



Eliminemos COVID-19 use su máscara

Beat COVID-19 wear a mask

Febrero/February 15, 2021

EDICIÓN NO. 755
The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

GLCF announces Racial Equity and Inclusion Grants



Free Soil Arts Collective (Lowell) received a 2020 Discretionary Racial Equity and Inclusion Grant to support Hidden in Plain Sight: Stories of Black Lowell, an interview-based documentary theatre

piece. Free Soil Arts Collective Founder Christa Brown, on the left, with Kesiah Bascom at a production of Hair Tales. Pg. 13

Happy Birthday, Denise!



The Movement Family (TMF) dinner celebrated on February 10th their regular event in honor of Denise Murray. Every Wednesday night between 8-10 pm they have a dinner for the homeless and the less unfortunate on So. Broadway across from falls bridge and it is hosted by Michael Gorman and Samuel Salib. Pg. 8

La cena de The Movement Family (TMF) que se celebró el 10 de febrero durante su evento habitual fue en honor a Denise Murray. Todos los miércoles entre las 8 y las 10 de la noche tienen una cena para los desamparados y los menos desafortunados en So. Broadway frente al puente de las cataratas y es presentado por Michael Gorman y Samuel Salib. Pg. 8

Happy Anniversary Jackson Lumber!



The third generation of Torrisi family leadership of Jackson Lumber & Millwork at the Lawrence headquarters. L-R: Joe Torrisi, Executive Vice President; Jay Torrisi, CEO and Treasurer; Mark Torrisi, President.

Women's Soccer Selected in NEC Preseason Poll

The Merrimack College men's soccer team was chosen to finish seventh in the NEC's preseason poll as announced by the league on Wednesday.

The Warriors earned their first NEC play victory in the 90' on October 11, 2019 on the road against St. Francis Brooklyn. Merrimack then took the St. Francis Flash to a double-overtime battle on October 25, and a draw on the road against Wagner to finish the year.

Central Connecticut earned the unanimous first place choice, with playoff runner-up Fairleigh Dickinson following in second. Sacred Heart was posted in third, Bryant was picked fourth, with Wagner rounding out the top five. Mount St. Mary's



was picked ahead of the Warriors, as LIU and St. Francis Brooklyn were slotted at eighth and ninth respectively.

Women's soccer will return under the guidelines of the NEC fall-to-spring sports return to play plan, and will compete in nine conference matches scheduled over seven weeks from February 23 to April 9.

Por/By Della Diaz
rumbonews.com/blog



Otro truco del Concejo Municipal

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Desde Mi Esquina

Por/By Della Diaz
rumbonews.com/blog



Another City Council trick

From My Corner

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Alcalde Fiorentini Anuncia nuevo grupo de trabajo para asegurar Acceso a la vacuna de COVID-19

El Alcalde James J. Fiorentini, anunció la formación del Grupo de Trabajo de Salud Pública del alcalde para hacer más accesible la atención médica en la ciudad. La primera tarea del grupo será estudiar y hacer recomendaciones sobre la distribución de la vacuna COVID-19. "Estoy estableciendo este grupo de trabajo ante todo para comenzar la planificación de coordinar la distribución de la vacuna COVID-19", dijo el Alcalde Fiorentini. "Sabemos que en abril la vacuna estará disponible para el público y sabemos que hay un largo camino por recorrer para decidir cómo se distribuirá. Aunque aún queda mucho por aprender, ahora es el momento de reunir a todos e iniciar el proceso de planificación".

El Alcalde Fiorentini ha nombrado a varios residentes quienes están conectados con organizaciones locales y entidades de salud, así como a representantes de los principales proveedores privados de atención médica a formar parte de este panel. Estos incluye a los altos ejecutivos del Hospital de Holy Family, localizado en Methuen, el Greater Lawrence Family Health Center y su nuevo centro Haverhill Health Center, el Pentucket Medical Associates y el servicio de ambulancia Trinity EMS.

"Tenemos un gran desafío por delante", subrayó el alcalde. "Debemos asegurarnos de llegar a todas las personas de la ciudad y de que la vacuna esté disponible para todas las personas, incluyendo aquellas que podrían no tener acceso regular a la atención médica". Estas citas son inmediatas y expiran el 31 de diciembre de 2021.

- El Grupo de Trabajo sobre Salud Pública del Alcalde Fiorentini
- Dr. William Goodman, CMO y Vicepresidente de Asuntos Médicos del Hospital Holy Family
- Dr. Craig Jesiolowski, presidente del Hospital Holy Family
- John Chemaly, presidente Trinity EMS
- Dr. Garrett Bomba, Director Ejecutivo médico, Pentucket Medical Center
- Richard Napolitano, Senior Vicepresidente del Greater Lawrence Family Health Center
- Mary Ellen Daly O'Brien, concejala del ayuntamiento de Haverhill
- Mary Connolly, Enfermera de Salud Pública de Haverhill
- Rafael De La Cruz, residente, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center
- Carmenza Bruff, residente de la

ciudad de Haverhill

- Nomsa Ncube, resident, Somebody Cares New England
- Keith Boucher, resident, MakeIT Haverhill

A mediados de diciembre, Massachusetts comenzó la primera ronda de envío de la vacuna de COVID-19 de aproximadamente 60,000 dosis de vacuna a 21 hospitales en 8 condados, así como al laboratorio de inmunización del Departamento de Salud Pública.

Desde entonces, las dosis se han redistribuido a 74 hospitales en los 14 condados para los trabajadores médicos de primera línea. La asignación de otras

40,000 dosis de la vacuna comenzó esta semana a las farmacias locales (CVS y Walgreens en Haverhill) para comenzar a vacunar al personal y a los residentes de las instalaciones de enfermería especializada, hogares de reposo y residencias de vida asistida en enero. La vacuna está siendo priorizada para estos grupos para maximizar la preservación de la vida y apoyar el sistema de atención médica.

Según la información en este momento, Massachusetts espera que se entreguen 300,000 primeras dosis de la vacuna para fines de diciembre. Las primeras vacunas, fabricadas por Moderna y Pfizer, requerirán dos dosis administradas con un intervalo de 3 a 4 semanas.

Mayor Announces Task Force to Ensure Access to COVID-19 Vaccine

Mayor James J. Fiorentini today announced the formation of the Mayor's Public Health Task Force to make health care more accessible in the city.

The group's first task will be to study and make recommendations regarding distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.

"I am establishing this task force first and foremost to begin the planning to coordinate the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine," Mayor Fiorentini said. "We know that stating in April the vaccine will be available to the public and we know that there is a long way to go to decide how it will be distributed. While there is much still to learn, now is the time to get everyone together and start the planning process."

Mayor Fiorentini has appointed several residents with health care backgrounds as well as representatives of the city's major private health care providers to the panel. This includes top executives at Holy Family Hospital, Greater Lawrence Family Health, Pentucket Medical Associates and Trinity EMS ambulance service.

"We have a major challenge ahead," the mayor stressed. "We must make certain that we reach every person in the city and that the vaccine is available to every person including those who might not have regular access to health care."

The appointments are immediate and expire Dec. 31, 2021.

- Mayor Fiorentini's Task Force on Public Health:
- Dr William Goodman, CMO and VP Medical Affairs at Holy Family Hospital
- Dr. Craig Jesiolowski, President, Holy Family Hospital
- John Chemaly, President Trinity EMS
- Dr. Garrett Bomba, Chief Physician

Executive, Pentucket Medical Center

- Richard Napolitano, Senior VP Greater Lawrence Family Health Center
- Mary Ellen Daly O'Brien, Haverhill City Councilor
- Mary Connolly, Haverhill Public Health Nurse
- Rafael De La Cruz, resident, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center
- Sara Switzer, resident, Pfizer Pharmaceutical
- Carmenza Bruff, resident, works at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Nomsa Ncube, resident, Somebody Cares New England
- Keith Boucher, resident, MakeIT Haverhill

In mid-December, Massachusetts began the first round of Covid-19 vaccine shipment of roughly 60,000 doses of vaccine to 21 hospitals across 8 counties, as well as to the Department of Public Health Immunization lab.

Since then, doses have been redistributed to 74 hospitals across all 14 counties for front-line medical workers. Allocation of another 40,000 doses of vaccine began this week to local pharmacies (CVS and Walgreens in Haverhill) to begin vaccinating staff and residents of skilled nursing facilities, rest homes and assisted-living residences in January. Vaccine is being prioritized for these groups to maximize life preservation and to support the health care system.

Based on information at this time, Massachusetts is expecting 300,000 first doses of the vaccine to be delivered by the end of December. The first vaccines, manufactured by Moderna and Pfizer, will require two doses administered 3-4 weeks apart.

"Success is not final, failing is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts."

"El éxito no es el fin, el fracaso no es mortal. Es el valor de continuar lo que cuenta."

- Winston Churchill



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BridgesbyEPOCH.com

When registering, choose 'Bridges Information Session' as your form selection. We look forward to connecting with you virtually!

Rumbo

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

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- Current Massachusetts License in Registered or Licensed Practical Nursing
- Current BLS certification



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- Certificación vigente en BLS

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POR DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

■ READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



CARTAS AL EDITOR RUMBO

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Lawrence MA 01843
Email: Rumbo@rumbonews.com

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

Otro truco del Concilio

El Concejo Municipal de Lawrence discutirá en su próxima reunión el 16 de febrero, algunos cambios a los Estatutos de la Ciudad. Esta es la constitución, la Biblia, las reglas que debemos seguir, y que ninguno de los concejales lee ni conoce su contenido.

Entre los cambios propuestos esta vez, está el mandato de los concejales de la ciudad (distritos y generales) que me tomó por sorpresa porque no tenía idea de que alguien estuviera trabajando en cambios.

Confían en que el truco sucio impuesto a los residentes al cancelar las elecciones especiales a través de una Petición de Autonomía les fue bien y se están aventurando en algo más grande. Ni siquiera creo que la jueza haya leído mi material porque no respondió en consecuencia.

Gracias a mis amigos abogados aquí y en otras ciudades que me educan, puedo traer los resultados de mis hallazgos. Espero que los concejales también aprendan.

La enmienda propuesta al mandato de los Concejales at-Large es una enmienda reservada solo a una comisión constituida

(Charter Commission) elegida de acuerdo con G.L. c. 43B, secs. 6 y 10. La misma requiere que el mandato del cuerpo legislativo de la ciudad sea presentado por una Comisión de Estatutos y no por una Petición de Autonomía (Home Rule Petition) - y si es adoptado por el Concejo Municipal y el Alcalde, está sujeto a la aprobación del Fiscal General y el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo.

Necesitamos formar una Comisión del Charter que consta de 9 miembros elegidos por los votantes a menos que haya un estatuto que les permita hacerlo; no he podido encontrar si hay uno, pero lo haré. Los cambios a los Estatutos de la Ciudad de Lawrence deben seguir las leyes y la Constitución estatales, incluso durante una pandemia.

En este momento, la ciudad tiene un subcomité llamado Comité de Revisión de la Carta que no es lo mismo. La Carta es clara al respecto; no puede delegar deberes estatutarios a un subcomité del concejo cuando el estatuto autoriza específicamente la forma en que se enmienda un Estatuto de la Ciudad.

