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The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

Por Dalia Diaz - pgs. - 7 & 8

Lawrence Partnership Anuncia Nuevo Miembro de Personal



Giselle Peguero, new Staff Associate of the Lawrence Partnership.

Nacida en República Dominicana, Giselle demuestra trabajo duro, perseverancia y madurez. Se graduó de Lawrence High School en 2015 como miembro de la Sociedad Nacional de Honor.

En 2021, se graduó de Northern Essex Community College con un título de Asociado en Artes Liberales: Psicología y actualmente está cursando una licenciatura en Psicología en la Universidad de Massachusetts - Lowell.

En su cargo previo, Giselle ha disfrutado sirviendo a adultos mayores, familias

e individuos del Valle de Merrimack ofreciendo asistencia con empatía y amor.

"El único denominador común de todas las personas exitosas es su hambre de superar sus miedos" son palabras por las que vive, según George Ramirez, director ejecutivo de Lawrence Partnership.

Giselle se siente honrada de seguir sirviendo a su comunidad junto con Lawrence Partnership, cuya visión incluye apoyar a una comunidad diversa con aspiraciones que promueven la equidad, innovación y resiliencia.

Lawrence Partnership Announces New Staff Associate

Born in the Dominican Republic, Giselle demonstrates hard work, perseverance, and maturity. She graduated from Lawrence High School in 2015 as a National Honor Society member.

In 2021, she graduated from the Northern Essex Community College with an Associate's in Liberal Arts: Psychology and is currently pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts - Lowell.

In her previous capacity, Giselle has enjoyed serving older adults, families, and

individuals of the Merrimack Valley offering assistance with empathy and love.

"The one common denominator of all successful people, is their hunger to push through their fears" are words she lives by, according to George Ramirez, Executive Director, Lawrence Partnership.

Giselle is honored to keep serving her community alongside Lawrence Partnership, whose vision includes supporting a diverse community with aspirations that promote equity, innovation, and resilience.

MCC's Flexible Course Options Help Students Reach Goals Faster

"Understanding that education is one of the best ways to enhance a person's life and career, Middlesex Community College strives to remove barriers that could keep people from going to school," said Arlene Rodríguez, MCC's Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. "One of our flexible options include Mini-mester sessions, which allow students to complete their courses in a shorter period of time, getting them on track to reach their goals in ways that work best for their busy lives."

MCC's Mini-mesters are eight-week accelerated sessions that cover the same content, maintain the same academic standards, and offer the same number of instructional hours as courses scheduled during the traditional 15-week semester. Combined with on-campus, online and hybrid course formats, Mini-mesters are a convenient option for students.

Mini-mesters work for students whether they are looking to start or advance their career, update skills or learn something new. Adult learners in particular are balancing their education with work and family responsibilities, but with Mini-mester courses, students can focus on the topic, complete their requirements, and earn transferable college credits in less time.

"The accelerated courses are great because you can get your credits faster if you can handle the amount of work in a shorter period of time," said Mitchell Cummings, an MCC Fire Science student from Arlington.

Cummings chose MCC because it was close to home and offered his major, but Middlesex also helped him take advantage of his past knowledge and experience by offering Credit for Prior Learning (CPL). Applying his past experience toward credits will help Cummings finish his degree faster, in addition to working with an advisor to develop an academic plan based on his personal experiences, needs and goals. CPL also considers a student's background, history, and previous college courses taken — even for those who took a few courses.

"My prior credits are from my military training, online classes, fire academy and EMT," Cummings said. "Receiving the credits was easy and I feel like my experiences from them has helped me greatly toward my goals."

With two Mini-mesters offered during



Middlesex Community College's Spring Mini-mester II starts Monday, March 28. Combined with on-campus, online and hybrid course offerings and student support services, MCC's accelerated eight-week Mini-mesters are a convenient option for students.

every Fall and Spring semesters, students can complete more classes over the course of a semester and be ready to transfer to their next institution or enter the workforce. At Middlesex, students taking Mini-mesters also have the ability to start courses midway through the full semester, when it works best for their timeframes.

Please note that Middlesex requires all students to be vaccinated in order to come to campus, as of January 2022. Students who are unvaccinated can still choose to take online classes and access online resources and student support services.

MCC's Spring 2022 Mini-mester II starts on Monday, March 28. For more information and to register for classes, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration/ or call 1-800-818-3434.

All Middlesex students also have access to the college's student support services and resources, including advising, tutoring and the Libraries. For more information, visit <https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/academics/offering.aspx> and learn about MCC's offerings for students of all ages and stages in their lives.

The college also offers payment options and plans, financial aid, scholarships and financial wellness counseling to help students afford and complete their education. For more information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/financialaid/ and learn how Middlesex can help put students on their paths to success.

To get started with CPL, register at <https://myexperiencecounts.mass.edu/home> or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/priorlearning/ for more information.

Gastamos millones en las escuelas. ¿Y ahora, qué?
We spend million in schools. And, now what?
Por / By Marc Laplante

Pg. 6

La Ciudad de Lawrence, aprobó Fondos para la Nueva Construcción de la Escuela Francis M. Leahy

El martes, 15 de febrero, el Concejo Municipal de Lawrence votó por unanimidad a favor de financiar la construcción de la nueva escuela Francis M. Leahy.

En nombre de los residentes y estudiantes de la ciudad, el Alcalde Brian A. DePeña, propuso un plan al concejo de la ciudad que pagaría la nueva escuela sin crear aumentos de impuestos locales para financiar la construcción. El alcalde solicitó al concejo que aprobara el plan utilizando los fondos actuales de ARPA, como fondos sin restricciones, que se colocarán en efectivo gratis y luego se utilizarán para pagar los servicios de la deuda durante varios años en el futuro.

La escuela Leahy actual, que tiene aproximadamente más de cien años, tiene problemas de larga data como: fugas de agua, goteras en el techo, problemas de almacenamiento y problemas estructurales.

“A medida que nuestra comunidad continúa creciendo, nuestro gobierno comprende la necesidad de nuevas escuelas en Lawrence y estoy muy orgulloso de cumplir con ese compromiso”, declaró el Alcalde de Lawrence, Brian A. DePeña.

El Alcalde DePeña también envió sus felicitaciones y agradecimientos al Presidente del Concejo Municipal, Marc Laplante, y al concejo por el voto unánime al afirmar que “La educación puede darse en muchos entornos, y el Concejo Municipal ayuda a facilitar oportunidades para el aprendizaje permanente. Al traer una nueva escuela a esta comunidad, ayudan a crear anclas comunitarias que sirvan a los ciudadanos para las generaciones venideras”.

El Presidente del Concejo Municipal, Marc Laplante, dijo: “Esta fue una oportunidad única para financiar la expansión y renovación de la Escuela Leahy.

Combinado con la votación del año pasado para expandir y renovar la escuela Oliver, la ciudad está dedicando \$234 millones para mejorar nuestras escuelas. Se debe hacer más trabajo para administrar el crecimiento de nuestra población, así como asignar recursos para realizar las reparaciones necesarias y el mantenimiento preventivo en todas nuestras escuelas. Espero que vayamos en la dirección correcta”.

La ciudad tendrá hasta el 24 de febrero para aceptar formalmente los fondos designados disponibles de la Autoridad de Asistencia para la Construcción de Escuelas del estado. “La nueva Leahy brindará a generaciones de niños el espacio excepcional que merecen para aprender y crecer juntos, y beneficiará a las familias y residentes de Lawrence en las próximas décadas”, dijo la superintendente de las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence, Cynthia Paris. “Quiero agradecer a todos, especialmente a los de la comunidad de la Escuela Leahy y al Sindicato de Maestros de Lawrence, que abogaron con tanto empeño por este proyecto que se necesita desesperadamente, y expresar mi profunda gratitud al Alcalde DePeña, al Concejo Municipal, a la Alianza para la Educación de Lawrence y a nuestros socios de la MSBA por hacerla avanzar”.

La nueva escuela, está programada para ser construida en la propiedad actual de Leahy, tendrá un nuevo patio de recreo, gimnasio interior, equipos y laboratorios de ciencia y tecnología, espacios de arte y música, y salones de clases de última generación.

Para obtener más información sobre la construcción de la Escuela Leahy, comuníquese con la Directora de Operaciones de las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence, Odanis M. Hernández, al (978) 869-7170.

City Approves Funding for the New Construction of the Francis M. Leahy School

On Tuesday, February 15th, the Lawrence City Council voted unanimously in favor of funding the construction of the new Francis M. Leahy School.

On behalf of the city residents and students, Mayor Brian A. DePeña's proposed a plan to city council, that would pay for the new school without creating any local tax increases in funding the construction. Mayor asked the council to approve the plan utilizing the current ARPA funds, as unrestricted funds, to be placed into free cash and then used to pay debt services for a number of years going forward.

The current Leahy school, which is approximately more than one hundred years old has long-standing problems such as: water leaks, leaky roof, storage problems and structural problems.

“As our community continues to grow, our government understands the need for new schools in Lawrence, and I am very proud to deliver on that commitment,” stated Lawrence Mayor Brian A. DePeña.

Mayor DePeña also sent his congratulations and thanks to City Council President Marc Laplante and the council on the unanimous vote by stating that “Education can come in many settings, and the City Council helps facilitate opportunities for lifelong learning. By bringing a new school to this community, they help to create community anchors that serve citizens for generations to come.”

City Council President Marc Laplante said “This was a unique opportunity to fund the Leahy School expansion and renovation.

Combined with last year's vote to expand and renovate the Oliver school, the city is dedicating \$234 million to upgrade our schools. More work must be done to manage our population growth as well as placing resources to do needed repair and preventative maintenance at all our schools. I'm hopeful we are heading in the right direction.”

The city will have until February 24th to formally accept the available designated funds from the state's School Construction Assistance Authority. “The new Leahy will give generations of children the exceptional space they deserve to learn and grow together, and benefit Lawrence families and residents for decades to come,” said Lawrence Public Schools Superintendent Cynthia Paris. “I want to thank everyone – especially those in the Leahy School community and Lawrence Teachers Union – who advocated so hard for this desperately needed project, and express my deep gratitude to Mayor DePeña, the City Council, the Lawrence Alliance for Education, and our partners at the MSBA for moving it forward.”

The new school, slated to be built on Leahy's current property, will have all new playground, indoor gym, science and technology equipment and labs, art and music spaces, and state of the art sized classroom.

For more information on the construction of the Leahy School contact Lawrence Public Schools Chief Operating Officer Odanis M. Hernández at (978) 869-7170.

“You can fool some of the people all of the time; you can fool all of the people for some of the time; but you cannot fool all the people all the time.”

“Uno puede engañar a algunas personas todo el tiempo; puede engañar a todos por algún tiempo; pero no puede engañar a todo el mundo todo el tiempo.”

- Abraham Lincoln

¡Marque su calendario!

No podíamos esperar para compartir las buenas noticias... ¡¡¡Viajes gratis en autobús llegarán al valle de Merrimack!!! Únase a los representantes Trahan y Moulton, los alcaldes De Peña, Fiorentini, Reardon y Gove, su delegación legislativa, los propietarios de pequeñas empresas del área, los pasajeros y los defensores mientras lanzamos nuestra iniciativa de tarifa gratis en todo el sistema el lunes 28 de febrero en el Centro de Transporte de Buckley (295 Common Street , Lawrence) a partir de las 11:00 a. m.

Mark your calendar!

We couldn't wait to share the good news...Free bus rides are coming to the Merrimack Valley!!! Please join Representatives Trahan and Moulton, Mayors De Peña, Fiorentini, Reardon and Gove, your legislative delegation, area small business owners, riders and advocates as we launch our systemwide Free Fare initiative on Monday, February 28 at Buckley Transportation Center (295 Common Street, Lawrence) starting at 11:00 AM.

