



## Alcalde nombra a Robert M. O'Brien como Jefe de Bomberos Lithuanian Independence Day February 16, 2021



El Alcalde James J. Fiorentini anunció que nombrará al subjefe de bomberos Robert M. O'Brien como nuevo jefe de bomberos de la ciudad. El Diputado O'Brien prestará juramento en una ceremonia en la estación de bomberos de Water Street el lunes, 22 de febrero a la 1:30 p.m.

Pg. 6

### Mayor Appoints Deputy Chief Robert M. O'Brien as New Fire Chief

Mayor James J. Fiorentini today announced that he is appointing Deputy Fire Chief Robert M. O'Brien as the city's new Fire Chief. Deputy O'Brien will be sworn in in a ceremony at the Water Street Fire Station on Monday, February 22 at 1:30 PM.

Pg. 6

### Promulgan ley de notificación de alcantarillado de MA (CSO) Massachusetts Sewage (CSO) Notification Bill Signed into Law

Pg. 10

### Bridges® Memory Care Residents celebrate Mardi Gras!



Residents at Bridges® by EPOCH at Andover, a memory care assisted living community located at 254 Lowell Street (Rt. 133), recently celebrated Mardi Gras in style!

Pg. 5

### Celebrando Mardi Gras en Bridges Memory Care

Los residentes de Bridges® by EPOCH en Andover, una comunidad de vida asistida para el cuidado de la memoria ubicada en 254 Lowell Street (Rt. 133), ¡recientemente celebraron el Mardi Gras con estilo!

Pg. 5



By Jonas A. Stundzia

Due to the Corona epidemic, the annual celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day (1918 - 2021) was conducted in the appropriate fashion and was in accordance with the Commonwealth's regulations.

A small number of delegates of the Lawrence Chapter of the American Lithuanian Council Inc (Taryba) met to commemorate the anniversary in an open space in downtown Lawrence.

Everyone was properly masked and kept safe distances from each other. The chapter President Jonas A. Stundzia of Lawrence, proclaimed the gathering the official observance with the singing of the National Anthems.

A solemn pray was said for Lithuania and its children, especially those hundreds of thousand deported and killed in Siberia

by the communists in their crazed socialist campaign of globalization and world dominance.

A pray to the Virgin Mary was said for America in its struggle against the leftists and their attempts to undermine our society.

The small flag being held in the photograph is a relic from the massacre of January 13th 1991 in Vilnius, Lithuania. On that date, the communist "Black Barrette" attacked the peaceful crowds with their tanks, killing 14 and seriously injuring 300 men women and children with total disregard of their human dignity.

The event closed with the wish that we will be able to celebrate in a normal fashion next year. This statement was welcomed by cheers from the participants.

### USCIS Vuelve a la Versión del 2008 del Examen de Educación Cívica para Naturalización

### USCIS Reverts to the 2008 Version of the Naturalization Civics Test

Pg. 11

GLFHC - ¿Cuándo puedo recibir la vacuna de COVID-19? - Pg. 8

GLFHC - When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine? - Pg. 9



## Renaissance Medical Group trabaja para eliminar las barreras a la vacunación en la comunidad latina

El lunes 22 de febrero, Renaissance Medical Group (RMG) comenzará a ofrecer asistencia individualizada para el registro de vacunas a pacientes de RMG y miembros de atención médica diurna para adultos en el RMG Center for Health and Wellness - Southbridge. La comunidad latina y los hispanohablantes trabajarán directamente con los pacientes y miembros para explicar los beneficios de la vacunación, identificar la disponibilidad de citas de vacunación y completar los registros de citas. Como el único grupo médico operado y de propiedad de latinos en Central MA, RMG está en una posición única para ayudar a una comunidad que ha tenido una de las tasas de infección más altas, pero las tasas de vacunación más bajas.

Los datos recientes de la Kaiser Family Foundation destacan la proporción en gran medida desproporcionada de latinos elegibles que se registran y reciben vacunas COVID-19, y los blancos no hispanos representan el 81% de las vacunas administradas en MA, en comparación con solo el 5% de los hispanos. Los Centros para el Control de Enfermedades atribuyen esta brecha a las barreras del idioma y la tecnología, así como a la accesibilidad a instalaciones médicas y lugares de vacunación.

Durante el fin de semana, los legisladores estatales de Massachusetts, incluida la Senadora Elizabeth Warren,

la Congresista Ayanna Pressley y la Representante Estatal Nika Elugardo, se unieron a una mesa redonda organizada por el Senador Ed Markey para discutir la importancia de mejorar el acceso y la distribución de la vacuna a las comunidades de color y marginadas. En respuesta a ese diálogo, Jesús Suárez, director ejecutivo de RMG, dice: "Agradecemos el liderazgo del Senador Markey y la atención que está brindando a la carga que nuestras comunidades han llevado a lo largo de esta pandemia. Hemos visto esa carga de primera mano y RMG está lista y puede tener un impacto significativo".

Para obtener más información sobre el programa de registro de vacunación de RMG, o para programar una visita al Centro de Salud y Bienestar de RMG, comuníquese con la Vicepresidenta de RMG, Beatriz Contes en [bcontes@renaissancemedgroup.com](mailto:bcontes@renaissancemedgroup.com) o 774-420-2311, ext. 102.

Renaissance Medical Group es una compañía de atención médica de 360° que ofrece una amplia gama de programas y servicios de bienestar que incluyen atención primaria, salud conductual, farmacia, atención médica diurna para adultos, servicios dentales y a domicilio. Nuestros cuidadores bilingües se preocupan por las comunidades de habla inglesa y española en ubicaciones en Lawrence, Springfield, Southbridge y Worcester.

## Renaissance Medical Group working to eliminate the barriers to vaccination in the Latino community

On Monday, February 22, Renaissance Medical Group (RMG) will begin offering one-on-one vaccine registration assistance to RMG patients and adult day health care members at the RMG Center for Health and Wellness - Southbridge. Latino community and Spanish speakers will work directly with patients and members to explain the benefits of vaccination, identify vaccination appointment availability and complete appointment registrations. As the only Latino owned and operated medical group in Central MA, RMG is uniquely poised to help a community that has seen one of the highest infection rates, yet lowest vaccinations rates.

Recent data from the Kaiser Family Foundation highlights the largely disproportionate share of eligible Latinos registering and receiving COVID-19 vaccines, with non-Hispanic whites accounting for 81% of vaccines administered in MA, compared to only 5% of Hispanics. The Centers for Disease Control attributes this gap to language and technology barriers, as well as accessibility to medical facilities and vaccination sites.

Over the weekend, MA state legislators including Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, State

Rep. Nika Elugardo joined a roundtable hosted by Sen. Ed Markey to discuss the importance of improving access and distribution of the vaccine to underserved and communities of color. In response to that dialogue, Jesus Suarez, CEO of RMG, says "We appreciate Sen. Markey's leadership and the attention that he is bringing to the burden our communities have carried throughout this pandemic. We have seen that burden firsthand and RMG is ready and able to make a significant impact."

For more information about RMG's vaccination registration program, or to schedule a visit to the RMG Center for Health and Wellness, please contact RMG Vice President, Beatriz Contes at [bcontes@renaissancemedgroup.com](mailto:bcontes@renaissancemedgroup.com) or 774-420-2311, ext. 102.

Renaissance Medical Group is a 360° health care company providing a wide-range of wellness programs and services including primary care, behavioral health, pharmacy, adult day health care, dental and in-home services. Our bi-lingual caregivers care for English and Spanish-speaking communities at locations in Lawrence, Springfield, Southbridge and Worcester.

## DiZoglio pide una auditoría estatal sobre la distribución de vacunas en Massachusetts

La Senadora Estatal Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) continúa pidiendo al Gobernador Charlie Baker (R-Swampscott) que aborde las preocupaciones y responda preguntas sobre el lanzamiento de la vacuna COVID-19 en Massachusetts. En caso de que la Administración del Gobernador no cumpla, DiZoglio ha solicitado a la Auditora Estatal Suzanne M. Bump que realice una auditoría para obtener respuestas.

En una carta a Bump fechada el 18 de febrero, DiZoglio señala las preocupaciones que ha escuchado de los residentes sobre la transparencia y la responsabilidad en el proceso de implementación de la vacuna. Entre las áreas en las que DiZoglio está buscando respuestas se encuentra la selección de proveedores que la Administración del Gobernador ha encargado de distribuir la vacuna.

Según DiZoglio, cuando su oficina preguntó al Departamento de Salud Pública del estado si había un proceso de Solicitud de Propuesta (RFP) involucrado, su respuesta fue "dado que la distribución de vacunas es un proceso federal, no tenemos ningún papel en eso".

"Mi pregunta no era sobre la asignación al estado", dijo DiZoglio. "Se trataba de una asignación dentro del estado. Todavía necesitamos respuestas del gobernador.

Todos los proveedores parecen ser empresas privadas. El público merece conocer el fundamento de la Administración para seleccionar a estos proveedores y cuánto dinero de los contribuyentes se destina a estas empresas. Esto también se aplica a los lugares y farmacias con los que trabaja la Administración: ¿cuál es su razón de ser para seleccionar ciertos sitios sobre otros y cuántos fondos están recibiendo? Además, ¿se está implementando un componente de diversidad de proveedores?"

El esfuerzo de DiZoglio llega antes de la primera audiencia de supervisión de este jueves del Comité Conjunto de la Legislatura sobre COVID-19 y Preparación y Manejo de Emergencias.

"Estoy tremendamente agradecida por la formación del Comité Conjunto sobre COVID-19 y Preparación y Manejo de Emergencias y el compromiso de su liderazgo capaz de sondear los planes de la Administración a través de audiencias de supervisión, y creo que la oficina del Auditor, con los muchos recursos que tiene, es la única calificada para presionar y ayudarnos a obtener estas respuestas en particular más rápidamente, trabajando junto con los esfuerzos de la Legislatura para brindar una supervisión continua y muy necesaria", dijo DiZoglio.

## DiZoglio Calls for State Audit into Massachusetts Vaccine Distribution

State Senator Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) is continuing to call on Governor Charlie Baker (R-Swampscott) to address concerns and answer questions around Massachusetts' rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine. Should the Governor's Administration not comply, DiZoglio has requested State Auditor Suzanne M. Bump conduct an audit to obtain answers.

In a letter to Bump dated February 18, DiZoglio notes the concerns she has heard from residents around transparency and accountability in the vaccine rollout process. Among the areas DiZoglio is seeking answers on is the selection of vendors the Governor's Administration has tasked with distributing the vaccine.

According to DiZoglio, when her office inquired the state Department of Public Health whether there was a Request for Proposal (RFP) process involved, their response was "since vaccination distribution is a federal process, we do not have a role in that."

"My question wasn't about allocation to the state," said DiZoglio. "It was about allocation within the state. We still need answers from the Governor. All of the vendors appear to be private companies. The

public deserves to know the Administration's rationale for selecting these vendors and how much taxpayer money is going to these companies. This applies to the venues and pharmacies the Administration is working alongside as well – what is their rationale for selecting certain sites over others and how much funding are they receiving? Moreover, is there a supplier diversity component being implemented?"

DiZoglio's effort comes in advance of this Thursday's first oversight hearing of the Legislature's Joint Committee on COVID-19 and Emergency Preparedness and Management.

