

Mayor Fiorentini sworn in for 10th term at the 2022 Haverhill City Inauguration



Mayor James J. Fiorentini was sworn in by Governor Charlie Baker for a record 10th term at the City of Haverhill 2022 Inauguration on Monday, January 3. Nine City Councillors and three School Committee members also took their oaths of office at the event.

HC Media was LIVE at City Hall for the Inauguration, streaming the event on Channels 22 and 9, at our website and on Facebook. Watch the replay on-demand here: 2022 Haverhill City Inauguration.

NECC se asocia con Haverhill YMCA para ofrecer cuidado infantil gratuito



Iseline Mendoza, quien se graduó en contabilidad en diciembre, estuvo en el campus recientemente con su hijo de dos años y su esposo.

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NECC is Partnering with the Haverhill YMCA to Offer Free Drop-in Child Care

Iseline Mendoza, who graduated with her accounting degree in December, was on campus recently with her two-year-old son and her husband.

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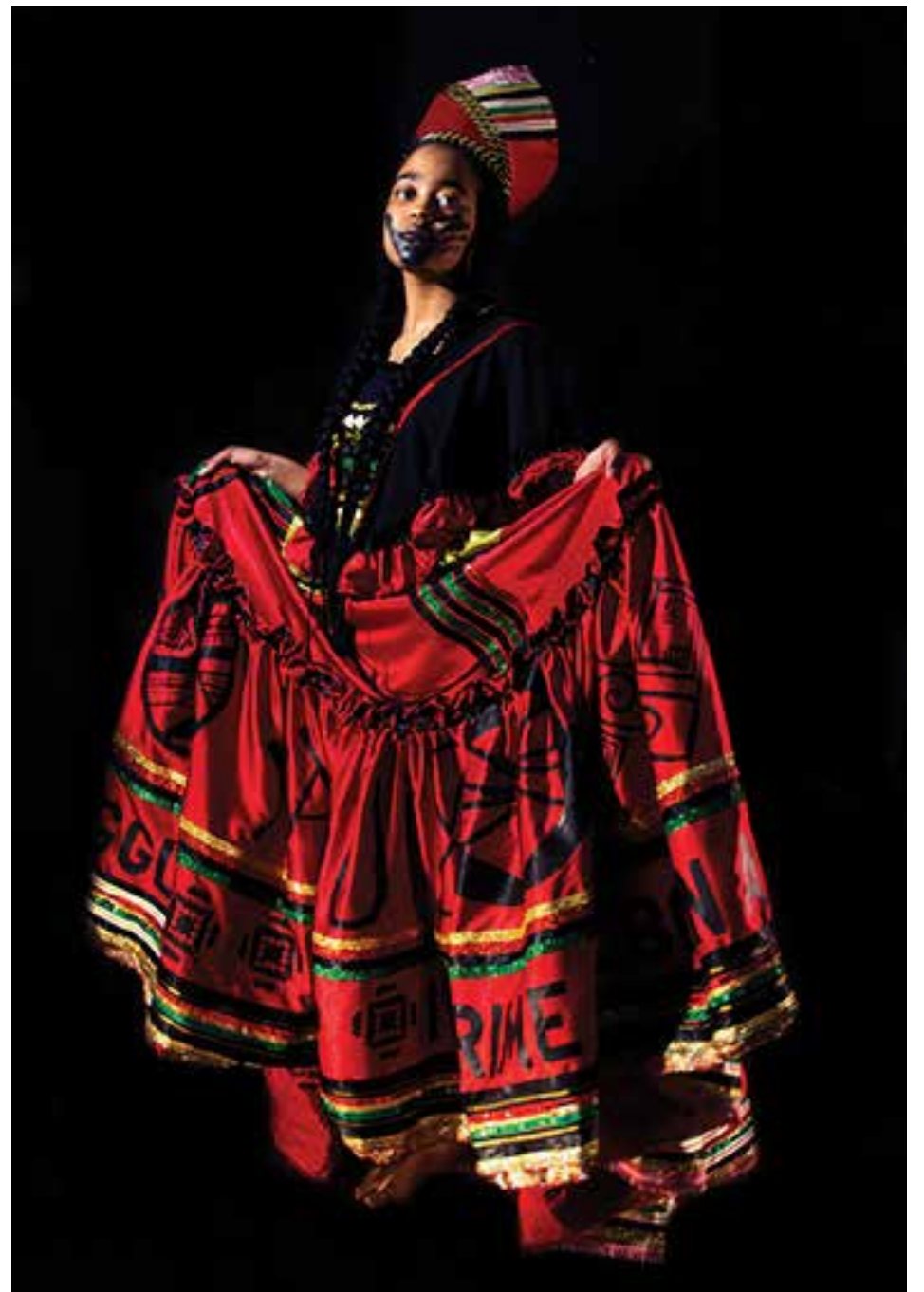
The Mobile Health Unit will open a mobile vaccination clinic at the following locations:

Mt. Vernon Park
 Monday – Saturday
 9am to 5pm
 January 10, 2022 –
 January 15, 2022

Riverfront State Park
 Monday – Saturday
 9am to 5pm
 January 17, 2022 –
 January 22, 2022



New exhibit at Essex Art Center Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood



Monica's Mexican Folklorico, 2019.

An exhibition by Marla L. McLeod

20 January – 17 March 2022

Artist Talk, Thursday, 20 January at 6 PM

In her first solo exhibition in the Merrimack Valley, artist Marla L. McLeod explores contemporary social issues and symbols of pride for BIPOC Americans through painting, textile, sculpture, and photography. N95 masks are required. See details on page 11.



Laplante & Reyes fueron elegidos presidente y vicepresidente del Concejo Municipal de Lawrence

El Concejo Municipal de Lawrence eligió a Marc Laplante como su presidente durante los próximos dos años. Laplante, quien está entrando en su decimoséptimo año en el Concejo Municipal, se desempeñó como presidente interino del Concejo en 2021 cuando el anterior presidente del Concejo, Kendrys Vasquez, llenó la vacante creada por la partida del Alcalde Daniel Rivera.

“Este es un puesto de confianza que me otorgaron mis colegas”, dijo el Concejal de la Ciudad del Distrito F después de obtener el voto para la presidencia en la inauguración del Concejo Municipal el 3 de enero de 2022. “Es un puesto y una responsabilidad que me tomo en serio, y me siento honrado de ser seleccionado”.

“Mi trabajo como Presidente del Concejo es llevar a cabo una reunión ordenada y brindar a cada concejal de la ciudad las herramientas para hacer su trabajo de la manera más eficaz”, agregó Laplante. “Representamos a los residentes de la ciudad en asuntos del gobierno local y los defendemos en su nombre. Somos su voz y parte de mi tarea como presidente es asegurarme de estar lo más informados posible al tomar decisiones políticas”.

El Alcalde Brian DePeña, quien hizo comentarios introductorios para comenzar la ceremonia de inauguración, ofreció los mejores deseos al nuevo presidente del concejo.

“Me gustaría felicitar a Marc Laplante mientras se prepara para asumir las responsabilidades y desafíos como presidente del Concejo. Lawrence está experimentando desafíos sin precedentes y sé que su corazón está en el lugar correcto. Mi visión para Lawrence es una que ofrece una oportunidad equitativa para todo, y sé que esa es la visión que comparte”.

Laplante, que ha trabajado con 5 presidentes de concejos y 35 concejales diferentes durante sus más de 16 años, se une a la vicepresidenta recién elegida, Estela Reyes.

Reyes, quien representa al Distrito B, está entrando en su undécimo año en el Concejo.

“Es un honor para mí ser parte del equipo de liderazgo del concejo”, dijo la residente de Maple Street. “Estamos trabajando con un nuevo alcalde (Brian DePeña) y espero con interés las nuevas oportunidades para ayudar a nuestra comunidad”.

Reyes, quien se ha desempeñado como presidenta del Comité de Ordenanzas del Concejo, dijo que también espera continuar con su papel en este importante comité.

“El Comité de Ordenanzas tiene muchas responsabilidades, incluida la revisión de las leyes y permisos propuestos en Lawrence. Descubrí que mi experiencia en este comité ha tenido un impacto positivo en la vida de nuestros residentes y estoy ansiosa por continuar con este trabajo”.

Laplante & Reyes Elected Lawrence City Council President and Vice President

The Lawrence City Council elected long-time member Marc Laplante as its President for the next two years. Laplante, who is entering his 17th year on the City Council, served as acting Council President in 2021 when the previous Council President, Kendrys Vasquez, filled the vacancy made by Mayor Daniel Rivera's departure.

“This is a position of trust that was granted to me by my colleagues,” said the District F City Councilor after securing the vote for president at the City Council's January 3, 2022 inauguration. “It's a position and responsibility that I take seriously, and I am honored to be selected.”

“My job as the Council President is to run an orderly meeting, and to provide each city councilor with the tools to most effectively do their jobs,” added Laplante. “We represent city residents on local government issues and advocate on their behalf. We are their voice and part of my task as President is to make sure that we are as informed as possible when making policy decisions.”

Mayor Brian DePeña, who gave introductory comments to begin the inauguration ceremony, offered best wishes to the new Council President.

“I would like to congratulate Marc

Laplante as he prepares to take up the responsibilities and challenges as Council President. Lawrence is experiencing unprecedented challenges and I know his heart is in the right place. My vision for Lawrence is one that offers an equitable opportunity for all, and I know that's the vision he shares.”

Laplante, who has served with 5 council presidents and 35 different councilors during his 16+ years, is joined by newly elected Vice President, Estela Reyes.

Reyes, who represents District B, is entering her 11th year on the Council.

“I am honored to be a part of the council's leadership team,” said the Maple Street resident. “We are working with a new mayor (Brian DePeña), and I look forward to the new opportunities to help our community.”

Reyes, who has served as chairwoman of the Council's Ordinance Committee, said that she also looks forward to continuing her role on this important committee.

“The Ordinance Committee has many responsibilities including the review of proposed laws and permits in Lawrence. I have found that my experience on this committee has positively impacted our residents' lives and I am eager to continue this work.”

Methuen Police Department Sending Eight Student Officers to NECC Haverhill Police Academy



Police Chief Scott J. McNamara and Mayor Neil Perry stand with eight student officers who start the NECC Haverhill Police Academy on Jan. 10, in preparation for careers with the Methuen Police Department. From left, Chief McNamara, Madison Adames, Robert Fitzgerald, Angel Mejia Jr., Dannery Serrano, Jason Young, Cameron Fountain, Kayleigh Forgetta, James Smith, and Mayor Perry. (Photo Courtesy Methuen Police Department)

METHUEN — Mayor Neil Perry and Chief Scott J. McNamara are pleased to announce that the Methuen Police Department is sending eight student officers to the NECC (Northern Essex Community College) Haverhill Police Academy in preparation for careers with Methuen Police.

“I'm excited that these eight great young men and women are up to the challenge of a career in law enforcement,” said Chief McNamara. “The lessons they learn over the next 38 weeks will prepare them for a career of helping others and protecting this community. I wish them all the best as they enter the academy.”

The eight student officers were hired from the Civil Service Police Officers List and begin the police academy on Jan. 10. The student officers are Madison Adames,

Robert Fitzgerald, Angel Mejia Jr., Dannery Serrano, Jason Young, Cameron Fountain, Kayleigh Forgetta, and James Smith.

Following 24 weeks of training at the NECC Haverhill Police Academy — authorized by the Massachusetts Police Training Council — the officers will graduate, become Police Officers, and begin a 14-week Methuen Police Department Field Training Officer Program to train with an experienced officer.

