Especial

Durante más de 30 años viviendo en Lawrence nunca deja de sorprenderme lo sumisos que somos. Los políticos juegan con nosotros y terminamos como piezas de ajedrez manipuladas a su conveniencia. Lo más que hacen es una queja ocasional en la radio que no llega a ninguna parte porque los responsables de los daños no están escuchando.

Hubo un tiempo en que teníamos una estación de radio en inglés que ofrecía no solo variedad en la programación y valor educativo, sino que, desde su cierre, un gran segmento del Merrimack Valley se quedó sin ningún medio de comunicación en el idioma inglés para noticias locales.

Durante los últimos 15 años, me he estado quejando hasta la saciedad sobre la estación de televisión de acceso comunitario que ha sido prohibida para el público en general. Solo a unos pocos elegidos se les permite producir programas cuando esa instalación podría entretener y educar a los residentes para que tengan una mejor vida y estén informados de lo que los rodea. En cambio, es un esfuerzo directo para mantenernos ignorantes permitiendo así la manipulación.

Pero ha ocurrido algo que parece haber despertado el interés de los votantes. Algunos miembros del Concejo Municipal inventaron una maniobra ilegal para violar varias leyes en los Estatutos de la Ciudad, así como las Leyes Generales de Massachusetts. La mejor parte es que los atraparon y la gente dice: "Esto es el colmo y vamos a luchar".

Además de escribir cartas a funcionarios del gobierno (que históricamente nunca responden a nuestros problemas), el ex presidente del Concejo Modesto Maldonado y yo presentamos dos medidas cautelares separadas en la Corte Superior de Lawrence. El caso irá ante el juez el jueves, 14 de enero a las 11:30 AM.

El propósito de esta acción es protestar contra la presentación del Proyecto de Ley S2993 por parte del Senador Estatal Barry Finegold solicitando una serie de cambios a los Estatutos de la Ciudad de Lawrence que privan a la comunidad de opiniones sobre la decisión que viola los Estatutos de la Ciudad y las Leyes Generales de Massachusetts, después del Alcalde Daniel Rivera renunciar a su cargo. Su último día fue el 8 de enero de 2021.

Los cambios propuestos a los Estatutos tienen el interés de violar los derechos de los residentes de Lawrence a una Elección Especial para reemplazar al alcalde saliente. Las excusas que utilizan son:

1. La pandemia. En los últimos tres meses, Lawrence celebró 3 elecciones (primarias, presidenciales y dominicanas) sin un aumento conocido como resultado de eso. Otras ciudades y pueblos celebrarán elecciones esta primavera tomando las precauciones necesarias.

2. El gasto. Tenemos casi \$16 millones en efectivo que podrían usarse para ese propósito, aunque el costo es mínimo en comparación.

3. Agitación. Tener un alcalde interino

ahora, una elección especial con un nuevo alcalde hasta noviembre y luego quien sea elegido para los próximos 4 años será demasiado agitado para nosotros.

Los últimos dos años han sido una agitación perturbadora en Lawrence con las explosiones de gas y la pandemia; esas no son razones para renunciar a nuestros derechos.

Estos son extractos de lo que estipula la Carta de la Ciudad en la página 6, 4.11 Vacante en la Oficina del Alcalde:

(a) Elección especial. Si se produce una vacante en el cargo de alcalde en los primeros cuarenta y dos meses del período para el que se elige al alcalde, el concejo de la ciudad ordenará de inmediato que se celebre una elección especial no más de 90 días después de la fecha en que la vacante sea creada, para cubrir la vacante por el resto del plazo restante.

(b) Elección del Concejo. Si se produce una vacante en el cargo de alcalde después de los primeros cuarenta y dos meses del período para el cual se elige al alcalde, el secretario del concejo convocará de inmediato una reunión especial del concejo de la ciudad, y ellos elegirán por mayoría de votos, uno de sus miembros para servir como alcalde. Si el concejo municipal no elige a uno de sus miembros dentro de los catorce días siguientes a la fecha de la reunión convocada por el secretario del concejo, el presidente del concejo municipal se convertirá en alcalde. Tras la elección y calificación de cualquier miembro del concejo de la ciudad como alcalde interino, su cargo de concejal se considerará vacante.

(c) Poder, Duración del cargo. El alcalde elegido según la sección 4.11 (a) o (b) tendrá todos los poderes del alcalde. Un alcalde elegido bajo la sección 4.11 (a) servirá por el resto del período que permaneció sin expirar al momento de su elección. Un alcalde elegido bajo la sección 4.11 (b) servirá hasta la fecha de la próxima elección regular de la ciudad y la persona elegida en la elección para el cargo de alcalde prestará juramento de inmediato y, además del período para el que fue elegido, servirá por el resto del mandato de alcalde en ese momento.

En este caso, 4.11 (a) es por lo que debemos pasar porque el alcalde se fue después de 36 meses de su mandato y eso convoca una Elección Especial.

Los miembros del Concejo organizaron dos reuniones:

28 de diciembre de 2020, 7:15 PM - Esta reunión como Participación Pública y tan pronto como comenzó, en ausencia del presidente del concejo Kendrys Vasquez, el vicepresidente Marc Laplante comenzó a recibir llamadas de la audiencia, todos se quejaron de que debería haber sido una Audiencia Pública para permitir que la comunidad hable sobre el tema de cancelar la Elección Especial. Rápidamente decidió cambiarlo a una Audiencia Pública sin límite de tiempo. La gente siguió quejándose de que era ilegal porque debería haberse anunciado durante 48 horas como tal.

Asunto #268-20 Petición de Autonomía 4.11 (a) de la Carta Constitutiva de la Ciudad de Lawrence - Vacante en la Oficina del Alcalde - Elección Especial -

presentada por la Concejal Estela Reyes - Comité de Ordenanzas. Terminó cuando el Concejal Pavel Payano se opuso poniendo un paro según el Charter. Tuvo más de 6,000 visitas y 250 comentarios.

29 de diciembre de 2020, 7:00 p.m. - El asunto #268-20 se mencionó como un asunto antiguo y, después de escuchar a algunas personas que llamaron, el Concejal David Abdo comenzó a leer los cambios en la Carta que había redactado sobre las objeciones de los residentes. El consejero presidente Vásquez participó en esta reunión en la primera parte y se fue.

El Concejal Abdo leyó apresuradamente los cambios propuestos y se procedió a una votación sin discusión con total desprecio por el público y los 3 concejales de la oposición. La sesión terminó después de las 9 pm y no sabíamos que fue una actuación ganadora de premios porque el Proyecto de Ley del Senado #2993 se había presentado ese mismo día.

Por cierto, votaron a favor de estos cambios los concejales Estela Reyes, Celina Reyes, María De La Cruz, David Abdo y Marc Laplante. Eso son 5 votos y el Artículo 89, Sección 8 establece que (1) una petición presentada o aprobada por los votantes de una ciudad o pueblo... Los votantes tenían prohibido expresar sus puntos de vista. (2) por un voto de dos tercios de cada rama de la corte general y 5 no es dos tercios de 9 ó incluso 8, que es el número que estuvo presente.

La Sección 6 permite a las ciudades y pueblos ejercer su poder de gobierno local solo en la medida en que sus acciones "no sean incompatibles con la constitución (del estado) o (las) leyes". Esa reunión tuvo 4.900 visitas y 529 comentarios y casi todos pidieron que se llevara a cabo una Elección Especial.

S2993 - Estos son los cambios propuestos: Tenga en cuenta que el presidente del Concejo Municipal no se convierte automáticamente en alcalde interino. La Carta dice específicamente que los concejales deben reunirse y seleccionar a uno de ellos para que ocupe ese lugar.

Existen discrepancias tales como, establece que el alcalde interino servirá por el resto del mandato del alcalde en ese momento, es decir, hasta enero. Pero más abajo explica que el ganador de las elecciones municipales de noviembre se sentará de inmediato y asumirá todos los poderes del alcalde y cumplirá el resto del entonces mandato de alcalde pendiente. Creo que esto es un conflicto y podríamos terminar con dos alcaldes durante dos meses porque esto será legalmente vinculante.

Las leyes locales no pueden invalidar las Leyes Generales de Massachusetts y los estados del Artículo LXXXIX Sección 4, Procedimiento para la Enmienda de un Estatuto por una Ciudad o Pueblo. Cada ciudad y pueblo tendrá el poder

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de enmendar su estatuto de la siguiente manera: El cuerpo legislativo de una ciudad o pueblo puede, por un voto de dos tercios, proponer enmiendas al estatuto de la ciudad o pueblo; siempre que, [1] enmiendas de un estatuto de la ciudad se puedan proponer solo con el consentimiento del alcalde en cada ciudad que tenga un alcalde, y [2] cualquier cambio en un estatuto relacionado de alguna manera con la composición, modo de elección o la designación o los términos del cargo del cuerpo legislativo, el alcalde o administrador de la ciudad o la junta de selectores o administrador de la ciudad se harán únicamente mediante el procedimiento de revisión de la carta constitutiva establecido en la Sección 3. Todas las enmiendas propuestas a los estatutos se publicarán y enviarán para su aprobación de la misma manera que se dispone para la adopción o revisión de un estatuto.