"I am tremendously grateful for the formation of the Joint Committee on COVID-19 and Emergency Preparedness and Management and its capable leadership's commitment to probing the Administration's plans through oversight hearings, and believe the Auditor's office, with the many resources it has, is uniquely qualified to push for and help us obtain these particular answers more swiftly, working alongside the Legislature's efforts to provide much needed, continued oversight," said DiZoglio.

### Rumbo

The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

DIRECTOR AND GRAPHIC DESIGN

Dalia Díaz

[daliadiaz@rumbonews.com](mailto:daliadiaz@rumbonews.com)

SALES & CIRCULATION DIRECTOR

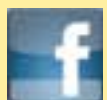
Alberto M. Suris

[albertosuris@rumbonews.com](mailto:albertosuris@rumbonews.com)

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# NOW HIRING

## Bilingual Medical Assistants & Nurses

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

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

### MEDICAL ASSISTANT REQUIREMENTS:

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

### NURSE REQUIREMENTS:

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



# CONTRATANDO

## Asistentes médicos y enfermeras bilingües

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

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

### Requisitos para los asistentes médicos:

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

### Requisitos para las enfermeras:

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



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# Baker-Polito Administration Launches Targeted Outreach Initiative in 20 Hardest Hit Communities to increase Equity in COVID-19 Vaccine Awareness and Access; \$1M to Support Vaccination in Historically Underserved Communities

BOSTON (February 16, 2021) – The Baker-Polito Administration today announced a targeted outreach initiative in 20 cities and towns most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and \$1M to the MA League of Community Health Centers to support vaccination in historically underserved communities.

## Targeted Outreach Initiative

The Department of Public Health (DPH) will invest resources directly in the 20 cities and towns most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 to increase awareness of the vaccine’s safety and efficacy and to reduce barriers to vaccination. DPH will assist each city or town by working with local leaders, and community- and faith-based groups to strengthen existing efforts focused on awareness and overcoming barriers so that residents will get vaccinated when it’s their turn.

The initiative will focus on 20 cities and towns with the greatest COVID-19 case burden, taking into account social determinants of health and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on BIPOC. These communities are Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Framingham, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, New Bedford, Randolph, Revere, Springfield, and Worcester.

Massachusetts now ranks in the Top 10 for vaccinations per capita according to the CDC and last week administered more doses per week than it received from the federal government.

## How Cities/Towns were Identified:

This list of 20 is a subset of the cities and towns that met the Massachusetts COVID Advisory Group recommendation to prioritize communities using the CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) and COVID-19 case rates since the start of the pandemic. Those communities were then ranked by average daily COVID-19 case rates in each city and town (excluding cases in long-term care and correctional facilities and communities with under 30,000 residents). From this ranked list by case rate, the top 17 cities and towns with the highest percentage of people of color were identified. The list of 20 cities and towns includes three additional communities to capture the top 15 communities with the highest daily COVID case rates.

“We recognize the deep knowledge and expertise that exists in every community and

our aim is to listen, respond, and work in concert to develop a customized approach for reaching as many residents as we can to increase vaccination,” said Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, MPH. “This approach is centered on equity, a core pillar of our vaccine distribution. Our goal is to work in collaboration with our local communities, to meet people where they are, and to reduce barriers – both physical and otherwise – to getting the COVID vaccine.”

The new DPH initiative will support a tailored community-based approach around the individual needs identified by each municipality. As part of the outreach, a DPH Community Liaison will work to leverage and coordinate state resources and customize a menu of options to be offered to each community, which may include:

- Identifying gaps and mapping available resources to reduce barriers to vaccination
- Coordinating and supporting key stakeholders including Local Boards of Health, local Community and Faith-Based Organizations, Community Health Centers, and Community Health Workers who can support grassroots outreach
- Deploying DPH Vaccine Ambassadors to provide support for town halls and other local forums to share information and materials, including a DPH forum guide and toolkit
- Disseminating culturally appropriate translations of communications campaign materials, including Trust the Facts. Get the Vax. campaign materials and vaccine FAQs in multiple languages
- Hiring local residents to provide “boots on the ground” for neighborhood and local business outreach, which may include a door-knocking campaign to provide information and answer questions about vaccine efficacy and safety

## \$1 Million to Support Vaccination in Historically Underserved Communities

The Administration has invested \$1M in the MA League of Community Health Centers to support community health center efforts to increase vaccine safety awareness in communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, with the goal of addressing vaccine hesitancy and increasing COVID-19 vaccination rates for individuals and communities disproportionately impacted.

## The program has three main objectives:

- Increase vaccine confidence and knowledge among community engagement staff at health centers
- Implement dissemination of culturally relevant and linguistically diverse patient education materials
- Identify and partner with local community-based organizations to provide information and tips to engage people in vaccination conversations

This grant initiative is a critical piece of the MA League of Community Health Center’s COVID-19 Vaccine Community Engagement Campaign and recognizes that Community Health Centers, community

health workers and other community-facing outreach workers are critical and widely trusted individuals to address COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among the most at-risk communities.

Under the initiative, qualified health centers may apply for \$25,000 grants via the MA League of Community Health Centers to assist Community Health Workers (CHW) to engage patients and community members in vaccination discussions to increase vaccine uptake in the Commonwealth’s hardest-hit communities. The funding helps health centers in several critical ways, including supporting providers and staff in having one-to-one conversations with patients to answer their questions and concerns, bringing these individualized dialogues to the broader community, and using online and other communication channels and resources.

“Dicen que si una mentira es repetida con mucha frecuencia, se convierte en verdad. En realidad, no sucede así. Lo que pasa es que la gente simplemente comienza a creer que es verdad.”

“There’s an old saying that if a lie is told often enough, it becomes the truth. Actually, it doesn’t. What happens is that people simply start believing that it’s true.”

— Bailey Jackson



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# Bridges® Memory Care Residents Let the Good Times Roll for Mardi Gras!

ANDOVER, Mass. — Residents at Bridges® by EPOCH at Andover, a memory care assisted living community located at 254 Lowell Street (Rt. 133), recently celebrated Mardi Gras in style!

With the help of Life Enrichment Director Paige McGlynn and the rest of the life enrichment team, residents decorated their own Mardi Gras masks and enjoyed festive décor and activities.

Chef Naldo Sanchez prepared a delicious lunch featuring traditional Fat Tuesday muffuletta sandwiches.

“The residents had a wonderful time at our Mardi Gras celebration,” said McGlynn. “We brought the fun and flavors of New Orleans to Bridges for the day! It created a lot of smiles and laughter.”

The celebrations also extended to the greater community, according to Susan Tourtillotte, Senior Advisor at Bridges® by EPOCH at Andover. “We welcomed area families who are caring for a loved one with memory loss and local professionals to stop by to pick up a meal for two to go. Chef Naldo created a delicious meal featuring the flavors of the Big Easy!” says Tourtillotte. “It was a great way for us to help area caregivers – even if in a small way – and to say thank you to area professionals.”

Chef Naldo has been working at Bridges for over seven years and takes pride in his creations. “This is a great place to work and I enjoy bring new things for the residents to try but, if a member of the family should mention something in particular, I make it part of the regular menu,” he told me enthusiastically.

That happened when a relative told him that a new resident likes chili; other times are desserts they love and it pleases many. And he makes a mean paella!

He has a large staff in the kitchen and dining room and is mostly Latinos.

They are a very active part of the community. “Last year, the senior center’s kitchen was closed for renovations,” explains Bridges® Senior Advisor Susan Tourtillotte, “so we offered our kitchens – as well as our chefs’ services – to help Elder



Services fulfill its mission.”

On Friday, February 26, from 1 to 3 pm, Chef Naldo will conduct a live step-by-step demonstration on how to prepare roasted haddock with fennel and tomatoes. The live demonstration is scheduled to take place at the Andover Senior Center, located at 23 Clark Road. Seating is limited at the senior center, but the event is available to all virtually via Zoom.

Bridges® by EPOCH at Andover provides memory care assisted living that is comfortable, positive, safe and engaging. Exclusively dedicated to caring for those with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia or memory impairment, we’ve created a wellness-focused lifestyle that promotes dignity and individual preferences.

Their memory care professionals receive specialized and ongoing training designed to help residents maximize their independence in a secure, calm and purposefully designed environment – making a positive impact on the lives of residents each and every day.

For more information about the life enrichment programming at Bridges® by EPOCH at Andover, contact Senior Advisor Susan Tourtillotte at 978-296-0058.

## Residentes de Bridges® Memory Care ¡Que vengan los buenos tiempos del Mardi Gras!

ANDOVER, Mass. - Los residentes de Bridges® by EPOCH en Andover, una comunidad de vida asistida para el cuidado de la memoria ubicada en 254 Lowell Street (Rt. 133), ¡recientemente celebraron el Mardi Gras con estilo!

Con la ayuda de la Directora de Enriquecimiento de Vida Paige McGlynn y el resto del equipo de enriquecimiento de vida, los residentes decoraron sus propias máscaras de Mardi Gras y disfrutaron de la decoración y las actividades festivas.

El Chef Naldo Sánchez preparó un delicioso almuerzo con sándwiches de muffuletta tradicionales de Fat Tuesday.

“Los residentes se lo pasaron de maravilla en nuestra celebración de Mardi Gras”, dijo McGlynn. “¡Llevamos la diversión y los sabores de Nueva Orleans a Bridges durante el día! Creó muchas sonrisas y risas”.

Las celebraciones también se extendieron a la comunidad en general, según Susan Tourtillotte, asesora principal de Bridges® by EPOCH en Andover. “Dimos la bienvenida a las familias del área que están cuidando a un ser querido con pérdida de memoria y a los profesionales locales para que pasen a buscar una comida para dos personas. ¡El Chef Naldo creó una comida deliciosa con los sabores del Big Easy!” dice Tourtillotte. “Fue una excelente manera para nosotros de ayudar a los cuidadores del área, aunque sea de una manera pequeña, y dar las gracias a los profesionales del área”.

El Chef Naldo ha trabajado en Bridges durante más de siete años y se enorgullece de sus creaciones. “Este es un buen lugar para trabajar y disfruto traer cosas nuevas para que prueben los residentes pero, si un miembro de la familia menciona algo en particular, lo hago parte del menú regular”, me dijo con entusiasmo.

Eso sucedió cuando un familiar le dijo que a un nuevo residente le gusta el chili; otras veces son los postres que les encantan y agradan a muchos. ¡Y también hace una tremenda paella!

Tiene un gran personal en la cocina y el comedor y en su mayoría son latinos.

Ellos son una parte muy activa de la comunidad. “El año pasado, la cocina del Andover Senior Center (centro para personas mayores) se cerró por renovaciones”, explica la asesora principal de Bridges®, Susan Tourtillotte, “por lo que ofrecimos nuestras cocinas, así como los servicios de nuestros chefs, para ayudarlos a cumplir su misión”.

El viernes, 26 de febrero, de 1 a 3 pm, el Chef Naldo llevará a cabo una demostración en vivo paso a paso sobre cómo preparar eglefino (haddock) asado con fennel y tomates. La demostración en vivo está programada para realizarse en el Andover Senior Center, ubicado en 23 Clark Road. Los asientos son limitados, pero el evento está disponible para todos virtualmente a través de Zoom.