“I congratulate these eight student officers on pursuing a career in public service here in the City of Methuen,” said Mayor Perry. “Public safety is a top priority here, and keeping our Police Department adequately staffed is an essential ingredient to safety.”

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

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

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

<http://heallawrence.org/>

heallawrence@aol.com

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

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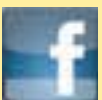
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With the spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center is enacting some procedures to ensure the safety and health of all our patients.

TELEHEALTH APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

For your safety, we have telehealth appointments available to our patients, including those seeking routine medical care, and those with chronic illnesses scheduling follow-up appointments. Please call the Health Center at (978) 686-0090 to make a telehealth appointment. A clinician will call you for your appointment during your scheduled time.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COVID TEST

Our Methuen Family Health Center, 147 Pelham St., in Methuen offers free COVID testing outside under a white tent. The hours are Monday-Friday from 1:00-6:00 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am-1:00 pm.

If you test positive for COVID at home: **STAY HOME**

There is no need to take another test



If you test positive with an at-home test, you have COVID. Here is what to do:

ISOLATE for 5 days and test again.
Wear a mask for at least 5 more days.

If you have symptoms or develop symptoms, wait until they are gone and you have no fever for 24 hours.

SEEK EMERGENCY MEDICAL ATTENTION (CALL 911) IF:

- You have trouble breathing
- You have chest pain
- You have severe nausea

IF YOU TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID WITH AN AT-HOME TEST

- Please stay home, there is no need for another test.
- Isolate at home for 5 days, from the first day you test positive and then test again to confirm it is safe to end isolation. Wear a mask for at least 5 more days.
- If you have minor flu-like symptoms, or develop flu-like symptoms, isolate until they are gone and you have no fever for at least 24 hours.

WHEN TO SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF YOU HAVE COVID

Seek emergency medical attention (call 911) if:

- You have trouble breathing
- You have chest pain
- You have severe nausea

Si usted da positivo en la prueba de COVID en casa: **QUÉDESE EN CASA**

No tiene que hacerse otra prueba



Si da positivo en la prueba en casa, usted tiene COVID. Esto es lo que debe hacer:

Aíslese por 5 días y hágase la prueba de nuevo. Use mascarilla al menos por 5 días más.

Si tiene síntomas o desarrolla síntomas, espere hasta que estos hayan desaparecido y usted no tenga fiebre por 24 horas.

BUSQUE ATENCIÓN MÉDICA DE EMERGENCIA, LLAMANDO AL 911, SI TIENE:

- Dificultad para respirar
- Dolor en el pecho
- Náusea severa

SI DA POSITIVO PARA COVID EN LA PRUEBA EN CASA

- Quédele en casa, no necesita hacerse otra prueba.
- Aíslese en casa durante 5 días, contando desde el primer día que dio positivo, y luego vuelva a hacerse la prueba para confirmar que es seguro poner fin al aislamiento. Use mascarilla al menos por 5 días más.
- Si tiene síntomas leves parecidos a los de la gripe o desarrolla síntomas parecidos a los de la gripe, aíslese hasta que dichos síntomas desaparezcan y no tenga fiebre por al menos 24 horas.

CUANDO BUSCAR ATENCIÓN MÉDICA SI TIENE COVID:

Busque atención médica de emergencia, llamando al 911, si tiene:

- Dificultad para respirar
- Dolor en el pecho
- Náusea severa



Debido a la propagación de la variante Omicron del COVID-19, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center ha implementado algunos procedimientos para proteger la salud de todos nuestros pacientes.

CITAS DE TELESALUD DISPONIBLES

Para su protección, tenemos citas de telesalud disponibles para pacientes que buscan atención médica de rutina y también para los que programan citas de seguimiento por enfermedades crónicas. Llame al Centro de Salud al (978) 686-0090 para programar una cita de telesalud. Un médico lo llamará el día de su cita durante el horario programado.

PRUEBAS DE COVID

Ofrecemos pruebas de COVID gratuitas en nuestro Centro de Salud de Methuen en el 147 Pelham Street, bajo la carpa blanca. El horario es de lunes a viernes de 1:00 p.m. a 6:00 p.m. y los sábados de 9:00 a.m. a 1:00 p.m.

GREATER LAWRENCE FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

(978) 686-0090
WWW.GLFHC.ORG

POR DALIA DÍAZ
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READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



La saga de Infante se inicia

Mientras miraba la Inauguración del Concejo Municipal de la Ciudad el 3 de enero de 2022, un elemento importante me saltó a la vista a través de la televisión y me pareció muy extraño. No, no fue que el Gobernador Charlie Baker o la congresista Lori Trahan (quien pensó que estaba haciendo campaña) fueran oradores invitados. Algo sencillo.

La toma de posesión de los miembros del Concejo Municipal es un evento imperdible para mí. No presto mucha atención a los discursos porque la mayoría de la gente no recuerda nada de lo que escuchó y se reducen a elogios vacíos. Pero este año, con mucho cuidado, me conformé con verlo por televisión y me perdí la mejor parte, la reunión que viene después.

Como muchos de ustedes saben, inmediatamente después del juramento del cargo, se lleva a cabo una reunión para decidir el presidente y vicepresidente del concejo. Estas dos personas ocuparán ese cargo durante los próximos dos años. Sin embargo, sucede mucho más durante esta reunión inicial del concejo que una simple votación para presidente y vicepresidente.

Sin embargo, mucho más tiene lugar semanas antes de la inauguración. Semanas antes de que las personas presten juramento, hay posturas y debates sobre cómo obtener apoyo para convertirse en presidente y vicepresidente. Con estas discusiones vienen promesas de asignaciones de subcomités y favoritismo (de tales otras asignaciones y ubicación de espacios de oficina y posiblemente asignación de asientos).

Como sabrá, el Secretario Municipal siempre ha traído naipes a la inauguración. Este año no fue diferente para la nueva secretaria municipal (Diane LeBlanc). Ella quería continuar con la tradición como estaba acostumbrada por los concejales que regresaban. Los naipes se utilizan después de la inauguración y cada concejal juramentado puede seleccionar una carta. Estas están numeradas del número 1 al número 9. El número seleccionado, por el concejo, corresponde a los asientos del concejo cuando toman su voto para los dos líderes del mismo.

No lo verá en los videos grabados del concejo municipal, pero si estuvo presente, será testigo de que el Concejal recién electo

Gregory Del Rosario ocupó el puesto número uno, y el Concejal recién electo, Stephany Infante, ocupó el puesto número nueve. Esto significaba que llegado el momento el Concejal Del Rosario daría el primer voto y la Concejala Infante el último. Votar en último lugar tiene sus ventajas en cualquier votación del concejo, sin importar el tema o la reunión.

Entonces, el 3 de enero de 2022, se nominaron dos nombres para la Presidencia del Concejo: el Concejal y expresidente del Concejo Mark Laplante, y el Concejal Jeovanny Rodríguez. El concejal Rodríguez había estado pidiendo el apoyo de todos los concejales recién elegidos para su oportunidad de ser presidente del concejo. Hubo muchas llamadas e incluso algunas leves jugadas políticas sugiriendo que votaran por él para el puesto.

El Concejal Rodríguez estaba en gran desventaja para la presidencia porque eligió apoyar al Alcalde Interino Vásquez para la alcaldía, y todos conocemos los resultados de esa elección (además de todas las jugadas históricas encubiertas de él también).

Hubo otros, en el concejo que votaron y apoyaron fuertemente a Kendrys Vasquez. Sin embargo, la regidora destacada en esa reunión del 3 de enero de 2022 fue Stephany Infante.

Stephany fue apoyada, en un principio, por el entonces candidato Brian DePeña. Brian incluso proporcionó a la concejala Infante algunos fondos para pagar anuncios de su campaña. Sin embargo, Stephany finalmente apoyó fuertemente a Kendrys Vasquez, probablemente pensando que saldría victorioso.

Como muchos de ustedes saben, Stephany se postuló para el puesto en el concejo que dejó vacante el exconcejal David Abdoo. David respaldó a Stephany con la promesa de que Stephany votaría por el Concejal Laplante para Presidente del Concejo, lo que no ocurrió el 3 de enero de 2022. Si presencia la reunión después de que las personas recién elegidas prestaran juramento, habría sabido que el Concejal Rodríguez fue degollado por una votación de 6 a 3 a favor de Laplante.

Como dije anteriormente, el Concejal Rodríguez estaba trabajando arduamente para convencer a sus colegas de que votaran por él para presidente. Convenció a Stephany y ella seguro le dio ese voto.

Pero aquí es donde se puede comprobar la inteligencia de un concejal. Stephany

estaba sentada en el número nueve. Lo que debería haber hecho es votar por Laplante. Verá, cuando le llegó la votación, ya era 6 a 2 a favor de Laplante. No se tomó el tiempo de pensar cómo un voto por Laplante la habría colocado a favor de los subcomités y otras ubicaciones favorables si hubiera votado por Laplante. Debería haber sabido que un voto por Jeovanny sería un voto desperdiciado. Su voto fue de 6 a 3, siempre a favor de Laplante.

Ahora, si fuera más inteligente, debería haber votado para colocarse en una posición que le garantizara algún favor a las personas que representa, no porque luchó junto a Jeovanny en el campo de batalla electoral. Debería haber preguntado a sus electores su elección para la presidencia. Debería haber pensado más inteligentemente sobre su voto sabiendo que iba a fallar. Si hubiera votado por Laplante, el voto la habría hecho parecer más inteligente y más estratégica.

Después de la reunión, toda la familia Infante rodeó al Alcalde DePeña y se tomaron fotos como si respaldaran a Brian. La audacia que incluso después de que la Srta. Infante dejó el apoyo de Brian y saltó

CARTAS AL EDITOR RUMBO

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Lawrence MA 01843
Email: Rumbo@rumbonews.com

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

a la campaña de Kendrys. Lo que ella no sabía, era que la mayoría de los concejales que votaron por Laplante habían votado, respaldado y recibido un gran apoyo del Alcalde DePeña.

Y luego vi una foto del alcalde cenando con la Concejal Infante. No estoy segura de por qué todavía la necesita, pero según su página de redes sociales, afirma que Brian se preocupa por ella después de la muerte de su padre. Eso es lo que hace una buena persona, y debería haber apoyado a Brian desde el principio.

Espero que haya aprendido una lección, tanto dentro como fuera de la mesa del concejo. Pero sé con seguridad que no puedo creer nada de lo que dice o promete para mi distrito.

Despido de Franklin Miguel

Esta mañana mencioné durante mi programa radial que el ex director de DPW fue despedido ayer pero no he logrado hablar con nadie para saber la razón.

Youth Writing Workshop

Registrations are now being taken for Youth Writing Workshops for students entering grades 6 through 10. Workshops will be held on a monthly basis on Monday evenings 6 PM to 8 PM at the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center (the former Asian Center), 439 S. Union Street, Building 2, Level B, Lawrence, MA 01843. The workshops are free for Lawrence residents or \$10 for other towns' residents for each monthly workshop.

Robert Largess will conduct the workshop. He has more than 20 years experience teaching in Boston Public Schools and has taught our successful Summer Youth Writing Program.

Workshops will combine student writing-short stories, poems, essays, and reports – with reading classic stories and poems, and learning a bit about Asian Culture and history, the Ancient Greeks, and the myths and tales of other cultures. Students interested in improving their writing skills 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.

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.

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Sueño de Maravilla es un programa interactivo para el público en español por la 1110 AM, 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



En estos días, el IRS cobrará impuestos sobre cualquier cosa, incluso si es robada

Reproducido y traducido con permiso de Newsmax TV.

