



Insista a los concejales que hagan sus reuniones en la Cámara.

Insist to councilors they should meet in the Chambers.

Marzo/March 22, 2021

EDICIÓN NO. 760
The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

GLCF awards more than \$500K in COVID-19 grants



Boys and Girls Club of Greater Billerica, a GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund grant recipient, received funding for COVID-19 Remote Learning and STEAM Enrichment. A Boys and Girls Club of Greater Billerica member explores how to create circuits through a STEAM Enrichment project. Pg. 13

NECC Announces Graduation Plans for the Class of 2021



2020 NECC Graduate Carlos Schmidt of Haverhill and his family had their photo taken with the Northern Essex Knight mascot at last June's celebration package pick up on the Lawrence Campus. Pg. 6

Criminal Justice Student Finding His Path at Middlesex CC

Born and raised in Lowell, Tevin San chose Middlesex Community College because of its close proximity to home and affordability of classes. With Middlesex as his starting point, he believes he has gained a strong foundation of knowledge, skills and experience in his Criminal Justice courses as he considers his next steps.

In his studies and through guidance from his professors at MCC, San is learning all about the career options available to him and what the industry entails. Although he has not yet decided what he wants to pursue for his future career, he does know he wants to help people through work in the criminal justice system.

"Growing up, I've always felt the need to be able to help others and I found that Criminal Justice was the right way to do it," he said. "The best part about my major pathway is learning about my rights as an individual."

San's Criminal Justice professor Ronald Brevard stands out to him as having a big impact on his academic journey. Making his passion for his subject clear, Brevard



earned San's respect and appreciation for the work he is doing. Even outside of class, San felt like he was always learning something

PLEASE SEE **TEVIN SAN**
CONTINUES ON PAGE 15

SELF DETERMINATION FOR PUERTO RICO; AHORA!

Puerto Ricans in Massachusetts Support Self-Determination

Puerto Rican leaders and community organizations across Massachusetts stand in solidarity with national grassroots organizations in support of the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2021, introduced by U.S. Representatives Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) and Alexandria Ocasio Cortez (D-NY), and also filed by U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) with overwhelming support from the MA congressional delegation including U.S. Representatives Ayanna Pressley, Jim McGovern, and Richard Neal, and U.S. Senators Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren.

Self-determination is the freedom a people have to choose their own destiny. It is a human right that empowers people under occupation or colonial rule to decide their future without imposition by the colonial power. The Self-Determination act will create a fair, inclusive, and transparent process for Puerto Ricans in the archipelago and the diaspora to explore, understand, and consider all options for decolonization such as statehood, non-territorial commonwealth, independence or a dignified free association.

"There is no perfect path to resolve the colonial status of Puerto Rico but I believe that the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2021 is a step in the right direction. I urge our Massachusetts congressional delegation to unequivocally support this bill." - Otoniel

Figueroa-Duran, Co-founder of Alianza por Puerto Rico - Massachusetts.

The momentum has been building towards this historic moment at the national level and state-wide with municipal level resolutions have passed in support of Puerto Rico's self-determination fueled by city councilors Adam Gomez, Sr. and Orlando Ramos in Springfield, Libby Hernandez in Holyoke, and Sarai Rivera in Worcester. We expect that additional resolves will pass across Massachusetts in the near future.

"Puerto Rico's colonial status is a stain on the democratic ideals the United States endeavors to live by and uphold. Throughout history Puerto Rico has maintained its right to self determination. I support Puerto Rico's right to self determination and passing the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2021 would ensure an inclusive, transparent, process for Puerto Rico to exercise it." - Boston City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo.

Massachusetts Puerto Ricans understand that self-determination must ensure that all status options are on the table and have an equal footing; it is federally binding; it provides extensive information and engagement on all of the options available and what their real implications

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From My Corner



Reassessing my thoughts
The City Council Circus

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Sin muertes de niños por incendios en 2 años

La educación integral sobre incendios logra un hito

STOW - El Jefe de Bomberos del Estado Peter J. Ostroskey dijo: "El 8 de enero de 2021, anuncié que, por primera vez en el registro, no había habido muertes de niños por incendios en un año calendario. Hoy marca un nuevo hito. Han pasado dos años enteros desde que un niño murió en un incendio en Massachusetts". El último incendio que cobró la vida de un niño ocurrió el 16 de marzo de 2019 en Pittsfield.

"Atribuyo este hito récord a los 26 años del Programa de educación sobre incendios para estudiantes (S.A.F.E.). Los bomberos y los maestros de aula han criado una generación de niños a prueba de incendios al enseñar lecciones clave de seguridad contra incendios de una manera apropiada para la edad que se ajusta a los marcos curriculares del estado", dijo el Jefe de Bomberos del Estado Ostroskey.

El jefe Michael Newbury, presidente de la Asociación de Jefes de Bomberos de Massachusetts, dijo: "La colaboración entre bomberos-educadores y maestros de aula ha hecho que la seguridad contra incendios sea accesible para nuestros jóvenes que llevarán estos mensajes a sus familias. Gracias."

En lo que va del año, ha habido 12 muertes por incendios y el 75% de las víctimas eran personas mayores de 65 años. "Independientemente de su edad, asegúrese de tener detectores de humo que funcionen con menos de 10 años en todos los niveles de su hogar y practique el plan de escape de



su hogar", dijo Ostroskey. "Es posible que solo tenga de 1 a 3 minutos para escapar de un incendio típico en una casa antes de ser superado por gases tóxicos y calor extremo".

Basado en el éxito del Programa de Conciencia Estudiantil de la Educación sobre Incendios (S.A.F.E.), el estado creó el Programa Senior SAFE para reducir las muertes por incendios entre lo que ahora es la población más vulnerable: las personas mayores. Las personas mayores de 65 años representan casi la mitad de todas las muertes por incendios en el Commonwealth.

Tanto la S.A.F.E. y los Programas SAFE para personas mayores proporcionan subvenciones a los departamentos de bomberos locales para colaborar con las escuelas locales y las agencias de servicios para personas mayores a fin de brindar educación sobre seguridad contra incendios.

Para obtener más información, visite: Programa de educación sobre incendios para estudiantes (S.A.F.E.) o Programa SAFE para personas mayores.

No Child Fire Deaths in 2 Years

Comprehensive Fire Education Achieves Milestone

STOW – State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey said, "On January 8, 2021, I announced that for the first time on record, there had been zero child fire deaths in a calendar year. Today marks a new milestone. It has been two whole years since a child has died in a fire in Massachusetts." The last fire that claimed a child's life occurred on March 16, 2019, in Pittsfield.

"I attribute this record-breaking milestone to the 26 years of the Student Awareness of Fire Education Program (S.A.F.E.). Firefighters and classroom teachers have raised a fire-safe generation of children by teaching key fire safety lessons in an age-appropriate manner that fits with the state's curriculum frameworks," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey.

Chief Michael Newbury, president of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts said, "The collaboration between firefighter-educators and classroom teachers has made fire safety accessible to our youngsters who brought these messages home to their families. Thank you."

So far this year, there have been 12 fire deaths and 75% of the victims were people over 65. "Regardless of your age, make sure you have working smoke alarms that are less than 10 years old on every level of



your home and practice your home escape plan," said Ostroskey, "You may only have 1-3 minutes to escape a typical house fire before being overcome by toxic gases and extreme heat." Building on the success of the Student Awareness of the Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program, the state created the Senior SAFE Program to reduce fire deaths among what is now the most vulnerable population – seniors. People over 65 accounts for nearly half of all fire deaths in the Commonwealth.

Both the S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE Programs provide grants to local fire departments to collaborate with local schools and senior service agencies to provide fire safety education. For more information visit: Student Awareness of Fire Education Program (S.A.F.E.) or Senior SAFE Program.

Las escuelas locales preescolares Montessori reciben una subvención del Consejo Cultural de Haverhill para el plan de estudios de arte

Las escuelas preescolares locales Wildflower Montessori, Wisteria Montessori de 76 Merrimack St y Marigold Montessori de 26 White St, han recibido fondos del Haverhill Cultural Council para seis meses de currículo de arte y suministros para servir a más de treinta niños en edad preescolar.

El plan de estudios está diseñado por Creative Haverhill, una organización sin fines de lucro cuya misión es "apoyar las artes y la cultura de Haverhill, brindando experiencias y acceso en la intersección del arte, la cultura y la comunidad y desarrollar espacios de alta calidad como plataformas para la comunidad y expresión cultural".

Las escuelas Marigold y Wisteria Montessori son parte de la red Wildflower, un ecosistema de microescuelas Montessori descentralizadas que apoyan a niños, maestros y padres.

Wildflower aspira a brindarles a todos

los niños y familias la oportunidad de elegir entornos de aprendizaje hermosos y de alta calidad a medida que siguen el viaje que se desarrolla en la vida.

Para obtener más información sobre las escuelas Marigold y Wisteria Montessori, envíe un correo electrónico a infohaverhill@wildflowerschools.org.

Habrará una exhibición de obras de arte originales creadas por los niños de las escuelas Wisteria y Marigold Montessori en una Boardwalk Block Party programada para este verano. El evento invitará al público a disfrutar de un día de programación familiar y gratuita. Las actividades pueden incluir proyectos de arte interactivos, espectáculos de música y danza, comida y una película al aire libre.

El plan de estudios de arte y la fiesta de barrio son posibles gracias a la generosa subvención del Haverhill Cultural Council.

Local Montessori preschools receive Haverhill Cultural Council grant for art curriculum

Haverhill, MA — Local Wildflower Montessori preschools, Wisteria Montessori of 76 Merrimack St and Marigold Montessori of 26 White St, have received funding from the Haverhill Cultural Council for six months of art curriculum and supplies to serve over thirty preschool-age children.

The curriculum is designed by Creative Haverhill, a non-profit organization whose mission is to "support Haverhill arts and culture, providing experiences and access at the intersection of art, culture, and community and to develop high-quality spaces as platforms for community and cultural expression."

Marigold and Wisteria Montessori Schools are part of the Wildflower network, an ecosystem of decentralized Montessori micro-schools that support children, teachers, and parents.

Wildflower aspires to give all children and families the opportunity to choose high-quality, beautiful learning environments as they follow life's unfolding journey.

To learn more about Marigold and Wisteria Montessori schools, email infohaverhill@wildflowerschools.org.

There will be an exhibit of original artwork created by the children of Wisteria and Marigold Montessori schools at a Boardwalk Block Party slated to take place this summer. The event will invite the public to enjoy a day of free, family-friendly programming. Activities may include interactive art projects, music, and dance performances, food, and an outdoor movie.

The art curriculum and block party are made possible by generous grant funding from the Haverhill Cultural Council.

PLEASE SEE PUERTO RICO

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

would be (not hypotheticals); and it be led and decided by the people who are impacted, not by political parties or under the pressures of political agendas.

"Massachusetts has the fifth-highest concentration of Puerto Ricans in the United States with over 300,000 residents. Many residents of Massachusetts identify as Puerto Rican. This is an issue that matters to us and those we care about. The

Self-Determination Act of 2021 presents a unique opportunity for the diaspora to show solidarity with the people of Puerto Rico in decolonizing it and resolving its status once and for all." - Gladys Franco, Co-founder of the Boricua Solidarity Movement.

