



Día de Portugal en Lowell



The Portuguese-Americans and some friends in the Greater Lowell area showed up to celebrate Dia de Portugal on June 10th. I've never felt more satisfied to hear the Portuguese band music or see friends proudly sporting their red and green after a year of missed festivals and traditions. Pg. 9

Escuela Oliver honra a su directora OPS give thanks to their principal



Estudiantes y maestros de la Escuela Oliver Partnership sorprendieron a su querida directora, Shalimar Marie Quiles por todo lo que ha hecho por mejorar la educación y las condiciones físicas del plantel.

Students and staff of the Oliver Partnership School planned a surprise celebration to thank their beloved principal, Shalimar Marie Quiles for everything she has done to improve education and the physical conditions of the building. Pg. 14

Sin una licencia, los fuegos artificiales son ilegales en Massachusetts

El uso de fuegos artificiales por cualquier persona que no sea un profesional autorizado es ilegal en Massachusetts. La División de Seguridad contra Incendios tiene información para la industria de los fuegos artificiales y para los oficiales de prevención de incendios que hacen cumplir las leyes y regulaciones de fuegos artificiales. Los departamentos de bomberos se aseguran de que las exhibiciones de fuegos artificiales supervisadas sean seguras tanto para los espectadores como para los tiradores.



Without a License, Fireworks are Illegal in Massachusetts

The use of fireworks by anyone who is not a licensed professional is against the law in Massachusetts. The Division of Fire Safety has information for the fireworks industry and for fire prevention officers enforcing fireworks laws and regulations. Fire departments make sure supervised fireworks displays are safe for both spectators and shooters.

Rumbo presenta
"Desde Mi Esquina"
con Dalia Díaz
los sábados 8 AM por
WNNW 800 AM y 102.9 FM

Lawrence Budget and the \$69 Million Debt

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City of Lawrence
Office of the City Clerk
Election Division
 200 Common Street
 Lawrence, Massachusetts 01840

DANIEL RIVERA
 MAYOR
 WILLIAM J. MALONEY
 CITY CLERK
 CAROLE MORIN
 ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

UN MENSAJE DE LA DIVISION DE ELECCIONES DE LAWRENCE

La Ciudad de Lawrence ha terminado de procesar el Censo Anual del 2021 de los residentes de Lawrence. Las tarjetas Postales de Confirmación han sido enviadas en esta semana, para votantes registrados de quienes no hemos recibido el formulario del Censo de la Ciudad de Lawrence.

Si usted recibe la tarjeta postal de Confirmación, por favor complete la información requerida y corrija cualquier información si es necesario. Una vez que haya sido completada, firmela y envíela a la División de Elecciones. El envío postal para devolver dicha tarjeta postal ha sido pre-pagado para que usted pueda enviarla sin ningún costo postal adicional. Si usted prefiere, puede devolver la tarjeta de Confirmación personalmente a la División de Elecciones. Por favor asegurarse de devolver dicha tarjeta a la Oficina de la División de Elecciones para actualizar y confirmar su status como "Votante Inscrito Activo".

Si usted se ha mudado a otra ciudad o pueblo, favor de completar, firmar y devolver la tarjeta de Confirmación y su nombre será removido inmediatamente de la lista de votantes en la Ciudad de Lawrence. Para poder votar en la ciudad donde reside tiene que registrarse para votar en su nueva ciudad o pueblo.

Votantes Registrados de quienes la División de Elecciones no haya recibido el formulario del Censo del 2021 o la tarjeta postal de Confirmación será designado como un "Votante Inactivo". "Votantes designados como Inactivos permanecerán elegibles para votar", pero deberán actualizar su estado de votante lo más pronto posible.

Cualquier votante puede verificar y actualizar su inscripción de votante comunicándose con la División de Elecciones quienes les asistirán de inmediato.

Si usted necesita información adicional o asistencia, favor de ponerse en contacto con la División de Elecciones de Lawrence al número de teléfono (978) 620-3290.

La División de Elecciones está abierta de Lunes a Viernes de 8:30 a.m. a 4:30 p.m. y está localizada en el sótano de la Alcaldía, 200 Calle Common, Lawrence, MA.

Gracias anticipadas por su cooperación de parte del Personal de la División de Elecciones.



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DANIEL RIVERA
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The City of Lawrence has completed processing the 2021 annual census forms for Lawrence residents. Confirmation Notice postcards were mailed out this week to registered voters from whom the Election Division has yet to receive a completed census form.

If you receive a Confirmation Notice postcard, please complete the information requested and correct any information if necessary. Once completed, sign it and return it to the Election Division. Postage on the return postcard is pre-paid, so you can mail it without any additional postage. If you prefer, you may return the completed Confirmation Notice postcard to Election Division Office in person at the address below. Returning the Confirmation Notice postcard to the Election Division Office will update and confirm your status as an "active" registered voter.

If you have moved to another city/town, please complete, sign, and return the Confirmation Notice postcard, and your name will be removed from the voter's list in the City of Lawrence. In order to vote in the city or town that you live in, you must register to vote in your new city/town.

Registered voters for whom the Election Division has not received a 2021 census form or a Confirmation Notice will be designated as an "inactive voter". Voters designated as "INACTIVE VOTERS REMAIN ELIGIBLE TO VOTE" but should update their voting status as soon as possible.

Any voter can verify and update their voter registration by contacting the Election Division, who will assist you. If you need additional information or assistance, please contact the Lawrence Election Division by telephone at 978-620-3290

The Election Division Office is open every business day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is located in City Hall, Basement Floor, 200 Common Street, Lawrence, MA.

Thank you from the City of Lawrence Election Division.

La ciudad de Methuen acogerá el evento de Juneteenth el sábado, 19 de junio

La ciudad de Methuen acogerá un evento llamado *Juneteenth* en la escuela elemental Tenney el sábado, 19 de junio de 10:00 am a 2:00 pm.

La Ciudad proyectará dos películas dentro del Auditorio Tenney. El primero será "La Princesa y el Sapo" y la segunda será "John Lewis: Good Trouble".

Los miembros del público están invitados a asistir. Este evento también contará con actividades al aire libre como Cornhole, Connect 4, Can Jam, Bottle Bash, Giant Jenga y otros juegos de césped.

También contará con un quiosco al aire libre que permitirá a los interesados recibir una vacuna de COVID-19 o recibir más información sobre la vacuna.

"Invito a todos los miembros de la comunidad de Methuen a que vengan a celebrar el *Juneteenth* con su familia", declaró el Alcalde Neil Perry. "Es refrescante que podamos comenzar a volver a organizar eventos en la ciudad de Methuen y celebrar este día importante que reconoce la emancipación de los ex esclavos".

The city of Methuen to Host Juneteenth event on Saturday, June 19th

The City of Methuen will host a *Juneteenth* event at the Tenney Grammar School on Saturday, June 19th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The City will be showing two movies inside the Tenney Auditorium.

The first one will be "The Princess and the Frog" and the second one will be "John Lewis: Good Trouble".

Members of the public are invited to come. This event will also feature outdoor activities such as Cornhole, Connect 4, Can Jam, Bottle Bash, Giant Jenga, and other

lawn games. It will also feature an outdoor booth that will allow those interested to receive a COVID-19 vaccination or receive more information about the vaccine.

"I invite all members of the Methuen community to come to celebrate *Juneteenth* with their family," stated Mayor Neil Perry. "It is refreshing that we can start to get back to hosting events in the City of Methuen and celebrate this important day that recognizes the emancipation of former slaves."

Mayor Announces Return of Plum Island Kayak to Downtown Haverhill

Plum Island Kayak will be returning for a second summer season in early July to the city docks off Washington Street behind the Tap restaurant, Mayor James J. Fiorentini announced.

Mayor Fiorentini will ask City Council at its meeting tonight (Tuesday, 7 p.m.) to authorize him to execute a licensing agreement for the Newburyport-based kayak outfit to the use the Merrimack River boardwalk, the city's ticket/storage booth and the public dock at Riverfront Park as well as some parking in the nearby Phoenix Row housing lot. The booth is to be used to sell tickets and store kayaks and related equipment. The agreement is from June 18

to Sept. 27.

City officials expect the company to open in early July and extend just past the city's end-of-summer River Ruckus downtown festival tentatively scheduled for Sept. 25.

"In keeping with our vision to increase public access to the Merrimack River and the riverfront, we have an agreement for Plum Island Kayak to return this summer," Mayor Fiorentini said. "People kayaking in the river off our wonderful boardwalk and behind all our great restaurants is another great sign of how fun and active our downtown is and how far we have come."

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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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Published on the 1st 8th 15th and 22nd of Every Month

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

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POR DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



CARTAS AL EDITOR
RUMBO

315 Mt. Vernon St.
Lawrence MA 01843
Email: Rumbo@rumbonews.com

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

Guardaespaldas de Kendrys

La semana pasada asistí a una hermosa celebración en Oliver Partnership School. El personal y los estudiantes querían mostrar su agradecimiento a su directora Shalimar Marie Quiles y era obvio que venía del corazón.

No fue patrocinado por las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence, el Ayuntamiento o el Departamento de Obras Públicas. Entonces, ¿qué diablos estaba haciendo Franklin Miguel con el alcalde interino a la una de la tarde? ¡No es de extrañar por qué necesita un asistente! No pasa mucho tiempo en el Ayuntamiento para hacer su trabajo.

Los tres estaban hablando cerca del podio y cuando me vieron acercarme a ellos, Franklin se separó de los demás a un ritmo muy rápido y esta fue la única foto que pude tomar para demostrar que él estaba allí.

Kendrys nunca va solo a ninguna parte; siempre está con guardaespaldas. Basta con mirar la foto de su nuevo jefe de personal; parece uno. Se llama Juan Jaramillo y aún no sé qué pasó con el anterior.

Presupuesto para el Año Fiscal 22

Probablemente me ha escuchado decir que no soy buena con los números. Esta semana, abordé algo muy difícil para mí: el Presupuesto de la Ciudad. Tuve que buscar ayuda para asegurarme de que entendía correctamente lo que estaba viendo.

La semana pasada, critiqué la forma en que esta administración está gastando el dinero, pero ahora me di cuenta de que el alcalde interino heredó un gran lío. Me preocupan los gastos futuros que enfrentaremos con la construcción de la nueva estación de policía (que creo que necesitamos y estoy de acuerdo con ese gasto) pero hay dos escuelas para reconstruir o arrasar por completo. Véalo en la página 7.

Quería comprobar cuán grandes préstamos todavía estamos pagando y me quedé atascada tratando de calcular las tasas de interés súper altas que estamos pagando por esos préstamos. ¡Espero haberme equivocado!

Programa de seguro para inquilinos

Cada vez que hay un incendio en una casa en Lawrence, vemos el mismo sufrimiento de las familias que lo perdieron todo. No lo considere mobiliario y ropa solamente; piense en recuerdos. Las fotografías de sus hijos, documentos importantes que probablemente sean difíciles de obtener nuevamente. Muchos de esos elementos podrían ser insustituibles, pero si tuviera un seguro de inquilino podría, al menos reemplazar el contenido y traer algún tipo de normalidad a su familia.