Según el abogado asistente de la ciudad, Timothy Houten, durante la reunión del concejo de la ciudad del 5 de enero, esto fue un cambio de estatuto.

En mi opinión, esto ha sido planeado y ejecutado por el Alcalde Daniel Rivera y sus aliados en el concejo. Kendrys Vasquez ha sido leal al alcalde durante años y ahora está desempleado; este es un favor personal para su amigo.

Este país está atravesando suficiente confusión. La gente de Lawrence quiere ser respetada y todo lo que pido es que se sigan las leyes. Esta comunidad solo está pidiendo el derecho a seleccionar a nuestros líderes, sin que nos los impongan.

Tenemos una gran pelea por delante. No tenemos un abogado que represente los intereses de los residentes y el Departamento Legal del Ayuntamiento existe solo para asesorar a los departamentos, agencias, juntas, comisiones y funcionarios municipales. Por eso el abogado Houten se presentó en el tribunal mientras Modesto Maldonado y yo llenábamos las citaciones para entregar a los concejales.

La inauguración

Hemos pasado por al menos tres alcaldes interinos; tomaron juramento en el Ayuntamiento y se pusieron a trabajar. Kendrys celebró un evento formal como si hubiera ganado una elección y se llama a sí mismo "alcalde" evitando todo el título de "alcalde interino". No ha sido elegido para nada.

Su responsabilidad más importante ahora es salvaguardar las posiciones de los compinches incompetentes contratados por Dan Rivera con la esperanza de que puedan hacer campaña y elegir en noviembre un candidato adecuado que continúe las tradiciones que Rivera comenzó de dar prioridad y beneficios de la ciudad a amigos, familiares y en particular a ciertos concejales.

"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

Estos son los Concejales de Lawrence que violaron los derechos del pueblo

These are the Councilors who disenfranchised voters



Celina Reyes
aka Lina Montesino



David Abdo



Estela Reyes



Acting Mayor
Kendrys Vasquez



Marc Laplante



María De La Cruz

Nuestro Concejo Municipal defiende la privación de derechos

Por Richard Russell

Millones de estadounidenses han ido a la guerra sabiendo que existía la posibilidad de que no sobrevivieran al combate.

¿Por qué hicieron esto?

Lo hicieron para mantener las diversas libertades que los estadounidenses tienen bajo la Constitución de los Estados Unidos. Uno de esos derechos es el derecho al voto.

Considero que los actos del Concejo Municipal de Lawrence el 12 de diciembre del 2020 son un acto de privación del derecho al voto, que se define como "el estado de ser privado de un derecho o privilegio,

especialmente el derecho al voto".

¿Por qué hizo esto el Concejo de Lawrence?

En mi opinión, lo hicieron para mantener un equilibrio en la transición desde la partida del Alcalde Rivera hasta la juramentación de un reemplazo "oficialmente elegido" en noviembre de 2021.

En una cita, muchas veces atribuida incorrectamente a Alexander Hamilton, parece muy apropiada:

"Aquellos que no defienden nada, caerán por cualquier cosa".

Our City Council stands for disenfranchisement

By Richard Russell

Millions of Americans have gone to war knowing the possibility existed that they may not survive combat.

Why did they do this?

They did it to maintain the various freedoms that Americans have under the United States Constitution. One of those rights was the right to vote.

I consider the acts of the Lawrence City Council on 12/29/20 to be an act of disenfranchisement, which is defined as "the state of being deprived of a right or

privilege, especially the right to vote."

Why did the Lawrence City Council do this?

In my opinion, they did this to maintain an even keel in the transition from Mayor Rivera's departure to the swearing in of an 'officially elected' replacement in November of 2021.

In a quote, often times incorrectly attributed to Alexander Hamilton, seems to be quite appropriate:

"Those who stand for nothing will fall for anything."

Text taken from Richard Russell's Facebook with his permission.

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La ciudad selecciona beneficiarios de la subvención para jóvenes \$300 mil otorgados

El alcalde Daniel Rivera, con el presidente del Concejo Municipal, Kendrys Vasquez, anuncia a los 6 ganadores del Fondo de Empoderamiento Juvenil 2020. “Nos entusiasmó mucho la cantidad de propuestas que recibimos de nuestras organizaciones juveniles locales enfocadas en cumplir con las prioridades establecidas por los jóvenes en nuestra comunidad”, dice el alcalde Dan Rivera. “El objetivo de la subvención

era financiar más oportunidades para los jóvenes de nuestra ciudad en función de su propio empoderamiento e intereses y creo que las propuestas aprobadas lo han logrado. Estamos muy contentos de haber podido financiar estas nuevas oportunidades y estamos ansiosos por verlas materializarse, felicitaciones a todos los galardonados”.

City Selects Youth Grant Awardees \$300K Awarded

Mayor Daniel Rivera, with City Council President, Kendrys Vasquez, announces 6 awardees of the 2020 Youth Empowerment Fund. “We were very enthused by the amount of proposals we received from our local youth organizations focused on meeting the priorities set by the youth in our community,” says Mayor Dan Rivera. “The goal of the grant was to fund

more opportunities for our city’s youth based around their own empowerment and interests and I believe that the approved proposals have done just that. We are very glad that we were able to fund these new opportunities and can’t wait to see them come to fruition, congratulations to all the awardees.”

The 2020 Youth Empowerment Awardees are below:

Organization:	Award Amount:	Amount Requested:
Beyond Soccer, Inc.	\$75,000	\$75,000
Elevated Thought, Inc.	\$75,000	\$75,000
Lawrence Community Works, Inc.	\$60,000	\$60,000
Top Notch Scholars, Inc.	\$35,000	\$75,000
Greater Lawrence Community Boating Program	\$30,000	\$30,000
Youth Development Organization, Inc.	\$25,000	\$25,000#

MCC Creates New Virtual One Stop Webpage for Easy Enrollment

In these challenging times due to the pandemic, Middlesex Community College knows how to help students reach their academic and professional goals. For the Spring 2021 semester, Middlesex will offer about 90 percent of courses online and has created a Virtual One Stop webpage to make remote enrollment a simple process. Registration is now open.

“MCC’s Virtual One Stop webpage makes applying to the college, registering for classes and preparing for the spring term easy,” said Scott O’Neil, MCC’s Dean of Academic and Student Technologies. “Each step has a defined action and includes contact information should any questions come up about a particular step.”

On MCC’s Virtual One Stop webpage, students start by applying to the college. MCC has a variety of options for students of all ages and stages in their lives with pathways and resources that will guide students to success. Students can enroll in a degree or certificate program, or just take a few classes.

Middlesex’s Online Orientation and First-Year Experience introduces new students to the college – going over academic expectations; how to navigate the campuses, information on clubs, organizations and events; and how to access academic resources and student support services.

Financial aid can help students pay for the costs of attending MCC – such as tuition and fees – as well as books, living expenses, transportation and personal expenses. The Office of Financial Aid will guide students through the process of completing a FAFSA and understanding what types of aid they qualify for.

Students can then plan out their semester and register for courses based on their degree or certificate program, or the individual classes they need to take. Options include the traditional 15-week semester or accelerated eight-week Mini-mester courses. Formats include asynchronous online, synchronous online

and hybrid delivery, in addition to some in-person course offerings.

Academic Advisors guide students through their time at MCC and beyond. Whether assisting students with their academic planning or helping them transfer to a four-year college or university, advisors help students be successful, stay on track, and reach their goals.

MCC understands that the pandemic presents a challenging time financially for students and that their money matters. To help, the college offers payment options, payment plans and financial wellness counseling. Enhanced online financial services make viewing and paying bills easy, and students can get refunds faster with funds deposited directly into checking or savings account.

Dedicated to helping students on their academic paths, MCC provides a student portal to help them get acclimated to the college, explore career and program options, find sources on classes, and communicate with faculty, advisors and other students.

Visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/onestop for more information about how to get started at MCC.

MCC’s WinterSession will run Monday, January 4 through January 22, 2021. The Spring 2021 semester starts on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, including Spring Mini-mester I. Spring Mini-mester II starts on Monday, March 29.

For more information and to register for courses, 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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**Points and/or additional fees may be assessed for borrowers with credit scores lower than 720 and/or cash-out refinance loans.

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

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

— Aysha Taryam

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

Middlesex CC Alumna Working on Frontlines of Pandemic

Now working on the frontlines of COVID-19 in the healthcare field, Alicia Gentile got her start at Middlesex Community College. As a Dual Enrollment student, Gentile appreciated MCC's small class sizes and opportunities for growth. Having received flexible course options, supportive advisors and professors, and a strong foundation of knowledge and experience, Middlesex put her on track to help her in her pursuit of a bachelor's degree and a career as a nurse.

"My overall experience at MCC was amazing and really shaped who I am today," she said. "I always loved learning before I got to MCC, but MCC helped me cultivate that love and channel it into action. I felt confident because of MCC and I feel as though I was able to create a solid path for myself."

From Groton, Gentile was a Liberal Arts & Sciences major at MCC who worked as a Supplemental Instructor in Anatomy and Physiology. As a Dual Enrollment student, Gentile took college-level courses starting in high school. Working towards her high school diploma while earning college credit helped her gain college experience and further challenged her academic abilities in a positive way.

