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The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

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Tres estudiantes de NECC seleccionados para la beca STEM



Alejandro Brito



Patricia Antlitz



Sebastián Rosario

(Read it in English on page 5)

Tres estudiantes de Northern Essex Community College han sido elegidos para una beca selectiva enfocada en abordar la sub-representación de talento negro y latino en STEM (ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas).

Los tres incluyen a Patricia Antlitz de Hampton, NH, estudiante de informática; Alejandro Brito de Haverhill, quien se graduó del Programa de Transferencia de Ciencias de la Información en

Computación de Northern Essex en diciembre de 2020; y Sebastián Rosario, también de Haverhill, quien está inscrito en el Programa de Ciencias de la Información en Computación: Redes y Seguridad. Los tres fueron elegidos para la beca Hack.Diversity Fellowship de la New England Venture Capital Association después de un riguroso proceso de selección.

A través de su programa de becas, Hack.Diversity ayuda a personas talentosas, principalmente a aquellas que se identifican como negras o latinas,

a iniciar carreras como ingenieros de software, profesionales de TI y analistas de datos dentro de la economía de la innovación. Desde su creación en 2017, se han seleccionado y colocado 160 becarios en más de 30 empresas.

Como parte del programa de becas de ocho meses, los tres tendrán acceso a mentores, talleres de desarrollo profesional, una red expansiva de ex alumnos y pasantías de verano remuneradas a tiempo completo con las empresas de tecnología de más rápido crecimiento de Boston.

"En Hack, buscamos personas apasionadas por irrumpir en la industria de la innovación y deseosas de crecer; y Patricia, Alejandro y Sebastián no son la excepción. No podríamos estar más emocionados de dar la bienvenida a estos tres miembros sobresalientes a la familia Hack.Diversity", dijo Robert Vance, gerente de programas de Hack.Diversity.

Antlitz llegó a los Estados Unidos desde Brasil cuando tenía 15 años. Tuvo que abandonar la escuela secundaria para ayudar a mantener a su familia, pero obtuvo su GED en 2017. Después de trabajar en la industria dental durante 10 años, decidió explorar su interés en la tecnología y se inscribió en Northern Essex, donde está obteniendo altos honores.

Antlitz dice que ha estado buscando trabajo en el campo de la tecnología sin suerte, probablemente porque aún no tiene su título. La estudiante de altos honores tiene la esperanza de que Hack.Diversity la ayude a alcanzar ese objetivo con una pasantía de verano. "Lo que espero obtener de Hack.Diversity es una oportunidad para demostrar mi valía, aprender y tener un

mentor".

Alejandro Brito, nacido en República Dominicana, llegó a Estados Unidos con su madre cuando tenía 7 años. Siempre le han gustado las computadoras y dice: "Muchos estudiantes que van a la universidad después de la escuela secundaria no están seguros de en qué tipo de carrera ven un futuro, pero yo no fui uno de ellos... Siempre he tenido una profunda pasión por todo lo relacionado con la tecnología."

Brito solicitó la beca después de enterarse de ello por uno de sus profesores de NECC. Interesado en una carrera en software de computadora, espera recibir asesoramiento profesional y perfeccionar sus habilidades técnicas como becario.

Sebastián Rosario, que se llama a sí mismo "descaradamente dominicano", siempre ha estado interesado en los rompecabezas. "Jugar con las cosas y descubrir los mecanismos que lo hacen funcionar siempre me cautivó durante horas", dice. "Si pudiera descifrar las reglas de un sistema, el entrenamiento para mí era encontrar formas de jugar con esas reglas o eludirlas".

Rosario planea seguir una carrera en ciberseguridad.

Northern Essex ofrece programas en ciencias de la computación, tecnología de la información, redes y seguridad, tecnología y negocios y redes de computadoras. Para obtener más información, visite el sitio web www.necc.mass.edu.

Northern Essex Community College tiene campus en Haverhill y Lawrence. Ofrece aproximadamente 60 programas de títulos y certificados asociados, así como cientos de programas sin crédito.

Febrero Felino:

Best Friends Animal Society comparte cómo mantener su mascota sana durante el mes de concienciación sobre la salud felina

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From My Corner

Is there progress or corruption?

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Centro de Llamadas para Citas de Vacunación

Lawrence abre el primer centro de llamadas para citas de vacunación

El Alcalde Interino Kendrys Vasquez junto con el Director de Servicios de Inspección y el Director de Salud y Servicios Humanos han establecido un centro de llamadas local para citas de vacunación COVID19. El número para llamar para citas es 978-620-3330.

Aceptaremos citas en inglés y español. El Centro de Llamadas de la Biblioteca Pública de Lawrence se estableció para ayudar a los residentes a determinar si califican para una vacuna y ayudar con el proceso de programación.

La Ciudad está explorando agresivamente la apertura de un segundo sitio de vacunación. Actualmente, la ubicación de la escuela South Lawrence East School que se abrió con la colaboración del Lawrence General Hospital, los funcionarios de la ciudad y el personal de enfermería de las escuelas públicas para distribuir vacunas. El Greater

Lawrence Family Health Center también está administrando vacunas en sus clínicas.

El centro de llamadas ayudará a quienes puedan tener dificultades para navegar por el sistema de citas en línea.

Esto es especialmente importante para nuestra población de 75 años o más. El centro de llamadas es una parte integral para ayudar a nuestra población mayor con las barreras tecnológicas que enfrentan en nuestra comunidad.

Para aquellos que tengan preguntas sobre si califican o no para la vacuna, llame al 978-620-3557. En este momento, aquellos que se encuentran en la fase 2 de distribución de la vacuna pueden calificar para una vacuna COVID19. Si bien los suministros son limitados, aquellos que no pueden obtener una cita pueden registrarse previamente y ser colocados en una lista de espera hasta que haya más vacunas disponibles.

Call Center for Vaccine Appointments

Lawrence Opens the first Call Center for Vaccination Appointments

Acting Mayor Kendrys Vasquez alongside the Director of Inspectional Services and Health and Human Service Director have established a local call center for COVID19 Vaccination appointments. The number to call for appointments is 978-620-3330.

We will be taking appointments in both English and Spanish. The Call Center at the Lawrence Public Library was established to help residents determine if they qualify for a vaccination and assist with the scheduling process.

The City is aggressively exploring the opening of a second vaccination site. Currently the South Lawrence East School location that was opened with the collaboration of Lawrence General Hospital, City Officials, and Public School Nursing staff to distribute vaccines. The

Greater Lawrence Family Health Center are also administering vaccinations at their clinics.

The Call Center will assist those who may have difficulties with navigating the online appointment system.

This is especially important for our population that is 75 and older. The call center is an integral part of helping our elder population with the technological barriers that they are facing in our community.

For those who have questions about whether or not they qualify for the vaccine please call 978-620-3557. Right now those who are in phase 2 of vaccine distribution may qualify for a COVID19 vaccine. While supplies are limited those who are not able to get an appointment may be able to preregister and be placed on a waitlist until more vaccines are available.

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DiZoglio pide al Gob. Baker una vacuna COVID-19 accesible y equitativa

La Senadora Estatal Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) está pidiendo a la Administración de Baker una comunicación más clara y una mayor información mientras los residentes de Massachusetts luchan por obtener acceso a la vacuna COVID-19.

En una carta, fechada el 27 de enero y enviada al Gobernador Charlie Baker y a la secretaria de Salud y Servicios Humanos, Marylou Sudders, DiZoglio señaló que ha escuchado de muchos residentes que expresaron su preocupación por el lanzamiento de la vacuna.

"Nuestras comunidades necesitan saber dónde, cuándo y cómo pueden recibir esta vacuna", dijo DiZoglio en la carta. "Ese no es el caso en este momento".

DiZoglio señaló una preocupación particular en torno al sitio web de la vacuna COVID-19 del estado, que los residentes le han descrito como un "callejón sin salida" en sus esfuerzos por obtener una cita. Además, para gran frustración de los residentes sin acceso a Internet, el Commonwealth no ofrece actualmente una línea telefónica a la que se pueda llamar para programar una cita para vacunas.

DiZoglio pidió a la Administración que estableciera una línea directa de este tipo lo antes posible.

DiZoglio también planteó preocupaciones sobre quién está recibiendo la vacuna primero.

"He escuchado de muchos en mi comunidad que están legítimamente perplejos y frustrados por la prioridad de la Administración a los investigadores médicos jóvenes y saludables, la mayoría de los cuales trabajan de forma remota, sobre las personas mayores en riesgo, que han estado esperando pacientemente al margen la vacuna", dijo DiZoglio. "Las personas mayores en otros estados de Nueva Inglaterra (Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire y Vermont) han estado recibiendo la vacuna, mientras que los investigadores, muchos de los cuales no tienen nada que ver con el COVID-19 o la atención al paciente, están a la vanguardia en Massachusetts."

Según los últimos datos de los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades de EE.UU., Massachusetts ocupa el puesto 37 en la nación en la administración de la vacuna COVID-19.

DiZoglio Calls on Gov. Baker for Accessible and Equitable COVID-19 Vaccine

(BOSTON)–State Senator Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) is calling on the Baker Administration for clearer communication and increased information as residents across Massachusetts struggle to obtain access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

In a letter, dated January 27 and sent to Governor Charlie Baker and Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders, DiZoglio noted she has heard from many residents who expressed concerns around the rollout of the vaccine.

"Our communities need to know where, when and how they can receive this vaccine," said DiZoglio in the letter. "That is simply not the case right now."

DiZoglio noted particular concern around the state's COVID-19 vaccine website, which residents have described to her as a "dead end" in their efforts to obtain an appointment. Moreover, much to the frustration of residents without internet access, the Commonwealth does not presently offer a phone line that can

be called to make a vaccine appointment. DiZoglio called on the Administration to establish such a hotline as soon as possible.

Also raised by DiZoglio were concerns around who is receiving the vaccine first.

"I have heard from many in my community who are rightfully perplexed and frustrated by the Administration's prioritizing of young, healthy medical researchers – most of who are working remotely – over at-risk seniors, who have been waiting patiently on the sidelines for the vaccine," said DiZoglio. "Seniors in other New England states - Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont – have been receiving the vaccine while researchers, many of who have nothing to do with COVID-19 or patient care at all, are ahead of the line in Massachusetts."

According to the latest data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Massachusetts ranks 37th in the nation in administration of the COVID-19 vaccine.