Parte de esta imposición será que los concejales de distrito estén limitados a servir dos mandatos de dos años cada uno

por un total de cuatro años. At-Large estará limitado a servir dos términos también, pero de cuatro años cada uno por un total de ocho años. Una de las cláusulas de la Carta dice que solo los funcionarios electos que cumplen mandatos de cuatro años están sujetos a un desaforo, lo que ahora no es así.

A veces pienso que los concejales no son más que traficantes de papeles. Eche un vistazo a la cantidad de ordenanzas que emiten cada año y que pronto se olvidan. Creo que las crean en caso de que algún día las necesiten contra alguien cuando lo deseen, no para mejorar a Lawrence.

Lo mismo ocurrirá con estos cambios. En general, las enmiendas asignan más responsabilidades a un Departamento de Elecciones que ya está sobrecargado, principalmente al extender los desaforos a los nuevos puestos de Concejales at-Large por cuatro años; expandir estas cancelaciones generará más desaforos. Eso por sí solo atrasará los deberes del personal electoral, especialmente con los deberes adicionales que la aprobación permanente del voto por correo que pronto entrará en efecto en el estado. ¿Se da cuenta a dónde voy?

El Concejo Municipal no tiene idea del efecto que esta medida tendrá en ese departamento. Es de esperar que los proponentes de las enmiendas tengan

un plan para administrar los requisitos extensos que aparentemente se "arrojaron" al personal electoral sin tal consideración.

A menos que se establezca una Comisión Electoral con suficiente personal, es probable que haya un mayor éxodo del personal electoral. Durante muchos años, el secretario municipal Bill Maloney había estado clamando por la necesidad de personal adicional en esas dos oficinas y nadie lo escuchó hasta que fue demasiado y se jubiló. Ahora, hay una verdadera confusión creada por la sabiduría de esos políticos ineptos que no pueden ver más allá de los papeles que tienen frente a ellos.

Durante las últimas elecciones, recuerdo haber hablado con él sobre la conveniencia de enviar la votación por correo y me explicó la presión y el gasto que suponía para su oficina y su personal. ¡A nadie le importa!

Pero me desvié del tema.

La enmienda propuesta al mandato de los miembros del Concejo at-Large no sigue a G.L. c. 43B, sec. 10 de la Constitución del Estado.

Si les preocupa la comunidad a la que se supone que deben servir, pídale que se reúnan en la Cámara del Concejo, en persona, donde podamos verlos durante la participación pública y en la televisión en lugar del espantoso sistema bajo el que se esconden.

“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



Sueño de Maravilla es un programa interactivo para el público en español por la 1490 AM y 3.7 FM, además de Facebook y próximamente por YouTube.

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De propiedad y operación familiar desde 1946, Jackson Lumber & Millwork celebra el 75 aniversario

Con sede en Lawrence, Massachusetts, Jackson Lumber & Millwork presta servicios a contratistas, remodeladores y propietarios de viviendas en todo el este de Massachusetts y el sur de New Hampshire. Propiedad de y operada por la familia Torrisi desde 1946, la compañía celebra este año su hito de 75 años.

Fundada por Joseph A. Torrisi, la compañía comenzó en un pequeño sitio en Jackson Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts, en 1946. Joe reconoció la oportunidad comercial de suministro de materiales de construcción creada por el boom de la construcción posterior a la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Con el nombre de Jackson Lumber por la calle donde se encontraba, la empresa superó rápidamente la ubicación inicial y se trasladó a Market Street, donde podrían extenderse por una manzana entera. Innovadora para ese momento, la propiedad incluía un depósito de madera y un rail para facilitar la entrega de la madera por ferrocarril.

A lo largo de los altibajos de la economía nacional, regional y local, Jackson Lumber & Millwork disfrutó de un crecimiento constante bajo el liderazgo de la familia Torrisi. Hoy en día, la compañía tiene una planta de fabricación de carpintería en Raymond, New Hampshire, depósitos de madera y tiendas minoristas en Amesbury, Massachusetts, Woburn,

Massachusetts y Lawrence, Massachusetts, así como una sala de exposición de diseño de cocinas de última generación en North Andover, Massachusetts. El hijo de Joe, Al Torrisi, estuvo al frente de la empresa durante 30 años antes de pasar el control de Jackson Lumber & Millwork a la tercera generación de líderes familiares en 2012.

El actual presidente de Jackson, Mark Torrisi, está comprometido a continuar con la misión de la compañía de "proporcionar a los clientes productos, servicios y soluciones de calidad a tiempo y en su totalidad todos los días". El equipo de gestión de la familia Torrisi es conocido por incorporar prácticas comerciales innovadoras para producir mejores resultados para sus clientes. Jackson Lumber, una de las principales empresas de suministros y materiales de construcción en Nueva Inglaterra, fue reconocida en 2014 como el Distribuidor Nacional ProSales del Año, convirtiéndose en el primer distribuidor de Nueva Inglaterra en recibir ese reconocimiento.

Después de 75 años en el negocio, Jackson Lumber & Millwork y la familia Torrisi continúan con su compromiso de permanecer cerca de sus clientes y ayudarlos con las necesidades de sus proyectos, retribuir a sus comunidades y participar activamente en asociaciones de la industria maderera.



Jackson Lumber & Millwork Market St., Lawrence headquarters.



Jackson Lumber & Millwork's campus in Raymond, NH, includes a custom millwork plant; interior door, exterior door, and window assembly areas; as well as a showroom, warehouse space, and delivery staging area.

Family Owned and Operated Since 1946, Jackson Lumber & Millwork Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Headquartered in Lawrence, Massachusetts, Jackson Lumber & Millwork serves contractors, remodelers, and homeowners throughout eastern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire. Owned and operated by the Torrisi family since 1946, the company celebrates its 75-year milestone this year.

Founded by Joseph A. Torrisi, the company started at a small site on Jackson Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts, in 1946. Joe recognized the building materials supply business opportunity created by the post-World War II building boom. Named Jackson Lumber for the street where it was located, the company quickly outgrew the initial location and moved to Market Street, where they could spread out over an entire city block. Innovative for that time, the property included a drive-through lumber yard and a rail spur to facilitate lumber delivery by rail.

Throughout the ups and downs of the national, regional, and local economy, Jackson Lumber & Millwork enjoyed steady growth under the Torrisi family leadership. Today, the company has a millwork manufacturing facility in Raymond, New Hampshire, lumber yards and retail stores in Amesbury,

Massachusetts, Woburn, Massachusetts, and Lawrence, Massachusetts, as well as a state-of-the-art kitchen design showroom in North Andover, Massachusetts. Joe's son, Al Torrisi, was at the company helm for 30 years before he passed control of Jackson Lumber & Millwork to the third generation of family leadership in 2012.

Current Jackson president, Mark Torrisi, is committed to continuing the company mission to "provide customers with quality products, services & solutions on-time and in-full every day." The Torrisi family management team is known for incorporating innovative business practices to produce better outcomes for their customers. One of the premier building materials and supply firms in New England, Jackson Lumber was recognized in 2014 as the National ProSales Dealer of the Year, becoming the first New England dealer to be so recognized.

After 75 years in business, Jackson Lumber & Millwork and the Torrisi family continue their commitment to stay close to their customers and help them with their project needs, to give back to their communities, and to actively participate in lumber industry associations.



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Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

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

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

<http://heallawrence.org/>

heallawrence@aol.com

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

Departamento de Educación de EE.UU. Manual COVID-19

Volumen 1: Estrategias para reabrir de manera segura las escuelas primarias y secundarias

Para reabrir de forma segura durante la pandemia de COVID-19 y maximizar la cantidad de instrucción presencial, las escuelas necesitan recursos suficientes, así como también fuertes medidas de salud pública a nivel estatal y local. Se han realizado esfuerzos extraordinarios por parte de los estados, distritos y escuelas para apoyar a los estudiantes durante la pandemia. Los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) y el Departamento de Educación de EE.UU. (ED) brindan recomendaciones y consideraciones basadas en la evidencia científica más reciente para ayudar a los dirigentes y educadores locales a enfrentar estas dificultades en constante evolución.

La implementación constante de estrategias de mitigación durante todas las actividades relacionadas con la escuela es fundamental para reabrir las escuelas y mantenerlas abiertas. Con ese fin, el Departamento de Educación ha publicado el Manual COVID-19, que proporciona estrategias para hacer esto y también identifica formas de promover la equidad para las comunidades de color y las personas con discapacidades y condiciones crónicas que han soportado una carga desproporcionada de enfermedad y los resultados más graves de COVID-19. El Manual ED COVID-19 ofrece a la comunidad educativa orientación, estrategias y consideraciones a tener en cuenta para reabrir las escuelas de manera segura. El manual se publica en dos volúmenes.

Primer volumen del Manual ED COVID-19

El primer volumen complementa la Estrategia operativa de CDC para escuelas K-12 mediante la mitigación por fases. El manual de ED proporciona ejemplos prácticos y hojas de ruta para proporcionar a los educadores y al personal escolar las herramientas que necesitan para implementar las prácticas seguras recomendadas por los CDC para el aprendizaje presencial. Los puntos principales son:

Uso de mascarillas

El manual proporciona estrategias para promover el uso universal y correcto de las mascarillas en las escuelas mediante letreros y anuncios escolares que recuerdan a los estudiantes y al personal escolar cómo usar las mascarillas. El manual guía a los educadores sobre cómo trabajar con estudiantes con discapacidades que no pueden usar mascarilla o usarla de manera segura según las normas de los CDC.

Prácticas de distanciamiento físico

El manual ED detalla varias prácticas que los educadores y las escuelas pueden aplicar para mantener el distanciamiento físico y así disminuir la propagación de COVID-19. Estas incluyen:

- Mantener a los estudiantes en un solo grupo todo el día con un mismo maestro (y cualquier asistente o auxiliar que esté presente), incluso durante el almuerzo y el

recreo.

- Uso de comedores y auditorios para las clases.
- Escalonar el uso de espacios comunes y reconfigurar los horarios de las campanas para minimizar el tráfico peatonal.
- Para el transporte escolar, sentar a un solo estudiante por fila y asignar a cada pasajero del autobús el mismo asiento fijo todos los días.

Hoja de ruta para la participación de partes interesadas

Una estrategia de reapertura escolar exitosa requiere involucrar a toda la comunidad escolar para promover acciones que conduzcan a un ambiente de aprendizaje seguro para todos los educadores, el personal y los estudiantes. El Manual de ED incluye una hoja de ruta sobre quién debe involucrarse y da ideas a los dirigentes escolares y maestros sobre cómo pueden hacer actividades de extensión y usar encuestas y foros virtuales para incluir a la comunidad en el esfuerzo por reabrir las escuelas.