Cuando ocurre una tragedia, la Cruz Roja viene al rescate y hacen arreglos para que su familia se quede en una habitación de un hotel por tres días, y luego tiene que depender de familiares y amigos para que lo alberguen hasta que aparezca un apartamento para alquilar.

La póliza de seguro de un inquilino le costará menos de \$150 al año; ese es el costo de una habitación de hotel por una noche. Como explica Manny González de Heal Lawrence, "Por la misma cantidad, el seguro pagará al hotel durante un año".

La organización Heal Lawrence ha organizado sesiones educativas para mostrar a las familias lo asequible que es el seguro de inquilinos. Ahora están presentando uno de estos programas el 1 de julio de 2 a 4 p.m. en The Claddagh Pub, 399 Canal St., Lawrence.

No tiene obligación de asistir pero si va, aprenderá muchas cosas que podrían salvar sus pertenencias y darle tranquilidad.

Los fuegos artificiales son ilegales en Massachusetts

La portada de Rumbo de esta semana te trae información sobre los peligros de las bengalas (sparklers). Se encuentran entre los más populares que disfrutaban los niños, pero ¿sabía que las bengalas arden a 1,200 grados Fahrenheit? En la página 19 hay información adicional sobre la prevención mientras asa a la parrilla este verano.

No se arriesgue a recibir una enorme multa por desobediencia o, peor aún, tener un accidente usted o uno de sus hijos.



Este es Franklin Miguel, director de DPW quien siempre anda con el alcalde interino para todas partes durante el día de trabajo.



Juan Jaramillo es el nuevo jefe de despacho quien también el candidato Democrático para Representante Estatal en el Distrito 19vo de Suffolk (Winthrop and Revere)

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

- Thomas Jefferson

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We are devoted to the practice of Family Law in Lawrence and the Merrimack Valley area. Call Attorney Rodriguez if you have a matter in the following areas of Family Law:



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Llame al abogado Rodríguez si tiene un asunto en las siguientes áreas del derecho de familia:

Telephone 978-651-1798 - email Richard@rodriguezlaw.com
Website https://www.rrodriguezlaw.com

Attorney Richard Rodriguez was selected as the 2019 Hispanic Week Grand Marshall for his community work in the City of Lawrence as an advocate for the disability population.

El abogado Richard Rodríguez fue seleccionado como el Gran Mariscal de la Semana Hispana de 2019 por su trabajo comunitario en la ciudad de Lawrence como defensor de la población con discapacidad.

Rumbo a Septiembre 21: Dos Mujeres Podrían Hacer Historia

(Read it in English on page 6)

Por José Ayala

En Lawrence "cuando no es una es la otra o "si no es Juan es Juana", como dice el pueblo. Siempre hay un motivo para opinar, lamentar o celebrar. Usted elige una de las opciones. El menú de "issues" de qué hablar es amplio: la alta renta, los incendios, el ruido, la basura y el reciclaje, la bulla de los fuegos artificiales ilegales, los pedidores en los semáforos y debajo del puente, aumento de los impuestos.

Otras veces nos entretenemos criticando o destacando el voto de tal o cual concejal en un tema conflictivo, o lo bueno y lo malo de los festivales y desfiles. Pero también tenemos la sensibilidad, humildad y amor desbordante para unirnos, abrazarnos o dejar rodar una lágrima de solidaridad ante el dolor de una familia lawrenciana.

En medio del llanto y la alegría, el frío o el calor, con pandemia o no, Lawrence es bien conocida por su activismo comunitario y la política, sean de aquí o de allá. La pasión e involucramiento en las causas más nobles y justas se dibujan en cada rostro, en cada esquina, en cada bodega, en cada taxista, en cada vecino. Que nadie se atreva a dudarlos: En el proceso democrático de elegir y ser elegido somos los más apasionados. No trates de arreglarlo porque se daña. Así somos y punto.

Ahora, encaminándose el COVID al baúl del recuerdo, y la presión de septiembre que está a tres pies de distancia de junio, los motores de la política se encienden.

Señores, estamos en campaña y como diría mi amigo el Pastor Víctor Jarvis: "Hay almas que salvar". Los candidatos tendrán que conseguir las firmas; hay que buscar la lista actualizada de votantes. Ya se ven los letreros en las esquinas y frentes de casas. Los candidatos comenzaron a tocar puertas.

Los celulares, WhatsApp y Facebook están al rojo vivo. Ellos están aprovechando cualquier oportunidad para llevar su mensaje a los votantes a través de la radio, TV, periódico, redes sociales y cualquier medio que aparezca, especialmente si es gratis.

Les adelanto que habrá momentos antes y después de las primarias del 21 de septiembre donde algunos no se hablarán ni saludarán por un tiempo, y hasta se bloquearán en FB y WhatsApp dizque porque "estamos guapos". Eso es bulto. Somos mucha espuma y poco chocolate.

Cada 2 ó 4 años pasamos por la misma resaca por la derrota. Es un síntoma temporal mientras baja la fiebre política y finalmente felicitamos al candidato ganador. Son los efectos secundarios de las benditas elecciones, o las feúdas elecciones (como dirían los indiferentes, los hartos del mismo bla-bla-bla).

Amigos y amigas del periódico Rumbo, así iniciamos una serie de entregas sobre las elecciones de este año 2021 en la Ciudad del Inmigrante.

¿Quiénes han retornado sus documentos de nominación para la alcaldía y entregado y certificado por lo menos 250 firmas de votantes registrados?

En orden de entrega lo han hecho Vilma Martínez, William Lantigua y Brian De Peña, según me informó la División de Elecciones de Lawrence. Por ser irrelevante en este trabajo, decidí no incluir la cantidad de firmas sometidas por los candidatos. Lo importante es que colectaron las firmas



Candidata a la Alcaldía Doris Rodríguez



Candidata a la Alcaldía Vilma Martínez Domínguez

requeridas y fueron certificadas porque pasaron bien los chequeos necesarios.

Lantigua, Martínez y De Peña tienen un espacio asegurado en la boleta del 21 de septiembre. En espera de las firmas para su certificación están los aspirantes Kendrys Vásquez y Doris Rodríguez.

Vásquez es el actual alcalde interino tras asumir el cargo por votación de los concejales para terminar el tiempo restante del entonces alcalde Dan Rivera.

Rivera renunció al cargo después de ser nominado y confirmado como Presidente y CEO de MassDevelopment.

Ante mi solicitud de información sobre sus papeles de nominación y firmas, Kendrys respondió: "Nuestros esfuerzos de recolección de firmas van super positivos. Muy pronto se estarán entregando al departamento de elecciones para ser verificadas y certificadas".

Si Doris y Vilma pasaran a la elección final del 2 de noviembre, sería la primera vez que dos mujeres latinas se enfrentan en una elección por la alcaldía de Lawrence.

Doris Rodríguez, no siendo tan conocida en la política y con un pesado currículum académico y amplia experiencia de trabajo en el gobierno y la empresa privada, es abogada y administradora de empresas.

Doris recogió los papeles de nominación, pero hasta este viernes pasado no había entregado las firmas requeridas que son un máximo de 300 para certificar un mínimo de 250 "firmas buenas", es decir firmas que han sido verificadas como auténticas de votantes registrados de Lawrence.

Doris, nacida en Methuen de padres dominicanos, pero criada, educada y residente de Lawrence, tiene 3 hijos. Su primera experiencia como candidata a un puesto político fue en el 2014 cuando lanzó su candidatura para Senadora Estatal después

que el entonces Senador Barry Finegold de Andover lanzó su candidatura sin éxito para Tesorero General de Massachusetts, tras ser derrotado en la convención demócrata por Deb Goldberg de Brookline.

Vilma Martínez-Domínguez (conocida como Vilma Lora antes de casarse) llegó con su familia a Lawrence desde la República Dominicana a principios de los 90, y muy pronto la gente identificó su liderazgo en temas relacionados con la defensa y desarrollo de la mujer de Lawrence.

Vilma, junto a la también activista Wendy Luzón, se dio a conocer especialmente por ser la cabeza principal de la "Marcha de las Novias", un evento que se lleva a cabo anualmente (excepto el año pasado por el COVID-19) para crear conciencia sobre la violencia doméstica contra la mujer y recordación de Gladys Ricart, una inmigrante dominicana quien fue asesinada por su ex-marido el día de su boda el 26 de septiembre del 1999, y otras víctimas de la violencia doméstica. Este evento es patrocinado todos

los años por Delamano, Inc., en colaboración con la YWCA de Lawrence, comerciantes locales y voluntarias/os.

Vilma estudió en Northern Essex Community College y se graduó Suma Cum Laude de Springfield College en Servicios Humanos. Su desarrollo profesional ha sido reforzado a través de programas y talleres especiales tales como el Instituto de Práctica Sin Fines de Lucro y el Tisch College de Tufts University. Sin duda alguna su práctica diaria y educación ponen de evidencia a Vilma como una impulsora de los derechos de la mujer y una vida de servicio comunitario.

"Vilma se postula para alcaldesa porque cree que los residentes merecen vivir en una ciudad donde todas las personas y familias tengan acceso a oportunidades que les ayuden a alcanzar su máximo potencial", describe su biografía en su página de campaña.

Vilma está casada con su pareja de 17 años. Es madre de 3 hijos mayores de 21 y abuela de 2.

Fechas importantes sobre las Elecciones 2021

3 de Agosto: último día para los aspirantes regresar completos los papeles de nominación con las firmas requeridas.

1 de Septiembre: último día para los residentes ciudadanos registrarse para votar en las elecciones primarias del 21 de septiembre.

15 de Septiembre: último día para regresar la solicitud de una boleta de voto ausente para la elección primaria del 21 de septiembre.

21 de Septiembre: Elecciones Primarias. Los lugares de votación abrirán de 7 AM a 8 PM. Los dos candidatos o candidatas a la Alcaldía que obtengan más votos se enfrentarán en la elección final del 2 de noviembre. No olvide salir a votar.

13 de Octubre: último día para registrarse para votar en la elección final del 2 de noviembre.

27 de Octubre: último día para presentar una solicitud de boleta de voto ausente para la elección final del 2 de noviembre.

2 de Noviembre: Elección final. Los lugares de votación estarán abiertos de 7 AM a 8 PM.

El candidato o candidata a la Alcaldía que obtenga más votos será el próximo alcalde o la próxima alcaldesa de Lawrence.

Heading to September 21: Two Women Could Make History

(Léalo en español en la página 5)

By José Ayala

In Lawrence "when it is not one, it is the other or" if it is not Juan, it is Juana ", as the people say. There is always a reason to comment, regret or celebrate. You choose one of the options. The " issues "menu of what to talk about is broad: the high rent, the fires, the noise, the garbage and recycling, the noise of the illegal fireworks, the petitioners at the traffic lights and under the bridge, increased taxes.