Massachusetts community groups and organizations in support of Puerto Rico's self-determination include Alianza for Puerto Rico, the Boricua Solidarity Movement, The Resistance Center for Peace and Justice, The Ethnic Study, Rise Up Western Mass Indivisible, and Valley Women's March among others.

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

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

- Thomas Jefferson

Rumbo

The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

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315 Mt. Vernon Street Lawrence, MA 01843-3206

Tel: (978) 794-5360 | www.rumbonews.com



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POR DALIA DÍAZ
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READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



Reevaluando mis pensamientos

Que esto sea una herramienta de aprendizaje para nuestros jóvenes.

La mayoría de las veces, uso mi cuenta de Facebook para aprender sobre las personas sobre las que estoy escribiendo y, por lo general, publico solo cosas divertidas (principalmente sobre gatos). Ahora, tengo que observar cuidadosamente lo que he hecho en mis largos, largos años de existencia porque algo que pude haber dicho hace 50 años podría hacer que me excluyan de la sociedad.

A medida que pasa el tiempo, las personas aprenden y cambian de opinión sobre sus comportamientos, disculpándose por sus errores, pero eso no es suficiente. Hay algo llamado "cancelar la cultura" que está perjudicando peligrosamente al país. ¡Sí, me atrevo a decirlo!

El activo más valioso que tenemos en este país es la Constitución de los Estados Unidos. Tenía la impresión de que era sagrado y ahora lo veo pisoteado. No es una cuestión de opinión, sino de ley.

Tomemos la Primera Enmienda que garantiza la libertad de expresión y hoy la gente tiene miedo de expresar sus puntos de vista. Quizás algún día pronto pueda ser víctima de esa censura e intimidación.

En las noticias de estos días está el despido de Alexi McCammond, editora de la revista Teen Vogue, incluso antes de que ella comenzara el trabajo. En 2011, cuando solo tenía 17 años, escribió algo en las redes sociales que luego fue borrado y se disculpó. También había una foto en una fiesta de Halloween en la que se disfrazó de nativa americana. Alguien lo hizo público y terminaron con ella.

Algunos anunciantes amenazaron con cancelar su campaña mediática con la revista y los cobardes cedieron arruinando la carrera de una joven.

Lo curioso es que trabajó para AXIOS y MSNBC y en el 2019 fue nombrada periodista emergente del año por la

Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Negros. Sí, ella es negra.

A finales de los noventa, Ellen Bahan tenía una columna en Rumbo informando desde la ciudad de Methuen. Todo lo que ella escribió era la verdad y me traería pruebas de algunos de sus argumentos más escandalosos. Entonces, un buen anunciante de Rumbo me pidió que la cancelara. Cuando me negué, con una voz muy suave que interpreté como una amenaza, dijo que cancelaría su anuncio si no lo hacía. Estábamos empezando con el periódico y necesitábamos el dinero, pero ningún anunciante iba a censurar mi publicación.

No se trata solo de la cancelación de los libros del Dr. Seuss, sino de la falta de tolerancia cuando la gente no está de acuerdo con los comentarios en la radio o la televisión. Hace un par de semanas, José Alfonso García dijo algunas cosas en la radio y un oyente escribió que lo iba a denunciar a su patrón. Nos guste o no, la Primera Enmienda protege su derecho a decirlo. La Primera Enmienda existe para proteger el discurso que no nos gusta.

Deberíamos estar más ofendidos por la casi pornografía que vemos en la televisión. Nuestros niños están siendo alimentados con sexo, violencia, vulgaridad y racismo por los medios de comunicación. Los niños no conocen la discriminación, pero se les está señalando.

Circo del Concejo Municipal

Las reuniones del consejo son horribles de ver, pero siendo un residente a quien le importa, es una obligación, particularmente cuando estaban entrevistando a los tres candidatos para el puesto de secretario municipal y tomar una decisión final. Lo primero que me impactó fue la falta de responsabilidad de algunos concejales. Estela Reyes y Pavel Payano estuvieron ausentes. Estela se perdió varias reuniones cuando tuvo el COVID-19, a pesar de que se llevan a cabo virtualmente desde sus hogares. Quizás temía que alguien le

preguntara sobre el pago del permiso de construcción en el 173-175 Haverhill St.

En el caso de Pavel, lo hace con demasiada frecuencia. Voy a tomarme el tiempo para pasar por las reuniones del año pasado y contar sus ausencias. Necesitamos decirles a los votantes qué tan responsables son de sus deberes antes de las próximas elecciones.

Entiendo que la excusa de Pavel es que comenzó un nuevo trabajo y eso interfiere con sus deberes. Debería renunciar y dejar que Richard Russell ocupe su lugar por el resto del período, ya que terminó en cuarto lugar. ¡Tendrá una asistencia perfecta!

No conozco a ninguno de los solicitantes, ni siquiera a la secretaria municipal interina, y no tengo ni idea de si está haciendo un buen trabajo. Después de escuchar lo que les han preguntado durante semanas, hubo tantas preguntas sin sentido y sus respuestas fueron aún peores. No tienen una idea clara de las responsabilidades que asumirán.

Este trabajo consiste en llevar registros y organizar las actividades del consejo. Esta persona es el guardián de los registros y documentos de la ciudad. No se trata de motivar al público, recolectar dinero, tener buenas habilidades de servicio al cliente, etc.

La Concejala María De La Cruz tiene que ser más cuidadosa al mostrar su preferencia en estas reuniones y ser imparcial, pero sé que no puede hacer eso. Esa es su forma de influir en las opiniones de los demás. Desde el principio, ha estado presionando porque la Secretaria Municipal

CARTAS AL EDITOR RUMBO

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

en funciones es su favorita. Después de una reunión tortuosa, el Concejo decidió eliminar la Secretaria Municipal interina de la contienda.

María incluso tuvo el descaro de preguntarles si aceptarían el salario mínimo si fueran contratados. ¿No sabe que esas son discusiones durante las negociaciones después de ser contratado? Eso no debe discutirse en público.

Intentaron votar un par de veces, pero solo pudieron obtener cuatro votos y necesitaban cinco debido al ausentismo. Sus acciones no solo afectan a los miembros del Concejo, a los empleados de la ciudad que tienen que participar, así como a las personas interesadas que tienen que estar presentes. Es muy irrespetuoso con todos los involucrados. Si no toman su trabajo en serio, ¿por qué se postulan para un cargo?

Y hablando de votar, veamos si el presidente Laplante impedirá que Celina Reyes vote por Erika Hernández. No lo hizo esta vez. Celina recomendó a Erika que se postulara para el puesto, pero ambas trabajan en Lawrence CommunityWorks, lo cual es un conflicto de intereses.

Ahora, para colmo de males, los dos solicitantes deben estar de regreso en la reunión del 6 de abril, solo que esta vez hay un giro: quieren entrevistar a dos solicitantes adicionales. Es como decirles: "Lo siento, no eres lo suficientemente bueno; seguiremos buscando a alguien mejor". ¡Qué falta de respeto!

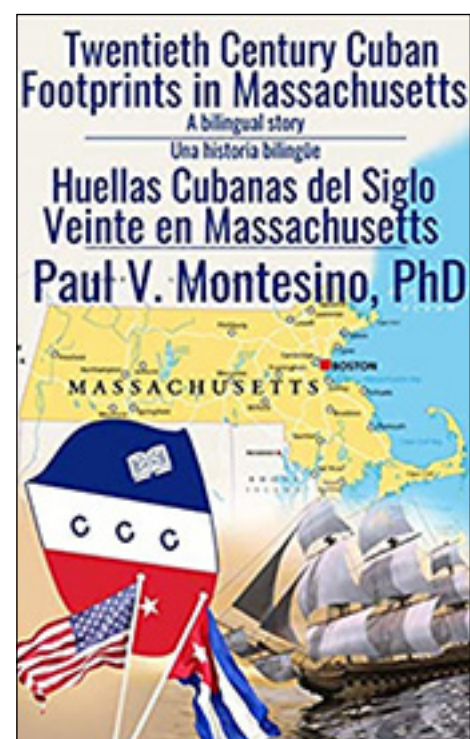
Nuevo libro sobre cubanos en Massachusetts

Paul V. Montesino, PhD. ha publicado la historia de cómo creció la población cubana en el estado en los años 60 y 70. Como resultado, creamos el Centro Cultural Cubano de Boston y, a principios de los ochenta, respondimos al éxodo del Mariel con ayudas a los arribos.

Su reciente publicación *Huellas Cubanas del Siglo Veinte en Massachusetts* es un libro electrónico Kindle bilingüe (inglés-español), un libro de bolsillo en letra normal y un libro de bolsillo en letra grande en Amazon.com que narra esos dos esfuerzos de nuestra comunidad.

Puede comprarlos a través de Amazon. La edición Kindle cuesta \$10; el libro de bolsillo impreso regular por \$15; y el libro de bolsillo impreso de gran tamaño por \$18.

El libro ha sido registrado en la Oficina de Derechos de Autor de la Biblioteca del Congreso y se han enviado copias a bibliotecas públicas de orientación cubana y en varias universidades.



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NECC Announces Graduation Plans for the Class of 2021

The pandemic has had a tremendous impact on just about everything, including the way colleges celebrate their graduates.

Last year, Northern Essex Community College's traditional graduation ceremony—typically held in May under a 3,000-person tent on the Haverhill Campus quad—was cancelled and replaced with a virtual ceremony and two celebration package pick-ups.

While everyone tried their best, it was clear that what graduates missed most was the opportunity to walk across the stage in their cap and gown and receive their well-earned associate degree or certificate.

With that in mind, the commencement committee put their heads together and came up with a plan for 2021 that features five small in-person, socially distanced graduation ceremonies organized by academic area.

Each ceremony will be held outside on the Haverhill Campus on Saturday, May 15, starting with the first ceremony at 9 am. A student speaker from each of the areas—STEM, Professional Studies, Health, Liberal Arts, and Business—will be selected by the academic centers to speak and President Lane Glenn will present the diplomas.

Because last year's ceremony was

virtual, 2020 graduates have been invited to participate.

All graduates will be seated 6-feet apart and policies regarding guests will be announced closer to the date, when the guidelines regarding outside events become more clear.

HC Media will be livestreaming all of the ceremonies so family and friends can watch from anywhere. Also the college will be handing out yard signs, which were a big hit last year.

The college has a commencement website that includes the latest information. Please visit that for updates.

Northern Essex Community College has campuses in both Haverhill and Lawrence. It offers approximately 60 associate degree and certificate programs as well as hundreds of noncredit courses designed for personal enrichment and career growth. Each year, 6,000 students are enrolled in credit associate degree and certificate programs on the Haverhill and Lawrence campuses; and another 2,000 take noncredit workforce development and community education classes on campus, and at businesses and community sites across the Merrimack Valley. For more information, visit the website at www.necc.mass.edu or call 978-556-3700.



NECC's Knight mascot delivers a celebration package to a 2020 grad at last June's celebration package pick up on the Haverhill Campus.