Rumbo

The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

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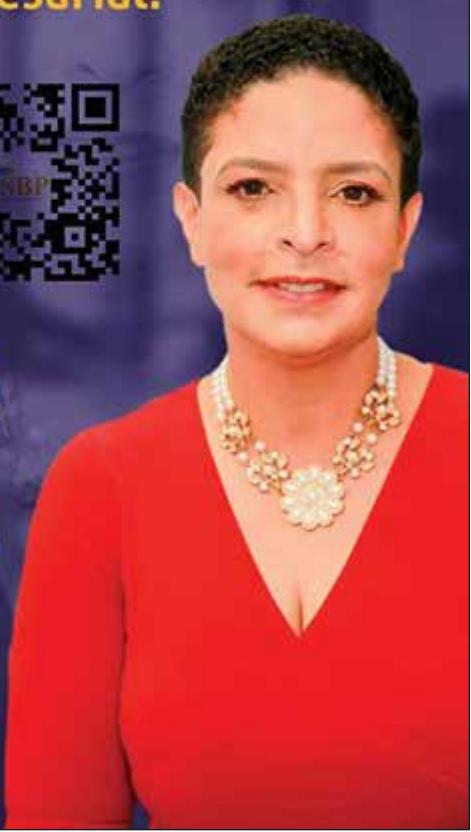
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POR DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16



Desde Mi Esquina

Licencias para indocumentados

Espero que se tome el tiempo de leer el artículo que escribí en la página 7 sobre nuestro sistema electoral.

Caucus Demócrata de Lawrence

El pasado sábado, 19 de febrero, se llevó a cabo el Caucus Demócrata en la Biblioteca Pública. Aunque no asistí, me reí mucho con las historias que escuché.

Un punto culminante para Lawrence fue que el Secretario de Estado le pidió a la Concejala Ana Levy que lo representara aquí, ya que no podría asistir. Ana siempre ha tenido una buena relación con William Galvin recibiendo su cooperación cada vez que nuestra ciudad tiene un problema.

"Galvin siempre se ha preocupado por tener elecciones abiertas y justas enviando personal de apoyo desde su oficina para garantizar la precisión," explicó Ana. "También jugó un papel decisivo en la obtención de nuevas máquinas de votación y se acercó a las comunidades que no hablan inglés en Lawrence para proteger sus derechos", dijo Ana a la audiencia.

Y continuó: "Lo más importante es que el Secretario Galvin ayudó con éxito a Lawrence a lograr un aumento del 16% en el conteo de población en el censo de EE. UU. recientemente completado. Proporcionó dinero de la subvención para garantizar un recuento completo y preciso que condujo a una mayor representación y ayuda financiera para Lawrence".

Un buen Concejo Municipal

Fue sorprendente recibir las respuestas que me llegaron sobre las columnas de las últimas dos semanas; primero sobre la Primera Enmienda de la Constitución el 8 de febrero. Un escritor dijo: "Desafortunadamente, se necesita una refugiada cubana para explicar esta parte de la Declaración de Derechos, y lo hizo muy bien". La segunda semana fue el día 15 sobre la hipocresía de los políticos; algunos concejales fueron insultados mientras que otros me elogiaron.

Por ejemplo, la Concejala Ana Levy se molestó porque dije que ella votó

por la Escuela Leahy porque no habrá impuestos adicionales, después de votar NO en noviembre pasado "porque sabía que encontraríamos la forma correcta de hacerlo". Entonces, la escuché decir que ella votó a favor ahora porque nuestros hijos merecen la mejor educación, aunque eso signifique aumentar los impuestos. El problema es que el audio del video es tan pobre que no se puede entender claramente lo que dijo.

También es digno de mención otro comentario "brillante" de la Concejala del Distrito A, María De La Cruz. "No creo que sea necesario hablar dos idiomas para ser una persona bilingüe" y ella estaba hablando de la miembro del Comité Escolar Patricia Mariano y de nombrar la biblioteca en la Escuela Leahy aún por construirse, por ella.

María incluso hizo una moción para hacerlo oficial en ese mismo momento. Afortunadamente, el presidente del Concejo, Marc Laplante (que realmente conoce las reglas) detuvo esa moción por no ser el lugar adecuado.

Ese es otro problema en Lawrence; la mayoría de los funcionarios electos y políticos en este área no entienden que el concepto básico de civismo gubernamental es que todos los cuerpos políticos de los Estados Unidos están enmarcados en el hecho de que el Poder Legislativo es de mayor importancia y autoridad que cualquier Ejecutivo en el puesto. Nada es más demostrativo que la continua lucha por la autoridad que ocurre en la Cámara de Representantes de los Estados Unidos/Senado de los Estados Unidos y el Presidente.

Nuestros concejales de la ciudad a menudo escuchan que ellos "controlan el dinero" del gobierno, pero no saben cómo ponerlo en práctica.

¿Recuerda cuando el Concejo retuvo la financiación de un proyecto de capital de 8 millones de dólares hasta que el Alcalde accedió a permitir que el Concejo comprara nuevas máquinas de votación por \$150,000.00? Los Concejales en ese momento parecían "sorprendidos" de que en realidad fueran la rama más fuerte del gobierno local en lo que respecta a las finanzas. Dan Rivera solía decírselos que el Ejecutivo tenía mayor autoridad. Tomó algún tiempo educar a los miembros de la falsoedad que les estaba diciendo el alcalde.

Son miembros bien intencionados de la comunidad con el deseo de cambiar lo

que sale mal, pero no están familiarizados con las reglas y probablemente nunca hayan estudiado la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad. Por lo tanto, están obligados a cometer errores al votar sobre temas basados en su ignorancia. Un buen ejemplo es lo que

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

María trató de hacer arriba, aunque ya lleva varios años como concejal y debería saberlo.

Otro buen ejemplo de esto es el artículo en esta página de Richard Russell que señala decisiones imprudentes basadas en la falta de conocimiento.

Concejo Municipal: Compensación

Por Richard Russell

Durante la reunión del concejo del pasado martes por la noche, se desarrolló una discusión sobre los salarios de los puestos 'recientemente' creados en la ciudad. En el curso de esta discusión, un concejal mencionó aumentar los salarios de los concejales.

He aquí una parte de la Carta de la Ciudad con respecto al salario de los concejales:

"3.3 Compensación"

El concejo de la ciudad, mediante ordenanza, establecerá un salario anual para sus miembros. Sin embargo, ninguna ordenanza que aumente dicho salario entrará en vigor, a menos que haya sido adoptada, por dos tercios de los votos, durante los primeros dieciocho meses del término para el cual se eligen los concejales y la nueva tabla de salarios no entre en vigor hasta el comienzo del mandato del próximo concejo municipal que se elija".

Por lo tanto, cualquier aumento de salario tendría que hacerse en los primeros 18 meses del mandato de este concejo y el aumento no entraría en vigor hasta que el nuevo concejo estuviera en funciones.

Parece que estaría prohibido crear una nueva escala salarial en los últimos 6 meses del mandato del concejo.

Esta es de la lectura de un laico de la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad.



Youth and adult winter classes are listed online. Register today! Many classes fill up in just a day or two. We've highlighted a few classes below

Intro to Monotype with a Twist

Expand your ideas of what is possible in printmaking! Students learn to create beautifully layered images using monotype plates, stencils, relief plates, and the intaglio process. First, the instructor will introduce a new relief process using Sintra, a PVC flat material used in sign making. Then, students will carve into the Sintra to create relief prints with a Twist! Students will experiment with this new material and use stencils and collage elements to create unique works on paper. The class is designed for the beginner and the more experienced printmaker. Come, learn the tools of the printmaker and the unique qualities of Akua inks.

Thu | Mar 3-Apr 7 | 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
6 Sessions

Ages: Adults (16+) | \$360 | Kathy Reming

Elements of Drawing

This beginner's drawing class is full of tips to improve your art. Learning the basics—how to create shapes, lines, and shadows—will help you advance your skills and draw like a pro!

Mon | Mar 14-Apr 11 | 4:30 PM-6:00 PM
5 Sessions

Ages: 10 yrs. to 16 yrs. | \$110 | Ricardo Nassif

Our spring class session will run for 8 weeks (4/18/22 - 6/18/22). Stay tuned! Enrollment will begin March 8th.

Don't miss Marla L. McLeod's solo exhibition! Her work is on view through March 17, 2022.

February Vacation Week (Feb 21-Feb 26)

Gallery Hours

Monday 9:00AM-12:00PM

Tuesday 9:00AM-6:00PM

Wednesday 9:00AM-4:00PM

Thursday 9:00AM-4:00PM

Friday 9:00AM-3:00PM

Saturday 1:30-4:00PM

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



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Celebración de la Independencia de República Dominicana

Ayuntamiento de Lawrence

18 de febrero de 2022

Fotos: Cortesía de Richard Russell



Se están gastando cientos de millones de dólares en nuevas escuelas. ¿Y ahora qué?

Por el Presidente del Concejo Municipal, Marc Laplante



Muchos de los edificios escolares de Lawrence están en mal estado. A lo largo de los años, los presupuestos de mantenimiento de las escuelas no se han mantenido al día con las necesidades de reparación. En el último año, el Concejo Municipal comprometió \$234 millones para renovar/ampliar dos nuevas escuelas. Sin embargo, podría haber sido necesario menos dinero de los contribuyentes si las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence (LPS) y la ciudad hubieran priorizado la infraestructura obsoleta de nuestras escuelas. Afortunadamente, las finanzas de la escuela y la ciudad son más prometedoras hoy en día debido a la ayuda de COVID. Entre las escuelas y el gobierno general, Lawrence está recibiendo más de \$168 millones del gobierno federal/estatal debido al alivio de COVID. Para ser precisos, las escuelas recibieron más de \$111 millones y la ciudad recibió más de \$57 millones. Si esos números no son asombrosos, deberían serlo.

¿Cómo sucedió que la infraestructura y la capacidad de las escuelas son tan nefastas que ahora se construirán dos nuevas escuelas? Como se mencionó anteriormente, los funcionarios de la ciudad no han brindado el mantenimiento adecuado y necesario durante muchos años. Segundo, la ciudad está experimentando un crecimiento tan rápido (nuestra población creció en más de 13,000 en los últimos 10 años) que nuestras escuelas no pueden adaptarse al aumento.

Si bien se debe abordar la falla del gobierno de la ciudad para manejar el crecimiento de nuestra población (lo que resulta en problemas tales como escasez de estacionamiento, pesadillas de tráfico al viajar por la ciudad y condiciones de vida inseguras en apartamentos ilegales), la pregunta que ahora tenemos ante nosotros es cómo podemos mejorar y mantener nuestros edificios escolares actuales y hacerlos servir a otra generación de estudiantes de Lawrence.

Ofrezco noticias aleadoras.

La ciudad, con su dinero de alivio de COVID de \$57 millones, ahora está programada para construir una nueva escuela Oliver (\$132 millones, con la

contribución estatal de \$58 millones) y una nueva escuela Leahy (\$102 millones, con la contribución estatal de \$61 millones). Con la construcción de una nueva estación de policía de Lawrence (\$59 millones, con la contribución estatal de \$49 millones), la ciudad ha revelado sus gastos de ayuda por el COVID. Para repetir, la ciudad está financiando tres importantes mejoras de capital simultáneamente sin aumentar los impuestos.

¿Sin subir los impuestos? Sí, ¡Notable!

Sin embargo, esto es sólo una parte de la ecuación. LPS, con su nuevo COVID \$111M, también necesita contribuir más a su infraestructura escolar.

Una vez más, hay noticias más prometedoras. Recibí garantías de los funcionarios de LPS de que \$ 22 millones en dinero de alivio de COVID para la educación están en trámite para actualizar elementos costosos de infraestructura escolar, como los sistemas HVAC.

LPS debe continuar ampliando su obligación de mantener la infraestructura escolar. Cabe señalar que el presupuesto de LPS eclipsa la parte no educativa de la ciudad. Lawrence está gastando \$250 millones en educación de un presupuesto operativo de \$346 millones. En otras palabras, el 72% del presupuesto de Lawrence se destina a la educación. El Presidente John F. Kennedy citó al escritor de los Evangelios Lucas cuando dijo: "A éstos se les da mucho, se les espera mucho". Se debe esperar que LPS brinde más asistencia con el dinero que recibe.

