



The City Council continues hiding at meetings via Zoom.

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5th Annual State Representative Frank A. Moran and Lawrence Police Department

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



On July 31, 2021, Representative Frank A. Morán held the 5th Annual Basketball Tournament along with the Lawrence Police Department at O'Neil Park. For more photographs, turn to page 14.

Importance of Pre-K education

Massachusetts Has the 4th Worst Early Education System in America – WalletHub Study

With pre-school enrollment dropping by as much as 17% during the COVID-19 pandemic, the personal-finance website WalletHub released its report on 2021's States with the Best & Worst Early Education Systems, as well as accompanying videos and expert commentary.

In order to determine the best early education systems in America, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 12 key metrics. The data set ranges from share of school districts that offer a state pre-K program to number of pre-K quality benchmarks met and total reported spending per child enrolled in pre-K.

Quality of Early Education in Massachusetts (1=Best; 25=Avg.):

- 16th – Share of 3- and 4-year-olds Enrolled in pre-K, pre-K Special Education and Head Start
- 30th – Income Requirement for State Pre-K Eligibility
- 36th – Total Reported Spending per Child Enrolled in Preschool
- 47th – Monthly Child Care Co-Payment Fees as a Percent of Family Income
- 36th – Share of School Districts that Offer State Pre-K Program

While good elementary schools, high schools and colleges are important factors for parents to consider when choosing where to settle down, the availability of quality pre-K education is just as crucial. Unfortunately, pre-school enrollment dropped by 12% for 3-year-olds and 17% for 4-year-olds during the COVID-19 pandemic. As in-person programs reopen this fall, though, parents should have a lot of choices.

A study by the National Institute for Early Education Research showed that students enrolled in full-day pre-K programs do better on math and literacy tests than their peers who attend only partial day preschool. In addition, those who attend pre-K programs have been shown to have less risk of future crime than those who do not. Plus, early education programs may generate billions of dollars for the economy over a few decades, due to lessening the need for social services and creating more productive citizens.

To help parents find the states with the best early education systems, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 12 key metrics, including share of school districts that offer a state pre-K program, number of pre-K quality benchmarks met and total reported spending per child enrolled in pre-K.

El Alcalde sin integridad The Mayor with no Integrity

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Unveiling COVID-19 Sculpture Created By GLTS Students



GLTECH sculpture group from left, Greater Lawrence Technical School students Carlos Burgos, a junior from Lawrence; Brady Valliere, a junior from Methuen; Lawrence businessman Brian DePeña, and Orlendi Hernandez, a junior of Lawrence. Pg. 9



Por/By Dalia Diaz
rumbonews.com/blog

Desde Mi Esquina



Ya hay una City Clerk
Es difícil elegir
Mientras miraba la
reunión

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Por/By Dalia Diaz
rumbonews.com/blog

From My Corner



We have a City Clerk
Is difficult electing
While I watch the council
meeting

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El Rep. Estatal Frank A. Morán testifica en apoyo de su legislación sobre contribuyentes eléctricos junto con la AG Maura Healey

El Representante Estatal Frank A. Morán (D - Lawrence) testificó ante el Comité Conjunto de Telecomunicaciones, Servicios Públicos y Energía, junto con la Procuradora General Maura Healey, en apoyo de su proyecto de ley, H.3352, una ley relativa a las protecciones de los contribuyentes de tarifas eléctricas.

La Oficina de la Procuradora General ha llevado a cabo múltiples investigaciones sobre proveedores competitivos de electricidad que operan en Massachusetts y sus hallazgos han citado consistentemente tácticas de venta depredadoras diseñadas para coaccionar a clientes de bajos ingresos, clase trabajadora, inmigrantes y ancianos a contratos exorbitantes y a largo plazo para sus propios intereses y ganancia financiera.

Según un informe reciente publicado a principios de este año, los residentes que se inscriben en estos contratos continúan pagando en exceso por la electricidad en decenas de millones de dólares cada año, con aproximadamente 450,000 clientes residenciales perdiendo \$173 millones en los últimos dos años.

“Se ha permitido que la competitiva industria del suministro eléctrico en Massachusetts se aproveche de nuestros residentes más vulnerables durante

demasiado tiempo y ahora es el momento de actuar”, dijo el Representante Estatal Frank A. Morán. “Me gustaría agradecer a la Fiscal General Healey y su personal por su increíble trabajo para asegurar que este problema salga a la luz y soy optimista de que el alivio está en camino”.

“Año tras año, nuestra oficina ha descubierto que los residentes de Massachusetts no están ahorrando dinero con proveedores de electricidad competitivos, están pagando de más por millones. Peor aún, estas empresas han obligado a nuestros residentes más vulnerables a endeudarse aún más durante una pandemia que ya ha devastado las finanzas familiares”, dijo la Fiscal General Maura Healey. “Agradezco al Líder Morán por su asociación para responsabilizar a estas empresas y abogar por la aprobación de nuestra legislación de sentido común que protege a los clientes de estas prácticas nocivas”.

El comité también escuchó el testimonio en apoyo de H.3352 del presidente del Departamento de Servicios Públicos, Matthew Nelson, y la secretaria de Energía y Asuntos Ambientales, Kathleen Theoharides, quienes expresaron la urgente necesidad de una acción legislativa para poner fin a estas prácticas engañosas.

State Rep. Frank A. Moran Testifies in Support of His Electric Ratepayer Legislation Alongside AG Maura Healey

State Representative Frank A. Moran (D - Lawrence) testified before the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, alongside Attorney General Maura Healey, in support of his bill, H.3352, An Act relative to electric ratepayer protections.

The Attorney General's Office has conducted multiple investigations into competitive electric suppliers operating in Massachusetts and their findings have consistently cited predatory sales tactics designed to coerce low-income, working-class, immigrant, and elderly customers into exorbitant, long-term contracts for their own financial gain.

According to a recent report published earlier this year, residents who enroll in these contracts continue to overpay for electricity by tens of millions of dollars each year - with approximately 450,000 residential customers losing \$173 million in the past two years.

“The competitive electric supply industry in Massachusetts has been allowed to take advantage of our most vulnerable residents for far too long and it is now time to act,”

said State Representative Frank A. Moran. “I would like to thank Attorney General Healey and her staff for their incredible work to ensure that this issue is brought to light and am optimistic that relief is on the way.”

“Year after year, our office has found that Massachusetts residents are not saving money with competitive electric suppliers, they are overpaying by millions. Even worse, these companies have forced our most vulnerable residents further into debt during a pandemic that has already devastated family finances,” said Attorney General Maura Healey. “I’m grateful to Leader Moran for his partnership in holding these companies accountable and advocating for the passage of our commonsense legislation that protects customers from these harmful practices.”

The committee also heard testimony in support of H.3352 by Department of Public Utilities Chairman Matthew Nelson and Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides - both of whom expressed the urgent need for legislative action to end these deceptive practices.

USCIS Elimina Barreras a la Ciudadanía Estadounidense para Niños Nacidos en el Extranjero a través de Tecnología de Reproducción Asistida

WASHINGTON—El Servicio de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de los EE. UU. anunció hoy la guía de políticas actualizada con respecto a los niños nacidos fuera de Estados Unidos y la determinación de si los niños nacidos a través de la tecnología de reproducción asistida (ART) se consideran como nacidos "dentro de matrimonio". Esta actualización de la política permitirá que un padre legal no genético y no gestacional de un niño transmita la ciudadanía estadounidense al niño si el padre está casado con el padre genético o gestacional del niño al momento del nacimiento, y la jurisdicción relevante reconoce ambos padres como los padres legales del niño.

“USCIS ha dado un paso crucial para garantizar acceso justo y apoyo para todas las familias y sus seres queridos”, dijo la directora de USCIS, Ur M. Jaddou. “Estamos comprometidos a eliminar las barreras innecesarias y a promover políticas

para todas las personas mientras emprenden su camino hacia la ciudadanía y más allá”.

Esta guía también aplicará a las peticiones basadas en la familia para determinar si un niño nace dentro de matrimonio. Anteriormente, USCIS requería que los padres genéticos del niño (o el padre gestacional legal y uno de los padres genéticos) estuvieran casados entre sí para que el niño pudiera considerarse como nacido dentro de matrimonio.

En 2014, USCIS actualizó su política para permitir que un padre que es el padre gestacional y legal de un niño según la ley de la jurisdicción relevante en el momento del nacimiento del niño transmita la ciudadanía estadounidense al niño si se cumplen todos los demás requisitos de ciudadanía

Para más información sobre USCIS y sus programas, por favor, visite uscis.gov/es o siganos en Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook y LinkedIn.

USCIS Removes Barriers to U.S. Citizenship for Children Born Abroad Through Assisted Reproductive Technology

WASHINGTON—Today, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced updated policy guidance affecting children born outside of the United States and the determination of whether children born through assisted reproductive technology (ART) are considered to have been born “in wedlock.” This policy update will allow a non-genetic, non-gestational legal parent of a child to transmit U.S. citizenship to the child if the parent is married to the child’s genetic or gestational parent at the time of the child’s birth, and the relevant jurisdiction recognizes both parents as the child’s legal parents.

“USCIS is taking a crucial step towards ensuring fair access and support for all families and their loved ones,” said USCIS Director Ur M. Jaddou. “We are committed to removing unnecessary barriers promoting

policies for all people as they embark on their journey to citizenship and beyond.”

This guidance will also be applied to the family-based petitions for determining whether a child is born in wedlock. Previously, USCIS required that the child’s genetic parents (or the legal gestational parent and one of the genetic parents) be married to one another for a child to be considered born in wedlock.

In 2014, USCIS updated its policy to allow a parent who is the gestational and legal parent of a child under the law of the relevant jurisdiction at the time of the child’s birth to transmit U.S. citizenship to the child if all other citizenship requirements are met.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, please visit uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, and LinkedIn.



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 1110 AM

Rumbo presenta
“Desde Mi Esquina” con Dalia Díaz
sábados 8 am por WNNW 800 AM y 102.9 FM

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POR DALIA DÍAZ
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READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



Tenemos una nueva Secretaria Municipal

Después de muchos meses y tanto caos en el Ayuntamiento de Lawrence, el pasado martes por la noche, eligieron a Diane LeBlanc como nueva Secretaria de la Ciudad. Viene con gran experiencia y disposición para hacer el trabajo, por eso siete concejales votaron a su favor.

Asistí a la reunión al principio para ver si todos los concejales estarían allí.

Había rumores de que las cámaras estarían abiertas a la participación del público, pero estarían en zoom.

Para mi sorpresa, los únicos que faltaron fueron Jeovanny Rodríguez que estuvo ausente, María De La Cruz desde su casa y Ana Levy que participó en zoom a pesar de que está de baja médica.

Había un detalle interesante que no tenía sentido para mí. La excusa utilizada para preferir las reuniones de Zoom es que no quieren mezclarse con la gente común, temerosos del virus. Tenga en cuenta que sus asientos están a casi 20 pies de distancia del público. Mientras tanto, antes de que comenzara la sesión, se mezclaron con menos de diez personas en la sala, los saludaron sin máscaras y cuando tomaron sus posiciones, se pusieron sus máscaras para la televisión. Nadie en la audiencia llevaba uno.

Pronto salí de la reunión para verla desde casa mientras trabajo, como de costumbre.

Siete concejales en las cámaras votaron por la Sra. Leblanc y nuevamente, el Concejal del Distrito C, Jorge González, tuvo una nota discordante acercándose a su micrófono para decir en voz muy alta: "Luis Santiago".

Es tan desagradable que quiere salirse con la suya incluso si va en contra de las reglas. Insistió en que Luis Santiago debería haber sido seleccionado como secretario municipal porque habla español y es lawrenciano, pero esos requisitos se eliminaron de la descripción del trabajo porque era muy difícil encontrar un candidato con experiencia.