A commencement speaker at her graduation from Middlesex in May 2016, she transferred to the University of San Francisco (USF) to receive a bachelor's degree in Nursing with a minor in General Business.

"I'm grateful to have felt confident leaving Middlesex," she said. "I was confident in my ability to take on difficult classes, and I was confident in the foundation MCC provided me. I don't think I would be as prepared for USF if I didn't attend Middlesex, and it really just

made my transition to San Francisco – a city across the country – much easier!"

While she was studying at USF, Gentile was eager to get started in the healthcare field and earned an EMT Certification. She started work as an Emergency Response Specialist at Genentech, Inc – a biotechnology company in San Francisco – while in college and is continuing in that role as she prepares to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) to become a Registered Nurse. For even more hands-on medical experience, she volunteers in the ICU at a local hospital.

Although she calls working in the healthcare industry during these times "sad and stressful," Gentile believes she has learned a lot of perspective from working throughout the pandemic – about her patients and her treatment of them in particular.

"Many of my patients have not been able to see their families during very vulnerable and difficult times in their lives and I had to become part of their family to support them emotionally," she said. "I celebrated birthdays with them, I FaceTimed their families with them, I sat with them when they couldn't fall asleep, and I prayed with them when their families weren't there. I experienced some of the most amazing recoveries and felt so grateful to be a part of that."

Her passion for nursing and the healthcare industry started at Middlesex. It was her experience with her professors at MCC who made such a positive impact on her success.

"MCC just made me feel supported," she said. "I really felt like the teachers wanted me to succeed and wanted me to learn, and my educational efforts were acknowledged. It was really encouraging

to have so many teachers that rooted for me!"

Stacey Hubbard, MCC Professor of Math, Science and Biotechnology, influenced Gentile the most as a confidant and support system for her next steps. From answering her questions to fostering her love of science and healthcare, Hubbard helped push Gentile to pursue her goals. And when Gentile was struggling to determine where she should go for her bachelor's degree, Hubbard guided her through the decision.

"I felt like she truly cared about where I decided to attend," Gentile said. "I truly appreciate her for her unbiased help, especially during a time where I felt like I had so many outside influences."

Gentile is grateful to Hubbard – and her other professors and advisors at Middlesex – for their guidance and support. She recommends that students who want a supportive learning environment that is designed for student success, should come to MCC for this experience.

"These teachers truly want you to succeed, learn and become the best version of yourself," she said. "You'll feel supported and you'll walk away with a solid foundation for whatever you decide to pursue next!"

MCC is celebrating 50 years! If you have ever taken a class at MCC, you are an alum! To share your story – and join in on the 50th anniversary celebrations – contact Amy Lee, Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations, at 978-656-3028 or leea@middlesex.mass.edu.

Visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/alumni/ for more information and to join the Alumni Association.

MCC's Spring 2021 semester starts on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, including Spring Mini-mester I. Spring Mini-mester



II starts on Monday, March 29. For more information and to register for courses, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration/ or call 1-800-818-3434.

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General Teacher Prospective Vacancy (Lawrence) SY21-22





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www.upeducationnetwork.org/careers

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.

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Falta de justificaciones para suspender una elección especial

Por Richard Rodríguez, Esq.



No hay duda de que el COVID-19 es algo de lo que hay que alarmarse, lo que hace que la Organización Mundial de la Salud y el estado de Massachusetts declaren el brote de coronavirus como una crisis de salud pública.

En un tema reciente de la agenda, el Concejo Municipal de Lawrence votó para apoyar la Petición de Autonomía para suspender una Elección Especial afirmando que debido al brote de Coronavirus, en particular Lawrence, conocida como la Zona Roja, tiene la tasa más alta de infección. Es la posición de este escritor y de otros que aún se pueden realizar elecciones especiales a pesar del COVID-19.

Es una ironía que los ciudadanos de Lawrence tengan garantizado su derecho fundamental en virtud de la Constitución de los Estados Unidos y la Constitución de Massachusetts de votar denegado que las escuelas públicas de Lawrence anunciaron que las puertas de las aulas se abrirán pronto a un grupo limitado de estudiantes. Esto significa que algunos estudiantes ya no estarían aprendiendo de forma remota desde casa sino en el aula en persona. Esto también significa que los estudiantes y los maestros estarían juntos aproximadamente ocho horas al día durante cinco días a la semana, mientras que los votantes estarían reunidos un día en los sitios de votación durante quince minutos para un evento de dos días en periodos de tiempo separados.

El argumento de que no debería haber elecciones especiales debido al brote de coronavirus es erróneo. Usando esta lógica, tampoco debería haber habido elecciones federales / estatales celebradas

en septiembre y noviembre de 2020. Hubo un brote de coronavirus en ese momento como ahora, pero las elecciones se llevaron a cabo siguiendo las pautas de los CDC.

Los defensores de la Petición de Autonomía tampoco mostraron un vínculo de que las elecciones son la causa de que Lawrence esté en la Zona Roja. No se presentaron datos científicos para mostrar este enlace. Sin embargo, al leer datos del Departamento de Salud Pública de Massachusetts y varios materiales, mostraron que hay un patrón de aumento del virus durante las vacaciones; la posible causa del aumento es que las personas no están respetando los límites de reunión y las personas que viajan. fuera del estado. El alcalde Daniel Rivera también citó estas razones para justificar su lucha contra el COVID-19 con la aplicación de la ley.

A pesar de la crisis de COVID-19, 23,367 votantes salieron a ejercer su derecho fundamental al voto en Lawrence durante la pasada Elección General de noviembre de 2020. En contraste, en las elecciones presidenciales de 2016, 24,537, los residentes de Lawrence salieron a votar. Eso fue 1,170 votantes más que las elecciones actuales; no es una diferencia suficiente. Estos datos son indicativos de que la gente saldría a votar o votaría por correo a pesar de la crisis del COVID-19.

Muchas de las empresas abren un día completo a pesar del brote de coronavirus. Mientras se protegen, una cantidad sustancial de personas compra a diario. Están comprando de 8:00 am a 9:00 pm. Durante esta crisis de salud, he ido de compras a Home Depot, al supermercado y similares. Todo sigue como de costumbre, excepto con los pasos de protección implementados (es decir, usar una máscara). Yo diría que es más probable que alguien pueda contraer el virus comprando que saliendo a votar durante aproximadamente cinco minutos; ese fue el tiempo que me tomó cuando voté en las últimas elecciones en noviembre de 2020. En contraste,

yendo de compras puedes estar en un lugar durante mucho tiempo con una multitud de personas en el área y tomar productos que hayan sido tocados por muchos. La solución no es dejar de comprar, sino ponerse las máscaras, lavarse las manos, etc.

En conclusión, la respuesta al brote de Coronavirus no fue suspender las Elecciones Especiales, sino mantenerlas como en el pasado. La Elección Especial se puede realizar como ir al supermercado mientras se toman medidas de protección (máscara, distancia y lavarse las manos). Además, la respuesta al aumento del virus no debería ser suspender una Elección

Especial, sino que la Ciudad continúe con la aplicación de su plan de acción (multas a los infractores de trescientos dólares por no usar máscara).

Si bien es cierto que COVID-19 es algo de lo que hay que alarmarse, había datos que mostraban un aumento del virus durante las vacaciones, pero no había datos que demostraran realmente un vínculo de salir a votar para aumentar el virus. En general, si los estudiantes pueden regresar a la escuela en persona, los votantes también pueden salir a votar en una Elección Especial que tomaría aproximadamente quince minutos.

Lack of Justifications to Suspend a Special Election

By Richard Rodriguez, Esq.



There is no question the COVID-19 is something of which to be alarmed off resulting in the World Health Organization and the State of Massachusetts declaring the Coronavirus

outbreak a public health crisis. In a recent agenda item, the Lawrence City Council voted to support the Home Rule Petition to suspend a Special Election asserting due to the Coronavirus outbreak, particularly Lawrence known as the Red Zone has the highest rate of infection. It is this writer and others' position that a Special Election can still be held despite the COVID-19.

It is irony while the Lawrence Citizens are having their fundamental right guarantee under the U.S. Constitution and Massachusetts Constitution to vote denied the Lawrence Public Schools announced classroom doors will open soon to a limited group of students. This means some students would no longer be learning remotely from home but in-person classroom. This also means students and teachers would be together for approximately eight hours a day for five days a week whereas voters would be held one day at the polling sites for fifteen minutes for a two-day event at separate time frames.

The argument that there should not be any Special Election because of the Coronavirus outbreak is flawed. Using this logic there should also have not been any Federal/State elections held in September and November of 2020. There was a Coronavirus outbreak at that time as it is now, but the elections were held following the CDC guideline.

Proponents of the Home Rule Petition also failed to show a link that the elections are the cause of making Lawrence in the Red Zone. There was no scientific data presented to show this link. However, in reading data from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and various materials they showed there is a pattern of an increase of the virus during the holidays – the possible cause of the increase is that people are not respecting the limits

of gathering and people traveling out of the state. Mayor Daniel Rivera also cited these reasons for his justification to fight COVID-19 with enforcement

Despite the COVID-19 crisis, 23,367 voters came out to exercise their fundamental right to vote in Lawrence during this past 2020 November General Election. In contrast in the 2016 Presidential Election 24,537, Lawrence residents came out to vote. That was 1,170 more voters than the present election; not a sufficient difference. This data is indicative that people would come out to vote or vote by mail despite the COVID-19 crisis.