Segundo volumen del Manual ED COVID-19

El segundo volumen del manual ED COVID-19, que se publicará en las próximas semanas, proporcionará estrategias específicas para abordar la extraordinaria interrupción que Covid-19 ha causado a los estudiantes, educadores y padres; y en particular a los estudiantes y

comunidades históricamente desatendidas que los datos preliminares sugieren han sido los más afectados por la pandemia. Las estrategias se adaptarán en torno a los siguientes temas:

1. Satisfacer las necesidades sociales, emocionales, psicológicas y académicas de los estudiantes
2. Apoyar el bienestar de los educadores y personal escolar
3. Abordar el tiempo de instrucción perdido por los estudiantes
4. Mantener una fuerza laboral diversa y calificada de educadores
5. Apoyar el uso eficaz de la tecnología para el aprendizaje presencial y ajustes periódicos al aprendizaje a distancia
6. Proporcionar nutrición escolar, independientemente del entorno educativo
7. Garantizar acceso equitativo a la banda ancha y los dispositivos necesarios para participar en el aprendizaje a distancia
8. Ampliar el horario educativo
9. Abordar las desigualdades de recursos para brindar a todos los estudiantes las oportunidades educativas que necesitan para tener éxito, que incluye el acceso a una educación total (con cursos avanzados, música y artes), educadores calificados y servicios integrados de apoyo estudiantil.
10. Proporcionar a todos los estudiantes acceso a un entorno de aprendizaje seguro e inclusivo.
11. Usar datos para informar a los estudiantes, padres y educadores sobre el progreso logrado y dónde se requiere apoyo adicional.

U.S. Department of Education COVID-19 Handbook Volume 1: Strategies for Safely Reopening Elementary and Secondary Schools

To reopen safely during the COVID-19 pandemic and maximize the amount of in-person instruction, schools need sufficient resources as well as adhered-to, strong state and local public health measures. Extraordinary efforts by states, districts, and schools have been underway to support students throughout the pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Education (ED) are providing recommendations and considerations based on the most recent scientific evidence to support school and district leaders and educators in meeting these ever evolving, significant challenges.

Consistent implementation of mitigation strategies during all school-related activities is critical for reopening schools – and keeping them open. To that end, ED is releasing the COVID-19 Handbook, which provides strategies to do this and also identifies ways to promote equity for communities of color and people with disabilities/chronic conditions who have borne a disproportionate burden of illness and serious outcomes from COVID-19. The ED COVID-19 Handbook will support the education community with implementation guidance, strategies, and considerations to help reopen schools safely. The handbook is being released in two volumes.

First Volume of the ED COVID-19 Handbook

The first volume supplements CDC's Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Mitigation. ED's handbook provides practical examples and roadmaps to provide educators and staff with the tools they need to implement CDC's recommended safe practices for in-person learning. Highlights include:

Masking Practices

The handbook provides applicable strategies to promote universal and correct use of masks in schools by utilizing signage and school announcements to remind students and staff how to use masks. The handbook guides educators through working with students with disabilities who cannot wear a mask or safely wear a mask, consistent with CDC guidelines.

Physical Distancing Practices

The ED handbook details a variety of practical ways that educators and schools can practice physical distancing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including:

- Grouping students into a pod that stays together all day with their core teacher (and any aide or student teacher who is present), including for lunch and recess.
- Using cafeterias and auditoriums for

classes.

- Staggering the use of communal spaces and reconfiguring bell schedules to minimize foot traffic.
- For transportation to school, seating one student per row and assigning each bus rider to a designated seat that is the same every day.

Roadmap for Stakeholder Engagement

A successful school reopening strategy requires engaging the entire school community to promote actions that will lead to a safe learning environment for all educators, staff, and students. ED's handbook lays out a roadmap for who should be at the table and suggests ways that school leaders and educators can conduct individual outreach activities and use surveys and virtual town halls to engage the community in an effort to reopen schools.

Second Volume of the ED COVID-19 Handbook

The second volume of the ED COVID-19 Handbook, which will be released in the coming weeks, will provide specific strategies to address the extraordinary disruption created by COVID-19 for students, educators, and parents — especially for historically

underserved students and communities that preliminary data suggest have been hit hardest by the pandemic. These strategies will be tailored around the following topics:

1. Meeting the social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of students.
2. Supporting educator and school staff well-being.
3. Addressing lost instructional time for students.
4. Stabilizing a diverse and qualified educator workforce.
5. Ensuring equitable access to broadband and the devices needed to participate in remote learning.
6. Supporting the effective use of technology for in-person learning and periodic shifts to remote learning.
7. Providing school nutrition, regardless of the educational setting.
8. Providing all students with access to a safe and inclusive learning environment.
9. Extending learning time.
10. Addressing resource inequities to provide all students with the educational opportunities they need to succeed, including access to a well-rounded education (including advanced courses, music, and the arts), quality educators, and integrated student support services.
11. Using data to inform students, parents, and educators of progress and areas requiring additional support.

Funcionarios estatales de salud pública anuncian nuevos casos variantes de COVID-19, se continúa instando Medidas de protección

State Public Health Officials Announce New COVID-19 Variant Cases, Urge Continued Protective Measures

El Departamento de Salud Pública de Massachusetts anunció 19 casos adicionales de la variante B.1.1.7 COVID-19. Las pruebas realizadas en el Laboratorio Estatal de Salud Pública identificaron 19 infecciones de la variante B.1.1.7, originalmente identificadas en el Reino Unido (RU), lo que eleva el número total de casos que se sabe que están infectados con esta variante del virus a 29 en el Commonwealth. El primer caso en Estados Unidos se identificó a fines de diciembre de 2020 y en Massachusetts el 17 de enero de 2021.

Cuatro de esos 29 casos tienen evidencia de viajes recientes, lo que sugiere que la mayoría de los casos identificados en Massachusetts son adquiridos en la comunidad.

Los casos han variado en edades de 4 años a casi 70; incluyen 13 mujeres y 16 hombres. Ha habido 17 casos en el Condado de Worcester, uno en el Condado de Hampden, 2 en el Condado de Middlesex, 6 en el Condado de Norfolk, 2 en el Condado de Plymouth y 1 en el Condado de Suffolk.

Se sabe que la variante B.1.1.7 se propaga más fácilmente y ha provocado un rápido aumento de casos en el Reino Unido, varios otros países y en partes de California y Florida. Otras dos variantes preocupantes son la B.1.351 que se encontró originalmente en Sudáfrica y la variante P.1, que se originó en Brasil. Actualmente, no hay casos confirmados de esas dos variantes en Massachusetts.

La mejor defensa contra un

rápido aumento de casos de variantes preocupantes es prevenir la propagación de COVID.

La nueva información de los CDC muestra que mejorar el ajuste y la filtración de las máscaras ayuda a reducir la propagación del virus. El ajuste de la mascarilla se puede mejorar utilizando una mascarilla con un alambre nasal y utilizando un ajustador de mascarillas o anudando las orejas y doblando los lados. La filtración de la mascarilla se mejora mediante el uso de múltiples capas. Obtenga más información sobre cómo usar máscaras para protegerse y proteger a los demás en [Mejore el Ajuste y la Filtración de su Máscara para reducir la propagación de COVID-19 | CENTROS PARA EL CONTROL Y LA PREVENCIÓN DE ENFERMEDADES](#).

Otras medidas críticas de salud pública para ayudar a prevenir la propagación del COVID incluyen el distanciamiento social (mantenerse a 6 pies de distancia de los demás), evitar los grupos, quedarse en casa cuando está enfermo, hacerse la prueba si tiene síntomas o si se le identifica como un contacto cercano de alguien con COVID, y vacunarse cuando sea su turno.

Obtenga más información sobre las variantes preocupantes en [Nuevas Variantes del virus que causa COVID-19 | CDC](#) y rastrear su presencia tanto en Massachusetts como en los EE.UU. En los casos de COVID-19 causados por variantes en EE.UU. | [CENTROS PARA EL CONTROL Y LA PREVENCIÓN DE ENFERMEDADES](#).

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced 19 additional cases of the B.1.1.7 COVID-19 variant. Testing completed at the State Public Health Laboratory has identified 19 infections of the B.1.1.7 variant, originally identified in the United Kingdom (UK), bringing the total number of cases known to be infected with this variant of the virus to 29 in the Commonwealth. The first case in the United States was identified in late December 2020 and in Massachusetts on January 17, 2021.

Four of those 29 cases have evidence of recent travel, suggesting that the majority of cases identified in Massachusetts are community-acquired.

Cases have ranged in age from 4 years to almost 70; they include 13 females and 16 males. There have been 17 cases in Worcester County, one in Hampden County, 2 in Middlesex County, 6 in Norfolk County, 2 in Plymouth County, and 1 in Suffolk County.

The B.1.1.7 variant is known to spread more easily and has caused a rapid surge of cases in the UK, several other countries, and in parts of California and Florida. Two other variants of concern are the B.1.351 originally found in South Africa, and the P.1 variant, which originated in Brazil.

Currently, there are no confirmed cases of those two variants in Massachusetts.

The best defense against a rapid rise in cases from variants of concern is to prevent the spread of COVID.

New information from CDC shows that improving the fit and filtration of masks helps reduce the spread of the virus. Mask fit can be improved by using a mask with a nose wire and by using a mask fitter or by knotting the ear loops and tucking the sides. Mask filtration is improved by using multiple layers. Learn more about how to use masks to protect yourself and others at [Improve the Fit and Filtration of Your Mask to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19 | CDC](#).

Other critical public health measures to help prevent the spread of COVID include social distancing (staying 6 feet away from others), avoiding groups, staying home when you are sick, getting tested if you have symptoms or are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID, and getting vaccinated when it is your turn.

Learn more about variants of concern at [New Variants of the Virus that Causes COVID-19 | CDC](#) and track their presence in both Massachusetts and the US at [US COVID-19 Cases Caused by Variants | CDC](#).

19 new cases / 19 casos nuevos

Worcester County	40s	female
Worcester County	16s	male
Worcester County	<19	female
Worcester County	40s	male
Worcester County	30s	female
Worcester County	30s	female
Worcester County	30s	female
Worcester County	40s	male
Worcester County	<19	male
Worcester County	60s	male
Worcester County	30s	male
Worcester County	50s	female
Middlesex County	<19	male
Worcester County	50s	male
Worcester County	20s	female
Norfolk County	50s	male
Norfolk County	20s	male
Middlesex County	20s	male
Norfolk County	50s	female

10 casos nuevos desde enero 17, 2021

10 previous cases, since Jan. 17, 2021

Suffolk County	20s	female
Worcester County	20s	male
Worcester County	<19	male
Hampden County	20s	male
Plymouth County	60s	male
Norfolk County	40s	male
Norfolk County	30s	female
Plymouth County	50s	female
Worcester County	50s	female
Norfolk County	20s	female

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

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

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

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

Es facil encontrar a
Rumbo
(978) 794-5360

Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Vaccine Data - Sunday, February 14, 2021

	Feb 8 th	Feb 9 th	Feb 10 th	Feb 11 th	Feb 12 th	Feb 13 th	Feb 14 th
Doses shipped to MA providers (MIIIS)*	960,100	960,100	1,070,525	1,103,925	1,150,500	1,150,500	1,150,500
Doses shipped to Pharmacies directly by the federal government - including FPPP providers (Tiberius)	316,225	323,600	342,500	350,250	353,425	366,100	366,800
Grand Total Shipped to MA	1,276,325	1,283,700	1,413,025	1,454,175	1,503,925	1,516,600	1,517,300
1st doses Administered (MIIIS)* # of people with at least one dose	659,905	696,051	723,327	748,544	776,843	807,998	829,419
2nd doses Administered (MIIIS)* # of people fully vaccinated	199,213	214,361	227,188	239,230	257,175	274,787	288,955
Grand Total Doses Administered (MIIIS)*	859,118	910,412	950,515	987,774	1,034,018	1,082,785	1,118,374
% of total doses shipped that have been reported to MIIIS as administered	67.3%	70.9%	67.3%	67.9%	68.8%	71.4%	73.7%

*Data from the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIIS) are as of midnight the night before.