Se espera que el dinero del Capítulo 70 (apoyo financiero estatal para la educación que suma más de \$200 millones para Lawrence) continúe llegando a la ciudad. Si queremos ser fieles a las necesidades educativas de nuestros hijos, es necesario gastar más de esos recursos en mantenimiento. LPS debe continuar buscando aprobaciones del estado para gastar sumas significativas en mantenimiento extraordinario que extenderá la vida útil de nuestros edificios escolares actuales. Esto no impide que la ciudad brinde apoyo financiero a nuestras escuelas. Sin embargo, ignorar un agresivo plan de mantenimiento del edificio escolar pondrá a los futuros funcionarios y residentes en un dilema financiero una vez más. El dinero de COVID fue fortuito esta vez, pero no podemos esperar otro rescate pandémico.

Más allá de los ahorros de costos futuros, la disminución de la dependencia

de LPS en los fondos de la ciudad para los requisitos de mantenimiento escolar permitiría a la ciudad concentrarse en otras iniciativas y prioridades críticas. Por ejemplo, se estima que Lawrence tiene 30 millas de aceras que están clasificadas como en condiciones "de malas a muy malas". Muchas reparaciones de aceras se han ignorado durante generaciones, y es fácil encontrar aceras con "WPA" en el

concreto de la administración del presidente Franklin D. Roosevelt. Reparar estas aceras en deterioro costaría aproximadamente \$25 millones. Si LPS puede asumir más costos en el mantenimiento de sus edificios, tal vez podamos hacer una mella significativa en reparaciones importantes no relacionadas con la escuela, como las aceras.

¿No sería una gran iniciativa para todos nuestros residentes?

Hundreds of millions of dollars are being spent on new schools – Now what?

By City Council President Marc Laplante



Many of Lawrence's school buildings are in tough shape. Over the years, school maintenance budgets have not kept up with repair needs. Within the last year, the City Council committed \$234M to renovate/expand two new schools.

However, less taxpayer money may have been necessary had the Lawrence Public Schools (LPS) and the city prioritized our schools' aging infrastructure. Fortunately, the school and city financials are rosier today due to COVID relief packages. Between the schools and the general government, Lawrence is receiving over \$168M from the Federal/State government due to COVID relief. To be precise, the schools received over \$111M, and the city received over \$57M. If those numbers are not staggering, they should be.

How did it happen that the schools' infrastructure and capacity are so dire that two new schools will now be built? As mentioned earlier, city officials have not provided the proper and necessary maintenance over many years. Second, the city is experiencing such rapid growth (our population grew by over 13,000 within the past 10 years) that our schools are unable to accommodate the surge.

While the city government's failure to manage our population growth must be addressed (resulting in such issues as parking shortages, traffic nightmares when traveling through the city, and unsafe living conditions in illegal apartments), the question now before us is how do we improve and maintain our current school buildings and make them serve another generation of Lawrence students.

I offer encouraging news.

The city, with its \$57M COVID relief money, is now scheduled to build a new Oliver School (\$132M, with the state contribution of \$58M) and a new Leahy School (\$102M, with the state contribution of \$61M). With a new Lawrence Police Station (\$59M, with the state contribution of \$49M) also being built, the city has revealed its COVID relief expenditures. To repeat, the city is funding three major capital improvements simultaneously without raising taxes.

Without raising taxes? Yes. Remarkable! However, this is only a part of the

equation. LPS, with their new COVID \$111M, also needs to contribute more to its school infrastructure.

Again, there is more promising news. I have received assurances from LPS officials that \$22M in education COVID relief money is in the pipeline to update expensive school infrastructure items such as HVAC systems.

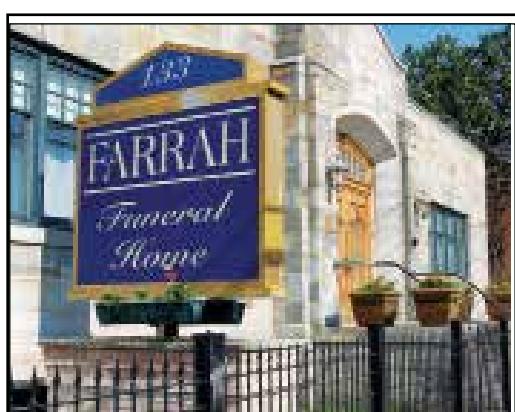
LPS must continue to expand its obligation to maintain the school infrastructure. It must be noted that the LPS budget dwarfs the city's non-education portion. Lawrence is spending \$250M on education out of an operating budget of \$346M. In other words, 72% of Lawrence's budget goes to education. President John F. Kennedy quoted the Gospel writer Luke when he said, "To those much is given, much is expected." LPS should be expected to provide more assistance with its flush accounts.

Chapter 70 money (state education financial support that is worth over \$200 million to Lawrence) is expected to continue flowing into the city.

If we are to be true to our children's education needs, more of those resources need to be spent on maintenance. LPS should continue seeking approvals from the Commonwealth to spend significant sums for extraordinary maintenance that will extend the life of our current school buildings. This does not remove the city from providing financial support to our schools. However, to ignore an aggressive school building maintenance plan will put future officials and residents in a financial conundrum once again. COVID money was fortuitous this time, but we cannot expect another pandemic bailout.

Beyond future cost savings, lessening LPS' reliance on city funding for school maintenance requirements would allow the city to focus on other critical initiatives and priorities. For example, it is estimated that Lawrence has 30 miles of sidewalks that are classified as "poor to very poor" condition. Many sidewalk repairs have been ignored for generations, and it is easy to find sidewalks with "WPA" on the concrete from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Administration. It would cost approximately \$25 million to fix these deteriorating sidewalks. If LPS can assume more costs in maintaining their buildings, maybe we can make a significant dent on important non-school repairs such as sidewalks.

Wouldn't that be a great initiative for all our residents?



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Licencias para extranjeros indocumentados

Por Dalia Diaz

El martes, 15 de febrero, la Cámara de Representantes de Massachusetts aprobó la H-4461, Ley Relativa a la Movilidad Laboral y Familiar, otorgando licencias de chofer a extranjeros indocumentados esta semana. Como un republicano al final de su término, el Gobernador Baker probablemente vetará el proyecto de ley simplemente para decir "lo intenté" a otros republicanos, lo que luego será anulado de inmediato por la Legislatura.

Aunque la mayoría de los votantes y los residentes de Massachusetts tienen una necesidad mucho mayor de abordar muchos otros asuntos de preocupación, como quitar las máscaras faciales a los estudiantes que son "rehenes" y prohibir los pasaportes de vacunas, por ejemplo, la Legislatura de Massachusetts considera que los "faros del tren que se aproxima es la ola roja" que se avecina en septiembre y noviembre del 2022 y están brindando su mejor asistencia a todos los demócratas que se postulan para el cargo este otoño, en particular a Maura Healy, que actualmente no es muy popular.

El "Proyecto de Ley de Licencias" se reunirá con otros tres componentes importantes del "rompecabezas electoral" necesario para garantizar que los demócratas sean elegidos: el registro para votar usando la licencia de conducir, votación por correo y la Frontera Sur.

Esta ley entrará en vigor el 1 de julio de 2023.

Registro para votar usando la licencia de conducir

Se eliminó la legislación aprobada en 2020 que registra automáticamente como votantes a todos los solicitantes de licencias de conducir a menos que "opten por no participar" al "marcar la casilla apropiada" para detener la provisión automática. Una disposición que requería licencias emitidas a "extranjeros ilegales" NO dará como resultado el registro automático de votantes y se marcará con un aviso de que la licencia no se puede usar como identificación de votante en las urnas. La Sección 9 establece:

"SECCIÓN 9. Sin perjuicio de cualquier ley general o especial que establezca lo contrario, el registrador de vehículos motorizados, en consulta con el secretario de estado, establecerá procedimientos y podrá promulgar reglamentos para garantizar que un solicitante de una licencia de Massachusetts de conformidad con la sección 8 del Capítulo 90 de las Leyes Generales o un permiso de aprendiz de conformidad con la sección 8B de dicho Capítulo 90 que no proporcione prueba de presencia legal no se registrará automáticamente para votar de conformidad con la Ley Nacional de Registro de Votantes de 1993, codificada en 52 USC el Capítulo 205, o cualquier ley general o especial."

Parece que los legisladores informados estaban a favor de permitir que las licencias emitidas a la nueva clase de operadores de automóviles usen su licencia como identificación en las urnas, lo cual se requiere de todos los votantes registrados por primera vez en su primera aparición. La Legislatura también eliminó las disposiciones en el proyecto de ley que requerían que el

(Read it in English on page 8)

RMV proporcione una lista de las personas que emitieron licencias al Secretario de la Ciudad/Pueblo bajo esta ley que elimina cualquier capacidad de las Ciudades y Pueblos locales para determinar la elegibilidad de los votantes si los extranjeros ilegales estaban registrados para votar por error o de otra manera.

En resumen, no hay forma de determinar la elegibilidad de un votante en función de una licencia de conducir de Massachusetts cuando se utiliza como identificación. Peor aún, la ley de Massachusetts no requiere que un votante proporcione ningún tipo de identificación en ninguna elección después de la primera vez que aparece un votante, a menos que el votante esté "inactivo", lo que no requiere una identificación con foto para votar.

Oficina del Censo

Las elecciones presidenciales de 2020 presentaron una participación récord y un uso récord de métodos de votación no tradicionales, según el informe "Votar y registrarse en las elecciones de noviembre de 2020" publicado por la Oficina del Censo de EE. UU. El informe se basa en tablas detalladas publicadas el año pasado. Se basa en datos del Suplemento de votación e inscripción de la Encuesta de población actual (CPS) de 2020, y destaca los patrones en la participación electoral a lo largo del tiempo entre la población de ciudadanos en edad de votar (CVAP).

Más votantes (154,6 millones) acudieron a las elecciones presidenciales de 2020 que en 2016 (137,5 millones), el mayor aumento entre elecciones presidenciales consecutivas desde el inicio del suplemento de votación de CPS en 1964.

Votar por correo

La Legislatura de Massachusetts está preparada para aprobar las disposiciones de emergencia de "Voto por correo" de la pandemia de COVID para que sean un método permanente de votación. Las "disposiciones de votación de emergencia" están programadas para expirar el 1 de mayo de 2022, y se espera que haya legislación pendiente antes de esa fecha. En mi opinión, el "voto por correo" proporciona un camino obvio hacia el "fraude" que no ha estado disponible para los políticos y votantes hasta la oportunidad que brindó la pandemia de COVID de 2020.

Ya sea que alguien crea o no las muchas "historias" sobre el "relleno de boletas", los votantes que nunca reciben boletas, los votantes que nunca devuelven las boletas, las boletas devueltas por los "candidatos" (como un gesto de amabilidad), o cualquier otra infinidad de medios fraudulentos para votar que trae "votar por correo", que esta forma de votar es el método más vulnerable y fácil de votar susceptible de fraude masivo y privación de derechos, particularmente dentro del estado de "votante inactivo". Debe entenderse que antes del "voto por correo" existía la capacidad de ejecutar el fraude electoral, pero podía ser manejado y "encontrado" y castigado cuando se detectaba.

El sistema de "voto por correo" existente crea tantas permutaciones de fraude que solo están limitadas por una imaginación limitada de aquellos que son expertos electorales. Lo que es más importante, los administradores electorales están limitados en su capacidad autorizada

para hacer cumplir las leyes electorales, incluso cuando se detectan. Al igual que con todos los demás métodos nuevos de votación y administración, es evidente que la responsabilidad adicional de administrar y "vigilar" el voto por correo será el deber de los funcionarios electorales locales sin personal o medios adicionales para hacer cumplir sus disposiciones de manera efectiva.

Se debe permitir que el "voto por correo" muera con la emergencia de COVID y se debe prohibir en todas las elecciones de EE. UU.

La frontera sur

Cualquier que tenga pulso sabe que aproximadamente 2.5 millones de extranjeros ilegales han ingresado a los EE. UU. a través de la Frontera Sur en los últimos años debido a las políticas de "no aplicación" de las leyes de inmigración. Los detalles sobre la distribución de asentamientos de los nuevos residentes en los EE. UU. no están disponibles para el público en el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional. Como resultado, no hay forma de saber cuántos inmigrantes ilegales han llegado a ningún estado (incluyendo Massachusetts).