Other times we entertain ourselves by criticizing or highlighting the vote of this or that councilor on a controversial issue, or the good and the bad of festivals and parades. But we also have the sensitivity, humility, and overflowing love to unite, hug or let a tear of solidarity roll in the face of the pain of a Lawrence family.

In the midst of crying and joy, hot or cold, pandemic or not, Lawrence is well known for her community activism and politics, whether from here or there. The passion and involvement in the noblest and just causes are drawn on every face, on every corner, in every warehouse, in every taxi driver, in every neighbor. Let no one dare to doubt it: In the democratic process of electing and being elected, we are the most passionate. Don't try to fix it because it gets damaged. That's how we are, period.

Now, with COVID heading to the trunk of memory, and the pressure of September that is three feet away from June, the engines of politics are igniting.

Gentlemen, we are in the campaign and as my friend Pastor Victor Jarvis would say: "There are souls to save." Candidates will have to get signatures; look for the updated list of voters. You can already see the signs on the corners and fronts of houses. Candidates began knocking on doors.

Cell phones, WhatsApp, and Facebook are red hot. They are taking every opportunity to get their message out to the voters through radio, TV, newspaper, social media, and whatever medium comes out, especially if it's free.

I anticipate that there will be moments before and after the primaries on September 21 where some will not speak or greet each other for a while, and will even be blocked on FB and WhatsApp supposedly because "we are handsome." That is bulky. We are a lot of foam and little chocolate.

Every 2 or 4 years we go through the same hangover from defeat. It is a temporary symptom as the political fever subsides and we finally congratulate the winning candidate. They are the secondary effects of the blessed elections, or the fuzzy elections (as the indifferent would say, those fed up with the same blah-blah-blah).

Friends of the Rumbo newspaper, this is how we began a series of deliveries on the elections of this year 2021 in the Immigrant City.

Who has returned their mayoral nomination papers and delivered and certified at least 250 signatures of registered voters?

Vilma Martínez, William Lantigua, and Brian De Peña have done it in order of delivery, according to the Lawrence Elections Division. Being irrelevant in this work, I decided not to include the number



Mayoral Candidate Doris Rodríguez



Mayoral Candidate Vilma Martínez Domínguez

of signatures submitted by the candidates. The important thing is that they collected the required signatures and were certified because they passed the necessary checks well.

Lantigua, Martínez, and De Peña have a guaranteed space on the September 21 ballot. The applicants Kendrys Vásquez and Doris Rodríguez are awaiting the signatures for their certification.

Vasquez is the current interim mayor after assuming the position by a vote of the councilors to finish the remaining time of then-mayor Dan Rivera.

Rivera resigned after being nominated and confirmed as President and CEO of MassDevelopment.

At my request for information on his nomination papers and signatures, Kendrys responded, "Our signature collection efforts are going super positive. Very soon they will be turned over to the elections department to be verified and certified."

If Doris and Vilma went to the final election on November 2, it would be the first time that two Latina women have faced each other in a Lawrence mayoral election.

Doris Rodríguez, not so well known in politics and with a heavy academic resume and extensive work experience in government and private business, is a lawyer and business administrator.

Doris collected the nomination papers, but until this past Friday she had not delivered the required signatures, which are a maximum of 300 to certify a minimum of 250 "good signatures," that is, signatures that have been verified as authentic from Lawrence registered voters.

Doris, born in Methuen to Dominican parents, but raised, educated, and a Lawrence resident, has 3 children. Her first experience running for political office was in 2014 when

she ran for State Senator after then-Senator Barry Finegold of Andover unsuccessfully ran for Massachusetts Treasurer General after being defeated at the Democratic convention by Deb Goldberg. by Brookline.

Vilma Martínez-Domínguez (known as Vilma Lora before she married) came with her family to Lawrence from the Dominican Republic in the early 1990s, and very soon people identified her leadership on issues related to the defense and development of Lawrence's wife.

Vilma, along with the also activist Wendy Luzón, became known especially for being the main head of the "March of the Brides", an event that takes place annually (except last year for COVID-19) to create awareness on domestic violence against women and remembrance of Gladys Ricart, a Dominican immigrant who was murdered by her ex-husband on their wedding day on September 26, 1999, and other victims of domestic violence. This event is

sponsored each year by Delamano, Inc., in collaboration with the YWCA of Lawrence, local merchants, and volunteers.

Vilma studied at Northern Essex Community College and graduated Suma Cum Laude from Springfield College in Human Services. Her professional development has been reinforced through special programs and workshops such as the Nonprofit Practice Institute and Tisch College at Tufts University. Without a doubt, her daily practice and education show Vilma as a promoter of women's rights and a life of community service.

"Vilma is running for mayor because she believes that residents deserve to live in a city where all individuals and families have access to opportunities that help them reach their full potential," she describes her biography on her campaign page.

Vilma is married to her 17-year-old partner. She is the mother of 3 children over the age of 21 and a grandmother of 2.

IMPORTANT DATES OF THE 2021 ELECTIONS

August 3: last day for applicants to return the nomination papers complete with the required signatures.

September 1: Last day for city residents who are citizens to register to vote in the **September 21:** primary elections.

September 15: Last day to return an absentee ballot request for the September 21 primary election.

September 21: Primary Elections. Polling places will open from 7 AM to 8 PM. The two mayoral candidates with the most votes will face off in the final election on **November 2:** Don't forget to vote.

October 13: Last day to register to vote in the final election on November 2.

October 27: Last day to submit an absentee ballot request for the final election on November 2.

November 2: Final choice. Polling places will be open from 7 AM to 8 PM.

The mayoral candidate with the most votes will be the next mayor of Lawrence.

READ PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF RUMBO ON OUR WEBSITE
RUMBONEWS.COM

The Budget and the \$69 Million Debt

By Dalia Diaz

On June 22, 2021, the City Council will conduct a special meeting, to hear to the public regarding Interim Mayor Vasquez's proposed budget, and to vote on the said budget.

Rumbo and its financial analyst, along with a few advisors, reviewed the proposed City of Lawrence budget as well as viewed the five, or so, Budget Hearings of the City's Budget & Finance Committee. Here is what we found, so disturbing, about it all. Debts and the interest payments!

The amount of debt that the city owes is overtly excessive, especially on the interest payment versus the principal payments. More importantly, missing is the total amount paid or will be paid, for each of the loans or bonds. Here is an example of what we mean. When any person visits a car dealership and buys a car, the person signs a series of documents associated with the loan of the car that includes information such as percentage interest, monthly payments, down payments, total payments, and other information. The total payments, of the loan, will inform the buyer of amounts of money paid for the principal and the interest. You may buy a car for \$20,000 but end up paying a lot more money after the interest is accrued in the lifetime of that loan. Depending on your credit and the interest approved, one could end up paying about \$30,000 for the car after a five or six-year loan repayment

approval is applied/paid.

So, as we looked at FY2022 proposed budget enclosures, we found all the loans and bonds that the city has outstanding, and wow is it a lot! This city has not even asked for loans for the construction of two schools yet and the amount owed is mind-boggling. For all the chest pumping that the former Mayor did regarding having \$15 million in free cash (at one time), he left the city with \$69 million in debt (before the interest payments are calculated). It could go up as far as more than \$100 million.

What if I told you that some of the city's loans will pay 50%, 60%, and even 80% interest payment in FY2022. Would you have taken out a loan that would make you pay that amount of interest? Here are some examples:

- Municipal Purpose Loan of 2018 - Guilmette Elem & Middle School loan will pay 65.5% in interest for FY22.
- Municipal Purpose Loan of 2018 - Arlington School Boiler & Roof Replacement loan will pay 65.5% in interest for FY22
- Municipal Purpose Loan of 2018 - School For Exceptional Studies Roof loan will pay 65.5% in interest for FY22
- Municipal Purpose Loan of 2019 -

Various Projects loan will pay \$67.7% in interest for FY22

- Advance Refunding Bonds - High School loan will pay 55.3% in interest for FY22.

More disturbing were the bonds.

- GO Bond City Hall Annex loan will pay 89.4% in interest payment for FY22!

Maybe we should put into this article that the GO Bond City Hall Annex loan will pay 89.4% in interest payment for FY22 is the very same building that Mayor Rivera bought because he messed up that by getting into beef with the Attorneys who owned the building, after losing his case in court.

It goes on and on, with all the loans and bonds of Lawrence, from anywhere of 20% to 90% in between them. Imagine that? A city with a AAA bond rating getting redlined on loans! It seems that as soon as the overseer departed, loans were being taken out like candy from a store.

Of all the loans and bonds, the amount the principal payment for FY22 will be \$5,630,000 and the interest payment will be \$2,182,275! That is 38% in interest payments alone, for all.

If 38% interest payment is the norm for years to come (not including the two

new loans for schools) then that means that for the period of all the loans, not only will Lawrence pay \$69 million but also pay an additional huge interest payment of \$27 million.

Interim Mayor Vasquez is in way over his head. His proposed budget did nothing to mitigate the amount of debt and only sought to gain the favor of voters by not increasing the 2.5% maximum.

But would you want to know what is the most laughable thing about these whole loans and bonds debt? That a member of the Lawrence Alliance Board stated that Lawrence never invests in its children's education. When in the last few years Lawrence has invested \$38,633,160 in school infrastructure and it's about to embark on two huge school building construction that will probably cost over \$200,000,000 in loans alone (no interest).

Again, as once stated, Mayor Rivera, and now Interim Mayor Kendrys Vasquez have left the single-family homeowners holding most of the cost in taxes, while new housing development (which are bringing in more tenants from outside the city) will pay no taxes for a series of decades. Aren't those the buildings that have more student/children residing, and should be coughing up more taxes than single-family homes? Of course.

Vacuna contra el COVID-19: Segura y Eficaz

Únase a los millones de personas que ya se han vacunado.

La Vacuna contra el COVID-19 se desarrolló de forma segura.



- ✓ Para crear la vacuna contra el COVID, se siguieron las mismas medidas de seguridad que se usan para todas las otras vacunas.
- ✓ Miles de personas participaron en los ensayos clínicos para demostrar que la vacuna es segura y eficaz.

La Vacuna pudo desarrollarse rápidamente porque:

- ✓ Cuando comenzó la pandemia, los científicos ya habían estudiado otros virus similares durante más de 20 años, y eso les dio una ventaja inicial para crear esta vacuna.
- ✓ Las compañías comenzaron a producir la vacuna con anticipación para garantizar su distribución inmediata después de la aprobación.



PROGRAME SU CITA
mass.gov/CovidVaccine



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

La **VACUNA SALVA VIDAS**



Inauguran primer mural puertorriqueño en Lowell

Decatur Way Alley Gallery of Arts se enaltecio con muchos puertorriqueños y otras comunidades para revelar ante la comunidad, el primer Mural Puertorriqueño en la ciudad de Lowell.