Por Michael Reagan con Michael R. Shannon

Martes, 4 de enero de 2022



¿Quién diría que el Servicio de Impuestos Internos era un hervidero de optimistas soleados?

Nos aventuraríamos a adivinar que todos

los contribuyentes de los Estados Unidos tienen una imagen mental del empleado promedio del IRS y propondríamos que esa imagen no es la de "Pollyanna" (alguien que ve todo en forma positiva.)

Nuestro pensamiento actual sobre la rama más optimista del gobierno federal se centra en el Sistema de la Reserva Federal.

Esta colección del Dr. Pangloss (una persona que posee un optimismo infundado), algunos de los cuales son médicos, actualmente está tratando febrilmente de convencer al público de que imprimir billones de dólares en dinero nuevo no va a crear una ola de inflación paralizante.

La economía y el público no están escuchando y la inflación se ha disparado a un extremo que no se ha visto en más de 40 años.

Pero tal vez usted favorezca al Departamento de Educación de EE.UU. como el más optimista.

¡Se nos dice anualmente que solo unos pocos miles de millones más inyectados en esta fábrica de mediocridad darán como resultado un genio en cada hogar!

O tal vez sea el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos (HHS) el que ha estado luchando contra la pobreza desde 1966 y siempre pierde.

De cualquier manera, estamos seguros de que el IRS no vino a la mente cuando mencionamos el optimismo por primera vez.

Esa organización es la agencia perpetua que envía al recaudador de impuestos a tomar las llaves del nuevo auto premiado de manos del ganador de la rifa de caridad.

El Servicio de Impuestos Internos parece ser sospechoso por naturaleza, y no se hace ilusiones sobre la bondad básica del hombre cuando se trata de pagar impuestos



voluntariamente.

Es por eso que nos sorprendió leer lo siguiente en Outkick.com que expuso la camarilla oculta de optimismo iluminando al menos una esquina del IRS: "Allí mismo, en el departamento de impuestos sobre la renta del IRS, está la sección sobre 'Propiedad robada', que establece: 'Si roba una propiedad, debe declarar su valor justo de mercado en sus ingresos en el año en que la roba, a menos que se la devuelva a su dueño legítimo en el mismo año'".

Esto vendrá como una noticia para la multitud de Burn, Loot, Murder.

Simplemente asumieron que una vez que esquivaron al "guardia de seguridad" y pasaron el detector de etiquetas en la puerta de la tienda, los bienes robados eran de ellos.

¿Ahora el IRS quiere su parte?

Ya es bastante malo que la cerca solo les dé unas pocas monedas de diez centavos por dólar a cambio de todo ese impulso.

Ahora bien, ¿se supone que los productos funcionalmente analfabetos de las escuelas públicas calculan el impuesto?

¿Ves lo que dijimos sobre el optimismo?

Esta táctica pudo haber funcionado con Al Capone, pero "Scarface" era una cantidad conocida y su gasto era más fácil de rastrear. ¿Paquetes de saqueadores con sudaderas con capucha y burkas en la cara?

No tanto.

Solo tomaremos esta iniciativa del IRS en serio cuando Home & Business TurboTax comience a preguntar a los contribuyentes si tuvieron ingresos por saqueo durante el año pasado.

Michael Reagan, el hijo mayor del presidente Reagan, es analista de Newsmax TV. Un columnista sindicado y autor, preside The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Michael es un orador solicitado en la oficina de oradores de Premiere.

These Days the IRS Will Tax Anything, Even if It's Stolen

Reprinted and translated with permission from Newsmax TV

By Michael Reagan with Michael R. Shannon

Tuesday, 4 January 2022



Who knew the Internal Revenue Service was a hotbed of sunny optimists?

We would venture to guess that every taxpayer in the United States has a mental picture of the average IRS employee and we would propose that picture is not one of "Pollyanna."

Our current thoughts on the most optimistic branch of the federal government centers on the Federal Reserve System.

This Dr. Pangloss (a person possessing unfounded optimism) collection — some of whom are doctors — is currently feverishly trying to convince the public that printing trillions of dollars in new money isn't going to create a crippling wave of inflation.

The economy and the public aren't listening and inflation has skyrocketed to extreme not seen in over 40 years.

But maybe you favor the U.S. Department of Education as the most optimistic.

We are told yearly that just a few more billions pumped into this mediocrity factory will result in a Rhodes Scholar in every pot!

Or maybe it's the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that has been fighting poverty since 1966 and losing.

Either way, we're certain the IRS didn't come to mind when we first mentioned optimism.

That organization is the perpetual wet blanket agency that sends the tax collector to grab the keys of the new prize car from the hand of the charity raffle winner.

The IRS appears to be suspicious by nature, harboring no illusions as to the

basic goodness of man when it comes to voluntarily paying taxes.

That's why we were surprised to read the following on Outkick.com that exposed the hidden cabal of optimism brightening at least one corner of the IRS: "Right there in the income tax department of the IRS is the section on 'Stolen property,' which states: 'If you steal property, you must report its fair market value in your income in the year you steal it unless you return it to its rightful owner in the same year.'"

This will come as news to the Burn, Loot, Murder crowd.

They just assumed once they side-stepped the "security guard" and were past the tag-detector at the store door, the stolen goods were theirs.

Now the IRS wants its cut?

It's bad enough that the fence only gives them a few dimes on the dollar in return for all that boosting.

Now, functionally illiterate products of public schools are supposed to calculate the tax?

See what we said about optimism?

This gambit may have worked with Al Capone, but "Scarface" was a known quantity and his spending was easier to track. Packs of looters in hoodies and face burkas?

Not so much.

We'll only take this IRS initiative seriously when Home & Business TurboTax starts asking filers if they had any looting income in the past year.

Michael Reagan, the eldest son of President Reagan, is a Newsmax TV analyst. A syndicated columnist and author, he chairs The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Michael is an in-demand speaker with Premiere speaker's bureau.

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Department of Fire Services
Peter J. Ostroskey, State Fire Marshal

Aviso de clima invernal: verifique las alarmas de CO y mantenga los conductos de ventilación libres de nieve

Las rejillas de ventilación bloqueadas pueden causar la acumulación fatal de gas incoloro, inodoro y letal

Con la primera nevada significativa de la temporada en camino en partes de Massachusetts, el Jefe de Bomberos del Estado Peter J. Ostroskey recordó a los residentes que deben probar sus alarmas de monóxido de carbono (CO) y mantener la secadora, el horno y otras salidas de ventilación libres de nieve.

“El monóxido de carbono es la causa principal de intoxicación mortal y el equipo de calefacción del hogar es la fuente principal de monóxido de carbono en el hogar”, dijo el Jefe de Bomberos del Estado Ostroskey. “Como parte de su planificación para tormentas, verifique sus alarmas de CO para asegurarse de que estén funcionando correctamente, y si una alarma tiene más de cinco a siete años, reemplácela”.

Los residentes también deben asegurarse de mantener las rejillas de ventilación exteriores libres de nieve que cae, se desplaza o se recoge con una pala. En enero de 2005, Nicole Garofalo, de 7 años, murió cuando una ventisca de calefacción fue bloqueada por ventisqueros afuera, lo que permitió que el monóxido de carbono se acumulara dentro de su casa en Plymouth. Esta tragedia condujo a la Ley de Nicole, que requiere alarmas de CO en todos los niveles habitables de una residencia de Massachusetts.

“Los aparatos de calefacción que funcionan con combustible como secadoras, hornos, calderas y chimeneas son fuentes de monóxido de carbono”, dijo el Jefe de Bomberos del Estado Ostroskey. “Si la ventilación o el conducto de humos están bloqueados, este gas venenoso puede alcanzar niveles mortales dentro de la casa. Sepa dónde están los conductos de ventilación de su casa, asegúrese de despejarlos al palear y tenga cuidado de no soplar nieve sobre ellos si usa un quitanieves”.

Los departamentos de bomberos de Massachusetts informaron casi 18,000 incidentes de CO en 2020, dijeron las autoridades, y el 92% fueron en entornos residenciales. El gas venenoso puede causar dolor de cabeza, fatiga, mareos y/o náuseas en concentraciones más bajas y muerte en concentraciones más altas. La exposición mientras duerme es particularmente peligrosa.

“No podemos ver, oler ni saborear el monóxido de carbono, pero podemos detectarlo con alarmas de CO que funcionen”, dijo el Jefe de Bomberos del Estado Ostroskey. “Si suena la alarma, salga y llame al 9-1-1”.

Para obtener más información sobre las alarmas de monóxido de carbono y CO, visite el sitio web de DFS.

Winter Weather Advisory: Check CO Alarms and Keep Vents Clear of Snow

Blocked Vents Can Cause Fatal Buildup of Colorless, Odorless, Deadly Gas

With the season’s first significant snow on the way in parts of Massachusetts, State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey reminded residents to test their carbon monoxide (CO) alarms and keep dryer, furnace, and other exhaust vents clear of snow.

“Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of fatal poisoning, and home heating equipment is the primary source of carbon monoxide in the home,” State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. “As part of your storm planning, check your CO alarms to be sure they’re working properly, and if an alarm is more than five to seven years old, replace it.”

Residents should also be sure to keep outside vents clear of falling, drifting, or shoveled snow. In January 2005, 7-year-old Nicole Garofalo died when a heating vent was blocked by snow drifts outside, allowing carbon monoxide to accumulate inside her Plymouth home. This tragedy led to Nicole’s Law, which requires CO alarms on every habitable level of a Massachusetts residence.

“Fuel-fired heating appliances like

dryers, furnaces, boilers, and fireplaces are all sources of carbon monoxide,” State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. “If the vent or flue is blocked, this poisonous gas can reach deadly levels inside the home. Know where the vents on your home are, be sure to clear them when shoveling, and be careful not to blow snow onto them if using a snowblower.”

Massachusetts fire departments reported nearly 18,000 CO incidents in 2020, officials said, and 92% were in residential settings. The poison gas can cause headache, fatigue, dizziness, and/or nausea at lower concentrations and death at higher concentrations. Exposure while asleep is particularly dangerous.

“We can’t see, smell, or taste carbon monoxide, but we can detect it with working CO alarms,” State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. “If your alarm sounds, get outside and call 9-1-1.”

For more information on carbon monoxide and CO alarms, visit the DFS website.

PRIDESTar EMS Receiving Assistance From Massachusetts National Guard



National Guard members Joshua Vulgaris, Razak Hassan, Ashley Hamilton, and Dustin Nguyen receive training aboard a PRIDESTar EMS ambulance. The National Guard will be available to help PRIDESTar through March 2022. (Photo Courtesy PRIDESTar EMS)

PRIDESTar EMS will be receiving five Massachusetts National Guard personnel to support the company as it provides non-emergency healthcare transportation during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Guard personnel arrived on Monday, Dec. 27, to begin training. Personnel are not serving as first responders, but will transport patients on non-emergency calls such as trips to and from hospitals or long-term care facilities.

Personnel are being provided through the state Department of Public Health’s Office of Emergency Medical Services. PRIDESTar EMS is one of 12 ambulance providers in the state receiving National

Guard support. Three of the Guard personnel are from Lowell and one is from Pelham, N.H.

COVID-19 has led to a nationwide shortage of emergency medical service responders.

“Our emergency medical technicians and paramedics have served on the front lines of COVID-19 for nearly two years without respite,” said David Daly, founder and CEO of PRIDESTar EMS. “These additional personnel will allow us to focus on providing the highest quality care possible. We thank the Office of Emergency Medical Services for making this possible.”