Many of the businesses are open a full-day despite the Coronavirus outbreak. While protecting themselves, a substantial amount of people are shopping daily. They are shopping 8:00 am to 9:00 pm. During this health crisis, I have gone shopping at Home Depot, the supermarket, and the like. It is business as usual except with the protective steps implemented (i.e. wearing a mask). I would say it is more likely someone can get the virus by shopping than going out to vote for approximately five minutes – that was how long it took me when I voted in the last election in November of 2020. In contrast, going shopping you can be in a location for a long time with a crowd of people in the area and taking products that have been touched by many. The solution is not to stop shopping but to wear your masks, wash your hands, and so forth.

In conclusion, the answer to the Coronavirus outbreak was not to suspend the Special Election but hold it as in the past. The Special Election can be held like going to the supermarket while taking protection measurements (mask, distance, and wash hands). Besides, the answer to the increase of the virus should not be to suspend a Special Election but for the City to continue the enforcement of its plan of action (fine violators three hundred dollars for not wearing a mask).

While it is true COVID-19 is something of which to be alarmed off, there was data to show an increase of the virus during the holidays but there was no data to truly demonstrate a link of coming out to vote to increase the virus. Overall, if students can go back to school in person so can too voters come out to vote on a Special Election which would take approximately fifteen minutes.

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Lawrence History Center Community Symposium

Public Safety in Lawrence

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Date: May 1, 2021
 Location: Virtual
 Proposal Deadline: Friday, January 15, 2021
 Contact(s): Susan Grabski, Executive Director, Lawrence History Center; Robert Forrant, Distinguished Professor of History, University of Massachusetts Lowell

This public safety symposium is designed for exploration and dialogue, thinking broadly about the topic and the myriad of issues that fall under its umbrella, through a multi-disciplinary lens.

The day-long virtual effort will look back at the history of Lawrence’s response to crisis – be it to natural and man-made disasters, labor strikes, protests, racial discrimination, economic upheaval, living and working conditions – and where that fits in the broader telling of history in the United States.

COVID-19 and the death of George Floyd showed us that we are in a moment of crisis both for public health and for public safety. So what does public safety really look like to residents of Lawrence historically and now in the shadow of the Merrimack Valley Gas Explosions, during a pandemic, in an era of extreme health disparities based on race and income? What does public safety really look like in the

context of racialized police killings, in the context of the widespread criminalization of immigrants? What would we all need to truly feel "safe" in the current moment? And what insight can we gain from the past?

Proposal topics sought include (but are not limited to):

- How the community comes together during crisis (e.g., Pemberton Mill Collapse, 1860; Tornado, 1890; Flood, 1936; Riots, 1984; Malden Mills Fire, 1995; Merrimack Valley Gas Explosions in September, 2018)
- Community visions for public safety
- Immigrant Policing
- Latina/o experiences with anti-Black racism
- Workplace safety and labor rights
- How Lawrence, MA (and/or other similar urban settings) responded to the 1918 Influenza Epidemic and now COVID-19? What was learned in those efforts to treat and contain the disease, its impact overall?
- Health equity and social justice
- Education and factors impacting student safety and well-being.

We welcome papers, panels, narrative art, short videos, and photo essays on, but not limited to, the topics listed above from community members, community

A multi-disciplinary look at the history of
PUBLIC SAFETY IN LAWRENCE
What has worked? What hasn't? How does Lawrence compare to other similar cities in the region and nation?
 A LAWRENCE HISTORY CENTER COMMUNITY SYMPOSIUM
 To be held *virtually* on May 1, 2021
 For more information, please visit: www.lawrencehistory.org

organizations, scholars, practitioners, researchers, funding organizations, middle/high school, and undergraduate/graduate students.

Individual and panel presentations welcome.

Presenter Guidelines and Submission Requirements include:

- Prepare a proposal (300-500 words)
- Prepare a brief biography for the speaker(s) in 200 words or less and written in third person. All co-presenters, if applicable, will need to be listed as well (limit of 3).
- Each session is 60 minutes, to include time for a question and answer session. Keep this in mind as you prepare your presentation.

All submissions must be submitted electronically via the PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM.

- If you do not receive an email

confirmation, your proposal was not properly submitted or left incomplete.

- If you have questions regarding whether the proposal was submitted and accepted you must contact one of the co-chairs before the deadline of Friday, January 15, 2021 5pm EST.

- Those individuals whose presentation has been accepted will be notified on or after Friday, February 26, 2021 at 5pm EST by email.

Questions? Please contact:

Susan Grabski, Executive Director
 Lawrence History Center
 tel. 978.686.9230
 email: director@lawrencehistory.org

Robert Forrant, PhD, Distinguished University Professor 2016-2019
 Professor of History and Graduate Program Coordinator
 University of Massachusetts Lowell
 tel. 978-934-2904 |
 email: robert_forrant@uml.edu

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The Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce announced today its board of directors has selected Irene Haley as the organization’s next chief executive officer. Haley will assume the role of Greater Haverhill Chamber President and CEO on January 11, 2021.

“I am thrilled to be joining this amazing team and vibrant, diverse community. I bring more than 20 years of leadership experience and a passion to serve others to this role and to this critical moment. I look forward to partnering with other local leaders to serve our members and our community,” said Haley.

An initial prospect pool of more than 150 applicants was narrowed to a final group who interviewed with the board’s search committee during December. “After an extensive search for a new President & CEO of the Greater Haverhill Chamber, we are pleased to have selected Irene Haley,” said Matthew Juros, Chair of the Greater

Haverhill Chamber Board of Directors. “The board is energized and excited by the opportunity to work with Irene to build on the foundation that Dougan created during the past 2 ½ years,” Juros said.

Haley brings over 20 years of experience in corporate management at both Exxon Mobil and Starbucks. She has a Master of Business Administration degree from Boston University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from UMass Lowell.

The Haverhill Chamber of Commerce is just north of Boston in the Merrimack Valley.

It serves a wonderfully diverse, local, small business community. The connectivity between the people and the businesses in our Chamber is what really matters. Our Chamber supports more than 400 businesses and we work to extend our reach and value every day. Visit us at www.haverhillchamber.com.

A Letter to Denise Murray

By Carmen García

ME: "Hey Boo"

Remember when we met on January 5, 2015, on my first day at work?

Remember when we laughed at many of the gatherings we attended?

Remember when I gave my two weeks' notice and you said I better not quit because it's not me is them and I listened to you and stayed?

Remember when you told me that was a wig you were wearing and I nearly lost it because all along I thought it was your real hair?

Remember when you asked me to design a "Pass the kindness" business card with Timothy's picture on it?

Remember when you invited me to your

50th birthday party and then I designed a picture frame with a collage of pictures I took that night just for you?

OMG, remember when we found out, at the actual party I might add, that we were going to be family because a family member of mine was marrying a family member of yours? It was so surreal and we couldn't stop laughing that day. Still funny to this day.

Remember when.....

DENISE: "Girl listen..."

I know I will remember those thoughts and many more when I think of you.

I will sincerely miss our hugs and laughter.



Denise Murray with her dear friend Matthew Clark.

Obituary // Cronología

February 10, 1970 - January 4, 2021



Una carta a Denise Murray

Por Carmen García

YO: "Hey Boo"

¿Recuerdas cuando nos conocimos el 5 de enero de 2015, en mi primer día de trabajo?

¿Recuerdas cuando nos reímos de muchas de las reuniones a las que asistimos?

¿Recuerdas cuando di mi aviso de dos semanas y dijiste que era mejor no renunciar porque no soy yo, son ellos, te escuché y me quedé?

¿Recuerdas cuando me dijiste que era una peluca que llevabas y casi me muero de risa porque siempre pensé que era tu cabello real?

¿Recuerdas cuando me pediste que diseñara una tarjeta de presentación de "Pase la bondad" con la foto de Timothy en ella?

¿Recuerdas cuando me invitaste a tu fiesta de cumpleaños número 50 y luego diseñé un marco con un collage de fotos que tomé esa noche solo para ti?

Dios mío, ¿recuerdas cuando nos enteramos, en la el momento de la fiesta, que íbamos a ser familia porque un miembro de mi familia se iba a casar con un familiar tuyo? Fue tan surrealista y no pudimos dejar de reír ese día. Sigue siendo divertido hasta el día de hoy.

Recuerdas cuando...

DENISE: "Chica escucha..."

Sé que recordaré esos pensamientos y muchos más cuando piense en ti.

Sinceramente, extrañaré nuestros abrazos y nuestras risas.

Baker-Polito Administration Awards \$67.4 Million in Additional Grants to 1,366 Businesses Most Impacted by the Pandemic

Applications for new relief program targeting specific industries now being accepted

The Baker-Polito Administration announced \$67.4 million in awards to 1,366 additional small businesses in a second round of grants through the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC). Additionally, the new Sector-Specific Small Business Relief Grant Program, also administered by MGCC, is now accepting applications from businesses from sectors most impacted by the COVID-19. Both grant programs are part of a new \$668 million relief package announced last week.