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Rumbo

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POR DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina

¿Hay progreso o corrupción?

A lo largo de los años, los habitantes de Lawrence han experimentado más que cualquier otra ciudad el puñal de los medios falsos dispuestos a difundir mentiras e ignorar verdades. Hace diez años fue un artículo que llamaba a Lawrence la "ciudad de los condenados" y ahora hay otro que dice que hemos visto un progreso tremendo, ambos mentiras como exageraciones.

La razón es que la mayoría de las publicaciones están dispuestas a publicar material de los colaboradores sin confirmar si es cierto. El firmante se hace responsable del contenido, no de la publicación, y quiero asegurarme de que el Dr. Lane Glenn, presidente de Northern Essex Community College, asuma la responsabilidad de las inexactitudes en su artículo "Lawrence ya no es una 'ciudad de los condenados'" publicado el 30 de enero de 2021, por Commonwealth Magazine.

Pinta un cuadro de Lawrence como una especie de paraíso y que el cambio en tan poco tiempo fue el resultado de la eficiencia de la última administración omitiendo los aspectos negativos de lo que la ciudadanía ha soportado.

¿Desde cuándo la inclusión de una cafetería Starbucks ha sido el índice de progreso en una ciudad? Además, cuando personas que nunca han vivido, o muchas que nunca han entrado en Lawrence, escribenelogios por los logros de los últimos diez años de la ciudad es simplemente hipócrita.

¿Por qué un Starbucks sería un símbolo de prosperidad para los residentes de Lawrence? ¿O fue este Starbuck construido en la Ruta 114 para los residentes de North Andover?

Lawrence nunca fue la Ciudad de los "Dammed" o condenados cuando Boston Magazine escribió sobre ella. La ciudad estaba estancada antes de 2000. En 2008, bajo el Alcalde Sullivan, los propios residentes salvaron esta ciudad. Rehabilitaron y abrieron más pequeñas empresas que cualquier otra ciudad de Estados Unidos. La SBA notificó al Alcalde Sullivan de tales logros y le pidió la estrategia para ayudar a otras ciudades de Estados Unidos.

Para el 2010, Lawrence enfrentaba un déficit operativo de \$24.5 millones dejado por el Alcalde Sullivan y el estado tuvo que intervenir con una legislación especial que autorizaba a la ciudad a emitir un bono y designaba un supervisor fiscal. ¿Qué tal si le damos crédito a la administración de Lantigua por una movida tan heroica para llevar a la ciudad de un déficit a un superávit?

Cuando Dan Rivera se convirtió en alcalde, la ciudad tenía un presupuesto

equilibrado con \$7 millones en efectivo en ahorros. El supervisor rara vez estaba en el Ayuntamiento, dejando a Rivera con muy poca supervisión y finalmente se fue en febrero de 2019.

El Dr. Glenn habla de que los cambios positivos son el resultado de trabajar en un "equipo". Durante los últimos siete años, nuestro liderazgo político no ha trabajado en equipo. Han puesto su carrera política y sus finanzas personales en primer lugar sobre el bienestar de la comunidad.

Entre 2017 y 2020, ha habido varios artículos en el New York Times, el Wall Street Journal, el Christian Science Monitor, (estos artículos comenzaron con una presentación de Lawrence Partnership, probablemente tratando de ayudar al Alcalde Rivera a encontrar un trabajo) "sosteniendo Lawrence como modelo de compromiso cívico, reforma educativa, innovación en el transporte y más", según el Dr. Glenn. ¿Qué dice nuestra prensa local y la comunidad? Tres organizaciones de medios ajenas a los medios que no tienen ni idea de lo que sucede en Lawrence tienen razón y de repente tenemos que creerlo?

No olvidemos que estos artículos han sido una excelente manera para él de promover a NECC a nivel nacional. Utiliza la ciudad y su gente para promover sus intereses.

Para aclarar cada punto, desglosaré sus declaraciones de acuerdo con las áreas mencionadas en ese artículo. La educación, el desempleo, la vivienda, el desarrollo económico, la seguridad pública y el transporte, y todos los temas que discutí como los mayores logros de la última década, mostraré dónde estamos.

En una ciudad donde los derechos humanos y civiles han sido pateados, donde las leyes han sido ignoradas o eludidas para satisfacer los deseos de un dictador, ¿cómo podemos seguir mintiendo?

Nuestra situación actual con el fiasco de las elecciones especiales muestra que no se trata solo del Ayuntamiento, sino de las alianzas que han hecho a nivel estatal. La jueza Kathleen McCarthy-Neyman no abordó las leyes específicas que Modesto Maldonado y yo argumentamos que fueron violadas cuando comparecimos ante ella pidiendo que se llevara a cabo la elección especial como lo requieren los Estatutos de la Ciudad y las Leyes Generales de Massachusetts.

El peor dilema es encontrarnos solos. ¿Dónde están los líderes? Esta es una comunidad huérfana. Cuando lleguen las próximas elecciones, los veremos salir pidiendo justicia, mientras se postulan para un cargo. ¿Dónde estaban cuando necesitábamos su voz?

En un par de días, no se pierda nuestra Edición Especial (impresa para que todos la vean) con mi respuesta al Dr. Lane Glenn.



CARTAS AL EDITOR RUMBO

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Las cartas deben tener menos de 300 palabras de largo. Favor de incluir un número de teléfono o dirección electrónica para confirmar quién la envía.

Lupoli Companies Begins Pre-Leasing Final Phase of Riverwalk Lofts



Lupoli Companies has begun pre-leasing the final phase of Riverwalk Lofts, a luxury loft community located in Lawrence, Massachusetts on the North Andover line. The final phase will feature 338 brand new loft apartments, which completes the Riverwalk Lofts community, bringing the total number of units in the community to almost 600.

Riverwalk Lofts offers a luxury living experience that blends modern design with a historic setting. The final phase of units will feature sprawling 16-foot ceilings, 12-foot windows, exposed brick, quartz countertops, hardwood floors, custom cabinetry and spacious second floor mezzanine lofts. The community will offer an abundance of amenities including two fitness centers, a wine and coffee bar, game room, semi-private work areas, conference rooms, private dining areas for entertaining, covered parking, rooftop patio and grilling area, and much more.

Situated on the west side of the sprawling fifty-acre Riverwalk Innovation District, Riverwalk Lofts truly offers a one-of-a-kind live, work, play experience. This unique neighborhood has slowly grown over the past twenty years and has transformed into a destination in and of itself. With restaurants, cafes, spas, salons, banks, medical offices and more located right on campus, residents at Riverwalk Lofts have everything they need just steps from their door.

This summer, Lupoli Companies plans to open The Pavilion at Riverwalk,

featuring a 1,250 car parking garage, cafes and retail stores, an upscale restaurant and function facility, Class A office space and a regulation sized football field and track on the roof. Residents of Riverwalk Lofts will be able to walk from their home across a connector bridge bringing them right to the amenities at The Pavilion. With the addition of The Pavilion and more exciting plans for the Riverwalk Innovation District, this unique neighborhood is on-track to become "the new main street".

While there is plenty to do at Riverwalk, the community is also conveniently located only 10 minutes from beautiful downtown Andover - a quaint downtown with restaurants, shops and cafés. Riverwalk Lofts is also only 20 minutes from the New Hampshire border, offering easy access to tax-free shopping at the Rockingham Mall and Tuscan Village, skiing, walking trails and more.

Residents looking for a transit-oriented community will enjoy immediate access to the MBTA commuter rail to Boston, located directly adjacent to the Riverwalk campus. The property is also located directly off I-495 and just minutes from I-93.

Units in the final phase of Riverwalk Lofts start at \$2,000 and sizes range from 866 square feet to 1,544 square feet for studio, one bedroom and 2 bedroom units. To learn more, view photos and check availability, please visit [www.theriverwalklofts.com](http://theriverwalklofts.com).

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

- Voltaire

AZQUOTES

"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

Three NECC Students Selected for STEM Fellowship

Three Northern Essex Community College students have been chosen for a selective fellowship focused on addressing the underrepresentation of Black and Latinx talent in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

The three include: Patricia Antlitz of Hampton, NH, a computer science major; Alejandro Brito of Haverhill, who graduated from Northern Essex's Computer Information Science Transfer Program in December of 2020; and Sebastian Rosario, also of Haverhill, who is enrolled in the Computer Information Science: Networking & Security Program. All three were chosen for the New England Venture Capital Association's Hack.Diversity Fellowship after a rigorous selection process.

Through its fellowship program, Hack.Diversity helps talented individuals, primarily those who identify as Black or Latinx, to launch careers as software

engineers, IT professionals, and data analysts within the innovation economy. Since its inception in 2017, 160 fellows have been selected and placed in more than 30 companies.

As part of the eight-month fellowship program, the three will have access to mentors, professional development workshops, an expansive alumni network, and full-time, paid, summer internships with Boston's fastest-growing technology companies.

"At Hack, we look for individuals that are passionate about breaking into the innovation industry and eager to grow; and Patricia, Alejandro and Sebastian are no exception. We couldn't be more thrilled to welcome these three outstanding members into the Hack.Diversity family," said Robert Vance, program manager, Hack.Diversity.

Antlitz came to the United States from Brazil when she was 15 years old. She had to drop out of high school to help support

her family but earned her GED in 2017. After working in the dental industry for 10 years, she decided to explore her interest in technology, enrolling at Northern Essex, where she is earning high honors.

Antlitz says she's been looking for a job in the technology field without luck, likely because she doesn't yet have her degree. The high honors student is hopeful that Hack.Diversity will help her reach that goal with a summer internship. "What I am hoping I will gain from Hack.Diversity is an opportunity to prove myself, learn, and be mentored."

Born in the Dominican Republic, Alejandro Brito came to the United States with his mother when he was 7 years old. He has always loved computers and says "Many students going to college out of high school are uncertain about what kind of career they see a future in, but I was not one of them...I have always had a deep passion for anything tech-related."

Brito applied for the fellowship after hearing about it from one of his NECC professors. Interested in a career in computer software, he's looking forward to getting career advice and honing his technical skills as a fellow.

Calling himself "unashamedly Dominican", Sebastian Rosario has always been interested in puzzles. "Tinkering with things and figuring out the mechanisms that make it function always captured me for hours at a time," He says. "If I could figure out the rules of a system, the entertainment for me was figuring out ways to game those rules or circumvent them."