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Eligen al primer Alcalde Camboyano en Lowell

Por Betsy Toro

Este pasado lunes, de enero 3, 2022 fue la inauguración en el Lowell Auditorium de Lowell y juramentación de nuestro nuevo alcalde y los oficiales para el ayuntamiento de la ciudad de Lowell.

Sokhary Chau fue juramentado como el primer alcalde proveniente de Cambodia en la Ciudad de Lowell. La historia migratoria de Sokhary comienza como un joven refugiado en Estados Unidos sobreviviente del régimen cruel conocido como Khmer Rouge el cual vivió en Cambodia a mediados de los años 70.

Esto ha sido un momento histórico para los libros de historia de la Ciudad de Lowell, ya que Paul Ratha Yem y Vesna Nuon de Cambodia forman parte del concejo municipal de la Ciudad de Lowell al ser juramentados como concejales.

La señora Kim Duggan Scott también

forma parte del concejo habiendo ahora más mujeres empoderando la diversidad de géneros. Corey Robinson también hizo historia al ser nombrado como el primer afroamericano en el concejo. Esto fue un momento muy esperado ya que Lowell fue demandada por no incluir a minorías y personas de color en el ayuntamiento.

Los demandantes alegaron que se estaban diluyendo los votos de los hispanos, asiáticos y comunidades de color por un bloqueo de candidatos blancos y hoy se puede decir que esta demanda tuvo los resultados deseados. Ahora contamos con más diversidad e inclusión y un concejo municipal con 11 miembros cuando antes eran nueve.

Esta fue una fiesta dedicada al alcalde y a los nuevos oficiales del 2022 en el Restaurante China Star de Lowell, fue una hermosa celebración para la historia de Lowell.



Conozca los oficiales del concejo municipal de Lowell del 2022. Sentada desde la izquierda, tenemos a Kim Scott, seguida por Erik Gitschier, el Alcalde Sokhary Chau, y Rita Mercier. De pie, desde la izquierda, Vesna Nuon, Corey Robinson, Dan Rourke, Wayne Jenesses, John Drinkwater, John Leahy, y Paul Ratha Yem.

Meet the officials for our Lowell City Council 2022. Seated on left Kim Scott, Erik Gitschier, Sokhary Chau (mayor), Rita Mercier. Standing from the left, Vesna Nuon, Corey Robinson, Dan Rourke, Wayne Jenesses, John Drinkwater, John Leahy, and Paul Ratha Yem.



The School Committee members are from the left: Eileen DelRossi, Mayor Soickary Chau, and Jackie Doherty. Standing from the left: Dominik Lay, Connie Martin, Stacey Thompson, the first Black American woman to be elected for School Committee and Andy Decotaux.

Para celebrar este momento histórico se unen a la fiesta de la comunidad de líderes latinos en Lowell la Sra. Betsy Toro de Comunidad de Lowell con la Concejala de Lowell Kim Duggan Scott y su esposo Scott.



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La MVRTA será gratis a partir del 1 de marzo de 2022

Haverhill, MA La junta de la Autoridad de Tránsito Regional de Merrimack Valley (MVRTA) votó por unanimidad para dejar de pagar tarifas por todos los servicios locales de ruta fija y paratransit EZ Trans a partir del 1 de marzo de 2022, durante al menos un programa piloto de dos años. Las tarifas aún se cobrarán en el autobús Boston Commuter.

Este plan piloto es una expansión de la iniciativa financiada por la ciudad de Lawrence que ha cubierto tarifas en tres rutas locales en Lawrence desde septiembre de 2019. La MVRTA utilizará la Ley Federal de Ayuda, Alivio y Seguridad Económica para el Coronavirus (CARES) y la Ley del Plan de Rescate Estadounidense. (ARPA) fondos para el piloto.

Una campeona local del programa piloto de tarifas gratuitas es la congresista Lori Trahan, MA-3, quien dijo que “la decisión de renunciar a las tarifas para los pasajeros de la Autoridad de Tránsito Regional de Merrimack Valley fue un cambio para las personas de toda la región que dependen del transporte público para sus desplazamientos diarios.” Señaló que estaba particularmente agradecida de ver que el trabajo que está haciendo en Washington beneficia a los pasajeros que viajan en transporte público de regreso a casa. “Me enorgulleció votar por la Ley

CARES el año pasado y aplaudo a la Junta por destinar los fondos del paquete de ayuda para ayudar a los residentes de Merrimack Valley y las pequeñas empresas que trabajan para recuperarse de la pandemia”, dijo.

Algunas de las muchas ventajas de un sistema de tránsito sin tarifa incluyen recuperar a los pasajeros que dejaron de viajar durante la pandemia de COVID-19, devolver dólares a la economía local, mayor acceso para las personas que tienen dificultades para pagar el transporte, viajes más rápidos y eficientes y reducción de conflictos entre conductores y pasajeros. Además, otro factor que respalda la decisión de la junta consciente del presupuesto de no pagar tarifas es el alto costo y la ineficacia de cobrar las tarifas. Como señaló el administrador de MVRTA, Noah Berger, “por cada dólar que recolectamos en tarifas, solo vemos menos de 24 centavos cuando se toman en cuenta los costos asignados por completo para cobrar tarifas”.

“Estoy muy entusiasmada con este programa piloto”, dijo Niorka Méndez, portavoz de MVRTA, y agregó que “ir sin tarifa atraerá nuevos pasajeros, aumentará el patrocinio de nuestros negocios locales, ofrecerá alivio económico a las familias que dependen de nuestro servicio y conectará a las personas con empleos y otras oportunidades económicas”.

The MVRTA goes fare free on March 1, 2022

Haverhill, MA The Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) board voted unanimously yesterday to go fare-free for all local fixed route and EZ Trans paratransit services starting March 1, 2022 for at least a 2-year pilot. Fares will still be collected on the Boston Commuter bus.

This pilot is an expansion of the City of Lawrence-funded initiative that has covered fares on three local routes in Lawrence since September, 2019. The MVRTA will be using federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the pilot.

One local champion of the free-fare pilot is Congresswoman Lori Trahan, MA-3, who called “the decision to waive fares for Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority riders a game-changer for folks across the region who rely on public transit for their commutes.” She noted that she was particularly gratified to see the work she is doing in Washington benefit transit riders back home. “I was proud to vote for the CARES Act last year and applaud the Board for putting funding from the relief

package to use helping Merrimack Valley residents and small businesses working to recover from the pandemic,” she said.

Some of the many advantages of a fare free transit system include winning back riders who stopped riding during the COVID-19 pandemic, returning dollars back to the local economy, increased access for people having a hard time affording transportation, faster and more efficient trips, and reduced conflicts between drivers and passengers. In addition, another factor supporting the budget-conscious board’s decision to go fare free is the high cost and inefficiency of collecting fares. As MVRTA Administrator Noah Berger noted, “for every dollar we collect in fares, we only see less than 24 cents when the fully allocated costs of collecting fares are factored in.”

“I am really excited about this pilot,” said MVRTA spokesperson Niorka Mendez, adding that “going fare-free will attract new riders, increase patronage of our local businesses, offer economic relief to families that rely on our service, and connect people to jobs and other economic opportunities.”

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RUMBONEWS.COM

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.

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More Green in Downtown Lowell

MassDevelopment Awards UTEC, Inc. a Commonwealth Places Grant for “The Green @ UTEC,” an Outdoor Community Space in the Former Lowell District Courthouse Neighborhood of Downtown Lowell



Rendering courtesy of UTEC, Inc.

By Matthew Mogavero

LOWELL, Mass. – MassDevelopment has awarded a \$38,555 grant to UTEC, Inc. to transform an underutilized open space at the intersection of Warren and Hurd Streets in downtown Lowell into The Green @ UTEC, a public outdoor area. The space sits adjacent to the headquarters of UTEC, an agency serving justice-involved young adults. The organization will designate approximately 2,000 square feet at the space as a public park, using funds for outdoor seating, interior plumbing, electric work, and an AV system to support park programming. Additionally, UTEC will use a portion of the space for events and childcare and will also make it available for rent by community members and local businesses. The project, which complements a 2019 MassWorks grant, will help activate a highly visible area in downtown Lowell that has recently experienced increased vacancy due to the relocation of the Lowell District Courthouse. The funds are awarded through MassDevelopment’s special Commonwealth Places COVID-19 Response Round: Resurgent Places, which was made available specifically to assist local economic recovery efforts as community partners prepare public spaces and commercial districts to serve residents and visitors.

“The Commonwealth Places program is one way that we can help the vibrant centers of our cities and towns bounce back as a driving force behind the strength of local economies, and continue to be the places where we gather to dine, to shop, and to be entertained,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy, who serves as chair of MassDevelopment’s Board of Directors. “The Baker-Polito Administration has been pleased to support The Green @ UTEC through the MassWorks Infrastructure Program, and this Resurgent Places grant will provide additional resources to activate this public space, boost economic activity, and support an equitable recovery.”

“Lowell will join Gateway Cities across Massachusetts in leading economic development through expanding green spaces that drive foot traffic downtown, stimulate their local economies, and create

hubs of community and cultural activity,” said MassDevelopment President and CEO Dan Rivera. “MassDevelopment is proud to help UTEC, Inc. advance The Green @ UTEC and breathe life into a prime parcel in downtown Lowell.”

Created in 2016, Commonwealth Places aims to engage and mobilize community members to make individual contributions to placemaking projects, with the incentive of a funding match from MassDevelopment if the crowdfunding goal is reached. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, MassDevelopment announced the opening of the first Commonwealth Places COVID-19 Response Round: Resurgent Places in June 2020 and from August – October 2020 awarded \$224,965 in funding for 21 placemaking projects across Massachusetts.

In December 2020, MassDevelopment announced the availability of \$390,000 in funding for a second Commonwealth Places COVID-19 Response Round: Resurgent Places. Nonprofits and other community groups can apply to MassDevelopment for seed grants of between \$250 to \$7,500 to fund inclusive community engagement, visioning, and local capacity building that will support future placemaking efforts, or implementation grants of up to \$50,000 to execute a placemaking project. For implementation grants, up to \$10,000 per project may be awarded as an unmatched grant; awards greater than \$10,000 must be matched with crowdfunding donations. For this project, UTEC, Inc. crowdfunded \$28,555.

More information about the program is available at massdevelopment.com/commonwealthplaces.

MassDevelopment, the state’s development finance agency and land bank, works with businesses, nonprofits, banks, and communities to stimulate economic growth across the Commonwealth. During FY2021, MassDevelopment financed or managed 416 projects generating investment of more than \$1.86 billion in the Massachusetts economy. These projects are estimated to create or support 6,578 jobs and build or preserve 1,909 housing units.

Más verde en el centro de Lowell

MassDevelopment otorga a UTEC, Inc. una subvención de Commonwealth Places para "The Green @ UTEC", un espacio comunitario al aire libre en el antiguo vecindario del juzgado del distrito de Lowell en el centro de Lowell

Por Mateo Mogavero

LOWELL, Mass. – MassDevelopment otorgó una subvención de \$38,555 a UTEC, Inc. para transformar un espacio abierto subutilizado en la intersección de las calles Warren y Hurd en el centro de Lowell en The Green @ UTEC, un área pública al aire libre. El espacio se encuentra junto a la sede de UTEC, una agencia que atiende a adultos jóvenes involucrados en la justicia. La organización designará aproximadamente 2,000 pies cuadrados en el espacio como parque público, utilizando fondos para asientos al aire libre, plomería interior, trabajo eléctrico y un sistema AV para apoyar la programación del parque. Además, UTEC utilizará una parte del espacio para eventos y cuidado de niños y también lo pondrá a disposición de miembros de la comunidad y empresas locales para alquilarlo. El proyecto, que complementa una subvención de MassWorks de 2019, ayudará a activar un área altamente visible en el centro de Lowell que recientemente experimentó un aumento de vacantes debido a la reubicación del Palacio de Justicia del Distrito de Lowell. Los fondos se otorgan a través del programa especial de MassDevelopment Ronda de respuesta de Commonwealth Places COVID-19: Resurgent Places, que se puso a disposición específicamente para ayudar a los esfuerzos de recuperación económica local mientras los socios comunitarios preparan espacios públicos y distritos comerciales para servir a los residentes y visitantes.