Tampoco está claro si alguno de los nuevos residentes sabe o no acerca de la nueva ley de licencias de Massachusetts que les permitirá obtener licencias de conducir. Probablemente tampoco se conozcan los detalles de cómo opera la ley. Es más probable que todos los nuevos residentes

que lleguen a Massachusetts reciban una solicitud para obtener una licencia de conducir donde sea que soliciten beneficios de las Oficinas del Departamento de Asistencia Transicional.

El DTA y el RMV son las dos agencias autorizadas para informar a los votantes recién registrados en Massachusetts. No se sabe si alguno de los empleados de cualquiera de las agencias sabe que solo los ciudadanos estadounidenses pueden votar; sin duda, los recientes escándalos de concesión de licencias del RMV parecen indicar problemas serios directamente relacionados con la "dotación de personal insuficiente" y la "operación ilegal" por sus empleados (entre los que se incluyen los agentes de la Policía Estatal).

En resumen, no hay una "supervisión regulatoria" prevista en el nuevo proyecto de ley o que exista en la estructura legal actual. Se puede esperar razonablemente una variedad de ilegalidades y fraudes sin ningún plan para implementar y supervisar la operación del nuevo proyecto de ley de licencias.

Además, es obvio que a los funcionarios electorales municipales, incluidos los trabajadores electorales, no se les han proporcionado las herramientas o la autoridad necesarias para implementar o hacer cumplir los límites del nuevo proyecto de ley de licencias; las leyes electorales actuales son incongruentes con el nuevo proyecto de ley para asegurar que la mala conducta y/o malversación no se produce.



Si tiene una enfermedad cardíaca, el programa de manejo de enfermedades avanzadas de Home Health VNA puede ofrecerle opciones de tratamientos innovadores, enseñarle sobre sus medicamentos y ayudarlo a manejar y mejorar los síntomas por medio de hacerle visitas de telesalud. Trabajando junto con su médico, seremos el socio de confianza que lo guiará a un estilo de vida saludable.

Visite HomeHealthFoundation.org/resources para encontrar más información sobre cómo podemos ayudar.

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Licenses for undocumented aliens

By Dalia Diaz

(Léalo en español en la página 7)

On Tuesday, February 15, the Massachusetts House of Representatives approved H-4461, An Act relative to Work and Family Mobility, granting licenses to undocumented aliens this week. As a “lame duck” Republican - Governor Baker will probably veto the bill merely to say “he tried” to other Republicans which will then be promptly over-ridden by the Legislature.

Although most voters and residents of Massachusetts put far greater need to address many other matters of concern such as face masks to be removed from the students being held “hostage” and vaccine passports to be outlawed, for example, the Massachusetts Legislature sees the “headlights of the oncoming train” of the “red wave” coming in September-November of 2022 and are providing their best assistance to all Democrats running for office this fall – particularly Maura Healy who is currently not very popular.

The “License Bill” will meet up with three other important components of the “election puzzle” needed to guarantee Democrats are elected: Voting registration using the driver’s license, voting by mail, and the Southern Border.

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

Voting registration using the driver’s license

The legislation approved in 2020 that automatically registers as voters all driver license applicants unless they “opt-out” by “checking the box” to stop the automatic provision, has been removed. A provision that would require licenses issued to “illegal aliens” NOT result in automatic voter registration and will be marked with a notice that the license could not be used as voter identification at the polls. Section 9 states:

“SECTION 9. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the registrar of motor vehicles, in consultation with the state secretary, shall establish procedures, and may promulgate regulations, to ensure that an applicant for a Massachusetts license pursuant to section 8 of chapter 90 of the General Laws or a learner’s permit pursuant to section 8B of said chapter 90 who does not provide proof of lawful presence shall not be automatically registered to vote pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, as codified in 52 U.S.C. chapter 205, or any general or special law.”

It seems that knowledgeable legislators favored allowing the licenses issued to the

new class of auto operators to use their license as an ID at the polls which is required of all first-time registered voters at their first appearance. The Legislature also removed provisions in the draft bill that would require the RMV to provide a list of people issued licenses to City/Town Clerk under this law which removes any ability of local Cities and Towns to determine voter eligibility if illegal aliens were registered to vote in error or otherwise.

In short, there is no way to determine the eligibility of any voter based on a Massachusetts drivers’ license when it is used as identification. Even worse, Massachusetts Law does not require a voter to provide any form of identification in any election after the first time a voter appears unless the voter is “inactive” which does not require a picture ID to vote.

Census bureau

The 2020 presidential election featured record turnout and record use of nontraditional voting methods, according to the “Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2020” report released by the U.S. Census Bureau. The report builds on detailed tables released last year. It’s based on data from the 2020 Current Population Survey (CPS) Voting and Registration Supplement, and highlights patterns in voter turnout over time among the citizen voting age population (CVAP).

More voters (154.6 million) turned out for the presidential election in 2020 than in 2016 (137.5 million), the largest increase between consecutive presidential elections since the inception of the CPS voting supplement in 1964.

Vote by Mail

The Massachusetts Legislature is poised to approve the emergency “Vote by Mail” provisions of the COVID pandemic to be a permanent method of voting. The “emergency voting provisions” are slated to expire on May 1, 2022, with pending legislation expected prior to that date. In my opinion, “vote by mail” provides an obvious path to “fraud” that has not been available to politicians and voters until the opportunity provided by the 2020 COVID pandemic.

Whether or not anyone believes the many “stories” about “ballot stuffing”, voters never receiving ballots, voters never returning ballots, ballots returned by “candidates” (as a gesture of kindness), or any other the myriad of fraudulent means to vote that “voting by mail” brings, that this manner of voting is the most vulnerable and easiest method of voting susceptible to massive fraud and disenfranchisement – particularly within the “inactive voter”

status. It should be understood that before “vote by mail” the ability to execute voter fraud existed – but could be managed and “found” and punished when detected.

The “vote by mail” system in place creates so many permutations of fraud that are only limited by a limited imagination of those who are election experts. More importantly, Election Administrators are limited in their authorized ability to enforce election laws even when detected. As with all other new methods of voting and administration, it is apparent that the added responsibility to administer and “police” vote by mail will be the duty of local election officials without additional staff or means to enforce its provisions effectively.

“Vote by mail” should be allowed to die with the COVID emergency and banned from all US Elections.

The Southern Border

Anyone who has a pulse is aware that approximately 2.5 million illegal aliens have entered the US via the Southern Border over the past years due to policies of “non-enforcement” of immigration laws. Details concerning the settlement distribution of the new residents throughout the US are not available to the public from the Department of Homeland Security. As a result, there is no way to know how many illegal aliens have arrived in any State (including Massachusetts).

It is also unclear whether or not any of the new residents even know about the

new Massachusetts licensing law that will provide them the ability to obtain driver’s licenses. The details of how the law operates are probably not known either. It is more likely that all new residents arriving in Massachusetts will be provided an application to obtain a driver’s license wherever they apply for benefits from the Department of Transitional Assistance Offices.

The DTA and the RMV are the two agencies authorized to report newly registered voters in Massachusetts. It is not known if any of the employees of either agency are aware that only US Citizens are allowed to vote – certainly, the recent licensing scandals of the RMV seem to indicate serious problems directly related to “insufficient staffing” and “unlawful operation” by its employees (which include State Police Officers).

In short, there is no “regulatory oversight” provided in the new bill or that exists in the current legal structure. A range of illegality and fraud can be reasonably expected absent any plan to implement and oversee the operation of the new licensing bill.

Moreover, it is obvious that Municipal Election Officials, including poll workers, have not been provided with the necessary tools or authority to implement or enforce the limits of the new licensing bill – current election laws are incongruous with the new bill to assure that misfeasance and/or malfeasance does not occur.



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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.

Methuen Celebrará la Segunda Ceremonia Conmemorativa Anual de COVID 19

El año pasado, la ciudad se unió para celebrar una ceremonia conmemorativa de COVID 19 con el fin de reflexionar sobre las vidas de Methuen perdidas por el impacto de COVID. Entre los asistentes se encontraban familiares de las víctimas, funcionarios públicos, dignatarios y supervivientes. La ceremonia de 2021 conmemoró a 71 residentes de Methuen que se llevó el COVID.

La ceremonia conmemorativa anual se estableció a través de una resolución presentada por la concejala Eunice Zeigler y el concejal Joel Faretra y apoyada por el pleno del consejo. La legislación proclama: "Methuen apoya la designación del primer lunes de marzo como "Día Conmemorativo del COVID-19", en recuerdo de los que han perdido la vida y en honor de los que están

marcados para siempre por el COVID y siguen sufriendo el impacto de este virus".

Este año, la ceremonia conmemorativa de Covid 19 se celebrará el 1 de marzo a las 10 de la mañana y en el Sanborn Hall 90 Hampshire Street Methuen, MA. La ciudad pretende conmemorar las aproximadamente 215 vidas de Methuen que se perdieron a causa del COVID 19. La ciudad invita a los miembros del público que deseen participar en el programa a través de la puesta en común de los recuerdos o fotos de un ser querido perdido a COVID. Si desea participar, por favor comuníquese con la Oficina del Alcalde al (978) 983 - 8505.

Todos los miembros del público son bienvenidos a asistir. Puede obtener más información en www.cityofmethuen.net, Facebook y Twitter.

Methuen to Hold 2nd Annual COVID 19 Memorial Ceremony

Last year, the City joined together for a Covid 19 Memorial Ceremony to reflect on the Methuen lives lost to the impact of COVID. Attendees included victims' family members, public officials, dignitaries, and survivors. The 2021 ceremony memorialized 71 Methuen residents that were taken by COVID.

The annual memorial ceremony was established through a resolution presented by Councilor Eunice Zeigler and Councilor Joel Faretra and supported by the full council. The legislation proclaims, "Methuen supports the designation of the first Monday in March as "COVID-19 Memorial Day", in remembrance of those who have lost their lives and in honor of those who are forever Marked By COVID

and continue to suffer from the impact of this virus."

This year, the Covid 19 Memorial Ceremony will be held on March 1st at 10 am and the Sanborn Hall 90 Hampshire Street Methuen, MA. The City seeks to memorialize approximately 215 Methuen lives lost to COVID 19. The City invites members of the public who would like to participate in the program through the sharing of memories or pictures of a loved one lost to COVID. If you would like to participate, please reach out to the Mayor's Office at (978) 983 - 8505.

All members of the public are welcome to attend. More information can be obtained on www.cityofmethuen.net, Facebook, and Twitter.

"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



El Comité Escolar de Greater Lawrence Tech vota para hacer que el enmascaramiento sea opcional para los estudiantes a partir del 7 de marzo

El superintendente John Lavoie informa que el Comité Escolar Técnico de Greater Lawrence ha votado para modificar el mandato de máscara escolar del Distrito.

Durante su reunión ordinaria de trabajo del martes 15 de febrero, el Comité votó a favor de revisar la política para hacer que el tapabocas sea opcional para todos los estudiantes a partir del lunes 7 de marzo.

El 9 de febrero, el comisionado de Educación, Jeffrey Riley, anunció que el mandato de mascarillas escolares en todo el estado no se renovaría después de que expire el 28 de febrero. La decisión se tomó después de consultar con expertos médicos y funcionarios de salud estatales y considerar las altas tasas de vacunación y la disponibilidad generalizada de las pruebas de COVID-19 para el personal escolar y los estudiantes.

Como resultado, el uso de máscaras en los edificios escolares volvería a ser una decisión de política local que deben tomar los comités escolares individuales.

Debido a las pautas estatales y federales, se requieren máscaras:

- En autobuses escolares
- En la oficina de enfermería y clínica en todo momento.
- Para cualquier persona que regrese de la cuarentena, durante 5 días

"Como lo hemos hecho durante la pandemia de COVID-19, nos estamos moviendo con cautela para tomar decisiones informadas teniendo en cuenta los mejores intereses de los estudiantes y el personal. Si esperamos hasta el 7 de marzo, podremos monitorear cualquier aumento en las tasas de positividad después de las vacaciones de febrero", dijo el superintendente Lavoie. "Continuaremos siguiendo las tasas de transmisión de la comunidad y permitiremos que los datos guíen nuestras decisiones".