El evento se abrió con la participación de Chalilnaru Dones India Taino Arawak con una oración y presentación de la cual toda la audiencia participó. Ines Eldez cantó el himno nacional y Juan Esteban Rodriguez el himno de Puerto Rico, La Borinqueña.

El maestro de salsa Wilfredo Ceballo preparó un baile de salsa del cual todos disfrutaron. Se le otorgaron reconocimientos a oficiales de la ciudad Rita Mercier, Rodney Elliot y Dave Oulette candidato corriendo para concejal por contribuir y respaldar a la comunidad hispana y puertorriqueña en la ciudad de Lowell.

Tuvimos la participación de Vivian Ruiz que preparó dos poemas para Lowell y los recitó ante todos. Los poemas también serán exhibidos en la galería junto al mural. Vivian Ruiz se llevó un reconocimiento por colaborar en este proyecto con su poesía, y la artista del mural, Enna Pagán, obtuvo un reconocimiento por esta obra de arte.

Las ACRE Girls participaron junto a Maria Claudio y Roberto Clemente League. Se les dio un certificado de honor a Nancy Peña por contribuir siempre con la comunidad hispana y puertorriqueña y por su programa Colores Latinos TV, también un certificado de honor a la única latina puertorriqueña en tener un show radial "El Show Sin Nombre" que se transmite a través de la 980 AM en Lowell todos los miércoles a las 10 AM por WCAP 980 AM. Todos

estos reconocimientos fueron de parte de Lowell Puerto Rican Coalition, de la cual Betsy Toro es presidente y Carmen Huertas Lara secretaria de la coalición.

Tuvimos una participación sorpresa de Dilly un artista de rap de Lowell y nos visitaron los oficiales del ayuntamiento de la ciudad de Lowell y la hija de la activista de los 80s y 90s en Lowell de la ya fallecida Sra. Ana Ocasio fundadora del Festival Puertorriqueño de Lowell.

Para cerrar con broche de oro tuvimos la participación de Dzerej cantante de reggaeton con sus temas de su más reciente álbum musical "Estas Enamorao" y la audiencia bailó y gozó mucho.

Nuestros patrocinadores fueron Colores Latinos TV, Unitas Civic Center, Infante Grocery, Valenzia Musik, DJ Specialist,

Sowy's Bakery, Elius Hole On The Wall Restaurant, Lowell Puerto Rican Coalition, Dave Oulette for Lowell City Council y Comunidad de Lowell. Esto fue un evento cultural con la única intención de envolver a la juventud y a otras personas para que donen sus trabajos de arte a la galería, muchas de las personas en la audiencia se inspiraron en este proyecto y vinieron desde Boston y Lawrence a donar su talento a la galería.

Victor Rios y Christine Pérez donaron varias piezas de arte que serán colgadas junto al mural de 4 pies por 8 pies de largo. Contamos con la visita de muchos candidatos postulados para concejal de la ciudad de Lowell para las próximas elecciones de Septiembre de este año y tuvieron la oportunidad de conversar con nuestra comunidad y coleccionar firmas para poder correr oficialmente.



Portuguese-Americans celebrate Dia de Portugal

Lowell, Massachusetts, June 10, 2021

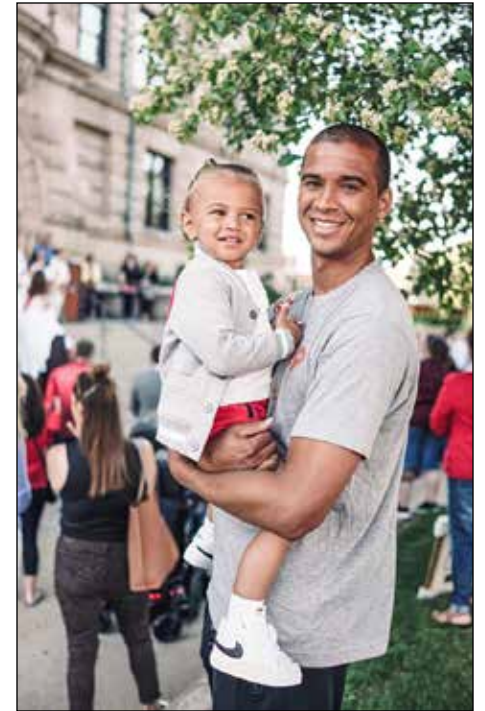
Photos Analise Saab Brown

The Portuguese-Americans and some friends in the Greater Lowell area showed up to celebrate Dia de Portugal on June 10th. I've never felt more satisfied to hear the Portuguese band music or see friends proudly sporting their red and green after a year of missed festivals and traditions.

Many thanks to folks like Paulo G. and Maria C. for putting time and thought into coordinating the gathering.

Noteworthy was the presence of Congresswoman Lori Trahan, State Representative Vanna Howard, recognized Honoree Maria Cunha, City Officials, Holy Ghost Society Directors, Trindade Directors, Veterans, the Portuguese Band, proud Portuguese professionals and volunteers, youth, and candidates for Lowell City Council.

Leo celebrated his first Dia de Portugal and Lowell showed up in style!



HELP YOUR TEEN QUIT VAPING

GET OUT RAGED! GetOutRaged.org

Participación de estudiantes latinx en programas educativos de verano es menor que otros grupos

El verano de 2021 será de vital importancia mientras los estudiantes y familias tratan de recuperarse del aislamiento, el trauma y la pérdida de aprendizaje que causó la pandemia. Pero un nuevo estudio que analizó exhaustivamente los programas educativos de verano en el 2019 y el 2020 reveló que la participación de los estudiantes latinx en los programas sigue siendo baja a pesar de un reciente aumento y de la notable satisfacción de los padres de familia con los programas. Solo 44% de las familias lantix con hijos reportó que sus hijos participaron en un programa educativo de verano en el 2019, un aumento en comparación a 39% en el 2013 y 29% en el 2008. Aunque 2.7 millones de niños lantix participaron en una experiencia de verano estructurada en el 2019, los padres de familia reportaron que casi 4.4 millones más hubieran podido participar si hubiera habido un programa disponible para ellos.

Estos son algunos de los hallazgos de la encuesta Summertime in America for Latinx Families and Communities (Verano en Estados Unidos para las familias y comunidades latinx) que fue publicada hoy. Comisionada por Afterschool Alliance y realizada por Edge Research, la encuesta reveló que 47% del total de las familias reportó que por lo menos uno de sus hijos participó en un programa de verano en el 2019 en comparación con solo 44% de las familias con estudiantes latinx.

En el 2020 la participación en los programas de verano se redujo aún más mientras la pandemia cambiaba radicalmente nuestra vida educativa, profesional y familiar. Solo 28% de las familias lantix reportó que su hijo participó en una experiencia de verano estructurada el año pasado en comparación con 34% del promedio general de las familias. Más de la mitad de los estudiantes lantix que participaron en un programa de verano el año pasado (56%) lo hicieron virtualmente. La definición del estudio de una experiencia de verano estructurada incluye programas educativos de verano, programas deportivos, campamentos de verano, escuela de verano y empleos o pasantías de verano, pero se diferencia de los servicios de cuidado infantil.

“Hoy más que nunca nuestros niños necesitan ayuda académica, apoyo socioemocional y oportunidades de interactuar con compañeros y adultos comprensivos, ser físicamente activos y divertirse”, dijo Jodi Grant, directora ejecutiva de Afterschool Alliance.

Gran mayoría de padres de familias latinx dijeron sentirse satisfechos con los programas educativos de verano a los que asisten sus hijos

“Debemos mejorar las cosas y darles a todos los estudiantes acceso a los programas educativos de verano que necesitan. Este verano tenemos la responsabilidad de satisfacer las necesidades de la juventud lantix mientras trabajamos para satisfacer las necesidades de todos los niños y jóvenes”.

El estudio Summertime in America for Latinx Families and Communities se basa en las respuestas de más de 29,500 familias de EE. UU., incluyendo más de 4,000 familias lantix, y en encuestas realizadas en hogares en el 2004, 2009 y 2014. Incluye cifras nacionales que provienen de encuestas más pequeñas que respondieron padres de familia y proveedores de programas en el 2020 y el 2021. Estos son algunos hallazgos importantes del nuevo estudio:

- Los padres de familia latinx califican los programas de verano de sus hijos como buenos. En el 2019, un extraordinario 96% de los padres de familia lantix se sintió satisfecho con la experiencia de verano estructurada a la que asistieron sus hijos; 67% dijo sentirse muy satisfecho.

- Los padres de familia latinos dijeron que un entorno seguro, personal calificado y comprensivo, horas convenientes, oportunidades de participar en actividades físicas, oportunidades de desarrollar destrezas útiles en la vida y la variedad de actividades son muy importantes al escoger las oportunidades educativas de verano de sus hijos. Muchos más padres de familia latinx que padres de familia blancos dijeron que los factores académicos y reducir las conductas de alto riesgo son de suma importancia al escoger un programa de verano para sus hijos. En el 2020, 74% de los padres de familia lantix dijo que las medidas de seguridad y limpieza para prevenir el coronavirus eran de extrema importancia al escoger un programa.

- Las prioridades varían con la raza. Las familias afroamericanas, latinx e indígenas son mucho más propensas que los padres de familia blancos y asiático-estadounidenses a decir que una variedad de actividades, bocadillos y/o comida, actividad física,

desarrollo de destrezas útiles para la vida y enriquecimiento académico (incluyendo evitar la pérdida de terreno académico y oportunidades de aprendizaje STEM) son de extrema importancia al escoger las actividades de verano de sus hijos.

- El costo, el transporte y la falta de información sobre los programas obstaculizan la participación de las familias lantix. Dos de cada cinco padres de familia lantix que no inscribieron a sus hijos en una experiencia de verano estructurada en el 2019 (39%) no matricularon a sus hijos porque los programas eran muy costosos. Uno de cada cinco mencionó problemas de transporte (21%) y no saber qué programas estaban disponibles (20%).

- Noventa por ciento de los padres de familia latinx aprueba el uso de fondos públicos en oportunidades educativas de verano para los jóvenes de las comunidades marginadas. El apoyo es amplio y bipartidista.

Los hallazgos del estudio Summertime in America for Latinx Families and Communities se basan en una encuesta nacional representativa de adultos escogidos al azar que viven en Estados Unidos y son padres o tutores legales de un niño

en edad escolar que vive en su hogar. Un total de 29,595 hogares, incluyendo 53,287 hogares con hijos y 4,096 hogares lantix respondieron preguntas sobre el verano 2019 en inglés o español. El margen de error general de las cifras de los niños y hogares es +/- < 1 por ciento. La encuesta incluyó por lo menos 200 entrevistas provenientes de todos los estados y el Distrito de Columbia. La información fue recopilada entre el 27 de enero y el 17 de marzo de 2020 por Edge Research.