The businesses being notified today of their successful grant application include many that are owned by minorities (50%) and women (48%). Restaurants and bars, beauty and personal services, health care and retail are among the top sectors receiving relief in this second round of awards. The first round of grants announced last week totaled nearly \$49 million in support of 1,158 Massachusetts small businesses.

MGCC is continuing to review existing applications and will make awards over the coming weeks to companies that meet demographic and industry preferences. Businesses that have already applied to MGCC's Small Business Grant Program do not need to reapply to the new program.

New Grant Program Accepting Applications

In addition to providing grants to

businesses within the existing pool of applications for the Small Business Grant Program, applications are now being accepted for a new Sector-Specific Small Business Relief Grant Program that targets industries experiencing the most significant economic hardship and a loss of revenue. Industries given preference in this new program include:

- Restaurants, bars, caterers, and food trucks
- Indoor recreation and entertainment establishments
- Gyms and fitness centers
- Event-support companies (photographers, videographers, etc.)
- Personal services (nail salons, barbershops, independent pharmacies, etc.)
- Independent retailers

This new business relief program will offer grants up to \$75,000, but not more than three months' operating expenses, to be used for payroll and employee benefit costs, mortgage interest, rent, utilities and interest on other debt obligations.

The online application portal for the new program opened today, and will close on Friday, January 15. Awards are expected to be announced in February.

Program details, application instructions, eligibility and documentation requirements, and more are available at www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org.



Neighbors in Need is looking for you!

Volunteers needed for the next two weeks 1/11 and 1/18 at Neighbors in Need

Adult Volunteers needed at NIN Warehouse in Andover Dundee Park to pack food bags for distribution.

- Wednesday, 1/20 from 9.30 am - 1 pm (1 Adult)
- Thursday, 1/21 from 9.30 am - 1 pm (1 Adult)

Delivery volunteers needed to bring food bags to 5 at risk, Covid+ or quarantining Lawrence area families.

- Tuesday, 1/12 at 11.00 am pick up available (route takes 90 min - 2 hours)
- Thursday, 1/14 at 11.30 am pickups available (route takes 90 min - 2 hours)
- Friday, 1/15 at 10.00 am pickups (route takes 90 min - 2 hours)
- Tuesday, 1/19 at 11.00 am & 11.30 am pick up available (route takes 90 min - 2 hours)
- Wednesday, 1/20 at 11.00 am & 11.30 am pickups available (route takes 90 min - 2 hours)
- Thursday, 1/21 at 11.00 am & 11.30 am pickups available (route takes 90 min - 2 hours)
- Friday, 1/22 at 10.00 am & 11.30 am pickups (route takes 90 min - 2 hours)

Diaper delivery volunteers also needed!! Volunteers deliver to families throughout the Greater Lawrence area on a weekly basis. You can help once, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. Please email below to arrange for a pickup time.

Can't make these dates, but would like to volunteer? We have posted volunteer slots for January 2021 -- please keep checking our Sign Ups to see what is available.

Have questions? Contact us at volunteer@needfood.org or 978.685.8321 for more information!



Lowell Artist Featured in NECC's ArtSpace

"New and Worsening Conditions", the latest exhibit from The Linda Hummel-Shea ArtSpace at Northern Essex Community College, features the work of Lowell artist Robb Sandagata, online only through Jan. 20, 2021.

The exhibit features 26 pieces exploring aspects of the human condition. Mediums include marker and acrylic.

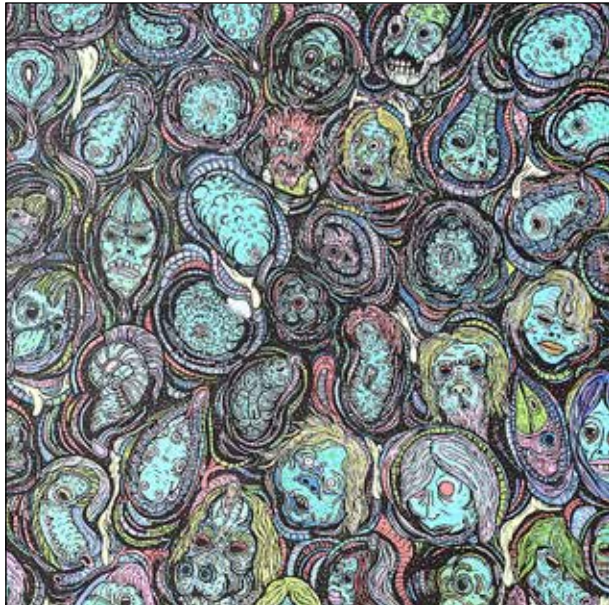
The artist says he uses "surrealism, humor, parody, and grotesque imagery." "Characters engage in implied, uncertain narratives—struggling for power, facing heartbreak and uncertainty, finding strength to push against oppression, horror, and chronic illness."

Sandagata's work includes references to pop culture, music, politics, and social issues mixed with grotesque portraiture and raw emotions.

Robb Sandagata was born in New Haven, CT and has also lived in New York, Arizona, and Massachusetts. Significant influences, in roughly chronological order, include: cartoons, comic books, Dungeons & Dragons, "Alternative" music, punk rock, zines, theater, competitive debate, mid-90s Hardcore, and band t-shirts. He studied sculpture and liberal arts at Sarah Lawrence College. He lives in Lowell, MA with Emily Sandagata, some dogs, and piles of artwork.

Here is the link to the exhibit <https://mcclump3.wixsite.com/website-1>

Located in the Bentley Library Building on NECC's Haverhill Campus, the Linda Hummel-Shea ArtSpace Gallery features exhibits by NECC students, faculty, and artists from around



Robb Sandagata's Alone Together. 2020. Acrylic on panel. 24 1/4"x 24 1/2"

the region and the world.

Northern Essex's Department of Art & Design offers many courses in fine art and design leading to an Associate Degree in General Studies: Art & Design.

For additional information, contact Marc Mannheimer, gallery coordinator at mmannheimer@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.



Robb Sandagata's Forgotten Realms. 2018. Acrylic and ink on panel. 12"x12"

"About the only thing that comes to us with no effort is old age."

"Lo único que nos llega sin ningún esfuerzo es la vejez."

- Gloria Pitzer

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



Despeja equívocos y temores acerca de los cuidados paliativos

Por JD Mez Madrid

"Morir en Paz: Paliativos vs Eutanasia" es el título del nuevo documental realizado por Goya Producciones en colaboración con la ACdP, la Fundación Telefamilia y la Fundación Cari Filii.

El documental responde a la pregunta de si en el tramo final de la vida es posible no sufrir, no tener miedos ni angustias, estar acompañados, ser tratados con cariño, tener paz, ver realizados nuestros últimos deseos. Los testimonios de doctores, enfermeras, psicólogos, voluntarios y familiares de enfermos muestran en esta cinta que eso no es una utopía, que es una realidad gracias a los Cuidados Paliativos.

Apoiado en su larga experiencia, el doctor Marcos Gómez, afirma que casi todos los que piden la eutanasia lo que en realidad desean es que les quiten el dolor, ignorando que hoy hay medios para eliminar el sufrimiento sin eliminar al sufriente. Para el Dr. Alvaro Gándara ésta es la forma civilizada y progresista

de atender estas situaciones, y la sociedad tiene la obligación de hacerlo, como atiende a los pobres o a los niños no escolarizados.

El documental muestra casos de personas cuyas vidas conflictivas y desestructuradas son transformadas gracias al trato profesional y afectuoso de los equipos de paliativos, llegando incluso a resolver sus problemas personales y reconciliarse con viejos enemigos o familiares olvidados.

En la página web morienpaz.org se encontrará, además del documental, una serie de siete videos cortos con testimonios de expertos, que irán apareciendo gradualmente. La web ofrecerá también documentos e información sobre estos temas, aportados por entidades colaboradoras. Entre ellas figuran la Asociación Española de Bioética y Ética Médica (AEBI), la Asociación Latinoamericana de Cuidados Paliativos (ALCP) y la Fundación Jérôme Lejeune.

MVHP recibe una subvención de \$25,000 de Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation

Por **Jim Wilde**
Director Ejecutivo MVHP

Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership (MVHP) recibió una subvención de \$25,000 de Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation por su trabajo para abordar la inseguridad de la vivienda agravada por el brote de COVID-19.

La subvención respaldará nuestro programa de capacitación integral para compradores de vivienda por primera vez de ingresos bajos y moderados.

Durante la pandemia, hemos experimentado un aumento significativo en la demanda de nuestro programa de capacitación para compradores de vivienda y servicios de asesoramiento financiero. El apoyo de Eastern Bank a nuestros esfuerzos es generoso y muy apreciado.

Durante los primeros días y semanas de la pandemia, Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation comenzó a prestar su apoyo lo más rápido posible, y ha aumentado constantemente a lo largo de 2020 el número de subvenciones no solicitadas a organizaciones sin fines de lucro. En total, se han proporcionado \$11 millones en subvenciones de ayuda COVID-19 a cientos de organizaciones locales y regionales en Massachusetts, New Hampshire y Rhode Island en 2020.