Bridges® de EPOCH en Andover brinda una vida asistida para el cuidado de la memoria que es cómoda, positiva, segura y atractiva. Dedicados exclusivamente a cuidar a las personas con la enfermedad de Alzheimer y otras formas de demencia o deterioro de la memoria, hemos creado un estilo de vida centrado en el bienestar que promueve la dignidad y las preferencias individuales.

Sus profesionales del cuidado de la memoria reciben capacitación especializada y continua diseñada para ayudar a los residentes a maximizar su independencia en un entorno seguro, tranquilo y diseñado con un propósito, lo que tiene un impacto positivo en la vida de los residentes todos los días.

Para obtener más información sobre la programación de enriquecimiento de vida en Bridges® por EPOCH en Andover, comuníquese con la Asesora Principal Susan Tourtillotte al 978-296-0058.

Por favor regístrese para asistir. Detalles de zoom a continuación.

**ID de la reunión: 939 8771 5925**  
**Código de acceso: q054ZF**

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VIA ZOOM OR LIMITED LIVE SEATING AT  
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Watch Chef Naldo, the popular chef at Bridges® by EPOCH at Andover, as he prepares a delicious and heart-healthy meal. Chef Naldo will conduct a live step-by-step demonstration on how to prepare roasted haddock with fennel and tomatoes at home!

The live demonstration is scheduled to take place at the Andover Senior Center, located at 23 Clark Road. Seating is limited at the senior center, but the event is available to all virtually via Zoom.

**Kindly register to attend. Zoom details below.**  
**Meeting ID: 939 8771 5925**  
**Passcode: q054ZF**



# El Alcalde nombra al Jefe Adjunto Robert M. O'Brien como nuevo Jefe de Bomberos

Ceremonia de juramentación programada para el lunes a la 1:30 p.m.



de bomberos de Water Street el lunes, 22 de febrero a la 1:30 p.m.

El diputado O'Brien ha sido miembro del Departamento de Bomberos de Haverhill durante 28 años desde 1994. Ha ido ascendiendo de manera constante en las filas del departamento de bomberos. Ha sido subdirector durante 11 años. Durante su servicio en el Departamento de Bomberos, el subjefe O'Brien ha servido en todos los rangos y en todas las estaciones de bomberos de la ciudad y en la Unidad de Inspección y Prevención del Departamento de Bomberos que está estacionada en el Ayuntamiento. Ha estado en escena en innumerables incendios. El diputado O'Brien resultó lesionado en un incendio muy grave que tuvo lugar en Bradford hace unos 14 años.

Antes de O'Brien, ser bombero de Haverhill, dirigía el negocio de ambulancias de su familia.

Al hacer el anuncio, el Alcalde Fiorentini dijo que el diputado O'Brien emergió del detallado proceso de selección y pruebas como el más calificado para el puesto. "Le hicieron una prueba, llamada centro de evaluación, donde varios jefes de bomberos actuales y retirados lo interrogaron extensamente. Pasó con éxito la prueba y demostró que

El Alcalde James J. Fiorentini anunció que nombrará al subjefe de bomberos Robert M. O'Brien como nuevo jefe de bomberos de la ciudad. El Diputado O'Brien prestará juramento en una ceremonia en la estación

tiene los antecedentes, el conocimiento y la experiencia para dirigir el Departamento de Bomberos".

El diputado O'Brien tiene una licenciatura en ciencias del fuego y una maestría en administración pública. "Su voluntad de seguir aprendiendo y su dedicación al Departamento y a mejorar sus propios conocimientos se plasmaron realmente en el proceso de entrevistas", dijo Fiorentini.

Al concertar el nombramiento, Fiorentini dijo que tenía plena confianza en el nuevo Jefe de Bomberos para continuar con el progreso que se ha hecho en el Departamento de Bomberos:

"Durante los últimos cinco años, bajo el hábil liderazgo del Jefe William Laliberty, el Departamento de Bomberos ha logrado un gran progreso. Se han actualizado las

estaciones. Se ordenaron nuevos camiones de bomberos y otros equipos. La moral del Departamento se ha elevado".

"Después de pasar muchas horas en entrevistas, estoy seguro de que el subjefe Robert O'Brien tiene las habilidades necesarias para continuar con este progreso y hacer avanzar al Departamento. Él ya está familiarizado con todos los hombres del departamento y con los planes de incendio de cada gran edificio de la ciudad. Está listo para comenzar el primer día. Él comprende completamente el Departamento de Bomberos y la lucha contra incendios y luchará para mantener a las personas en el Departamento a salvo.

Le he pedido que preste especial atención a la contratación de más minorías y mujeres".

## Mayor Appoints Deputy Chief Robert M. O'Brien as New Fire Chief

Swearing in ceremony scheduled for Monday at 1:30 PM

Mayor James J. Fiorentini today announced that he is appointing Deputy Fire Chief Robert M. O'Brien as the city's new Fire Chief. Deputy O'Brien will be sworn in in a ceremony at the Water Street Fire Station on Monday, February 22 at 1:30 PM.

Deputy O'Brien has been a member of the Haverhill Fire Department for 28 years since 1994. He has steadily risen through the ranks of the fire department. He has been a deputy chief for 11 years. During his service in the Fire Department, Deputy Chief O'Brien has served in every rank and in every fire station in the city and in the Fire Department's Inspection and Prevention Unit which is stationed in City Hall. He has been on the scene in countless numbers of fires. Deputy O'Brien was injured in a very serious blaze that took place in Bradford around 14 years ago.

Deputy O'Brien, prior to being a Haverhill Firefighter, managed his family's ambulance business.

In making the announcement, Mayor Fiorentini said that Deputy O'Brien emerged from the detailed recruitment and testing process as the most qualified for the job. "He was given a test, called an assessment center, where he was questioned at length by a number of current and retired Fire Chiefs. He successfully passed the test and showed he has the background, knowledge and experience to run the Fire Department."

Deputy O'Brien has a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. "His willingness to continue to learn and his dedication to the Department and to improving his own knowledge really came through in the interview process," said Fiorentini.

In making the appointment, Fiorentini said that he had complete confidence in the new Fire Chief to continue the progress that has been made in the Fire Department:

"Over the past five years, under the able leadership of Chief William Laliberty, the Fire Department has made great progress. Stations have been upgraded. New fire trucks and other equipment has been ordered. The morale of the Department has been uplifted."

"After spending many hours in interviews, I am confident that Deputy Chief Robert O'Brien has the necessary skill set to continue this progress and move the Department forward. He is already familiar with every man in the department, and with the fire plans for every large building in the city. He is ready to go on day one. He fully understands the Fire Department and firefighting and will fight to keep the people in the Department safe.

I have asked him to pay particular attention to recruiting more minorities and women."

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### 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](mailto:heallawrence@aol.com)

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



# Haverhill Firefighters to Receive Federal Grant

Haverhill, MA Receives \$21,271 to Assist Fire Department

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today \$3.9 million in direct assistance grants to 288 volunteer and combination fire departments nationwide through the agency's FY2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant COVID-19 Supplemental program (AFG-S).

Authorized and funded through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Fiscal Year 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant COVID-19 Supplemental (AFG-S) is a \$100 million supplemental funding opportunity to support the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) and related disinfectant supplies and equipment to help the fire services prevent, prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

By law, 25 percent of the available AFG-S funds must be awarded to volunteer fire departments and another 25 percent must be awarded to combination fire

departments. The funding being announced today encompasses the fulfillment of that requirement to volunteer and combination fire departments. A volunteer fire department means a fire department that has an all-volunteer force of firefighting personnel. A combination fire department means a fire department that has paid firefighting personnel and volunteer firefighting personnel. Fire departments which pay fees/stipends (paid on-call firefighters) are also considered under this category.

FEMA obligates funding for this project directly to the recipient fire department. It is the recipient's responsibility to manage their grant award within federal guidelines with technical assistance and monitoring provided by FEMA Fire Program Specialists. Additional information about FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters grant programs may be found at <https://www.fema.gov/firegrants>.

THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF  
HAVERHILL'S 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

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The Haverhill Exchange Club looks forward to entertaining you this St. Patrick's Day. Join us for laughs, prizes and fun during your 10:00 coffee break. Thank you for supporting our community projects and the prevention of child abuse. Sláinte!



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El cáncer no es fácil. Pero puede ser más llevadero con la atención y el sistema de apoyo adecuados cerca de su hogar. Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, el mejor centro de Nueva Inglaterra para el tratamiento del cáncer, tiene un nuevo centro oncológico de vanguardia en Merrimack Valley. Usted merece tener acceso a terapias de avanzada, a estudios clínicos y a la pericia de nuestros especialistas. Aproveche el renombre del líder en la atención del cáncer allí donde usted vive.





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# ¿Cuándo puedo recibir la vacuna contra el COVID-19?

Por **Richard Napolitano Jr.**

Como saben, el personal del Greater Lawrence Family Health Center ha estado prestando servicios en la primera línea de la pandemia de COVID-19 durante más de 11 meses. Trabajamos diligentemente para detener la propagación del virus mediante la administración de pruebas gratuitas, la realización de visitas a los pacientes a través de telesalud y la prestación de servicios de entrega de recetas a nuestros pacientes más vulnerables.

Durante los últimos dos meses, GLFHC ha distribuido más de 6000 dosis de la vacuna Moderna COVID-19 al personal del Centro de Salud y otros, de acuerdo con las Fases 1 y 2 del cronograma de distribución de vacunas del Departamento de Salud Pública de Massachusetts. En Massachusetts, los trabajadores de la salud clínica que brindan atención directa y que enfrentan COVID recibieron la máxima prioridad para recibir la vacuna.

La distribución de vacunas es especialmente importante en las comunidades marginadas que pueden ser más vulnerables al virus; esto también incluye nuestro enfoque en las personas sin hogar de nuestra área, ya que hemos vacunado a más de 500 personas en toda el área. Esto se refleja en el enfoque único de vacunación de nuestro estado, que incluye priorizar las comunidades afectadas por la desigualdad racial y socioeconómica y aquellas con tasas de infección desproporcionadamente altas, como Greater Lawrence.

La capacidad de GLFHC para vacunar a su propio personal, a todos los demás en la Fase 1, y ahora a nuestros pacientes y miembros de la comunidad que tienen más de 75 años en el primer nivel de la Fase 2, marca un hito considerable en la lucha para poner fin a esta pandemia

y arroja una luz prometedora sobre nuestra capacidad para garantizar la salud futura de nuestra comunidad. Estamos preparados para continuar proporcionando la vacuna para los próximos niveles de la Fase 2, que serán contabilizados.

Muchas gracias por su apoyo inquebrantable y su confianza continua en nuestro trabajo. Usted ha jugado un papel integral en nuestra capacidad para mantener estos esfuerzos de primera línea.

La iniciativa del Gobernador Baker “Detenga la Propagación” seguirá haciendo pruebas gratis de COVID-19, para todos los residentes de Lawrence, Methuen, y residentes de Massachusetts de pueblos y ciudades de los alrededores. La prueba es gratis tanto para individuos asintomáticos como sintomáticos. No se requiere seguro médico, ni identificación. Tampoco hay un requisito de edad para hacerse la prueba.