Sucede que conozco al Sr. Santiago como una persona seria y trabajadora que trabaja en la Ciudad de Haverhill como Director de la Oficina de Servicios para Veteranos y escuché que está haciendo un buen trabajo. El Concejal González insistía en que lo contratarían en función de las calificaciones que no se requerían para el puesto.

Es difícil elegir

Algo que se ha hecho evidente es que el Concejo Municipal es un circo. Todas las semanas, durante varios años, Rumbo ha estado mostrando su comportamiento ilegal o inmoral y nadie alza una ceja. Quizás sea miedo pero mi conclusión es descuido. A nadie parece importarle las cosas que suceden, nadie habla de ellas y ahora que se acercan las elecciones, ninguno de los candidatos dice nada de valor.

La nueva generación de aspirantes se presenta en entrevistas de radio y habla de sus planes relacionados con las condiciones de las calles y aceras, algunos quieren hacer cumplir ordenanzas que nadie recuerda que existen, mientras que otros mencionan fortalecer las relaciones con la República Dominicana a través de intercambios comerciales utilizando nuestro aeropuerto.

También es común en su ignorancia decir cómo van a cambiar o trabajar con el departamento escolar. No saben que Las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence están bajo el control del estado y no los políticos locales. Lo triste es que pueden ser elegidos por tener una personalidad agradable, pero al final no saben nada de la ciudad. Estoy segura de que nunca han leído la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad.

Cada semana Rumbo les trae temas locales y si tuvieran algo dentro del espacio craneal, irían atacando las fechorías y cómo él o ella lo erradicaría. Les estoy dando el material; Adelante, cuéntenos cómo va a mejorar Lawrence eliminando la corrupción.

Déjeme darle una pista más: existe un proceso para contratar a alguien para que trabaje en la ciudad.

El puesto tiene que ser creado en papel, aprobado por el Concejo Municipal, debidamente publicitado, entrevistar a los candidatos, seleccionar algunos finalistas y el afortunado deberá pasar por un examen médico y un chequeo CORI. El salario asignado debe estar dentro de los límites establecidos por la ley o el contrato sindical. Lo que encuentran es que el alcalde les dice a sus amigos a quién quiere contratar que se presenten el lunes. Sin currículum, sin publicaciones, sin publicidad, sin cheque médico o CORI. Él decide para qué necesita a esa persona y se le asigna un salario alto, muy por encima del máximo y nadie puede discutir con él. Se sale con la suya.

Quiero escuchar a los candidatos decir que limpiarán esa corrupción entonces, tendré fe en ellos y les daré mi voto. Mientras tanto, ¡limpiemos la casa!

Mientras miraba la reunión del concejo

En esta edición de Rumbo, continuamos escribiendo con respecto a las investigaciones actuales de las organizaciones policiales de Massachusetts sobre presunta corrupción bajo esta administración actual. Habíamos informado a nuestros lectores, durante la última edición, que en el periódico de esta semana informaríamos a nuestros lectores sobre los empleados fantasmas. En la República Dominicana, esto se conoce como "una botella", una forma ilegal de intentar canalizar dinero pretendiendo pagar a los empleados.

Como habíamos indicado, la semana pasada, un empleado de la ciudad que solicitó la condición de denunciante había verificado esta, las historias anteriores y futuras que están o serán publicadas en este periódico.

En la segunda semana de enero de 2021, el alcalde interino Vásquez volvió a contratar a una empleada que había renunciado a fines de 2020 y trabajaba directamente con el Alcalde Dan Rivera.

Como sabrá, Ana Victoria Morales fue la semi-última jefa de gabinete del Alcalde Dan Rivera. Renunció después de notificar al público que se postulaba como candidata a la alcaldía de Lawrence. Como puede creer, esa noticia no le cayó bien al Alcalde Rivera porque ya él había dado su apoyo total a la directora de Desarrollo Comunitario, Vilma Domínguez-Martínez.

Ana Victoria Morales fue contratada como asesora por el alcalde interino Kendrys Vasquez, un puesto que no es una ordenanza en la ciudad de Lawrence. El salario de Ana se fijó como el mismo salario que el anterior Jefe de Gabinete, Sr. Adderly González. El salario tampoco era una ordenanza de la Ciudad de Lawrence para el puesto en el que iba a embarcarse. Se suponía que el puesto de Asesor era un puesto a tiempo parcial. Como puede adivinar, se produjeron desacuerdos pero, finalmente, la Oficina Administrativa y Financiera no hizo nada. Nadie hizo nada, excepto la persona que cree que la obligación del cargo que ocupaba ameritaba una denuncia ante varias agencias de aplicación de la ley del Commonwealth de Massachusetts.

Sin embargo, puede pensar que este fue el final de la historia, no lo es. La Sra. Morales solo vino al trabajo dos veces para participar en dos reuniones de 20 minutos. Los registros de pago indican que desde enero de 2021 hasta marzo de 2021, ganó un salario. Las preguntas son numerosas, pero una pregunta muy importante es qué persona, en la oficina del alcalde, firmó y verificó la hoja de tiempo del departamento que indica las horas de trabajo.

El alcalde interino Vásquez puede decirle que tenía su trabajo desde casa. Pero el hecho es que no existe una política de trabajo desde casa, excepto las políticas asociadas con las reglas de trabajo desde casa debido al COVID19 de la ciudad. Los registros de la ciudad indicaron que ella no estaba bajo tal política, ya que cada trabajo del empleado del hogar es examinado, discutido y aprobado por completo, entre los jefes de departamento, el personal, el abogado de la ciudad, el administrador principal y el oficial de

CARTAS AL EDITOR RUMBO

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finanzas, y posiblemente con funcionarios del sindicato y abogados externos, incluido el alcalde. No se encontró ni se presentó ninguna aprobación para el trabajo desde casa u oferta de empleo para el registro. No se ha encontrado ningún puesto de trabajo que pudiera haber notificado al público de su transparencia. El puesto no figura en el presupuesto del año fiscal 2022.

El 21 de mayo de 2021, el ex jefe de despacho González fue relevado de sus funciones y posteriormente trasladado como director interino del Departamento de Recreación. El 24 de mayo de 2021, el alcalde interino Vásquez contrató a un nuevo jefe de gabinete, Juan Jaramillo, de Revere. A Juan, un candidato fallido para el puesto de representante estatal en su distrito, Vásquez le ofreció un salario de \$80,000. El salario no es una ordenanza. El puesto de Jefe de Gabinete está por debajo del rango salarial de \$60,000 - \$70,000. Sin embargo, el Administrador Jefe y el Oficial de Finanzas no hicieron nada y socavaron el papel de su subordinado. Juan Jaramillo trabajaba como Coordinador Político del Sindicato SEIU 32BJ New England 617 y fue respaldado por el mismo sindicato para su candidatura a representante estatal.

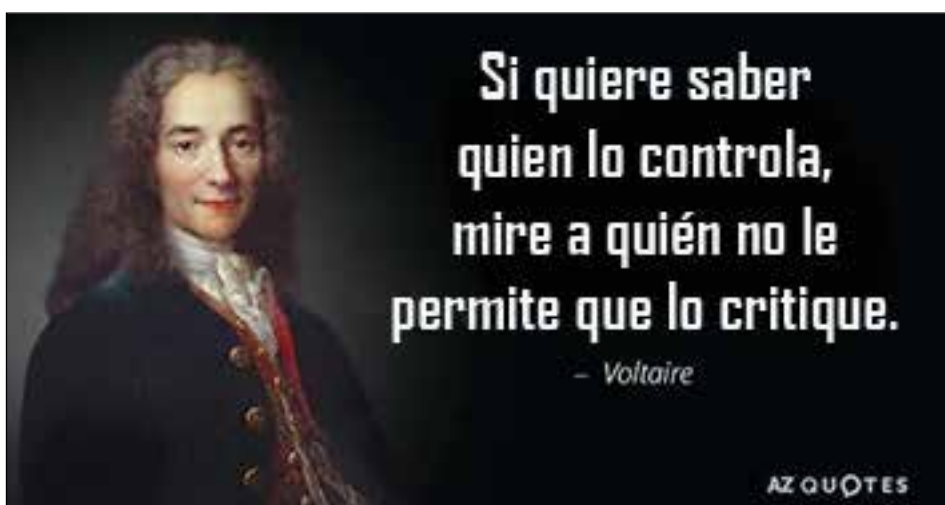
Tras una revisión de la solicitud de empleo de la ciudad de Lawrence del Sr. Jaramillo después de haber trabajado durante media semana, se enumeraron tres referencias laborales distintas. Una referencia fue Ana Victoria Morales, de quien hemos escrito en los párrafos anteriores.

Avance rápido hacia el futuro, y puede encontrar que Ana Victoria Morales figura como Gerente de Comunicaciones en SEIU, Ex Coordinadora Política de SEIU 32BJ y ex Subgerente de Comunicación de SEIU 509. Parece que se intercambiaron lugares. El historial de pago de Ana Victoria Morales, con la ciudad, muestra que no recibe pago desde abril, mayo, junio o julio de 2021, justo a tiempo para que Juan asuma el cargo de Jefe de Gabinete y Ana regrese a SEIU 32BJ.

Una mirada en profundidad a las contribuciones políticas a través de la Oficina de Finanzas y Campañas Políticas encontró que los tres individuos; El alcalde interino Kendrys Vásquez, Ana Victoria Morales y Juan Jaramillo se han dado contribuciones políticas mutuamente, y parece según nuestro informe de la denuncia y la investigación, a cambio de trabajos y favores.

La ilegalidad en esta historia es tanto el empleo fantasma de Ana Victoria Morales como el salario ilegal de Juan Jaramillo. ¿Podría ser que, como empleada fantasma, la Sra. Morales solo estaba recaudando dinero de los impuestos por no hacer ningún trabajo para donar ese mismo dinero a Kendrys Vásquez, Juan Jaramillo o ambos? ¿Podría ser que Juan Jaramillo recibió un salario adicional (más allá de lo aprobado por el concejo) para que estuviera obligado a donar al alcalde interino Vásquez?

Estén atentos la próxima semana, cuando Rumbo escriba más sobre las quejas que se enviaron a las agencias policiales de investigación del Commonwealth de Massachusetts, con respecto a un jefe de departamento que usa equipo de trabajo, horas de trabajo y empleado de la ciudad durante un trabajo privado en la casa de un empleado.



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

— Voltaire

AZQUOTES

El alcalde sin integridad

Por Dalia Díaz

(Read it in English on page 17)

Recordemos las elecciones de Methuen en 2019 cuando, dondequiera que fuera, vio el rostro del candidato Neil Perry. Practicaba su español con todo el que podía y asistía a todos los programas de radio en español.

Dondequiera que estuviera sosteniendo carteles, la mayoría de las personas en la multitud eran latinos, él era nuestro amigo y sus seguidores lo amaban. A menudo usaba la palabra "integridad" como su cualidad más importante. ¡Oh, cómo deseamos que estuviera corriendo en Lawrence!

Desde su inauguración no le fue fácil. No contó con el apoyo de los miembros del Concejo Municipal y poco después de ganar su elección, el Alcalde Perry asignó al Sr. Tom Lussier (esposo de la ex alcaldesa Sharon Pollard) como su director de iniciativas estratégicas con un salario de \$80,419.

El Sr. Lussier estaba siendo investigado por la Comisión de Ética por utilizar la tarjeta de crédito de su empleador (el Concejo Nacional de Jubilación de Maestros) para gastos personales. Su esposa, la alcaldesa, también estaba siendo investigada por otras razones, pero el Alcalde Perry dijo que conoce a Lussier desde hace tanto tiempo que confía en él.

El consejo recortó drásticamente el pago de Lussier del presupuesto de la ciudad y obligó a Lussier a irse. El mismo método se utilizó recientemente para obligar a la jefa de personal del alcalde, Jana DiNatale, a salir de la oficina reduciendo su salario. Para conservarla, el Alcalde Perry hizo algunos recortes drásticos a otros miembros de su personal y ella todavía está trabajando para él.