The Movement Family honors Denise Murray on her birthday

By Lee Fickeworth

The Movement Family (TMF) dinner celebrated on February 10th their regular event in honor of Denise Murray.

Every Wednesday night between 8-10 pm they have a dinner for the homeless and the less unfortunate on So. Broadway across from falls bridge and it is hosted by Michael Gorman and Samuel Salib.

Before Denise passed away she planned to cook for the occasion since it was on her birthday and had contacted a friend, Radolka Pimental of North Andover to make this a plan to cook for TMF. There were around 50 guests mixed with TMF members along with Denise's friends and family.

A video was up on a screen of photos of friends of Denise's, lots of food, hot coffee and hot chocolate.

They had a prayer table with books and bibles. Another table was dedicated in Denise's honor with her photo roses

a birthday cake and two heart shaped balloons and next to that another table of bags that were filled with donated things for the homeless to grab.

The bags had Denise, her son Timothy and Aaron her nephew that passed away in North Carolina this past summer. I asked them to add his name as a gesture on Denise's behalf because she was planning on doing her pay it forward cards in their honor.

Michael had texted me a few days before to say a few words about our friend Denise. Also someone did a prayer, Jay. And another TMF member reminded about knowing Denise since he was a young boy. Jefe Santos painted a rose and a man played the saxophone for us.

Marta Dominguez and Raquel Centeno of The Lowell Street Garden on Margin and Lowell St. honored Denise by naming the garden for her.

Photos by Richard Russell



The Movement Family honra a Denise Murray en su cumpleaños

Por Lee Fickeworth

La cena de The Movement Family (TMF) que se celebró el 10 de febrero durante su evento habitual fue en honor a Denise Murray.

Todos los miércoles entre las 8 y las 10 de la noche tienen una cena para los desamparados y los menos desafortunados en So. Broadway frente al puente de las cataratas y es presentado por Michael Gorman y Samuel Salib.

Antes de que Denise falleciera, planeaba cocinar para la ocasión ya que era en su cumpleaños y se había puesto en contacto con una amiga, Radolka Pimental de North Andover, para planear para cocinar para TMF. Había alrededor de 50 invitados mezclados con miembros de TMF junto con los amigos y familiares de Denise.

En una pantalla apareció un video con fotos de amigos de Denise, mucha comida, café y chocolate caliente.

Tenían una mesa de oración con libros y biblias. Se dedicó otra mesa en honor a Denise con su foto, rosas, un pastel de cumpleaños y dos globos en forma de corazón y, al lado, otra mesa de bolsas que se llenaron con cosas donadas para que las personas sin hogar las tomaran.

Las bolsas tenían a Denise, su hijo Timothy y Aaron su sobrino que falleció



en Carolina del Norte el verano pasado. Les pedí que añadieran su nombre como un gesto en nombre de Denise porque estaba planeando hacer tarjetas en su honor.

Michael me había enviado un mensaje de texto unos días antes para decir unas palabras sobre nuestra amiga Denise. También Jay hizo una oración. Y otro miembro de TMF recordó que conocía a Denise desde que era un niño. Jefe Santos pintó una rosa y un hombre nos tocaba el saxofón.

Marta Dominguez y Raquel Centeno del Lowell Street Garden en las calles Margin y Lowell honraron a Denise nombrando el jardín por ella.

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

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

— Indira Gandhi

¡Tenga cuidado con las Ofertas de Telemedicina de Proveedores Médicos Desconocidos!

Telesalud o Telemedicina se refiere a la visita de un paciente a su proveedor médico a través de una computadora, teléfono u otro dispositivo electrónico. Los mismos son particularmente útiles para aquellos que están confinados en sus casas o durante un tiempo. Las citas de telesalud no reemplazan todas las visitas en persona. La decisión de tomar una cita de telesalud debe ser una discusión entre usted y sus médicos.

Como resultado de la pandemia del nuevo coronavirus, los servicios de telesalud se han expandido exponencialmente. Medicare amplió la cobertura de los servicios de telesalud para permitir que los beneficiarios accedan a sus proveedores desde la seguridad de sus hogares. Las visitas de telesalud son facturables y todos debemos hacer nuestra parte para comprender mejor cómo funciona la telemedicina.

A medida que se expande la telesalud, también lo hace la posible exposición al fraude.

- Si alguien que no sea su proveedor médico se comunica con usted y le ofrece un servicio de cita telesalud, pruebas, tratamiento o suministros gratuitos, cuélgue. ¡Es una estafa!
- Asegúrese de que uno de sus proveedores médicos programe su cita de telesalud.
- Asegúrese de anotar todas sus citas de telesalud en su Diario Personal de Asistencia Médica para que pueda revisarlos/revisarlas y compararlos/compararlas con sus Avisos Resumidos de Medicare, Explicación de los Beneficios y otros estados de cuenta. Para solicitar su Diario Personal de Asistencia Médica gratuito llame al 800-892-0890 y pregunte por el programa SMP.
- Asegúrese de informarle al MA SMP cualquier oferta de telemedicina sospechosa o facturación incorrecta a la Línea Report-A-Scam del programa al 1-978-946-1243 o en ReportAScam@MASMP.org.

Recuerde: Nunca dé su número de Medicare, la información de su cuenta bancaria, su números de tarjetas de crédito, su número de Seguro Social o cualquier otra información personal a cualquiera que no conozca y en quien usted no confíe.

Para obtener orientación adicional, llame a Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol Program (SMP) al 800-892-0890 o visite www.MASMP.org.



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DiZoglio pide a Baker que mejore la accesibilidad a las vacunas en la ciudad de Methuen

La Senadora Estatal Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) está pidiendo a la Administración Baker que refuerce la disponibilidad y accesibilidad de las vacunas en la ciudad de Methuen.

En una carta, enviada al Gobernador Charlie Baker y a la secretaria de Salud y Servicios Humanos Marylou Sudders el 15 de febrero, DiZoglio describió las preocupaciones que escuchó de los residentes de Methuen sobre la falta de acceso a la vacuna COVID-19.

La semana pasada, la ciudad de Methuen recibió 100 dosis de la vacuna. Luego se le informó que no recibiría dosis del estado esta semana. Según DiZoglio, el Departamento de Salud Pública (DPH) del estado informó a su oficina que el número de dosis bajo era el resultado de una escasez de vacunas federales. Sin embargo, el estado continúa distribuyendo una cantidad significativa de dosis a las farmacias de Massachusetts.

“La Ciudad hizo un gran trabajo y tiempo para establecer un centro de distribución de vacunas, según la solicitud de su Administración, que se adapta al distanciamiento social y las largas filas”, dijo DiZoglio en la carta. “Las farmacias no tienen ese espacio para asegurar el distanciamiento social. La asignación no tiene sentido”.

DiZoglio argumenta que el problema

del suministro federal planteado por el DPH no es el problema, sino que se trata de una "asignación efectiva entre los proveedores de vacunas".

“Las personas, especialmente en el grupo de vacunación actual, deberían poder acudir cómodamente a su proveedor municipal local”, dijo DiZoglio. “Los sitios de vacunación masiva que se han establecido pueden ser físicamente difíciles de acceder y maniobrar”.

En su carta, DiZoglio también planteó preguntas y preocupaciones sobre qué vacunas específicas se han distribuido y a quién. La vacuna producida por Pfizer requiere un tipo de refrigeración por congelador diferente a la vacuna de Moderna y sus partes deben reconstituirse antes de la inoculación.

“Los municipios pueden almacenar la vacuna Moderna, pero generalmente no están equipados para almacenar el Pfizer, que los hospitales y farmacias están mejor equipados para almacenar”, dijo DiZoglio. “En la medida en que se realicen asignaciones, el estado debe tener esto en cuenta. Es fundamental que sepamos qué cantidad de cada vacuna se distribuye y a quién”.

El 12 de febrero, el Centro Belfer para la Ciencia y los Asuntos Internacionales de la Escuela Kennedy de Harvard otorgó al Commonwealth of Massachusetts una calificación de 'F' por su implementación,

basada en una clasificación entre los 50 estados en métricas clave, incluidas las vacunas distribuidas como parte de la población adulta y como parte de las dosis disponibles para ser administradas en el estado.

“La ciudad de Methuen no es la única que enfrenta estos importantes desafíos”, dijo DiZoglio. “Las ciudades y pueblos en Merrimack Valley y en todo el estado han expresado su frustración por el lanzamiento de la vacuna, y los legisladores han ofrecido innumerables cartas a la Administración del Gobernador, muchas de las cuales he escrito o firmado. Nuestros residentes más vulnerables han sido increíblemente pacientes. Ya es hora de que la Administración finalmente acepte el programa, como muchos otros estados han podido hacer y brinda a nuestras comunidades el apoyo que necesitan desesperadamente”.



DiZoglio Calls on Baker to Improve Vaccine Accessibility in the City of Methuen

State Senator Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) is calling on the Baker Administration to bolster vaccine availability and accessibility in the City of Methuen.

In a letter, sent to Governor Charlie Baker and Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders on February 15, DiZoglio outlined the concerns she has heard from Methuen residents around lack of access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

Last week, the City of Methuen received 100 doses of the vaccine. It was then informed it would receive no doses from the state this week. According to DiZoglio, her office was advised by the state Department of Public Health (DPH) that the low dose number was the result of a federal vaccine shortage. However, the state continues to distribute significant numbers of doses to pharmacies across Massachusetts.

“The City put in great work and time to establish a vaccine distribution center, per the request of your Administration, that accommodates social distancing and long lines,” said DiZoglio in the letter. “Pharmacies do not have such space to ensure social distancing. The allocation makes no sense.”

DiZoglio argues the federal supply issue raised by DPH is not the issue – rather it is about “effective allocation between vaccine providers.”

“People, especially in the current vaccination group, should be able to conveniently turn to their local municipal provider,” said DiZoglio. “The mass vaccine sites that have been established can be physically difficult to get to and maneuver.”

In her letter, DiZoglio also raised questions and concerns over which specific vaccines have gone out and to whom. The vaccine produced by Pfizer requires a different type of freezer refrigeration than the vaccine by Moderna and its parts must be reconstituted prior to inoculation.

“Municipalities can store the Moderna vaccine but are generally unequipped to store the Pfizer, which hospitals and pharmacies are better equipped to store,” said DiZoglio. “To the extent allocations are made, the state must take this into account. It is critical that we know how much of each vaccine is going out and to whom.”

On February 12, the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School gave the Commonwealth of Massachusetts an ‘F’ grade for its rollout, based on a ranking among all 50 states on key metrics, including vaccines distributed as a share of the adult population and as a share of the doses available to be delivered in the state.

“The City of Methuen is not alone in facing these significant challenges,” said DiZoglio. “Cities and towns in the Merrimack Valley and across the Commonwealth have expressed frustration over the vaccine rollout, with legislators offering countless letters to the Governor’s Administration, many of which I have either written or signed on to. Our most vulnerable residents have been incredibly patient. It is beyond past time the Administration finally gets with the program, as so many other states have been able to do and provide our communities with the support they desperately need.”



Beware of Telemedicine Offers from Unfamiliar Medical Providers!