Puede encontrar información sobre la escuela y los protocolos COVID-19 en el sitio web de la escuela.

Greater Lawrence Tech School Committee Votes to Make Masking Optional For Students Starting March 7

Superintendent John Lavoie reports that the Greater Lawrence Technical School Committee has voted to modify the District's school mask mandate.

During its regular business meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 15, the Committee voted to revise the policy to make masking optional for all students beginning on Monday, March 7.

On Feb. 9, Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley announced that the statewide school mask mandate would not be renewed after it expires on Feb. 28. The decision was made after consulting with medical experts and state health officials and considering high vaccination rates and the widespread availability of COVID-19 testing for school staff and students.

As a result, masking in school buildings would revert to a local policy decision to be made by individual school committees.

Due to state and federal guidelines, masks are required:

- On school buses
- In the nurses' office and clinic at all times.
- For anyone returning from quarantine, for 5 days

"As we have throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we are moving cautiously to make informed decisions with the best interests of students and staff in mind. By waiting until March 7, we will be able to monitor any spikes in positivity rates following February vacation," Superintendent Lavoie said. "We will continue to follow community transmission rates and allow the data to guide our decisions."

Information about the school and COVID-19 protocols may be found on the School website.

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

When a fire occurs in Lawrence, usually many families are left homeless and in need of everything. Please contact Heal Lawrence if you wish to make a contribution to the victims. The website has a list of items and things that are needed as well as victims' names, ages, sizes, etc. but they suggest giving them gift cards to grocery stores and department stores in any denomination.

Cuando un incendio ocurre en Lawrence, por lo regular muchas familias se quedan sin hogar y necesitan de todo. Favor de ponerse en contacto con Heal Lawrence si desea hacer una contribución a las víctimas. El sitio en la internet tiene una lista de artículos que necesitan así como nombres, edades, tallas, etc. de las víctimas pero ellos sugieren que les compren tarjetas de mercados o tiendas por departamentos de cualquier denominación.

AS OF JANUARY 2022

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

3 for Lawrence, 3 for Methuen, 2 for Haverhill

Compiled by Carmen García

Lawrence**4th Essex (new)**

Lawrence: A1, A2 and all of B (B1, B2, B3, B4)

Methuen: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12

1, 5, 6, 12 are split with
15th Essex**Methuen****4th Essex (new)**

Lawrence: A1, A2 and all of B (B1, B2, B3, B4)

Methuen: Town 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12

Towns 1, 5, 6, 12 are split with
15th Essex**Haverhill****3rd Essex (Andy Vargas)**

Haverhill: all of 1 (1-1, 1-2, 1-3) 2-3

all of 3 (3-1, 3-2, 3-3)

all of 4 (4-1, 4-2, 4-3)

all of 6 (6-1, 6-2, 6-3) 7-3

16th Essex (Marcos Devers)Lawrence: A3, A4, E2, E3, E4 and
all of F (F1,F2, F3, F4)

Methuen: 3, 7

16th Essex (Marcos Devers)Lawrence: A3, A4, E2, E3, E4 and
all of F (F1,F2, F3, F4)

Methuen: Town 3, 7

**15th Essex (previously Linda Dean
Campbell)**

Methuen: Town 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12

Town 1, 5, 6, 12 are split with
4th EssexHaverhill: 2-1, 2-2, all of 5 (5-1, 5-2,
5-3), 7-1, 7-2**17th Essex (Frank Morán)**Lawrence: All of C (C1, C2, C3, C4)
and All of D (D1,D2, D3,
D4) and E1

Andover: Town 2, 3, 4

Town 3 is split with North
Andover Town 4 is split with
Andover**15th Essex (previously Linda Dean
Campbell)**

Methuen: Town 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12

Towns 1, 5, 6, 12 are split with
4th EssexHaverhill: 2-1, 2-2, all of 5 (5-1, 5-2,
5-3), 7-1, 7-2**STATE SENATE**

1 for Lawrence, 1 for Methuen, 2 for Haverhill

**1st Essex District (previously Diana
DiZoglio)**

Lawrence: All of Lawrence

Methuen: All of Methuen

Haverhill: 1-1, 1-2 (some parts), 1-3
(some parts)
2-2 (some parts) and 2-3
3-1, 3-2 (some parts), 3-3
(some parts) 5-1 (some
parts)
6-1 (some parts), 6-2
(some parts)**2nd Essex & Middlesex District
(Barry Finegold)**All: Wilmington, Tewksbury, Andover,
Merrimac, AmesburyHaverhill: 1-2 (some parts), 1-3
(some parts)
Part of: North Andover,
Haverhill (see below)
2-1, 2-2 (some parts)
3-2 (some parts), 3-3
(some parts)
all of 4 (4-1, 4-2, 4-3)
5-1 (some parts), 5-2, 5-3
6-1 (some parts), 6-2
(some parts), 6-3
all of 7 (7-1, 7-2, 7-3)**PARA TODO TIPO DE SEGURO**

Yomari, Elizabeth, Nini, Joan y Carla

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Para programar una cita, llama al 1.800.483.5503 o visítanos en
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Lo que nos entregues ayudará a los niños locales que participan
en nuestro programa de tutoría. Debes saber que tu donación es
deductible de impuestos.

¡Gracias por tu apoyo!

News from the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club

The Athlete

Twelve-year-old Ryan loves coming to the Club! He's been coming to the Club since he was seven and divides his time by going to each of the programs we offer. He starts his day in the homework room working with tutors, participates on the 6th-grade basketball team, eats supper, reads books in the reading corner, and learns code and computer game creation in the technology center.

When Ryan grows up, he wants to be a famous athlete and says his favorite staff member, Chris V., our Assistant Director of Athletics, inspired him. "Chris inspires me to be better. The Club has taught me kindness and that I should treat others the way I want to be treated. It has also helped me academically, especially in math."

Ryan is a perfect example of how impactful and beneficial the Club and our programs are for the youth of Lawrence. We hope to have more success stories like his.



Mass. Cases of Salmonella Linked to Dog Treats

Consumers advised to dispose of “Dog Gone Dog Treats” to prevent illness

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is advising consumers who have any Dog Gone Dog Treats to dispose of them. There have been three cases of salmonellosis (infection with the Salmonella bacteria) linked to individuals handling these dog treats. The cases include two adults in their 70s and a child; all are residents of Essex County. One open bag from a customer and several unopened bags purchased last week all tested positive for Salmonella at the State Public Health Laboratory.

Dog Gone Dog Treats are made in Georgetown, include “chicken chips” and beef liver and sweet potato chips, and are sold at Essex County Co-Op in Topsfield, New England Dog Biscuit Company in Salem, Gimme Chews & Moore in Haverhill, and Animal Krackers in Gloucester. These treats are dehydrated and are not fully cooked.

All stores have been ordered to remove any existing product from their shelves and no additional product is currently being made. People get Salmonella if they eat or handle food that has been contaminated with the bacteria and the food has not been properly handled, prepared, or cooked. Salmonella is common in uncooked food products from animals, such as eggs, poultry, and unpasteurized milk. People who get the germs on their hands can infect themselves by eating, smoking, or touching their mouths. They can also spread the germs to anyone or anything they touch, including food.

Most people with an infection will have diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps that can last up to a week; severe disease is possible but uncommon. Although treatment is not always necessary, people who have weakened immune systems, very young children, adults over 65, and those experiencing severe symptoms

should talk to their healthcare providers about treatment. Individuals should consult with their healthcare provider if they have symptoms after contact with the dog treats or an animal that has eaten the dog treats.

Dogs that become ill from Salmonella infection may experience diarrhea that can contain blood or mucus, may seem more tired than usual, and may have a fever or vomit. It is also possible for dogs to have Salmonella infection and not appear sick. Those concerned that their dogs may have become ill after eating the treats should consult their veterinarians.

The best way to prevent Salmonella infection from pet food or treats is to:

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water right after handling pet food or treats or having contact with animal feces (stool), especially before preparing, serving, or eating foods or drinks, or before preparing baby bottles.
- Store pet food and treats away from where human food is stored or prepared, and away from young children.
- Children under 5 should not touch or eat pet food or treats.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that the pet treats may have touched. Salmonella can survive several weeks in dry environments.
- Don't let your dog lick your mouth and face after eating. If you do, wash your hands and any other parts of your body they may have licked with soap and water.
- The CDC does not recommend feeding raw diets to pets as they have been found to contain germs, including Salmonella, that can make pets and humans sick.

Get ready for a Spring Fling - April 9th!

Our annual auction is back and better this year! With fewer Covid restrictions, we can have an in-person Auction on April 9th filled with excitement and joy. However, we need your help to make it possible.

The BGCL auction is vital to the daily operation of the Club, and our members rely on your continued support. We ask for any possible donations relating to gift certificates to local restaurants, wine baskets, or a gift from your favorite local business.

We are also looking for:

- Red Sox tickets
- Concert tickets

- Golf Foursomes
- In-Home Experiences
- Electronics
- Jewelry and Accessories
- Local Weekend Getaways
- and MORE!

Do you know of a great auction item or experience? We would love to hear from you!

If you have any questions or items to donate to our auction, don't hesitate to contact Sarah Hogue at shogue@lawrencebgc.com or 978-683-2747 x126.

The future fashion designer

"The Club taught me how to be confident and that I can be anything I dream of. I plan on being extremely busy and successful when I grow up," says Nashley, age 10.

Nashley is a 10-year-old with big dreams and aspirations. Born in Chinatown, she moved to Lawrence when she was five years old and started coming to the Club officially when she was 7. She feels at home at the Club and considers herself very popular amongst the staff and other members.

She has many talents, such as playing basketball, rapping, and sketching. She plays basketball for the 5th-grade girls' team and has freestyled at many of the Club's showcases. When she's not in the gym, she can be found sketching in the technology center. She loves to put on music and draw whatever feelings arise from a song.

Nashley wants to use her passion to create a sneaker brand one day like her



favorite basketball player, Kobe Bryant. We are happy that the programs at the Club are helping guide and motivate her on this journey of success!

**The Exchange Club of Haverhill presents the
20th Annual Rick Barry St Patrick's Day Celebration**

Thursday, March 17, 2022
Haverhill Country Club
Doors Open 7:00 am
Breakfast Buffet & Networking 7:30 am
\$10 per person / \$350 table of 10
raffles! Give-a-ways! live drawings! raffles!

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www.haverhillexchangeclub.com/stpats

20 Years of Tobacco Control in Massachusetts: New Report Shows Continued Progress Depends on Increased Tobacco Control Funding

New report reveals Massachusetts tobacco control successes over past 20 years, and outlines path to end tobacco use and save lives

The American Lung Association's 20th annual "State of Tobacco Control" report, released today, reveals significant progress in the work to end tobacco use, but products like e-cigarettes and other flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, create concern for losing another generation to nicotine addiction. The report finds that Massachusetts earned largely good grades on policies to reduce and prevent tobacco use but highlighted one main area of improvement: funding for tobacco cessation and prevention programs.

The "State of Tobacco Control" report evaluates state and federal policymakers on actions taken to eliminate tobacco use, the nation's leading cause of preventable death. The report recommends proven-effective tobacco control laws and policies to save lives. The 2022 "State of Tobacco Control" reveals that the country has made substantial progress in advancing tobacco control policies over the past 20 years, including comprehensive smokefree laws in more states, increased tobacco taxes across the nation and more Americans with access to treatments to help them quit smoking through state Medicaid programs.

Here in Massachusetts over the last 20 years, lawmakers have made significant strides to reduce tobacco use, including a robust clean indoor air act that protects people from secondhand smoke, and the first law to remove all flavored tobacco products - including menthol - from the market. However, there is more work to be done. The high school tobacco use rate is an astounding 37%. Today, smoking costs the State over \$4 billion and the lives of more than 9,000 Massachusetts residents annually. (This data was collected before the menthol flavored products were removed from shelves.)

"While we have seen considerable progress in Massachusetts, tobacco use remains our leading cause of preventable death and disease, taking an estimated 28,170 lives each year," said Trevor Summerfield, director of advocacy for the American Lung Association in Massachusetts. "If we want to continue our progress and leadership on tobacco control policy we must do more to prevent youth from initiating tobacco use, help those who want to quit and address the unequal burden of tobacco use in communities experiencing health disparities."