Fue un momento para alegrarme al ver que el Concejo Municipal quería mantener al alcalde honesto tomando tales medidas. Nunca habíamos visto algo así en Lawrence. El concejo trata a los alcaldes como dioses (a excepción de William Lantigua) y les permite salirse con la suya. La palabra "integridad" me vino a la mente de nuevo.

Le dije que no le fue fácil porque Perry tuvo que enfrentar la pandemia de COVID-19 y otro escándalo con el jefe de policía Joseph Solomon. El jefe se retiró, pero el caso aún está en los tribunales. Como todos sabemos, el Jefe Solomon estaba bajo un fuerte escrutinio debido a la alteración del contrato de los Oficiales Superiores que le permitiría a él y a sus subordinados convertirse en los oficiales de policía mejor pagados del país. Todo a expensas de los residentes de Methuen, a expensas de los contribuyentes y sí, los concejales de la ciudad de Methuen votaron por ese contrato.

Como resultado, se llevó a cabo una auditoría de desempeño del Departamento de Policía de Methuen (MPD) y la Oficina del Inspector General (IG) llevó a cabo una investigación que encontró muchas, pero muchas discrepancias dentro del departamento de policía. La auditoría citó numerosas inconsistencias, incluyendo que "los procesos de contratación, asignación, promoción y disciplina fueron identificados como carentes de objetividad y transparencia. El proceso de contratación se consideró manipulado para asegurar una ventaja para contratar y promover a "amigos y familiares", mientras que se dedicó poco tiempo a tratar de aumentar la diversidad en las filas".

Debemos notar que MPD tiene pocos oficiales hispanos o latinos y ningún despachador bilingüe en una agencia que atiende a una comunidad que es aproximadamente 30 por ciento hispana

o latina. El informe citó además que, "La demografía de MPD no es representativa de la demografía de la ciudad de Methuen" y que "Esta falta de diversidad racial y étnica ha afectado negativamente varias facetas del departamento".

Hay rumores de que el alcalde Perry alertó al ex jefe Solomon de lo que se avecinaba, que el informe no se veía bien y le permitía anunciar su retiro antes de que pudiera ser puesto en licencia administrativa, lo que le habría impedido ser elegible para el retiro.

Es hora de conseguir un nuevo jefe

La responsabilidad de elegir al sustituto de Solomon recae en el alcalde entre los candidatos elegidos por un comité seleccionado por él.

Cuando se anunció el puesto, llegaron candidatos de todo el país. Esperaba encontrar a alguien que pudiera ser un vínculo con la creciente comunidad de habla hispana de Methuen. Más tarde descubrí que había uno de Texas y de nuestra área eran el Capitán de la Policía de Lawrence, Maurice Aguiler, y el Alguacil Adjunto William Castro, dos grandes ejemplos con años de servicio, experiencia y educación. También de Lawrence, el Capitán Scott McNamara, pero a medida que avanzaban las entrevistas, la gente empezó a preguntarse: "¿Qué está pasando con el Alcalde Neil Perry? El alcalde está permitiendo que varios miembros particulares del Concejo Municipal dirijan la búsqueda".

No necesito decirles que mi admiración por el Concejo Municipal de Methuen ha cambiado.

Ese comité estaba compuesto por el Concejal de la ciudad Mike Simard (que consideré un conflicto de intereses siendo un Sargento de la policía de Lawrence) y el Alcalde Perry le pidió al jefe de policía interino retirado de Lawrence James Fitzpatrick que estuviera en ese comité, también un conflicto por la misma razón, sabiendo que dos solicitantes eran sus compañeros de trabajo. También la Concejala Lisa Crowley y Johan Lopez, un desarrollador con muchas propiedades en Lawrence y Methuen.

Dadas todas las discrepancias mencionadas anteriormente, uno pensaría que el Alcalde Perry sería cuidadoso al incluir al Concejo Municipal para tomar cualquier tipo de decisiones, especialmente una que incluye la contratación del nuevo jefe de policía.

Convenientemente, el Capitán Aguiler fue eliminado durante la primera parte del proceso de entrevista, pero quedó en segundo lugar cuando solicitó ese puesto en Haverhill. El Capitán Aguiler es actualmente sub Jefe de Policía en Lawrence, tiene más de 20 años de experiencia en el cumplimiento de la ley, es latino y tiene buenas relaciones con la comunidad. El Concejal Sargento Simard no entrevistó al Capitán Aguiler.

El Capitán McNamara tiene experiencia en el cumplimiento de la ley, pero ningún servicio comunitario que demuestre que puede comunicarse con la creciente población latina. Quizás fue la contribución del Capitán McNamara al reciente torneo de golf del Alcalde Perry al que McNamara asistió nada menos que con el Concejal de Methuen y Sargento de la Policía de Lawrence Mike Simard.

Luego fue el turno de William Castro de ser excluido. El Diputado Castro es el único candidato que reside actualmente en

Methuen y lo ha hecho durante los últimos 20 años. El Diputado Castro creció en el vecindario de Arlington y tiene un gran historial de servicio comunitario. Le pregunté quién lo entrevistó y él confirmó que fue el ex jefe de policía de Lawrence Fitzpatrick y el Sargento de Lawrence y Concejal de la ciudad de Methuen Simard pero se negó a elaborar en cuanto al contenido.

Casi parecía como si estuvieran despejando el camino para que Perry no se sintiera obligado a contratar a un latino. El Alcalde Perry, que dirigió su campaña sobre la integridad, la inclusión y el apoyo de la comunidad latina, no ha cumplido con lo prometido.

Una vez que el Alcalde Perry entrevistó a todos los finalistas, dos serán seleccionados para comparecer ante el Concejo Municipal en la reunión de septiembre antes de que Perry designe a su nominado, quien debe ser confirmado por el Concejo.

Haciendo un cálculo de la preparación, educación y experiencia de los tres, me

atrevo a predecir quién será el próximo Jefe de la Policía de Methuen. El Capitán de la Policía de Peabody Scott Richards no ha terminado su Master's en justicia criminal. Deputy Chief Maurice Aguiler tiene un doctorado en justicia criminal.

Deputy Police Chief Shane Smith de Salem, NH no está certificado en Massachusetts y tendrá que ir a la academia y tomar el curso completo antes de empezar, lo cual lo descalifica. Entonces podemos predecir quién será el escogido. Esta trama demuestra la falta de integridad del Alcalde Perry. Dos candidatos con mejores credenciales tuvieron que ser descalificados temprano para no permitirles llegar a la meta.

Luego, el Alcalde Perry tuvo que actuar sobre la sorpresiva renuncia del jefe de policía interino Tom McEnaney para nombrar a Randy Haggar en su lugar. Se le escuchó decir que no podía quedarse más porque ese departamento es un verdadero desastre.

¿Cuán pronto recibirá Simard un ascenso en Lawrence?

Methuen nombra a otro Jefe de Policía Interino

El 12 de agosto de 2021, el actual jefe de policía en funciones, Tom McEnaney, anunció que dejará su puesto en el Departamento de Policía de Methuen para buscar otras oportunidades en el sector privado. Como resultado, el Alcalde Neil Perry nombró hoy al capitán de policía de Methuen, Randy Haggar, como jefe de policía interino, a partir de esa fecha.

"Tengo plena confianza en que el Capitán Haggar continuará el progreso que el Jefe McEnaney ha instituido desde su llegada a Methuen, con un enfoque continuo en avanzar hacia la acreditación y abordar

los problemas destacados por la auditoría de la CNA", declaró Perry.

El Capitán Haggar permanecerá en el papel de jefe interino hasta que el Alcalde Perry designe un Jefe de Policía permanente y el Concejo Municipal lo confirme. El Capitán Haggar aporta una amplia experiencia al puesto, ya que ha sido oficial de policía de Methuen desde 1993 y oficial superior desde 2000.

"Únase a nosotros para agradecer a Tom McEnaney por sus contribuciones y desearle a Tom y al Capitán Haggar la mejor de las suertes en su nuevo trabajo. roles."

Anuncian los finalistas para jefe de policía de Methuen

Después de dos rondas extensas de entrevistas de más de 20 solicitantes, se ha identificado a los finalistas para Jefe de Policía en Methuen, MA. Ellos son el subjefe de policía de Salem, New Hampshire, Shane Smith; el capitán de la policía de Lawrence, Scott McNamara; y el capitán de la policía de Peabody, Scott Richards.

"Primero, me gustaría agradecer a todos aquellos que solicitaron convertirse en el próximo Jefe de Policía de Methuen. El grupo de solicitantes fue extremadamente fuerte. Aprecio la difícil responsabilidad que asumió el comité de entrevistas y agradezco a los miembros de ese comité por su dedicación a este proceso y por ayudarnos a identificar candidatos excepcionales para ser el próximo jefe de policía de Methuen.

Los tres finalistas para el trabajo aportan amplias calificaciones educativas y experimentales para convertirse en el próximo Jefe de Policía de Methuen. El subjefe Smith tiene 20 años de experiencia en el cumplimiento de la ley, 10 de esos años en un rol de liderazgo formal. Recibió su licenciatura en justicia penal de la Universidad de Massachusetts en Lowell y su maestría en justicia penal de la Universidad de Oklahoma.

El capitán de la policía de Lawrence, Scott McNamara, tiene más de 25 años de experiencia en el cumplimiento de la ley. Cinco años como patrullero y 20 como oficial superior. Recibió su título de asociado en justicia penal de Northern Essex Community College, su licenciatura en justicia penal de Salem State y su maestría en justicia penal de la Universidad de Massachusetts en Lowell.

El capitán de la policía de Peabody, Scott Richards, tiene más de 25 años en la aplicación de la ley y tres años en el departamento del alguacil del condado de Essex. Tiene 9 años de experiencia como patrullero y 14 años como oficial superior. El Capitán Richards tiene una licenciatura de Western New England University y está en proceso de obtener su maestría en justicia penal de la Universidad de Louisville.

En el transcurso de la próxima semana, el Alcalde Perry espera entrevistar a los tres solicitantes antes de seleccionar dos para comparecer ante el Concejo Municipal. Esto le dará a los Concejales de la Ciudad la oportunidad de conocer a los dos candidatos finales antes de que el Alcalde Perry designe a su nominado, que se espera que ocurra en la Reunión del Concejo de la Ciudad de septiembre.

Se Extiende por 18 Meses el Periodo de Inscripción para Solicitantes de TPS de Venezuela, Siria y Birmania

WASHINGTON—El Departamento de Seguridad Nacional publicó hoy una notificación en el Registro Federal (FRN) que anuncia extensiones en los periodos de inscripción, que consistían originalmente de 180 días, a 18 meses, para solicitantes iniciales (nuevos solicitantes) de Estatus de Protección Temporal (TPS) bajo las designaciones de Venezuela y Birmania, así como la redesignación de Siria. Esta notificación también proporciona ciertas correcciones específicas a la FRN relacionada con Venezuela (86 FR 13574).

Después de reevaluar los periodos de 180 días de inscripción inicial anunciados para TPS bajo las nuevas designaciones de Venezuela y Birmania y la redesignación de Siria, DHS ha determinado que limitar el periodo de inscripción inicial a 180 días podría crear inconvenientes para solicitantes que no pueden presentar su solicitud oportunamente, pero que son elegibles a que se les otorgue TPS. Extender el periodo de inscripción no extiende o altera la fecha de vencimiento del TPS de un solicitante, que permanece igual sin importar la fecha de inscripción. Además, extender el periodo

de inscripción es cónsono con el propósito humanitario del TPS y promoverá mejor el objetivo de la Orden Ejecutiva 14012.