Rosario plans to pursue a career in cyber-security.

Northern Essex offers programs in computer science, information technology, networking and security, technology and business, and computer networking. For more information, visit the website, www.necc.mass.edu.

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El Fondo de Mujeres del Condado de Essex otorga a Family Services el premio Above and Beyond Award for Excellence

El Fondo de Mujeres del Condado de Essex anuncia a Family Services of Merrimack Valley como el ganador del premio Above and Beyond Award for Excellence 2020.

La subvención, en su sexto año, se otorga anualmente a una organización local sin fines de lucro cuya visión, liderazgo e impacto ejemplares establece un estándar excepcional para abordar problemas sociales complejos y superpuestos que afectan a las mujeres, las familias y las comunidades.

El premio de \$25,000 se entregó a Family Services of Merrimack Valley para reconocer su trabajo de cambio de juego proporcionando programas de alta calidad basados en las mejores prácticas basadas en evidencia en el campo de los servicios humanos. Sus esfuerzos de larga data ayudan a los niños y las familias a vivir sus mejores vidas al fomentar la fuerza interior, enseñar habilidades para la vida, defender el bienestar emocional y brindar servicios vitales basados en la comunidad.

Elaine Quinn, presidenta de la Junta Asesora de The Women's Fund, dijo: "Family Services of Merrimack Valley exemplifica el verdadero espíritu de este premio a través de su amplio y profundo impacto que genera mejores resultados para las niñas, las mujeres y sus familias. Han demostrado constantemente su creencia de que el potencial personal y el éxito duradero se logra al empoderar a las personas para que se preocupen por sí

mismas, sus seres queridos y contribuyan de manera significativa a su comunidad".

Elizabeth Sweeney, directora ejecutiva de Family Services of Merrimack Valley, aceptó el premio. Ella dijo: "Nos sentimos honrados de recibir este premio del Fondo de Mujeres del Condado de Essex, un socio muy respetado reconocido como líder de pensamiento sobre el estado de las mujeres y las niñas en el condado de Essex, y un defensor de su mejora".

Los ganadores anteriores del premio Above and Beyond Award for Excellence son Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, Newburyport; Girls, Inc de Lynn; Club de Niños y Niñas de Greater Lawrence; YWCA de Greater Lawrence y Raw Art Works, Lynn.

Desde 2003, The Women's Fund of Essex County ha recaudado y otorgado más de \$ 2.5 millones a socios sin fines de lucro de alto impacto que brindan a las mujeres, niñas y sus familias locales los recursos que necesitan para tener éxito en el trabajo, la escuela, el hogar y en la vida. La organización ha sido reconocida con el Premio George Peabody al Liderazgo en Filantropía de la Fundación Comunitaria del Condado de Essex y el Premio Campeones al Impacto Comunitario de North Shore Community College.

El Fondo de Mujeres del Condado de Essex es una organización totalmente voluntaria apoyada en su totalidad por generosos donantes cuya filantropía apoya una cartera de programas que impactan a las mujeres y niñas locales.



The Women's Fund of Essex County Awards Family Services

Above and Beyond Award for Excellence

The Women's Fund of Essex County announces Family Services of Merrimack Valley as the recipient of the 2020 Above and Beyond Award for Excellence.

The grant, in its sixth year, is awarded annually to a local non-profit whose exemplary vision, leadership and impact sets an exceptional standard in addressing complex and overlapping social issues impacting women, families, and communities.

The \$25,000 award was presented to Family Services of Merrimack Valley to recognize its game changing work providing high quality programs grounded in evidence-based best practices in the field of human services. Their longstanding efforts help children and families live their best lives by nurturing inner strength, teaching life skills, championing emotional wellness and providing vital community-based services.

Elaine Quinn, President of the Advisory Board of The Women's Fund said, "Family Services of Merrimack Valley exemplifies the true spirit of this award through its broad and deep impact driving better outcomes for girls, women, and their families. They have consistently demonstrated their belief that personal potential and lasting success is achieved by empowering individuals to care for themselves, their loved ones,

and to contribute meaningfully to their community."

Elizabeth Sweeney, CEO of Family Services of Merrimack Valley, accepted the award. She said, "We are honored to receive this award from The Women's Fund of Essex County, a well-respected partner recognized as a thought leader on the status of women and girls in Essex County, and a champion for their betterment."

Prior recipients of the Above and Beyond Award for Excellence are Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, Newburyport; Girls, Inc of Lynn; Boys and Girls Club of Greater Lawrence; YWCA of Greater Lawrence, and Raw Art Works, Lynn.

Since 2003, The Women's Fund of Essex County has raised and awarded over \$2.5 million to high impact non-profit partners providing local women, girls, and their families with the resources they need to find success at work, school, home and in life. The organization has been recognized with the George Peabody Award for Leadership in Philanthropy by the Essex County Community Foundation and the Champions Award for Community Impact by North Shore Community College.

The Women's Fund of Essex County is an all-volunteer organization supported entirely by generous donors whose philanthropy supports a portfolio of programs impacting local women and girls.



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

¡Gracias por tu apoyo!

El Jefe de Bomberos del Estado Ostroskey anuncia la Semana de Concienciación sobre quemaduras del 7 al 13 de febrero de 2021

STOW - La semana nacional de concientización sobre quemaduras es del 7 al 13 de febrero de 2021. El jefe de bomberos del estado, Peter J. Ostroskey, dijo: "La semana de concientización sobre quemaduras es una oportunidad para que los profesionales médicos, de salud y de incendios revisen algunos pasos simples de seguridad que las personas pueden tomar para prevenir quemaduras lesiones en el hogar, el trabajo y al aire libre".

¡El tema de este año de la American Burn Association es la seguridad eléctrica de amperios a Zap (de la A a la Z)! Si bien la mayoría de las lesiones por quemaduras eléctricas ocurren en el entorno de trabajo en un 48% durante los últimos 10 años, en 2019 un niño de 11 años sufrió una quemadura eléctrica.

Los incendios eléctricos son la segunda causa principal de muerte por incendios en Massachusetts. Usar los electrodomésticos grandes de manera segura, cargar teléfonos y computadoras portátiles en superficies duras, cambiar a bombillas LED, instalar tapas de tomacorrientes y almacenar las baterías de manera segura son pasos sencillos que podemos tomar para evitar incendios y quemaduras eléctricas.

Consejos para prevenir incendios y quemaduras eléctricas

- Enchufe los electrodomésticos principales, como calefactores portátiles y aires acondicionados, directamente en los tomacorrientes de pared. No use cables de extensión o regletas de enchufes con ellos.

- Cargue computadoras portátiles y teléfonos celulares en superficies duras. No los cargue en superficies blandas como camas o muebles tapizados.

- Desenchufe cualquier dispositivo que funcione con baterías de iones de litio (como un hoverboard) una vez que estén cargadas. No los sobrecargue ni los deje cargándose sin supervisión o durante la noche.

- Apague las almohadillas térmicas, las mantas eléctricas y los calentadores de ambiente antes de dormir.

- Aprenda a reaccionar ante un fuego en el horno de microondas: mantenga la puerta cerrada y desenchúfela si es seguro hacerlo.

- Como regla general, no coloque metal en el microondas (consulte el manual para ver los materiales específicos que podrían estar permitidos, pero no apueste si no está seguro).

- Evite que las terminales de la batería (extremos positivo y negativo) entren en contacto entre sí o con otros metales. Pega

los extremos con cinta adhesiva si los vas a guardar sin apretar en una gaveta.

Sistema de notificación de lesiones por quemaduras de Massachusetts (M-BIRS)

En 2020, se informaron 367 lesiones por quemaduras al Sistema de notificación de lesiones por quemaduras de Massachusetts (M-BIRS). Más de un tercio (35%) de las víctimas eran menores de 14 años y casi un cuarto (24%) tenían menos de 5 años. Una de cada cinco quemaduras en 2020 fue una quemadura de un niño menor de cinco años. El tipo principal de quemadura para todos los grupos de edad es una quemadura provocada por líquidos calientes como bebidas calientes, líquidos para cocinar y agua del grifo. El principal problema de quemaduras en el Commonwealth son las quemaduras por líquidos calientes en niños menores de cinco años. "Recuerde que los líquidos calientes arden como el fuego", dijo Ostroskey.

Seguridad con las bebidas calientes

- Nunca cargue ni cargue a un niño mientras tenga una bebida caliente en la mano. Los bebés que se mueven pueden causar un derrame sobre sí mismos o sobre usted.
- Considere usar una "taza de viaje" con una tapa ajustada para prevenir o minimizar los derrames.
- Mantenga las bebidas calientes y las sopas alejadas del borde de las mesas y mostradores. Ponerlos en el centro de la mesa los mantiene alejados de los dedos curiosos.
- Use manteles individuales en lugar de manteles y gire las manijas de las ollas hacia adentro para evitar que los niños tomen líquidos calientes sobre sí mismos.

Acerca del Sistema de notificación de lesiones por quemaduras de Massachusetts (M-BIRS)

El Sistema de Notificación de Lesiones por Quemaduras de Massachusetts es un programa conjunto entre el Departamento de Salud Pública de Massachusetts y el Departamento de Servicios de Bomberos. Los médicos y hospitales deben informar al Departamento de Servicios de Bomberos de todas las quemaduras que afecten al 5% o más de la superficie corporal. Además de ser una herramienta para que las fuerzas del orden atrapen a los pirómanos, es una poderosa herramienta de prevención de lesiones para los educadores de la salud y los responsables políticos.



Amps to Zap

The Alphabet of Electrical Safety

Join us February 7-13, 2021



#NBAW
National Burn Awareness Week
FEBRUARY 7-13, 2021

State Fire Marshal Ostroskey Announces Burn Awareness Week February 7-13, 2021

STOW - National Burn Awareness week is February 7-13, 2021. State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey said, "Burn Awareness Week is an opportunity for fire, health, and medical professionals to review some simple safety steps people can take to prevent burn injuries at home, at work, and outdoors."

This year's theme from the American Burn Association is Electrical Safety from Amps to Zap (A to Z)! While most electrical burn injuries occur in the work environment 48% over the past 10 years, in 2019 an 11-year old suffered an electrical burn.