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NECC Announces Plans for Fall

Based on feedback from students and faculty, Northern Essex Community College (Haverhill and Lawrence, MA) will expand its course options this fall, offering more opportunities for virtual and on-campus face-time between students and their professors.

In the fall of 2021, students will have four types of courses to choose from: online courses without required online meetings; online courses with required online meetings; hybrid courses, combining in-person socially-distanced classroom meetings with online work; as well as on campus, socially-distanced, face-to-face courses.

In the fall of 2020 and spring of 2021, Northern Essex offered 90% of courses online without required online meetings and 10% face-to-face.

"The goal is to give students more options that include scheduled time with their instructors," said Bill Heineman, college provost. "We found many students liked the flexibility of online learning but wanted the accountability that required meetings could bring."

The college surveyed students late last fall and faculty and staff in the same time frame to determine how the changes related to COVID-19 were impacting teaching and learning.

When asked what kind of online course they preferred, students responded with a 43% preference for online courses without required online meetings; a 14% preference for online courses with required online meetings; and a 43% preference for a mixture of the two.

Kelly Saretsky, dean of strategic planning and institutional research, said the many comments shared in the survey helped the college understand what students were experiencing.

"Some loved online courses because it was easier to coordinate college, work and personal commitments," she said. "But what resonated, in both the faculty and staff and student surveys, was the need for more virtual face time with their instructors. Students feel more connected with their

instructors when they have the opportunity for face-to-face interaction."

The college also found some students would benefit from actual face time on campus, said Saretsky, which is why the college will provide hybrid courses in the fall of 2021.

In early April when students begin registering for fall 2021 classes, the class schedule will include an icon showing how the course will be delivered. That will give students the opportunity to choose their preferred modality.

Lane Glenn, Northern Essex president, said the college is committed to bringing back face-to-face courses, and will consider expanding these options as it becomes safe to do so. "We know that many students do better in a traditional classroom, and, if it's safe and the demand is there, we will be open to expanding these options in the fall."

Also new this fall, returning students will be able to register themselves, using the one-click navigation tool available through Navigate, the college's student app. In the past, most students were required to meet with an academic advisor and fill out a paper form to register for courses, a process which could create long lines on the day of registration.

The fall 2021 semester begins Sept. 8.

To learn about Northern Essex programs and courses, visit the website, www.necc.mass.edu or contact admissions, admissions@necc.mass.edu.

Northern Essex Community College has campuses in both Haverhill and Lawrence. It offers more than 60 associate degree and certificate programs as well as hundreds of noncredit courses designed for personal enrichment and career growth. Each year, more than 5,000 students are enrolled in credit associate degree and certificate programs on the Haverhill and Lawrence campuses; and another 2,600 take noncredit workforce development and community education classes on campus, and at businesses and community sites across the Merrimack Valley. For more information, visit the website at www.necc.mass.edu or call 978-556-3700.

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

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

- Gloria Pitzer

*APR denotes Annual Percentage Rate as of 3/22/21 and is based on a \$145,000 purchase loan with minimum credit score of 720 and maximum LTV of 80%. Rate is subject to change without notice. Loan cost per \$1,000 borrowed is \$4.05. Minimum loan amount is \$200,000, maximum loan amount is \$2 million. One to four family, owner-occupied residential only. Other subject to credit approval. Property insurance required. Flood insurance required if the property is located in a FEMA Special Hazard Flood Zone. Monthly payment examples do not include escrow amounts for real estate taxes and/or insurance, if applicable. This may increase payment amount. Other terms and conditions may apply. Member FDIC • Member SIF • NMLS ID: 4428410
***Points and/or additional fees may be assessed for borrowers with credit scores lower than 720 and/or cash-out refinance loans.

Todavía la concejala privilegiada no ha pagado

Por Dalia Díaz

Estela Reyes no ha hecho un pago en el permiso de construcción en su casa del 173-175 Haverhill St.

Sé que la Concejala Estela Reyes no tiene vergüenza y no se apena por esto, pero me pregunto por qué nunca le impusieron un guardia de incendios como hicieron con las hermanas Tomaselli a una cuadra de distancia. Me pregunto cuántas personas más aparte de Estela están haciendo lo mismo.

Los Servicios de Inspección tampoco le dieron una orden de suspensión del trabajo por falta de pago. ¿Ve por qué dije que esto es "privilegio"? Compare esto con la casa que James O'Donoghue estaba construyendo pagando los permisos y todos los requisitos.

Esta ciudad funciona sin vergüenza y ninguno de los concejales muestra respeto por los vecinos; no importa lo que yo escriba, ellos se mantienen silentes. El problema es que no tenemos líderes en Lawrence que nos representen. Algunas personas dicen que todos deben ser

reemplazados, pero ¿con quién? Solo me temo que cualquiera que elijamos podría terminar siendo peor.

Se están escondiendo del público al celebrar sus reuniones casi en secreto porque no todos tienen acceso al Internet para ver las espantosas transmisiones de zoom. Otras ciudades y pueblos los han estado viendo por televisión manteniendo la distancia adecuada y con paneles acrílicos que los separan.

No deberían temer al público porque solo Richard Russell y probablemente uno o dos residentes más asistirían a las reuniones de la Cámara. A esta comunidad no le importa lo que pase como para quejarse. ¡Ahora sí que estamos condenados!



The privileged councilor has not made a payment

By Dalia Diaz

Estela Reyes has not made a payment on the building permit for the repairs on her house at 173-175 Haverhill St.

I know that Councilor Estela Reyes has no shame and doesn't get embarrassed over this but I wonder why she never got a fire watch imposed like the Tomaselli sisters one block away. I wonder how many more people besides Estela are doing the same.

Inspectional Services did not give her a stop-work order for lack of payment, either. See why I said this is "privilege"? Compare this

to the house James O'Donoghue was building paying for permits and all the requirements.

This city operates shamelessly and none of the councilors shows any respect for the residents; no matter what I write, they remain silent. The problem is that we have no leaders in Lawrence representing us. Some people say they all have to be replaced but with whom? I'm just afraid that anyone we elect could end up being worse.

They are hiding from the public by holding their meetings almost in secret

because not everyone has access to the internet to watch the hideous zoom transmissions. Other cities and towns have been watching them on television while keeping the proper distance and acrylic panels separating them.

They should not fear the public because only Richard Russell and probably one or two more residents would attend the Chamber meetings. This community doesn't care what goes on enough to complain. Now we are really doomed!

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Declaración del Movimiento Cosecha sobre la aprobación de la ley de sueños y promesas, criticando al Partido Demócrata por dividir y criminalizar a la comunidad inmigrante

El grupo de inmigrantes indocumentados Cosecha pide protección permanente para los 11 millones de inmigrantes indocumentados, no solo aquellos que serían elegibles bajo la Ley Dream and Promise, y planea la movilización del 1 de mayo en D.C.

A nivel nacional - Tras la noticia de la aprobación de la Ley Dream and Promise hoy en la Cámara de Representantes de los Estados Unidos, el grupo de inmigrantes indocumentados Movimiento Cosecha emitió la siguiente declaración:

La Cámara acaba de aprobar la Ley Dream and Promise, que si se convierte en ley finalmente crearía un camino hacia la ciudadanía para aproximadamente 2.5 millones de beneficiarios de DACA, TPS y DED. Sin embargo, el proyecto de ley actual también contiene estrictas "prohibiciones criminales" que excluyen y ponen en riesgo de deportación a miles de Dreamers e inmigrantes elegibles. Estos barrios criminales ignoran la realidad racista e inhumana de un sistema de "justicia" criminal que apunta a los trabajadores inmigrantes simplemente por tratar de vivir sus vidas. Rechazamos estas exclusiones y creemos que todos merecemos protección, dignidad y respeto.

Movimiento Cosecha representa a los trabajadores indocumentados y a sus familias en todo el país y muchos de

nosotros sentimos sentimientos encontrados por esta noticia. ¿Deberíamos sentirnos aliviados de que algunos de nosotros, después de décadas, pudiéramos finalmente recibir algo de protección, o entristecidos de que pudiera llegar a expensas de nuestros padres, seres queridos, miembros de nuestra comunidad? Debemos ser claros: este dilema es una opción falsa que nos impone el Partido Demócrata. Merecemos algo mejor que esta división, y merecemos algo mejor que la Ley Dream and Promise.

Durante mucho tiempo, los demócratas han tratado de dividirnos en soñadores y padres, "buenos" y "malos", "esenciales" y no esenciales. Aunque Joe Biden prometió previamente un camino hacia la ciudadanía para los 11 millones de inmigrantes indocumentados, los demócratas ahora han optado por abandonar dicha legislación y retórica y centrarse en su misma estrategia de siempre de protección para algunos a cambio de la criminalización y deportación del resto. El Partido Demócrata puede decir que es la única estrategia realista para aprobar leyes, pero realmente revela que no tienen el interés o el coraje para realmente dar un paso adelante y luchar por toda nuestra comunidad.

Al final del día, el Partido Demócrata no define lo que la comunidad inmigrante

merece, nosotros sí. Los trabajadores inmigrantes indocumentados y las familias, que han liderado esta lucha durante décadas bajo las administraciones demócrata y republicana, deben continuar exigiendo lo que necesitamos para llevar una vida segura y digna en un país donde hemos vivido y trabajado durante años, un país que depende y se beneficia de nuestro trabajo, pero nos somete al terror continuo de la explotación, el encarcelamiento, la detención y la deportación en el lugar de trabajo.

Es por eso que Movimiento Cosecha ha

anunciado una fecha límite de los Primeros 100 días de Biden para brindar protección permanente a los 11 millones de inmigrantes indocumentados. Nuestra comunidad planea movilizarse en D.C. el 1 de mayo para dejar en claro al presidente y al Partido Demócrata que no nos conformaremos con promesas vacías y meras migajas. **Movimiento Cosecha** es un movimiento nacional que lucha por la protección permanente, la dignidad y el respeto de los 11 millones de inmigrantes indocumentados en los Estados Unidos

Movimiento Cosecha Statement on the Passage of the Dream and Promise Act, Criticizing the Democratic Party for Dividing and Criminalizing the Immigrant Community

Undocumented immigrant group Cosecha calls for permanent protection for all 11 million undocumented immigrants, not only those who would be eligible under the Dream and Promise Act, and plans for May 1 mobilization in D.C.

Nationwide — Following the news of the passage of the Dream and Promise Act today in the U.S. House of Representatives, undocumented immigrant group Movimiento Cosecha released the following statement:

The House has just passed the Dream and Promise Act, which if signed into law would finally create a pathway to citizenship for approximately 2.5 million DACA, TPS, and DED recipients. However, the current bill also contains strict "criminal bars" that exclude and put at risk of deportation thousands of Dreamers and otherwise eligible immigrants. These criminal bars ignore the racist, inhumane reality of a criminal "justice" system that targets immigrant workers for simply trying to live their lives. We reject these exclusions and believe we all deserve protection, dignity, and respect.

Movimiento Cosecha represents undocumented workers and families across the country and many of us feel mixed emotions about this news. Should we be relieved that some of us, after decades, might finally receive some protection—or saddened that it could come at the expense of our parents, our loved ones, our community members? We must be clear: this dilemma is a false choice forced upon us by the Democratic Party. We deserve better than this division, and we deserve better than the Dream and Promise Act.