“El programa Commonwealth Places es una forma en que podemos ayudar a que los vibrantes centros de nuestras ciudades y pueblos se recuperen como una fuerza impulsora detrás de la solidez de las economías locales, y continúen siendo los lugares donde nos reunimos para cenar, comprar y diviértase”, dijo el secretario de Vivienda y Desarrollo Económico, Mike Kennealy, quien se desempeña como presidente de la Junta Directiva de MassDevelopment. “La Administración de Baker-Polito se complace en apoyar a The Green @ UTEC a través del Programa de Infraestructura MassWorks, y esta subvención de Resurgent Places proporcionará recursos adicionales para activar este espacio público, impulsar la actividad económica y apoyar una recuperación equitativa”.

“Lowell se unirá a Gateway Cities en Massachusetts para liderar el desarrollo económico a través de la expansión de espacios verdes que impulsan el tráfico peatonal en el centro, estimulan

sus economías locales y crean centros de actividad comunitaria y cultural”, dijo el presidente y director ejecutivo de MassDevelopment, Dan Rivera. “MassDevelopment se enorgullece de ayudar a UTEC, Inc. a promover The Green @ UTEC y dar vida a una parcela privilegiada en el centro de Lowell”.

Creado en 2016, Commonwealth Places tiene como objetivo involucrar y movilizar a los miembros de la comunidad para que hagan contribuciones individuales a proyectos de creación de lugares, con el incentivo de una financiación equivalente de MassDevelopment si se alcanza el objetivo de financiación colectiva. En respuesta a la pandemia de COVID-19, MassDevelopment anunció la apertura de la primera ronda de respuesta de Commonwealth Places COVID-19: Resurgent Places en junio de 2020 y de agosto a octubre de 2020 otorgó \$224,965 en fondos para 21 proyectos de creación de lugares en Massachusetts.

Endiciembre de 2020, MassDevelopment anunció la disponibilidad de \$ 390,000 en fondos para una segunda ronda de respuesta de Commonwealth Places COVID-19: Resurgent Places. Las organizaciones sin fines de lucro y otros grupos comunitarios pueden solicitar a MassDevelopment subvenciones semilla de entre \$250 y \$7500 para financiar la participación comunitaria inclusiva, la visión y el desarrollo de capacidades locales que respaldarán los futuros esfuerzos de creación de lugares, o subvenciones de implementación de hasta \$50 000 para ejecutar un proyecto de creación de lugares. Para subvenciones de implementación, se pueden otorgar hasta \$10,000 por proyecto como una subvención sin contrapartida; los premios superiores a \$10,000 deben combinarse con donaciones de crowdfunding. Para este proyecto, UTEC, Inc. financió en forma colectiva \$28,555.

Más información sobre el programa está disponible en massdevelopment.com/commonwealthplaces.

MassDevelopment, la agencia financiera de desarrollo y el banco de tierras del estado, trabaja con empresas, organizaciones sin fines de lucro, bancos y comunidades para estimular el crecimiento económico en todo el Commonwealth. Durante el año fiscal 2021, MassDevelopment financió o gestionó 416 proyectos que generaron una inversión de más de \$1860 millones en la economía de Massachusetts. Se estima que estos proyectos crearán o respaldarán 6578 puestos de trabajo y construirán o conservarán 1909 unidades de vivienda.

NECESITAN CHOFERES PARA TRANSPORTAR ANCIANOS

Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Lawrence, una coalición de comunidades de fe, agencias de servicio social y organizaciones de salud, está buscando voluntarios para llevar a ancianos a citas al médico y otras citas de calidad de vida a través del Programa de Friends in Deed de Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley.

Si usted puede, aunque sea ocasionalmente, por favor, llame a Renee A. Baker, reclutador de voluntarios, al 978-946-1463 (y mencione Interfaith Caregivers.)

Gracias de parte de Interfaith Caregivers y los muchos ancianos que necesitan de los servicios de choferes voluntarios para poder permanecer independientes en su propio hogar.

NECC se asocia con Haverhill YMCA para ofrecer cuidado infantil gratuito

A nivel nacional, uno de cada cuatro estudiantes de colegios comunitarios es padre de un niño menor de 18 años y, en Northern Essex Community College, las estadísticas son similares.

Es por eso que la universidad, en asociación con Haverhill YMCA, está lanzando un programa piloto que ofrece cuidado infantil gratuito para estudiantes con bebés, niños pequeños y niños en edad preescolar, a partir de enero, en el campus de Haverhill. Gracias a los fondos de la Ley CARES y al Fondo NECC, los estudiantes (y el cuerpo docente y el personal) podrán acceder a hasta ocho horas a la semana de cuidado infantil gratuito mientras participan en las clases y actividades del campus. El cuidado de niños estará disponible de lunes a viernes, de 8 am a 5 pm, y los padres deben inscribirse con dos semanas de anticipación ya que el espacio está limitado a 15 lugares por hora.

“Tener disponibilidad de cuidado infantil ayudará a aliviar parte del estrés de nuestros estudiantes que son padres, permitiéndoles concentrarse en sus estudios sin la carga adicional de asegurar un cuidado infantil de calidad”, dijo Michael McCarthy, vicepresidente de administración de NECC. “También esperamos que les dé a más de ellos la flexibilidad de participar en actividades extracurriculares como deportes, clubes y gobierno estudiantil”.

Iseline Mendoza de Lawrence, recién graduada en contabilidad y expresidenta de la Asociación de Gobierno Estudiantil (SGA), normalmente traía a su hijo de dos años a las reuniones semanales de la SGA. “Creo que la escuela vio por mi ejemplo que era una necesidad”, dice ella. “Debido a que somos un colegio comunitario y muchos estudiantes ingresan años después de la escuela secundaria, hay una gran cantidad de estudiantes con hijos”.

Este es un programa piloto y, si tiene éxito, la universidad considerará extenderlo. La YMCA de Haverhill ha estado ofreciendo programas de educación temprana en el campus de Haverhill de NECC desde enero de 2021. Abierto para profesores, personal y familias de estudiantes y familias de la comunidad de Northern Essex, el centro de cuidado infantil está ubicado en el Sport and Fitness Center en el campus de Haverhill de la universidad, 100 Elliott St, Haverhill.

“No podríamos estar más emocionados

de profundizar nuestra asociación con NECC mientras brindamos servicios de cuidado infantil más vitales a la comunidad de Greater Haverhill. La necesidad de cuidado infantil continúa creciendo en nuestra área de servicio y nuestra Y tiene un compromiso de larga data para garantizar que las familias tengan acceso a un cuidado asequible y de calidad para sus hijos. Esta es una maravillosa extensión de ese compromiso”, dijo Tracy Fuller, directora ejecutiva regional de Haverhill YMCA.

Los padres que estén interesados en el nuevo cuidado infantil sin cita previa pueden comunicarse con Julie Jordan de Haverhill YMCA, jordanj@northshoreymca.org. El semestre de primavera de NECC comienza el 19 de enero. Para obtener información adicional, comuníquese con los Servicios de inscripción de NECC al 978 556-3700 o admissions@necc.mass.edu.

Northern Essex Community College tiene campus en Haverhill y Lawrence. Ofrece aproximadamente 60 programas de certificados y títulos asociados, así como cientos de cursos sin crédito diseñados para el enriquecimiento personal y el crecimiento profesional. Cada año, 6,000 estudiantes se inscriben en programas de certificados y títulos asociados de crédito en los campus de Haverhill y Lawrence; y otros 2,000 toman clases de desarrollo de la fuerza laboral y educación comunitaria sin crédito en el campus, y en negocios y sitios comunitarios en todo Merrimack Valley. Para obtener más información, visite el sitio web en www.necc.mass.edu o llame al 978-556-3700.

La YMCA es una de las principales organizaciones sin fines de lucro del país que fortalece a las comunidades a través del desarrollo de la juventud, una vida saludable y la responsabilidad social. Durante más de 150 años, la YMCA de North Shore ha estado fortaleciendo los cimientos de la comunidad para más de 50,000 miembros a los que sirve en 26 ciudades y pueblos. La YMCA de North Shore es la 37.ª YMCA más grande de 2800 Y en todo el país. Fomentamos el potencial de niños y adolescentes, mejoramos la salud y el bienestar de la nación y brindamos oportunidades para retribuir y apoyar a nuestros vecinos; independientemente de su edad, raza, etnia o nivel socioeconómico. Visite www.northshoreymca.org



Iseline Mendoza, quien se graduó en contabilidad en diciembre, estuvo en el campus recientemente con su hijo de dos años.

Iseline Mendoza, who graduated with her accounting degree in December, was on campus recently with her two-year-old son.

NECC is Partnering with the Haverhill YMCA to Offer Free Drop-in Child Care

Nationally, one in four community college students is the parent of a child under the age of 18 and, at Northern Essex Community College, the statistics are similar.

That's why the college in partnership with the Haverhill YMCA is launching a pilot program offering free drop-in child care for students with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, beginning in January, on the Haverhill Campus. Thanks to CARES Act Funding and the NECC Fund, students—and faculty and staff—will be able to access up to eight hours a week of free child care while they participate in on campus classes and activities. The child care will be available Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm, and parents must enroll two weeks in advance since space is limited to 15 spots per hour.

“Having drop in child care available will help relieve some of the stress on our students who are parents, allowing them to focus on their studies without the additional burden of securing quality child care, Michael McCarthy, NECC’s vice president of administration. “We also hope it will give more of them the flexibility to participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, clubs, and student government.”

Iseline Mendoza of Lawrence, a recent accounting graduate and past president of the Student Government Association (SGA), would typically bring her two-year-old son to the weekly SGA meetings. “I think the school saw from my example that it was a need,” she says. “Because we’re a community college and many students come in years after high school, there is a great number of students with children.”

This is a pilot program, and, if successful, the college will consider extending it. The Haverhill YMCA has been offering early education programs on NECC’s Haverhill Campus since January of 2021. Open to Northern Essex faculty, staff, and student families and community families, the child care center is located in the Sport and Fitness Center on the college’s Haverhill Campus, 100 Elliott St, Haverhill.

“We could not be more excited to

deepen our partnership with NECC while providing more vital child care services to the Greater Haverhill Community. The need for child care continues to grow in our service area and our Y has a long standing commitment to ensuring families have access to quality and affordable care for their children. This is a wonderful extension of that commitment.” said Tracy Fuller, regional executive director, Haverhill YMCA.

Parents who are interested in the new free drop-in child care, can contact Julie Jordan of the Haverhill YMCA, jordanj@northshoreymca.org

NECC’s spring semester begins January 19. For additional information, contact NECC Enrollment Services, 978 556-3700 or admissions@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.