Electrical fires are the second leading cause of fire deaths in Massachusetts. Using major appliances safely, charging phones and laptops on hard surfaces, switching to LED lightbulbs, installing outlet covers, and storing batteries safely are all easy steps we can take to prevent electrical fires and burns.

Tips to Prevent Electrical Fires and Burns

- Plug major appliances like space heaters and air conditioners directly into wall outlets. Don't use extension cords or power strips with them.
- Charge laptops and cellphone on hard surfaces. Don't charge them on soft surfaces like beds or upholstered furniture.
- Unplug any device powered by lithium-ion batteries (like a hoverboard) once they are charged-up. Don't overcharge or leave them charging unattended or overnight.
- Turn heating pads, electric blankets and space heaters off before sleeping.
- Learn how to react to a fire in the microwave oven: keep the door shut and unplug it if safe to do so.
- As a general rule, don't put metal in the microwave (check your owner's manual for specific packaging that might be allowed, but don't gamble if you are not sure.)
- Keep battery terminals (positive and negative ends) from coming in contact with each other or with other metals. Tape

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

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

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

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the ends if you are storing them loosely in a drawer.

Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS)

In 2020, 367 burn injuries were reported to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS). Over one-third (35%) of the victims were under the age of 14 and almost one-quarter (24%) were under age 5. One in every five burns in 2020 was a scald burn to a child under five. The leading type of burn for all age groups is a scald burn caused by hot liquids such as hot drinks, cooking liquids, and tap water. The leading burn problem in the Commonwealth is hot liquid scalds to children under five. "Please remember that hot liquids burn like fire," said Ostroskey.

Hot Drink Safety

- Never hold or carry a child while you have a hot drink in your hand. Wiggling babies can cause a spill on themselves or on you.

- Consider using a "travel mug" with a tight-fitting lid to prevent or minimize spills.

- Keep hot drinks and soups away from the edge of tables and counters. Putting them in the center of the table keeps them away from curious fingers.

- Use placemats instead of tablecloths and turn pot handles inward to prevent children from pulling hot liquids onto themselves.

About the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS)

The Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System is a joint program between the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Department of Fire Services. All burns affecting 5% or more of the body surface area must be reported by physicians and hospitals to the Department of Fire Services. In addition to being a tool for law enforcement to catch arsonists, it is a powerful injury prevention tool for health educators and policy makers.

La ciudad de Methuen anuncia la apertura de la clínica de vacunas COVID-19 y comparte recursos adicionales de acceso a vacunas

El Alcalde Neil Perry desea informar al público que la ciudad de Methuen abrirá una clínica limitada de vacunas COVID en The Loop, y anima a los residentes que no pueden ser atendidos por la clínica Methuen a buscar otras opciones para obtener una vacuna.

La clínica se alojará de forma recurrente para los residentes de Methuen registrados y confirmados mayores de 75 años en la antigua tienda Avenue en The Loop, 90 Pleasant Valley St.

La clínica distribuirá 100 dosis por semana, que es la asignación actual de la ciudad por parte del estado. Los residentes deben ser miembros de un grupo elegible bajo la fase uno del plan de implementación del estado o tener 75 años o más para recibir una vacuna. Las vacunas se administrarán a quienes programen una cita a través de la línea directa exclusiva de la ciudad.

Cómo registrarse

Para inscribirse, los residentes deben llamar a la línea directa al 978-983-8915 y dejar un mensaje con su nombre y número de teléfono. El personal del Council on Aging devolverá los mensajes en el orden en que se reciban y ayudará a los residentes a programar una cita.

La ciudad de Methuen hasta ahora solo ha recibido 100 dosis por semana del Departamento de Salud Pública del estado, y está dando prioridad a las personas de 75 años o más debido al mayor riesgo de enfermedad grave y muerte que el virus representa para aquellos en ese grupo de edad.

Después de que se llenen 100 espacios para las primeras clínicas esta semana, las próximas 400 personas que llamen

se colocarán en una lista de espera y se programarán para citas de vacunación en las próximas semanas. Las llamadas no se atenderán una vez que se hayan llenado 500 lugares en total.

Para los residentes que necesitan ayuda con el transporte, se puede comunicar con la Oficina de Servicios Especiales de la Autoridad de Transporte Regional de Merrimack Valley (MVRTA) al 978-469-6878 (seleccione la opción 3) o a través de su sitio web en www.mvrta.com.

"Estamos pidiendo a nuestros adultos mayores, especialmente a aquellos que pueden tener opciones limitadas de vacunación, que se inscriban en la clínica de la ciudad", dijo el Alcalde Perry. "La ciudad está haciendo todo lo posible para eliminar el riesgo de COVID-19 en Methuen. Sin embargo, lo que es importante que todos recuerden es que la situación de las vacunas en Methuen y en todo el estado está evolucionando constantemente. Instamos a nuestros residentes que todos tengan paciencia mientras naveguemos por este proceso y trabajamos para vacunar a nuestros residentes de mayor riesgo primero con los recursos que tenemos disponibles para nosotros y abrir un camino juntos para salir de esta pandemia".

Los residentes que ya hayan hecho citas en otros sitios de vacunación no deben cancelar esas citas. Si bien la clínica de la ciudad es una opción potencial, los residentes también deben tener en cuenta otras vías a través de las cuales pueden vacunarse. Más información sobre opciones adicionales está disponible a través del Departamento de Salud Pública del estado:

Recursos estatales de vacunas y ubicaciones alternativas

Aunque el suministro es limitado durante las primeras fases del lanzamiento de la vacuna, el Commonwealth of Massachusetts tiene una variedad de opciones de vacunación para aquellos que son elegibles ahora.

Todos los que se encuentran en la fase uno del plan de implementación de vacunas del estado, así como los que tienen 75 años o más, ahora son elegibles para solicitar citas de vacunación.

Además de la clínica de Methuen, se anima a los residentes a buscar oportunidades para vacunarse en estos lugares de la zona:

- Walgreens, 310 South Main St., Haverhill
- Lawrence General Hospital
- DoubleTree Hotel, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers

Detenga la propagación de COVID-19

El Alcalde Perry recuerda a los residentes que tomen las siguientes medidas para ayudar a limitar la propagación del coronavirus en Methuen:

- Practique el distanciamiento social. Manténgase a 6 pies de distancia de las personas que están fuera de nuestro hogar limita gravemente la capacidad de propagación del virus.
- Evite las reuniones y quedese en casa tanto como pueda.
- Cúbrase la nariz y la boca con un paño para la cara cuando esté en público. Si lo hace, evitará que quienes estén enfermos pero no lo sepan propaguen el virus.
- Hacerse la prueba. Methuen tiene

la suerte de tener un amplio acceso a las pruebas gratuitas aquí mismo en nuestra comunidad, y todos los residentes deberían aprovechar ese recurso. Hágase la prueba, independientemente de si se siente enfermo o cree que puede estar enfermo, nos permite identificar dónde está el virus en nuestra comunidad y evitar que se propague más.

La prueba de COVID-19 está disponible en las siguientes ubicaciones cercanas:

- Lawrence General Hospital, MVRTA City Lot, 70 General St., Lawrence (ingrese a través de Canal Street): se encuentran disponibles pruebas para conducir y caminar. Para obtener más información, llame al 978-946-8409.
- Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, 147 Pelham St: Se aceptan visitas sin cita previa. Para obtener más información, llame al 978-685-7663.
- Transformative Healthcare, 155 Haverhill St., Lawrence: Abierto de lunes a sábado de 11 a.m. a 7 p.m.

Para obtener más información sobre la prevención y los síntomas de COVID-19, visite el sitio web de los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) aquí y el sitio web del Departamento de Salud Pública de Massachusetts aquí.

Se insta a los residentes a que consulten periódicamente el sitio web de la ciudad en cityofmethuen.net, la página de Facebook en @methuenmassgovt y la página de Twitter en @cityofmethuen para obtener actualizaciones sobre el estado del virus en la comunidad.

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City of Methuen Announces Opening of COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic, Shares Additional Vaccine Access Resources

Mayor Neil Perry wishes to inform the public that the City of Methuen will open a limited Covid vaccine clinic at The Loop tomorrow, and encourages residents who are unable to be served by the Methuen clinic to pursue other options to obtain a vaccination.

The clinic will be hosted on a recurring basis for registered and confirmed Methuen residents over age 75 at the former Avenue store at The Loop, 90 Pleasant Valley St.

The clinic will distribute 100 doses per week, which is the city's current allocation from the state. Residents must either be a member of a group eligible under phase one of the state's rollout plan, or be 75 or older in order to receive a shot. Vaccines will be administered to those who schedule an appointment through the city's dedicated hotline.

How to Register

To sign up, residents should call the hotline at 978-983-8915, and leave a message with their name and telephone number. Council on Aging staff will return messages in the order they are received, and help residents to schedule an appointment.

The City of Methuen has so far only been allocated 100 doses per week from the state Department of Public Health, and is prioritizing those age 75 and older due to the increased risk of serious illness and death the virus poses for those in that age group.

After 100 slots are filled for the first

clinics this week, the next 400 callers will be placed on a waitlist, and will be scheduled for vaccination appointments in future weeks. Calls will not be taken once 500 total spots have been filled.

For residents needing assistance with transportation, the Merrimack Valley Regional Transportation Authority (MVRTA) Office of Special Services can be reached at 978-469-6878 (select option 3) or via its website at www.mvrtaweb.com.

"We are asking our seniors, especially those who may have limited vaccination options, to sign up for the city clinic," Mayor Perry said. "The city is doing everything possible to eliminate the risk of COVID-19 in Methuen. What's important for everyone to remember, though, is that the vaccine situation in Methuen and throughout the state is evolving constantly. We urge patience on the part of all residents as we navigate this process and work to vaccinate our most at-risk residents first with the resources we have available to us and carve a path out of this pandemic together."

Residents who have already made appointments at other vaccination sites should not cancel those appointments. While the city clinic is one potential option, residents should also be mindful of other avenues through which they can be vaccinated. More information about additional options are available through the state Department of Public Health:

State Vaccine Resources and Alternative Locations

Though supply is limited through the earliest phases of the vaccine rollout, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts does have a variety of vaccination options for those who are eligible now.

All those in phase one of the state's vaccine rollout plan, as well as those who are 75 and older, are now eligible to seek vaccination appointments.