For so long, Democrats have sought

to divide us into Dreamers and parents, "good" and "bad", "essential" and non-essential. Though Joe Biden previously promised a pathway to citizenship for all 11 million undocumented immigrants, the Democrats have now chosen to abandon such legislation and rhetoric and focus on their same-old strategy of protection for some in exchange for criminalization and deportation for the rest. The Democratic Party may say that is the only realistic strategy for passing legislation, but really it reveals they do not have the interest or the courage to truly step up and fight for our entire community.

At the end of the day, the Democratic Party does not define what the immigrant community deserves—we do. Undocumented immigrant workers and families, who have led this fight for decades under both Democratic and Republican administrations, must continue to demand what we need to lead safe and dignified lives in a country where we have lived and worked for years—a country that depends and profits off of our labor but subjects us to the ongoing terror of workplace exploitation, incarceration, detention, and deportation.

That is why Movimiento Cosecha has announced a deadline of Biden's First 100 Days to deliver on permanent protection for all 11 million undocumented immigrants. Our community plans to mobilize in D.C. on May 1 to make clear to the president and the Democratic Party that we will not settle for empty promises and mere crumbs.

Movimiento Cosecha is a national movement fighting for permanent protection, dignity, and respect for all 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States.

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

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

— Indira Gandhi



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 ¿Quiénes fueron los primeros habitantes?
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La SBA extiende el período de aplazamiento para todos los préstamos por desastre hasta 2022

La Administración de Pequeñas Empresas de EE. UU. Anunció períodos de aplazamiento extendidos para todos los préstamos por desastre, incluido el programa COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), hasta 2022.

Todos los préstamos por desastre de la SBA realizados en el año calendario 2020, incluido el COVID-19 EIDL, tendrán una fecha de vencimiento del primer pago que se extenderá de 12 a 24 meses a partir de la fecha del pagaré.

Todos los préstamos por desastre de la SBA realizados en el año calendario 2021, incluido el COVID-19 EIDL, tendrán una fecha de vencimiento del primer pago que se extenderá de 12 a 18 meses a partir de la fecha del pagaré.

Los préstamos por desastre existentes de la SBA aprobados antes de 2020 en estado de servicio regular a partir del 1 de marzo de 2020 recibieron un aplazamiento automático de los pagos de capital e intereses hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2020. Este período de aplazamiento inicial se extendió posteriormente hasta el 31 de marzo de 2021. 12 -Se otorgará automáticamente a

estos prestatarios un aplazamiento mensual de los pagos de capital e intereses. Los prestatarios reanudarán su calendario de pagos regular con el pago inmediatamente anterior al 31 de marzo de 2022, a menos que el prestatario continúe haciendo pagos voluntariamente mientras se encuentra en aplazamiento. Es importante tener en cuenta que los intereses seguirán acumulándose sobre el saldo pendiente del préstamo durante la duración del aplazamiento.

“Las pequeñas empresas, las organizaciones privadas sin fines de lucro y las empresas agrícolas, incluidas las personas que trabajan por cuenta propia, los contratistas y los trabajadores autónomos, continúan atravesando un entorno económico muy difícil debido a los continuos impactos de la pandemia del coronavirus COVID-19, así como a las históricas tormentas de invierno severas en 2020”, dijo Tami Perrillo, administradora de la SBA.

“El programa COVID-19 EIDL ha ayudado a más de 3.7 millones de pequeñas empresas, incluidas organizaciones sin fines de lucro, propietarios únicos y contratistas

independientes, de una amplia gama de industrias y sectores comerciales, en este momento desafiante”, continuó Perrillo.

La SBA continúa esforzándose por poner a disposición todos los fondos de estímulo para la pandemia de coronavirus aprobados anteriormente y administrar los nuevos programas específicos relacionados con las disposiciones de la Ley de Ayuda Económica para Pequeñas Empresas, Organizaciones sin Fines de Lucro y Sedes (la Ley de Ayuda Económica) de 2020 tan pronto como sea posible.

“El pueblo estadounidense y los propietarios de pequeñas empresas de la nación necesitan nuestro incansable esfuerzo y dedicación para hacer llegar este financiamiento esencial a quienes lo necesitan, y la SBA no descansará hasta que implementemos el “Plan de Rescate Estadounidense” del presidente Biden y sus programas y fondos específicos adicionales asignados para las comunidades de pequeñas empresas y organizaciones sin fines de lucro de Estados Unidos”, dijo Michael Roth, asesor senior de la SBA.

Los préstamos COVID-19 EIDL se ofrecen en términos muy asequibles, con

una tasa de interés de 3.75% para pequeñas empresas y una tasa de interés de 2.75% para organizaciones sin fines de lucro, con vencimiento a 30 años. Los intereses continúan acumulándose durante el período de aplazamiento y los prestatarios pueden realizar pagos totales o parciales si así lo desean.

A mediados de febrero de 2021, la SBA alcanzó un hito en el éxito del programa COVID-19 EIDL al aprobar más de \$ 200 mil millones en fondos de emergencia en préstamos a bajo interés, proporcionando fondos de capital de trabajo a pequeñas empresas, organizaciones sin fines de lucro y empresas agrícolas para sobrevivir a los severos impactos de este catastrófico e histórico período en todos los Estados Unidos de América y sus territorios. La SBA continúa aprobando más de \$ 500 millones cada semana para el programa COVID-19 EIDL.

Las preguntas sobre SBA COVID-19 EIDL y los pagos de préstamos por desastre se pueden responder por correo electrónico a DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov o llamando al Centro de Servicio al Cliente de la SBA al 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339).

SBA Extends Deferment Period for all Disaster Loans until 2022

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced extended deferment periods for all disaster loans, including the COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, until 2022.

All SBA disaster loans made in calendar year 2020, including COVID-19 EIDL, will have a first payment due date extended from 12-months to 24-months from the date of the note.

All SBA disaster loans made in calendar year 2021, including COVID-19 EIDL, will have a first payment due date extended from 12-months to 18-months from the date of the note.

Existing SBA disaster loans approved prior to 2020 in regular servicing status as of March 1, 2020, received an automatic deferment of principal and interest payments through December 31, 2020. This initial deferment period was subsequently extended through March 31, 2021. An additional 12-month deferment of principal and interest payments will be automatically granted to these borrowers. Borrowers will resume their regular payment schedule with the payment immediately preceding March 31, 2022, unless the borrower voluntarily continues to make payments while on deferment. It is important to note that the interest will continue to accrue on the outstanding balance of the loan throughout the duration of the deferment.

“Small Businesses, private nonprofits and agricultural enterprises, including those self-employed individuals, contractors and gig workers, continue to navigate a very difficult economic environment due to the continued impacts of the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, as well as historic Severe Winter Storms in 2020,” SBA Administrator Tami Perrillo said.

“The COVID-19 EIDL program has assisted over 3.7 million of small businesses, including non-profit organizations, sole proprietors and independent contractors,

from a wide array of industries and business sectors, through this challenging time,” continued Perrillo.

SBA continues to strive to make available all previously approved Coronavirus Pandemic stimulus funding and administer the new targeted programs related to provisions in the 2020 Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act (the Economic Aid Act) as quickly as possible.

“The American people and the nation’s Small Business owners need our tireless effort and dedication to get this essential funding to those in great need, and SBA will not rest until we implement President Biden’s “American Rescue Plan” and its’ additional targeted programs and funds allocated for America’s small business and nonprofit communities,” said SBA Senior Advisor Michael Roth.

COVID-19 EIDL loans are offered at very affordable terms, with a 3.75% interest rate for small businesses and 2.75% interest rate for nonprofit organizations, a 30-year maturity. Interest continues to accrue during the deferment period and borrowers may make full or partial payments if they choose.

In mid-February 2021, SBA reached a milestone in the success of the COVID-19 EIDL program, by approving over \$200 billion in emergency funding in low-interest loans, providing working capital funds to small businesses, non-profits and agricultural businesses to survive the severe impacts of this catastrophic and historic period within the entire United States of America and its territories. SBA continues to approve over \$500 million each week for the COVID-19 EIDL program.

Questions on SBA COVID-19 EIDL and disaster loan payments can be answered by email at DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov or by calling SBA’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339).

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MCC to Offer Dental Hygiene Alumni a Preview of Renovated Clinic

Amid the pandemic, Middlesex Community College continues to offer students, alumni, faculty and staff an opportunity to connect with the college community. As Middlesex is celebrating its 50th anniversary throughout the year, the college has been creative in developing online events and celebrations. MCC's Alumni Association is collaborating with the Dental Hygiene department to run an event for alumni of the program.

The free event will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 18 and is also open to alumni of MCC's Dental Assisting program. Participants will have the chance to reconnect with classmates, network with other dental professionals, and learn about the newly renovated Dental Hygiene Clinic.

"The MCC Alumni Association supports alumni by providing a space for alums with shared interests to connect, learn from one another, and remain an integral part of the Middlesex community," said Amy Lee, MCC's Director of Annual Giving & Alumni Relations. "This event offers alums an opportunity to see MCC's renovated dental hygiene clinic, hear from faculty, and make connections to other alums in the dental hygiene field."

MCC's dental clinic on the Lowell campus offers training hours for students while serving the community with a wide range of low-cost comprehensive dental services, including for those who could not otherwise afford the services.

Services go beyond teeth cleaning, including checking blood pressure; providing

head, neck and oral cancer screenings; and nutritional counseling. Patients can also receive thorough cleanings, fluoride therapy, x-rays, sealants, cleaning of dentures or partials, custom fit athletic mouth guards and Arestin treatments to treat gum disease.

As the services provide an educational experience for students – and high-quality care for patients – the clinic was in need of updating. The renovation project included 24 new patient treatment rooms, new patient chairs in radiology and a new centralized sterilization center. It also included a revised floor plan that increased compliance with patient privacy laws (HIPAA) and increased accessibility. The dental assisting clinic also received five new treatment areas.

"We are so proud of our new clinic and all the benefits it provides our students and community," said Karen Townsend, MCC's Director of Dental Hygiene. "The new clinic optimizes clinician ergonomics and work efficiency, while providing students the opportunity to practice with state-of-the-art equipment such as integrated power driven instruments and intraoral cameras. In addition, the new design allows for significantly improved patient and student privacy."

The updates have also allowed the department to safely reopen the clinics during the pandemic, according to Townsend. Students and staff can remain apart as they perform services on patients with more division and space between treatment rooms, and stay safe with optimized ventilation and air purification. Calling the renovation



"long overdue," Townsend looks forward to sharing the updated clinic with alumni.

Middlesex received a \$499,254 Massachusetts Skill Capital Grant that covered the cost for some of the renovation. To raise funds for the remainder of the project costs, the Middlesex Community College Foundation created an additional fundraising campaign.

"MCC's SMILE Campaign will support the efforts of the Dental Hygiene, Dental Assisting and Dental Laboratory programs to keep the newly renovated clinic outfitted with the latest tools and resources to keep our students competitive as they enter and continue their dental careers," said Sherri McCormack, MCC's Dean of Advancement. "As advancements are made in the dental field, our students will be ready with the

educational foundation to become experts in their field."