Massachusetts's Grades

"State of Tobacco Control" 2022 grades states and the District of Columbia in five areas that have been proven to prevent and reduce tobacco use and save lives. Massachusetts received the following grades:

1. Funding for State Tobacco Prevention Programs – Grade F
2. Strength of Smokefree Workplace Laws

– Grade A

3. Level of State Tobacco Taxes – Grade B
4. Coverage and Access to Services to Quit Tobacco – Grade C
5. Ending the Sale of All Flavored Tobacco Products - Grade A

This year's report noted the need for Massachusetts policymakers to focus on increasing funding for tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs, including their QUIT line services. The Massachusetts Tobacco Control Program has seen some recent increases, but further investment could have lifesaving potential given the ongoing youth vaping epidemic.

Despite receiving over \$686 million from tobacco settlement payments and tobacco taxes, Massachusetts only funds tobacco control efforts at 11% of the level recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Lung Association believes the funds should be used to support the health of our communities, and to prevent tobacco use and help people quit, and not switch to e-cigarettes. These programs are also critical for helping to end tobacco-related health disparities," said Summerfield.

The increased funding could also be paired with an increased tobacco tax – which has been proven to be one of the most effective ways to reduce tobacco use, not only among low-income individuals but also for youth, is to significantly increase the tax on all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes. Multiple studies have shown that every 10% increase in the price of cigarettes reduces consumption by about 4% among adults and about 7% among youth. Massachusetts has not significantly increased its tobacco tax in nearly a decade.

In addition to funding and taxes, the report urges legislators to defend their landmark legislation of flavored tobacco products and avoid any rollbacks. According to the 2021 National Youth Tobacco Survey, more than two million high school and middle school students use e-cigarettes, and over 80% of those kids use flavored e-cigarettes. In addition, menthol cigarettes continue to be the major cause of tobacco-related death and disease in Black communities, with nearly 81% of Black Americans who smoke using them. Ending the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol, will not only help end youth vaping, but will also help address the disproportionate impact of menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars have on many communities, including Black Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans and youth.

"Massachusetts made history when we ended the sale of all flavored tobacco products and it became a clear leader in public health policy. Defending and maintaining that law, without any loopholes, is a key to ending youth tobacco use in the state," said Summerfield.

NECC hangs on for 13th straight behind 20 from Haas, 79-77

A shorthanded Northern Essex Community College men's basketball team secured their 13th straight win on Thursday night behind 20 points off the bench from Elijah Haas (Haverhill). With the win NECC improves to 18-7 overall and 15-2 in Region 21 play, (Tuesday's cancelled game with Holyoke has officially been ruled a forfeit win for NECC).

Thursday's win also secures the Knights the outright Massachusetts Community College Athletic Conference championship by virtue of their regular season record (11-0) against MCCAC opponents.

Reigning NJCAA Player of the Week

Mehmet Asik (Ankara, TR) added 19 points for the Knights and Matt D'Amato (Peabody) making a spot start tossed in 11 to lead three Knights in double figures.

Stepping in to fill a void in the lineup Cameron Stratton (Haverhill) dished out 10 assists off the bench and Ezekiel Barning (Brampton, ON) added six blocks.

NECC will close out the regular season on Saturday at home in crucial matchup with Quincy College. The winner of the Saturday's matchup will secure the two seed in next weeks regional tournament. Tip-off is at noon from the Sport and Fitness Center on the Haverhill campus.

Knights win streak snapped in regular season finale, 90-63

The Northern Essex Community College men's basketball team had their 14 game winning streak snapped on Saturday afternoon in the regular season finale to Quincy College by a score of 90-63. The loss was the first for the Knights since December 4th. The loss drops the Knights record to 18-8 overall on the season and 15-3 in Region 21 play.

Quincy got off to hot start shooting and the Knights were playing catch up throughout the game, NECC trailed by 14 at the half 48-34. Elijah Haas (Haverhill) led the NECC with 11 points off the bench.

Metin Yavuz (Istanbul, TR) added 10 points to both record double figures.

Greg Duran (Lawrence) provided some valuable minutes off the bench working to contain Quincy's Doug Alves who had a game high 23 points, 16 of which came in the first half.

With the loss, the Knights will be the #3 seed in the upcoming NJCAA Region 21 Tournament and will host a quarterfinal game on Wednesday February 23rd at 6:00pm. The Knights opponent is yet to be determined and final seeding will be announced on Sunday night.

Find us in / Búsqenos en Facebook/Rumbo

Haverhill's Top Dog Contest

License your dog and submit a photo of your loyal companion between 02/02/2022 - 02/28/2022 to be eligible.

- 1st place winner will receive dog tag #1 and their dog's photo posted in the Clerk's Office and website as Haverhill's "Top Dog"
- 2nd and 3rd place winners will receive dog tag #2 and #3

How to license your dog:

- In-person at the Clerk's Office - 4 Summer St, Room 118
- By mail or online at https://www.cityofhaverhill.com/government/city_clerk/dogs/index.php

Winners will be announced March 1, 2022.

PEM anuncia una convocatoria abierta para músicos callejeros



\$500-\$1,000 de honorarios y la oportunidad de tocar en la Fiesta y el Festival del PEM Prize el 21-22 de Mayo de 2022

SALEM, MA — El Peabody Essex Museum (PEM) invita a músicos callejeros de todo tipo a postularse para tocar en la Fiesta y el Festival del PEM Prize el 21-22 de mayo de 2022. Este evento comunitario celebra la vitalidad cultural de la costa norte y el área metropolitana de Boston y se inspira en la instalación y la performance del ganador del PEM Prize, Carlos Garaicoa. En colaboración con Creative Collective de Salem, PEM busca aproximadamente 30 artistas, desde violonchelistas de formación clásica hasta músicos del tambor de balde y beatboxers. Todos recibirán honorarios por su participación: \$500 para músicos solistas y \$1000 para grupos. La fecha límite para postularse es el 15 de marzo de 2022. Encuentra más información en: pem.org/pemprize.

En su innovadora instalación multisensorial Partitura, Carlos Garaicoa celebra nuestro potencial para crear una unidad poderosa a partir de la gran diversidad de nuestras comunidades. Esta instalación, que estuvo expuesta en PEM entre 2020 y 2022, imaginó un nuevo tipo de orquesta, compuesta de 40 grabaciones individuales de músicos callejeros de Madrid y Bilbao, España. Los músicos trajeron los sonidos de su ciudad al museo y, con ellos, aportaron un sentido único del lugar y una alegría inesperada. Garaicoa trabajó con el compositor Esteban Puebla para producir una composición que uniera este extraordinario abanico de interpretaciones con músicos de una variedad de orígenes culturales, niveles de competencia y tradiciones musicales. El primer PEM Prize busca rendir homenaje a artistas cuya obra explore la intersección entre la creatividad y la participación cívica.

Creative Collective está ayudando a producir el Festival del PEM Prize y trabajará paralelamente para proporcionar oportunidades equitativas a una diversa comunidad de vendedores y artistas. Creative Collective crea estrategias de desarrollo económico en todo el condado que respaldan la creencia de que la diversidad, la equidad y la inclusión resultan fundamentales para la sostenibilidad de la fuerza laboral creativa.

- Captura de pantalla de un video de músicos callejeros interpretando como parte de la instalación Partitura de Carlos Garaicoa. © Carlos Garaicoa.
- Fotografía de Bob Packert/PEM.

PATROCINADORES DEL PEM PRIZE

Agradecemos a nuestros patrocinadores corporativos de nivel Benefactor Fiduciary Trust y Matter y a nuestro patrocinador por intercambio Port Lighting por su generoso apoyo para el PEM Prize.

ACERCA DEL PEM PRIZE

Los artistas cambian la forma en la que vemos el mundo e interactuamos entre nosotros. El PEM Prize se otorgará a un artista o artistas de cualquier campo cuya obra explore la relación catalítica que existe entre la creatividad y la participación cívica. Estos artistas, que revitalizan y reimaginan las comunidades en las que vivimos, son líderes que nos conectan con la posibilidad de lograr sociedades más inclusivas y comprensivas. El PEM Prize se otorgará a personas o grupos que tengan por objetivo profundizar nuestras conexiones culturales a nivel mundial, encender nuestra imaginación e inspirarnos a actuar. Acompañanos para disfrutar de una serie de actividades y eventos en torno a este proyecto. Reserva las siguientes fechas: 21 de mayo de 2022 por la noche para la celebración del PEM Prize y la recaudación de fondos y 22 de mayo de 2022 durante el día para el Festival del PEM Prize.

PROTECCIÓN DE LA SALUD Y LA SEGURIDAD

La salud y la seguridad de nuestro personal y nuestros visitantes es nuestra mayor prioridad. PEM ha aumentado sus protocolos de seguridad, lo que incluye una sanitización y desinfección más frecuente e intensiva de todo el museo. Alentamos a todos nuestros visitantes a usar mascarilla. Para obtener más información, visita pem.org/safety.

Durante los últimos 20 años, el Peabody Essex Museum (PEM) se ha distinguido como uno de los museos de arte de mayor crecimiento en Norteamérica. Fundado en 1799, es además el museo más antiguo del país que nunca ha cerrado sus puertas. En su esencia prima la misión de enriquecer y transformar las vidas de las personas expandiendo sus perspectivas, actitudes y conocimiento de sí mismas y del mundo en general. PEM celebra lo más destacado de la creatividad artística y cultural por medio de exposiciones, programas y eventos especiales que ponen de relieve las conexiones interculturales, integran el pasado y el presente, y subrayan la vital importancia de la expresión creativa. La colección del museo es de las mejores en su tipo y cuenta con obras excepcionales provenientes de todos los rincones del mundo y épocas históricas:

arte y arquitectura estadounidenses, arte de exportación asiático, fotografía, historia y arte marítimos, arte indígena, arte de

Oceanía y África, así como una de las colecciones museísticas de libros raros y manuscritos más importantes del país. El campus de PEM ofrece una experiencia variada y única a sus visitantes, con zonas de actividades prácticas, oportunidades interactivas y espacios de interpretación. Veintidós destacadas estructuras históricas conforman el campus de PEM, entre ellas, Yin Yu Tang, una casa china de 200 años de antigüedad que es el único ejemplar de

arquitectura doméstica china expuesto en los Estados Unidos. HORARIO: Abierto jueves, sábado y domingo, de 10 a.m.–5 p.m., y viernes de 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Cerrado en Acción de Gracias, Navidad y Año Nuevo ENTRADA: \$20 para adultos; \$18 para jubilados; \$12 para estudiantes. Los miembros, los menores de 16 años y los residentes de Salem gozan de entrada general gratuita. INFORMACIÓN: Llama al 866-745-1876 o visita pem.org.

PEM Announces an Open Call for Street Musicians

\$500–\$1,000 Honorarium and Opportunity to Perform at the PEM Prize Party & Festival on May 21–22, 2022

performing as part of Carlos Garaicoa's Partitura. © Carlos Garaicoa.

- Artist Carlos Garaicoa. Photo by Bob Packert/PEM.

PEM PRIZE SPONSORS

We thank our Benefactor level corporate sponsors Fiduciary Trust and Matter and our in-kind sponsor Port Lighting for their generous support of the PEM Prize.

ABOUT THE PEM PRIZE

Artists change the way we see the world and interact with one another. The PEM Prize will be given to an artist or artists from any field whose work explores the catalytic relationship between creativity and civic engagement. Reinvigorating and reimagining the communities in which we live, these artists are leaders, connecting us to the possibilities that exist for more inclusive and understanding societies. PEM Prize awardees will be individuals or groups who aim to deepen our global cultural connections, ignite our imaginations and inspire us into action. Join PEM for a full series of activities and events surrounding this project. Save the Dates of May 21, 2022 in the evening for the PEM Prize Celebration and Fundraiser and May 22, 2022, daytime for the PEM Prize Festival.

PROTECTING HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health and safety of PEM's staff and visitors is our highest priority. PEM has increased its safety protocols, including the frequency and intensity of its sanitation and disinfection efforts across the museum. Face masks are encouraged for all visitors. To learn more, visit pem.org/safety.