Telehealth or Telemedicine refers to a patient’s visit with their medical provider via computer, telephone, or another electronic device. They are particularly helpful for those who are housebound and during inclement weather. Telehealth appointments are not meant to replace all in-person visits. Deciding to take a telehealth appointment should be a discussion between you and your doctors.

As a result of the novel coronavirus pandemic, telehealth services have expanded exponentially. Medicare extended coverage of telehealth services to allow beneficiaries to access their providers from the safety of their home. Telehealth visits are billable, and we all need to do our part to better understand how telemedicine works.

As telehealth expands, so does the potential exposure to fraud.

- If you are contacted by anyone other than your medical provider offering you a telehealth appointment, free testing, treatment or supplies, hang up. It is a scam!
- Be sure your telehealth appointment is being scheduled by one of your medical providers.
- Be sure to write down all your telehealth appointments in your MA SMP Personal Healthcare Journal so you can review and compare them to your Medicare Summary Notices, Explanation of Benefits, and other billing statements. To order your free personal healthcare journal call 800-892-0290 and ask for the MA SMP Program.
- Be sure to report any suspicious telemedicine offers or improper billings to the MA SMP Program’s Report-A-Scam Line at 1-978-946-1243 or at ReportAScam@MASMP.org.

Remember: Never give your Medicare number, your bank account information, your credit card numbers, your Social Security number, or any other personal information to anyone you do not know and trust.

For additional guidance call the Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Program at 800-892-0890 or visit www.MASMP.org.



Organizations respond to Defamation of Character

Dear Members of the Lawrence Community,

It is with a deep sense of sadness that we find ourselves addressing the Greater Lawrence area community on behalf of Top Notch Scholars, J. Alvarez and Company, and the Merrimack Valley Dream Center, regarding some untrue and defamatory comments made against our organizations by Town Livery of Lawrence. As two nonprofits and a small private business with stellar reputations, we were encouraged to set the record straight through this communication.

Kervin Valdez, of Town Livery Lawrence, has made untrue and defamatory statements against our three organizations, and those who run it, on recent social media. The contents of his posts consist of defamatory and libelous statements that are hurtful and untrue. Most significant is they attack our stellar reputations within our community.

What started out as a joint venture of providing food to families in need in our community, coordinated by Town Livery and supported by Top Notch Scholars, Merrimack Valley Dream Center and J. Alvarez and Company turned into an inappropriate and libelous barrage of untrue statements made by Town Livery and its owner Kervin Valdez.

Top Notch Scholars, Merrimack Valley Dream Center and J. Alvarez & Company are devoted to improving the lives of people in the City of Lawrence. Not only do we serve our individual organizations, but we volunteer and collaborate with other

leaders to make our City a better place in which to learn, live and do business.

Because of our passion and proven leadership to serve our community, we feel it imperative to respond by unequivocally ensuring the community the alleged accusations made by Kervin Valdez of misappropriation of resources are false. Our respective organizations are governed by Boards, finance committees and accounting firms ensuring that all resources are put to their intended use. Mr. Valdez had difficulty understanding the need for proper accounting as well as following procedures put in place by Board action.

We do not take our stewardship of donated funds lightly and sought professional advice from our accounting firm ensuring that the proper procedures were followed. Mr. Valdez is an uninformed accuser. He further alleges that the compensation of staff leaders within our respective organizations comes from taxpayer funds.

With respect to Top Notch Scholars and the Merrimack Valley Dream Center, funds come from donors who believe in our respective missions and want to help us succeed. With respect to J. Alvarez & Co. funds come from this sole proprietor's risk and investment in her small business. We welcome and encourage any member of our community to reach out to us to learn more about us.

We are saddened that it has come to a breakdown in our relationship with Kervin Valdez. As privately owned company

such as Town Livery, Mr. Valdez can make his own decisions and enjoy or regret his decisions. As nonprofit organizations, we are bound by our bylaws, policies and procedures and standard accounting principles.

In summary, we are seeking a public apology from Kervin Valdez for his false statements and to cease and desist further defamatory remarks. What started as a beautiful and powerful relationship intended to help others has ended with heartbreak and disappointment for those involved.

We will remain committed to the Lawrence community. We will continue to work and collaborate with nonprofits and businesses within our greater community. We will continue to make a difference in our community.

Top Notch Scholars is a nonprofit leadership development organization that empowers youth through trainings, internships, and conferences. Their goal is simple – help youth graduate from

high school and go on to college. The Merrimack Valley Dream Center is a nonprofit organization that serves people in need, including the homeless and low income families. Their vision is to see broken lives transformed. J. Alvarez is a Latina owned private business specializing in gowns of all types as well as its owner devoting her time to helping Top Notch Scholars achieve their goal.

Most Sincerely,

Joanna De Pena, M.Ed.
Top Notch Scholars, Founder & CEO

Jenny Alvarez
Top Notch Scholars, Business Development Director
J. Alvarez & Company, CEO

Julio Meran
Merrimack Valley Dream Center, Founder & CEO

The Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

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

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

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

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The Entrepreneurship Center at Community Teamwork Hires Popular Local Business Owner, Ani Vong

Lowell, MA — Ani Vong, a well-respected, local businesswoman, joins the Entrepreneurship Center (ECenter) team, working in partnership with former female founders KellyAnne Mello and Franky Descoteaux.

The Entrepreneurship Center at Community Teamwork has recently received \$650K in funding – including from a highly competitive Small Business Administration (SBA) PRIME grant. With nearly 200 national applications, the Entrepreneurship Center was one of 27 awardees, only two of whom operate in Massachusetts. In partnership with Lowell’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) COVID emergency funds, PRIME funds will be used to hire local consultants who will provide critical support to businesses negatively impacted by COVID-19. As the new Specialized Technical Assistance Team’s (STAT) Program Coordinator, Ani Vong will ensure the highest quality of business support to help manage this new funding.

Ani Vong is a Khmer American woman, Lowellian and Entrepreneur. As owner and operator of Humanity Boutique in Downtown Lowell since 2014, she has led the store through slow economic times and now, during COVID-19, Ani has transformed her business into an e-commerce presence and pop-up shop.

“One of the greatest gifts the ownership of Humanity afforded Ani is a central place in the community - as a

business owner, a Khmer woman, and a supporter of entrepreneurs and businesses. She is well connected within the business community as well as the nonprofit community in Lowell and surrounding areas. Ani’s ability to wear many hats as a business owner, along with the demands of her nonprofit volunteer work, has forged her into a sensible, entrepreneurial spirit. It’s this spirit, we believe, that will be of great benefit to the Entrepreneurship Center at Community Teamwork,” Franky Descoteaux, Director of the Entrepreneurship Center expressed.

As the STAT Program Coordinator at the Entrepreneurship Center, Ani will provide culturally and language competent consulting to underserved restaurants and retailers across Lowell, with specific focus in Cambodia Town, The Acre, Downtown, and Back Central. The Entrepreneurship Center at Community Teamwork will work with local partners to identify consultants, including the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA), Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA), Working Cities Challenge, African Community Center of Lowell (ACCL), Portuguese American Center, the LatinX Community Center for Empowerment and others. The goal of the STAT team is to work with the business owner to resolve current business challenges and to help them achieve future business goals. Consultants will work collaboratively with business owners, completing necessary tasks, training

new critical skills, setting up systems for long-term success, and amplifying local business awareness through coordinated marketing.

About Entrepreneurship Center @CTI

The Entrepreneurship Center at Community Teamwork empowers entrepreneurs to make business decisions that lead to long-term profitability and financial outcomes that sustain both the business and the entrepreneur. The Entrepreneurship Center is committed to help businesses grow: to provide guidance and help gather the resources businesses need to operate and generate wealth. Visit www.GrowYourBusinessatCTI.org Email business@commteam.org

About Community Teamwork

Community Teamwork is a catalyst for social change. Our driving mission is to help people help themselves with child-care, family supports, nutrition, fuel assistance, housing, skills training, employment, financial education, and individual asset and small business development. As a Community Action Agency, a Regional



Housing Agency, and a Community Development Corporation, Community Teamwork helps over 54,000 individuals from 72 cities and towns in northeastern Massachusetts gain greater economic independence. Visit www.commteam.org

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Consejo de BBB: no comparta su tarjeta de vacuna COVID-19 en las redes sociales

¿Tiene su vacuna COVID-19? ¡Gran trabajo! Pero no comparta una foto de su tarjeta de vacunación en las redes sociales. La información de autoidentificación que contiene lo hace vulnerable al robo de identidad y puede ayudar a los estafadores a crear versiones falsas.



Qué tener en cuenta:

Recibió su vacuna COVID-19 y está emocionado de compartir las buenas noticias y alentar a otros a hacer lo mismo. Te tomas una selfie sosteniendo tu tarjeta de vacunación y la publicas en Facebook, Instagram u otra plataforma de redes sociales.

Desafortunadamente, su tarjeta tiene su nombre completo y fecha de nacimiento, así como información sobre dónde recibió la vacuna. Si la configuración de privacidad de sus redes sociales no es alta, es posible que esté brindando información valiosa para que cualquiera la use.

Compartir su información personal no es el único problema. Los estafadores en Gran Bretaña fueron sorprendidos vendiendo tarjetas de vacunación falsas en eBay y TikTok. Es solo cuestión de tiempo antes de que contras similares lleguen a Estados Unidos y Canadá. Publicar fotos de su tarjeta puede ayudar a proporcionar a los estafadores información que pueden usar para crear y vender tarjetas falsas.

Comparta de forma segura en las redes sociales:

- Comparta la etiqueta de la vacuna o use un marco de perfil. Si desea publicar sobre su vacuna, existen formas más seguras de hacerlo. Puede compartir una foto de la etiqueta de su vacuna o poner un marco alrededor de su foto de perfil.

- Revise su configuración de seguridad. Verifique su configuración de seguridad en todas las plataformas de redes sociales para ver qué está compartiendo y con quién. Si solo desea que sus amigos y familiares vean sus publicaciones, asegúrese de que así es como se configuran sus configuraciones de privacidad.

- Tenga cuidado al responder a los mensajes populares de las redes sociales. Compartir la foto de su vacuna es solo la última tendencia social. Piénselo dos veces antes de participar en otras publicaciones personales virales, como enumerar todos

los automóviles que ha tenido (incluidas las marcas / años del modelo), sus canciones favoritas y los 10 mejores programas de televisión. Algunas de estas "cosas favoritas" son contraseñas de uso común o preguntas de seguridad.

Para más información

Para obtener más información sobre cuestiones de privacidad en las redes sociales, consulte la Alerta de estafa de BBB en los cuestionarios de Facebook y me gusta la agricultura.

BBB ha identificado muchas formas

en las que los estafadores están sacando provecho de la pandemia de COVID-19. Obtenga más información sobre estafas de vacunas, estafas de ensayos clínicos, contras de rastreo de contratos, máscaras faciales falsificadas e impostores de agencias gubernamentales.

Si ha detectado una estafa (haya perdido dinero o no), infórmelo a BBB.org/TransitTracker. Su informe puede ayudar a otros a evitar ser víctimas de estafas. Encuentre más información sobre estafas y cómo evitarlas en BBB.org/AvoidScams.