Visit <https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/alumni/events.aspx> for more information and to register for the free event. To make a donation, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/foundation/donations/ or mail a check to MCC Foundation, P.O. 8681, Lowell, MA 01853 with the SMILE Campaign designation.

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

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El Hospicio de Merrimack Valley apoya a los niños en duelo

Grupo de apoyo virtual gratuito a partir del 29 de marzo

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Reconociendo que el sentido de comunidad, las experiencias compartidas y la conexión son especialmente importantes, Merrimack Valley Hospice ha ampliado sus ofertas de grupos de apoyo gratuitos para el duelo para incluir una sesión para niños.

Dado que las reuniones en persona no son posibles durante la crisis de COVID-19, las sesiones en línea se ofrecen a través de videoconferencia de Zoom. Los grupos se ofrecen cada dos semanas, con sesiones dirigidas por un facilitador del personal de duelo acreditado y con licencia de Merrimack Valley Hospice.

El grupo de apoyo para el duelo de los nuevos niños se reúne cada dos lunes, de 5:00 a 6:00 p.m., del 29 de marzo al 7 de junio. Los siguientes grupos continuos

Los grupos continuos que abordan la pérdida general se llevan a cabo cada dos semanas los miércoles de 12:00 a 1:00 p.m. y los jueves de 5:00 a 6:00 p.m. Las

sesiones continuas para quienes están en duelo por la pérdida de un cónyuge o pareja se llevan a cabo cada dos martes, de 10:00 a 11:30 a.m., y cada dos miércoles, de 6:00 a 7:30 p.m. Las reuniones continuas y espontáneas facilitadas por y para aquellos en la comunidad LGBTQ+ que han experimentado una pérdida tienen lugar cada dos martes de 5:30 a 7 p.m.

Todos los grupos son gratuitos y abiertos al público. Para registrarse, llame al (978) 552-4510. Para obtener más información, visite MerrimackValleyHospice.org.

Merrimack Valley Hospice es una agencia sin fines de lucro que brinda atención de confort y servicios de apoyo a pacientes que se acercan al final de la vida y servicios de duelo para sus familias y seres queridos. Junto con Home Health VNA, las agencias brindan un servicio completo de atención médica en el hogar y cuidados paliativos en más de 110 comunidades en Merrimack Valley, Northeastern Massachusetts y Southern New Hampshire. Merrimack Valley Hospice también sirve a la región del sur de Maine como York Hospital Hospice. Para obtener más información, visite MerrimackValleyHospice.org.

Merrimack Valley Hospice Supports Grieving Children

Free Virtual Support Group Beginning March 29

It can be challenging for parents and caregivers of children who are grieving the loss of a family member, friend, or another significant person to know what to say or do to help them cope and ultimately heal.

Recognizing that a sense of community, shared experiences and connection are especially important, Merrimack Valley Hospice has expanded its offerings of free grief support groups to include a session for children.

Since in-person meetings are not possible during the COVID-19 crisis, the online sessions are offered via Zoom video conference. Groups are offered biweekly, with sessions led by a facilitator from Merrimack Valley Hospice's licensed, credentialed bereavement staff.

The new children's grief support group meets every other Monday, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., from March 29 through June 7. The following ongoing groups

Ongoing groups addressing general loss take place biweekly on Wednesdays, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., and Thursdays, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Ongoing sessions for those grieving

the loss of a spouse or partner are held every other Tuesday, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., and every other Wednesday, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Drop-in, ongoing meetings facilitated by and for those in the LGBTQ+ community who have experienced a loss take place every other Tuesday from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

All groups are free of charge and open to the public. To register, call (978) 552-4510. To learn more, visit MerrimackValleyHospice.org.

Merrimack Valley Hospice is a not-for-profit agency providing comfort care and supportive services to patients nearing the end of life and bereavement services to their families and loved ones. Together with Home Health VNA, the agencies provide a full continuum of home health and hospice care in more than 110 communities throughout the Merrimack Valley, Northeastern Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire. Merrimack Valley Hospice also serves the Southern Maine region as York Hospital Hospice. For more information, visit MerrimackValleyHospice.org.

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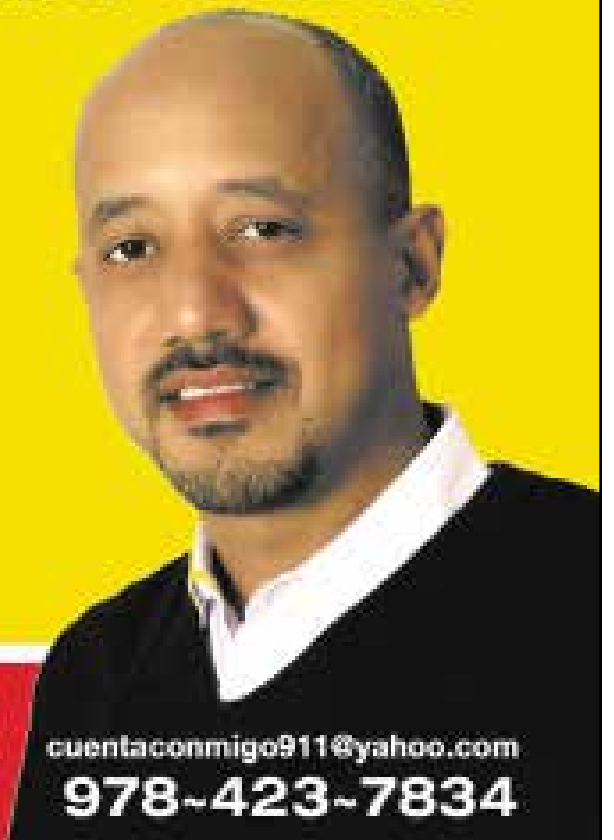
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El Comité Escolar de GLTS aprueba el plan para el regreso parcial al aprendizaje en persona para la educación técnica y profesional

ANDOVER - El superintendente John Lavoie informa que el Comité Escolar de Greater Lawrence Tech ha aprobado planes para un regreso gradual para facilitar más aprendizaje en persona para las clases de educación técnica y profesional.

La transición coincide con la orientación del Departamento de Educación Primaria y Secundaria (DESE) de que un regreso al aprendizaje totalmente en persona, con los protocolos de prevención de COVID-19 adecuados, no solo es seguro, sino necesario y beneficioso para los académicos y bienestar socioemocional de los estudiantes. Si bien el estado exige este regreso para los estudiantes de primaria a partir del 5 de abril, los distritos de todo el estado ya están haciendo esta transición en todos los niveles de grado.

Sin embargo, es digno de mención que GLTS atiende a estudiantes de algunas de las comunidades más afectadas por la pandemia en el Commonwealth y solo recientemente comenzó a traer estudiantes para cualquier aprendizaje en persona debido a las tasas significativas de propagación comunitaria.

"La instrucción práctica, los proyectos y el trabajo en grupo son partes fundamentales de la educación técnica y profesional, y estamos muy agradecidos de estar en un lugar donde podemos comenzar a hacer el cambio para atraer a más estudiantes para el aprendizaje en persona", dijo el Superintendente Dijo Lavoie. "Sin embargo, nuestras comunidades han estado entre las más afectadas, si no las más afectadas, por esta pandemia en el Commonwealth. A medida que damos el siguiente paso, afirmamos a nuestros estudiantes, personal y familias que estamos comprometidos tanto con la educación de nuestros Reggies, ya la salud y el bienestar de toda la comunidad GLTS".

El plan implementa un retorno gradual al aprendizaje en persona de educación técnica y profesional (CTE) de la siguiente manera:

- Los estudiantes de tercer y cuarto año que elijan optar por el aprendizaje en persona regresarán cada dos semanas para

sus clases de CTE a partir del lunes 29 de marzo. Los estudiantes de tercer y cuarto año continuarán asistiendo a clases de forma remota durante sus semanas académicas.

- Los estudiantes de segundo año que opten por el aprendizaje CTE en persona regresarán el lunes 12 de abril. Los estudiantes de segundo año no rotan semanas entre las clases académicas y de CTE como los estudiantes del tercer y cuarto año. La mitad de su semana será de aprendizaje en persona para sus clases vocacionales y la otra mitad será remota para sus clases académicas.

- Los estudiantes de primer año regresaron al aprendizaje en persona para sus clases de CTE específicamente el 22 de febrero. En ese momento, el 63% de la clase de 2024 comenzó el aprendizaje en persona y desde entonces el distrito ha ofrecido a las familias y estudiantes otra oportunidad de optar por participar. aprendizaje en persona, y otros 24 estudiantes de primer año han optado por el aprendizaje en persona este mes. Los estudiantes de primer año, como los de segundo año, están tomando sus cursos CTE en persona durante la mitad de la semana escolar y sus clases académicas se llevan a cabo de forma remota durante el resto de la semana.

Los estudiantes de cualquier grado también tienen la oportunidad de seguir participando en el aprendizaje completamente remoto.

Mientras estén en el edificio, se seguirá exigiendo a todos los estudiantes y el personal que sigan los protocolos de prevención de COVID-19 del distrito, incluido el uso de mascarillas, mantener una distancia física de seis pies de los demás, lavarse y desinfectarse las manos con regularidad y quedarse en casa cuando estén enfermos. Las tiendas también han diseñado protocolos específicos para proteger la salud y el bienestar de los estudiantes y el personal mientras se encuentran en el edificio.

Además, se les pedirá a los padres y tutores que firmen un formulario para que

los estudiantes reciban una prueba de PCR antes de regresar al aprendizaje en persona y una vez que asistan, en caso de que se enfermen durante el día escolar.

El personal de enfermería de la escuela ha recibido una formación exhaustiva sobre cómo administrar la prueba con un hisopo nasal. La decisión de administrar la prueba la tomará la enfermera de la escuela y los padres y tutores serán contactados por teléfono para obtener su consentimiento antes de que su hijo sea evaluado. Todos los estudiantes que sean evaluados,

independientemente de su resultado, serán enviados a casa.

GLTS también revisará sus horarios de autobús de acuerdo con las transiciones de las fases anteriores, y los protocolos de autobús se compartirán con los estudiantes y las familias antes de que los estudiantes regresen para el aprendizaje en persona.

GLTS proporcionará actualizaciones adicionales a todos los estudiantes, familias y personal a medida que haya más información disponible sobre el regreso al aprendizaje parcial en persona.

GLTS School Committee Approves Plan for Partial Return to In-Person Learning for Career and Technical Education

ANDOVER -- Superintendent John Lavoie reports the Greater Lawrence Tech School Committee has approved plans for a phased return to facilitate more in-person learning for career and technical education classes.

The transition falls in line with guidance from the Department and Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) that a return to fully in-person learning, with the proper COVID-19 prevention protocols in place, is not only safe but needed and beneficial for the academic and social emotional wellbeing of students. While the state is requiring this return for elementary students starting April 5, districts statewide are already making this transition at all grade levels.

However, it is noteworthy GLTS serves students from some of the communities hardest hit by the pandemic in the Commonwealth and only recently began bringing students in for any in-person learning due to the significant rates of community spread.