Esta extensión permitirá que las personas presenten un Formulario I-821, Solicitud de Estatus de Protección Temporal inicial, y una solicitud para un Documento de Autorización de Empleo (si desea obtenerlo) en cualquier momento durante el periodo de designación o redesignación de 18 meses para estos tres países.

El periodo de inscripción de 18 meses para las solicitudes iniciales bajo la designación de TPS para Venezuela ahora termina el 9 de septiembre de 2022.

El periodo de inscripción de 18 meses para solicitudes iniciales bajo la redesignación de TPS para Siria ahora termina el 30 de septiembre de 2022.

El periodo de inscripción de 18 meses para las solicitudes iniciales bajo la designación de TPS para Birmania (Myanmar) ahora termina el 25 de noviembre de 2022.

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

Registration Period Extended to 18 Months for TPS Applicants from Venezuela, Syria and Burma

WASHINGTON—The Department of Homeland Security today published a Federal Register notice (FRN) announcing extensions of the registration periods from 180 days to 18 months for initial (new) applicants for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under the designations of Venezuela and Burma, and the redesignation of Syria. This notice also provides certain specific corrections to the FRN regarding Venezuela (86 FR 13574).

After reevaluating the 180-day registration periods for initial TPS applicants announced for the designations of Venezuela and Burma and the redesignation of Syria, DHS has determined that limiting the registration period to 180 days may place a burden on initial TPS applicants who are unable to timely file but would otherwise be eligible for a grant of TPS. Extending the registration period does not extend or alter the expiration date of an applicant's TPS, which remains the same regardless of date of registration. In addition, this extended registration period is in keeping with the humanitarian purpose of TPS and advances

the actions outlined in President Biden's Executive Order 14012.

This filing extension will allow individuals to submit an initial Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, and an application for an Employment Authorization Document (if desired) at any time during the 18-month designation or redesignation periods for these three countries.

The 18-month registration period for initial applications under the TPS designation of Venezuela now runs through Sept. 9, 2022.

The 18-month registration period for initial applications under the TPS redesignation of Syria now runs through Sept. 30, 2022.

The 18-month registration period for initial applications under the TPS designation of Burma (Myanmar) now runs through Nov. 25, 2022.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, please visit uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook and LinkedIn.

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.



"The first people a dictator puts in jail after a coup are the writers, the teachers, the librarians — because these people are dangerous. They have enough vocabulary to recognize injustice and to speak out loudly about it. Let us have the courage to go on being dangerous people." ~ Madeleine L'Engle

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AVISO PÚBLICO

Autoridad de Vivienda de Lowell

ASUNTO: La Autoridad de Vivienda de Lowell (LHA, por sus siglas en inglés) abrirá la lista de espera y aceptará solicitudes para el Programa Mainstream de Vales para la Elección de Vivienda (MP-811).

QUIÉNES: Personas con discapacidades que no sean adultos mayores, entre al menos 18 y 61 años que se encuentren:

- En transición para salir de un ámbito institucional u otros entornos segregados,
- En grave riesgo de institucionalización,
- Sin hogar, o
- En riesgo de quedar sin hogar

DÓNDE/CUÁNDO: Las solicitudes se aceptarán por un tiempo limitado a partir del lunes 16 de agosto de 2021 a las 8:30 a.m. hasta el viernes 20 de agosto de 2021 a las 4:30 p.m. Las solicitudes enviadas por correo deben estar selladas antes del viernes 20 de agosto de 2021.

Se aceptarán solicitudes de forma presencial en el Mercier Center, 21 Salem Street, Lowell, MA 01854, de lunes a viernes, de 9:30 a.m. a 3:00 p.m. Las solicitudes también estarán disponibles en línea en nuestra página web, www.lhma.org, en la sección de «Noticias» [“Latest News”] a través del enlace para el Programa Mainstream (MP-811).

No se aceptarán solicitudes por correo electrónico ni por fax.

TENGA EN CUENTA: No existe ventaja por ser la primera persona en presentar la solicitud. La posición en la lista de espera se determinará mediante un sistema computarizado de selección aleatoria.

Si usted es una persona con discapacidades y quisiera pedir una adaptación razonable, puede contactar a Alima Sokun al 978-364-5338 en el horario de 8:30 a.m. a 4:30 p.m. o por correo electrónico a través de askun@lhma.org.

Se aceptarán solicitudes más allá de la raza, color, credo, sexo, religión, discapacidad, orientación sexual, estado civil o país de origen. Se realizarán adaptaciones razonables para las personas con discapacidades.



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Lawrence to turn success of Vaccine Block Party into a Summer Series

Bringing the Vaccine Block Parties to the neighborhoods

Lawrence, MA – Beginning on Saturday, August 7th, the City of Lawrence will kick-off the Summer Series in which we will be building off of the success of the June Vaccine Block Party on the Campagnone Common and bringing the vaccines to the heart of the most needed neighborhoods.

The Summer Series will be held on alternating Saturdays and the locations have been strategically chosen based on the local data on what areas have the highest rate of unvaccinated community members.

- August 7: O'Connell South Common
- August 21: Parthum School (Prospect Hill)
- September 4: BGCL/Water Street (Lower Towerhill)
- September 18: Cronin Park (Arlington Neighborhood)

In addition to the Neighborhood Vaccine Block Parties, there will be a series of evenings where the vaccines will be made available outside of nightlife venues between the hours of 8 pm -12 am. As we have seen success in the vaccine rates for the age groups of 40 and above, we are looking forward to this effort with the venues and

DJs to continue to meet different populations within the City where they are at. Venues will include:

- August 13: Vaka
- August 14: Blue Lounge
- August 28: Terra Luna
- September 6: Attika

For each event, families and young adults can expect to enjoy music by local DJs, food trucks, a range of door prizes that attendees will not want to miss. Additional activities will include face painting, caricature drawing, live art, obstacle course and dunk tank.

The vaccine is free and will be available to anyone 12+ without an appointment. No ID or insurance needed. All three vaccines will be available: Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson.

This event is brought together by the Office of the Mayor, Senator Finegold and Representatives Devers, Minicucci and Moran. “As the COVID variant is entering the scene, we need to remain vigilant and be proactive towards making sure our currently unvaccinated community members become vaccinated and protected,” said Mayor Vasquez.

Lawrence convertirá el éxito de Vaccine Block Party en una serie de verano

Llevando Vacunas a los vecindarios

Lawrence, MA - A partir del sábado 7 de agosto, la Ciudad de Lawrence dará inicio a la Serie de Verano en la que estaremos creando sobre el éxito de la Fiesta del Bloque de Vacunas de junio en Campagnone Common y llevando las vacunas al corazón de los barrios más necesitados.

La Serie de Verano se llevará a cabo en sábados alternos y las ubicaciones se han elegido estratégicamente en función de los datos locales sobre qué áreas tienen la tasa más alta de miembros de la comunidad no vacunados.

- 7 de agosto: O'Connell South Common
- 21 de agosto: Escuela Parthum (Prospect Hill)
- 4 de septiembre: BGCL/Water Street (Lower Towerhill)
- 18 de septiembre: Cronin Park (barrio de Arlington)

Además de las Fiestas del Bloque de Vacunas en el Vecindario, habrá una serie de noches en las que las vacunas estarán disponibles fuera de los lugares de vida nocturna entre las 8 pm y las 12 am. Como hemos visto el éxito en las tasas de vacunación para los grupos de edad de 40 años o más, esperamos este esfuerzo con los lugares y los DJ para continuar conociendo

a diferentes poblaciones dentro de la ciudad en la que se encuentran. Los lugares incluirán:

- 13 de agosto: Vaka
- 14 de agosto: Salón Azul
- 28 de agosto: Terra Luna
- 6 de septiembre: Attika

Para cada evento, las familias y los adultos jóvenes pueden esperar disfrutar de la música de los DJ locales, camiones de comida y una variedad de premios que los asistentes no querrán perderse. Las actividades adicionales incluirán pintura facial, dibujo de caricaturas, arte en vivo, carrera de obstáculos y tanque de inmersión.

La vacuna es gratuita y estará disponible para cualquier persona mayor de 12 años sin cita previa. No se necesita identificación ni seguro. Las tres vacunas estarán disponibles: Moderna, Pfizer y Johnson & Johnson.

Este evento es convocado por la Oficina del Alcalde, el Senador Finegold y los Representantes Devers, Minicucci y Moran. “A medida que la variante COVID está entrando en escena, debemos permanecer alerta y ser proactivos para asegurarnos de que los miembros de nuestra comunidad que actualmente no están vacunados se vacunen y estén protegidos”, dijo el alcalde Vásquez.

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Este proyecto fue apoyado (parcialmente) por la Oficina de Asistencia a las Víctimas de Massachusetts a través de una subvención de la Ley de Víctimas del Crimen de 1984 (VOCA) de la Oficina para las Víctimas del Crimen, Oficina de Programas de Justicia, Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos.

New Accelerated Online Degree Programs for Working Adults



This fall, Northern Essex Community College will offer three new fully online accelerated associate degree programs in Business Transfer, Criminal Justice, and General Studies: Health Specialization, designed especially for working students.

Typically, Northern Essex courses run a full semester or 15-weeks. These programs will feature 7 and 8-week accelerated courses. In one semester, students can take four courses; two the first part of the semester and two the second part. By taking four courses each semester, along with courses during the summer and winter intersession, students can graduate in two years.

The cost to earn one of these online associate degrees is approximately \$9,000 and whenever possible professors are using open educational resources, which are free to students, rather than expensive textbooks.

“These programs are geared toward adults who are working but want a degree to get ahead,” says Kelly Sullivan, the college’s dean of business and professional studies. “Taking just two courses at a time will allow students to focus.”

One third of Northern Essex students are working full time while attending college.

The fall 2021 semester begins Sept. 8. For more information on these

new accelerated online associate degree programs, contact Ari Chicklis, achicklis@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 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.

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COVID-19 Sculpture Created By Greater Lawrence Tech Students Unveiled in Lawrence

ANDOVER – Superintendent John Lavoie is pleased to share that a COVID-19 vaccination-themed sculpture created by Greater Lawrence Technical School students was unveiled in the City of Lawrence.

On Tuesday, Aug. 3, City officials, School officials, and students participated in a ceremony to unveil the sculpture, created to remind the community of its fight against the COVID-19 virus and about the critical role vaccination plays in winning that fight.

“This is truly a sign that our students, our teachers, and our School Committee value the people of the City of Lawrence,” Superintendent Lavoie said. “This really was a labor of love.”

Metal Fabrication Instructor Stephanie DiCecca sketched the design. About 10 juniors in the Metal Fabrication program worked alongside instructors

Mayor Kendrys Vasquez said he toured the school not long after taking office. He said he was impressed by the quality of the programs at Greater Lawrence Technical School, and amazed by the conceptual designs for the sculpture.

The sculpture is metal, in a heart shape with Plexiglas slats. The slats represent the percentage of the Lawrence community fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and new slats will be added as vaccination rates increase. Five slats have been inserted, marking that 56 percent of the Lawrence community has received at least one vaccine shot.

“How tremendous would it be to see that heart filled to the top?” Mayor Vasquez



asked, then urging those who are not vaccinated to do so.

The sculpture will be placed at the Pemberton Way entrance to City Hall, the door closest to the room where the City offers vaccinations. City leaders hope those who become vaccinated will have their photo taken next to the sculpture to mark the occasion.

State Representative Frank Moran especially thanked the students and school, explaining that the COVID pandemic has

From left, Greater Lawrence Technical School Principal Susan Zielinski, District School Committee members Vivian Marmol, Frank Surillo, Anngybel Moreta and Zoila Disla, Superintendent John Lavoie, Metal Fabrication students Carlos Burgos and Brady Valliere, Lawrence Mayor Kendrys Vasquez, Metal Fabrication student Orlendi Hernandez, State Representative Frank Moran, and State Representative Marcos Devers. (Photo Courtesy City of Lawrence)

touched him personally. Last fall the City dedicated the Empty Chair Memorial in Campagnone Common Park across from City Hall. Hundreds of empty chairs denote the hundreds of Lawrencians who have died from COVID-19. Moran said one of those chairs represents the passing of his brother, who died at age 53 from COVID.