Edge Research también realizó dos encuestas representativas en línea a nivel nacional, una del 4 al 18 de agosto de 2020 entre 1,071 padres de niños en edad escolar y la otra del 12-29 de octubre de 2020 entre 1,202 padres de niños en edad escolar. También realizaron tres encuestas en línea entre proveedores de programas: una encuesta entre 1,047 programas educativos después de clases y de verano que se realizó del 20 de julio al 31 de agosto de 2020, otra encuesta entre 1,445 proveedores de programas que se realizó del 28 de septiembre al 27 de octubre de 2020 y una encuesta entre 1,235 proveedores de programas que se realizó del 19 de febrero al 15 de marzo de 2021.

Greater Haverhill Chamber Welcomes Tawa Tandoor to Route 125 Restaurant Row



Celebrating the grand opening were Joe DiPietro, Lillian MacKinnon, Parshu Bhandari, Ganesh Bista and L.B. Thapa, Mayor James Fiorentini and City Councilor Joe Bevilacqua.

The Greater Haverhill Chamber was delighted to help Tawa Tandoor celebrate their new restaurant at 36 Plaistow Road in Haverhill with a ribbon-cutting celebration on Saturday, June 12, 2021.

Tawa Tandoor offers a full menu of authentic Himalayan, north Indian and Nepali Ayurvedic cuisines. Dishes are based on the principles of Ayurvedic, a tradition that dates back thousands of years and incorporates a wide variety of medicinal, herbal, and aromatic spices. The menu offers delicious options for vegetarians, vegans and items can be specially prepared for diners that have dietary restrictions or are gluten-free.

Tawa Tandoor is a welcome addition to a growing restaurant district along

the Plaistow line which includes many favorites like Kobe Buddha House, 110 Grill, Five Guys, and UNO's Pizzeria and Grill.

The citation was provided by Calee Merenda, Legislative Aide to Senator Diana DiZoglio.

About the Greater Haverhill Chamber The Chamber represents 400 businesses in 14 communities in Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire. We like to say the Chamber brings people together and provides opportunities to promote and expand business networks. We support and advocate for our members and work to improve our community through inclusive economic development.



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

“Impactando la vida de los oyentes”

Producción de Luis Piñeyro

Miércoles, de 2 a 3 de la tarde por la 1490 AM

Latinx Students Attending Summer Learning Programs Lags Behind Other Groups

The summer of 2021 will be vitally important, as students and families try to recover from the isolation, trauma, and learning loss the pandemic caused. Yet a new study that looks in-depth at summer learning in 2019 and 2020 finds that Latinx student participation in programs remains low, despite some recent growth and remarkably high parent satisfaction. Just 44% of Latinx families with children report that their child was involved in a summer learning program in 2019 – an increase from 39% in 2013 and 29% in 2008. But while 2.7 million Latinx children took part in a structured summer experience in 2019, nearly 4.4 million more would have been enrolled if a program were available to them, their parents said.

Those are among the findings from *Summertime in America for Latinx Families and Communities*, a household survey released today. Commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance and conducted by Edge Research, it finds that 47% of families overall report at least one of their children participated in a summer program in 2019, compared to just 44% of Latinx students.

Then in 2020, participation in summer programs dropped further, as the pandemic upended education and work and family life. Just 28% of Latinx families report that their child participated in a structured summer experience last year, compared to 34% of families overall. More than half of Latinx students who participated in a summer program last year (56%) did so virtually. A structured summer experience is defined in the study to include a summer learning program, sports program, summer camp, summer school, or summer job or internship, but is different from child care.

“More than ever, our kids need academic help, social/emotional support, and opportunities to engage with peers and caring adults, be physically active, and have fun,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “We must do better by giving all students access to the summer learning programs they need. Cost and transportation should not remain barriers to participation. Lawmakers recognized that by including significant one-time funding for afterschool and summer learning programs in the American Rescue Plan. Now we are looking to states to ensure those funds are well-used. This summer, we have a responsibility to meet the need for Latinx youth as we work to meet the needs of all children and youth.”

In both 2019 and 2020, large majorities of Latinx parents expressed satisfaction with the structured summer experience their child attended and said they support public funding for these programs.

Summertime in America for Latinx Families and Communities is based on responses from more than 29,500 U.S. families, including more than 4,000 Latinx families, and builds on household surveys conducted in 2004, 2009 and 2014. It includes national-level findings from smaller surveys of parents and program providers conducted in 2020 and 2021. Core findings from the new study:

- Latinx parents give high marks to their child’s summer programs. In 2019, an extraordinary 96% of Latinx parents were satisfied with the structured summer experience their child attended and 67% were extremely satisfied.

Large Majority of Latinx Parents Satisfied with the Summer Learning Programs Their Child Attends

- A safe environment, knowledgeable and caring staff, convenient hours, opportunities for physical activity, opportunities to build life skills, and a variety of activities are extremely important in selecting summer learning opportunities for their children, Latinx parents say. Many more Latinx than White parents say that academics and reducing risky behaviors are extremely important in choosing a summer program for their child. In 2020, 74% of Latinx parents said safety and cleaning precautions to prevent coronavirus were extremely important in choosing a program.

- Priorities vary by race. Black, Latinx, and Native American families are much more likely than White and Asian American parents to say that a variety of activities, snacks and/or meals, physical activity, building life skills, and academic enrichment (including keeping their child from losing academic ground and STEM learning opportunities) are extremely important when selecting their child’s summer activities.

- Cost, transportation, and lack on information on programs are barriers to participation for Latinx families. Two in five Latinx parents who did not have a child in a structured summer experience in 2019 (39%) did not enroll their child because programs were too expensive. One in five cited issues with transportation (21%) and not knowing what programs were available (20%).

- Ninety percent of Latinx parents favor public funding for summer learning opportunities for young people in underserved communities. Support is broad-based and bipartisan.

Findings from *Summertime in America for Latinx Families and Communities* are based on a nationally representative survey of randomly selected adults who live in the United States and are the parent or guardian of a school-age child who lives in their household. A total of 29,595 households, including 53,287 children and 4,096 Latinx households, were surveyed in English or Spanish and answered questions regarding the summer of 2019. The overall margin of error for child-level and household-level data is +/- < 1 percent. The survey included at least 200 interviews in every state and the District of Columbia. Data was collected between January 27 and March 17, 2020, by Edge Research.

Edge Research also conducted two nationally representative online surveys, one fielded August 4-18, 2020 of 1,071 parents of school-aged children and the other October 12-29, 2020 of 1,202 parents of school-aged children; and three online program provider surveys: one survey of 1,047 afterschool and summer learning program providers, conducted July 20-August 31, 2020; another survey of 1,445 program providers, conducted from September 28-October 27, 2020; and a survey of 1,235 program providers, conducted February 19-March 15, 2021.

Asperger Works, Inc. Announces New Home



The Board of Directors of AspergerWorks accepted the Citation presented by State Senator Diana DiZogli. Picture provided by Attorney Richard Rodriguez

On June 3, 2021, Asperger Works, Inc. hosted its Open House celebrating our new office located at 346 Broadway, Haverhill MA 01832. Despite the COVID-19 crisis, approximately thirty-five persons attended this special event celebrating our new home where we will continue to provide services that focus on solving the employment problems of adults with Asperger's Syndrome.

Due to COVID-19, we needed to give up our office at 60 Island Street, Lawrence. Fortunately, the First Presbyterian Church of Haverhill offered us office space that we can afford. So, we are back in business; but anyone who wants to meet with our team in person, needs to make an appointment.

Asperger Works was pleased to receive an Official Citation from the State Senate sponsored by State Senator Diana DiZogli and signed by the President of the Senate Karen E. Spilka, Clerk of the Senate Michael D. Hurley, and State Senator Diana DiZogli. The citation states “The Massachusetts Senate Hereby extends its Congratulations to: Asperger Works, Inc. In Recognition of: The opening of your new location in the City of Haverhill and extends the best wishes for continued success.” In her past testimony, Senator DiZogli shared “The cause of this organization is so important and they are doing a great job ... Thank you, Asperger Works!”

Josiah Morrow, President of Asperger Works Board of Directors, welcomed the attendees and said, “The First Presbyterian Church has been very generous to give us this space and to assist us in this endeavor as we seek to provide people in the Greater Haverhill area with the services they need if they are on the Asperger Syndrome... the training that they need to find a fully equitable employment opportunity and make sure that we are giving everyone the best job they can perform....”

Daniel R. Rajczyk, Founder and Executive Director of Asperger Works, added, “Thank you Everyone for coming. This is a bigger turnout than I thought would happen... It looks like it was a good move for us to come to Haverhill, which is located in the Merrimack Valley.”

Asperger Works was formed in 2012 by Daniel Rajczyk as part of a Master’s Degree project he was working on at Endicott College. It is a charitable not-for-profit organization whose mission is twofold: (1) to educate employers about the positive side of hiring people with Asperger’s Syndrome (AS) and (2) to help adults with AS lead productive lives through gainful employment.

Over the years, Asperger Works has participated in various activities and events in the Greater Lawrence community! From marching in parades to fundraising dinners, we are on the move.

Join us in our work to increase visibility for those who have been invisible in our communities for far too long: adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders! Join us and help put adults with Asperger’s Syndrome to work in fields commensurate with their talents and abilities!

Further information about Asperger Works, services we provide, and information about Asperger’s Syndrome can be found on line at:

Website: <https://aspergerworks.org>.
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aspergerworks.org>.
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/asperger-works-inc>.

And join us at this year’s Dinner of Hope on October 8th. For more information, visit <https://dinner.aspergerworks.org/>.

Prepared by Attorney Richard Rodriguez, Advisory Board Member to AspergerWorks.

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The Merrimack Valley Chamber's Annual Small Business Recognition Day



Some of the winners of the Merrimack Valley Chamber's Annual Small Business Recognition Day Award recipients gathered together with Mass. U.S. Small Business Administration Director Robert Nelson, and MVChamber Vice President Michael Bevilacqua for a group recognition.

The Merrimack Valley Chamber's

Annual Small Business Recognition Day was an outstanding success with over 150 in attendance to recognize the importance of small business as evident by the variety of small businesses who received awards. Featured speaker was Mass. U.S. Small Business Administration Director Robert Nelson.

Human Services Major Will Be New Student Trustee

Human Services major Chrissy Grace of Dracut will join the Northern Essex Community College Board of Trustees as the newly student-elected representative.

Grace graduated from high school in 2004 and quickly found success working in the tech field as a product representative. But, after having her daughter three years ago, she felt like she was out of options for growth in her career. Grace decided to move back home and work for her family's transportation business. Then, COVID hit, and work ground to a halt. Grace once again found herself reevaluating. "I found myself alone with nothing to do. I wanted to fill my time with something positive."