"Hands-on instruction, projects and group work are core parts of career and technical education, and we're very thankful to be in a place where we can begin making the shift to bring in more students for in-person learning," Superintendent Lavoie said. "However, our communities have been among the hardest hit, if not the hardest hit, by this pandemic in the Commonwealth. As we take this next step, we affirm to our students, staff and families that we're committed to both the education of our Reggies, and to the health and wellbeing of the entire GLTS community."

The plan rolls out a phased return to in-person career and technical education (CTE) learning as follows:

- Juniors and seniors who choose to opt into in-person learning will return every other week for their CTE classes beginning on Monday, March 29. Juniors and seniors will continue to attend class remotely during their academic weeks.

- Sophomores who opt into in-person CTE learning will return on Monday, April 12. Sophomores do not rotate weeks between academic and CTE classes like juniors and seniors. Half of their week will

be in-person learning for their vocational classes and half will be remote for their academic classes.

- Freshmen students returned to in-person learning for their CTE classes specifically on Feb. 22. At that time, 63% of the class of 2024 began in-person learning and the district has since offered families and students another chance to opt into in-person learning, and an additional 24 freshmen have opted in for in-person learning this month. Freshmen, like sophomores, are taking their CTE courses in-person for half of the school week and their academic classes are held remotely for the remainder of the week.

Students at any grade level also have the opportunity to continue taking part in fully remote learning.

While in the building, all students and staff will continue to be required to follow the district's COVID-19 prevention protocols, including mask wearing, maintaining a physical distance of six feet from others, regular hand washing and sanitizing, and staying home when ill. Shops have also tailored specific protocols to protect the health and wellbeing of students and staff while in the building.

Further, parents and guardians will be asked to sign a form for students to receive a PCR test before they return to in-person learning and once they are attending, should they fall ill during the school day.

School nursing staff have been thoroughly trained on how to administer the test using a nasal swab. The decision to administer the test will be made by the school nurse, and parents and guardians will be contacted by phone call for consent before their child is tested. All students who are tested, regardless of their result, will be sent home.

GLTS will also be revising its bus schedules in accordance with the above phased transitions, and bus protocols will be shared with students and families before students return for in-person learning.

GLTS will be providing additional updates to all students, families and staff as more information is available about the return to partial, in-person learning.

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GLCF awards more than \$500K in additional COVID-19 Response Grants

LOWELL – After more than a year after the pandemic began, the Greater Lowell Community Foundation continues its work to support nonprofits providing relief to people affected by COVID-19. The Foundation deployed a new round of COVID-19 related grants, providing an additional \$550,142 to 32 area nonprofits through the Commonwealth COVID Grant Program and GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund.

“After a year of granting from the GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, through the generosity of our donors as well as the partnership of the Commonwealth, we are continuing to fund essential needs in Greater Lowell,” said GLCF president & CEO Jay Linnehan. “This round supports the nonprofits lifting our neighbors facing extreme challenges caused by the pandemic.”

GLCF awarded \$414,992 in grant funding in the first round of the Commonwealth COVID Grant Program, made possible by the Baker-Polito Administration’s \$10 million grant program for COVID-19 relief. The program is administered by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development through community foundations.

Among the 24 Commonwealth COVID Grants funded through GLCF, the International Institute of New England in Lowell received a grant to support food supplies and rental assistance. “IINE is thrilled to have received meaningful support from the GLCF’s COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. It will provide immediate and tangible emergency relief to many of Lowell’s immigrant families,” said

Jeffrey D. Thielman, President and CEO of International Institute of New England. “Through this grant, the International Institute of New England will help to stabilize housing, utilities, and internet access for 165 individuals and support the food security of 190 families in Lowell.”

Additionally, GLCF distributed a round of support from the GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. Of the six recent grants from the GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Billerica received a grant to support COVID-19 Remote Learning and STEAM Enrichment. “Since reopening in September, we have successfully implemented remote learning and academic support for over 244 children across our six sites,” shared Roy Nagy, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Billerica. “Sustaining support for our Club families throughout the COVID crisis has been an arduous challenge, but it is one that we are confident we can continue to achieve thanks to our supporters like the GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund.”

Since March 2020, through grants from its GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, Massachusetts COVID Relief Fund, and Commonwealth COVID Grant Program, the foundation has supported 117 local nonprofit organizations with 263 grants totaling over \$3.3 million.

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



International Institute of New England (IINE in Lowell, a recipient of a Commonwealth COVID Grant Program through GLCF, to provide food supplies and rental assistance. An IINE Lowell family supported through grant funds.

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The 24 nonprofits receiving \$414,992 in grant funding in the first round of the Commonwealth COVID Grant Program are:

- Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell: Educational Support
- Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association: CMAA Emergency Response Project
- Catie’s Closet, Inc.: Meeting the COVID-19 Needs of the Lowell Community
- Coalition for a Better Acre: Pandemic Response 2021
- Community Teamwork, Inc. : COVID Relief Projects
- Dwelling House of Hope: Food Pantry
- Girls, Inc. of Greater Lowell: Remote Learning
- Greater Lowell Family YMCA: Remote Learning
- House of Hope, Inc.: COVID Prevention Baskets
- International Institute of New England: Food Supplies and Rental Assistance
- Life Connection Center, Inc.: COVID 19 Basic Needs Emergency Project
- Lowell House, Inc.: Housing Stabilization
- Merrimack Valley Food Bank, Inc.: Food Assistance in Lowell
- Mill City Grows: Increasing Food Security in Lowell
- NFI MA, Inc.: COVID 19 Essential Supplies Support for Lowell
- Northeast Legal Aid, Inc.: - Supporting Lowell Tenants Facing Eviction
- Project Home Again: New Items Program
- Sankofa Support Services: Diaper Distribution Program
- The Center for Hope and Healing, Inc.: Hopeful Futures, Supporting BIPOC and LGBTQ/T Youth
- The Megan House Foundation: COVID-19 Relief Support
- Troubled Waters, Inc.: Bi-lingual Recovery Coach Program
- VNA Care Network, Inc.: Equipping VNA Care Network’s Frontline Nurses
- Wayside Youth & Family Support Network: Wayside | Lowell - PPE and Addressing Food Insecurities
- YWCA of Lowell: Acre Youth Center Educational Enrichment Support Resources

The eight nonprofits receiving \$135,150 in grants in the latest round of the GLCF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund are:

- Aaron’s Presents: Keeping Our Teens Engaged and Creative during the Pandemic
- Boys and Girls Club of Greater Billerica: COVID-19 Remote Learning and STEAM Enrichment
- Greater Lowell Health Alliance - Equitable COVID-19 Vaccine Community Education Roll-out
- Lowell Community Health Center: Strengthening Health Equity - LCHC Patient Access Services
- Minute Man Arc for Human Services, Inc. - Safeguarding children with disabilities during COVID-19 pandemic
- Nashua River Watershed Association: Wednesday Walks with NRWA Naturalists
- UTEC, Inc.: Madd Love Meals for Dracut + Tyngsboro Elders
- VNA Care Network, Inc.: COVID-19 Patient Isolation Kits

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VA Bedford and the City of Haverhill are cohosting a COVID Vaccination Clinic for Veterans enrolled in VA healthcare.

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First dose March 21
Second dose April 10
 By appointment only: 781-687-4000
 For more information contact your local Veteran Services Officer

Strengthening Essex County's Food System Post-COVID

ECCF announces new Food Systems Resiliency Partnership Grants

Danvers, MA --- Food insecurity is among the challenges most exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization, Essex County's overall food insecurity rate has increased 72% from 2018-2020, while the child rate has skyrocketed by 123%. Right now in Essex County, 20.6% of children don't know where they'll get their next meal.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Essex County Community Foundation, a nonprofit serving the 34 cities and towns of Essex County, has granted nearly \$4 million in grants to nonprofits working on the frontlines of hunger, reaching 104,000 economically vulnerable families and individuals throughout the region. These came in the form of rapid response grants during the earliest days of the pandemic, and later, grants – delivered through an open application cycle – that addressed longer term needs, both through ECCF's Essex County COVID-19 Response Fund.

Food insecurity also emerged as a specific area of concern during community convenings hosted by ECCF and held virtually throughout the pandemic.

Today, ECCF is announcing a new COVID-19 Response Fund grant program designed to invest in the development and sustainability of Essex County's food systems. The new Food Systems Resiliency Partnership Grants, supported by Brace Cove Foundation, are meant to strengthen the local food systems in order to support residents who will continue to be impacted by COVID-19, and invest in infrastructure across Essex County to ensure more just, equitable, innovative and sustainable solutions – now and into the future.

"To effectively solve regional challenges like hunger, we need to look at the issue more holistically," said Carol Lavoie Schuster, ECCF's vice president for grants, nonprofit and donor services. "Our intention with this grant program is to inspire collective action, root cause analysis, ecosystem building and systemic solutions that result in programmatic impact and inspire trust and long-term resiliency in the

food security sector."

Letters of interest for Food Systems Resiliency Partnership Grants – which will range from \$10,000 - \$75,000 – are due April 2; the deadline for final applications is May 7.

Eligible applications must be grounded in data; prioritize seniors, communities of color, underserved youth, immigrants, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities or other vulnerable populations; and involve a collaboration of two or more organizations, including at least one nonprofit.

Examples of work a Resiliency grant could support include:

- Shared services of staffing/transportation/delivery of food to organizations in the system.
- A countywide gleaning effort that reduces waste, focuses on culturally specific food needs and creates jobs.
- A food system business that harnesses innovative modes of production and distribution that creates jobs in collaboration with local workforce initiatives.

"This work to support the hunger relief sector through a systems lens is very exciting to us as a foundation," said ECCF President and CEO Beth Francis. "In the last year, we've seen how people have come together to effect change, and we anticipate receiving some very innovative proposals that leverage the power of collaboration for the promise of a big impact."

It's the type of work that's needed in a post-pandemic world.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to invest in the food security infrastructure across Essex County," said Walter Herlihy, director of Brace Cove Foundation. "We are pleased to partner with ECCF on this grant initiative to encourage collaborations between nonprofits, businesses, government and philanthropists."

For more information on ECCF's new Food Systems Resiliency Partnership Grants, including priorities and requirements for applicants, please visit eccf.org/nonprofits-grants.

DiZoglio y Perry piden a Baker más vacunas para la ciudad de Methuen

La llamada llega inmediatamente después de la designación roja de Methuen

La Senadora Estatal Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) y el Alcalde de Methuen, Neil Perry, están pidiendo a la Administración de Baker que asigne vacunas COVID-19 adicionales a la ciudad de Methuen.

Su solicitud llega inmediatamente después de que la ciudad de Methuen fuera designada como una comunidad "roja" por el Departamento de Salud Pública del estado, lo que significa que se encuentra entre los municipios con las tasas más altas de COVID-19 en el Commonwealth.