## ¿Cuánto tiempo se tardan en llegar los resultados de mi prueba de COVID -19?

El período de tiempo para recibir sus resultados puede variar debido a la alta demanda de pruebas. Si se hizo la prueba de COVID-19 en una de nuestras unidades móviles en Lawrence o en la carpa ubicada en el 147 Pelham St., Methuen, usted puede esperar sus resultados en 2-3 días

Si se hizo la prueba en la carpa del Lawrence General Hospital, puede esperar los resultados en 3-5 días.

## ¿Cómo puedo obtener los



## resultados de mi prueba de COVID-19?

Si se hizo la prueba de COVID-19 en una de nuestras unidades móviles en Lawrence o en la carpa ubicada en el 147 Pelham St, Methuen, usted puede recibir sus resultados de las siguientes maneras:

**Por correo electrónico:** si se registró para recibir sus resultados por correo electrónico, revise su carpeta de correo no deseado (junk/spam folder) y busque un mensaje de Care Evolve.

**Por teléfono:** si no dejó un correo electrónico, alguien de GLFHC lo llamará con sus resultados en 2-3 días. Si no recibe los resultados después de 3 días, llame al 978-685-7663.

**En persona:** puede recoger una copia de sus resultados de lunes a viernes, entre las 3 pm y las 6 pm en la carpa ubicada en el 147 Pelham St., Methuen. Por favor traiga una forma de identificación.

Si se le hizo la prueba en la carpa del Lawrence General Hospital y es un paciente de GLFHC, puede ver los resultados de la siguiente manera:

## Iniciando sesión en el portal para

**pacientes de GLFHC:** si no se ha registrado en el portal todavía, puede hacerlo visitando <https://myportal.glfhc.org/portal/default.aspx>

**Por teléfono:** Un miembro del personal de GLFHC lo llamará con sus resultados en 3-5 días. Si no recibe los resultados después de 5 días, llame al 978-686-0090.

Si se le hizo la prueba en la carpa del Lawrence General Hospital y NO es un paciente de GLFHC, puede registrarse en el portal para pacientes del Lawrence General Hospital visitando: <https://patientportal.lawrencegeneral.org/Phm-PhmHome.HomePage.WR.mthr?hcis=LWGGBL.LIVE&application=PHM> Si no recibe los resultados después de 5 días, llame al 978-946-8409.

## ¿Dónde puedo encontrar lugares y horarios de prueba?

Puede ir a MFHC – 147 Pelham St. durante el siguiente horario:

Date and Time	Location
Lunes – 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM	
Martes – 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM	
Miércoles– 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM	
Viernes– 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM	
Sábados – 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon	

También puede visitar <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread#lawrence->

## ¿Tiene algún costo la prueba?

La prueba es gratis para los residentes de Massachusetts hasta el 12 de septiembre de 2020 como parte de la iniciativa del gobernador Baker “Detenga la Propagación.”

## Me preocupa mi estado migratorio. ¿Puedo hacerme la prueba?

La prueba de COVID está disponible para cualquier persona sin importar su estado migratorio. Nuestra meta es que se haga la prueba cualquier persona de nuestra comunidad (no importa su estado migratorio).

## ¿A quién llamo si tengo preguntas sobre las pruebas o los resultados si me hice la prueba en la Unidad Móvil de Salud o en la carpa en el 147 Pelham St.?

El número al que debe llamar si tiene alguna pregunta es 978-685-7663. Si su llamada no es contestada, es que estamos experimentando un gran volumen de llamadas, por favor deje su nombre, fecha de nacimiento y número de teléfono y le devolveremos la llamada lo antes posible.





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# When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Por Richard Napolitano Jr.

As you know, the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center staff has been serving on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic for over 11 months. We are working diligently to stop the spread of the virus by administering free testing, conducting patient visits via Telehealth, and providing prescription delivery services to our most vulnerable patients.

Over the last two months, GLFHC has distributed over 6000 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to Health Center staff and others according to Phases 1 & 2 of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health vaccine distribution timeline. In Massachusetts, clinical health care workers doing direct and COVID-facing care were given the highest priority in receiving the vaccine.

Vaccine distribution is especially important in marginalized communities that may be more vulnerable to the virus – this also includes our focus on our area’s homeless, as we have vaccinated over 500 people throughout the area. This is echoed in our state’s unique approach to vaccination, which includes prioritizing communities impacted by racial and socioeconomic inequality and those with disproportionately high infection rates, such as Greater Lawrence.

GLFHC’s ability to vaccinate its own staff, all others in Phase 1, and now our patients and members of the community that are 75+ in the first tier of Phase 2 marks a considerable milestone in fighting to end this pandemic and casts a promising light on our ability to ensure the future health of our community. We are poised to continue providing the vaccine for the next tiers in Phase 2 which will account.

Thank you so much for your unwavering support and continued belief in our work. You have played an integral role in our ability to sustain these frontline efforts.

Governor Baker’s Stop the Spread Testing Initiative is open to all residents of Lawrence, Methuen and Massachusetts residents of surrounding cities and towns. COVID-19 testing is free for asymptomatic and symptomatic individuals. Health insurance and ID is not required. There is no age requirement for testing.

## How long does it take to get my COVID -19 results?

The length of time to receive your results can vary due to the high demand for testing. If you had your COVID-19 test done at one of our mobile locations in Lawrence or at the tent located at 147 Pelham St in Methuen, you can expect your results in 2-3 days.

If you were tested at the tent at Lawrence General Hospital, you can expect your results in 3-5 days.

## How can I get my COVID-19 test results?

If you had your COVID-19 test done at one of our mobile locations in Lawrence or at the tent located at 147 Pelham St in Methuen, you can receive your results in the following ways:

**Via e-mail:** If you signed up to receive your results via email, please check your junk/spam folder and look for an email from Care Evolve.

**Via phone:** If you did not leave an email result, someone from GLFHC will call you with your results in 2-3 days. If you do not receive your results after 3 days, please call 978-685-7663.

**In person:** You can pick up a copy of your



results anytime Monday-Friday between 3pm-6pm at the tent located at 147 Pelham St. in Methuen. Please bring a form of identification.

If you were tested at the tent at Lawrence General Hospital and are an existing GLFHC patient, you can view results by:

**Logging into GLFHC Patient Portal:** If you have not signed up, you can register by visiting <https://myportal.glfhc.org/portal/default.aspx>

**Via phone:** A GLFHC staff member will call you with your results in 3-5 days. If you do not receive your results after 5 days, please call 978-685-7663.

If you were tested at the tent at Lawrence General Hospital and are NOT a GLFHC patient, you can register for Lawrence General Hospital’s patient portal by visiting: <https://patientportal.lawrencegeneral.org/Phm-PhmHome.HomePage.WR.mthr?hcis=LWGGBL.LIVE&application=PHM>. If you do not receive your results after 5 days, please call 978-946-8409.

**Is there a cost to the test?**  
The test is free to Massachusetts residents until further notice as part of Governor Baker’s Stop the Spread Testing Initiative.

## Where can I find testing locations and hours?

**Date and Time**  
You may go to MFHC – 147 Pelham St. during the following times:  
Monday – 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
Tuesday – 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
Wednesday – 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
Friday – 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
Saturday – 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

You can also visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread#lawrence->

## I’m concerned about my immigration status. Can I get tested?

COVID testing is available to anyone regardless of immigration status. Our goal is to test anyone in our community.

## Who do I call if I have questions about testing or results done on the Mobile Health Unit or at the tent on 147 Pelham St.?

The number to call should you have any questions is 978-685-7663. If your call is not answered, please note we are experiencing a high volume of calls but please leave your name, DOB and phone number and we will return your call as soon as possible.

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**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.

United Way of Massachusetts Bay

THE MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



# Promulgan ley de notificación de alcantarillado de MA (CSO)

En virtud de la legislación promulgada recientemente por el Gobernador Charlie Baker (R-Swampscott), se establecerá un sistema de notificación de descargas de aguas residuales en todo el estado para alertar a los residentes cuando tales descargas hagan que los ríos públicos y las playas sean inseguros.

Una ley que promueve la conciencia sobre la contaminación por aguas residuales en aguas públicas, patrocinada por el Senador Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville) y copatrocinada por la Senadora Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) junto con las Representantes de los patrocinadores de la Cámara Denise Provost (D-Somerville) y Linda Dean Campbell (D-Methuen), se introdujo en respuesta a problemas de contaminación que durante décadas han plagado las aguas públicas de la Commonwealth, a saber, la descarga de desbordes combinados de alcantarillado (CSO).

Un informe reciente publicado por Environment America, una organización sin fines de lucro, encontró que "cada año en los EE.UU., Los nadadores en océanos, lagos, ríos y estanques sufren aproximadamente 57 millones de casos de enfermedades recreativas transmitidas por el agua". También encontró que "un análisis de datos de muestreo de bacterias

indicadoras fecales de playas en 29 estados costeros y de los Grandes Lagos y Puerto Rico revela que 386 playas, casi una de cada ocho encuestadas, eran potencialmente inseguras en al menos el 25 por ciento de los días en que el muestreo tuvo lugar el año pasado".

"Como muchos saben, hemos hecho una gran cantidad de trabajo como región para resaltar este problema, hasta el punto de navegar en kayak por toda la longitud de 117 millas del Río Merrimack para ayudar a crear conciencia", dijo DiZoglio, siguiendo los comentarios en la ceremonia de firma del proyecto de ley. "Esta legislación se necesita desde hace mucho tiempo para mantener al público informado sobre los desbordamientos de aguas residuales en nuestro amado Río Merrimack y en todas las vías fluviales del Commonwealth. Es solo un paso y tenemos mucho más trabajo por hacer, pero debemos celebrar este paso significativo en la dirección correcta que se pudo lograr a través del trabajo en equipo. Gracias a todos los residentes y defensores que han estado presionando durante años por esto. Su persistencia y determinación hicieron que esto sucediera. Gracias al Gobernador Baker por convertir este importante proyecto de ley".

# Massachusetts Sewage (CSO) Notification Bill Signed into Law



Under legislation recently signed into law by Governor Charlie Baker (R-Swampscott), a statewide sewage discharge notification system will be established to alert residents when such discharges make public rivers and beaches unsafe.

An Act promoting awareness of sewage pollution in public waters, sponsored by Senator Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville) and co-sponsored by Senator Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) alongside House sponsors Representatives Denise Provost (D-Somerville) and Linda Dean Campbell (D-Methuen), was introduced in response to pollution issues that for decades have plagued the Commonwealth's public waters, namely discharge from combined sewer

overflows (CSOs).

A recent report released by the nonprofit Environment America found that "each year in the U.S., swimmers in oceans, lakes, rivers and ponds suffer from an estimated 57 million cases of recreational waterborne illness." It also found that "an analysis of fecal indicator bacteria sampling data from beaches in 29 coastal and Great Lakes states and Puerto Rico reveals that 386 beaches – nearly one of every eight surveyed – were potentially unsafe on at least 25 percent of the days that sampling took place last year."

"As many know, we've done a tremendous amount of work as a region to highlight this issue - to the point of kayaking the entire 117-mile-long length of the Merrimack River to help raise awareness," said DiZoglio, following her remarks at the legislation's bill signing ceremony. "This legislation is long overdue to keep the public informed about sewage overflows into our beloved Merrimack River and all waterways across the Commonwealth. It is just one step and we have much more work to do but we must celebrate this significant step in the right direction that was able to be accomplished through teamwork. Thank you to all residents and advocates who have been pushing for years for this. Your persistence and determination made this happen. Thanks to Governor Baker for signing this important bill into law."