BBB Tip: Don't share your COVID-19 vaccine card on social media

Got your COVID-19 vaccine? Great job! But don't share a photo of your vaccination card on social media. The self-identifying information on it makes you vulnerable to identity theft and can help scammers create phony versions.

What to watch out for:

You got your COVID-19 inoculation, and you are excited to share the good news and encourage others to do the same. You take a selfie holding your vaccination card and post it to Facebook, Instagram, or another social media platform.

Unfortunately, your card has your full name and birthday on it, as well as information about where you got your vaccine. If your social media privacy settings aren't set high, you may be giving valuable information away for anyone to use.

Sharing your personal information isn't the only issue. Scammers in Great Britain were caught selling fake vaccination cards on eBay and TikTok. It's only a matter of time before similar cons come to the United States and Canada. Posting photos of your card can help provide scammers with information they can use to create and sell phony ones.

Share safely on social media:

- Share your vaccine sticker or use a profile frame instead. If you want to post about your vaccine, there are safer ways to do it. You can share a photo of your vaccine sticker or set a frame around your profile picture.

- Review your security settings. Check your security settings on all social media platforms to see what you are sharing and with whom. If you only want friends and family to see your posts, be sure that's how your privacy settings are configured.


- Be wary of answering popular social media prompts. Sharing your vaccine photo is just the latest social trend. Think twice before participating in other viral personal posts, such as listing all the cars you've owned (including makes/model years), favorite songs, and top 10 TV shows. Some of these "favorite things" are commonly used passwords or security questions.

For more information


For more information about privacy concerns on social media, see BBB's Scam Alert on Facebook quizzes and like farming.

BBB has identified many ways in which scammers are cashing in the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more about vaccine scams, clinical trial scams, contract tracing cons, counterfeit face masks, and government agency imposters.

If you've spotted a scam (whether or not you've lost money), report it to BBB.org/ScamTracker. Your report can help others avoid falling victim to scams. Find more information about scams and how to avoid them at BBB.org/AvoidScams.




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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!

Greater Lowell Community Foundation announces Racial Equity and Inclusion Grants

The Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) announces 10 Racial Equity and Inclusion Grants totaling \$84,500 to local nonprofits as part of the 2020 Discretionary Grants Program. These grants collectively work toward creating a better quality of life for all Greater Lowell residents and supporting local nonprofits providing essential programs and services.

The Foundation awarded multiple grants of up to \$15,000 that focused on racial equity and inclusion. The grant funding focused on one or more of the following goals:

- Increase understanding of our community’s challenges with racial equity and race relations.
- Provide access to stories and diverse perspectives on the lived experience of racial inequity in Greater Lowell.
- Strengthen relationships among Greater Lowell residents, particularly across racial and ethnic groups.
- Increase awareness of resources and best practices related to advancing racial equity.

“GLCF is focusing on racial equity in grantmaking, and through this grant cycle, the foundation funded 10 racial equity and inclusion grant requests,” said GLCF President and CEO Jay Linnehan. “We have made a multi-year commitment to address social justice in Greater Lowell – it is an investment in our community.”

Among the organizations funded was Free Soil Arts Collective, an arts organization based in Lowell, with a mission to amplify and strengthen the voices of artists of color. They received a \$15,000 grant for Hidden in Plain Sight: Stories of Black Lowell, an interview-based documentary theatre piece. “Being Black in Lowell is rarely talked about or lifted in our community discourse,” shared Christa Brown, founder of Free Soil Arts Collective. “This project is needed, particularly now during the world’s renewed focus on racism and racial justice. We look forward to connecting with Black Lowellians far and wide.”

Additionally, Budget Buddies, in Chelmsford, was awarded \$7,500 to support a Virtual Financial Empowerment Program for Women with Latinx Community Center for Empowerment. “The mission of Budget Buddies is to see all women achieve financial empowerment, but the pandemic has shown us how much greater the challenges can be for women of color. Job loss and increased caregiving responsibilities have disproportionately impacted Black and Latinx women in the past year,” said Danielle Piskadlo, Executive Director of Budget Buddies. “We’re grateful that the Greater Lowell Community Foundation has recognized these disparities and is partnering with us in their effort to build a more fair and just community for all.”

Lowell’s Project LEARN, Inc. received a grant of \$10,000 for Elevating Stories, Changing Narratives - A Student-Led Antiracism Program. “The GLCF Racial Equity & Inclusion grant is the momentum we need in efforts to build on our student’s stories to shape a school-



community dialogue around values of inclusion, belonging, and antiracism,” said LZ Nunn, Executive Director of Project LEARN. “Project LEARN is excited to co-create this program with our youth leaders. This grant will allow us to engage over 300 Lowell High School students, educators, and staff in these crucial conversations to promote equity, access and expanding opportunities for students of all backgrounds, cultures, and abilities.”

2020 Discretionary Racial Equity and Inclusion Grants:

- Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell (Lowell): Addressing Racial Inequities as a Trauma-Informed Community - \$10,000
- Budget Buddies, Inc. (Chelmsford): Virtual Financial Empowerment Program for Women with Latinx Community Center for Empowerment - \$7,500
- Building Audacity (Lynn): Say Their Names (in Greater Lowell) - \$10,000
- Cambodian American Literary Arts Association (Lowell): Cambodian American Literary Arts Association Community Dialogue and Workshop Series - \$13,000
- Cultivate Care Farms (Bolton – serves Greater Lowell): Diversity Training and Consultation - \$1,000
- Free Soil Arts Collective (Lowell): Hidden in Plain Sight: Stories of Black Lowell - \$15,000
- Kids in Tech, Inc. (Lowell): Afterschool Tech Club Program - \$10,000
- Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership (Lowell): Project Genesis Home Buyer Training Program - \$7,000
- Project LEARN, Inc. (Lowell): Elevating Stories, Changing Narratives - A Student-Led Antiracism Program - \$10,000
- Tewksbury Public Library (Tewksbury): Public Library Libraries Working Towards Social Justice - \$1,000

Budget Buddies, in Chelmsford, was awarded \$7,500 a 2020 Discretionary Racial Equity and Inclusion Grant to support a Virtual Financial Empowerment Program for Women with Latinx Community Center for Empowerment.

Through the 2020 Discretionary Grants Program, GLCF awarded a total of \$152,500 in competitive grants to 30 local nonprofits within the categories of Racial Equity and Inclusion, Children’s Services, Elder Services, and Water Resources initiatives as part of its 2020 Discretionary Grants Program. These grant awards are part of a competitive grant process in which nonprofit organizations apply for funds, and an independent committee reviews the proposals and selects awardees. The Discretionary Grants Program is one of several competitive grant programs offered through the Community Foundation each year.

For more information on the Greater Lowell Community Foundation, visit www.glcfoundation.org.

About Greater Lowell Community Foundation

The Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF), founded in 1997, is a philanthropic organization comprised of over 350 funds, currently totaling over \$50MM, dedicated to improving the quality of life in 20 neighboring cities and towns. The Community Foundation annually awards grants and scholarships to hundreds of worthy nonprofits and students. GLCF is powered by the winning combination of donor-directed giving, personal attention from its staff, and an in-depth understanding of local needs. Our donors’ generosity has enabled GLCF to award more than \$25 million to the Greater Lowell community.

www.rumbonews.com



Merrimack Valley Central Labor Council

The United Way in Massachusetts has a proud history of supporting working people during times of need. During the public health crisis surrounding COVID-19, the United Way is committed to providing help to those in need of food assistance as well as information around economic support during this uncertain time.

UPCOMING FOOD DRIVE:

Haverhill Food Drive
February 27, 2021
9:00AM TO 1:00PM
4 Summer Street
Haverhill, MA 01830

If you would like more information about assistance or if you are able to contribute to this worthy cause please visit <https://unitedwaymassbay.org/covid-19/local-funds/haverhill/> or call Tom Raiche at 781-608-6443.






UN PUNTO DE VISTA © 1996

Por Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, CCP

El Dr. Montesino, totalmente responsable por este artículo, es el Editor de LatinoWorldOnline.com

Yo también camino en chancletas

El año fue 1961; los meses posteriores a abril de ese año. La Revolución Cubana había sobrevivido la invasión mal concebida y mal ejecutada de Bahía de Cochinos, aquellos de nosotros que habíamos perdido cualquier esperanza de que la naturaleza socialista auto declarada del gobierno cubano pudiera ser desalojada, corrimos hacia las colinas, las colinas de Miami, quiero decir. Si el viejo dicho de que "debe haber oro en esas colinas" tenía algo de cierto, la prueba estaba en el "budín," o el flan en nuestro caso.

La demanda de visas a los Estados Unidos y dólares para pagar los billetes de avión se fue por las nubes, mientras que la oferta disminuyó. Los visados eran imposibles de obtener porque las relaciones diplomáticas entre Washington y La Habana se rompieron el 3 de enero de 1961. La única manera para que un ciudadano cubano obtuviera una visa estadounidense era viajar de Cuba a un país con consulados de Estados Unidos y pasar semanas frustrantes, a veces meses, para obtener permiso de emigrar a la tierra de Lincoln. Un amigo mío en La Habana, ahora fallecido, convenció a un pariente en Panamá para que me consiguiera una visa panameña para viajar allí antes de entrar a los Estados Unidos, pero nunca usé esa opción.

Algunos cubanos impacientes que no podían esperar se volvieron creativamente atrevidos, arriesgando sus vidas y las de otros secuestrando aviones de pasajeros en vuelos nacionales, robando aviones agrícolas de un solo motor y barcos de pesca que les permitían cubrir las noventa millas de distancia de Cuba a los Cayos de Florida sin demoras. Esa situación, por

supuesto, era insostenible. Los Estados Unidos no podían depender de un sistema de inmigración indefinido, poco fiable, incontrolable e inverificable de éxodo familiar y reunificación de cubanos desde Cuba, particularmente en el estado de Florida. Una medida de control tuvo que ser ideada y ejercida por Washington.

Había dos razones que se fusionaban por las que no era difícil encontrar un método viable para ayudar a los cubanos que querían salir de la isla sin saltar países o pusiera vidas en peligro. La razón más importante fue el pensamiento positivo en la mente de los ciudadanos y políticos de los Estados Unidos en ese momento de que los cubanos necesitábamos ayuda y teníamos que conseguirla pronto.

El otro era resucitar una herramienta ya disponible en los libros de inmigración de Estados Unidos que estaba acumulando polvo y que había sido creada durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial con el fin de ayudar a los judíos que querían venir a los Estados Unidos pero no podían encontrar un puesto diplomático estadounidense capaz de hacerlo: la exención de visa.

Obtener una exención de visa es una propuesta difícil, pero no imposible. Las visas tradicionales normalmente se sellan o pegan en un pasaporte en el consulado de un país emisor, en este caso los Estados Unidos, lo que permite al titular del pasaporte viajar y solicitar la admisión en cualquier puerto de entrada de los Estados Unidos. La condición, sin embargo, es que el visado y el pasaporte viajen juntos. La exención de visado, como su nombre indica, renuncia a ese requisito. Una vez que su titular llega, la Oficina de Aduanas

y Protección Fronteriza del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional inspecciona las calificaciones de los recién llegados para su aceptación sin la revisión previa de la oficina de un cónsul y luego introduce una nota de exención de visa en el pasaporte de ese recién llegado.