Los fondos más recientes apoyan a organizaciones enfocadas en la estabilidad de la vivienda, la falta de vivienda, la seguridad alimentaria y los servicios y

utilidades esenciales para personas y familias de ingresos bajos y moderados.

“La vivienda, la falta de un hogar y la inseguridad alimentaria han sido durante mucho tiempo desafíos en nuestras comunidades locales que se están agravando por el doble impacto de la pandemia y la próxima temporada de invierno”, dijo Nancy Huntington Stager, presidenta y directora ejecutiva de Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation. “Gracias a las organizaciones y personas que trabajan con valentía en las líneas del frente para apoyar a nuestros vecinos necesitados que brindan asistencia vital durante estos tiempos. La necesidad de apoyo filantrópico corporativo de nuestros socios sin fines de lucro es tan grande ahora como lo fue al comienzo de la pandemia, e invitamos a quienes puedan unirse a nosotros para brindar su apoyo”.

Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership educó y preparó a 860 familias para la propiedad de vivienda responsable en 2020. Las familias de ingresos bajos y moderados enfrentan muchos obstáculos asociados con precios altos y bajo inventario. Construir un buen historial crediticio y ahorrar para el pago inicial son fundamentales para el éxito. Docenas de prestamistas, abogados, inspectores de viviendas y agentes de bienes raíces ofrecen voluntariamente su tiempo y talento para ayudar a impartir los cursos.

MVHP receives a \$25,000 Grant from Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation

By **Jim Wilde**
MVHP Executive Director

The Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership (MVHP) receives a \$25,000 Grant from Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation for its work in addressing housing insecurities compounded by the COVID-19 outbreak.

The grant will support our comprehensive training program for first-time home-buyers of low and moderate-income.

During the pandemic, we have experienced a significant increase in demand for our home buyer training program and financial counseling services. Eastern Bank's support of our efforts is generous and greatly appreciated.

During the early days and weeks of the pandemic, Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation began to lend its support as quickly as possible, and it has steadily increased throughout 2020 the number of unsolicited grants to nonprofit organizations. In total, \$11 million in COVID-19 relief grants has been provided to hundreds of local and regional organizations in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island in 2020.

The most recent funding supports organizations focused on housing stability, homelessness, food security, and essential

services and utilities for low- and moderate-income individuals and families.

“Housing, homelessness and food insecurity have long been challenges in our local communities that are being made worse by the double impact of the pandemic and approaching winter season,” said Nancy Huntington Stager, President and CEO of Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation. “Thank you to the organizations and people bravely working on the front lines to support our neighbors in need providing vital assistance during these times. The need for corporate philanthropic support of our nonprofit partners is as great now as it was at the beginning of the pandemic, and we invite those who can to join us in giving their support.”

The Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership educated and prepared 860 families for responsible homeownership in 2020. Low and moderate-income families face many hurdles associated with high prices and low inventory. Building a good credit history and saving for a down payment are paramount for success. Dozens of lenders, attorneys, home inspectors, and real estate agents volunteer their time and talents to help teach the courses.

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Greater Lowell Community Foundation awarded \$829K for COVID-19 relief work

Over the next few months, the Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) will distribute \$829,983 to nonprofit organizations serving Lowell to alleviate hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic and address: emergency food, housing support, medical interpretation, educational program support, as well as youth program support.

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

"GLCF is honored to partner with the Commonwealth to continue to address critical COVID-related needs in Lowell," said GLCF president & CEO Jay Linnehan. "GLCF is developing a grantmaking plan to ensure that aid gets out to those who need it quickly and effectively."

"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. "We appreciate

the partnership of the Legislature in moving this funding forward, and applaud the work of so many organizations across the state helping people to access critical aid."

The Community Foundation Grant awards continue the Baker-Polito Administration's efforts to support the individuals and families who have been hit especially hard during the pandemic, and are part of Partnerships for Recovery, the comprehensive plan to stabilize and grow the Commonwealth's economy. These one-time grants to 14 community organizations range from \$200,000 to nearly \$1.7 million. Each foundation will re-grant program funds to local or regional community-based organizations that have the capacity to efficiently provide immediate relief and support for individuals and families.

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.

The Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF), founded in 1997, is a philanthropic organization comprised of over 350 funds, currently totaling over \$48MM, 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



Merrimack Valley Food Bank, a recent recipient of a GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund grant to address food insecurity in Greater Lowell, has seen increased demand for emergency food during the pandemic.

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.

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SBA y el Departamento del Tesoro anuncian la reapertura del PPP; emiten nuevas directrices

By Office of Communications and Public Liaison

La Agencia Federal de Pequeños Negocios (SBA, por sus siglas en inglés), en consulta con el Departamento del Tesoro, anunció hoy que el Programa de protección de pago (PPP, por sus siglas en inglés) reabrirá la semana del 11 de enero para nuevos prestatarios y ciertos prestatarios existentes del PPP. Para promover el acceso al capital, inicialmente solo las instituciones financieras comunitarias podrán tramitar los primeros préstamos PPP el lunes 11 de enero, y los segundos préstamos PPP el miércoles 13 de enero. El PPP se abrirá a todos los prestamistas participantes poco después. El 6 de enero se publicó una guía actualizada del PPP que describe los cambios del programa para mejorar su eficacia y accesibilidad, de acuerdo con la Ley de Ayuda Económica a las Pequeñas Empresas, Organizaciones sin Fines de Lucro y Lugares de Entretenimiento en Vivo Más Afectados.

Esta ronda del PPP continúa dando prioridad a millones de estadounidenses empleados por pequeñas empresas al autorizar hasta \$284 mil millones para la retención de empleos y ciertos otros gastos hasta el 31 de marzo de 2021, y al permitir que ciertos prestatarios existentes del PPP soliciten un segundo préstamo PPP.

"El históricamente exitoso Programa de protección de pago sirvió como un salvavidas económico para millones de pequeñas empresas y sus empleados cuando más lo necesitaban", dijo la Administradora Jovita Carranza. "La orientación de hoy se basa en el éxito del programa y se adapta a las necesidades cambiantes de los propietarios de pequeñas empresas, proporcionando

un alivio específico y un proceso de condonación más simple para asegurar su camino hacia la recuperación".

"El Programa de protección de pago ha proporcionado exitosamente 5,2 millones de préstamos con un valor de 525.000 millones de dólares a las pequeñas empresas de los Estados Unidos, apoyando a más de 51 millones de puestos de trabajo", dijo el Secretario del Tesoro Steven T. Mnuchin. "Estas directrices actualizadas mejorarán la ayuda del PPP a las pequeñas empresas más afectadas por COVID-19". Nos comprometemos a implementar esta ronda del PPP rápidamente, para continuar apoyando a las pequeñas empresas estadounidenses y a sus trabajadores".

Las actualizaciones claves al PPP incluyen:

- Los prestatarios del PPP pueden establecer el período cubierto de su préstamo PPP entre las 8 y 24 semanas para satisfacer mejor las necesidades de su negocio;
- Los préstamos PPP cubrirán gastos adicionales, incluyendo gastos operativos, costos de daños a la propiedad, costos de proveedores y gastos de protección de los trabajadores;
- La elegibilidad del programa se amplía para incluir a las organizaciones 501(c)(6), cooperativas de vivienda, organizaciones de marketing de destinos, entre otros tipos de organizaciones;
- El PPP proporciona una mayor flexibilidad para los empleados de temporada;
- Ciertos prestatarios existentes del PPP pueden solicitar la modificación del monto

de su primer préstamo PPP; y

- Ciertos prestatarios actuales del PPP son ahora elegibles para solicitar un segundo préstamo PPP.

Un prestatario es generalmente elegible para un segundo préstamo PPP si el prestatario:

- Recibió previamente un primer préstamo PPP y utilizará o ha utilizado el monto total solo para los usos autorizados;
- No tiene más de 300 empleados; y
- Puede demostrar al menos una reducción del 25 % de los ingresos brutos entre trimestres comparables en 2019 y 2020.

Las nuevas directrices emitidas incluyen:

- Orientación PPP de la Administradora Carranza de la SBA sobre el acceso al capital para las empresas propiedad de minorías, comunidades desatendidas, veteranos y mujeres;
- Norma final provisional sobre el Programa de protección de pago, según enmendado por la Ley de Ayuda Económica; y
- Norma final provisional sobre segundos préstamos PPP.

Para obtener más información sobre la asistencia de la SBA a las pequeñas empresas, visite sba.gov/ppp o treasury.gov/cares.

SBA and Treasury Announce PPP Re-Opening; Issue New Guidance

By Office of Communications and Public Liaison

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), in consultation with the Treasury Department, announced today that the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) will re-open the week of January 11 for new borrowers and certain existing PPP borrowers. To promote access to capital, initially only community financial institutions will be able to make First Draw PPP Loans on Monday, January 11, and Second Draw PPP Loans on Wednesday, January 13. The PPP will open to all participating lenders shortly thereafter. Updated PPP guidance outlining Program changes to enhance its effectiveness and accessibility was released on January 6 in accordance with the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Non-Profits, and Venues Act.