Grace decided to enroll at NECC for the Spring '21 semester as a Human Services major. She says she was inspired to take on this new challenge by seeing her young daughter adapt and thrive during the pandemic. "She is three, she has spent most of her life in COVID and if she can do it, I can do it."

Despite being fully remote, Grace was determined to embrace all aspects of college life. She joined the Community Outreach Group and became the member at large for the Student Government Association. Even though they couldn't meet in person, she felt really motivated by the sense of community she gained from these clubs. "Suddenly it was like I had a purpose; I think that's really important." Grace says, as more students return to campus in the fall, she hopes that she can use her role as student trustee to encourage others to get involved. "Those of us who found something we were passionate about had a much better experience. Helping bring back a sense of community is going to be



really important going forward."

Grace finished her first semester with a 4.0 grade point average. After earning her associate degree, she plans to transfer to a four-year school to get her bachelor's and then go onto work with senior citizens.

NECC's Human Services Associate Degree program prepares students for a career working with people with emotional and social problems, developmental disabilities, mental illness, or substance abuse problems. The program offers a wide variety of career options in a field that is expected to continue to be in high demand.

The NECC Board of Trustees includes nine members who are appointed by the governor of the state to a maximum of two five-year terms as well as an alumni-elected member, who also serves a maximum of ten years, and a student trustee who serves for two semesters. Grace's term will last through June 30, 2022.

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UN PUNTO DE VISTA © 1996

Por Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, CCP

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

Cuando tienes que ir, tienes que ir

Desde hace algún tiempo, los meses acumulándose para convertirse en años, la pandemia ha obligado a empleadores y empleados, a adoptar una nueva práctica laboral: el teletrabajo. Ha permitido a los empleadores permanecer en el negocio, y a los empleados cumplir con sus obligaciones y permanecer empleados; un beneficio incuestionado. Este arreglo, sin embargo, ha tenido un efecto secundario del que no se oye hablar mucho.

Cuando cientos, quizás incluso miles, de empleados tienen que trabajar desde casa, los gastos directos de las instalaciones en los que incurren los empleadores en un solo lugar se multiplican por el número de empleados que aprovechan esa oportunidad y los empleados individuales, no los empleadores, incurren en ellos. Piense en electricidad, computadora, Internet, telecomunicaciones, agua, alcantarillado, A/C, calefacción, y obtendrá el panorama general. Es un efecto de costo amplio multiplicado por el tamaño de la fuerza de trabajo.

Me doy cuenta de que los empleados individuales pueden ahorrar algunos costos de desplazamiento, pero en general, el beneficio se acumula a los empleadores y no a los empleados.

Obligar a los empresarios a pagar tanto cuando no solo están tratando de mantenerse

en el negocio, sino también de ser buenos ciudadanos y mantener a sus empleados en la nómina, sería injusto en mi opinión, pero el peso tampoco debería estar al otro lado de esa fórmula económica.

El Tesorero de nuestro Estado podría agregar una línea de categoría de crédito fiscal a las declaraciones de impuestos del Formulario 1 para su uso por los trabajadores que se encuentran en ese nuevo paradigma. Solo necesitamos dar a cada empleador involucrado un número de teletrabajo, tal vez una extensión de su número de empleador sería suficiente, que sus empleados podrían usar para reclamar un crédito y el Tesoro Público para auditar.

Los expertos en energía en nuestro gobierno estatal pueden averiguar cómo medir ese crédito en dólares y centavos y evitar la necesidad de perderse en los detalles de cada caso. Debemos evitar a toda costa los detalles diabólicos tanto para el empresario como para los empleados. Y, por supuesto, debemos ignorar el hecho de que esos créditos benefician a nuestros empleadores y no deben considerarse ingresos corporativos virtuales para ellos o el ciclo contable nunca terminará.

Como dije al principio, cuando tienes que ir, tienes que ir, pero no debería ser demasiado engorroso. Gracias.

A POINT OF VIEW © 1996

By Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, CCP

When you have to go, you have to go

For some time now, the months piling up to become years, the pandemic has forced employers and employees to adopt a new work practice: teleworking. It has allowed the employers to stay in business, and the employees to fulfill their obligations and remain employed; an unquestioned benefit. This arrangement, however, has had a secondary effect that one does not hear much about.

When hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of employees have to work from home, the facilities direct expenses that the employers incur in one place are multiplied by the number of employees using that opportunity and the individual employees, not the employers, incur them. Think electricity, computer, internet, telecommunications, water, sewer, A/C, heating, and you will get the big picture. It is a wide cost effect multiplied by the size of the work force.

I realize that the individual employees may save some commuting costs, but overall, the benefit accrues to the employers and not to the employees.

Forcing the employers to pay for so much when they are not only trying to stay

in business, but also to be good citizens and keep their employees in the payroll would be unfair in my opinion, but the weight should not be on the other side of that economic formula either.

The State Treasurer could add a tax credit category line to the Form 1 tax returns for use by workers who find themselves in that new paradigm. We only need to give every employer involved a telecommuting number, perhaps an extension of their employer number would be sufficient, that their employees could use to claim a credit and the State Treasury to audit. The energy experts in our State government can figure out how to measure that credit in dollars and cents and avoid the necessity to get lost in the details of every case. We must avoid the devilish details at all costs for both, the employer and the employees. And, of course, we must ignore the fact that those credits benefit our employers and should not be considered virtual corporate income for them or the accounting cycle will never end.

As I said at the beginning, when you have to go, you have to go, but it shouldn't have to be too cumbersome. Thanks.

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Estudiantes y Maestros de la Escuela Oliver hacen reconocimiento a su directora

Students and Staff at OPS give thanks to their principal

Presentación de Tatiana Cabassa y Marlene Reyes.

Queremos aprovechar este momento para reconocer a una persona en nuestra escuela que ha hecho un tremendo impacto no tan solo en nuestras escuelas sino también en nuestra comunidad.

Shalimar Marie Quiles, empezó su carrera en la ciudad de Lawrence como coordinadora de compromiso académico para el distrito escolar. Lideró los esfuerzos para mejorar dramáticamente la tasa de graduación y reducir la tasa de deserción.

Su buen trabajo le valió rápidamente su ascenso a leader del personal donde supervisó la implementación de la agenda del superintendente durante varios años, incluidos, entre otros como: Reducir el tamaño de la oficina central y devolver esos recursos adicionales a las escuelas. Mejorar la estructura física de los edificios de Las Escuelas Públicas, reparaciones de ventanas y baños y reparación de pasos de peatón.

Liderando la Acceleration Academy que unió a nuestros mejores maestros con nuestros estudiantes más necesitados y ayudó a llevarlos a un aumento sustancial y puntaje de exámenes en todo el distrito dramáticamente expandiendo el arte y las oportunidades deportivas intramuros para los estudiantes de LPS.

Mientras desempeñaba un papel clave en mejorar el distrito, Shalimar también tomó su tiempo para obtener su maestría en administración educativa. Posteriormente hizo su pasantía administrativa bajo Alice Merlino y trabajó por un corto tiempo en la escuela elemental Parthum antes de ser nombrada como una de las principales más jóvenes del estado en la escuela Hennessey y ahora la tenemos aquí con nosotros en la Oliver Partnership.



Interim Mayor Kendrys Vasquez presented Principal Shalimar Quiles a city citation.



Good afternoon everyone,

I like how you always want to help people before you help yourself. You've been kind ever since I met you and you always try to work hard for our school.

The first time I saw you, you were trying to work hard helping kids in need. Even sometimes when kids are mean to you, you still help them.

You help teachers that need help sometimes, too. When kids are being loud and crazy you calm them down and make the teachers happy.

In the old school building kids used to run around in the halls and scream and now they don't do that anymore and I feel like Ms. Quiles had something to do with that.

Without you I feel like the OPS school would be harder for the students to be nice to each other. You've always been a kind principal and I could tell you were going to be a nice principal.

Thank you!

Endy Leonardo, graduating 5th grader



Endy Leonardo, a graduating 5th grader with a powerful voice delivered the last statement thanking Ms. Quiles for her work.

Presentation by Tatiana Cabassa and Marlene Reyes.

We want to take this opportunity to recognize someone at our school that has made tremendous impact not only in our schools but also in our community.

Shalimar Marie Quiles began her career in Lawrence as the Scholar Re-Engagement Coordinator for the district where she led efforts to dramatically improve the graduation rate and reduce the dropout rate.

Her good work quickly earned her promotion to the position of Chief Of Staff where she oversaw the implementation of the superintendent's agenda for several years including but not limited to shrinking the size of central office and putting those additional resources back in schools; improving the physical structure of all LPS buildings including window and bathroom repairs and crosswalk repainting.

Leading the Acceleration Academy work which matched our best teachers with our neediest students and helped lead to substantial increases in test scores across the district dramatically expanding arts and intramural athletic opportunities for LPS students.

While playing a key role in district improvement, Shalimar also took the time to receive her master's degree in educational administration. She subsequently did her administrative internship under Alice Merlino and worked for a short time at the Parthum Elementary before being named one of the youngest Principals in the state at the Hennessey School.



Former City Councilor Brian DePeña and Councilor at-Large Ana Levy attended the ceremony.

NECC Celebrates Early College Graduates from Ten Local High Schools

Two-hundred and fourteen graduates from ten local high schools earned college credits, in addition to their high school diplomas this year, as participants in Northern Essex Community College's Early College Program.

The students, along with their families, celebrated at a May 13 Early College Recognition Ceremony held under a tent on Northern Essex's Haverhill Campus.

Graduating Early College students earned an average of 23 credits—close to 8 college courses each—which they will take to 40 colleges in the fall, including public universities and private institutions, such as UMass Amherst, UMass Lowell, Boston University, Clark University, Merrimack College, and Providence College. Thirty-eight of the graduates will attend Northern Essex.

Northern Essex President Lane Glenn told the graduates that “No one in the history of the world has ever done what you’ve done. You’ve been taking high school and college courses and likely working part-time during a global pandemic.”

Haverhill High School's Lily Hood graduated with credit for nine college courses which she will transfer to UMass Lowell in the fall. Hood plans to major in Health Science and continue on for a master's and become a physician's assistant. Thanks to the college credits she's earned, she should be able to graduate with her bachelor's at least a semester early and get a jump on her master's. Her older brother and sister both participated in the Early College Program. What she appreciated most were the “flexibility” and “the amazing professors.”

Her classmate, Haverhill High School graduate Chelsea Daigle, will continue at Northern Essex in the fall. Daigle admits to having a lot of interests and she plans to explore her options at Northern Essex, taking courses in political science, chemistry, journalism, and education. Having already earned 40 credits, Daigle should be able to graduate with her associate degree in just a year.

Yarendy Lopez, a 2021 Lawrence High School graduate, will transfer her 28 credits, or eight college courses, to Northeastern

University, where she will study Health Care Management. Speaking about Early College, she said “I am very glad I did it. Early College gave me an insight into what's waiting for me in the fall.”