Over the last 20 years, the Peabody Essex Museum (PEM) has distinguished itself as one of the fastest-growing art museums in North America. Founded in 1799, it is also the country's oldest continuously operating museum. At its heart is a mission to enrich and transform people's lives by broadening their perspectives, attitudes, and knowledge of themselves and the wider world. PEM celebrates outstanding artistic and cultural creativity through exhibitions, programming, and special events that emphasize cross-cultural connections, integrate past and present, and underscore the vital importance of creative expression. The museum's collection is among the finest of its kind boasting superlative works from around the globe.

Creative Collective is helping produce the PEM Prize Festival and will be working in tandem to provide equitable opportunities to a diverse community of vendors and performers. Creative Collective creates economic development strategies across the county that support diversity, equity and inclusion being critical to the sustainability of the creative workforce.

(Cont. on page 16)

Just Starting Out? Jumpstart Your Financial Future

Learn to budget, build credit, and save for retirement at Jumpstart Your Financial Future, a series of virtual workshops offered by the Nashua Public Library for ages 17 to 30.

The programs will help you achieve financial prosperity and independence. They are free, but registration is required to get Zoom invitations. Register at tinyurl.com/nplmoney.

All workshops are presented by the Babson Financial Literacy Project in partnership with the Tewksbury Public Library. They start at 7 p.m.

For more information contact Carol at carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org or 603-589-4610.

Tips and Tricks for Managing Your Credit

Credit cards are convenient and can help you build your credit profile, but they

can also be a trap. Learn to manage them and avoid their hidden costs.

Wednesday, March 2

Managing Your Money to Build Your Best Life

This workshop will help you learn to budget your money and start building a nest egg for your future.

Wednesday, March 16

Decisions! Decisions!

New job? You need to decide how much to put into your retirement account, which investments to choose, and which health insurance plan is best for you.

Wednesday, April 6

Protecting You and Your Assets

This workshop will help you organize and prepare for adult life, which may feel overwhelming!



Merrimack Student-Athletes Honored on NEC Fall Academic and Commissioner's Honor Rolls

Somerset, NJ -- Merrimack College saw an incredible number of student-athletes honored on the Northeast Conference's Fall 2021 Academic and Commissioner's Honor Rolls, as announced by the league office Friday afternoon.

Both the NEC's Academic and Commissioner's Honor Roll recognizes eligible student-athletes representing the sports of men's and women's cross country, field hockey, football, men's and women's soccer and women's volleyball. Members of the academic honor roll have maintained a GPA of 3.20 or higher for the semester, while the commissioner's honor roll is for those who have at least a 3.75 or higher.

Merrimack had 135 student-athletes named to the Academic Honor Roll, while an even 50 Warriors landed on the Commissioner's Honor Roll.

It was all part of a conference record 1,198 student-athletes named to the honor roll, which is a 6.2 percent increase from the conference standard set a year ago. There were also a record 498 student-athletes named to the Commissioner's Honor Roll with a 3.75 or better grade point average, an astounding 27.4 percent jump from the previous league mark established in 2019.

TJ Corliss of Merrimack was also named the NEC's Scholar-Athlete of the year in men's cross country in the release.

Men's Lacrosse's Vogt Earns NEC and National Weekly Recognition

Merrimack College men's lacrosse sophomore goalie, Henry Vogt, was named the NEC defender of the week, as announced by the league office Monday afternoon.

Vogt put on a show in a close loss to Boston University. He recorded a career-high 23 saves in the contest and added a goal. It marked the first goalie goal for the Warriors since the 2005 season when Vogt landed a long bomb into the Terrier net from behind the midfield line. It also marked the first point from a Merrimack goalkeeper since the 2013 campaign.

The Warriors head up to Hanover, N.H.



Saturday for a showdown with Dartmouth of the Ivy League. Faceoff is set for 1:00 pm.

Women's Lacrosse Game Time Adjusted

The Merrimack women's lacrosse team's game at the University of Vermont has been moved to Monday, Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. The game was previously scheduled to take place on Sunday, Feb. 20 at 12 noon, but was altered due to poor field conditions at Virtue Field in Burlington.

The game is the season opener for the

women's lacrosse team and will be available to stream on America East TV or through the Vermont live stats link. Fans can also follow along with live updates on the team's Twitter page, @MerrimackWLAX. Following their trip to Vermont, the Warriors will host the University of New Hampshire for their season opener on Wednesday, Feb. 23.

Seed Swap and Virtual Gardening Lecture at Nashua Library



Multiple varieties of seeds were available at an earlier Nashua Public Library seed swap. This year's event will take place from February 28 to March 6.

The Nashua Public Library will hold a seed swap in the Chandler Memorial Wing from Monday, February 28, until Sunday, March 6.

Why swap seeds?

The idea behind a seed swap is to grow plants in your garden, save the seeds, and bring them back to share with others the following year. Saving seeds year after year makes them better adapted to our locale.

If you have seeds to share, drop them off in the Chandler Memorial Wing by February 28. Seeds should be viable (not too old), labeled with their names and growing instructions, and preferably packaged in small quantities. If you don't have seeds to share, come anyway and take some home so you can share next year.

You will also be able to pick up information on seed saving, seed starting, and local agricultural programs; check out books from a gardening display; and enter a raffle for antique flower prints.

Learn to grow good soil

On Thursday, March 3, at 7 p.m., join the library's virtual lecture, "The Soil Food Web," with Diane Miessler.

Diane Miessler, a certified permaculture designer with over 50 years of gardening experience, is the author of "Grow Good Soil." Her talk will cover easy ways to maintain soil health in your own garden, basic composting techniques, and compost tea.

Register for the Zoom by going to bit.ly/soil2022. It's all free

Both events are free and open to the public. The seed swap is sponsored in partnership with the Nashua Garden Club.

The library is located at 2 Court Street, Nashua. For directions and parking information go to nashualibrary.org/about/directions. For more information contact Holly at holly.klump@nashualibrary.org or 603-589-4633.

Library Sets Goals for 2022-2024

Over the last seven months, Nashua Public Library staff and trustees took some time to step back from their day-to-day work and set goals for the coming three years.

They surveyed the public, staff, and trustees; talked with focus groups; and held retreats for staff and trustees to answer the question, What does Nashua want and need from its library? As a result of this data gathering, and analysis of demographic data, they decided to focus on three strategic directions:

- Welcoming and comfortable: Make the library a trusted, safe place that is inviting, easy to use, and a hub of community activity.
- Learning and culture: Support community members in living enriched lives by connecting them to learning opportunities throughout their lifetime in an equitable and inclusive way.
- Collaborative and connected: Integrate the library into the community to achieve high awareness, meaningful partnerships, and recognition of its value.

For each of these directions, three long-term goals were set. Now library

staff are working on an action plan that identifies what services, policies, and other resources are needed to meet those nine goals. For example, under the "Welcoming and comfortable" strategic direction, library staff will work toward the goal of "Serving as a welcoming community-gathering place for every member of the community" by implementing technology that will help staff communicate with customers who speak languages other than English.

The three-year action plan for carrying out the strategic plan will be completed later this spring.

Read the plan

The complete strategic plan includes a list of all the goals, the results of the surveys and focus groups, and a profile of the Nashua community. You can read it at <https://www.nashualibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Strategic-plan-2022-2024.pdf>.

Amanda Standerfer of Standerfer Consulting facilitated development of the plan.

Rumbo

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Los patrocinadores de Mass Save® anuncian que más de 30 organizaciones municipales y comunitarias participarán en la Community First Partnership 2022-2024

Con un enfoque en la justicia ambiental, la asociación refuerza la divulgación de la eficiencia energética en las comunidades locales

Los patrocinadores de Mass Save® anunciaron hoy que 30 municipios y 4 organizaciones comunitarias de la mancomunidad han sido seleccionados para participar en la Community First Partnership 2022-2024 y se beneficiarán de la financiación y el apoyo para implementar la divulgación de la eficiencia energética en sus comunidades. Los patrocinadores de Mass Save que prestan servicios en las ciudades y pueblos seleccionados para el esfuerzo de Community First Partnership incluyen Berkshire Gas, Eversource y National Grid.

La Community First Partnership proporciona subvenciones de hasta \$60 000 a los municipios de Massachusetts y organizaciones comunitarias que cumplan con los objetivos de la organización para implementar la divulgación de eficiencia energética en sus comunidades residenciales y de pequeñas empresas y logren ahorros de energía excepcionales completando evaluaciones energéticas y la instalación de mejoras energéticas. Estos incentivos para municipios y organizaciones comunitarias se suman a los incentivos de eficiencia energética que ya están disponibles para los residentes.

Se invitó a todos los municipios y organizaciones comunitarias con bloques censales de justicia ambiental designados por la mancomunidad a postularse al programa. Esto se hace con la finalidad de ampliar las actividades de divulgación a través de la asociación con los patrocinadores de Mass Save para aumentar los esfuerzos de ahorro de energía al llegar a más residentes del municipio. Se focaliza en los arrendatarios, los residentes que no hablan inglés o tienen dominio limitado del inglés y las pequeñas empresas. Los municipios y las organizaciones comunitarias presentaron solicitudes para participar, y las subvenciones se otorgarán en función de las metas alcanzadas para fin de año. En conjunto, los participantes seleccionados se han comprometido a ayudar a casi 25 000 residentes y pequeñas empresas a acceder a mejoras de eficiencia energética para fines de 2024.

“La eficiencia energética es la herramienta más valiosa que tienen nuestros clientes para ayudarlos a ahorrar dinero y reducir su uso de energía”, dijo Penni Conner, vicepresidenta ejecutiva de Experiencia del Cliente y Estrategia Energética de Eversource. “Como patrocinadores de Mass Save, esperamos mejorar la difusión en la comunidad a través de la Community First Partnership, especialmente en comunidades de justicia ambiental. Ya sea con propietarios de una pequeña empresa o arrendatarios, con ingresos moderados o bajos, esta colaboración nos ayuda a llegar a todos los clientes en nuestras comunidades locales para ayudarlos a realizar actualizaciones para reducir la cantidad de energía utilizada en sus hogares y negocios. También nos

ayuda a construir un futuro mejor y más eficiente energéticamente para cada familia, empresa y comunidad, al mismo tiempo que se respaldan los objetivos de descarbonización de la comunidad”.

“A través de nuestro patrocinio de Mass Save y nuestra colaboración con la Community First Partnership, estamos trabajando para garantizar que los programas de eficiencia energética sean alcanzables para todas nuestras comunidades, empresas y familias locales, sin que nadie se quede atrás”, dijo Christopher Porter, director de Gestión Energética de Clientes de National Grid. “Sabemos que, cuando nuestros clientes pueden usar la energía de manera más eficiente, es mejor para ellos y para nuestro medio ambiente. Esto nos ayuda a todos a acercarnos al futuro de energía limpia por el que luchamos”.

Además de brindar un incentivo financiero, los patrocinadores de Mass Save brindarán apoyo a estas comunidades durante la duración del programa, lo que incluye capacitación, materiales de marketing y un punto de contacto exclusivo para respaldar la estrategia y las necesidades de los clientes en cada comunidad. Juntos, los patrocinadores de Mass Save, los municipios y las organizaciones comunitarias se esforzarán por ayudar a los clientes a comprender mejor el uso de energía en sus hogares, proteger más de 4000 hogares, brindar incentivos para más de 3000 mejoras de eficiencia de equipos de calefacción y/o refrigeración, y brindar soluciones de eficiencia a más de 1000 pequeñas empresas a través de evaluaciones preconfiguradas en el primer año del programa. Al lograr ese objetivo, cada municipio u organización comunitaria podría ganar hasta \$60 000 en incentivos financieros, según los objetivos que establezcan para su municipio.

Para obtener más información sobre los patrocinadores de Community First Partnership de Mass Save, visite <https://www.masssave.com/learn/partners/community-partnership>.