This round of the PPP continues to prioritize millions of Americans employed by small businesses by authorizing up to \$284 billion toward job retention and certain other expenses through March 31, 2021, and by allowing certain existing PPP borrowers to apply for a Second Draw PPP Loan.

"The historically successful Paycheck Protection Program served as an economic lifeline to millions of small businesses and their employees when they needed it most," said Administrator Jovita Carranza. "Today's guidance builds on the success of the program and adapts to the changing needs of small business owners by providing targeted relief and a simpler forgiveness process to ensure their path to recovery."

"The Paycheck Protection Program has successfully provided 5.2 million loans worth \$525 billion to America's small businesses, supporting more than 51 million jobs," said Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin. "This updated guidance enhances the PPP's targeted relief to small businesses most impacted by COVID-19. We are committed to implementing this round of PPP quickly to continue supporting American small businesses and their workers."

Key PPP updates include:

- PPP borrowers can set their PPP loan's covered period to be any length between 8 and 24 weeks to best meet their business needs;
- PPP loans will cover additional expenses, including operations expenditures, property damage costs, supplier costs, and worker protection expenditures;
- The Program's eligibility is expanded to include 501(c)(6)s, housing cooperatives, direct marketing organizations, among other types of organizations;
- The PPP provides greater flexibility for seasonal employees;
- Certain existing PPP borrowers can request to modify their First Draw PPP Loan amount; and
- Certain existing PPP borrowers are now eligible to apply for a Second Draw PPP Loan.

A borrower is generally eligible for a Second Draw PPP Loan if the borrower:

- Previously received a First Draw PPP Loan and will or has used the full amount only for authorized uses;
- Has no more than 300 employees; and
- Can demonstrate at least a 25% reduction in gross receipts between comparable quarters in 2019 and 2020.

The new guidance released includes:

- PPP Guidance from SBA Administrator Carranza on Accessing Capital for Minority, Underserved, Veteran, and Women-owned Business Concerns;
- Interim Final Rule on Paycheck Protection Program as Amended by Economic Aid Act; and
- Interim Final Rule on Second Draw PPP Loans.

For more information on SBA's assistance to small businesses, visit sba.gov/ppp or treasury.gov/cares.

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Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefit Program Launches For Eligible Workers in Massachusetts

BOSTON – The Department of Family and Medical Leave (DFML) today announced that workers eligible for Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) may begin filing certain benefit requests on January 1, 2021, in accordance with legislation enacted in 2018.

PFML provides temporary income replacement to eligible workers. Starting January 1, 2021, workers can apply for leave for welcoming a new child into their family, for their own serious health condition, and for certain military considerations. Starting July 1, 2021, workers can apply for leave to care for an ill or ailing relative.

The program, which is offered separately from the federal Family and Medical Leave Act and any employer-offered leave, provides up to 20 weeks of paid leave per benefit year to manage a serious personal health condition, up to 12 weeks to care for a family member or to bond with a child, and up to 26 weeks to care for a family member who is a member of the armed service.

Beginning January 1, 2021, Massachusetts workers can apply for:

- Medical leave due to their own serious health condition. Workers may take up to 20 weeks per year of paid leave to manage a serious health condition.
- Family leave to bond with a child. Family leave can be taken by a parent or legal guardian to bond with a child during the first 12 months after the child's birth, adoption, or foster care placement. Eligibility for family leave used for bonding with a child is limited to the child's parents or legal guardians, although certain other family members may be eligible to take family leave for caring for a child that has a serious medical condition. Workers who are parents or legal guardians may take up to 12 weeks of family leave to bond with a child. The annual 12-week maximum remains the same even if multiple childbirths, adoptions, or foster care placements occur in the same year.
- Family leave to care for a family member with a serious health condition that relates to military service. Workers

may take up to 26 weeks of family leave per year to care for a family member who is a current member of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, and who is:

- Undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious health condition that was received or aggravated while the patient was deployed in a foreign country.
- Being treated as an outpatient for a serious health condition that was received or aggravated while they were deployed in a foreign country.
- On the temporary disability retired list for a serious injury or illness that happened while deployed in a foreign country.
- On the temporary disability retired list for a serious injury or illness that existed before the beginning of the member's active duty and was aggravated by service while deployed in a foreign country.
- Family leave to manage any needs that occur immediately after a family member is deployed in a foreign country or has been notified of an upcoming deployment in a foreign country. Workers may take up to 12 weeks of family leave per year to manage needs which may include:
 - Caring for a deployed family member's child or other family member immediately before their deployment.
 - Making financial or legal arrangements for deployed family member.
 - Attending counseling.
 - Attending military events or ceremonies.
 - Spending time with a deployed family member during a rest or recuperation period.
 - Spending time with a family member when they return from deployment.
 - Making necessary arrangements following the death of a family member who had been deployed.

Beginning July 1, 2021 Massachusetts workers can apply for:

- Care for a family member with a serious health condition. Workers may take up to 12 weeks of family leave per year to care for a family member with a serious health condition. For the purposes of family leave used to care

for a family member, family members include spouses, domestic partners, children, parents, grandchildren, grandparents or siblings; spouses' or domestic partners' parents; and guardians who legally acted as a parent when the worker is a minor. Workers can take paid family leave to care for a family member with a serious health condition regardless of where the family member resides.

How to Apply for Paid Family and Medical Leave at paidleave.mass.gov

Timing

Workers should give their employers at least 30 days notice before beginning their application for paid leave. Applications for future paid leave may be made up to 60 calendar days in advance of the anticipated start date. Unplanned leave due to an emergency can be applied for retroactively up to 90 calendar days after a worker has taken time off from the job. Workers should make every effort to schedule their leave for a time that will not disrupt the employer's business.

Documentation

Workers will need to provide or fill out the following documents as part of the leave application process:

- Proof of Identity. This is to double-check that worker is eligible, and make sure the benefits are sent to the correct person.
- Certification of a Serious Health Condition form. This may be done in conjunction with a worker's healthcare provider. Workers applying for family leave to bond with a child, or family leave to manage family affairs when a family member is deployed in a foreign country, do not need to fill out a Certification of a Serious Health Condition form.
- Current employer's Federal Employment Identification Number (FEIN)
- A date when the worker informed the employer that he or she planned to apply for and take family or medical leave. (Workers filing for paid leave from multiple employers will need to fill out a separate application for each individual employer).

Benefit and Claim Information

Workers may not be paid wages or salary or use paid sick or vacation time or

other earned time off that covers the same period for which the worker receives PFML benefits. Additionally, the amount a worker receives in paid leave benefits and the total amount of leave he or she is eligible for may be reduced by any wage replacement or disability program the worker is enrolled in or has used in the past, either through the government or through the employer. These include:

- Unemployment insurance.
- Worker's compensation.
- Social security.
- Temporary disability or paid family and medical leave benefits.

Claim to Payment Estimated Timeline

- Worker completes Application on DFML website (20 minutes-1 hour).
- Employer responds to DFML's Request for Information (1-10 business days). (It is in the worker's best interest to let the employer know that he or she is completing the application because it may speed up the process.) Employers have 10 business days to respond but may respond sooner.
- DFML reviews Application and makes claim determination (7-14 calendar days). Timelines are subject to the volume of claims received.
- DFML issues Payment to Worker (8-10 days after application review). It takes 3-5 days for the vendor to be established in MMARs for the first payment, then another 5 days for the payment to be received. Timelines may differ based on the payment method selected by the applicant. Direct deposit is the quickest payment option.

Employer participation in the claim approval process is important to ensure DFML has accurate and complete information about the application. Employers may recommend to the DFML that a claim be rejected if an employee has already used the maximum amount of leave for the year or that information from the claim is missing, incorrect or fraudulent. Employers may not recommend a claim be denied because of budgetary, timing, or other circumstantial reasons.

For more information about eligibility, benefits, and how to apply, go to mass.gov/pfml. For multi-lingual support or if you have specific questions, call the PFML Contact Center at 1(833)344-7365.

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BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



We demand a Special Election

For over 30 years living in Lawrence never ceases to amaze me how submissive we are. Politicians play games with us and we end up like chess pieces manipulated at their convenience. The most they do is an occasional complaint on the radio that goes nowhere because the ones responsible for the damage are not listening.

There was a time when we had an English-language radio station that offered not only variety in the programming and educational value but, since its closing, a big segment of the Merrimack Valley was left without any means of communications in the English language for local news.

For the past 15 years, I have been complaining ad-nauseam about the community access television station that has been banned to the general public. Only very few chosen ones are allowed to produce programs when that facility could be entertaining and educating residents to make a better living and be informed of what surrounds them. Instead, it is a direct effort to keep us ignorant thus enabling the manipulation.

But something has occurred that appears to have picked the interest of voters. Some members of the City Council concocted an illegal maneuver to violate several laws in the City Charter as well as Massachusetts General Laws. The best part is that they got caught and the people are saying, "We had enough and we're going to fight back."

Besides writing letters to government officials (that historically never respond to our problems) former Council President Modesto Maldonado and I filed two separate injunctions in Lawrence Superior Court. The case will go before the judge on Thursday, January 14 at 11:30 AM.