Lawrence High graduate Mishael De La Cruz is one of the 38 Early College graduates who will continue their education at Northern Essex, where he plans to major in Psychology. For him, Early College was an excellent learning experience and he loved meeting students from other high schools.

In addition to President Lane Glenn, speakers at the recognition ceremony included Marcy Yeager, Northern Essex, executive director of PK-12 Partnerships and International Programs; Peter Maskaluk, Early College English faculty; Bill Heineman, Northern Essex provost and vice president of academic affairs; Victor Caraballo-Anderson, Lawrence High School head of school; Glenn Burns, Haverhill High School principal; and Maureen Lynch, Whittier superintendent.

NECC is one of 19 colleges and universities participating in the statewide Massachusetts Early College Initiative, which partners high schools with colleges and universities for designated programs between them. NECC has designated programs with Haverhill High School, Lawrence High School, and Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School.

Students from these designated programs earn college credits for free while they're still in high school. Plus, the classes count toward both students' high school graduation requirements and their future college degrees. Most students spend the morning at their high school and travel to the college campus by bus for afternoon college-level courses.

And because the Early College program also includes “pathways” that mimic college majors, including business, criminal justice, healthcare, and education, students can experience the rigors and culture of college while also getting a taste of their possible major.

In addition to its state designated partnerships with Haverhill, Lawrence, and Whittier, Northern Essex offers its Early



Lawrence High School graduate Yulainny Mejia Lopez with Principal Victor Caraballo-Anderson and NECC President Lane Glenn.

College Program to students from 25 other local high schools. These students can earn credits at a 50% discount.

Students honored at the May 13 ceremony were from Amesbury, Methuen, Newburyport, Pentucket Regional, Sanborn Regional, and Timberlane Regional high schools as well as the Phoenix Academy.

Northern Essex's partnerships have seen tremendous growth. There were 548 students enrolled in Early College Programs in the fall of 2020, a 37% increase over the fall of 2019 when 398 students were enrolled.

If you are interested in learning more about Early College opportunities at NECC, contact pk12@necc.mass.edu.

Northern Essex Community College has campuses in both Haverhill and Lawrence. It offers approximately 60 associate degree and certificate programs as well as hundreds of noncredit courses designed for personal enrichment and career growth. Each year, 6,000 students are enrolled in credit associate degree and certificate programs on the Haverhill and Lawrence campuses; and another 2,000 take noncredit



Madeline Aquino and Irland Metivier of Lawrence High School, Early College graduates.

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.



Haverhill High School 2021 grad Chelsea Daigle earned 40 college credits, thanks to the Early College Program.



Haverhill High School 2021 grad Lily Hood will jumpstart her college career, thanks to the Early College credits she earned.



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BY DALIA DÍAZ
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LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RUMBO
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Lawrence MA 01843
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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.

Kendrys' bodyguards

Last week I attended a beautiful celebration at the Oliver Partnership School. The staff and students wanted to show their appreciation to their Principal Shalimar Marie Quiles and it was obvious that it came from the heart.

It was not sponsored by the Lawrence Public Schools, City Hall, or the Department of Public Works. So, what the heck was Franklin Miguel doing with the Interim Mayor at one o'clock in the afternoon? No wonder why he needs an assistant! He doesn't spend much time at City Hall to do any work.

The three of them were talking by the podium and when they saw me approaching them, Franklin separated from the others at a very fast pace and this was the only picture I could take to prove that he was there.

Kendrys never goes anywhere alone; he's always with bodyguards. Just look at the picture of his new chief of staff; he looks like one. His name is Juan Jaramillo and I still don't know what happened to the previous one.

FY22 Budget

You probably heard me say that I'm not good with numbers. This week, I tackled something very difficult for me: the City Budget. I had to find help to make sure that I understood correctly what I was looking at.

Last week, I criticized the way this administration is spending money but I now realized that the interim mayor inherited a huge mess. I am concerned with the future expenses we will be facing with the construction of the new police station (which I believe we need and favor that expense) but there are two schools to be rebuilt or razed completely. Read it on page 7.

I wanted to check what big bills we are still paying for and got stuck trying to figure out the super-high interest rates we are paying for those loans. I hope I was wrong!

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Renter's insurance program

Each time there's a house fire in Lawrence, we see the same suffering of families who lost everything. Don't think of it as furnishing and clothing; think of memories. Your children's pictures, important documents that are probably difficult to obtain again. Many of those items could be irreplaceable but if you had renter's insurance you could, at least replace the content and bring some sort of normalcy to your family.

When a tragedy happens, the Red Cross comes to the rescue and they arrange for your family to stay at a hotel for a room for three days, and then you have to depend on relatives and friends to shelter you until an apartment appears for rent.

A renter's insurance policy will cost you under \$150 a year; that's the cost of a hotel room for one night. As Manny Gonzalez of Heal Lawrence explains, "For the same amount, the insurance will pay the hotel for a year."

The organization Heal Lawrence has been hosting educational sessions to show families how affordable renter's insurance is. They are now presenting one of these programs on July 1 from 2-4 p.m. at The Claddagh Pub, 399 Canal St., Lawrence.

You are under no obligation to attend and will learn a great deal that could save your belongings and give you peace of mind.

Fireworks are illegal in Massachusetts

The front page of Rumbo this week brings you some information on the dangers of sparklers. They among the most popular type enjoyed by children but did you know that sparklers burn at 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit? On page 19 there's additional information on prevention while grilling this summer.

Don't risk getting a huge fine for disobedience or worse, have an accident yourself or one of your children.



This is Franklin Miguel, DPW director who hangs around with the interim mayor everywhere during the workday.



Juan Jaramillo, his new chief of staff who is also Democratic Candidate for State Representative in the 19th Suffolk District (Winthrop and Revere)

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Revise el Índice UV para protegerse del sol: Se estima que habrá 106,000 nuevos casos de cáncer de la piel en los Estados Unidos en 2021

Este es el 13er año en que la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los EE.UU. (EPA, por sus siglas en inglés), junto con el Consejo Nacional para la Prevención del Cáncer de la Piel, reconocen el día viernes antes del Día de Conmemoración como "Día para no Freírse" a fin de alentar a los estadounidenses a tomar medidas para protegerse la piel y cuidarse la vista al disfrutar del aire libre. Un paso simple para hacer esto consiste en descargar y usar la aplicación gratuita del Índice Ultravioleta (UV) de la EPA, la cual informa pronósticos

cada día y cada hora sobre la intensidad UV por localidad y recomienda maneras de protegerse del sol, tanto en inglés como en español.

La Sociedad Americana del Cáncer estima que en 2021 habrá más de 106,000 nuevos casos de melanoma, la forma más peligrosa de cáncer de la piel, debido a la sobreexposición a la radiación UV del sol. Esta cifra representa aproximadamente 6,000 casos adicionales estimados que en 2020.

"Antes de salir al sol, póngase bloqueador

solar y revise la aplicación gratuita del Índice UV en su smartphone", señaló el administrador de la EPA, Michael S. Regan. "En el Día para no Freírse y todos los días, el Índice UV ayuda a los estadounidenses a prevenir la sobreexposición a la radiación UV aportando simples consejos para protegerse al mismo tiempo que se disfruta al aire libre."

La EPA, el Servicio Meteorológico Nacional y los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades colaboran para poner a disposición el pronóstico del Índice UV en los Estados Unidos. La aplicación del Índice UV de la EPA (busque Índice UV de la EPA en la App Store para iPhone y en Google Play) le indica la intensidad de los rayos solares causantes del cáncer de la piel. La aplicación conveniente indica los pronósticos a diario y cada hora sobre la intensidad UV en su localidad, ofrece recomendaciones para protegerse del sol, y también está disponible en español.

Aunque toda la gente está igualmente en peligro de dañarse la vista y desarrollar cataratas, algunas personas pueden tener un riesgo mayor de cáncer de la piel dependiendo del color de piel, antecedentes de quemaduras solares con ampollas sufridas tempranamente en la niñez, la presencia de muchos lunares o antecedentes familiares de cáncer de la piel. Asimismo, tenga presente que los rayos UV pueden ser

altos a lo largo de todo el año dependiendo de factores como localidad, altitud y superficies reflectantes. Reduzca el riesgo del cáncer de la piel y el daño a la vista:

- Buscando la sombra cuando esté al aire libre durante horarios de mediodía cuando es más alta la exposición UV;
- Usando ropa y accesorios como sombreros de ala ancha, camisas de manga larga, pantalones largos y anteojos que protejan la piel y los ojos de los rayos UV;
- Aplicándose abundantemente un bloqueador solar con FPS 15+ y volviendo a aplicarlo frecuentemente;
- Teniendo presente que el agua, la nieve y la arena son reflectantes e intensifican la exposición UV;
- Evitando las camas bronceadoras y minimizando asolearse, y;
- Revisando el índice UV.

Asegúrese de tener la aplicación del Índice UV en su smartphone, inscribese para recibir un pronóstico diario del Índice UV por correo electrónico, o revise el Índice UV en línea en <https://espanol.epa.gov/espanol/pasos-tomar-para-protegerse-del-sol> EPA @epa

El alcalde interino se niega a honrar a Juneteenth

Se informó que la administración de la ciudad de Lawrence no observará el 16 de junio en 2021. El alcalde interino Kendrys Vasquez ha decidido no cerrar las oficinas del ayuntamiento este viernes para observar una fecha muy importante.

El Alcalde Interino Vásquez, el primer año como alcalde (aunque interino) debería ser más sensible con sus residentes, votantes y empleados al menos en realizar algún tipo de evento para solemnizar o conmemorar esta festividad histórica y significativa.

Sin embargo, las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence observarán este día el viernes. Solo es evidente que el sistema educativo

de esta ciudad tiene más educación que el actual alcalde interino sobre lo especial que es Juneteenth para muchos en todo el país. El decimonoveno es un día festivo que celebra la emancipación de aquellos que habían sido esclavizados en los Estados Unidos.

Si está buscando inspiración, o está buscando formas de celebrar la libertad en Juneteenth, no busque encontrarla en el Ayuntamiento. El Alcalde Interino Vásquez ni siquiera izó la bandera de Juneteenth como lo ha hecho para cualquier otro evento. Quizás el Alcalde Interino Vásquez solo quiera observar las fechas relevantes de su país.

Interim Mayor refuses to honor Juneteenth

It was reported that the City of Lawrence administration will not observe Juneteenth in 2021. Interim Mayor Kendrys Vasquez has decided not to close city hall offices this Friday to observe a very important date.

Interim Mayor Vasquez, first year as Mayor (Interim albeit) should be more sensitive to his residents, voters, and employees in at least doing some sort of event to memorialize or commemorate this historical and significant holiday.

However, the Lawrence Public Schools will observe this holiday on Friday. It is only

evident that the educational system, of this city, has more education than the current Interim Mayor on how special Juneteenth is to many across this country. Juneteenth is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States.