In addition to the Methuen clinic, residents are encouraged to seek opportunities to be vaccinated at these locations in the area:

- Walgreens, 310 South Main St., Haverhill
- Lawrence General Hospital
- DoubleTree Hotel, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers

Stop the Spread of COVID-19

Mayor Perry reminds residents to take the following steps to help limit the spread of the coronavirus in Methuen:

- Practice social distancing. Keeping 6 feet away from those outside our own households severely limits the virus' ability to spread.

- Avoid gatherings, and stay home as much as you can.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a cloth face covering when out in public. Doing so prevents those who may be sick but not know it from spreading the virus.

- Get tested. Methuen is fortunate to have ample access to free testing right here in our community, and every resident should be taking advantage of that resource. Getting tested, regardless of whether you feel ill or believe you may be sick, allows us to identify where the virus is in our community and keep it from spreading further.

COVID-19 testing is available at the following locations nearby:

- Lawrence General Hospital, MVRTA City Lot, 70 General St., Lawrence (enter via Canal Street): drive-through and walk-up testing is available. For more information, call 978-946-8409.
- Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, 147 Pelham St.: Walk-ups are welcome. For more information, call 978-685-7663.
- Transformative Healthcare, 155 Haverhill St., Lawrence: Open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information about COVID-19 prevention and symptoms, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website [here](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health website [here](https://www.mass.gov/covid-19).

Residents are urged to regularly check the city's website at cityofmethuen.net, Facebook page at [@cityofmethuen](https://www.facebook.com/cityofmethuen) and Twitter page at [@cityofmethuen](https://twitter.com/cityofmethuen) for updates about the status of the virus in the community.

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Febrero Felino:

Best Friends Animal Society comparte cómo mantener su mascota sana durante el mes de concienciación sobre la salud felina

Expertos del ronroneo, ninjas de las cortinas, maestros zen de la casa... Todo esto y mucho más son los gatos; esas mascotas que conviven con nosotros y a las que abrimos nuestros hogares y nuestros corazones. Justamente, febrero gira alrededor de su salud, ya que es el mes de concienciación sobre la salud felina.

Los gatos domésticos son criaturas variadas y complejas. Aunque un gato aventurero que vive fuera y dentro de la casa parezca muy diferente a un gato amante del sofá y las cobijas, ambos tienen algo en común: todos ellos cuentan con nosotros para mantenerlos sanos y salvos.

La Dra. Erin Katrice, directora médica de la organización protectora de animales Best Friends Animal Society, anima a los dueños de gatos a observarlos de cerca.

Cuidados Básicos

"Diría que la cosa más importante para la salud de su gato es asegurarse de que le está aportando los cuidados esenciales de la mejor manera posible. Estos son: comida, agua, caja de arena y ejercicio diario.

Katrice afirma que "los antepasados de los gatos no tenían las costumbres ni el estilo de vida que tienen los gatos domésticos hoy en día. Así, el pienso para gatos, aunque conveniente para muchos dueños, no es tan recomendable como la comida blanda enlatada. Por tanto, si se puede permitir dar a su gato comida de lata, se acercará más a la dieta ancestral y su gato ganará en salud".

Cada vez se presta más atención a la obesidad en los gatos domésticos. Katrice añade que "es un problema que puede desencadenar en enfermedades como la diabetes —la diabetes felina es similar a la diabetes de tipo 2 en personas—, por lo que es imprescindible mantener a su gato en su peso ideal controlando y ajustando las cantidades de comida. La obesidad también puede causar artritis y dolor de articulaciones. Su veterinario puede ayudarle a encontrar el peso ideal para su mascota y puede mostrarle como modificar la dieta y la cantidad de comida consumida por su gato con el fin de conseguir un peso saludable."

Otro punto clave es el ejercicio: "No solo los perros necesitan ejercicio; los gatos también", comenta Katrice. "Aunque existen gatos a los que les gusta correr y hacer ejercicio en el exterior con arnés y correa, no es lo típico, y la gran mayoría de los gatos prefieren otro tipo de ejercicios. Aportándoles juguetes como cursores laser o varitas para gatos e interactuando con ellos, es la mejor manera de mantenerlos activos. Todos estos juegos no solo estimulan mentalmente al animal, sino que también ayudan a prevenir la obesidad, lo que puede desencadenar otras enfermedades".

A nadie le gusta hablar sobre las cajas de arena, pero este es un tema clave. Katrice recomienda poner los areneros en sitios convenientes para el gato, en vez de esconderlos en lugares recónditos de su casa para evitar cualquier confusión en su comportamiento. Si un gato empieza a orinar fuera de la caja, puede deberse a muchas causas. Los areneros sucios o demasiado alejados pueden contribuir a la causa; pero, por otra parte, se puede

tratar de un problema más grave, como infecciones de orina o enfermedades del riñón. Consulte con su veterinario lo antes posible si observa cambios de comportamiento de su gato en cuanto al uso de la caja de arena.

Atención Veterinaria

Otra de las maneras de asegurarnos que nuestro gato goza de la mejor salud, es concertando citas regularmente con sus veterinarios. Estas visitas no solo incluyen vacunas para prevenir enfermedades (especialmente importantes para gatos que viven fuera de la casa), sino que también incluyen exámenes veterinarios completos con pruebas adicionales que pueden ayudar a detectar a tiempo enfermedades más graves.

Katrice nos recuerda que "los gatos saben esconder sus dolencias demasiado bien, algo que seguramente han heredado como arma de supervivencia de sus antepasados. Lo que esto significa para los dueños de felinos es que cuando su gato empieza a mostrar signos de enfermedad, su situación posiblemente sea mucho más seria de lo que usted crea. Si se da cuenta de pequeños cambios en la salud o en el comportamiento de su gato, es mejor para ambos ir a ver al veterinario lo antes posible. El hecho de afrontar estos problemas a tiempo, aumenta las probabilidades de poder tratarlos de manera más efectiva, reduce el estrés en usted y en su gato, y probablemente suponga menos gasto económico".

Ayudando a los gatos a volver a casa

Uno de los momentos más estresantes para los padres gatunos es que su mascota se pierda. En el caso de los gatos, esto puede ocurrir cuando un gato de casa se escapa, o bien, cuando un gato exterior no vuelve a casa a seguir con su rutina normal. De los gatos que terminan en refugios de animales nacionales, solo un 5% vuelve a reunirse con sus dueños.

"Una de las maneras más efectivas para aumentar el porcentaje de gatos que se reencuentran con sus familias es usando identificación", confiesa Katrice.

Los collares y las placas de identificación son una solución fácil y asequible para conseguirlo. Así, todo el mundo puede leer la placa y ayudar a devolver la mascota a sus amos. Pero Katrice también advierte que los gatos pueden perder sus collares, por lo que "la mejor solución, aparte de la identificación en el collar, es el microchip. Los microchips son pequeñas piezas tecnológicas del tamaño de un grano de arroz que se implantan subcutáneamente. Cuando se escanea su mascota con un escáner de microchip, este escáner mostrará un número único que identifica ese chip en concreto con esa mascota en concreto. Si se registra online —no se olvide de este paso clave—, ese número conectará ese animal con su información de contacto.

Las perreras y refugios animales suelen escanear las mascotas cuando entran en el sistema. Consecuentemente, esto puede provocar que esas mascotas se reúnan con sus familias mucho más fácil y rápidamente."



La importancia de esterilizar

Esterilizar a sus gatos no solo les permite vivir una vida más saludable, sino que también ayuda a salvar vidas felinas por todo el país.

"Para el gato doméstico, la esterilización puede reducir o eliminar completamente la posibilidad de padecer ciertos tipos de cáncer, y también reduce comportamientos violentos y no deseados como marcar territorio con orina, las peleas, o el vagabundeo por las calles. Desgraciadamente, la triste verdad es que los gatos tienen el doble de posibilidad de perder la vida en las perreras del país, simplemente porque no pueden encontrarse hogares de adopción para todos ellos a tiempo. La neutralización de gatos domésticos previene la procreación sin medida de más gatitos y, además, permite que los gatos en refugios y perreras tengan más oportunidades de sobrevivir", comparte Katrice.

Para terminar, cabe destacar que estrategias para salvar vidas animales como los programas en colonias de gatos se han ido implementando progresivamente en refugios extendidos por todo el país como alternativa a la aniquilación innecesaria de estos gatos —para más información, visite la página web de Best Friends.

Sobre Best Friends Animal Society

Best Friends Animal Society es una de las organizaciones protectoras de animales más importantes del país dedicada a acabar con las muertes innecesarias de perros y gatos en las perreras de Estados Unidos. Además de llevar a cabo programas para salvar vidas junto a más de 3,100 asociaciones animales en todo el país, Best Friends tiene centros de adopciones salvavidas en Nueva York, Los Ángeles, Atlanta y Salt Lake City, y, además, opera el santuario de animales de compañía más grande de la nación. Fundado en 1984, Best Friends es una organización pionera en el movimiento en contra de la aniquilación innecesaria de mascotas. Sus programas e iniciativas han ayudado a reducir el número de muertes en perreras nacionales de unos 17 millones estimadas al año a 625.000. Sin embargo, esto significa que aún siguen muriendo más de 1.700 perros y gatos en refugios de animales diariamente sólo por el hecho de no tener un hogar seguro. En Best Friends, estamos decididos a conseguir erradicar las muertes innecesarias de mascotas para el año 2025. Trabajando duramente con perreras, refugios de animales, protectoras de animales, otras organizaciones y contigo, acabaremos con las muertes innecesarias y podremos salvarlos a todos. Para más información sobre cómo salvar vidas, visite nuestra página web bestfriends.org.

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GLCF recibe una subvención de \$50 mil de la Fundación Theodore Edson Parker para el apoyo de Lowell COVID-19

La Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) anunció que había recibido una subvención de \$50,000 de la Fundación Theodore Edson Parker. La subvención apoyará el Fondo de Respuesta a Emergencias de GLCF COVID-19, específicamente para ser distribuido a organizaciones sin fines de lucro que atienden a las poblaciones vulnerables de Lowell.

"Estamos realmente agradecidos con la Fundación Theodore Edson Parker por su apoyo", dijo el presidente y director ejecutivo de GLCF, Jay Linnehan. "Esta pandemia ha agravado las profundas desigualdades en Lowell, ya que muchos están luchando por satisfacer sus necesidades básicas. Estos fondos críticos continuarán guiando a nuestra comunidad hacia adelante".