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## USCIS Vuelve a la Versión del 2008 del Examen de Educación Cívica para Naturalización

WASHINGTON—El Servicio de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de Estados Unidos anunció hoy que volverá a la versión 2008 del examen de educación cívica para naturalización a partir del 1 de marzo de 2021.

El 1 de diciembre de 2020, USCIS implementó una versión revisada del examen de educación cívica para naturalización (examen de educación cívica 2020) como parte de un proceso de revisión y actualización decenal. USCIS determinó que el contenido del examen de educación cívica de 2020, los procedimientos de evaluación y el calendario de implementación podrían crear inadvertidamente posibles barreras al proceso de naturalización. Esta acción es consistente con el marco operativo de la Orden Ejecutiva para Recuperar la Fe en Nuestro Sistema de Inmigración Legal que ordena una evaluación exhaustiva del proceso de naturalización a fin de eliminar barreras y hacer el proceso más accesible a todas las personas elegibles.

El examen de educación cívica de 2008 fue desarrollado cuidadosamente durante un periodo de varios años con la contribución de más de 150 organizaciones, que incluyeron expertos en inglés como segundo idioma, educadores e historiadores, y fue puesto a prueba antes de su implementación. USCIS aspira a hacer que el proceso sea lo más accesible posible según las instrucciones de la solicitud del presidente Biden de revisar el proceso a fondo.

El examen de educación cívica se administra a los solicitantes que solicitan la ciudadanía estadounidense a través de la naturalización y es uno de los requisitos legales para naturalizarse. Los solicitantes

deben demostrar conocimiento y comprensión de los fundamentos de la historia, principios y forma de gobierno de Estados Unidos. La decisión de naturalizarse demuestra una inversión y compromiso con este país. USCIS está comprometido con administrar un examen que sea un instrumento de aprendizaje de educación cívica y que fomente la integración cívica como parte del proceso de preparación para el examen.

Los solicitantes que presentaron su solicitud de naturalización en o después del 1 de diciembre de 2020 y antes de 1 de marzo de 2021, probablemente han estudiado para el examen de 2020, y, por lo tanto, USCIS les dará a estos solicitantes la opción de tomar el examen de educación cívica de 2020 o el examen de educación cívica de 2008. Habrá un período de transición en el que se ofrecerán ambos exámenes. El examen de 2020 se eliminará el 19 de abril de 2021 para aquellas personas que toman el examen por primera vez. Los solicitantes que presenten su solicitud en o después del 1 de marzo de 2021 tomarán el examen del 2008.

Los temas del examen y las guías de estudio están disponibles en el Centro de Recursos de Ciudadanía en el sitio web de USCIS. USCIS también ha actualizado el Manual de Políticas según corresponde; consulte el Volumen 12, Parte E, Exámenes y Excepciones de Inglés y Educación Cívica, Capítulo 2, Exámenes de Inglés y Educación Cívica.

Para más información sobre USCIS y sus programas, por favor visite [uscis.gov/es](https://uscis.gov/es) o síganos en Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook y LinkedIn.

## USCIS Reverts to the 2008 Version of the Naturalization Civics Test

WASHINGTON— U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced today it is reverting to the 2008 version of the naturalization civics test beginning March 1, 2021.

On Dec. 1, 2020, USCIS implemented a revised naturalization civics test (2020 civics test) as part of a decennial test review and update process. USCIS determined the 2020 civics test development process, content, testing procedures, and implementation schedule may inadvertently create potential barriers to the naturalization process. This action is consistent with the framework of the Executive Order on Restoring Faith in Our Legal Immigration Systems, which directs a comprehensive review of the naturalization process to eliminate barriers and make the process more accessible to all eligible individuals.

The 2008 civics test was thoroughly developed over a multi-year period with the input of more than 150 organizations, which included English as a second language experts, educators, and historians, and was piloted before its implementation. USCIS aspires to make the process as accessible as possible as directed by President Biden's request to review the process thoroughly.

The civics test is administered to applicants who apply for U.S. citizenship through naturalization and is one of the statutory requirements for naturalizing.

Applicants must demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of the history, principles, and form of government of the United States. The decision to naturalize demonstrates an investment in and commitment to this country. USCIS is committed to administering a test that is an instrument of civic learning and fosters civic integration as part of the test preparation process.

Applicants who filed their application for naturalization on or after Dec. 1, 2020, and before March 1, 2021, likely have been studying for the 2020 test; therefore, USCIS will give these applicants the option to take either the 2020 civics test or the 2008 civics test. There will be a transition period where both tests are being offered. The 2020 test will be phased out on April 19, 2021, for initial test takers. Applicants filing on or after March 1, 2021, will take the 2008 civics test.

The test items and study guides can be found on the Citizenship Resource Center on the USCIS website. USCIS has also updated the Policy Manual accordingly; see Volume 12, Part E, English and Civics Testing and Exceptions, Chapter 2, English and Civics Testing.

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

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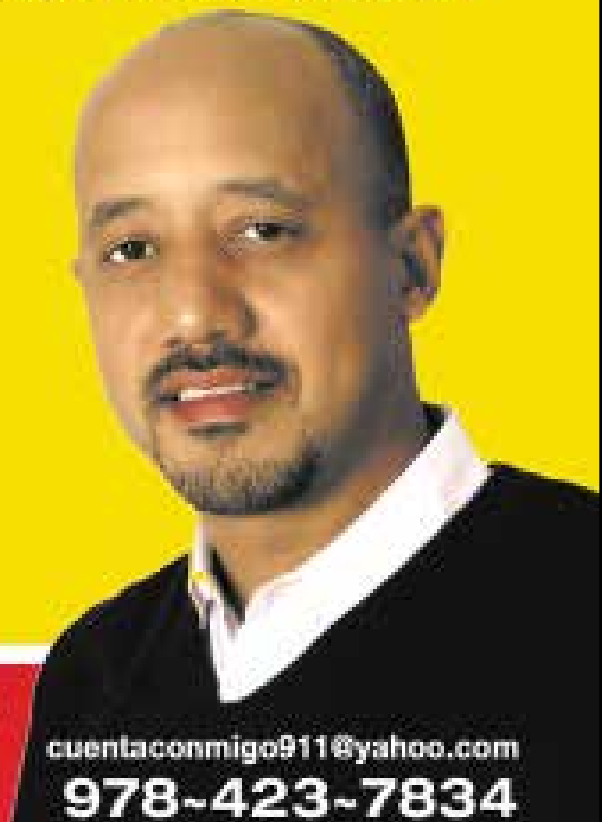
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# GLCF aborda las barreras a los alimentos en las últimas subvenciones de respuesta COVID-19

La Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) anunció que implementó una nueva ronda de subvenciones relacionadas con COVID-19, proporcionando \$72,000 adicionales a siete organizaciones sin fines de lucro del área en Greater Lowell que abordan las necesidades de despensa móvil y entrega de alimentos. Estas subvenciones fueron parte de la última ronda de distribuciones del Fondo de Respuesta a Emergencias de

GLCF COVID-19.

GLCF se conectó con organizaciones sin fines de lucro locales que abordan las barreras a los alimentos impuestas por la falta de movilidad y transporte. Esta barrera a la alimentación es particularmente frecuente entre las personas mayores, los discapacitados, los que están en cuarentena y los de bajos ingresos. Las organizaciones seleccionadas han seguido encontrando un aumento sin precedentes en la demanda de

## GLCF tackles barriers to food in latest COVID-19 Response Grants

The Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) announced it deployed a new round of COVID-19 related grants, providing an additional \$72,000 to seven area nonprofits in Greater Lowell addressing mobile pantry and food delivery needs. These grants were part of the latest round of distributions from the GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund.

GLCF connected with local nonprofits addressing barriers to food imposed by lack of mobility and transportation. This barrier to food is particularly prevalent among seniors, the disabled, quarantined, and low income. The organizations selected have continued to meet an unprecedented spike in demand for access to food amid the coronavirus crisis.

"Mobile food pantries and delivery programs remove location as a barrier to access for food," said GLCF president & CEO Jay Linnehan. "GLCF recognizes the unprecedented need to address the food security implications and fund creative solutions to get food to residents."

According to a recent report released by Feeding America in October 2020, Massachusetts has the highest projected rate percent change in food insecurity between 2018 and 2020 at 59 percent. Greater Lowell nonprofits addressing food insecurity report a record increase in the number of people needing assistance, with an average increase of 55% more demand than before the pandemic. Feeding America has found that roughly 4 in 10 people visiting food banks had not received food assistance before the pandemic.

Among the organizations funded was The Cameron Senior Center in Westford. "The Cameron Senior Center is fortunate to be awarded a grant from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation-COVID 19 funding round," said Jennifer Claro, Westford Council on Aging Director. "These funds will provide our most vulnerable residents with a mobile meal option with food partnerships which include Open Table (Maynard) and UTEC's MADD Love Meals (Lowell.) This effort will be coordinated with our Westford and Chelmsford Housing Authority Directors and the Westford Food Pantry. We are thrilled to bring this exciting collaborative mobile meal option to Westford."

Additionally, Open Table was awarded \$15,000 to support Greater Lowell mobile outreach support. "Recently, Open Table received a generous grant from the GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. It will support getting 100s of prepared and healthy meals to families that have been hit hard by the financial hardships brought

on by the pandemic," said Open Table's Executive Director Jeanine Calabria. "We are so pleased to have the funding to support our mobile meals coordinator position. It was the final piece needed to ensure the success of our expanded prepared meals delivery program."

The seven nonprofits receiving these grants serve more than 5,000 food insecure individuals who cannot access food due to mobility or access in 19 GLCF communities beyond Lowell. These grants were made possible by an anonymous donor grant that partnered with the GLCF to distribute funding to area nonprofits battling hunger in Greater Lowell.

The seven nonprofits receiving grants in the latest round of the GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to address food insecurity are:

- Carlisle Council on Aging - Mobile Outreach/Delivery of Meals to Vulnerable Residents - \$5,000
- Catie's Closet, Inc. - COVID mobile outreach/gift cards - \$3,000
- Gaining Ground, Inc. - COVID-Mobile Outreach/Delivery of Fresh Produce to Those in Need - \$25,000
- Merrimack Valley Food Bank, Inc. - COVID mobile pantry support - \$18,000
- Open Table - Mobile Meals Coordinator - \$15,000
- People Helping People, Inc. - COVID mobile outreach/delivery - \$3,000
- Westford Council on Aging/Cameron Senior Center - COVID mobile outreach/delivery - \$3,000

The Merrimack Valley Food Bank received a grant for the Mobile Pantry to provide nutritional support to the elderly and/or disabled. "This grant will allow us to continue serving our neighbors beyond Lowell, in the cities and towns we serve through our Mobile Pantry," said Amy Pessia, Merrimack Valley Food Bank's Executive Director. "Additionally, we will be able to serve even more people who are referred by community agencies/partners, who are isolating/quarantining due to COVID."

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

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



Tom Healy of Lowell has volunteered for Merrimack Valley Food Bank for a decade to deliver to homebound neighbors monthly.