Mayor Vasquez, Representative Moran, and State Representative Marcos Devers presented students Carlos Burgos, Orlendi Hernandez, and Brady Valliere, who

attended the event, with proclamations to thank them for their work.

“Not many people can say they did something at my age for a big cause like this,” Valliere said. “I hope this stands for something, and that people get vaccinated.”

“Small town kids can do big things,” Hernandez added.

For the latest updates about Greater Lawrence Tech, visit the school’s website here. To learn more about adult education at Greater Lawrence Tech, click here.

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August 2021

August - Team Haverhill Meeting

Team Haverhill will meet in-person for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic this Monday, August 9th at 7pm at The SwitchBoard - 43 Washington St.. We will be joined by Ruth's House Director Amy Smith-Boden to learn more about their efforts in providing clothing and employment training opportunities to individuals and families in need throughout the Greater Merrimack Valley. We will also discuss current project updates and volunteer opportunities. We look forward to seeing you there!



Clean & Green Downtown Haverhill!

THANK YOU volunteers, sponsors and partners for keeping the momentum of our Clean & Green Downtown Haverhill project moving forward!!!

Our Clean & Green Downtown team will continue working on making our downtown shine at throughout the summer. More dates to be announced soon - always follow us on Facebook for Clean & Green Downtown announcements. It's non-strenuous work but it is important and it's making an impact! Get involved and bring a friend!

Our Clean & Green Team will be pitching in on the next [Haverhill Art Walk](#) on Saturday, August 14th from 3:00-7:00pm.



RIVER RUCKUS 2021 -

Una nueva encuesta encuentra que más de 10 millones de estudiantes experimentarán el aprendizaje virtual este año

Los temores a las variantes de Delta y los mandatos de las máscaras hacen que los padres se pregunten si regresan al aula

WASHINGTON, DC- (Pinkston News Service) - Las nuevas recomendaciones de mascarillas de los CDC y las variantes de COVID-19 tienen a muchos padres preocupados por enviar a sus hijos de regreso al salón de clases en el otoño. Aunque los distritos escolares se están preparando para el aprendizaje en el aula, las alternativas en línea son cada vez más atractivas para los padres que desean mantener seguros a sus hijos.

Se esperan y se desean alternativas al aprendizaje en el aula. Los Angeles Times informó recientemente que el 71% de los padres de California estuvieron de acuerdo en que el aprendizaje en línea debería seguir siendo una opción para sus hijos, manteniendo abierta la posibilidad de que los cierres en áreas con altas tasas de transmisión de COVID-19 puedan requerir más cierres. Stride, Inc., (www.stridelearning.com), que es el mayor proveedor de aprendizaje virtual K-12 en el país, encontró en su encuesta reciente que

el 30% de los padres de K-8 dijeron que esperan que sus hijos reciban algún grado de instrucción remota este otoño.

Los padres que buscan opciones de aprendizaje virtual seguras y de calidad están inscribiendo a sus hijos en escuelas virtuales. Las escuelas en línea de Stride vieron un aumento del 39% en la inscripción durante la pandemia y elevaron la inscripción a más de 170,000 estudiantes.

Para Isaiah Gutiérrez de Destinations Career Academy of Colorado, mudarse a una escuela totalmente virtual fue un salvavidas. “En la escuela primaria, luché con los desafíos relacionados con mi TDAH. Después de transferirme a Destinations Career Academy of Colorado, mis calificaciones mejoraron drásticamente. Descubrí que estaba aprendiendo más en un entorno virtual que en mi escuela anterior”, dijo Gutiérrez.

Las investigaciones muestran que los estudiantes retienen en promedio un 25-60% más de material cuando aprenden en línea

en comparación con solo el 8-10% en un salón de clases. En un salón de clases, las lecciones solo se pueden enseñar al ritmo del alumno más lento. Mientras tanto, las lecciones impartidas a través del e-learning pueden requerir entre un 40% y un 60% menos de tiempo para aprender.

El aprendizaje virtual también puede ser ideal para estudiantes con ansiedad social, y también puede proteger a los estudiantes vulnerables o marginados del acoso y las burlas.

El aprendizaje en línea puede incluso proteger a los estudiantes de las percepciones de racismo. Los Angeles Times ha informado que el 43% de los padres negros dijeron que estaban preocupados por la intimidación, el racismo y los bajos estándares académicos. De hecho, las encuestas nacionales revelan

que los padres negros e hispanos son mucho más propensos que los padres blancos a decir que mantienen a sus hijos alejados. Las familias minoritarias son las que más se beneficiarán del acceso a sólidos recursos de aprendizaje electrónico durante el próximo año.

Para los padres preocupados por el COVID-19, la pérdida del aprendizaje o incluso la salud mental de sus hijos, el aprendizaje en línea ofrece una alternativa viable. Con el aumento del año pasado en la matrícula de aprendizaje virtual, y con otro año de preocupaciones por el regreso a la escuela en el horizonte, el aprendizaje virtual está listo para convertirse en una parte permanente y positiva del panorama educativo para los escolares de Estados Unidos.

New Survey Finds More Than 10 Million Students Will Experience Virtual Learning This Year

Fears of Delta Variants and Mask Mandates Make Parents Question Return to Classroom

New CDC mask recommendations and COVID-19 variants have many parents worried about sending their kids back to the classroom in the fall. Though school districts are preparing for in-classroom learning, online alternatives are becoming more and more attractive for parents who want to keep their kids safe.

Alternatives to in-classroom learning are both expected and wanted. The Los Angeles Times recently reported that 71% of California parents agreed that online learning should remain an option for their children, holding open the possibility that shutdowns in areas of high COVID-19 transmission rates may require further lockdowns. Stride, Inc., (www.stridelearning.com), which is the largest provider of K-12 virtual learning in the country, found in their recent survey that 30% of K-8 parents said they expect that their children will receive some degree of remote instruction this fall.

Parents who are looking for safe and quality virtual learning options are enrolling their children in virtual schools. Stride's online schools saw a 39% increase in enrollment during the pandemic and raised enrollment to more than 170,000 students.

For Isaiah Gutierrez of Destinations Career Academy of Colorado, moving to an all-virtual school was a life-saver. “In grammar school, I struggled with challenges related to my ADHD. After transferring to Destinations Career Academy of Colorado, my grades improved dramatically. I found I was learning more in a virtual environment

than I did in my previous school,” said Gutierrez.

Research shows that students retain on average 25-60% more material when learning online compared to only 8-10% in a classroom. In a classroom setting, lessons can only be taught at the pace of the slowest learner. Meanwhile, lessons delivered through e-learning can require anywhere from 40-60% less time to learn.

Virtual learning can also be ideal for students with social anxiety, and it can also shield vulnerable or marginalized students from bullying and teasing.

Online learning can even shield students from perceptions of racism. The Los Angeles Times has reported that 43% of Black parents said they were concerned about bullying, racism, and low academic standards. Indeed, national polling reveals that Black and Hispanic parents are far more likely than white parents to say they are keeping their children remote. Minority families stand to benefit the most from access to strong e-learning resources in the coming year.

For parents worried about COVID-19, learning loss, or even the mental health of their children, online learning provides a viable alternative. With last year's surge in virtual learning enrollment, and with another year of back-to-school worries on the horizon, virtual learning is poised to become a permanent and positive part of the educational landscape for America's schoolchildren.

The Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

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

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

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

Eight earn NJCAA All-Academic honors

Eight Northern Essex Community College student-athletes have earned All-Academic honors for the 2020-21 academic year as was announced Friday afternoon by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). The eight honorees match the number from the 2017-18 year and have only been surpassed in 2018-19 and 2019-20 academic years. Northern Essex now has a total of 53 all-time All-Academic selections.

In order to be eligible for the award the student-athlete must have obtained a grade point average for the year of 3.60 or higher and successfully completed a minimum of 24 credits during the year. Based on the overall grade point average for the year student-athletes are named either First (4.0, Second (3.8-3.99) or Third Team (3.6-3.79) All-Academic.

The eight selections represented three different programs that competed during the past year. Three representatives each from the men's soccer and baseball teams and two selections from the men's basketball team.

Highlighting the selections was Tom Grassi (Windham, NH) from the men's basketball team who earned First Team recognition with a perfect 4.0 GPA for the year.

Representing the Knights on the second team were Jesus Guzman (Lawrence) and

Jack Latauskas (Byfield/Whittier Tech) of the men's soccer team and Todd Tringale (Saugus) from the baseball.

A pair of baseball student-athletes highlighted the third team selections in Frank Gulezian (Manchester, NH) and Kyle Hsu (Brookline, NH). Rounding out the selections for NECC from the men's soccer team was Ethan Rousseau (Haverhill, Whittier Tech)

Northern Essex is preparing for a full return to intercollegiate competition for all of its varsity athletic programs for the 2021-22 academic year and will kick the off with the inaugural NECC Athletics BBQ KNIGHT on Tuesday August 10th. For additional information please contact NECC Director of Athletics Dan Blair (dblair@necc.mass.edu)

Northern Essex Community College competes as a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and sponsors thirteen varsity intercollegiate sports including baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's golf, softball, men's soccer, women's volleyball, men's and women's cross country and men's and women's track and field and Esports. For more information on Northern Essex Community College Athletics please visit the official website of Northern Essex Athletics (www.neccknights.com).

”La ignorancia mata a los pueblos, y es preciso matar a la ignorancia”
“Ignorance kills people, and it is necessary to kill ignorance”

José Martí.



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Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley to offer concert

On Friday, August 20, 2021 the Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley, Inc. will host its 6th Annual Benefit Concert at the Blue Ocean Music Hall in Salisbury, MA., featuring Jozay & Patti, the renowned shipboard duo who has been entertaining audiences worldwide with their vibrant performance of Diamonds & Pearls, Cash & Kings.

All proceeds go directly to the FKMV projects including their Annual Christmas party, Duffle Bag/Backpack Program, Helene Giordano Memorial Scholarship Program, Financial Aid Program that includes numerous Camperships and various Sponsorships and Events all benefitting the foster children of our area.

Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley is dedicated to serving the needs of foster children in the Merrimack Valley with a goal to bring a positive influence into their lives and provide programs that support these children as they grow.

To purchase Tickets from Blue Ocean Music Hall at 978-462-5888 or for more information check out their website – www.fosterkidsmv.org or call 978-771-2150.

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ALENECANDLES

Más personas que buscan atención médica dicen: "Doctor, ha pasado demasiado tiempo"

El presidente de la American Heart Association ofrece 6 consejos para las personas que vuelven a buscar atención médica después de las demoras relacionadas con la pandemia

A medida que progresa la vacunación de la población contra el COVID-19, ahora es mucho más probable que busquen atención médica las personas que han postergado las consultas con médicos durante la pandemia. El presidente de la American Heart Association, la organización voluntaria líder que se dedica a luchar por un mundo con vidas más largas y saludables, dice que es un buen momento para consultar con tus médicos a fin de controlar tu salud general junto con cualquier afección crónica que tengas, como presión arterial alta o diabetes.

"Por un tiempo, muchos pacientes dudaron de siquiera acercarse a hospitales, clínicas o consultorios", dijo Donald Lloyd-Jones, M.D., Sc. M., FAHA, profesor de medicina preventiva, medicina y pediatría, y presidente de Medicina Preventiva en la Feinberg School of Medicine de la Northwestern University en Chicago, quien se convirtió en el presidente de la American Heart Association en julio. "Sin duda, animo a los pacientes a que vengan para asegurarse de que se atiendan todos sus problemas de salud".