"Si bien agradecemos que la Administración recientemente haya proporcionado algunas vacunas a la ciudad de Methuen, la asignación debe incrementarse significativamente ahora, en el momento en que la comunidad más lo necesita", dijo DiZoglio. "Seguimos viendo que la mayor parte de las vacunas van a los sitios de vacunación masiva, que son inaccesibles para muchos residentes, especialmente entre nuestras poblaciones

más vulnerables. Las personas deberían poder acudir cómodamente a su proveedor municipal local para recibir esta vacuna fundamental. Insto encarecidamente a la Administración a que asigne vacunas adicionales a la ciudad de Methuen lo antes posible".

"Si bien estoy agradecido de que hayamos podido obtener 600 dosis de vacunas en las últimas semanas, es importante señalar que Methuen es una vez más esta semana designada como una comunidad roja o de alto riesgo", dijo Perry. "Eso, combinado con el anuncio de ayer de las fechas de elegibilidad a corto plazo para los ciudadanos restantes, hace imperativo que podamos aumentar la oferta para satisfacer la demanda. Necesitamos que se incremente el ritmo de distribución de vacunas para permitir que todos los residentes de nuestra comunidad vacunarse, porque, al ritmo actual, llevaría más de un año, y eso es simplemente inaceptable".

DiZoglio, Perry Call on Baker for More Vaccines to the City of Methuen

The call comes on the heels of Methuen's red designation

State Senator Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) and Methuen Mayor Neil Perry are calling on the Baker Administration to allocate additional COVID-19 vaccines to the City of Methuen.

Their request comes on the heels of the City of Methuen being designated a "red" community by the state Department of Public Health, meaning it is among the municipalities with the highest COVID-19 rates in the Commonwealth.

"While we appreciate the Administration recently, finally providing the City of Methuen with some vaccines, the allocation needs to be significantly ramped up now, at a time when the community needs it most," said DiZoglio. "We are continuing to see the bulk of vaccines go to the mass vaccination sites, which are inaccessible to many residents, especially among our

most vulnerable populations. People should be able to turn conveniently to their local municipal provider to receive this critical vaccine. I strongly urge the Administration to allocate additional vaccines to the City of Methuen as soon as possible."

"While I'm grateful that we have been able to get 600 vaccine doses the last several weeks, it's important to note that Methuen is once again this week designated as a red or high-risk community," said Perry. "That, combined with the announcement yesterday of near-term eligibility dates for remaining citizens, makes it imperative that we are able to increase the supply to match the demand. We need the pace of vaccine distribution increased to enable every resident of our community to get vaccinated – because, at our current pace, it would take more than a year – and that is simply unacceptable."

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Fire Officials Ask for Public's Help Preventing Brush Fires: Conduct Open Burning Carefully and Watch the Wind

2020 Ranks in the Top 10 for Brush Fires

In 2020, Massachusetts fire departments reported 5,846 natural vegetation fires, which caused two civilian injuries, 19 firefighter injuries, and an estimated dollar loss of \$217,409; this is a 96% increase from the 2,978 incidents reported in 2019 (which was an unusually low number of brush fires). These types of fires are so weather-dependent and 2020 ranks in the top ten years for brush fires. The Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) collects data on grass fires, brush fires, wildland fires, woods fires and other outside natural vegetation fires, which we refer to generally as "brush fires".

Don't Delay; Call for Help

If the fire should get out of control, call the fire department immediately. "Winds can fan the flames and fire can spread faster than a person can run," said Ostroskey. "Use the utmost caution to prevent injury and damage to your own and your neighbor's property," he added.

Learn to Conduct Open Burning Safely

Open burning that has gotten out of control is the cause of many brush fires. Open burning season, in communities where allowed, ends on May 1. A permit is required from the local fire warden, usually the local fire chief. Burning can only take place when both air quality and fire conditions are acceptable. "Weather conditions change rapidly, so watch the wind and be prepared to extinguish your brush pile. A sudden wind change is how most open burning fires get out of control," said Ostroskey. In 2020, fire departments responded to a huge increase (49%) in unauthorized burning and had to have owners shut them down, or extinguish those that got away from owners.

Open burning is prohibited at all times in these communities: Arlington, Belmont, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Chicopee, Everett, Fall River, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Malden, Medford, New Bedford, Newton, Somerville, Springfield, Waltham, Watertown, West Springfield, Worcester.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) district fire wardens determine the fire danger rating daily, which assists local fire departments determine whether it is safe to issue burn permits. Weather and air quality can change rapidly, especially in the spring, and fire departments can rescind permits when that happens. Follow local procedures for using the permit on any given day.

How to Safely Burn Brush

Burn between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. with a permit from the fire warden (usually the local fire chief).

- Burn only when air quality is acceptable for burning. Local authorities will call the MassDEP Air Quality Hotline at (800) 882-1497 or visit MassAir Online to find out if it is.
- Burn only on your own property as close as possible to the source of material to be burned, no less than 75 feet away from all dwellings and away from utility lines.
- Have fire suppression tools handy; keep a fire extinguisher or charged garden hose, and a shovel and a rake close by.
- An adult must constantly monitor the fire. Leaving burning unattended is a reason to revoke burning permits.
- Use paper and kindling to start a fire and progressively add larger pieces of wood. Parts of a leftover Christmas tree may also be used.
- Never use gasoline, kerosene or any other flammable liquid to start a fire. The risk of injury in these cases is too high.
- Burn one small pile at a time and slowly add to it. This will help keep the fire from getting out of control.
- Burn the fire down to the coals, drown them with water, spread them out, and then drown them again. Completely extinguish the fire before leaving.

PLEASE SEE TEVIN SAN

■ CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

from Brevard whenever they engaged in conversation.

"I could see how proud he was to be able to teach a class what he learned over his years of experience," he said. "He made the class fun and enjoyable."

Brevard is just one of the professors – and members of the community – who make MCC a supportive environment. For San, the best part about Middlesex is the people, who he considers to be "friendly, compassionate, respectful and caring."

In classes, events or clubs – including Outdoor Adventure Club and Asian Students in Alliance (ASIA) – San was able to have "wonderful" conversations with his classmates and others.

For the sense of community, knowledge and experiences the college has provided to him, San believes "MCC has been quite the joy ride."

"From meeting marvelous and enthusiastic people to learning wonderful and amazing things about life and myself, I can honestly say I learned more about myself at MCC than I have growing up on

my own," he said. "MCC has really been great and enjoyable."

Part of the Public Service Pathway at the college, MCC's Criminal Justice program provides students with a choice to go straight into the workforce or transfer to a four-year college. San will continue on with his education when he graduates from Middlesex after the Fall 2021 semester.

"The education I get from MCC will definitely help me when I transfer," he said. "I also feel that I will have an advantage when applying to my future job because of the knowledge I have gained coming to MCC."

MCC's Public Service pathway helps students go into – and succeed in – the workforce or transfer to four-year schools with its award-winning and affordable offerings, small class sizes and flexible schedules. Visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/discover/dyp_pubserv.aspx for more information and to discover your path to a Public Service degree at Middlesex.

Registration for MCC's Spring Mini-mester II and Summer 2021 sessions are now open. To register, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration/ or call 1-800-818-3434.

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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CELEBRATING SPRINGTIME GARDENING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31
11 A.M. – NOON**

Log into Zoom with your loved one and join the Bridges® by EPOCH team and other families for some fun using senior-friendly IN2L technology. We'll share interactive content, such as trivia and video clips, to celebrate the start of spring and the warmth, sunshine and gardening opportunities it brings!

Experience the IN2L technology that makes it easy for Bridges® residents to stay physically, cognitively and socially engaged within our communities.

Kindly RSVP using the button below to receive your Zoom login information.

We look forward to connecting with you and your loved one!

BridgesbyEPOCH.com

www.rumbonews.com

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

The recent fire at Bennington St. in Lawrence left 64 residents homeless and in need of everything. Please contact Heal Lawrence if you wish to make a contribution to the victims. The website has a list of donated items and things that are needed as well as names, ages, sizes, etc. but they suggest giving them gift cards to grocery stores and department stores in any denomination.

El reciente incendio de la calle Bennington en Lawrence ha dejado a 64 residentes sin hogar y necesitados de todo. Favor de ponerse en contacto con Heal Lawrence si desea hacer una contribución a las víctimas. El sitio en la internet tiene una lista de artículos que han sido donados y lo que necesitan así como nombres, edades, tallas, etc. pero ellos sugieren que les compren tarjetas de mercados o tiendas por departamentos de cualquier denominación.

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

BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



Reassessing my thoughts

Let this be a learning tool for our young people.

Most often, I use my Facebook account to learn about people that I am writing about and I usually post only fun stuff (mainly about cats). Now, I have to watch carefully what I have done in my long, long years of existence because something I may have said 50 years ago could get me ostracized from society.

As time goes by, people learn and change their minds about behaviors, apologizing for their mistakes but that's not enough. There's something called "cancel culture" that is dangerously hurting the country. Yes, I dare say it!

The most valuable asset we have in this country is the United States Constitution. I was under the impression that it was sacred and I now see it trampled on. It's not a matter of opinion, but law.

Take the First Amendment that guarantees Freedom of Speech and today people are afraid to express their views. Perhaps someday soon I may fall victim to that censorship and intimidation.

In the news these days is the firing of Alexi McCammond editor of Teen Vogue Magazine before she even started the job. In 2011, when she was only 17 years old, she wrote something on social media which was later deleted and she apologized. There was also a picture at a Halloween party where she dressed up as a Native American. Someone brought it out and she's done.

Some advertisers threatened with canceling their media campaign with the magazine and the cowards gave in ruining the career of a young woman.

The curious part is that she worked for AXIOS and MSNBC and in 2019, she was named the emerging journalist of the year by the National Association of Black Journalists. Yes, she is Black.

In the late '90s, Ellen Bahan had a column in Rumbo reporting from the City

of Methuen. Everything she ever wrote was the truth and she would bring me proof of some of her more outrageous arguments. Then, a big advertiser of Rumbo asked me to cancel her. When I refused, in a very soft voice that I interpreted as a threat she said that she would cancel her ad if I didn't do it. We were just starting with the newspaper and needed the money but no advertiser was going to censure my publication.

It's not just the cancellation of Dr. Seuss's books but lack of tolerance when people disagree with comments on radio or television. A couple of weeks ago, José Alfonso García said some things on the radio and a listener wrote that he was going to report him to his employer. Whether we like it or not, the First Amendment protects his right to say it. The First Amendment exists to protect speech we don't like.

We should be more offended by the borderline pornography we watch on television. Our children are being fed sex, violence, vulgarity, and racism by the media. Kids don't know about discrimination but it's being pointed out to them.

City Council Circus

The council meetings are awful to watch but being one resident who cares, it is a must, particularly when they were interviewing the three candidates for the City Clerk position and make a final decision. The first thing that hit me was the lack of responsibility from some city councilors. Estela Reyes and Pavel Payano were absent. Estela missed several meetings when she was hit by COVID-19, even though they are held virtually from their homes. Perhaps she was afraid that someone would ask her about paying for the building permit at 173-175 Haverhill St.

In Pavel's case, he's doing this much too often. I'm going to take the time to go through last year's meetings and count his absences. We need to tell voters how accountable they are to their duties before the next elections.