If you are looking for inspiration, or are looking for ways to celebrate freedom on Juneteenth, don't look to find it at City Hall. Interim Mayor Vasquez did not even raise the Juneteenth flag as he has for any other event. Maybe Interim Mayor Vasquez only wants to observe his country's holidays.

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Vitra Health Announces Grand Opening of New Lawrence Office

Vitra Health celebrated the completion of a new satellite office located in Lawrence, Massachusetts with an official ribbon cutting ceremony.

The new Vitra Lawrence office is to support the continued growth in our business, allowing for the continued excellent service to clients in Essex county. The 1400 square foot space will be used for clinical and administrative support and features a training area and conference space for our team and the community.

"Vitra Health is proud to continue servicing the Merrimack Valley community. We are honored and excited to invest in the community and advance our efforts of bringing quality care to this area," said Max Voshchin, CEO of Vitra Health.

The ribbon cutting was held on May 27, 2021 and attended by the Lawrence Mayor Kendrys Vasquez, Massachusetts State Senator Barry Finegold, Massachusetts State Representative Marcos Devers, and the Merrimack Chamber of Commerce Vice President Michael Bevilacqua. Attendees also included Gladys Peguero of La Casa ADH, Kesia Moreta of Greater Lawrence Civic Association, Claudia

Cardoso of Senior Whole Health, Yvette Gomez of Navicare, Sharon Castillo of United Healthcare, Hector Brito, Lawrence Bergman, and Vitra Health team members.

About Vitra Health: Vitra Health offers several services for elderly and disabled to ensure individuals maintain their health, wellness, and independence; allowing individuals in need or seniors to remain at home with the help of an assigned nurse and case manager.

For those who already have a family member or friend taking care of them, Vitra offers services consisting of financial assistance, caregiver support and medical oversight. For those who need a caregiver, Vitra has caregivers to assist with daily needs such as bathing, dressing, meal preparation, light housekeeping, and more. Vitra visiting nurses are also available to help with skilled services, medication management, disease process education and mental health management.

The Vitra Health multilingual staff provide exceptional home care services, as well as connections to other community resources.




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RUMBONNEWS.COM

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


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

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




Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce

THE MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 In Person Business Networking & Referral Mixer
 Outdoors on the Patio
 at Bridges by Epoch, Andover!



Tuesday, June 22, 2021
 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
 Bridges by Epoch
 254 Lowell St, Andover, MA
 978-775-3992



Directions: I-95 to I-95 S to MA-133 E in Andover. Take exit 39A from I-95 S. Take 133 E to Andover. Follow until you reach Bridges by Epoch.

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Sponsorships are available!

Call Michael Bevilacqua for more information at 98-686-0900 or email at michael.bevilacqua@merrimackvalleychamber.com





The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce
 264 Essex Street, Lawrence, MA 01840
 Telephone: 978-686-0900 Email: office@merrimackvalleychamber.com Website: www.merrimackvalleychamber.com

Bridges by Epoch, Andover Business Networking Mixer
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2021 IN PERSON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM: THE STATE OF THE STATE'S ECONOMY and HOW THE MV REGION IS MOVING FORWARD!

Featured Speaker: Mass. Secretary of Housing and Economic Development
Mike Kennealy

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 12:00 Noon - 1:15 PM
Phoenician Restaurant, 12 Alpha St, Haverhill, MA



Secretary
Michael Kennealy

Introduction by Salvatore Lupoli, Lupoli Companies, MVCC Chairman
 Moderator: Dr. Lane Glenn, Northern Essex Community College/
 MVCC Economic Development Committee Chairman
 - And -
 A special panel of local businesses including:
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 *Robert Brown, Owner-President, Broco Oil, Inc.
 *David Zwartendijk, CEO of Joseph's Gourmet Pasta

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El Jefe de Bomberos del Estado ofrece consejos de seguridad contra incendios durante el verano

¡Que tenga un verano seguro contra incendios!

"Entre la pandemia y el largo invierno de Nueva Inglaterra, todos estamos ansiosos por salir y divertirnos", dijo el Jefe de Bomberos del Estado Peter J. Ostroskey. "El fin de semana del Día de los Caídos es un buen momento para prevenir incendios: afine la parrilla; enseñar a los adolescentes sobre la seguridad de la gasolina; instalar receptáculos seguros para materiales de fumar; y dejar los fuegos artificiales a los profesionales".

Seguridad al asar a la parrilla

Entre 2016 y 2020, los departamentos de bomberos de Massachusetts respondieron a 427 incendios relacionados con parrillas, hibachis y barbacoas. Estos incendios causaron 15 civiles heridos, seis bomberos y \$ 4 millones en daños a la propiedad. Solo en 2020, hubo 74 incendios de parrillas que hirieron a un civil, un bombero y causaron \$ 454,250 en daños estimados.

El jefe de bomberos del estado Ostroskey ofreció estos consejos de seguridad para la seguridad de la parrilla:

- Ase siempre al aire libre.
- Coloque las parrillas a 10 pies de distancia de la casa y las barandas de la terraza. Asegúrese de que las parrillas no estén debajo de aleros o ramas colgantes.
- No use una parrilla de gas o carbón en ningún porche, balcón o escalera de incendios.
- Las parrillas a gas se pueden usar en terrazas o patios del primer piso, solo si hay una escalera exterior al suelo o si está a nivel del suelo.

- Mantenga todos los fósforos, encendedores y líquido para encendedores fuera del alcance de los niños.

- Cree un círculo de seguridad. Mantenga a los niños y las mascotas a tres pies de distancia de las parrillas. Los niños nunca deben jugar cerca de parrillas.

El 25 de abril de 2020, a las 3:52 p.m., el Departamento de Bomberos de Littleton fue llamado a un incendio en una parrilla de gas en una casa unifamiliar. El propietario encendió la parrilla en la cubierta trasera y un rato después notó que las llamas salían por la parte inferior. Se acercó a cerrar el tanque de propano líquido y se quemó las manos. El fuego que salió por la parte trasera de la parrilla encendió la pared exterior de la casa y causó daños por \$75,000.

El 30 de mayo de 2020, el Departamento de Bomberos de Lunenburg respondió a un incendio en una parrilla de gas en una casa de dos familias a las 5 p.m. La parrilla estaba en un patio e incendió la pared exterior de la casa causando \$ 115,000 en daños. Se propagó a una casa cercana causando otros \$ 1,000 en daños estimados. Las alarmas de humo alertaron a los residentes.

El 5 de agosto de 2020, a las 8:21 p.m., el Departamento de Bomberos de Revere respondió a un incendio en una parrilla de gas en una casa de 2 familias. La parrilla estaba en un porche del tercer piso y encendió la pared, causando daños por \$ 110,000. Las alarmas de humo funcionaban pero la casa no tenía rociadores contra incendios.

El 13 de septiembre de 2020, el Departamento de Bomberos de Plymouth respondió a un incendio en una parrilla en la cubierta trasera de una casa unifamiliar. Las alarmas de humo en funcionamiento alertaron a los residentes y nadie resultó

herido en este incendio. La casa no tenía rociadores contra incendios y los daños se estimaron en 110.000 dólares.

Parrillas de carbón

El propano es el combustible para asar más común, pero muchas personas usan parrillas de carbón. Aquí hay algunos consejos de seguridad para parrillas de carbón:

- Utilice únicamente líquido de arranque de carbón. No use gasolina o queroseno para encender fuego en una parrilla.

- Nunca agregue líquido para encendedor a briquetas encendidas o carbones calientes. Si lo hace, puede provocar un incendio repentino y provocar quemaduras graves.

- Las briquetas de carbón vegetal emiten monóxido de carbono, un gas incoloro e inodoro que puede ser mortal. Utilice siempre parrillas de carbón al aire libre en un área bien ventilada. Nunca use parrillas de carbón en interiores.

- Para la eliminación adecuada de las cenizas de la parrilla, deje que las brasas se quemem por completo y luego enfríe durante 48 horas antes de desecharlas.

State Fire Marshal Offers Summer Fire Safety Tips

Have a Fire Safe Summer!

"Between the pandemic and the long New England winter, we're all itching to get outside and enjoy ourselves," said State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey. "Memorial Day weekend is a good time to prevent fires: tune up the grill; teach teens about gasoline safety; set up safe receptacles for smoking materials; and leave the fireworks to the professionals."

Grilling Safety

Between 2016 and 2020, Massachusetts fire departments responded to 427 fires involving grills, hibachis, and barbecues. These fires caused 15 civilian injuries, six firefighter injuries, and \$4 million in property damage. In 2020 alone, there were 74 grill fires that injured one civilian, one firefighter and caused \$454,250 in estimated damages.

State Fire Marshal Ostroskey offered these safety tips for grilling safety:

- Always grill outdoors.
- Place grills 10-feet away from the house and deck railings. Make sure grills are not under eaves or overhanging branches.
- Do not use a gas or charcoal grill on any porch, balcony, or fire escape.
- Gas grills can be used on first-floor decks or patios, only if there is an outdoor stairway to the ground, or it is at ground level.
- Keep all matches, lighters, and lighter fluid away from children.
- Create a circle of safety. Keep children and pets three feet away from grills. Children should never play near grills.

On April 25, 2020, at 3:52 p.m., the Littleton Fire Department was called to a gas grill fire in a 1-family home. The homeowner started the grill on the rear deck and a while later noticed flames coming out the bottom. She went over to shut the LP tank off and burned her hands. The fire coming out the back of the grill ignited

the exterior wall of the home and caused \$75,000 in damage.

On May 30, 2020, the Lunenburg Fire Department responded to a gas grill fire in a 2-family home at 5 p.m. The grill was on a patio and ignited the exterior wall of the home causing \$115,000 in damages. It spread to a nearby home causing another \$1,000 in estimated damage. Smoke alarms alerted the residents.

On August 5, 2020, at 8:21 p.m., the Revere Fire Department responded to a gas grill fire in a 2-family home. The grill was on a third-floor porch and ignited the wall, causing \$110,000 in damage. Smoke alarms operated but the home did not have fire sprinklers.

On September 13, 2020, the Plymouth Fire Department responded to a grill fire on the back deck of a single-family home. Working smoke alarms alerted the residents and no one was injured at this fire. The home had no fire sprinklers and damages were estimated at \$110,000.

Charcoal Grills

Propane is the most common grilling fuel, but many people use charcoal grills. Here are some charcoal grill safety tips:

- Only use charcoal starter fluid. Do not use gasoline or kerosene to start a fire in a grill.
- Never add lighter fluid to burning briquettes or hot coals. Doing so may cause a flash fire and result in serious burn injuries.
- Charcoal briquettes give off carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly. Always use charcoal grills outdoors in a well-ventilated area. Never use charcoal grills indoors.
- For proper disposal of grill ashes, allow the coals to burn out completely and then cool for 48 hours before disposal.
- If you must dispose of ashes before they are completely cooled, thoroughly soak them in water before putting them in a metal container.

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