The Y is one of the nation’s leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. For over 150 years, the YMCA of the North Shore has been strengthening the foundations of community for more than 50,000 members it serves in 26 cities and towns. YMCA of the North Shore is the 37th largest YMCA out of 2,800 Ys nationwide. We nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation’s health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support our neighbors; regardless of age, race, ethnicity or socio-economic background. Visit www.northshoreymca.org

Find us in / Búsquenos en Facebook/Rumbo





Visitor Guideline Update

It's a new year, and we have an exciting array of thought-provoking exhibitions, education programs, and community-focused events planned for you. We want to remind you that all visitors are required to wear a mask and maintain physical distancing in our classrooms and galleries when possible. Since we've learned that fabric masks are not as protective, we are asking that everyone wear a surgical mask or KN95; we will have some on hand if you need one. We appreciate your support as we implement this new protocol to maintain your safety and the safety of our community.

Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood

An exhibition by Marla L. McLeod

20 January – 17 March 2022

Artist Talk, Thursday, 20 January at 6 PM

In her first solo exhibition in the Merrimack Valley, artist Marla L. McLeod explores contemporary social issues and symbols of pride for BIPOC Americans through painting, textile, sculpture, and photography.

Marla L. McLeod (b. 1981) is a mixed-race (African-American, White, and Native) artist born in California and based in New Haven, Connecticut. Her portraits feature people of color emerging from dark backgrounds and raise questions about power, privilege, and identity while highlighting the absence or marginalization of people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals within the canons of American and European art.

McLeod grew up living with several African-American families within the foster care system in the 1980s. One of her long-term homes was with a pastor and his wife, a seamstress who would sew quilts, curtains, and the family's fancier dresses for church. A self-described 'tomboy,' McLeod would only help the pastor's wife with sewing tasks when 'forced' to do so. Years later, the artist drew from these experiences during her graduate studies at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University, when she designed a drag

ballroom performance.

Drag ball culture is a vibrant LGBTQ+ subculture in which participants don dramatic costumes and walk on a stage or runway in competition for prizes and pride. Inspired by her work as an event photographer at several drag balls in New York City, McLeod began researching garments linked to the at times racist portrayals of various personae throughout American history, including the "mammy" and the "Mexican Folklorico." Since then, clothing and textiles have formed an integral part of McLeod's practice.

One of the works in this ballroom series is The Baldwin, an ornate 7'x 4'x 4' robe that considers the stereotypical perceptions of the Black male body in American society. McLeod's hooded garment elevates the often criminalized figure to the ranks of royalty through a wardrobe of luxurious sateen fabric and fur. The costume's interior is lined with canvas, onto which McLeod has painted text from the writings of James Baldwin and symbols from across the African continent.

Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood is the largest solo exhibition to take place at Essex Art Center, with McLeod's paintings, drawings, and garments taking over both the Sidell Gallery and Beland Gallery. The show is co-curated by the Center's Executive Director and Deputy Director, Monica Manoski and Gabriel Sosa, and is presented as part of McLeod's Walter Feldman Fellowship for Emerging Artists, which she was granted in 2021.

Support Essex Art Center

Essex Art Center is one of the few places in the region with the space, flexibility, and audience to support artists by catalyzing ambitious new projects. Help us continue bringing exhibitions like Marla L. McLeod's to our community by making a gift today.

DONATE ONLINE

Or mail checks to:
Essex Art Center
56 Island Street
Lawrence, MA 01840

Thank you for your support!

HC Media Classes Are Now Enrolling
Open to all residents and students



Did you know that HC Media offers classes and training in all aspects of media production? If you are interested in becoming an HC Media member, or know someone who is, sign up for our 2-night Basic Membership class! If you have taken the Basic class and would like to get started on video editing, HC Media is now offering a 2-session Basic Editing Class. All classes and trainings are free and open to Haverhill residents and students. Masks are required.

Upcoming Class Dates:
Basic Membership Class
Saturdays, February 5 and 12 at 12 pm

Basic Editing Class
Saturdays, February 19 and 26 at 12 pm

To register, call 978-372-8070 or email Erinn at escott@haverhillcommunitytv.org.

HC Media is your home for the latest hyperlocal news and updates from our community.

Merrimack College Football's
Cooper Signs with Houston Texans

Merrimack College football alum, Sam Cooper '20, was signed to Houston Texans' practice squad, as announced by the team Wednesday.

The 2019 team captain and three-time CoSIDA All-Academic Team selection was a force on the offensive line during his time in North Andover at left guard. He helped Merrimack garner the second highest scoring offense in the NEC in 2019 (31.0 PPG) in just its first season at the FCS level.

Cooper, who was originally born in Nigeria and is a Bensalem, Pa. native, was invited to a number of prestigious All

Star games including the East/West Shrine Game, NFLPA Collegiate Bowl, the Hula Bowl, and the Tropical Bowl. After strong performances in the Post Season All Star Games Cooper participated at his Pro Day in front of 10 NFL teams on Merrimack's campus. Immediately following the draft he signed a Free Agent contract with the Baltimore Ravens.

He goes to Houston ahead of the Texans' final two games of the season, as they visit the 49ers Sunday in San Francisco, then host the Titans Jan. 9 to close the season.

Merrimack College Men's Hockey's
Weekend Schedule Adjusted

The Merrimack College men's hockey team had its weekend slate of games adjusted Friday as a result of Yale being unable to play due to non-COVID reasons.

Merrimack was originally set to play the Bulldogs at 4:00 Saturday at Ingalls Rink in New Haven, Conn., but that game is now canceled.

The Warriors will still play Brown Sunday at 4:00 in Providence, R.I. as originally scheduled, but now Merrimack has added a game against Massachusetts Monday at 6:00 at Mullins Center in Amherst. That game will go down as a non-conference game.

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“We don't go into journalism to be popular. It is our job to seek the truth and put constant pressure on our leaders until we get answers.”
— Helen Thomas

Concord Women’s Chorus presents “Days of Beauty: Songs of Light and Life” Live Stream Concert Event

Sunday, January 23, 2022, 3:00 pm

Please join the Concord Women’s Chorus online on Sunday, January 23, 2022, at 3:00 pm, for a musical program of beauty and renewal. This special live stream concert event, “Days of Beauty: Songs of Light and Life,” offers works of promise, joy, and stunning harmonies.

At the heart of the concert are two “Mass” settings: Cecile Chaminade’s lyrical and inviting “Mass,” and a composite Mass of disparate movements taken from varying styles and periods including jazz, Romantic, Baroque, and 20th century.

Artistic Director Jane Ring Frank explains the title piece, “Days of Beauty,” is one of Ola Gjeilo’s jewels for women’s voices - dreamy and luscious. Works from Gwyneth Walker and David Metzger complete the program.

This free event is made possible by your continuing support. Donations are welcome, and please give generously.

Information on how to view the live stream performance will be posted at concordwomenschorus.org closer to the date of the concert.



Get the Expert Insight and Guidance You Need When Caring for a Loved One with Memory Loss.

We invite you to join us on Zoom with Alicia Seaver, Vice President of Memory Care Operations and Certified Memory Impairment Specialist, to help you through your caregiving journey.

ETHICS OF FIBBING
Thursday, January 20 | 11 a.m. or 7 p.m.

Sometimes, a little fib can spare your loved one undue pain, reassure anxieties, and protect their happiness and emotional well-being. But is it the right thing to do? Join us to consider the benefits of an ethical approach to therapeutic fibbing. REGISTER NOW

TO REGISTER:
<https://www.bridgesbyepochmemorycare.com/webinar/>

Feedback from Recent Attendees

I look back at the time spent attending the sessions at Bridges and the knowledge you shared (along with your smiling optimism) to bolster us on our journeys. I never would have thought I would gain so much. I also know I was able to help others because of my knowledge gained.

– Pat

The web classes have been immensely informative. With your kindness and compassion, I feel less anxious because I know that I have valuable information and that I can contact you at any time for a question.

– Karen

¡La Fundación Big Brother Big Sister necesita tu ayuda!

Si tienes ropa usada y pequeños artículos del hogar que ya no usas, dónalos para quienes si los necesitan. Llegaremos a tu puerta para recibir lo que puedas entregar.

Para programar una cita, llama al 1.800.483.5503 o visítanos en nuestra página web en internet: www.bbbsfoundation.org.

Lo que nos entregues ayudará a los niños locales que participan en nuestro programa de tutoría. Debes saber que tu donación es deducible de impuestos.

¡Gracias por tu apoyo!

The logo for the Big Brother Big Sister Foundation is shown next to a blue delivery truck. The truck has the foundation's name and logo on its side.

PARA TODO TIPO DE SEGURO

A group of five women, Yomari, Elizabeth, Nini, Joan, and Carla, are standing together and smiling. They are in front of a building with a sign that says "DEGNAN INSURANCE AGENCY".

Yomari, Elizabeth, Nini, Joan y Carla

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Advice by Alicia: Setting New Year Caregiving Goals

Q: How can I be a better caregiver to my loved one in the new year?

A: The end of the year is the time for all of us to reflect on the past 12 months and make plans for how to “better” ourselves in the coming year. For all the caregivers out there, I would first like to say: You’re amazing. You’re doing it right. You’re doing the best you can, and that’s okay.

However, I also know that people want to improve themselves because that brings joy to themselves and everyone around them. This is especially true for caregivers

who want to make sure they’re doing the best for their loved one. So, in the spirit of New Year’s resolutions, here are my personal favorite goals that caregivers can follow to make the new year better, bolder and brighter than ever.

Find joy in the everyday. Caring for another person is a labor of love, but it’s also challenging. It’s easy to get bogged down in the day-to-day tasks and stressors, so take some time each day to think about the good in your life. Recognizing the happy and hard moments will lighten your spirits, bring laughter to your life, and increase joy for you and the one you care for.

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bethanycommunities.org

The Equal Housing Opportunity logo, featuring a house icon and a wheelchair icon.

The Bethany Communities logo, featuring a tree icon and the text "BETHANY COMMUNITIES".

Asistido por el programa de HUD
Edad para calificar 62+

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2021 was a remarkable year at EforAll Lowell, full of many memorable moments! We had the pleasure of welcoming Sophan Smith & Reneiry Santiago to the EforAll Lowell Team. Sophan and Ren hit the deck running by hosting an All Ideas Pitch Contest in collaboration with Salem Five Bank and hosted the first in person Foodie Venture Pitch Contest.

EforAll Lowell received a total of 105 accelerator applications and we accepted 30 businesses into the accelerator. This was made possible through 193 volunteers! Our community volunteers helped with mentoring, applications review, interviewed applicants, judged pitch contests including final presentations, and facilitated the accelerator sessions.

Thank you for being part of our 2021 and the EforAll community. Each new year offers an exciting opportunity for a fresh start and new beginnings, which is probably

why we all look forward to New Year's Eve so much. No matter what your goals are for the coming year or how many new year's resolutions you plan on making for 2022, ringing in the start of a new year is a moment to acknowledge. One, to celebrate all of your experiences from 2021 and two, to welcome the new year ahead.

With every new year comes a clean slate — so what will you do with this fresh start? Cheers to the New Year, 2022 is the beginning of a new chapter. This is your year. Make it happen. Give wings to your dreams and let them come true in 2022.

I would like to leave you with this quote by Hillary DePiano, “You can get excited about the future. The past won’t mind.”

Thank you to our volunteers for giving us the most valuable gift... your time. We appreciate what you do for us and always stepping in when we need you.

Men's Basketball Game Against Fairleigh Dickinson Cancelled



SOMERSET, N.J.- The Northeast Conference (NEC) announced today that the Merrimack College men's basketball game on Thursday, Jan. 6 against Fairleigh Dickinson University has been canceled.

Per the NEC's Cancellation and Forfeit Policy, the game will be deemed a forfeit for Fairleigh Dickinson. Merrimack will be assigned the win in the NEC conference standings.