Los municipios y las organizaciones comunitarias de nuestros alrededores que participan en la Community First Partnership 2022-2024:

Lowell

Groundwork Lawrence en Andover, North Andover, Lawrence, Haverhill y Methuen

Mass Save® es una colaboración de las empresas de servicios públicos de gas natural y electricidad de Massachusetts y los proveedores de servicios de eficiencia energética, incluidos Berkshire Gas, Cape Light Compact, Eversource, Liberty Utilities, National Grid y Unitil. Empoderamos a los residentes, las empresas y las comunidades para que realicen mejoras de eficiencia energética al ofrecer una amplia gama de servicios, reembolsos, incentivos, capacitaciones e información.

Los socorristas de PRIDEstar EMS obtienen la certificación de paramédicos

(Fotos cortesía de / Photos courtesy of PRIDEstar EMS)

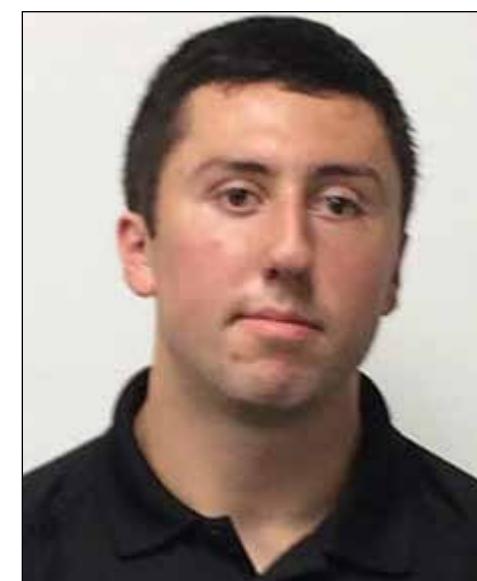
LOWELL – PRIDEstar EMS se complace en anunciar que tres empleados han adquirido su certificación de paramédico.

Forrest Gyurcsik de Lowell comenzó en la empresa en 2017 como conductor de una furgoneta con silla. Se convirtió en técnico de emergencias médicas en 2018 y recientemente se certificó como paramédico.

Cote Kilbride de Lowell comenzó en la empresa en 2019 como técnico de emergencias médicas y recientemente se certificó como paramédico.

Megan May de Methuen comenzó en la compañía en 2019 como técnica médica de emergencia y recientemente se certificó como paramédica

“Felicitaciones a Forrest, Cote y Megan”, dijo el fundador y director ejecutivo de PRIDEstar, David Daly. “Convertirse en paramédico puede ser un desafío, y ellos han estado a la altura del desafío. Esperamos verlos crecer en sus nuevos roles”.



Forrest Gyurcsik de Lowell fue certificado recientemente como paramédico.



Cote Kilbride de Lowell se certificó recientemente como paramédico.



Megan May de Methuen fue certificada recientemente como paramédica.

Megan May of Methuen was certified recently as a paramedic.

Cote Kilbride of Lowell was certified recently as a paramedic.

PRIDEstar EMS First Responders Achieve Paramedic Certification

LOWELL – PRIDEstar EMS is pleased to announce that three employees have acquired their Paramedic certification.

Forrest Gyurcsik of Lowell began with the company in 2017 as a chair van driver. He became an emergency medical technician in 2018 and was certified recently as a paramedic.

Cote Kilbride of Lowell began with the company in 2019 as an emergency medical technician, and was certified recently as a

paramedic.

Megan May of Methuen began with the company in 2019 as an emergency medical technician, and was certified recently as a paramedic

“Congratulations to Forrest, Cote, and Megan,” said PRIDEstar founder and CEO David Daly. “Becoming a paramedic can be challenging, and they have risen to the challenge. We look forward to seeing them grow in their new roles.”

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 PM to 8:30 PM.

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

BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4



From My Corner

Licenses for undocumented aliens

I hope you take the time to read the article I wrote on page 8 about our electoral system.

Lawrence Democratic Caucus

Last Saturday, February 19th, the Democratic Caucus was held at the Public Library. Even though I did not attend, I had some good laughs with the stories I heard.

A high point for Lawrence was that Councilor at-Large Ana Levy was asked by the Secretary of State to represent him here since he would not be able to make it. Ana has always had a good rapport with William Galvin receiving his cooperation anytime our city has a problem.

"Galvin has always been concerned about having open and fair elections sending support personnel from his office to guarantee accuracy. He was also instrumental in getting new voting machines and reached out to non-English speaking communities in Lawrence to protect their right," Ana told the audience.

And she continued, "Most importantly, Secretary Galvin successfully helped Lawrence achieve a 16% increase in the population count in the recently completed U.S. Census. He provided grant monies to ensure a complete and accurate count which lead to more representation and financial aid for Lawrence."

A good City Council

It was surprising getting the responses I received about the last two weeks' columns; first on the First Amendment of the Constitution on February 8th. A writer said, "Unfortunately, it takes a Cuban refugee to explain this part of the Bill of Rights, and done very well." The second was on the 15th was about the hypocrisy of politicians; some councilors were insulted while others praised me.

For example, Councilor Ana Levy was upset because I said that she voted for the Leahy School because there won't be additional taxes, after voting NO last November "because I knew we would find the way". Then, I heard her say that she voted in favor now because our children deserve the best education even if it means

increasing taxes. The problem is that the audio on the video is so poor that you can't make out what she said clearly.

Also worthy of mention is another "brilliant" comment from District A Councilor María De La Cruz. "I don't think that you need to speak two languages to be a bilingual person" and she was talking about School Committee Member Patricia Mariano and naming the library at the yet-to-be-built Leahy School for her.

María even made a motion to make it official right then and there. Fortunately, Council President Marc Laplante (who really knows the rules) put a stop to that motion for not being the proper venue.

That is another problem in Lawrence; most elected officials and politicians in this area do not understand that the basic concept of governmental civics is that all United States political bodies are framed on the fact that the Legislative Branch is of greater importance and greater authority than any Executive in place. Nothing is more demonstrative than the continuous fight for authority occurring in the United States House of Representatives/US Senate and the President.

Our city councilors often hear that they "hold the purse strings" of government but don't know how to put it into practice.

Do you remember when the Council held funding of an 8 million dollar capital project until the Mayor agreed to allow the Council to purchase new voting machines for \$150,000.00? The Councilors at the time seemed "surprised" that they actually were the stronger branch of local government concerning finances. Dan Rivera would often tell them that the Executive was of greater authority. It took some time to educate the members of the falsehood they were being told by the Mayor.

They are well-intended members of the community with the desire to change what goes wrong, but are not familiar with the rules and have probably never studied the City Charter. So, they are bound to make mistakes when voting on issues based on their ignorance. A good example is what María tried to do above, although she's been around for several years and should know better.

Another good example of this is the piece on this page from Richard Russell pointing to reckless decisions based on the lack of knowledge.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RUMBO

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

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

City Council: Compensation

By Richard Russell

During last Tuesday night's council meeting, a discussion developed regarding salaries for 'newly' created positions in the city. In the course of this discussion, one councilor mentioned increasing the councilors' salaries.

Here is a portion of the City Charter regarding the salary of the councilors:

"3.3 Compensation

The city council shall, by ordinance, establish an annual salary for its members. No ordinance increasing such salary shall be effective however, unless it shall have been adopted, by a two-thirds vote, during the first eighteen months of the term for which councilors are elected and the new salary schedule is not to be effective until the commencement of the term of office of the next city council to be elected."

Therefore, any increase in salary would have to be done in the first 18 months of this council's term of office and the increase would not take effect until the new council was in place.

It appears that creating a new salary schedule in the last 6 months of the council's term would be prohibited.

This is from a layman's reading of the City Charter.

PEM looking for street musicians...

(Cont. from page 14)

and across time — including American art and architecture, Asian export art, photography, maritime art and history, Native American, Oceanic, and African art, as well as one of the nation's most important museum-based collections of rare books and manuscripts. PEM's campus offers a varied and unique visitor experience with hands-on creativity zones, interactive opportunities, and performance spaces. Twenty-two noted historic structures grace

PEM's campus, including Yin Yu Tang, a 200-year-old Chinese house that is the only example of Chinese domestic architecture on display in the United States. HOURS: Open Thursdays, Saturdays & Sundays, 10 am–5 pm, and Fridays 10 am–7 pm. ADMISSION: Adults \$20; seniors \$18; students \$12. Members, youth 16 and under, and residents of Salem enjoy free general admission. INFO: Call 866-745-1876 or visit pem.org.

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Wednesday, March 23rd, 2022 – 7:30 PM
Merrimack Valley Chamber Night
at the Boston Celtics vs Utah Jazz!



Be there in the Top Shelf Bar for when the Boston Celtics take on Donovan Mitchell and the Jazz!

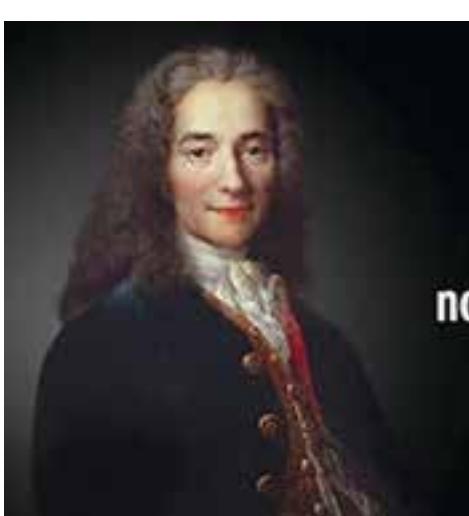
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If you want to know who controls you, look at who you are not allowed to criticize.

— Voltaire

AZ QUOTES

MV Chamber Networking Breakfast at Village Square Restaurant



The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce was back in Haverhill on February 16th for a packed Networking Breakfast at Village Square Restaurant in Bradford Square! Members had the opportunity to make new business connections and enjoy a great breakfast at Village Square.

Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Gold Star Family Needs Help

Marine Corps Sergeant Johanny Rosario Pichardo who volunteered to be stationed in Afghanistan to screen women and children at the Hamid Karzai Airport was killed by a terrorist attack on August 26, 2021 along with 12 other brave service members.

It is now time to honor Sergeant Rosario Pichardo's brave service to the United States by helping her family who have been deeply shocked and saddened by the loss of their beloved, Johanny. It was the dream of Johanny to support her mom and sister financially by servicing her country. It is only fitting, to carry out Sergeant Johanny's wish to bestow her family with the gift of homeownership. It is clearly ironic and sad, that Johanny's life insurance proceeds will help make that dream come true.

Today, we make this offer to begin to allow the Pichardo family to get a taste of the American dream and to honor this fallen soldier who has kept us safe.

Moving forward:

The good news is that their dream of homeownership is becoming a reality but we need your help!

Property is being purchased located at 23 Durant St. in Lawrence, MA. Closing date is 2/25/2022. The family will plan on their permanent move in by the end of March.

Please connect as soon as possible if you can help.

The House is in need of repairs and improvements and I am writing to ask all interested contractors, home improvement suppliers, etc. if they will consider volunteering their time and/or donating needed building equipment or supplies so that we can together provide the Pichardo family with a fully renovated house at no cost to them (the family has used their funds to purchase the home).

If you can assist in any way, it will be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to call me or Chamber President Joe Bevilacqua to discuss if you need to view the house, how you may be able to assist and/or any questions you may have. I can setup access to the house anytime to view for estimates. Thank you in advance,

Mike Sullivan, Chairman
Board of Directors
978-204-2758



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The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce

Government Affairs Committee Presents...

A SPECIAL REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

The Challenges and Opportunities Facing The United States in 2022

How are You, Your Family and Your Business Impacted?



CONGRESSMAN SETH MOULTON



&

CONGRESSWOMAN LORI TRAHAN

Monday, February 28th, 2022

7:30 AM Breakfast - 8:00 AM Speaking Program

DoubleTree by Hilton (Formerly Andover Wyndham)

123 Old River Rd., Andover, MA 01810

Includes a Full Hot Breakfast



Thank you to our Sponsors to date: All-Pro Electric; Covanta; Merrimack Valley Chamber Means Business Program; TEC, Inc The Engineering Corp; National Grid and UniCare

Sponsorship is available call Joe Bevilacqua at Chamber 978-686-0900

\$30.00 Chamber Member MVCC Congressional Breakfast February 28th, 2022 \$50.00 Future Member