Open Table's Carol Straney and Carolyn McQueen prepare healthy curried vegetable stew - all ready to be frozen for clients to reheat and eat.

acceso a alimentos en medio de la crisis del coronavirus.

"Las despensas de alimentos móviles y los programas de entrega eliminan la ubicación como una barrera para el acceso a los alimentos", dijo el Presidente y Director Ejecutivo de GLCF, Jay Linnehan. "GLCF reconoce la necesidad sin precedentes de abordar las implicaciones de seguridad alimentaria y financiar soluciones creativas para llevar alimentos a los residentes".

Según un informe reciente publicado por Feeding America en octubre de 2020, Massachusetts tiene la tasa de cambio porcentual proyectada más alta en inseguridad alimentaria entre 2018 y 2020 con un 59 por ciento. Las organizaciones sin fines de lucro del área metropolitana de Lowell que abordan la inseguridad alimentaria informan de un aumento récord en la cantidad de personas que necesitan asistencia, con un aumento promedio del 55% más de demanda que antes de la pandemia. Feeding America ha descubierto que aproximadamente 4 de cada 10 personas que visitan los bancos de alimentos no habían recibido asistencia alimentaria antes de la pandemia.

Entre las organizaciones financiadas estaba el Cameron Senior Center en Westford. "El Cameron Senior Center tiene la suerte de recibir una subvención de la ronda de financiamiento de Greater Lowell Community Foundation-COVID 19", dijo Jennifer Claro, directora del Westford Council on Aging. "Estos fondos brindarán a nuestros residentes más vulnerables una opción de comida móvil con asociaciones de alimentos que incluyen Open Table (Maynard) y MADD Love Meals de UTEC (Lowell). Este esfuerzo se coordinará con nuestros directores de la Autoridad de Vivienda de Westford y Chelmsford y Westford Food Despensa. Estamos encantados de traer esta emocionante opción de comida móvil colaborativa a Westford".

Además, Open Table recibió \$15,000 para apoyar el soporte de alcance móvil de Greater Lowell. "Recientemente, Open Table recibió una generosa subvención del Fondo de Respuesta a Emergencias COVID-19 de GLCF. Apoyará la entrega de cientos de comidas preparadas y saludables a las familias que se han visto gravemente afectadas por las dificultades financieras provocadas por la pandemia", dijo la directora ejecutiva de Open Table, Jeanine Calabria. "Estamos muy contentos de tener los fondos para apoyar nuestro puesto de coordinador de comidas móvil. Fue la pieza final necesaria para garantizar el éxito de nuestro programa ampliado de entrega de comidas preparadas".

Las siete organizaciones sin fines de lucro que reciben estas subvenciones brindan servicios a más de 5,000 personas con inseguridad alimentaria que no pueden acceder a alimentos debido a la movilidad o el acceso en 19 comunidades de GLCF más allá de Lowell. Estas subvenciones fueron posibles gracias a una subvención de un donante anónimo que se asoció con el GLCF para distribuir fondos a las organizaciones sin fines de lucro del área que luchan contra el hambre en Greater Lowell.

Las siete organizaciones sin fines de lucro que reciben subvenciones en la última ronda del Fondo de Respuesta de Emergencia de GLCF COVID-19 para abordar la inseguridad alimentaria son:

- Carlisle Council on Aging - Alcance móvil/Entrega de comidas a residentes vulnerables - \$5,000
- Catie's Closet, Inc. - Tarjetas de regalo/ alcance móvil COVID - \$3,000
- Gaining Ground, Inc. - Alcance de COVID-Mobile/Entrega de productos frescos a quienes lo necesitan - \$25,000
- Merrimack Valley Food Bank, Inc. - Soporte de despensa móvil de COVID - \$18,000
- Mesa abierta - Coordinador de comidas móvil - \$15,000
- People Helping People, Inc. - Alcance/ entrega móvil de COVID - \$3,000
- Westford Council on Aging/Cameron Senior Center - Alcance/entrega móvil de COVID - \$3,000

El Merrimack Valley Food Bank recibió una subvención para Mobile Pantry para brindar apoyo nutricional a los ancianos o discapacitados. "Esta subvención nos permitirá continuar sirviendo a nuestros vecinos más allá de Lowell, en las ciudades y pueblos a los que servimos a través de nuestra despensa móvil", dijo Amy Pessia, directora ejecutiva de Merrimack Valley Food Bank. "Además, podremos atender a más personas que son derivadas por agencias/socios comunitarios, que están aislados/en cuarentena debido a COVID".

Desde marzo, a través de subvenciones de su Fondo de Respuesta a Emergencias GLCF COVID-19 y el Fondo de Ayuda COVID de Massachusetts, la fundación ha apoyado a 115 organizaciones locales sin fines de lucro con 229 subvenciones que suman más de 2.825.756.

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



# Transporte a citas para la vacuna de COVID-19

Esto es para informarle que MassHealth ha realizado cambios en su política de transporte que no es de emergencia para ampliar la elegibilidad y simplificar los procesos de transporte hacia y desde las citas para la vacuna COVID-19.

MassHealth proporciona transporte gratuito a las citas de vacunas a cualquier persona que tenga cualquier tipo de cobertura de MassHealth o Health Safety Net. Esto incluye a personas con MassHealth Limited, el Programa de seguridad médica para niños (CMSP) y MassHealth Family Assistance (FA). Además, los miembros pueden solicitar servicios de transporte directamente a través del Servicio al cliente de MassHealth, en lugar de tener que solicitar servicios a través de un proveedor de atención médica.

Si una persona tiene MassHealth o

Health Safety Net, se le puede recomendar (o un cuidador) que llame a su plan de salud o MassHealth directamente para programar transporte gratuito al 800-841-2900 (TTY: 800-497-4648).

Sin embargo, los miembros de MassHealth que están inscritos en un plan Senior Care Options o One Care o en un programa de atención integral para ancianos (PACE) deben continuar comunicándose con su plan de salud o proveedor de PACE para solicitar ayuda con el transporte.

El Boletín 310 para proveedores de MassHealth All y estas preguntas frecuentes contienen detalles adicionales sobre esta política, y los miembros pueden visitar la página web de MassHealth para obtener más información sobre las vacunas de COVID-19.

# Knights drop season opener to NHTI

Concord, NH (February 20, 2021) – The Northern Essex Community College men’s basketball team dropped its season opener of a COVID shortened season on Saturday afternoon by a 92-84 final to the Lynx of NHTI. It marked first athletic competition for the college since March 2020 when the pandemic halted all competition.

A trio of Knights from Lawrence all making their collegiate debuts led the offense as Jaylen Alicea, Angel Herrera and Cristian Kinsley dropped 16, 14 and 13 points respectively. Kinsley also led the team in rebounds as he grabbed nine rebounds, one shy of a double-double effort.

Kevin Garcia (Methuen) added 12 points off the bench to put four players in double figures.

As a team the Knights shot a tick under 41% from the field (33-81) and 28% from behind the arc.

Shaquille Barrett led all scores for NHTI as he poured in a game high 26 points.

The two teams will square off again on Wednesday night in Haverhill with first tip at 7:00pm. Per institutional and state COVID Guidelines, spectators will not be permitted. The game will be viewable on the new NECC Athletics YouTube channel beginning at 6:45pm

# Transportation to COVID-19 vaccine appointments

This is to inform you that MassHealth has made changes to its non-emergency transportation policy to expand eligibility and simplify processes for transportation to and from COVID-19 vaccine appointments.

MassHealth is providing free transportation to vaccine appointments to any individual that has any type of MassHealth coverage or the Health Safety Net. This includes people with MassHealth Limited, Children’s Medical Security Program (CMSP) and MassHealth Family Assistance (FA). In addition, members can request transportation services directly through MassHealth’s Customer Service, rather than needing to request services through a health care provider.

If an individual has MassHealth or the Health Safety Net, they (or a caregiver) can be encouraged to call their health plan or MassHealth directly to schedule free transportation at 800-841-2900 (TTY: 800-497-4648).

However, MassHealth members who are enrolled in a Senior Care Options or One Care plan or in a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) should continue to contact their health plan or PACE provider to request help with transportation.

MassHealth All Provider Bulletin 310 and this FAQ contain additional details on this policy, and members can visit the MassHealth webpage for more information on COVID-19 vaccines.

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

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

José Martí.

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## ¡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 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](http://www.MASMP.org).



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## 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

### Citando a Lincoln y abriendo una puerta. Como nace un escritor

Hice de Massachusetts mi casa a principios de 1962, abril para ser exactos. Y mientras pasaba unos meses tratando de encontrar una dirección permanente viví en la ciudad de Brookline adyacente a la ciudad de Boston donde trabajaba. La ciudad tenía un programa nocturno de secundaria para estudiantes de inglés como segundo idioma (EASL), es decir, inmigrantes. Supongo que todavía lo hacen. Tenía lugar dos noches a la semana y no esperé mucho tiempo para inscribirme.

Uno de los objetivos de las clases era hacer que los estudiantes aumentáramos nuestro vocabulario. Estoy seguro de que están de acuerdo en que la falta de vocabulario en cualquier idioma crea una situación embarazosa para cualquier persona. En mis muchos años de tratar con personas que no son fluidas con el idioma inglés, cualquier idioma, he notado una y otra vez, como la gente sustituye las palabras que están tratando sin éxito de expresar con gestos de sus rostros y manos. La comunicación en esos casos es deficiente y desagradable. Los niños hablan así, no los adultos.

En una de las clases a las que asistí, la instructora, una profesora de inglés de la Escuela Secundaria que se duplicó como miembro de la facultad de EASL y cuyo nombre he perdido, nos dio una tarea simple: describir una casa en detalles minuciosos usando tantas palabras nuevas como fuera posible. La asignación debía reportarse durante la siguiente clase.

Hice mi parte tan bien como pude, describiendo una antigua casa de campo en mal estado, sus tejas cayendo, sus ventanas rotas, sus puertas entreabiertas, hollín saliendo de la chimenea. Mientras miraba las pocas frases que formaban mi respuesta, se me ocurrió algo más. No iba a limitarme a la asignación de palabras; Decidí añadir algo nuevo, algo único. La adición decía así: "Y en una cabaña de troncos tan ruinosa y pobre como esta, un niño llamado Abraham Lincoln nació y creció para convertirse en uno de los grandes hombres en la historia de Estados Unidos". El escritor escondido en mí se había abierto. Firmé la asignación y la entregué.

No sé si mi descripción de la casa de Abraham Lincoln era cien por cien precisa;

mientras hubiera dado una imagen de humildad y pobreza en la vida del hombre, yo era feliz. Supongo que los escritores tienen mucha discreción interpretando cosas. Entonces no era un escritor completamente desarrollado, pero estaba seguro de que estaba en camino.

Desafortunadamente, fui víctima de la gripe durante los días siguientes y tuve que perderme el trabajo y mi próxima clase de inglés. Unos días más tarde, mientras esperaba al tranvía para irme a trabajar, una de mis compañeras de clase me vio y me preguntó el motivo de mi ausencia. Ella siguió mi explicación con estas palabras: "La maestra estaba preguntando por ti porque estaba muy impresionada con tus comentarios sobre nuestra asignación de vocabulario".