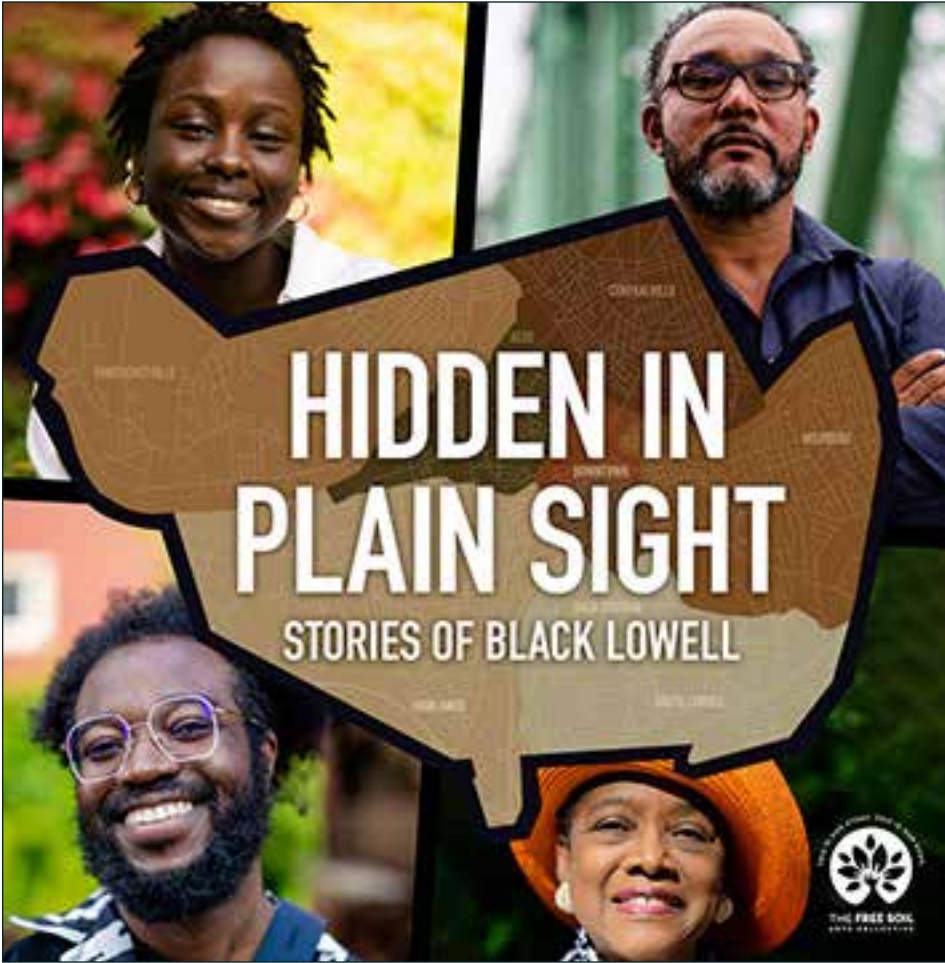
By NCAA policy, forfeits will not change a team's official won-lost record, nor will they impact statistics or coaching records.

The Warriors will get back to action on Saturday when they head to Connecticut to take on Central Connecticut State University. Game time is set for 1 p.m. and can be seen on NEC Front Row.

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.



Congratulations to Free Soil Arts Collective (Summer 2020) and Marte Media (Winter 2020) for collaborating on Hidden in Plain Sight: Stories of Black Lowell.

Hidden in Plain Sight: Stories of Black Lowell, is a storytelling project chronicling the lived experiences of Black people in Lowell, MA. Through intimate interviews with Black Lowellians, Free Soil Arts have shed a light on an often under-explored narrative of Lowell's history.

This project is supported, in part by the

Greater Lowell Community Foundation, Lowell Cultural Council, and Merrimack Repertory Theatre.

Hidden in Plain Sight can be purchased online from the Free Soil website, with local delivery available for Lowell residents, as well as at El Taller bookstore in Lawrence and at Lala books in Lowell. The proceeds go back to the Free Soil Arts Collective to support its ongoing efforts to tell diverse stories in Lowell.



Atesorando

Momentos Especiales con el Cuidado de Hospicio

En cualquier sitio al que llamen hogar, brindamos cuidado de hospicio a quienes se están acercando al final de la vida con la compasión, dignidad y el confort que se merecen. El cuidado de hospicio se centra en la calidad de vida y la comodidad del paciente con una enfermedad avanzada cuando ya no es posible una cura. Le permite disfrutar de los simples placeres y preciados momentos, como recordar los viejos tiempos con amigos o disfrutar de la compañía de seres queridos. Se trata de honrar su recorrido por la vida. Lo invitamos a obtener más información.

MerrimackValleyHospice.org

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January 2022 Events at Lawrence Heritage Sate Park

Lawrence Heritage State Park is located at 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts. All programs are free and open to the public. Bring water. Wear sturdy closed toe shoes. Consider sunscreen and insect repellent. An adult must accompany children. Inclement weather cancels outdoor programs. Reasonable accommodations upon advance request. For more information send email to nicole.mcGovern@mass.gov <https://www.mass.gov/locations/lawrence-heritage-state-park>. Parking is free in the Visitor Center Park Parking Lot between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Visitor Center

Open daily, 9:00am- 4:00pm

Come learn about the history and development of Lawrence, Massachusetts, one of the nation’s first planned industrial city. The 22-minute film shows on request. Visit the Gallery for temporary art and historical exhibits. Located at 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence.

Community Gallery: “175 Years of Organized Catholic Worship in Lawrence, 1846 to 2021” by Rich Padova

Open daily, 9:00am- 4:00pm

Come learn about the development of Catholic worship in Lawrence from the founding of the city to present day. Exhibit items are courtesy of Rich Padova, Lawrence History Center, Denise LaRose, Jonas Stundzia, Jim Beauchesne, Cynthia Arsenault, and St. Mary of Assumption Parish. Located on the third floor of the Visitor Center at 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence.

The Great Stone Dam Tour

Monday, January 10, 17, 24, 31, 2:00- 3:30pm

Join us for a walking tour of Lawrence’s historic mill district, through Pemberton Park, and leading to the base of the Great Stone Dam while learning about the

waterpower system for the textile mills. Weather permitting. Best for ages teen and above. Meet in the lobby of the Visitor Center at 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence.

Guided Museum Tour

Tuesdays, January 11, 18, 25, 10:00-11:00am and 2:00-3:00pm

Thursdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27, 10:00-11:00am and 2:00-3:00pm

Explore our permanent exhibit about the planned city of Lawrence and its role in American industrialization, immigration, and labor history, with emphasis on waterpower and the textile industry. All ages. Meet in the lobby of the Visitor Center at 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence.

Kidleidoscope

Wednesdays, January 12, 19, 26, 10:30- 11:30am

A fun program for ages 3-6, accompanied by an adult. Program includes a story and activity. Whenever possible, activities will be outdoors, meeting in the adjacent Visitor Center courtyard. In case of bad weather, activities will be in the Community Room, with social distancing. No shared materials/ items. Siblings and friends welcome. Meet in the lobby of the Visitor Center at 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Stephanie Cooper, the agency’s mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr.

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**New Year!
Same Needs!
Great Neighbors!**

Thank you to all who came to our rescue this past week to deliver groceries and diapers to our Neighbors who are housebound. We are grateful for your time, effort, and caring.



Back-Up Volunteers wanted!

Are you available to be a **Back-Up Volunteer** in case of emergency? If so, let Alisa know- text 978-521-3357, or email volunteer@needfood.org. No obligation required- we will simply contact you first if we have a last minute volunteer opening.

**So much to do in 2022!
We can't do it without YOU!**

There are many shifts available in January.

Please note: Delivery shifts require 1.5-2hrs

For the safety of our clients, volunteers, and staff, all volunteers must be vaccinated against Covid-19. Thank you!
? ? ? ?

Want to help us share the good word about Neighbors In Need?
We would LOVE your photos of volunteers in action.
OR you could write a couple sentences about why you enjoy volunteering at NIN.
? **Send your photos or writing to volunteer@needfood.org.** ? ?

Thank you again for helping us to provide food and diapers to local families.

Have questions? Contact us at volunteer@needfood.org or 978.685.8321 for more information!

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

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

— Indira Gandhi

Friday, January 21st, 2022 – 7:30 PM
Merrimack Valley Chamber Night
at the Boston Celtics VS Trail Blazers!





Be there for when the Boston Celtics take on the Damian Lillard and the Portland Trail Blazers!

Enjoy an exciting night with your family, friends and/or reward your business associates!

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 LIKE MVCC on Facebook.  Join MVCC LinkedIn group.  Follow us on Twitter  Instagram

Eric Redard Promoted to Director of Volunteers, Chaplaincy and Bereavement Services at Merrimack Valley Hospice

Eric Redard has been promoted to director of volunteers, chaplaincy and bereavement services at Merrimack Valley Hospice, a Lawrence-based nonprofit organization providing comfort care and supportive services to patients nearing the end of life and bereavement services to their families and loved ones.

“Every day, I am moved by the compassionate caring demonstrated by my fellow hospice caregivers who deliver emotional and spiritual support, education and respite care, along with essential clinical services,” Redard said. “Supporting our patients and their families who turn to us in the final stages of life is a privilege. I feel fortunate to

be part of this team that is wholly committed to providing the best possible care and comfort so patients may live with quality and dignity.”

Redard began his career with Merrimack Valley Hospice in 2018 as a hospice chaplain before moving into the volunteer services manager role the following year. During this time, his contributions have included advancing the We Honors Veterans program to a level three status and introducing Schwartz Rounds, a program of the Boston-based Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare which provides a safe space for honest conversations about the emotional impact of healthcare work.

In his new position, Redard oversees the volunteer program, chaplain team and bereavement program that includes a diverse selection of free in-person and virtual support groups. He will continue to represent hospice care on the Service Excellence team, which continually strives to improve the patient and family experience throughout the Home Health Foundation family of home health, palliative, hospice, aide and private care service providers.

Redard holds a Master of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School and a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration



Eric Redard has been promoted to director of volunteers, chaplaincy and bereavement at Merrimack Valle Hospice, a Lawrence-based nonprofit organization providing comfort care and supportive services to patients nearing the end of life and bereavement services to their families and loved ones. (Courtesy photo)

from the University of Maine. He lives in Andover.

Diane Farraher-Smith, MSN/MBA, RN, chief clinical integration officer of Home Health Foundation, noted that Redard has another connection to Home Health Foundation. From 2011 to 2012, he was executive director of Hospice of York – now York Hospital Hospice in York, Maine, which is also a hospice provider of Home Health Foundation.

“I am pleased about Eric’s expanded and critical leadership role in our organization, as his contributions strengthen the caring we provide every day,” she said. “His focus on compassionate spiritual care for individuals and their loved ones in end-of-life care is meaningful to patients and staff alike.”

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

Patricia Finocchiaro, RN, MS Promoted to Clinical Director of Home Health VNA

Patricia Finocchiaro, RN, MS has been promoted to clinical director of Home Health VNA, a nonprofit service provider of Lawrence-based Home Health Foundation which provides a comprehensive continuum of home health, palliative, hospice, aide and private care services in all the places patients call home.

Diane Farraher-Smith, MSN/MBA, RN, chief clinical integration officer of Home Health Foundation, praised Finocchiaro’s strong leadership and dedicated commitment.

“Patti’s clinical expertise and passion for exemplary home care and high-quality clinical services strengthen the care we provide to our patients and families,” Farraher-Smith said.

“Her vast experience working with home health, hospice and supportive services throughout her career will be critical as we continue to enhance our services while maintaining our quality, compassionate care to each patient we proudly serve.”