Por lo general, una organización de socorro o refugiado o un pariente del titular de la exención de visa ya en los Estados Unidos son los garantes de las razones del nuevo inmigrante para dicho tratamiento especial. Los recipientes de exención de visado están obligados a regresar a su país de origen tan pronto como cesen las condiciones que los obligaron a obtenerlos en primer lugar o podrían ser deportados. Con el fin de evitar esta posibilidad, los titulares de exenciones de visa solicitan visas permanentes en los EE.UU., la llamada tarjeta verde, tan pronto como es práctico y comienzan el camino hacia la plena ciudadanía. Yo fui uno de esos.

La exención de visas era, por supuesto, una herramienta compleja. Los visados son necesarios para entrar en un país, no para dejarlo. Aquellos que lo usaron para salir de Cuba viajando a los Estados Unidos realmente le decían a nuestro gobierno que no volveríamos a menos que la dictadura terminara. Esa no era una posición poco clara y peligrosa para tomar en contra de los comunistas. Aquellos que tenían una visa estadounidense real podrían falsificar un plan para regresar a Cuba en unos meses, pero no los beneficiarios de la exención de visa. Eran "gonzos" y otros cubanos lo sabían cómo lo demostraban los asientos vacíos de los vuelos con destino a Cuba. Los que iban a los EE.UU. estaban llenos a

la cima, los pasajeros o incluso las azafatas viajando a menudo durante los cortos vuelos en los baños. Esperar documentos de vuelo y boletos en las oficinas de las aerolíneas en La Habana significaba enfrentar paredes cubiertas por propaganda gubernamental insultando a los viajeros por su falta de patriotismo. Fue un precio más a pagar por nuestra disposición a salir y ser libre.

Imagen nublada de inmigración de los Estados Unidos, alrededor del siglo XXI.

Era obvio que la exención de visa como herramienta de inmigración cubana en los Estados Unidos eventualmente terminaría. El crecimiento de la población cubana por nacimiento de los años recientes fue producto de la nueva sociedad socialista y no tuvo ni la idea ni la necesidad de salir de un país que no podían comparar con nada más. Además, la llamada "vieja guardia" se estaba haciendo mayor, cansada o muerta. Ir al exilio había perdido su "mojo".

No para el resto de los ciudadanos centroamericanos o sudamericanos. Al sur de la frontera había miles de hombres y mujeres que no sabían nada del comunismo o las exenciones de visas, pero eran expertos en hambre, abuso, negligencia y persecución, todos ingredientes para tentarlos a moverse hacia el norte y tratar de convertirse en estadounidenses. Hubo al menos dos problemas con esa idea. Estados Unidos no estaba pensando positivamente en ellos de la manera en la que habían pensado sobre los cubanos, ni siquiera nosotros los propios cubanos. El gobierno de los Estados Unidos también se había convertido en un juez austero que necesitaba incidentes reales y justificados de discriminación que los solicitantes, con frecuencia, no podían proporcionar o documentar con éxito.

Hubo otro problema más grande: la mayoría de los inmigrantes, ya sean del siglo pasado o del presente, no miramos más allá de los problemas de nuestra clase cultural. Los irlandeses, los italianos, los judíos, lo que sea, nos limitamos a nuestra ascendencia nacional. Nos identificamos con nuestros problemas, nuestras fortalezas, no nuestra relación con todos los grupos que han migrado a lo largo de la historia; nuestras diferencias, no nuestro punto en común, ¿por qué no? Pero en realidad somos descendientes del gran árbol de la humanidad, no de un fruto en particular. Cuando veo los pies enchancletados de las multitudes de mujeres, hombres y niños caminando hacia la libertad de nuestra frontera que ansian, me pregunto: ¿habría hecho yo lo mismo para salir de Cuba cuando lo hice usando una exención de visa? ¿Habría caminado en chancletas millas y millas, nadado galones y galones sobre el agua del océano para llegar a la Tierra Prometida?

La próxima vez que me vea no me mire a los pies. Si lo hace accidentalmente, ignore la calidad del cuero fino de mis zapatos. No me juzgue por usarlos. En realidad son un disfraz para las chancletas sobre las que estoy caminando, porque yo, también, camino sobre chancletas con ellos.

Y ese es mi Punto de Vista hoy.

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A POINT OF VIEW © 1996

By Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, CCP

I too walk on flip-flops

The year was 1961; the months after April of that year. The Cuban Revolution had survived the ill-conceived and ill-executed Bay of Pigs invasion and those of us who had lost any hopes that the recently self-declared Socialist nature of the Cuban Government could be dislodged ran for the hills, Miami's hills that is. If the old saying that "there must be gold in them there hills" had any truth to it, the proof was in the pudding, or the flan in our case.

Demand for visas to the United States and dollars to pay for airline tickets skyrocketed, while supply dwindled. Visas were impossible to obtain because diplomatic relations between Washington and Havana broke up on January 3, 1961. The only way for a Cuban citizen to obtain an American visa was to travel from Cuba to a country with United States consulates and spend frustrating weeks, sometimes months, to obtain permission to enter the land of Lincoln. A friend of mine in Havana, now deceased, persuaded one relative in Panamá to get me a Panamanian visa to travel there before entering the United States, but I never used that option.

Some impatient Cubans who couldn't wait became creatively daring, risking their lives and others' hijacking passenger planes on domestic flights, stealing single engine agricultural aircraft and fishing motor or sailboats that allowed them to cover the ninety mile distance from Cuba to the Florida Keys without delay. That situation, of course, was untenable. The United States could not depend on an indefinite, unreliable, uncontrollable and unverifiable immigration system of family exodus and reunification of Cubans from Cuba, particularly in the state of Florida. Some measure of control had to be devised and exercised by Washington.

There were two coalescing reasons why it wasn't hard to find a viable method to help Cubans who wanted to leave the island without country hopping or endangering lives. The most important reason was the positive thinking in the minds of United States citizens and politicians at the time that Cubans needed help and had to get it soon. The other one

was to resuscitate a tool already available in the US immigration books that was gathering dust and had been created during the Second World War in order to help Jews who wanted to come to the US but were unable to find a diplomatic American outpost able to do so: the visa waiver.

Obtaining a visa waiver is a difficult proposition, but not impossible. Traditional visas are normally stamped or glued into a passport at an issuing country's consulate, in this case the United States, allowing the passport holder to travel and request admission at any U.S port of entry. The condition, however, is that the visa and the passport travel together. The visa waiver, as its name implies, waives that requirement. Once its holder arrives, the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection inspects the newcomers' qualifications for acceptance without the previous review of a consul's office and then enters a visa waiver note in the newcomer's passport.

Usually a relief or refugee organization or a relative of the visa waiver holder already in the United States are the guarantors of the new immigrant's reasons for such special treatment. Typically, visa waiver holders are required to return to their country of origin as soon as the conditions that forced them to get them in the first place cease or they could be deported. In order to avoid that possibility, visa waivers holders apply for permanent visas in the USA, the so-called green card, as soon as practical and start the road to full citizenship. I was one of those.

The visa waver was, of course, a complex tool. Visas are required for entering a country, not for leaving it. Those who used it to leave Cuba traveling to the US were really telling our government that we weren't coming back unless the dictatorship ended. That was no minor clear and dangerous position to take against the communists. Those who had a real American visa could fake a plan to return to Cuba in a few months, but not the visa waiver beneficiaries. They were "gonzos" and other Cubans knew it as evidenced by the empty seats of Cuba bound flights.

The ones to the US were full to the top, passengers or even flight attendants traveling often for the short hops in the restrooms. Waiting for flight documents and tickets at the airlines offices in Havana meant facing walls covered by government propaganda insulting the travelers for lack of patriotism. It was one more price to pay for our willingness to leave and be free.

United States Immigration clouded picture, circa 21st century.

It was obvious that the visa waiver as a Cuban immigration tool in the United States would eventually end. The Cuban population growth by birth of the recent years was a product of the new socialist society and had neither the idea nor the need to leave a country they couldn't compare with anything else. In addition, the so-called "old guard" was getting older, tired or dead. Going into exile had lost its "mojo."

Not for the rest of Central or South American nationals. South of the Border there were thousands of men and women who knew nothing of communism or visa waivers, but were experts in hunger, abuse, neglect and persecution, all ingredients to tempt them to move north and try to become Americans. There were at least two problems with that idea. The United States was not thinking positively about them the way they had thought about the Cubans, not even Cubans ourselves. The

United States government had also become an austere judge who needed real and substantiated incidents of discrimination that the applicants couldn't always provide or document successfully.

There was another bigger problem: most immigrants, whether today or last century's, don't look beyond our own cultural kind. The Irish, the Italians, the Jews, the whatever, look narrowly at our national ancestry. We identify with our problems, our strengths, not our relationship with all the groups that have migrated throughout history, our differences, not our commonality, why shouldn't we? But we are really descendants of the big tree of humanity, not from one particular fruit. When I see the flipped-flopped feet of the crowds of women, men and children walking towards the freedom of our border they want I ask myself: would I have done the same to leave Cuba when I did it using a visa waiver? Would I have walked miles and miles in flip-flops or swam gallons and gallons over ocean water to reach the Promised Land?

That made me think: The next time you see me don't look at my feet. If you happen to do so accidentally, ignore the quality of the fine leather of my shoes. Don't judge me for wearing them. They are actually a disguise for the flip flops I am walking on, because I too walk on flip flops with them.

Lunch with the MVCC at Orzo Trattoria



Thank you to everyone who attended the MVCC lunch at Orzo Trattoria today. Social distancing and COVID-19 precautions were in place and members had a great time.

Thank you to Orzo for hosting us and to our series sponsor A.P. Michaud Insurance Agency, Inc!

Orzo Owner Michael Reppucci (left) and Tricia Sabulis of A.P. Michaud (right)

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BY DALIA DÍAZ
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LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



Another City Council trick

The Lawrence City Council will be discussing at their next meeting on February 16, some changes to the City Charter. This is the constitution, the Bible, the rules that we should be going by, and that none of the councilors ever reads or knows its content.

Among the changes proposed this time, are the term of office for city councilors (district and at-Large) which took me by surprise because I had no idea that anyone was working on changes.

They are confident that the dirty trick imposed on the residents by canceling the special election through a Home Rule Petition went well for them and are venturing on something bigger. I don't even think the judge read my material because she didn't answer accordingly.

Thanks to my attorney friends here and in other cities who educate me, I can bring the results of my findings. I hope the councilors learn as well.

The proposed amendment to the term of office of the At-large Councilors is an amendment reserved only to an elected Charter Commission in accord with G.L. c. 43B, secs. 6 and 10. The term of office of the City legislative body is required to be advanced by a Charter Commission and not by Home Rule Petition – and if adopted by the City Council and Mayor it is subject to the approval of the Attorney General and the Department of Housing and Development.

We need to form a Charter Commission consisting of 9 members elected by the voters unless there's a statute that allows them to do it; I have not been able to find if there's one but I will. Changes to the City Charter of Lawrence should follow the state laws and Constitution – even during a pandemic.

Right now, the city has a subcommittee called the Charter Review Committee which is not the same. The Charter is clear about this; you cannot delegate statutory duties to a council subcommittee when the statute specifically authorizes the way a City Charter is amended.