"Esa respuesta", me comentó la maestra cuando regresé a clase a la noche siguiente, "fue muy creativa, y me preguntaba si me lo permitirías conservarlo y mostrárselo a mis estudiantes diurnos también". Por supuesto, estaba tan orgulloso de esos cumplidos que tuve que responder afirmativamente. Que un estudiante de EASL sirviera de ejemplo para la población nativa lo hizo más dulce.

Este febrero, el 12 del mes para ser exactos, recordamos la fecha en que en 1809, Abraham Lincoln nació y vivió en circunstancias similares a las que había descrito en mi asignación escolar. No es ningún secreto que, al menos en mi mente, esa asignación sobre el Presidente asesinado se convirtió en parte de mi nacimiento y crecimiento como escritor. Y no lo hace más difícil cuando comparto con sus principios humanistas.

Lincoln no sólo fue recordado como un líder político, sino también como un gran orador. El famoso discurso pronunciado en la dedicación del Cementerio Nacional del Soldado en Gettysburg, Pensilvania, el 19 de noviembre de 1863, es un ejemplo de brevedad mientras es grande como escrito. El discurso fue de 270 palabras y se pronunció en menos de tres minutos. Ese mismo día, con intenciones similares, otro orador llamado Edward Everett, ex gobernador de Massachusetts, senador estadounidense y ex secretario de Estado, pronunció "el otro discurso de Gettysburg" como se conoce

estos días. El suyo tardó más de dos horas en entregarse, demostrando que la calidad y no la cantidad es lo que realmente importa.

El pensamiento que provocó mi adición de su nombre a mi asignación fue causado probablemente por ese intercambio de principios, pero sobre todo por la naturaleza de las ideas mientras escribimos. Las ideas llegan a las mentes de los escritores en masa. Algunas lo hacen como frases, otras como

párrafos, otras por artículos o capítulos y las más afortunadas por libros. Las pocas que no sobreviven al proceso mueren y son descartadas. Así que es con gran placer que, tardíamente, levanto mi vaso para brindar por la memoria de la maestra que dio a mi trabajo como estudiante de EASL tal reconocimiento. Creó la primera frase para los libros de mi vida de escritor.

Y ese es mi punto de vista hoy.



## A POINT OF VIEW © 1996

By Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, CCP

### Quoting Lincoln and opening a door. How a writer is born

I made Massachusetts my home early in 1962, April to be exact. And while spending a few months trying to find a permanent address I lived in the town of Brookline adjacent to the city of Boston where I worked. The town had a High School evening program for learners of English as a Second Language (EASL), in other words immigrants. I suppose they still do. It took place two evenings a week and I didn't wait too long to enroll.

One of the goals of the classes was to make the students increase our vocabulary. I am sure you agree that lack of vocabulary in any language creates an embarrassing situation for any person. In my many years of dealing with people who are not fluent with the English language, any language, I have noticed time and again, as have you probably as well, how folks substitute the words they are unsuccessfully trying to express with gestures of their faces and hands. Communication in those cases is deficient and unpleasant. Kids talk that way, not adults.

In one of the classes I attended, the instructor, a female English teacher of the High School who doubled as an EASL faculty member and whose name I have lost, gave us a simple homework assignment: describe a house in minute details using as many new words as possible. The assignment was due the following class.

I did my part as well as I could, describing an old farm house in disrepair, its shingles falling down, its windows broken, its doors ajar, soothe coming out of the chimney. As I was looking at the few sentences that made up my answer something else occurred to me. I wasn't going to limit myself to the wordy assignment; I decided to add something new, something unique. The addition read like this: "And in a log cabin as dilapidated and poor as this, a child named Abraham Lincoln was born and grew up to become one of the great men in American history." The writer hidden in me had opened up. I signed the assignment and turned it in.

I don't know or never knew if my description of Abraham Lincoln's home was one hundred percent accurate; as long as I had given a picture of humility and poverty in the man's life I was happy. I guess writers have a lot of discretion interpreting things. I was not a fully developed writer then, but I was sure I was on my way.

Unfortunately, I befell victim of the flu during the ensuing days and had to miss work and

my next English class. A few days later, while waiting for the street car to go to work, one of my classmates saw me and asked me the reason for my absence. She followed my explanation with these words: "The teacher was asking for you because she was very impressed with your comments on our vocabulary assignment."

"That response", commented the instructor to me when I returned to class the following evening, "was very creative, and I was wondering if you would allow me to keep it and show it to my daytime students as well". Of course, I was so proud of those compliments that I had to answer in the affirmative. That an EASL student would serve as example for the native population made it sweeter.

This February, the 12th of the month to be exact, we remember the date when in 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born and lived in circumstances similar to what I had described in my school assignment. It is no secret that, in my mind at least, that assignment about the assassinated President became part of my birth and growth as a writer. And it doesn't make it any harder when I happen to share with his humanistic principles.

Lincoln was not only remembered as a political leader, but also as an orator. The famous Address delivered at the dedication of the Soldier's National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on November 19, 1863, stands as an example of brevity while being grand as a writer. The speech was 270 words and delivered in less than three minutes. That same day, and with similar intentions, another grand orator named Edward Everett, former Governor of Massachusetts, U.S Senator and former Secretary of State, delivered "the other Gettysburg address" as it is known these days. It took over two hours to deliver, proving that quality and not quantity is what really matters.

The thought that provoked my adding his name to my assignment was caused probably by that sharing of principles but mostly by the nature of ideas while we write. Ideas come to writers minds in droves. Some make it as sentences, some as paragraphs, others by articles or chapters and the luckiest ones by books. The few who don't survive the process die and are discarded. So it is with great pleasure that, belatedly, I raise my glass to toast the memory of the teacher who gave my work as an EASL student such recognition. She created the first sentence for the books of my writer's life.

And that is my Point of View today.

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¡Gracias por tu apoyo!



# Author to Discuss Book About Franco-Americans

In the late 19th century, French Canadian Roman Catholic immigrants from Quebec were seen as a threat to the U.S., even as potential terrorists. David Vermette, author of "A Distinct Alien Race: The Untold Story of Franco-Americans," will speak about this little-known episode in U.S. history on Thursday, March 4, at 7 p.m. The Nashua Public Library will hold the event on Zoom.

This program is part of the library's

celebration of International Francophone Month in March. Join the library and Club Richelieu of Nashua in celebrating the French language and the countries where it's spoken.

Participants must register to get an invitation to the Zoom event. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/npllectures>.

For more information, contact Carol at [carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org](mailto:carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org) or 603-589-4610.

# Franco American Singer in Virtual Library Concert



On Wednesday, March 24, at 7 p.m., enjoy traditional and contemporary folk songs from Quebec and Acadia performed by Franco-American singer Josée Vachon. The virtual concert is presented by the Nashua Public Library and Club Richelieu of Nashua.

Josée, 2019 recipient of a bronze medal from La Société Académique Arts-Sciences-Lettres of Paris, will also introduce some of her own compositions.

Registration is required to get an

invitation to the Zoom event. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/nplconcert>.

This event is part of the library's observance of International Francophone Month in March. Join the library and Club Richelieu of Nashua in celebrating the French language and the countries where it's spoken.

For more information, contact Carol at [carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org](mailto:carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org) or 603-589-4610.

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**ANNUAL MEETING 2021**

**Thursday, February 25, 2021 | 10 - 11 a.m.**

**2021 Rising Star Awards Announcement**

Strong economies and healthy communities are built with the same fundamental building blocks: resilient, connected, and committed people.

In the spirit of hope and celebration of leadership, strength and resilience, we are thrilled to announce the recipients of our inaugural Rising Star Awards. These leaders bring innovative perspectives, relationships, and expectations to build an inclusive economy and represent our most hopeful vision of the future.

Elevating them and their ideas is vital to ensuring that we are realizing our community's highest potential.

Join us to recognize these outstanding leaders on February 25th during our Virtual Annual Meeting.



*Rawi E. Abdelal  
Harvard Business School's Herbert F. Johnson*

Professor of International Management and Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies Director; faculty co-chair of the Bloomberg-Harvard City Leadership Initiative, and faculty chair of the Harvard Business School/YPO Presidents' Program.

Professor Rawi is an award-winning teacher and author on politics, finance, and global economics.

To learn more about Dr. Abdelal and our 2021 Annual Meeting, visit our event webpage.



*Joanna de Peña, M.Ed.  
Author, Motivational Speaker, and Founder of Top Notch Scholars, Inc.*



*Eddie Rosa  
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*Jorge Veloz  
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# Middlesex Awarded Grant Funding to Train Greater Lowell Residents

Middlesex Community College has been identified by the Baker-Polito Administration as a recipient of the Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly Workforce Success Grants for Expanded Training Capacity & Employment Program Performance. From the \$1 million offered through grant funding, Middlesex will receive \$121,847 to train and place unemployed residents as Computer User Support Technicians in the Greater Lowell-area.

Funding for the grants comes from the Workforce Training Fund Program (WTFP), which was renamed to honor Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly in 2018 for his commitment to providing workers with opportunities that would lead them to financial and workplace security.

"I knew and worked with Sen. Donnelly years ago and I feel honored working on a grant that bears his name," said Judy Burke, MCC's Executive Director of Institutional Advancement. "At Middlesex, we strive to provide opportunity to people who would not otherwise have a clear educational or professional path. With this funding, we will be able to offer training participants the relevant knowledge and skills they need to be successful, while also playing our part in helping to strengthen the Mass. economy."

In a press release by the state, Gov. Charlie Baker spoke of the need for workers to have access to jobs that will lead to a "competitive and sustainable economy" for Massachusetts. In the same release, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito emphasized the impact the pandemic has had on the workforce, as well as the need for relevant training to meet these changing demands.

MCC's Community Education and Training (CET) department will collaborate with Google and the MassHire Career Center of Lowell to offer the Google IT Certificate program to eligible unemployed residents of Greater Lowell. The course will prepare participants to sit for the CompTIA A+ exam and then enter the workforce with the knowledge and skills they need

to be successful Computer User Support Technicians.

Participants will have access to video lectures, quizzes and hands-on labs and widgets as they learn about troubleshooting, customer service, networking, operating systems, system administration and security. The curriculum also offers personal stories from Google employees who bring with them diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

Throughout the pandemic, MCC's CET department has continued to run programs — witnessing firsthand how industries and companies are reacting to the pandemic. From this, they have gained a valuable understanding of the training job seekers need in order to get jobs in hiring industries.

"While we have had to adjust the ways in which we provide our training, we have adapted very quickly to the changing needs of industries and our partners," said Sheila Morin, MCC's Director of CET. "From the beginning, we reached out to our community partners, listened to what they needed, and responded with support. Although this is a challenging time for many, Middlesex is proud to have the ability to continue offering training opportunities that will get our residents back into the workforce."

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

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



Middlesex Community College has received \$121,847 as part of the Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly Workforce Success Grants for Expanded Training Capacity & Employment Program Performance. With the funding, the college's Community Education and Training program will train and place unemployed residents in Computer User Support Technician jobs in the Greater Lowell-area.

## Dr. Joel Hellmann and John Chemaly Announce Retirement from Home Health Foundation Board of Trustees

Two longtime volunteers recently retired from the Home Health Foundation Board of Trustees.

Since joining the board in 2004, Dr. Joel Hellmann's fellow members have relied on his clinical expertise regarding services, insights into healthcare trends and as an advocate for patients and the wider community. A resident of Methuen, he served on numerous committees including finance, compensation and strategic planning.