In her new role, Finocchiaro oversees the VNA clinical teams in offices located in Lawrence and Newburyport, Mass. and Bedford and North Hampton, N.H. Currently practicing as a hospice triage nurse, Finocchiaro previously held other leadership roles including director of clinical services at Home Health VNA, as well as director of operations of the former HomeCare, Inc. and clinical director of the former Hallmark Health VNA.

Finocchiaro earned a Master of Science in Health Care Administration from UMass Lowell. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Salem State College.

Finocchiaro said she is excited to return to the VNA, where she has spent the majority of her career.

“I recently had the opportunity to



(Courtesy photo)

work with our wonderful hospice team, and I believe that this experience will help continue to strengthen the collaboration between hospice and the VNA,” she said. “I look forward to being part of the VNA and supporting the team as we continue to strive toward meeting the vision and goals during these challenging times.”

Finocchiaro lives in North Andover.

Home Health Foundation, which includes providers Merrimack Valley Hospice, Commonwealth Nursing Services, Home Health VNA, Home Health VNA of NH and York Hospital Hospice as part of the Wellforce Health System, provides a comprehensive continuum of home health, palliative, hospice, aide and private care services in all the places patients call home. Together, these agencies are leading the development of a new era of innovation, with a relentless focus on transforming home-based care. For more information, visit HomeHealthFoundation.org.

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BY DALIA DÍAZ
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LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4



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

From My Corner

The Infante Saga
Initiates

While watching the City’s City Council Inauguration on January 3, 2022, one major item stared me right through the television which I found very odd. No, it wasn’t that Governor Charlie Baker or Congresswoman Lori Trahan (who thought that she was campaigning) were guest speakers. Something simple.

The inauguration of the members of the City Council is a not to be missed event for me. I don’t pay much attention to the speeches because most people don’t remember anything they heard and they amount to empty praises. But this year, being extra careful, I settled for watching it on television and I missed the best part – the meeting.

As many of you know, immediately following the oath of office, a meeting takes place to decide the President and Vice-President of the Council. These two individuals will take that position for the next two years. However, much more happens during this initial council meeting than just a simple vote for President and Vice-President.

However, much more takes place weeks before the inauguration. Weeks before the individuals take the oath there is posturing and discussions regarding getting support to become President and Vice-President. With these discussions comes promises of sub-committees assignments and favoritism (of such other assignments and placement of office spaces and possibly seating assignment.

As you may know, the City Clerk has always brought playing cards to the inauguration. This year was no different for the new City Clerk (Diane LeBlanc). She wanted to continue the tradition as it was accustomed by returning councilors. The playing cards are used after the inauguration and each sworn councilor gets to select a card. The cards are numbered from number 1 to number 9. The number selected, by the council, corresponds to the seating of the council as they take their vote for the two leaders.

You won’t see it on the city council recorded videos, but if you were present, you witness that newly elected Councilor Gregory Del Rosario was seated number one, and newly elected Council, Stephany Infante was seated number nine. This meant that when the time came Councilor Del Rosario would cast the first vote and Councilor Infante would cast the last vote. Voting last has its advantages in any

council vote, no matter what the topic or the meeting.

So, on January 3, 2022, two names were nominated for the Presidency of the Council – Councilor and former Council President Mark Laplante, and Councilor Jeovanny Rodriguez. Councilor Rodriguez had been calling for support, from all newly elected councilors, for his shot at being the council president. There were many calls and even some slight underhanded political plays on behalf of himself for the spot.

Councilor Rodriguez was a major underdog for the presidency because he chose to support Interim Mayor Vasquez for mayor, and we all know the results of that election (plus all the historical underhanded plays by him as well).

There were others, on the council that voted, and heavily supported, Kendrys Vasquez. However, the highlighted councilor at that meeting on January 3, 2022, was Stephany Infante.

Stephany was supported, at first by then-candidate Brian DePeña. Brian even provided Councilor Infante with some funds to pay for her campaign advertisement. However, Stephany eventually heavily supported Kendrys Vasquez - probably thinking he would be victorious.

As many of you know, Stephany was running for the council seat vacated by former Councilor David Abdoo. David endorsed Stephany with the promise that Stephany would vote for Councilor Laplante for Council President which did not occur on January 3, 2022. If you witness the meeting after the oath of office was taken by those newly elected individuals, you would have known that Councilor Rodriguez was slaughtered by a vote of 6 to 3 in favor of Laplante.

As I had stated previously, Councilor Rodriguez was hard at work trying to convince his colleagues to vote for him for President. He convinced Stephany and she sure did give him that vote.

But here is where one can ascertain the intelligence of a city councilor. Stephany was seated at number nine. What she should have done is a vote for Laplante. You see, by the time the vote came to her, it was already 6 to 2 in favor of Laplante. She did not take time to think how a vote for Laplante would have placed her in favor of sub-committees and other favorable placements if she had voted for Laplante. She should have known that a vote for Jeovanny was dead in the water, and it was a wasted vote. Her vote made it 6 to 3, still in favor of Laplante.

Now, if she were any smarter, she should have voted to place herself in a

position to ensure she had some favor for the people she represents, not because she fought alongside Jeovanny on the election battlefield. She should have asked her constituents their choice for the Presidency. She should have thought more intelligently about her vote knowing it was going to fail. If she would have voted Laplante, the vote would have made her look smarter and more strategic.

After the meeting, the entire Infante family was surrounding Mayor DePeña and taking photos like they endorsed Brian. The audacity that even after Ms. Infante left Brian’s support and jumped over to Kendrys’ campaign. What she did not know, or failed to know, was that most of the councilors that voted for Laplante had voted, endorsed, and receive huge support from Mayor DePeña.

And then I saw a picture of the Mayor having dinner with Councilor Infante. I am not sure why he still needs her, but according to her social media page, she states that Brian is looking after her once her father passed. That’s what a good person does, and she should have supported Brian from the get-go.

I hope she learned a lesson, both off and on the council table. But, I know for sure I can’t, yet believe anything she says or promises for my district.

Franklin Miguel’s
termination

This morning I mentioned during my radio show that the former DPW director was fired by Mayor Brian DePeña but I have not been able to find out about the reason.

Lappin Foundation - Enhancing
Jewish Identity across Generations

The community is invited to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Thursday, January 27 at 7:30 pm ET on Zoom. This year’s commemoration is dedicated to the memory of the 1.5 million Jewish children murdered during the Holocaust.

The featured speaker will be Michael Gruenbaum, survivor of Terezin and author of Somewhere There is Still a Sun. The guest Moderator will be Josh Kraft, President of Kraft Family Philanthropies. Visit LappinFoundation.org to register for the Zoom link.

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.

Submitted by Julio Merán



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

- Voltaire

AZ QUOTES

Things that make you go
hmmm. 🤔

How big is 1%?

1918 - Spanish Flu - 50 million dead

1918 - World Pop. - 950 million(est)

1918 - 5.26% worlds pop died! Experts: TRAGIC EVENT!

2018 - Seasonal Flu - 650,000 dead

2018 - World Pop. - 7.5 billion(est)

2018 - .009% worlds pop died! Experts: TYPICAL YEAR

2020 - COVID 19 - 488,729 dead and counting

2020 - World Pop. - 7.7 billion(est)

2020 - .006% worlds pop has died Experts: THE WORLD IS COMING TO AN END, SHUT DOWN ALL BUSINESS, CLOSE THE CHURCHES, RUIN THE WORLDS ECONOMY!!!

1% of the Worlds Pop right now would be 77 million dead.

Now if 5.26% is TRAGIC and .009 is NO BIG DEAL, what the HELL are we doing!

Library kicks off new gallery exhibits with art quilts by Ellen Fisher



“Translating Nature Into Fabric,” an exhibit of art quilts by Ellen Fisher, will be on display at the Nashua Public Library from January 8 to February 26.

Fisher prints or dyes most of the fabrics herself, using plants that she grows in her garden or collects locally—goldenrod, sumac, wild rose and raspberry, for example. As a result, she says, her quilts reflect features of the local area, and “The plants tell their own stories.”

From these custom fabrics Fisher creates quilts using classic techniques, such as piecing, appliqué, and hand and machine stitching, as well as less-traditional raw-edge collage and fabric painting.

“The inspirations for my art quilts,” Fisher says, “are natural forms: streams, trees and shadows.” The scale of her subjects varies from whole landscapes to tiny details.

Rural roots

Fisher grew up in rural Maine, learning both gardening and sewing from her family. As an adult she worked in landscape design and conservation but returned to sewing about 20 years ago, when she learned quilting and began creating her own designs.

Previous shows

Among the venues where Fisher’s quilts have been exhibited are the New England Quilt Museum, Fitchburg Art Museum, Whistler House Museum of Art and ArtSpace Maynard.



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Jamie's Tomatoes

Meet the artist

Fisher will hold a reception and give a talk about her work on Thursday, January 13, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. downstairs in the library’s Art Gallery. The event is free and open to the public.

The exhibit can be viewed anytime the library is open.

The library is located at 2 Court Street. Visit nashualibrary.org/visit/directions for directions and parking information.

Artists wanting information about exhibiting at the library should contact Holly at holly.klump@nashualibrary.org or (603) 589-4633.

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UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

If you're feeling generous and want to help support our free programming and grow our impact in Lawrence, you can make a gift.

- Sound Gallery Vol. 1 is a variety show of spoken word poetry, folk, rock, electro-pop, and experimental hip hop curated by our friend Felipe Collazo. Tickets are priced on a sliding scale, with 80% of the proceeds supporting the performers.

Below we're highlighting a few of our upcoming classes and workshops. Please see our Winter brochure in English or Spanish to see the full listing.

Screen Printing on Clay
Sun | Jan 9 | 2:00 PM-4:00 PM | Ages 16+ | \$40 | Sally Lee

Drawing Foundations
Sat | Jan 15-Feb 19 | 2:00 PM-3:30 PM | 6 Sessions | Ages: 10 yrs. to 18 yrs. | \$125 | Mekhi Mendoza

Painting: Abstraction
Fri | Jan 14-Feb 18 | 10:00 AM-12:00 PM | 6 Sessions | Ages: Adults 16+ | \$165 | Jim Zingarelli

Sculpting Animals
Wed | Jan 12-Feb 16 | 4:30 PM-6:00 PM | 6 Sessions | Ages: 8 yrs. to 16 yrs. | \$125 | Tena Millard
Essex Art Center logo
Connect with us online at Monica@essexartcenter.org

56 Island Street, Lawrence, MA, 01840

Facebook and Twitter



Can Nashua read for 550,000 minutes?

Hey Nashua—can we all work together and read a grand total of 550,000 minutes in just eight weeks? That’s the goal that Mayor Jim Donchess and the Nashua Public Library want kids, teens and adults to reach in the 2022 Mayor’s Winter Reading Challenge.

From January 3 through February 28, everyone in the family can keep track of their reading and help Nashua reach its goal. "Reading together as a family will spark your children’s interest in books," says Mayor Donchess. "Additionally, children are encouraged to read when they see their caregivers reading."

Earn digital badges

Along the way, you’ll be challenged to read books of different genres and earn digital badges. At the end of the program,

you’ll be invited to a celebration at the Nashua Public Library to be held on March 12.

How to join

Join the challenge! Download the Beanstack Tracker app or sign up at nashualibrary.beanstack.org.

"Becoming a lifelong reader starts with making reading a habit as a child," says Mayor Donchess. "I hope this challenge encourages every child in Nashua to pick up a book, and I hope all of their caregivers will join them in this reading challenge."

For more information, contact the Nashua Public Library at 603-589-4631 or kids@nashualibrary.org.

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