Part of this imposition will be that district councilors are limited to serve two terms of two years each for a total of four years. At-Large will be limited to serve

two terms also but of four years each for a total of eight years. One of the clauses in the Charter says that only elected officials serving four-year terms are subject to recall which now they are not.

Sometimes I think that councilors are not much more than paper-pushers. Take a look at the number of ordinances they issue each year that are soon forgotten. I believe they create them in case they are needed someday to throw the book at someone when desired, not to make Lawrence better.

The same will happen with these changes. Overall, the amendments place more responsibilities on an already overburdened Election Department, mostly by extending recalls to the new four-year Councilor at-Large offices; expanding recalls will generate more recalls. That alone will crush the election duties especially with the added duties of a permanent vote by mail requirements soon to be approved by the State. Do you see where I'm going?

The City Council has no idea the effect this measure will have on that department. Hopefully, the proponents of the amendments have a plan in place to administer the extensive requirements seemingly "dumped" on elections staff without any such consideration.

Unless an Election Commission with sufficient staff is put into place, there will likely be a further exodus from election personnel. For many years the City Clerk Bill Maloney had been crying out for the need for additional staff in those two offices and no one listened until he had enough and retired. Now, there's real turmoil created by the wisdom of those inept politicians who can't see beyond the papers in front of them.

During the last elections, I remember talking to him about the convenience of mailing voting and he explained the pressure and expense it placed on his office and staff. Nobody cares!

But I digressed.

The proposed amendment to the term of office of the At-Large Council Members does not follow G.L. c. 43B, sec. 10 of the State Constitution.

If they care about the community they are supposed to serve, ask them to meet in the Council Chamber, in person, where we can see them during public participation and on television instead of the hideous system under which they are hiding.

The attack on the Capitol Building

After the recent attack at the Capitol, we heard many times how horrible it was and this is the worst thing ever to happen there. Well, you know me. I set out to find out if that was the case and I discovered that the Capitol building has had a violent history. Here are some examples but you can do a search online on National Geographic and get lots more.

1814: British forces burn the U.S. Capitol

The U.S. Capitol was still under construction when it was torched by British troops who had invaded Washington, D.C. in one of the most famous skirmishes of the War of 1812.

1835: Attempt to assassinate President Andrew Jackson

On January 30, 1835, a thirtysomething British immigrant named Richard Lawrence attempted to assassinate President Andrew Jackson while he was leaving a congressional funeral at the U.S. Capitol.

1856: Savage beating of Senator Charles Sumner

One of the most violent incidents at the U.S. Capitol came at the hands of one of its own legislators.

1915: Fourth of July bombing of Senate Reception Room

As the nation headed into the Fourth of July weekend in 1915, a former Harvard University professor named Erich Mueunter exploded three sticks of dynamite in the Senate Reception Room.

1954: Puerto Rican nationalist attack

In 1954, long before the Capitol had higher security, including metal detectors, four Puerto Rican nationalists entered the House gallery, took out guns, and began firing indiscriminately.

1971: Weather Underground bombing

The violent antiwar Weather Underground planted a bomb in a bathroom on the Senate side of the Capitol. The explosion in the early hours of March 1, 1971 caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage, but no casualties.

1983: Bomb goes off on the Senate side

There were no casualties either when a bomb hidden under a bench outside the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RUMBO

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



Remember on November 7, 1983 that the May 19th Communist Organization detonated a bomb in the senate in an attempt to kill Republicans? Susan Rosenberg was arrested for this. She was pardoned by Clinton. She is now an administrator for Black Lives Matters and now does fundraising and administrative work for BLM. I guess Bombing the US Capital to kill Republicans is different. I have heard new Reports all weekend long about how Last Wednesday's riot was the worst day in American History... What should we call Bombing the US Capital... Chopped Liver?

Senate Chamber exploded, blowing the hinges off the door to the office of Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia.

1998: Gunman shoots two Capitol Police officers

An armed assailant stormed past a U.S. Capitol security checkpoint, killing Capitol Police officer Jacob J. Chestnut, Jr. and making his way toward the offices of the House Majority Whip, Tom DeLay.

2001: Another 9/11 target

After the World Trade Center collapsed and the Pentagon were in flames from coordinated suicide hijackings, a fourth hijacked airliner was headed toward the U.S. Capitol on the morning of the September 11th al Qaeda terrorist attacks on America.

2013: Woman breaches checkpoint, then is shot and killed

In October 2013, a woman was fatally shot by law enforcement on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol after attempting to breach a White House checkpoint and leading police on a 12-block chase through the city.

2016: Shooting at U.S. Capitol Visitor Center

In March 2016, a man pointed a BB gun at police officers as he attempted to enter the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center.

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

– Voltaire

AZQUOTES

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

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

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

<http://heallawrence.org/>

heallawrence@aol.com

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

Eversource insta a los clientes a permanecer vigilantes después del aumento de informes de estafas, brinda consejos para mantenerse seguros

Robocalls y correos electrónicos entre los métodos que utilizan los estafadores

La estafa clásica de servicios públicos generalmente involucra a una persona que llama que amenaza con desconectar el servicio de electricidad o gas de un cliente debido a una factura sin pagar y exige el pago inmediato, y Eversource está emitiendo una advertencia sobre una nueva técnica que los estafadores están empleando para robar dinero de los clientes.

Algunos de los clientes de la compañía de energía han informado haber recibido una llamada de alguien que afirma ser de Eversource y que usa el nombre de un empleado real que ofrece un descuento en su factura de electricidad. Otros han informado haber recibido un correo electrónico que contiene el logotipo de Eversource. Estas son nuevas tácticas engañosas que los estafadores están utilizando para robar el dinero y la información personal confidencial de alguien.

"Los estafadores cambian constantemente sus tácticas para aprovecharse de los clientes desprevenidos, y es por eso que siempre estamos trabajando para crear conciencia", dijo Penni Conner, vicepresidente sénior y director de atención al cliente de Eversource. "Si recibe un correo electrónico, una llamada telefónica o una visita en la puerta de su casa y presiente que algo no está bien, no se asuste y no pague. Nunca amenazaremos con desconectar su servicio o exigir un pago instantáneo".

Durante la pandemia de COVID-19, los estafadores han aumentado sus llamadas, mensajes de texto, correos electrónicos y visitas en persona para convencer a las personas de que realicen pagos para evitar la desconexión del servicio. Los estafadores son oportunistas, a menudo apuntando a los más vulnerables, incluidos los ancianos y las comunidades de bajos ingresos. También crean pánico en los dueños de negocios e incluso en los principales fabricantes, amenazando con interrumpir sus horas de operación más

críticas.

"Hemos visto estas estafas, y muchas variaciones de ellas, con residentes que reportan llamadas telefónicas que han recibido y, desafortunadamente, han dado información personal y han realizado pagos a través de transferencias y tarjetas de débito prepagadas", dijo la policía de Ludlow. Jefe Daniel Valadas. "Una vez que se paga el dinero, es casi imposible recuperarlo. A veces, las víctimas de estafas se sienten demasiado avergonzadas de haber sido engañadas con su dinero para siquiera denunciarlo. La mejor línea de defensa es proteger la información personal estando atento; en caso de duda, ¡cuélgue y llámenos!"

La compañía de energía ofrece los siguientes consejos para ayudar a evitar convertirse en una víctima:

- Los representantes de Eversource nunca exigen un pago instantáneo por teléfono, requieren el uso de tarjetas de débito prepagas o solicitan que los clientes se reúnan en un centro de pago para realizar el pago.
- Nunca proporcione información personal financiera o de cuenta a ninguna persona no solicitada por teléfono, en la puerta o en línea, incluso si parece legítima.
- Tenga cuidado: algunos estafadores sofisticados pueden manipular su identificador de llamadas para decir que la persona que llama está con Eversource.
- Los clientes que están programados para desconectarse debido a falta de pago reciben un aviso por escrito que incluye información sobre cómo mantener su servicio.
- Los clientes pueden verificar que están hablando con un representante de

Eversource solicitando información básica sobre su cuenta, como el nombre de la cuenta, la dirección de la cuenta y el saldo adeudado exacto.

Eversource insta a cualquier persona que crea que es objeto de solicitudes indebidas a que se comunique de inmediato con la policía local. También se recomienda a los clientes que se comuniquen con la compañía de energía al 800-592-2000 si reciben una llamada, un correo electrónico

o si alguien se presenta en su puerta para verificar que es Eversource. Para obtener más información sobre cómo proteger la información personal y evitar ser víctima de estafas de servicios públicos, visite Eversource.com y los sitios web de Utilities United Against Scams. La compañía de energía también alienta a los clientes a llamar al 800-592-2000 si reciben una llamada, un correo electrónico o si alguien se presenta en su puerta para verificar si es Eversource.

Eversource Urges Customers to Remain Vigilant After Increased Reports of Scams, Provides Tips to Stay Safe

Robocalls and emails among methods scammers are now using

The classic utility scam typically involves a caller threatening to disconnect a customer's electric or gas service because of an unpaid bill and demanding immediate payment, and Eversource is issuing a warning about a new technique scammers are employing to steal customers' money.

Some of the energy company's customers have reported receiving a call from someone claiming to be from Eversource and using a real employee's name offering a discount on their electric bill. Others have reported receiving an email that contains the Eversource logo. These are new deceptive tactics scammers are using to steal someone's money and sensitive personal information.

"Scammers are constantly changing their tactics to take advantage of unsuspecting customers, and that's why we're always working to raise awareness," said Eversource Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Officer Penni Conner. "If you receive an email, phone call or visit at your front door and it doesn't feel right, don't panic and don't pay. We will never threaten to disconnect your service or demand instant payment."

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, scammers have increased their calls, texts, emails, and in-person visits to convince people to make payments to avoid service disconnection. Scammers are opportunists – often targeting the most vulnerable, including senior citizens and low-income communities. They also create panic for business owners and even major manufacturers, threatening to disrupt their most critical hours of operation.

"We've seen these scams, and many variations of it, with residents reporting phone calls they've received and, unfortunately, they've given out personal information and made payments through transfers and pre-paid debit cards," said Ludlow Police Chief Daniel Valadas. "Once the money is paid it's almost impossible to get back. Sometimes scam victims are too embarrassed at being tricked out of their money to even report it. The best line of defense is to protect personal information

by being vigilant—when in doubt hang up and call us!"

The energy company offers the following tips to help avoid becoming a victim:

- Eversource representatives never demand instant payment over the phone, require the use of pre-paid debit cards or request customers meet at a payment center to make the payment.
- Never provide personal financial or account information to any unsolicited person on the phone, at the door or online, even if they seem legitimate.
- Beware – some sophisticated scammers can manipulate their caller ID to say the caller is with Eversource.
- Customers who are scheduled for disconnection due to nonpayment receive a written notice that includes information on how to maintain their service.
- Customers can verify they are speaking with an Eversource representative by asking for some basic information about their account like the name on the account, the account address, and the exact past due balance.

Eversource urges anyone who believes they are a target of improper solicitation to immediately contact local law enforcement. Customers are also encouraged to contact the energy company at 800-592-2000 if they receive a call, email or if someone shows up at your door to verify it's Eversource. For more information on how to protect personal information and avoid becoming a victim of utility scams, visit Eversource.com and the Utilities United Against Scams websites. The energy company also encourages customers to call 800-592-2000 if they receive a call, email or if someone shows up at your door to verify if it's Eversource.

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