In his 12 years on the Board of Trustees, John Chemaly of Chelmsford supported Home Health Foundation with his keen business knowledge, healthcare industry passion and community advocacy. His committee involvement included governance and nominating, compensation and strategic planning.

Hellmann and Chemaly additionally shared in key organizational decisions, including the vision and execution of building High Pointe House, the hospice and palliative care residence of Merrimack Valley Hospice which opened in Haverhill, Mass. in 2009; partnering with York Hospital in York, Maine to open the York Hospital Hospice location in 2012;

expanding High Pointe House in 2013; and joining Burlington, Mass.-based Wellforce as a key strategic partner in 2018.

Karen Gomes, president and CEO of Home Health Foundation, said it has been a "privilege and honor" to work alongside Hellmann and Chemaly.

"We thank Joel and John for strengthening our organization through their time, talent and friendship," she said. "We wish them all the best in the next chapters of their careers and lives."

To learn more about Home Health Foundation services, or to arrange for care, contact the referral team at 800-333-4799 or visit [homehealthfoundation.org](http://homehealthfoundation.org).

Home Health Foundation, which includes providers Circle Home, Commonwealth Nursing Services, Hallmark Health VNA, Home Health VNA, Home Health VNA of NH, Merrimack Valley Hospice and York Hospital Hospice as part of the Wellforce Health System, provides essential home health and hospice care in all the places patients call home. Together, these agencies are leading the development of a new era of innovation, with a relentless focus on transforming home-based care. For more information, visit [HomeHealthFoundation.org](http://HomeHealthFoundation.org).

## YWCA Seeks Nominations for their 38th Annual Tribute to Women Virtual Event Set for May 13th

YWCA Northeastern Massachusetts is seeking nominations of women who have made a difference in their work and community. Nominations will be accepted through March 1, 2021 and can be sent to the YWCA, Attention: Jeanne Osborn at 38 Lawrence Street, Lawrence, MA 01840 or by going on-line to [www.ywcanema.org](http://www.ywcanema.org) and following the Tribute tab. The Tribute to Women luncheon takes place virtually on May 13, 2021 at 6:30 pm. This event serves as the YWCA's major fundraising event. Sponsorships are also available by accessing the website.

A hallmark of Tribute is that women honored come from all walks of life; their contributions are varied, and all are

remarkable in their own unique way. Since 1983, the YWCA's Tribute to Women awards luncheon has recognized over 1200 Merrimack Valley and North Shore women leaders from business and community organizations. This year's Tribute's Diamond sponsor is once again Pfizer. The YWCA is very appreciative of their ongoing support.

YWCA Northeastern Massachusetts is a social change organization existing today for the same reasons it was founded back in the 1890s to assure that women have the tools, skills and opportunities they need to become and remain personally and economically self-sufficient.

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**- Thomas Jefferson**

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# Eversource y National Grid anuncian a los participantes en su alianza municipal 2021

Andover, Cambridge, Chelsea, Framingham, Haverhill, Lawrence, Marshfield, Methuen y Westborough implementarán programa de difusión de eficiencia energética comunitaria

Los patrocinadores de Mass Save® anunciaron hoy que Andover, Cambridge, Chelsea, Framingham, Haverhill, Lawrence, Marshfield, Methuen y Westborough han sido seleccionados para participar en la alianza municipal 2021 y se verán beneficiados con financiamiento y apoyo para implementar un programa de difusión de eficiencia energética en sus comunidades. Los patrocinadores de Mass Save que sirven a las ciudades y pueblos seleccionados para este esfuerzo de Alianza Municipal incluyen a Eversource y National Grid.

La Alianza Municipal ofrece subsidios de hasta \$25,000 a las municipalidades de Massachusetts que cumplan con los objetivos de la alianza para implementar el programa de difusión de eficiencia energética en sus comunidades residenciales y de pequeños negocios y lograr ahorros energéticos excepcionales tras completar evaluaciones de energía y la instalación de mejoras energéticas. Estos incentivos son una adición a los incentivos de eficiencia energética ya disponibles para los residentes.

Todas las municipalidades fueron invitadas a aplicar para el programa para expandir las actividades de difusión a través de una alianza con los patrocinadores de Mass Save para incrementar los esfuerzos de ahorros energéticos llegando a más residentes de la municipalidad, como inquilinos, residentes que no hablan inglés o con un dominio limitado del idioma, y a los pequeños negocios. Las municipalidades enviaron sus solicitudes para participar y las subvenciones serán otorgadas con base en los objetivos logrados al llegar el final del año.

“Como patrocinadores de Mass Save, estamos comprometidos a garantizar que la eficiencia energética sea accesible para todos”, dijo la vicepresidenta ejecutiva y directora de servicio al cliente Penni

Conner. “A través del programa de Alianza Municipal queremos llegar a todos los miembros de nuestras comunidades locales, sin importar si son propietarios de pequeños negocios, inquilinos o personas con ingresos moderados o bajos, y ayudarlos a hacer mejoras para reducir el consumo de energía en sus hogares y negocios. Colectivamente, estas mejoras son beneficiosas para todos, garantizando un futuro mejor con una mayor eficiencia energética para todas las familias, negocios y comunidades”.

“Ya sea pidiéndoles a los residentes que intercambien sus electrodomésticos ineficientes, proveyendo mejor insulación para los hogares o alentando a los clientes a conservar energía, todos sabemos que cuando se trata de energía, usar menos es más”, dijo Marcy Reed, presidenta y vicepresidenta ejecutiva de política estadounidense e impacto social en Massachusetts de National Grid. “A través de nuestro patrocinio de Mass Save y nuestra colaboración con el programa de Alianza Municipal, estamos trabajando para garantizar un futuro con energía económica y sostenible para todas nuestras comunidades, negocios y familias locales, sin que nadie se quede atrás”.

Además de proporcionar un incentivo financiero, los Patrocinadores de Mass Save ofrecerán apoyo a estas comunidades a lo largo del año, incluyendo:

- Llamadas colaborativas con las municipalidades para aprender mejores prácticas de difusión; y
- Material de marketing y apoyo en eventos locales.

Juntos, los patrocinadores de Mass Save y las municipalidades procurarán completar aproximadamente 1700

evaluaciones de consumo de energía del hogar para ayudar a los clientes a entender mejor el uso de energía en sus hogares, instalar insulación en casi 3900 hogares, proporcionar incentivos para hacer mejoras de eficiencia en 3500 equipos de calefacción y/o enfriamiento, y proporcionar soluciones de eficiencia energética a casi 600 pequeños negocios a través de soluciones completas de

evaluaciones de energía. Para lograr esta meta, cada municipalidad podría ganar hasta \$25,000 en incentivos financieros, con base en la población, para su municipalidad.

Para más información sobre los patrocinadores de la iniciativa comunitaria de Mass Save, visite <https://www.masssave.com/en/learn/partners/municipal-partnership>.

## Eversource and National Grid Announce 2021 Municipal Partnership Participants

Andover, Cambridge, Chelsea, Framingham, Haverhill, Lawrence, Marshfield, Methuen and Westborough to implement community energy efficiency outreach

The Sponsors of Mass Save® today announced that Andover, Cambridge, Chelsea, Framingham, Haverhill, Lawrence, Marshfield, Methuen and Westborough have been selected to participate in the 2021 Municipal Partnership and will benefit from funding and support to implement energy efficiency outreach in their communities. The Mass Save Sponsors serving the cities and towns selected for the Municipal Partnership effort include Eversource and National Grid.

The Municipal Partnership provides grants of up to \$25,000 to Massachusetts municipalities that meet the partnership’s goals for implementing energy efficiency outreach in their residential and small business communities and achieve exceptional energy savings by completing energy assessments and the installation of energy upgrades. These incentives are in addition to energy efficiency incentives already available to residents.

All municipalities were invited to apply for the program to expand outreach activities through partnering with the Sponsors of Mass Save to increase energy-saving efforts by reaching more of the municipality’s residents, such as renters, non-English speaking/Limited English Proficiency residents, and small businesses. Municipalities submitted applications to participate, and grants will be awarded based on the goals achieved by the end of the year.

“As a sponsor of Mass Save, we’re committed to ensuring that energy efficiency is accessible to everyone,” said Eversource Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Officer Penni Conner. “Through the Municipal Partnership program, we reach out to all members of our local communities, whether they’re small business owners, renters, or have a moderate or low income, to help them make upgrades to reduce the amount of energy used in their homes and businesses. Collectively, these improvements are a win-win, ensuring a better, more energy efficient future for every family, business and community.”

“Whether it’s encouraging residents to trade-in inefficient appliances, providing

better insulation for a home or encouraging customers to conserve, we all recognize that when it comes to energy, using less is more,” said Marcy Reed, Massachusetts President and Executive Vice President of US Policy and Social Impact, National Grid. “Through our sponsorship of Mass Save and our collaboration with the Municipal Partnership program, we’re working to ensure a sustainable, affordable energy future is attainable for all our local communities, businesses and families, with no one left behind.”

In addition to providing a financial incentive, the Sponsors of Mass Save will provide these communities with support throughout the duration of the year including:

- Collaboration calls with municipalities to learn best practices for outreach; and
- Marketing materials and local event support.

Together the Sponsors of Mass Save and the Municipalities will strive to complete approximately 1700 online home energy assessments to help customers better understand the energy use in their home, insulate nearly 3900 homes, provide incentives for 3500 heating and/or cooling equipment efficiency upgrades, and provide nearly 600 small businesses efficiency solutions through turnkey energy assessments. In achieving that goal, each municipality could earn up to \$25,000 in financial incentives, based on population, for their municipality.

For more information on the Sponsors’ of Mass Save’s Community Initiative, go to <https://www.masssave.com/en/learn/partners/municipal-partnership>.

Mass Save® is a collaborative of Massachusetts’ natural gas and electric utilities and energy efficiency service providers including Berkshire Gas, Cape Light Compact, Eversource, Liberty Utilities, National Grid, and Unitil. We empower residents, businesses, and communities to make energy efficient upgrades by offering a wide range of services, rebates, incentives, trainings, and information.

### 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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**Building an Equitable Economic Recovery**

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**Thursday, February 25, 2021 | 10 - 11 a.m.**

**David Tibbetts Economic Impact Award**  
**2021 Award Recipient**

**David Tibbetts Economic Impact Award**  
**2021 Award Recipient**

**Julia Silverio,**  
*Silverio Insurance*

As a long-time small business leader, the City's first Latina City Councilor, and a tireless mentor and advocate, Julia's impact has been felt by so many people, in so many ways, over so many years. She fully embodies the Lawrence Partnership values, the spirit of the Dave Tibbetts Award, and our community's assets.

**The David Tibbetts Economic Impact Award** honors leaders who have successfully promoted and implemented innovative economic development strategies. The award has been named for its first recipient, David Tibbetts, a leader who has represented this award's ideals through his life of service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and City of Lawrence. Previous recipients also include Bob Rivers and Niki Tsongas.

We look forward to coming together virtually to reflect on the immense impact of COVID-19 in our community this year and look ahead at the challenges and opportunities to build a post-pandemic economy that focuses on growth, justice, and equity.

**Thursday, February 25, 2021**  
**10:00 - 11:00 am**

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

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

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

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