La Fundación Theodore Edson Parker se estableció en 1944 bajo la voluntad de Theodore Edson Parker de Lowell. El objetivo principal de Parker Foundation es otorgar subvenciones efectivas que beneficien a la ciudad de Lowell y sus residentes. Las subvenciones se otorgan para diversos fines, incluidos servicios sociales, programas culturales, actividades de desarrollo comunitario, educación,

necesidades de salud de la comunidad y proyectos ambientales urbanos.

Desde marzo, a través de subvenciones de su Fondo de Respuesta a Emergencias GLCF COVID-19 y el Fondo de Ayuda COVID de Massachusetts, la fundación ha apoyado a 115 organizaciones locales sin fines de lucro con 229 subvenciones que suman más de \$2'825,756.

"En nombre de los fideicomisarios de Theodore Edson Parker y los asesores de Lowell, felicito a la Greater Lowell Community Foundation por su liderazgo", dijo Karen Carpenter, presidenta de la Fundación Theodore Edson Parker. "Actuaron muy rápidamente para abordar una de las necesidades más urgentes de hoy, respondiendo a los impactos del COVID-19. Estamos encantados de sumar nuestra contribución de \$50,000 a la de otros para ayudar a brindar asistencia crítica. Al unir fuerzas, creamos una comunidad verdaderamente solidaria".

Las donaciones al Fondo de Respuesta de Emergencia de GLCF COVID-19 se pueden hacer en línea en www.glcfoundation.org o por correo al Fondo de Respuesta de Emergencia de GLCF COVID-19 c/o GLCF, 100 Merrimack Street, Suite 202, Lowell, MA 01852.



La coordinadora de voluntarios de Open Pantry of Greater Lowell, Deb Martell, y los voluntarios trabajan para satisfacer la creciente demanda de los clientes. La despensa ha recibido varias subvenciones del Fondo de Respuesta de Emergencia COVID-19 de GLCF para ayudar a abordar estas necesidades crecientes.

Open Pantry of Greater Lowell volunteer coordinator Deb Martell and volunteers work to meet increased client demand. The pantry has received several grants from the GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to help address these growing needs.

GLCF Receives \$50K Grant from the Theodore Edson Parker Foundation for Lowell COVID-19 Support

The Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) announced today that it had received a \$50,000 grant from the Theodore Edson Parker Foundation. The grant will support the GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, specifically to be distributed to nonprofits serving Lowell's vulnerable populations.

"We are truly grateful to the Theodore Edson Parker Foundation for their support," said GLCF President & CEO Jay Linnehan. "This pandemic has compounded the profound inequities in Lowell, as many are struggling to meet basic needs. These critical funds will continue to guide our community forward."

The Theodore Edson Parker Foundation was established in 1944 under the will of Theodore Edson Parker of Lowell. The Parker Foundation's primary goal is to make effective grants that benefit the city of Lowell and its residents. Grants are made for various purposes, including social services, cultural programs, community development activities, education, community health needs, and

urban environmental projects.

Since March, through grants from its GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund and the Massachusetts COVID Relief Fund, the foundation has supported 115 local nonprofit organizations with 229 grants totaling over \$2,825,756.

"On behalf of the Theodore Edson Parker Trustees and Lowell Advisors, I congratulate the Greater Lowell Community Foundation for their leadership," said Karen Carpenter, President, Theodore Edson Parker Foundation. "They stepped up very quickly to address one of today's most urgent needs, responding to the impacts of COVID-19. We are delighted to add our \$50,000 contribution to that of others to help provide critical assistance. By joining forces together, we create a truly caring community."

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

The Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

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

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

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

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Bridges® by EPOCH Promotes Sarah Turcotte, 9-Year Team Member

Sarah Turcotte has recently been named the new Area Community Liaison for Bridges® by EPOCH at Westford, Andover, Sudbury and Nashua, a group of EPOCH Senior Living's memory care assisted living communities.

As a member of our team since 2012, Turcotte began her journey as the Life Enrichment Director at our original community in Hingham, where she was instrumental in delivering the unique Bridges® programming. She has since served as a Senior Advisor, assisting families and caregivers in discovering the benefits of our specialized memory care, family support and educational resources. She is excited to begin her new role as Area Community Liaison, where she will expand her experience to support area Senior Advisors in connecting with professionals and organizations to coordinate resources for families affected by memory loss.

During her time at Bridges® by EPOCH, Turcotte has won numerous awards and honors. She received the 2017 Excellence Award in Program Innovation from the Massachusetts Assisted Living Association (Mass-ALA) and, in 2015, she earned a spot on the Provider's 20 to Watch List, which recognizes remarkable senior healthcare workers who go above and beyond for the seniors they serve.

Alicia Seaver, Vice President of Memory Care Operations, states that Turcotte's experience will help her in her new role. "Not only will her knowledge in various roles throughout Bridges by EPOCH help her to connect with local organizations and area professionals, but it will give others the full picture of benefits that our communities, our care and our support have to offer," Seaver says. "Sarah's warm, friendly personality will allow her to create wonderful connections



that will ultimately benefit seniors in our local markets."

"I am so excited for another opportunity to grow with EPOCH and to reach even more families," says Turcotte. "I look forward to working with local professionals to bring education, resources and more to those who are affected by memory loss. I'm so grateful for this position, and it's such an honor to support caregivers and those living with dementia during this difficult time."

Bridges® by EPOCH memory care assisted living communities have been developed from the ground up to anticipate, meet and exceed the needs of residents and their families. Bridges® by EPOCH's team of remarkable people, exceptional care and services, and the purposeful, dementia-positive environments combine to create the most rewarding, secure and nurturing lifestyle possible for seniors in all stages of memory loss.

For more information visit BridgesbyEPOCH.com.

MCC Offers Classes for Children and Teens Over February Break

Make your child's February vacation a productive one with courses at Middlesex Community College. With 21 years of experience being a leader in online learning, Middlesex can help students ages 7 to 17 stay active, engaged and safe at-home. MCC's online February vacation classes are immersive, interactive and fun – providing students with new activities, important knowledge and skills, and preparation for college.

"We have an exciting line-up of new classes this February break," said Lauren Ellis, MCC's Program Manager of Community Education and Training. "Having such a long history of success with online learning has allowed us to provide entertaining content that is informative and useful. Our other spring courses – including our partnership with Black Rocket – are also great options for students who want more stimulation and education throughout the year."

Students interested in the culinary arts can test their kitchen skills with two new classes – Kids Breakfast and Snack Bites, and Aspiring Chefs. For both classes, students ages 7 through 12 can learn new recipes along with kitchen safety skills.

In Makeup for Beginners, students 12 and older learn about basic principles of practicing good skincare and applying makeup. Topics include matching colors to skin tone and knowing how to put together an appropriate look for different settings.

For students who want to hone valuable life skills, MCC is introducing two new classes that will set up students for success



With 21 years of experience of being a leader in online learning, Middlesex Community College can help students ages 7 to 17 stay active, engaged and safe at-home with immersive, interactive and fun online February vacation classes.

as they prepare for college and grow more independent. In Eye for Investing, middle schoolers learn the why, what and how of investing through playing games and other fun activities. High schoolers have the opportunity to discover more about personal finance tools – from credit scores to savings accounts – in Financial Adulting Toolkit.

Before and after February break, MCC offers courses to improve skills and introduce new topics. Foundations of Geometry – January 26 through March 4 – teaches a deeper understanding of geometry concepts. In the World of Electrical Engineering – March 2 to April 4 – students ages 12 to 17 learn about the base theory of electrical engineering and its relevancy in life.

MCC is continuing its partnership with Black Rocket to offer online Virtual Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Camps at an affordable price. Through MCC, students can participate in high-quality live classes that cover topics including coding, game design, eSports, virtual reality and more.

For high schoolers looking to sharpen their test taking skills, Middlesex has partnered with The Princeton Review to offer MCC students 20 percent off test prep courses for the SAT and ACT.

MCC's Community Education and Training provides academic, professional and personal enrichment for students of all ages and stages in their lives. Call 1-800-818-3434 to register or visit <https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/collegeforkids/asnoncredit.aspx> for more information about After School and School Vacation Week Programs.



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GLCAC ofrece ayuda para preparar las declaraciones de impuestos

El Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. ofrece asistencia virtual gratuita con la preparación de las declaraciones de impuestos a las familias y las personas de ingresos bajos o moderados.

El programa Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) de GLCAC está formado por un equipo de voluntarios certificados por el IRS que les preparan en forma gratuita las declaraciones de impuestos básicas, federal y estatal, a las personas que reúnen los requisitos. El programa atiende del 1 de noviembre al 15 de abril de 2021.

VITA ofrece sus servicios a las personas elegibles que tienen ingresos de \$65,000 o menos, discapacidades o dominio limitado del inglés.

"Nuestro experimentado equipo ayuda a los clientes a aprovechar valiosos reembolsos fiscales, como el crédito tributario por ingreso del trabajo o el crédito tributario por cuidado de niños. Estos ahorros ayudan a sacar de la pobreza a millones de estadounidenses que trabajan duro cada año", dijo Evelyn Friedman, directora ejecutiva de GLCAC. "Este año, más que nunca, queremos ayudar a la gente a conservar la mayor parte posible del dinero que han ganado con tanto esfuerzo".

Debido a la pandemia de COVID-19, los voluntarios de VITA no están atendiendo en persona. Los clientes pueden presentar el papeleo necesario electrónicamente por medio del sitio web de GLCAC, a partir del 1 de febrero: www.getyourrefund.org/glcac. Los voluntarios empezarán a procesar declaraciones de impuestos el 12 de febrero.

Los documentos también se pueden dejar en varios lugares, entre ellos, las sedes de varias organizaciones asociadas.

Las direcciones son las siguientes:



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- Mostrador de ayuda de GLCAC, 305 Essex St., Lawrence, de lunes a viernes de 9 a. m. a 4 p. m. o en el buzón seguro situado fuera de nuestras oficinas, entre el 1 de febrero y el 15 de abril.
- Hands to Help, 60 Island St., Suite 310, Lawrence, de lunes a viernes, entre el 12 de febrero y el 15 de abril.
- CTI, 17 Kirk St., Lowell, sábados solamente, entre el 6 de febrero y el 10 de abril.

Para ver la lista de documentos requeridos, visite la página de VITA en el sitio web de GLCAC, www.glcac.org.