I understand that Pavel's excuse is that

he started a new job and it interferes with his duties. He should resign and let Richard Russell take his place for the rest of the term since he finished in fourth place. He'll have perfect attendance!

I don't know any of the applicants, not even the Acting City Clerk, and have no idea if she is doing a good job. After listening to what they have been put through for weeks, there were so many senseless questions and their responses were even worse. They don't have a clear idea of the responsibilities they will be undertaking.

This job is about record-keeping and organizing the council activities. This person is the watchdog of city records and documents. It's not about motivating the public, collecting monies, having good customer service skills, etc.

Councilor Maria De La Cruz has to be more careful showing her preference at these meetings and be impartial – but I know she can't do that. That's her way to influence others' opinions. From the beginning, she has been pushing for the Acting City Clerk as her favorite. After a tortuous meeting, the Council decided to eliminate the Acting City Clerk from the contest.

Maria even had the nerve to ask them

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR RUMBO

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

if they would accept the minimum salary if hired. Doesn't she know that those are discussions during the negotiations after being hired? That is not to be discussed in public.

They tried taking a vote a couple of times but could only get four votes and they needed five due to the absenteeism. Their actions not only affect the Council, the city employees who have to participate, as well as the people before them. It is very disrespectful to all involved. If they don't take their job seriously, why do they run for office?

And speaking of voting, let's see if President Laplante will stop Celina Reyes from voting for Erika Hernandez. He didn't do it this time. Celina recommended Erika to run for the job but they both work at Lawrence CommunityWorks which is a conflict of interests.

Now, to add insult to injury, the two applicants must be back at the April 6 meeting only that this time there's a twist: They want to interview two additional applicants. It's like telling them, "Sorry, you are not good enough; we'll keep looking for someone better." How disrespectful!

Q) What do the words magician and politician have in common?

A) They both end in 'ician' and they both skilled manipulators; one manual and one verbal!

Thank you Richard Russell

MVCC HR Series "A Sticky Situation: Should Employers Require COVID Vaccines"

Thursday, March 25, 2021 - 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Featured Speaker: Andrew P. Botti, Director and Member of the Employment Law Practice Group McLane Middleton, P.A.

Register at merrimackvalleychamber.com or call 978-686-0900

Andrew will be Discussing "A Sticky Situation: Should Employers Require COVID Vaccines":

Thank you to our Sponsor to date: SCHWARTZ HANNUM PC. Sponsorships are available – call Michael Bevilacqua at 978-686-0900 or email: Michael.bevilacqua@merrimackvalleychamber.com

- The EEOC has recently issued guidance permitting employers to require employees to receive COVID vaccines

Webinar link will be provided through email within 24 hours of registration

- Such a requirement may implicate provisions of the American with Disabilities Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act

Did you know that webinars can also be viewed with your coworkers? Make this a professional development opportunity for you or your whole team!

- Best ways to avoid liability and maintain a safe work environment

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\$5 for MEMBERS and \$10 for all FUTURE MEMBERS to register.

Free for HR Committee Members

"The political process does not end on Election Day. Young people need to stay involved in the process by continuing to pay attention to the conversation and holding their leaders accountable for the decisions they make."

- Patrick Murphy

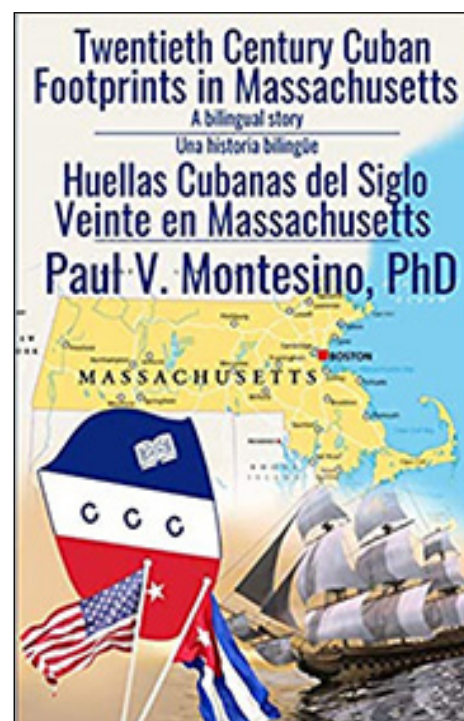
New book about Cubans in Massachusetts

Paul V. Montesino, PhD. has published the story of how the Cuban population grew in the state in the '60s and '70s. As a result, we created the Cuban Cultural Center of Boston and in the early eighties, we responded to the Mariel exodus with aid to the arrivals.

His recent publication *Twentieth-Century Cuban Footprints in Massachusetts* is a bilingual (English-Spanish) Kindle e-book, a paperback in regular print, and a paperback in large print at Amazon.com chronicling those two efforts of our community.

You may buy them through Amazon. The Kindle edition is \$10; the regular print paperback for \$15; and the large size print paperback for \$18.

The book has been registered with the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress and copies have been submitted to Cuban-oriented public libraries and at various universities.



Local community foundations award more than \$181,000 to advance Nashoba Valley health

Lowell, MA – The Greater Lowell Community Foundation and the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts recently awarded \$181,211 in grants to 16 local nonprofits from the Nashoba Valley Healthcare Fund to help improve residents’ health in area communities.

Priority was given to proposals pertaining to prevention of health problems, access to healthcare, elder, youth, and adolescent health, mental health, and health care service provision. Recipients of the grants were selected by the Nashoba Valley Community Healthcare Fund Advisory Committee, comprised of local leaders in business, health care, and education.

“The Nashoba Valley Healthcare Fund provides impactful grants,” said Jay Linnehan, president and CEO of the Greater Lowell Community Foundation. “We greatly appreciate the hard work and diligence of the volunteer advisory committee in prioritizing the health needs of residents in our local communities.”

“The Nashoba Valley Community Healthcare Fund plays an important role in the quality of life in our region,” said Stephen Adams, president of the CFNCM. “We were impressed by the caliber of the applicants and are pleased to be able to support their efforts across areas including food insecurity, healthcare access, shelter, mental health services, and more.”

The Nashoba Valley Healthcare Fund provides annual distributions to nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and other

agencies to advance the health of residents in 13 communities: Ashby, Ayer, Bolton, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Lancaster, Littleton, Lunenburg, Pepperell, Shirley, Townsend, and Westford.

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

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

The Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts was created in 2001 to serve the charitable interests of donors in Ashburnham, Ashby, Athol, Ayer, Barre, Bolton, Clinton, Devens, Erving, Fitchburg, Gardner, Groton, Harvard, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Leominster, Littleton, Lunenburg, New Salem, Orange, Pepperell, Petersham, Phillipston, Princeton, Royalston, Shirley, Sterling, Templeton, Townsend, Warwick, Wendell, Westminster and Winchendon. For more information, visit cfncm.org.



Living Water Fellowship in Ayer received a \$5,000 grant from the Nashoba Valley Healthcare Fund for Stone Soup Kitchen. Stone Soup Kitchen team packing food before the pantry opens to clients.

Find us in / Búsquenos en Facebook/Rumbo

Nashoba Valley Healthcare Grant Recipients

- Able to Serve-New England, Inc (Lowell): Hope for Women with Children in Nashoba Valley - \$1,500
- Advocates (Framingham): Supporting the Mental Health Needs of Local Seniors - \$20,000
- Ashby Fire and EMS (Town of Ashby): Improvement of provider training and skill maintenance in rural EMS system - \$6,313
- Boys & Girls Club of Lunenburg (Lunenburg): BGCL After-school (Covid) Program - \$10,000
- Clear Path for Veterans New England (Devens): Brain Retrain Neural Mapping, an Integrated Health and Wellness Program for Veterans - \$20,000
- Doctor Franklin Perkins School (Lancaster): Perkins Behavioral Health Services in the Nashoba Valley - \$15,000
- Habitat for Humanity North Central Massachusetts, Inc (Acton): Critical Home Repair Program Supporting Economically Distressed Families from Nashoba Valley - \$20,000
- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell (Westford): Critical home repair program for seniors. - \$10,000
- Littleton Community Farm (Littleton): Growing for Expanded Hunger Relief - \$9,598
- Living Water Fellowship (Ayer): Stone Soup Kitchen Ministries - \$5,000
- North Star Family Services, Inc. (Leominster): North Star - Family and Children Wellness Initiative - \$20,000
- Our Father’s House (Fitchburg): Ensuring Health Wellness in Homeless Children - \$16,000
- Townsend Ecumenical Outreach (Townsend): Healthy Food For Vulnerable Populations - \$7,800
- United Methodist Action Reach out in Mission by Youth: Elder Services Home Repairs in Westford, Chelmsford and Groton - \$5,000
- Virginia Thurston Healing Garden, Inc. (Harvard): Equitable Access to Psychosocial Therapeutic Services for Cancer Patients, Families & Caregivers - \$10,000
- VNA Care Network, Inc. (Lowell): Removing Barriers to Health: Nursing and Social Work Case Management - \$5,000

“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.



Little River Dam*
Existing Conditions, March 2020

SAVE THE DATE!
6 PM, WED., MARCH 24

THE CITY OF HAVERHILL PRESENTS

The Little River Dam Project

An Open Public Forum - online link TBA

The project will assess the potential benefits that would result from the Little River Dam removal, including:

IMPROVED RIVER ACCESS & FISH PASSAGE	REDEVELOPMENT OF STEVENS HILL PROPERTY
ADDITION OF PUBLIC GREEN SPACES & RECREATION	REDUCED FLOODING RISKS IN THE ACRE NEIGHBORHOOD

HAVERHILL'S VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION
[HTTPS://CMS3.REVIZE.COM/REVIZE/HAVE RHILLMA/NEWS_DETAIL_T30_R38.PHP](https://cms3.revize.com/revize/ha-verhillma/news_detail_t30_r38.php)

*Little River Dam is located north of Winter St. where it crosses Little River. The project is funded by a grant from the State of Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program.



Dam Removal Future Conditions



Little River Dam*
Condiciones Existentes, marzo 2020

ANOTE LA FECHA!
6 PM, MIERCOLES., 24 DE MARZO

LA CIUDAD DE HAVERHILL PRESENTA

Proyecto de la Presa Little River

Foro abierto al público- enlace TBA

El proyecto evaluará los beneficios que resultarían al quitar la presa Little River, que incluyen:

ACCESO MEJORADO AL RÍO Y PASO DE PECES	REURBANIZACIÓN DE PROPIEDAD DE STEVENS HILL
ADICIONES DE ESPACIOS VERDES PÚBLICOS Y RECREACIÓN	RIESGOS DE INUNDACIONES REDUCIDOS EN EL BARRIO DE ACRE

INFORMACIÓN DE PREPARACIÓN PARA LA VULNERABILIDAD DE HAVERHILL
[HTTPS://CMS3.REVIZE.COM/REVIZE/HAVE RHILLMA/NEWS_DETAIL_T30_R38.PHP](https://cms3.revize.com/revize/ha-verhillma/news_detail_t30_r38.php)

La Presa se encuentra al norte de Winter St. donde cruza Little River. El proyecto está financiado por una subvención del estado de Massachusetts.



Condiciones Futuras al Quitar Little River Dam