The purpose of this action is to protest the filing of S2993 by State Senator Barry Finegold requesting a series of changes to the Lawrence City Charter depriving the community of input on the decision in violation of the City Charter and Massachusetts General Laws, after Mayor Daniel Rivera resigned from his position. His last day was January 8, 2021.

The proposed Charter changes have the interest of violating the rights of Lawrence residents to a Special Election to replace the outgoing mayor. The excuses being used are:

1. The pandemic. In the past three months, Lawrence held 3 elections

(Primary, Presidential and Dominican elections) with no known increase in numbers as a result of that. Other cities and towns will be holding elections this spring taking the necessary precautions.

2. The expense. We have almost \$16 million in free cash that could be used for that purpose, although the cost is minimal by comparison.

3. Turmoil. Having an acting mayor now, a Special Election with a new mayor until November and then whoever is elected for the next 4 years will be too hectic for us.

The past two years have been a disrupting turmoil in Lawrence with the gas explosions and the pandemic; those are not reasons to give up our rights.

These are excerpts of what the City Charter stipulates on page 6, 4.11 Vacancy in the Office of Mayor:

(a) Special Election. If a vacancy in the office of the mayor occurs in the first forty-two months of the term for which the mayor is elected, the city council shall forthwith order a special election to be held not more than 90 days following the date the vacancy is created, to fill the vacancy for the balance of the unexpired term.

(b) Council Election. If a vacancy in the office of mayor occurs after the first forty-two months of the term for which the mayor is elected the clerk of the council shall forthwith call a special meeting of the city council, and, the city council shall then elect by majority vote, one of its members to serve as mayor. If the city council shall fail to elect one of its members within fourteen days following the date of the meeting called by the clerk of the council the president of the city council shall become the mayor. Upon the election and qualification of any member of the city council as acting mayor, his office of councilor shall be deemed to be vacant.

(c) Power, Term of Office. The mayor elected under either section 4.11(a) or (b) shall have all of the powers of the mayor. A mayor elected under section 4.11(a) shall serve for the balance of the term which remained unexpired at the time of his election. A mayor elected under section 4.11(b) shall serve until the date of the next regular city election and the person elected at the election to the office of mayor shall forthwith be sworn and shall, in addition to the term for which he was elected, serve for the balance of the then unexpired term of the mayor.

In this case, 4.11(a) is what we should go by because the mayor left after 36 months on his term and that calls for a Special Election.

The members of the City Council set up two meetings:

December 28, 2020, 7:15 PM – This meeting called for Public Participation and as soon as it began, In the absence of Council President Kendrys Vasquez, Vice President Marc Laplante started receiving calls from the audience, everyone complained that it should have been a Public Hearing to allow the community to speak on the subject of canceling the Special Election. He quickly decided to change it to a Public Hearing with no time limit. People continued complaining that it was illegal because it should have been advertised for 48 hours as such.

Item #268-20 Home Rule Petition 4.11(a) of the Lawrence City Charter-Vacancy in the Office of Mayor – Special Election – filed by Councilor Estela Reyes – Ordinance Committee. It ended when Councilor Pavel Payano Charter objected. It had over 6,000 views and 250 comments.

December 29, 2020, 7:00 PM – Item #268-20 was brought up as an Old Business and after listening to a few callers, Councilor David Abdo began to read the changes in the Charter he had drafted over the residents' objections. Councilor President Vasquez participated in this meeting for the first part and left.

Councilor Abdo read the proposed changes in a rush and a vote was taken without discussion with total disregard to the public and the 3 councilors in opposition. The session ended after 9 PM and little did we know that it was an award-winning performance because Senate Bill #2993 had been filed earlier that day!

By the way, voting in favor of these changes were councilors Estela Reyes, Celina Reyes, Maria De La Cruz, David Abdo, and Marc Laplante. That's 5 votes and Article 89, Section 8 states that (1) a petition filed or approved by the voters of a city or town... The voters were forbidden to express their views. (2) by a two-thirds vote of each branch of the general court and 5 is not two-thirds of 9 or even 8 which is how many were present.

Section 6, enables cities and towns to exercise their home rule power only to the extent their actions are "not inconsistent with the (state) constitution or (the) laws." That meeting had 4,900 views and 529 comments with almost all of them asking for a Special Election to take place.

S2993 – These are the proposed changes:

Please note that the President of the City Council doesn't automatically become Acting Mayor. The Charter specifically says that councilors should meet and select one of them to take that place.

There are discrepancies such as, it states that the acting mayor shall serve for the balance of the then unexpired term of the mayor, which means until January. But further down it explains that the winner of the November municipal elections will be immediately seated and assume all the

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.

powers of the mayor and serve the balance of the then unexpired term of mayor. I think this is a conflict and we could end up with two mayors for two months because this will be legally binding.

Local laws cannot override Massachusetts General Laws and Article LXXXIX Section 4 states, Procedure for Amendment of a Charter by a City or Town. Every city and town shall have the power to amend its charter in the following manner: The legislative body of a city or town may, by a two-thirds vote, propose amendments to the charter of the city or town; provided, that [1] amendments of a city charter may be proposed only with the concurrence of the mayor in every city that has a mayor, and [2] any change in a charter relating in any way to the composition, mode of election or appointment, or terms of office of the legislative body, the mayor or city manager or the board of selectmen or town manager shall be made only by the procedure of charter revision set forth in Section 3. All proposed charter amendments shall be published and submitted for approval in the same manner as provided for adoption or revision of a charter.

According to Assistant City Attorney Timothy Houten during the January 5th City Council meeting, this was a charter change.

In my opinion, this has been planned and executed by Mayor Daniel Rivera and his allies in the council. Kendrys Vasquez has been loyal to the mayor for years and he is now unemployed; this is a personal favor to his friend.

This country is going through enough turmoil. The people of Lawrence want to be respected and all I am asking is for the laws to be followed. This community is only asking for the right to select our leaders, not having them imposed on us.

We have a big fight ahead of us. We don't have an attorney representing the interest of the residents and the Legal Department at City Hall exists only to advise municipal departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and officers. That's why Attorney Houten showed up in court while Modesto Maldonado and I were filling out the subpoenas to be served to the councilors.

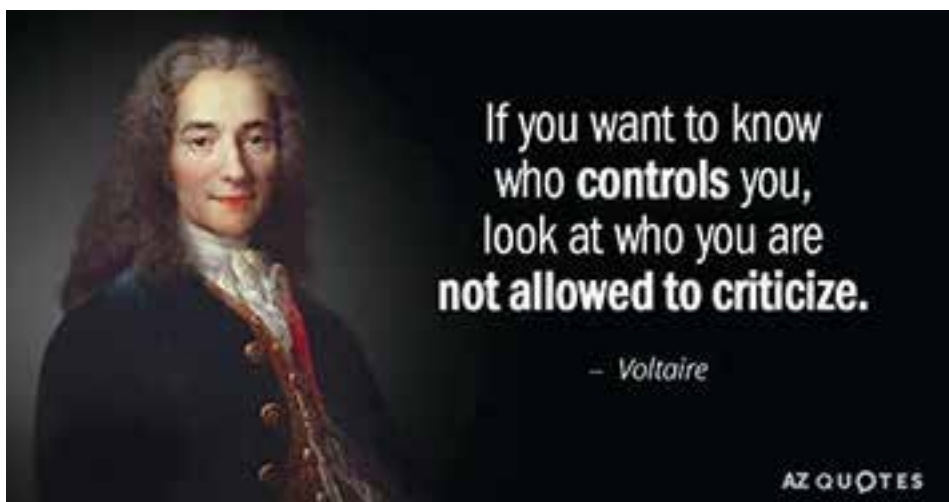
The inauguration

We have been through at least three Acting Mayors; they were sworn-in at City Hall and went to work. Kendrys held a formal event as if he had won an election and calls himself "Mayor" avoiding the whole title of "Acting or Interim Mayor". He has not been elected to anything.

His most important responsibility now is to safeguard the positions of the incompetent cronies hired by Dan Rivera in the hope that they can campaign and elect in November a suitable candidate that will continue the traditions Rivera started of giving priority, and city benefits to friends, relatives and particularly certain councilors.

"Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth and compassion against injustice and lying and greed. If people all over the world...would do this, it would change the earth."

— William Faulkner



If you want to know
who controls you,
look at who you are
not allowed to criticize.

– Voltaire

AZ QUOTES

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

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

Questions About Medicare?

Are you new to Medicare? On Thursday, February 11, at 10 a.m., learn the basics at "Medicare 101," presented virtually by the Nashua Public Library. Michelle Magarian will explain how it works: what it costs; when to enroll; the differences among Parts A, B, C, and D; and how to get help in choosing plans. She will also empower seniors to prevent health-care fraud.

Michelle is the Medicare coordinator for Hillsborough County ServiceLink

and is a certified state health insurance assistance counselor.

You must register to get an invitation to the virtual Zoom event. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/npllectures>. If you can't make it to the program at 10 a.m. on February 11, register anyway, and you'll receive a link to a recording of it.

For more information, contact Carol at 603-589-4610 or carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org.

Nashua Library open for curbside pickup only

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

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

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

The book drops are closed. Keep

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

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

Holiday closings

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

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.

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>.

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

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

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

¡Gracias por tu apoyo!