Para mayor información, los clientes pueden llamar a GLCAC al 978-620-4762; a Hands to Help al 978-764-699; o a CTI al 978-341-3702.

GLCAC es una agencia de servicios sociales multifacética que asiste anualmente a más de 32,000 personas mediante una variedad de programas, entre ellos, de educación en la primera infancia, asistencia de combustible, asistencia nutricional de WIC, servicios de inmigración, prevención del envenenamiento con plomo y del maltrato infantil, clases de inglés y protección al consumidor.

GLCAC Offers Tax Prep Assistance

The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. is offering free virtual tax preparation assistance for low- to moderate-income families and individuals.

GLCAC's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program includes a team of IRS-certified volunteers that provides free basic federal and state income tax return preparation to qualified individuals. The program runs from Feb. 1, 2021 through April 15, 2021.

VITA is available to qualifying individuals generally earning \$65,000 or less, persons with disabilities and limited-English-speaking taxpayers.

"Our experienced team helps clients claim valuable tax credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Care Credit – savings that help lift millions of hard-working Americans out of poverty each year," said GLCAC's Executive Director Evelyn Friedman. "This year, more than ever, we want to help people keep more of their hard-earned money."

VITA volunteers are not meeting with clients in person this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Clients can submit required paperwork electronically through GLCAC's tax website, www.getyourrefund.org/glcac beginning Feb. 1. Volunteers will begin processing returns Feb. 12.

Documents can also be dropped off at several locations, including new partner sites.

They are:

- GLCAC's Help Desk, 305 Essex St., Lawrence, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or in a secure drop box outside the offices, Feb. 1-April 15.
- Hands to Help, 60 Island St., Suite 310, Lawrence, Monday through Friday, Feb. 12-April 15.
- CTI, 17 Kirk St., Lowell, Saturdays only, Feb. 6-April 10.

Please visit the VITA page of GLCAC's website, www.glcac.org for a list of all required documents.

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- Hands to Help, 60 Island St., Suite 310, Lawrence, Monday through Friday, Feb. 12-April 15.

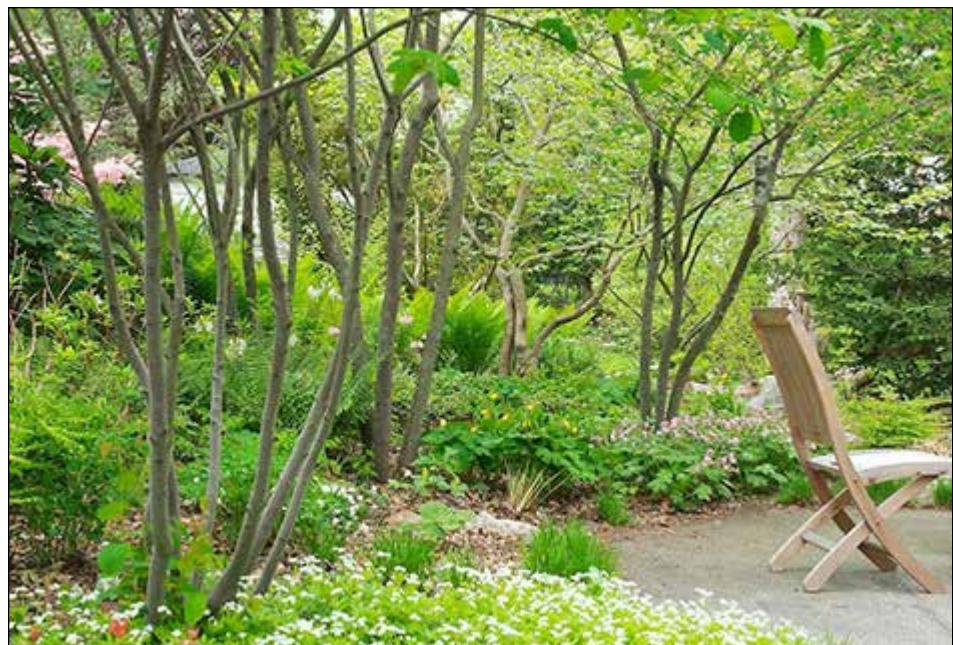
- CTI, 17 Kirk St., Lowell, Saturdays only, Feb. 6-April 10.

Please visit the VITA page of GLCAC's website, www.glcac.org for a list of all required documents.

For more information, clients can reach GLCAC at 978-620-4762; Hands to Help at 978-764-699; and CTI at 978-341-3702.

GLCAC is a multi-faceted social services agency that assists more than 32,000 individuals through a range of programs including early childhood education, fuel assistance, WIC nutrition assistance, immigration services, lead poisoning prevention, child abuse prevention, English-language lessons, and consumer protection.

Gardening Program to Explore Native Landscapes



The Cambridge, Mass., garden of Claudia Thompson.

Find out how to make your garden more earth-friendly at "Why Native Landscapes Matter" on Thursday, February 25, at 7 p.m.

The free program, sponsored by the Nashua Public Library, features Claudia Thompson, founder and president emerita of Grow Native Massachusetts.

Claudia will give an overview of the essential role of native plants in ecosystem health, starting with the concept of co-evolution between plants and animals and ending with a virtual tour of her 7,000 sq.-ft. garden in Cambridge. She'll explain

the differences among native, naturalized and invasive plants and explore the food web that links plants to insects, birds, wildlife and humans. Attend the program and learn the essential principles for designing gardens that are places of beauty and biodiversity and habitats for birds, butterflies and wildlife.

Register for this Zoom event at <http://tinyurl.com/npllectures>.

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

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.

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: 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 staceyc@nashuariverwatershed.org



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“My Red America”, latest NECC ArtSpace Exhibit, Chronicles the Demise of Two Southwestern Ohio Towns

In "My Red America", the latest exhibit from The Linda Hummel-Shea ArtSpace at Northern Essex Community College, Los Angeles Photographer William Short travels back to rural Southwestern Ohio, a very special place from his childhood, almost 30 years after he had last been there.

Once "magical, safe places", he finds a different scene when he returns. "Both Winchester and West Union are shells of what they were when I was a child," he explains. "Unemployment, poverty, and drugs have taken over. Storefronts are empty. Buildings and homes lie in disrepair."

In this online exhibit with over 40



photographs, Short chronicles the changes that have occurred, capturing homes in various stages of repair, run-down local businesses, rural highways, and relics from the area's rich farming tradition. The exhibit is available online now through Feb. 27.

Short was drawn back to this place after the 2016 presidential election.

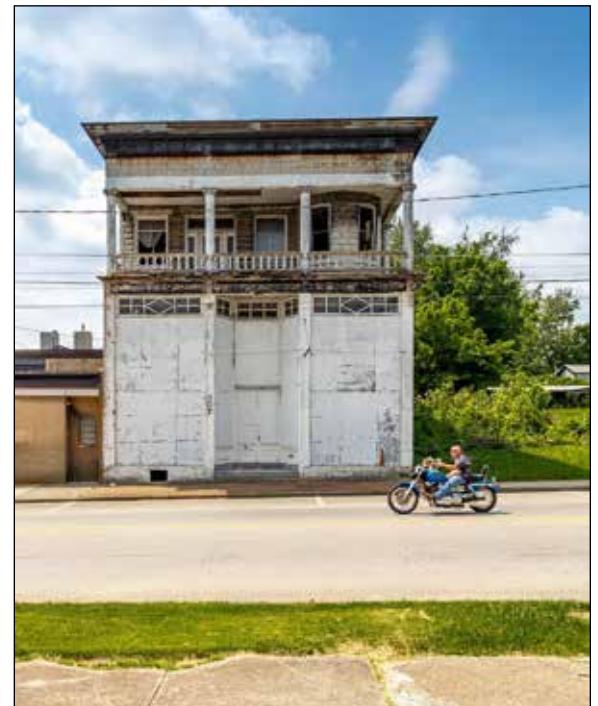
"I wanted to visually understand how Adams County had changed and how those changes affected the towns I had loved so much in my childhood."

The towns Winchester and West Union are predominantly White (90 percent) and conservative (In 2016, 81.3 percent voted

for President Trump) and have undergone hard times, transitioning from an agrarian economy. Twenty-four percent of the population live below the poverty line and the median household income is \$36,000, \$16 000 below the state average.

The exhibit website features an interview between the photographer and Marc Mannheimer, Northern Essex art professor and ArtSpace Gallery director. The two have known each other since the 1980's.

"From the beginning of my awareness of Bill's work I was drawn into the simple yet complex nature of it," says Mannheimer. His photographs always seem to capture the initial surface of a "scene" but as one gazes you are brought into the true depth of his vision.



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 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.

General Studies: Art & Design.
For additional information, contact
Marc Mannheimer, gallery coordinator

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BY DALIA DÍAZ
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LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4



From My Corner

Is there progress or corruption?

Through the years, Lawrencians have experienced more than any other city the dagger of fake media willing to broadcast lies and ignore truths. Ten years ago it was an article calling Lawrence the ‘city of the damned’ and now is another one saying that we have seen tremendous progress - both lies and exaggerations.

The reason is that most publications are willing to publish material from contributors without confirming if they are true. The signer becomes responsible for the content, not the publication and I want to make sure that Dr. Lane Glenn, president of Northern Essex Community College takes responsibility for the inaccuracies in his article “Lawrence no longer a ‘city of the damned’” published on January 30, 2021, by Commonwealth Magazine.

He paints a picture of Lawrence as some sort of paradise and that the change in such a short time was the result of the last administration’s efficiency omitting the negative aspects of what the citizenry had endured.

Since when has the inclusion of a Starbucks coffee shop been the index for a city doing better? Additionally, when people who have never lived, or for many who have never stepped into Lawrence, write accolades of the accomplishment of the city’s last ten years is just hypocritical.

Why would a Starbucks be a symbol of prosperity to the residents of Lawrence? Or was this Starbuck build on Route 114 for the residents of North Andover?

Lawrence was never the City of the Damned when Boston magazine wrote about it. The city was dammed before 2000. In 2008, under Mayor Sullivan, the residents themselves saved this city. They rehabilitated and opened up more small businesses than any other city in America. The SBA notified Mayor Sullivan of such accomplishments and was asking him for the strategy to assist other cities in the US.