Recientemente, solo el 19% de los adultos estadounidenses informó que postergó su atención médica o decidió no recibirla en las cuatro semanas previas

debido a la pandemia, según la última encuesta de opinión en hogares realizada por los CDC entre el 23 de junio y el 5 de julio del 2021. Esa es una marcada disminución del 45% de los encuestados que informaron retrasos relacionados con la pandemia en el mismo período del año pasado.

Para aquellos que aún dudan en buscar atención, Lloyd-Jones les asegura que es seguro volver.

"Tenemos planes para mantener a los pacientes y a nuestro personal médico seguros incluso durante una pandemia. La salud de los pacientes y de nuestro equipo es siempre nuestra prioridad número uno", afirmó.

A medida que las personas vuelven a las consultas médicas presenciales, Lloyd-Jones ofrece los siguientes consejos:

Deja la vergüenza en casa. Muchas personas experimentaron un retroceso en su estado de salud debido al COVID-19. "El estrés nos afectó a todos, y nuestras vidas y rutinas se alteraron por completo. No hay nada de lo que avergonzarse", comentó Lloyd-Jones. "La clave es que avancemos juntos".

Haz un seguimiento los parámetros de tu cuerpo. Antes de tu cita, comienza a medir y registrar a diario tu peso, tu presión arterial (si tienes un aparato para medir la

presión arterial en casa), niveles de glucemia (para personas con diabetes), etc. "Incluso si ha pasado un tiempo desde que hiciste un seguimiento de los parámetros de tu cuerpo, proporcionar mediciones recientes ayudará a tu médico a determinar si ha habido cambios significativos", explicó Lloyd-Jones.

Lleva una lista de preguntas. Escribir tus preguntas con anticipación sobre todo lo que se te ocurra, desde la vacunación contra el COVID-19 y la prevención de un derrame cerebral hasta ese consejo de salud que te dio tu vecino, te ayudará a aprovechar al máximo el tiempo de la consulta con tu profesional de la salud. "No hay preguntas que puedan considerarse vergonzosas o malas en el consultorio de tu médico", dijo Lloyd-Jones.

Elabora un plan de acción con tu médico. "Los médicos están para ayudar", comentó Lloyd-Jones. Juntos, los pacientes y sus profesionales de la salud pueden analizar cómo llegar a un estado más saludable y elaborar un plan para lograrlo.

Define metas realistas. Hemos pasado los últimos 17 meses manejando el estrés de la pandemia. Incorporar nuevos hábitos saludables (o restablecer los que se tenían antes de la pandemia) no es algo que ocurrirá de la noche a la mañana. "Hay que

tener en cuenta que los hábitos pequeños y constantes pueden generar grandes cambios con el tiempo", afirmó Lloyd-Jones.

Presta especial atención a cualquier cambio en los síntomas. Si has experimentado nuevos síntomas, física o mentalmente, no esperes para consultar a tu médico. "En particular, la aparición de nuevos síntomas de dolor torácico siempre es una señal de alerta", afirmó Lloyd-Jones. "Eso es algo que necesitamos saber y que debemos revisar lo antes posible".

Lloyd-Jones también enfatizó que si tus medicamentos no parecen tener efecto o no puedes pagarlos, debes llamar a tu médico de inmediato y decirle lo que está sucediendo para que pueda ayudarte.

"Nuestro objetivo, como el tuyo, es garantizar que recibas la atención que necesitas para vivir la vida más larga y saludable posible", agregó Lloyd-Jones.

Si no cuentas con una oficina de atención primaria o el desempleo ha afectado tu acceso a la atención médica, los recursos como los Federally Qualified Health Centers y los Community Health Centers pueden ayudarte.

Para obtener más consejos sobre cómo volver al médico y recuperar tu salud, visita <http://www.heart.org/callyourdoctor>.

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More people seeking health care, saying, "Doctor, it's been too long"

American Heart Association's President offers 6 tips for people returning to care after pandemic-related delays

As COVID-19 vaccinations become more widespread, people who have put off seeing a doctor during the pandemic are now significantly more likely to seek care. The president of the American Heart Association, the leading voluntary organization devoted to a world of longer, healthier lives, says it's a good time to check in with your doctors to take stock of your overall health along with any chronic conditions you may have like high blood pressure or diabetes.

"There were many patients who were hesitant to come anywhere near the hospital, clinic or doctor's office for some time," said Donald Lloyd-Jones, M.D., Sc.M., FAHA, professor of Preventive Medicine, Medicine and Pediatrics and chair of Preventive Medicine, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, who became president of the American Heart Association in July. "I certainly encourage patients to come in to make sure we're addressing all their health issues."

Recently, only 19% of U.S. adults reported delaying or not getting medical care in the prior four weeks because of the pandemic, according to the CDC's latest Household Pulse Survey conducted between June 23 and July 5, 2021. That's a marked decline from 45% of respondents reporting

pandemic-related delays in the same period last year.

For those still hesitating to seek care, Lloyd-Jones assures them it's safe to come back.

"We have plans to keep you and our medical staff safe, even during a pandemic. Health for you and for our team is always our number one priority," he said.

As people return to in-person medical visits, Lloyd-Jones offers the following tips:

Leave the shame at home. Many people experienced a COVID backslide with their health status. "Stress took a toll on all of us, and our lives and routines were turned upside down. There's nothing to be ashamed of here," Lloyd-Jones said. "The key is—let's move forward together."

Track your body metrics. Leading up to your appointment, start measuring and documenting your daily weight, blood pressure (if you have a home blood pressure machine), blood sugar levels (for those with diabetes), etc. "Even if it's been a while since you've tracked your body metrics, providing recent measurements will help your doctor determine if there have been significant changes," Lloyd-Jones said.

Bring a list of questions. Writing down your questions in advance on everything

from COVID-19 vaccination and preventing a stroke to that health tip your neighbor gave you will help make the most of your time together with your health care professional. "There's no such thing as an embarrassing or bad question at your doctor's office," Lloyd-Jones said.

Make an action plan with your doctor. "Doctors are here to help," Lloyd-Jones said. Together, patients and their health care providers can discuss how to get to a healthier place and make a plan for how to get there.

Set realistic goals. We've spent the last 17 months managing the stress of the pandemic. Incorporating new healthy habits—or reinstating pre-pandemic ones—isn't going to happen overnight. "Keep in mind that small, consistent habits can add up to big changes over time," Lloyd-Jones said.

Pay close attention to any symptom changes. If you've experienced any new

symptoms—physically or mentally—don't wait to see your doctor. "New chest pain symptoms in particular are always a red flag," Lloyd-Jones said. "That's something we want to know about and see you about ASAP."

Lloyd-Jones also emphasizes that if your medications don't seem to be working as well or you can't afford them, call your doctor right away and let them know what's going on so they can help you.

"Our goal, like yours, is to make sure you're getting the care you need to live your longest, healthiest life possible," Lloyd-Jones said.

If you don't have a primary care office or if unemployment has impacted your access to health care, resources like Federally Qualified Health Centers and Community Health Centers can help.

For more tips on getting back to the doctor and reclaiming your health, visit <http://www.heart.org/callyourdoctor>.

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Por Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, ICCP

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

Una lágrima por una tierra rota

El 27 de octubre de 1492, Cristóbal Colón puso sus ojos en Cuba por primera vez; la llamó "Juana" y la declaró "La tierra más hermosa que ojos humanos jamás habían visto". Desafortunadamente para Cuba, todo fue cuesta abajo a partir de ese momento.

La fértil isla estaba poblada por varios grupos indígenas, los siboneyes y otros grupos de habla arahuaca como los taínos. Colón no se reunió con civilizaciones que fueran amistosas entre sí, al contrario. Esa antipatía entre los grupos resultó en violencia y los recién llegados no eran demasiado amigables con los nativos para empezar. Muy pronto, las llegadas más fuertes militarmente se quedaron y los nativos se extinguieron.

Los peregrinos que llegaron a la Colonia de Plymouth en los mil seiscientos se encontraron con habitantes nativos de tribus del pueblo Wampanoag. Al principio, los anfitriones jugaron un partido amistoso y juntos comieron pavo y salsa para escribir las primeras páginas del calendario de Acción de Gracias, pero el postre no fue agradable. El pueblo Wampanoag fue dejado de lado y se creó una nueva nación formada por europeos que habían escapado de sus países por una miríada de razones: los futuros Estados Unidos, ni Estados ni muy Unidos por bastante tiempo.

En ambos casos, las primeras llegadas a las tierras descubiertas fueron seguidas por otros colonos que se sintieron seguros, procrearon y establecieron una tradición de las lenguas y creencias originales. Curiosamente, con el tiempo las nuevas generaciones de sus hijos se rebelaron contra sus padres y antepasados y trataron con éxito de independizarse de ellos. ¿No se independizó usted también?

Los Estados Unidos derrotaron a España durante la Guerra Hispanoamericana y Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam y Filipinas pasaron a formar parte de los Estados Unidos. Cuba no se independizó de esa propiedad hasta el 20 de mayo de 1902, pero la palabra "independizó" tenía una advertencia. Los cubanos estaban obligados a firmar un acuerdo con Washington llamado la Enmienda Platt, en realidad un cordón umbilical, dando a los Estados Unidos el derecho de intervenir en los asuntos cubanos cuando la tierra de Washington lo

considerara necesario.

Entre 1902 y 1934, cuando un "partero" llamado Franklin Delano Roosevelt, entonces Presidente de los Estados Unidos, decidió poner fin a la Enmienda Platt y finalmente deshacerse del cordón umbilical, Estados Unidos intervino militarmente en Cuba varias veces, militarmente en Cuba oficialmente en dos ocasiones y en otras dos enviando sus tropas extraoficialmente bajo la estratagema de salvaguardar sus intereses económicos. Además, en 1903, los Estados Unidos y Cuba firmaron un contrato de arrendamiento que concedía a los Estados Unidos permiso para utilizar tierra en Guantánamo como una estación de carbón y base naval. Ese acuerdo sigue siendo vigente.

Pero Cuba no siguió un camino fácil por sí misma. Hubo varios dictadores, Gerardo Machado y Fulgencio Batista los más conocidos, que asumieron la cuestionable responsabilidad de hacer lo que los dictadores mejor hacen: dictar a sus ciudadanos cómo deben vivir. En 1959, un joven revolucionario llamado Fidel Castro se sumó a la lista de nombres de dictadores proponiendo matrimonio político y económico a una nación que estaba cansada y herida. Una vez más, esta vez el país no solo fue cuesta abajo, sino que llevó a millones de sus ciudadanos a un doloroso exilio que dura hasta el día de hoy mientras miramos a otro lado.

El resultado es enloquecedor: los cubanos están ahora divididos entre los muchos miles que viven en Estados Unidos y los muchos más que quieren hacerlo. También hay divisiones dentro del empobrecido país entre dos grupos que desconfían y luchan entre sí y se identifican por dos lemas opuestos, "Patria o Muerte" y "Patria y Vida": Su elección.

Hay mucho que podemos decir sobre las dos alternativas, pero pensando cuidadosamente en esas opciones y el precio que el país está pagando por ellas, solo hay una que nos parece apropiada: derramar una lágrima por la tierra a la que ya no estamos apegados legalmente, pero que sentimos que estamos apegados emocionalmente por nuestro cordón de nacimiento. Y no hay partero que pueda cortarlo.

Y ese es mi punto de vista hoy.



A POINT OF VIEW © 1996

By Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, ICCP

A Tear for a broken land

On October 27, 1492, Christopher Columbus set eyes on Cuba for the first time; he named it "Juana" and declared it to be "The most beautiful land that human eyes had ever seen." Unfortunately for Cuba, it was all downhill from that point on.

The fertile island was populated by various indigenous groups, the Ciboneys and other Arawak speaking groups like the Tainos. Columbus didn't meet civilizations that were friendly to each other, on the contrary. That unfriendliness between those two groups resulted in violence and the new arrivals were not too friendly with the natives to begin with. Pretty soon, the militarily stronger arrivals stayed and the natives were extinguished.