By 2010, Lawrence was facing a \$24.5 million operating deficit left by Mayor Sullivan and the state had to step in with special legislation authorizing the city to float a bond, and appointing a fiscal overseer. How about giving credit to the Lantigua administration for such a heroic move to bring the city from a deficit to a surplus.

By the time Dan Rivera became mayor, the city was on a balanced budget with \$7 million in free cash. The overseer was rarely at City Hall leaving Rivera to

run wild with very little supervision and finally left in February of 2019.

Dr. Glenn talks about positive changes being the result of working in a “team.” For the past seven years, our political leadership has not worked in a team. They have put their political career and personal finances first over the wellbeing of the community.

Between 2017 and 2020, there have been several articles in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Christian Science Monitor, (these articles started with a submission by the Lawrence Partnership, probably trying to help Mayor Rivera find a job) “holding Lawrence up as a model of civic engagement, educational reform, transportation innovation, and more”, according to Dr. Glenn. What about our local press and the community have to say? Three outsider media organizations that have no clue of what goes on in Lawrence have a say and all of a sudden we have to believe it?

Let’s not forget that these articles have been a great way for him to promote NECC at a national level. He uses the city and its people to promote his interests.

To clarify each point, I will be breaking down his statements according to the areas mentioned in that piece. Education, unemployment, housing, economic development, public safety and transportation, and every topic he discussed as the greatest accomplishments of the last decade, I will show where we stand.

In a city where human and civil rights have been kicked around, where laws have been ignored or circumvented to suit the wishes of a dictator, how can we continue to lie?

Our current situation with the special election fiasco shows that it’s not just city hall but the alliances they have made at the state level. Judge Kathleen McCarthy-Neyman did not address the specific laws Modesto and I argued that were violated when we appeared before her asking for the special election to be held as the City Charter and Massachusetts General Laws require.

The worst dilemma is finding ourselves alone. Where are the leaders? This is an orphan community. When the next elections come around, we will see them coming out of the woodwork asking for justice, while running for office. Where were you when we needed your voice?

In a couple of days, don’t miss our Special Edition (printed for everyone to see) with my response to Dr. Lane Glenn.

MCC’s MILES Provides Community Engagement for Seniors

Throughout the pandemic many are seeking opportunities to connect with the community in safe ways. Middlesex Community College’s Community Education and Training (CET) program has been successful in keeping participants active and engaged by transitioning to online formats, including CET’s Middlesex Institute for Lifelong Learning for Seniors (MILES).

“It has been wonderful to see our members interacting virtually,” said Lauren Ellis, MCC’s Program Manager for Community Education and Training. “If instructors needed support, the college was able to provide that with tutorials and practice sessions. We made sure cameras worked, sound was turned on, and links were accessible in a timely manner – it was a great time!”

Elizabeth Valente – from Acton – has been a long time participant and now instructor for MILES. She loves diving into deep conversations in all of her classes, including her own open forum class. Though she was unable to teach a course in the Fall session, she is getting ready to continue teaching this Spring. Her preparation process to transition to an online class begins with research.

“It is important to have all your ducks in a row – subject, introduction, class guidelines, etc.,” she said. “I am a copious note taker and rely on the internet and personal experience. Creating a bullet cheat sheet to read from helps keep the discussion on track.”

As she believes socialization is the key to MILES’ success, Valente wants to make sure she establishes a community-feel from class one. In order to build “a sense of fellowship,” she welcomes and acknowledges every participant – and has them do the same for their classmates.

Conversations in her open forum class focus on topics such as places everyone has gone, how age plays a part in knowledge versus wisdom, present day manners or lack thereof, and the influence of music throughout their lives. The inspiration for her class stemmed from her desire to engage in more conversation about the subjects she was learning in her previous classes.

“There was so much more we wanted to learn,” she said. “What we think about, what we have experienced, where we are now in our lives. We are exercising our brains, we are focusing on the conversation – what we are learning and what we are contributing.”

Valente enjoys keeping her mind fresh and having the chance to learn – without worrying about grades or tests. Calling MILES “a great service to the senior community,” the three best parts of the program for her have been the ability to learn, think and make new friends.

“The program has been an integral part of my life and for many of the seniors I have met through MILES,” she said. “Like

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.



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many of the students I have met through the program, we all came to learn, but have gained so much more. I am so grateful to be part of MILES and I hope to be for many years to come.”

MILES’ Spring 2021 session kicks off at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24 with keynote speaker Rod Griffith discussing his experience with and knowledge of The Beatles.

All courses throughout the Spring session will be offered online. Participants pay \$16 per class, with a maximum fee of \$100 for the session.

For the complete schedule of MILES courses, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/MILES or contact Lauren Ellis at 781-280-369 or ellis@middlesex.mass.edu. To register for courses, call 1-800-818-3434.

MCC’s CET programs provide academic, professional and personal enrichment for students of all ages and stages in their lives. For more information about programs and noncredit courses, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/careertraining/ or contact Sheila Morin at morins@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3608.

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!

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

– Voltaire

AZ QUOTES

New Lung Association Report: Ending Tobacco Use in Massachusetts Critical to Saving Lives, Especially during Pandemic

Massachusetts is the only state to earn an A grade for Flavored Tobacco, Lung Association calls on state officials to increase prevention and cessation funding in 2021 to end tobacco use, youth vaping and save lives

Boston, MA [January 27, 2021] – Even amid the pandemic, tobacco use remains a serious public health threat. In addition to tobacco-related death and disease, smoking also increases the risk of the most severe impacts of COVID-19, making ending tobacco use more important than ever. This year's "State of Tobacco Control" report from the American Lung Association grades federal and state efforts to reduce tobacco use and calls for meaningful policies that will prevent and reduce tobacco use and save lives. The report finds that Massachusetts was the only state to earn an A grade for the new "Flavored Tobacco" category, but must increase efforts fund prevention and cessation programs to reduce and prevent tobacco use, including e-cigarettes.

Tobacco use remains the nation's leading cause of preventable death and disease, taking an estimated 480,000 lives every year. Much like COVID-19, tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure disproportionately impacts certain communities, including communities of color, LGBTQ+ Americans and persons of lower income. To address this critical public health threat, which is especially important during the pandemic, "State of Tobacco Control" provides a roadmap for the federal and state policies needed to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

This year's 19th annual report finds that in 2021 Massachusetts has cause to celebrate as it earned the only A grade in the nation for flavored tobacco. In 2020, the previously passed law making the Bay State the first in the nation to end the sale of all flavored tobacco products went into full effect. This milestone legislation is important in protecting youth from tobacco use, including e-cigarettes, which has become an ever more urgent mission

as the youth vaping epidemic continues nationally. With 1 in 5 teens vaping, our children are becoming the next generation addicted to tobacco. Youth vaping and tobacco use overall is largely driven by flavored tobacco products, which is why our 19th annual report added a new state grade calling for more policies like Massachusetts's - ending the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, flavored e-cigarettes and flavored cigars.

"In Massachusetts, we have a lot to celebrate with the enactment of a strong comprehensive flavored tobacco prohibition— but unfortunately it's not all good news. Our high school tobacco use rate remains at an alarming 37%. The surge in youth vaping combined with the fact that smoking increases the chance of severe COVID-19 symptoms, make it more important than ever for Massachusetts to focus beyond the store shelves, and increase prevention and cessation funding, which is necessary to reach Bay Staters at all stages of tobacco addiction. These are proven measures to prevent and reduce tobacco use," said American Lung Association's National Assistant Vice President for State Public Policy Michael Seilback.

Massachusetts Grades

"State of Tobacco Control" 2021 grades states and the District of Columbia in five areas that have been proven to prevent and reduce tobacco use and save lives. Massachusetts received the following grades:

1. Funding for State Tobacco Prevention Programs – Grade F
2. Strength of Smokefree Workplace Laws – Grade A
3. Level of State Tobacco Taxes – Grade B
4. Coverage and Access to Services to Quit Tobacco – Grade C
5. NEW! Ending the Sale of All Flavored Tobacco Products - Grade A

The American Lung Association encourages Massachusetts to put in

place all the public policies called for in "State of Tobacco Control." In particular, this year's report noted the need to focus on increasing funding for tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs. An investment in prevention is especially important given the ongoing youth vaping epidemic. "Despite receiving \$739 million from tobacco settlement payments and tobacco taxes, Massachusetts only funds tobacco control efforts at 10.4% of the level recommended by the CDC. The Lung Association believes the funds should be used to support the health of our communities, and to prevent tobacco use and help smokers quit, and not switch to e-cigarettes. These programs are also critical for helping to end tobacco-related health disparities," said Seilback.

Federal Grades Overview

"State of Tobacco Control" 2021 also grades the federal government in five areas:

- Federal Government Regulation of Tobacco Products (2021 grade – D)
- Federal Coverage of Quit Smoking Treatments (2021 grade – D)

- Level of Federal Tobacco Taxes (2021 grade – F)
- Federal Mass Media Campaigns to Prevent and Reduce Tobacco Use (2021 grade – A)
- Federal Minimum Age of Sale for Tobacco Products to 21 (2021 grade – A)

"State of Tobacco Control" 2021 provides an important roadmap on how states like Massachusetts and the federal government can put in place the policies proven to have the greatest impact on reducing tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke. Because of COVID-19, we are all thinking more about lung health. Now is the time for lawmakers in Massachusetts to act and take this opportunity to achieve lasting reductions in tobacco-related death and disease," said Seilback.

For media interested in speaking with an expert about the "State of Tobacco Control" report, lung health, tobacco use and tobacco control policies, contact the American Lung Association at Jennifer.Solomon@Lung.org or 516-680-8927. Report now available at lung.org/SOTC.



Have You Heard How Our Virtual Education Sessions Can Help?

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

Feedback from Recent Attendees

Ms. Seaver was wonderful! I appreciated her expertise in the field and her abilities as a presenter. She was so knowledgeable, organized, timely and helpful. The workshop exceeded my expectations. Her tips and tricks are things that my family can begin implementing right away! The seminar was so well done and very helpful. – Denise

Caring for the Caregiver Thursday, February 18 | 11 a.m. or 7 p.m.

Dementia and Depression

Thursday, January 21 | 11 a.m. or 7 p.m.

Depression can be a common issue among people with dementia, and it can be worse in the winter season when days are colder and darker. Learn potential causes and ways to cope with your loved one's depression.

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The Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

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

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

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