The Pilgrims who arrived to Plymouth Colony in the sixteen hundreds encountered native inhabitants of tribes of the Wampanoag people. At the beginning, the hosts played a friendly game and together they ate enough turkey and sauce to write the first pages of the Thanksgiving calendar, but dessert wasn't enjoyable. The Wampanoag people were pushed aside and a new nation made of Europeans who had escaped their countries for a myriad of reasons was created: the future United States, neither States nor very United for quite a while.

In both cases, the first arrivals to the discovered lands were followed by other settlers who felt safe, procreated and established a tradition of the original languages and beliefs. Interestingly enough eventually the new generations of their children rebelled against their parents and ancestors and tried successfully to become independent from them. Didn't you try to become independent as well?

The United States defeated Spain during the Spanish American War and Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines became part of the United States. Cuba did not become independent from that ownership until May 20 of 1902, but the word "independent" had a caveat. The Cubans were required to sign an agreement with Washington called the Platt Amendment, actually an umbilical cord, giving the United States the right to

intervene in Cuban affairs whenever the land of Washington considered it necessary.

Between 1902 and 1934, when a "midwife" by the name of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, then President of the United States, decided to end the Platt Amendment and finally get rid of the umbilical cord, the United States intervened militarily in Cuba several times, militarily in Cuba officially in two occasions and in two others it sent in its troops unofficially under the ploy of safeguarding its economic interests. In addition, in 1903, the United States and Cuba signed a lease granting the United States permission to use land in Guantánamo as a coaling and naval station base. That agreement is still binding.

But Cuba didn't follow an easy road on its own feet. There were several dictators, Gerardo Machado and Fulgencio Batista the best known, who took upon themselves the questionable responsibility of doing what dictators do best: dictate to their citizens how they should live. In 1959, a young revolutionary named Fidel Castro added to the list of dictator names proposing political and economic marriage to a nation that was tired and wounded. Again, this time the country didn't only go downhill, but it took millions of its citizens to a painful exile that lasts until this day while we look the other.

The result is maddening: Cubans are now divided between the many thousands that live in the United States and the many more who want to. There are also divisions inside the impoverished country between two groups who mistrust and fight each other and are identified by two opposed slogans, "Fatherland or Death" and "Fatherland and Life." Your choice.

There's much we can say about the two alternatives, but thinking carefully about those options and the price the country is paying for them, there's only one we find appropriate: shedding a tear for the land we are no longer attached to legally, but we feel we are attached to emotionally by our birth cord. And there is no midwife who can cut it.

And that's my Point of View today.

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

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

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

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BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



We have a new City Clerk

After many months and so much chaos in the Lawrence City Council, last Tuesday night, chose Diane LeBlanc as the new City Clerk. She comes with great experience and willingness to do the work, that's why seven councilors voted in her favor.

I attended the meeting at the beginning to see if all the councilors would be there.

There were rumors that the chambers would be open for public participation but they would be on zoom.

To my surprise, the only ones missing were Jeovanny Rodriguez who was absent, Maria De La Cruz from her home, and Ana Levy who took part in zoom even though she's on medical leave.

There was an interesting detail that didn't make sense to me. The excuse used for prefer Zoom meetings is that they don't want to mix with average people, afraid of the virus. Keep in mind that their seats are at almost 20 feet of distance from the audience. Meanwhile, before the session started, they mingled with less than ten people in the room, greeting them maskless and when they took their positions, donned their masks for television. No one in the audience was wearing one.

I soon left the meeting to watch it from home while I work, as usual.

Seven councilors in the chambers voted for Ms. Leblanc and again, District C Councilor Jorge Gonzalez had a discordant note approaching his microphone to say very loudly, "Luis Santiago."

He's so disagreeable that wants to get his way even if he goes against the rules. He insisted that Luis Santiago should have been selected as city clerk because he speaks Spanish and is a Lawrencian, but those requirements were removed from the job description because it was very difficult finding an experienced candidate.

I happen to know Mr. Santiago as a serious, hard-working person who is employed by the City of Haverhill as Director of the Office of Veterans Services and I hear that he's doing a good job. Councilor Gonzalez was insisting that he'd be hired based on qualifications that were not required for the position.

It's hard to choose

Something that has become evident is that the city council is a circus. Every

week for several years, Rumbo has been displaying their illegal or immoral behavior and no one raises an eyebrow. Perhaps it is fear but my conclusion is carelessness. Nobody seems to mind the things that go on, nobody talks about them and now that election is approaching, none of the candidates says anything of value.

The new crop of wannabees goes on radio interviews and talks about their future plans involving the streets and sidewalks conditions, some want to enforce ordinances that no one remembers exist, while others mentioning strengthening relations with the Dominican Republic through business exchanges utilizing our airport.

It's also common in their ignorance to say how they are going to change or work with the school department. They don't know that Lawrence Public School is under the control of the Commonwealth and not the local politicians. The sad part about it is that they may be elected due to having a likable personality but in the end, they know nothing about the city. I'm sure they have never read the City Charter.

Every week Rumbo brings them local issues and if they had anything inside the cranial space, they would go attacking the wrongdoings and how he or she would eradicate it. I'm giving them the material; go ahead and tell us how you are going to improve Lawrence eliminating the corruption.

Let me give you one more hint: There's a process to hiring someone to work for the city.

The position has to be created on paper, approved by the council, properly advertised, interview applicants select a number of finalists and the lucky one will have to go through a medical checkup and a CORI check. The salary assigned should be within the limits established by the law or the union contract.

What they find is that the mayor tells his friends whom he wants to hire to just show up on Monday. No resume, no posting, no advertising, no medical or CORI check. He decides what he needs that person for and is assigned a high salary – way above the maximum and no one can argue with him. He gets his way.

I want to hear candidates say that they will clean up that corruption then, I'll have faith in them and give them my vote. In the meantime, let's clean house!

While watching the council meeting...

In this edition of Rumbo, we continue writing in regards to current investigations by Massachusetts law enforcement organizations of alleged corruption under this current administration. We had informed our readers, during the last edition, that in this week's newspaper we would inform our readers of ghost employees. In the Dominican Republic, this is known as "una botella" - an illegal way of trying to funnel money pretending to pay employees.

As we had indicated, last week, a city employee who has requested whistleblower status had verified this, the previous, and future stories that are or will be published in this newspaper.

In the second week of January of 2021, Interim Mayor Vasquez re-hired an employee who had resigned in late 2020 and worked directly under Mayor Dan Rivera.

As you may know, Ana Victoria Morales was Mayor Dan Rivera's semi-last Chief of Staff. She resigned after she notified the public that she was running as a candidate for Mayor of Lawrence. As you can believe, that news did not sit well with Mayor Rivera because Mayor Rivera already had thrown his full endorsement into Community Development Director Vilma Dominguez-Martinez.

Ana Victoria Morales was hired as an Advisor by Interim Mayor Kendrys Vasquez, a position that is not ordinance in the City of Lawrence. Ana's salary was set as the same salary as the previous Chief of Staff, Mr. Adderly Gonzalez. The salary was also not ordinance under the City of Lawrence for the position she was to embark on. The Advisor position was supposed to be a part-time position. As you can guess, disagreements took place but eventually, the Chief Administrative and Finance Office did nothing. No one did anything, except for the person who believes that the obligation of the position they held warranted a complaint with several law enforcement agencies of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

However, you may think this was the end of the story, it's not. Ms. Morales only came into work twice for about two 20-minute meetings. Pay records indicate that from January 2021 through March 2021, she earned a salary. The questions are numerous, but one very important question is - which person, in the Mayor's Office, signed and verified the department timesheet indicating work hours.

Mayor Vasquez may tell you that he had her work from home. But the fact of the matter is that there is no work from home policy, except policies associated with the city's work from home COVID19 policy. City records indicated that she was not under such policy as each work from the home employee is fully vetted, discussed, and approved, between department heads, personnel, the city attorney, the Chief Administrator and Finance Officer, and

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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possible with outside legal and union officials, including the Mayor. No approval for work from home or offer of employment was found or submitted for the record. No job posting has been found that could have notified the public of its transparency. The position is not listed in the FY2022 budget.

On May 21, 2021, former Chief of Staff Gonzalez was relieved of his duties and subsequently moved as Acting Director of the Recreation Department. On May 24, 2021, Mayor Vasquez hired a new Chief of Staff Juan Jaramillo out of Revere. Juan, a failed candidate for the state representative's position in his district, was offered a salary of \$80,000 by Mayor Vasquez. The salary is not ordinance. The Chief of Staff position is under the salary range of \$60,000 - \$70,000. However, the Chief Administrator and Finance Officer did nothing and undermined his subordinate's role. Juan Jaramillo was working as a Political Coordinator for SEIU 32BJ New England 617 Union and was endorsed by the same union for his run for state representative.

Upon a review of Mr. Jaramillo's City of Lawrence employment application after he had already worked for half of a week, it listed three separate work references. One work reference was Ana Victoria Morales, who we have written about in the above paragraphs.

Fast forward into the future, and you can find Ana Victoria Morales is listed as Communications Manager at SEIU, Former Political Coordinator for SEIU 32BJ, and former Deputy Communication Manager with SEIU 509. It seems that places were traded. Ana Victoria Morales's pay record, with the city, shows no pay from April, May, June, or July 2021, just in time for Juan to take over as Chief of Staff and Ana to return to SEIU 32BJ.

An in-depth view into political contributions through the Office of Finance and Political Campaign found that all three individuals; Interim Mayor Kendrys Vasquez, Ana Victoria Morales, and Juan Jaramillo have been given each other political contributions, and it seems from our reporting of the complaint and the investigation, in exchange for jobs and favors.

The illegality in this story is both the ghost employment of Ana Victoria Morales and the illegal salary of Juan Jaramillo. Could it be that as a ghost employee Ms. Morales was just collecting tax money for doing no work to donate that same money to Kendrys Vasquez, Juan Jaramillo, or both? Could it be that Juan Jaramillo was provided an additional salary (beyond what is approved by the council) so that he would be obligated to donate to Interim Mayor Vasquez?

Stay tuned next week, when Rumbo writes further of the complaints that were sent to investigative law enforcement agencies of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, regarding a department head using work equipment, work hours, and city employee during a private job at an employee's house.

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

— Voltaire

AZ QUOTES

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

— Thomas Jefferson

The mayor with no integrity

By **Dalia Díaz**

(Léalo en español en la página 5)

Let's reminisce about the Methuen elections in 2019 when everywhere you went you saw the face of candidate Neil Perry. He practiced his Spanish with anyone he could and went to every radio show in Spanish.

Wherever he was holding signs, most of the people in the crowd were Latinos, he was our friend, and his followers loved him. He often used the word "integrity" as his most important quality. Oh, how we wished he was running in Lawrence, instead.

From his inauguration, it was not easy for him. He didn't have support from the City Council members and shortly after winning his election, Mayor Perry assigned Mr. Lussier (former Mayor Sharon Pollard's husband) as his director of strategic initiatives with a salary of \$80,419.

Mr. Lussier was under investigation by the Ethics Commission for using his employer's credit card (the National Council on Teacher Retirement) for personal expenses. His wife, the mayor was also being investigated for other reasons but Mayor Perry said he has known Lussier for such a long time that he trusted him.

The council drastically cut Lussier's payout of the city budget and forced Mr. Lussier to leave. The same method was used recently to force the Mayor's chief of staff, Jana DiNatale out of the office by decreasing her pay. To keep her, Mayor Perry made some drastic cuts to other members of his staff and she is still working for him.

It was a moment to rejoice for me seeing that the city council wanted to keep the mayor honest by taking such measures. We had never seen anything like that in Lawrence. The council treats the mayors as gods (except for William Lantigua) and lets them get away with anything. The word "integrity" came to my mind again.

I said he didn't have it easy because Perry had to face the COVID-19 pandemic and another scandal with the Police Chief Joseph Solomon. The chief retired but the case is still in court. As we all know, Chief Solomon was under strong scrutiny due to the alteration of a Superior's Officer's contract that would allow him and his subordinates to become the highest paying law enforcement officials in the country. All at the expense of Methuen residents, taxpayers' expense and yes, the Methuen City Councils voted on that contract.

As a result a Methuen Police Department (MPD) Performance Audit was conducted as well as an Office of the Inspector General (IG) conducted an investigation finding many, but many discrepancies within the police department. The audit cited numerous inconsistencies including that "the processes for hiring, assignment, promotion, and discipline were all identified as lacking objectivity and transparency. The hiring process was considered manipulated to secure advantage for hiring and promoting 'friends and family,' while little time was spent trying to increase diversity in the ranks."

We should note that MPD has few Hispanic or Latino officers and no bilingual dispatchers in an agency serving a

community that is approximately 30 percent Hispanic or Latino. The report further cited that, "The demographics of MPD are not representative of the demographics of the City of Methuen" and that "This lack of racial and ethnic diversity has negatively affected various facets of the department."

There are rumors that Mayor Perry alerted former Chief Solomon of what was coming, that the report didn't look good and allow him to announce his retirement before he could be placed in administrative leave, which would have stopped him from being eligible for retirement.

Time to get a new Chief

The responsibility of picking Solomon's replacement falls on the mayor among the candidates chosen by a committee selected by him.

When the position was advertised, candidates came from all over the country. I was hoping for someone who could be a link with the growing Spanish-speaking community of Methuen. I later found out that there was one from Texas and from our area were Lawrence Police Captain Maurice Aguilera and Deputy Sheriff William Castro – two great examples with years of service, experience and education. Also from Lawrence, Captain Scott McNamara but as the interviews progressed, people started asking, "What is going on with Mayor Neil Perry. The Mayor is letting several particular members of the City Council run the show."

I don't need to tell you that my admiration for the Methuen City Council has changed.

That committee was made up by City Councilor Mike Simard (which I considered a conflict of interest being a Lawrence Police Sergeant) and Mayor Perry asked retired interim police chief of Lawrence James Fitzpatrick to be in that committee, also a conflict for the same reason, knowing that two applicants were their co-workers. Also City Councilor Lisa Crowley and Johan Lopez, a developer with lots of properties in Lawrence and Methuen.

Given all of the above-mentioned discrepancies one would think Mayor Perry would be careful in including the City Council to make any type of decisions, especially one that includes the hiring of the new police chief.

Conveniently, Capt. Aguilera was eliminated during the first part of the interview process yet, he came second when he applied for that position in Haverhill. Capt. Aguilera is currently Deputy Chief in Lawrence, has over 20 years of Law Enforcement experience, Latino with good community relations. City Councilor Sergeant Simard did not interview Captain Aguilera.

Capt. McNamara has law enforcement experience, but no community service to show that he can communicate with the growing Latino population. Maybe was Capt. McNamara's contribution to the recent Mayor Perry's golf tournament which McNamara attended with none other than Methuen City Council and Sargent of

Lawrence Police Mike Simard.

Then it was William Castro's turn to be excluded. Deputy Castro is the only candidate presently residing in Methuen and has done for the last 20 years. Deputy Castro grew up in the Arlington neighborhood and has a great track record of community service. I asked Deputy Castro who interviewed him and he confirmed former Lawrence Police Chief Fitzpatrick and Lawrence Sargent and Methuen City Councilor Simard but he refused to elaborate more as to the content.

It almost seemed as if they were clearing the path for Perry not to feel obligated to hire a Latino. Mayor Perry who ran his campaign on integrity, inclusion and supported by the Latino community has failed to deliver.

Once Mayor Perry interviews all finalists, two will be selected to appear before the City Council at September's meeting before Perry appoints his nominee, who must be confirmed by the council.

By making a calculation of the training,

education and experience of the three, I dare to predict who will be the next Chief of the Methuen Police. Peabody Police Captain Scott Richards has not completed his Master's in criminal justice. Deputy Chief Maurice Aguilera has a doctorate in criminal justice.

Deputy Police Chief Shane Smith of Salem, NH is not certified in Massachusetts and will have to go to the academy and take the full course before starting, which disqualifies him. Then we can predict who will be chosen. This plot demonstrates the lack of integrity of Mayor Perry. Two candidates with the best credentials had to be disqualified early to prevent them from reaching the finish line.

Then, Mayor Perry had to act on the surprise resignation from Acting Police Chief Tom McEnaney to appoint Randy Haggar in his place. He was heard saying that he could not stay any further because that department is a real mess.

Now, how soon do you think Sergeant Simard will be promoted in Lawrence?

Methuen Appoints Randy Haggar Acting Police Chief

(Methuen) On August 12, 2021, current acting Police Chief Tom McEnaney has announced he will be leaving his role on the Methuen Police Department to pursue other opportunities in the private sector. As a result, Mayor Perry has today appointed Methuen Police Captain Randy Haggar to become Acting Police Chief, effective that date. "I have complete confidence that Captain Haggar will continue the progress that Chief McEnaney has instituted since his arrival in Methuen, with a continued focus on driving towards accreditation and

addressing the issues highlighted by the CNA audit" stated Perry. Captain Haggar will remain in the role of acting chief until a permanent Police Chief is appointed by Mayor Perry and confirmed by the City Council. Captain Haggar brings extensive experience to the role, as he has been a Methuen Police officer since 1993 and a superior officer since 2000. Please join us in thanking Tom McEnaney for his contributions and wishing both Tom and Captain Haggar the best of luck in their new roles.

Methuen Police Chief Finalists Announced

After an extensive two-rounds of interviews of over 20 applicants, the finalists for Chief of Police in Methuen, MA have been identified. They are Salem New Hampshire Deputy Police Chief Shane Smith, Lawrence Police Captain Scott McNamara, and Peabody Police Captain Scott Richards.

"First, I would like to thank all of those who applied to become Methuen's next Police Chief. The pool of applicants was exceedingly strong. I appreciate the difficult responsibility the interview committee undertook and thank the members of that committee for their dedication to this process and for helping us to identify exceptional candidates to be the next Methuen Police Chief.

The three finalists for the job bring extensive educational and experiential qualifications to become Methuen's next Chief of Police. Deputy Chief Smith has 20 years of law enforcement experience with 10 of those years being in a formal leadership role. He received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell and his master's in criminal justice from the University

of Oklahoma. Lawrence Police Captain Scott McNamara has over 25 years of law enforcement experience. Five years as a patrolman and 20 as a superior officer. He received his associate's degree in criminal justice from Northern Essex Community College, his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Salem State, and his master's degree in criminal justice from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. Peabody Police Captain Scott Richards has over 25 years in law enforcement and three years in the Essex County sheriff's department. He has 9 years of experience as a patrolman and 14 years as a superior officer. Captain Richards has a bachelor's degree from Western New England University and is in the process of obtaining his master's in criminal justice from the University of Louisville.

Over the course of the next week, Mayor Perry looks forward to interviewing all three applicants before selecting two to appear before the City Council. This will give City Councilors the opportunity to meet the two final candidates before Mayor Perry appoints his nominee, expected to occur in September's City Council Meeting.

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

- Patrick Murphy

Meet the Author of "Driving While Black"



many dangers presented by a racist society and to enjoy, in some measure, the freedom of the open road. In it she recounts the creation of a parallel, unseen world of black motorists, who relied on travel guides, black-only businesses and informal communications networks to keep them safe.

Meet Gretchen Sorin at a Nashua Public Library Zoom event on Monday, August 16, at 7 p.m. Gretchen will be interviewed by Nashua alderwoman and Black Lives Matter activist Shoshanna Kelly. Register at tinyurl.com/nashuareads to get an invitation.

This is one of a series of events related to the 2021 Nashua Reads book, "Homegoing." Learn more about "Homegoing" and the Nashua Reads program at nashuareads.com.

Historian Gretchen Sorin's book, "Driving While Black," reveals how the car has held particular importance for African Americans, allowing them to evade the

Questions? Contact Carol at carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org or 603-589-4610.

What to consider before applying for a small business loan

By Sam Tulp, loan specialist, Center for Rural Affairs

Do you have a great idea for a business? Or already own a business and are looking for ways to take it to the next level? A loan could provide the extra boost your small business needs.

However, before applying for a loan, ask yourself these questions.

1. Why do you need the money? What is that money going to help you accomplish? What is the purpose of this loan? Itemize how you're going to spend every dollar that you're going to be requesting. It's really important that you've put some thought in beforehand as to how you want to use those funds.

2. How will this loan help you grow your business? The purpose shouldn't hopefully be just to keep doing what you are doing. You want to be looking to expand, to grow, to bring in new revenue streams.

3. Can I afford this loan right now? Yes, you may want the money, but it's important to make sure that taking out this credit isn't going to stop you from what you're currently doing. It's going to supplement

what you're currently doing.

If you've already thought about those questions, it's going to make the loan process a little bit easier. It's going to make you look like you are on top of your business, that you are professional, you are responsible, you are prepared.

A good way to work through those questions is developing a business plan. Before reaching out and getting in touch with a bank or another loan entity, you should have some sort of business plan in place that helps organize and explain to other people all of the great ideas you have about your business.

Whether you are a starter business or a current business owner, there are many resources available. One good place to start is sba.gov.

Established in 1973, the Center for Rural Affairs is a private, non-profit organization working to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches, and rural communities through action oriented programs addressing social, economic, and environmental issues.

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13 de Agosto
@ 2pm-4:30 pm
North Common/ Carney Field Lowell
ma 413 Fletcher St, Lowell, MA 01854

14 de Agosto
@ 1pm-4 pm
165 Crawford st Lawrence ma 01843

15 de Agosto
@ 10am
Gage Field 570 Beacon St Lowell, MA (Near
the Robinson school) ALL TEAMS NEED

Para mas infor. llame a
Maria Claudio
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MCC's Accelerated Course Options Make Getting a Degree Easier

Middlesex Community College helps students fit education into their busy lives. For the Fall 2021 semester, Middlesex has planned on campus, online and a hybrid (blended) mix of course options to best fit students' needs. To maximize time and efforts, MCC will offer two accelerated Mini-mesters for students to finish their courses and reach their goals faster.

As students face job, family and personal responsibilities, Mini-mesters allow them to make going to college a priority and a possibility. Whether earning credit to transfer to a four-year college or enter the workforce, Middlesex saves students thousands of dollars on tuition.

"Middlesex is in position to be a leader of helping people recover from the financial challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic," said Phil Sisson, MCC's President. "By providing them with flexible course options such as Mini-mesters – in addition to financial assistance and support – the college can help get students back on track to begin or return to their education, be competitive in the workforce, and reach their goals."

Students enrolled in MCC's eight-week Mini-mester sessions receive the same content, academic standards and number of instructional hours as courses scheduled in the traditional 15-week semester. This allows students to complete general requirements and earn credits in a variety of subjects – including English, science, history, social science, mathematics and more – and provides an opportunity to explore different



subjects and areas of interest.

"Our students come to Middlesex with diverse needs – whether they are coming after graduating from high school or returning to college after many years off, looking to jumpstart a new career or updating skills to begin anew," said Arlene Rodríguez, MCC's Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs. "Mini-mesters provide another example of how MCC makes getting a degree or certificate accessible, as well as meets students' varying needs on an individual level."

To help make college even more affordable, Middlesex has frozen tuition and fees for the Fall 2021 semester. With \$1.5 million awarded to MCC from the Federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), all returning and newly enrolled students are eligible to apply for financial assistance.

MCC's on campus and online courses come with award-winning student support services and resources. The Fall 2021 semester begins on Thursday, September 9. For more information and to register for classes, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration/ or call 1-800-818-3434.



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