

Tarde de pizzas en Lazarus House con Sal Lupoli



Sal Lupoli serves pizzas at Lazarus House

Sal sirvió la pizza él mismo a los invitados, junto con su esposa Kati, su hijo Sal Jr. y su hija Mary. El Alcalde de Lawrence, Brian De Peña, también se detuvo para conversar con los miembros de la comunidad y disfrutar de una porción de Sal's Pizza.

Sal served the pizza himself to the guests, alongside his wife Kati, son Sal Jr. and daughter Mary. Lawrence Mayor Brian De Peña also stopped in to chat with community members and enjoy a slice of Sal's Pizza. Pg. 7

Celebrating National Adoption Day



Desde la izquierda vemos a Sarah y Andrew Petrick en los momentos que formalizaban la adopción de su hijo Sheamus. A la derecha, está la Jueza Karen Hennessey de la Corte de Lawrence. Pg. 5

The last walk-through at the F. M. Leahy School



Saturday, November 19, 2022, was the last chance to walk through the 101-year-old building bringing back memories.

Visitors were invited to write a message for future generations about what the Leahy School meant to them.

Upon leaving, Patricia Mariano handed bookmarks to everyone as a memento. Pg. 6

Important message from Lawrence General Hospital:

The hospital continues to experience very high patient volumes, especially in our Emergency Center. Both adult and pediatric hospital beds are extremely tight throughout the region, including Southern NH.

It's more important than ever that people who need medical attention are accessing care with their primary care provider or urgent care when illness is still relatively mild or moderate versus waiting until they need emergency level care, and that people with chronic conditions are well-managed with regular visits to their PCP, medication, or other treatments.

To minimize the spread of RSV among babies and small children, it's important to be mindful of infection prevention during the upcoming holidays and remember "don't kiss the babies" unless they are your own!

Right Care, Right Place.

EMERGENCY ROOM

- Chest pain or difficulty breathing
- Serious burns, cuts, or lacerations
- Broken bones or dislocated joints
- Chest pain or difficulty breathing
- Fainting, changes in mental state, or slurred speech
- Head or eye injuries
- Weakness and/or numbness on one side

Mensaje importante de Lawrence General Hospital:

El hospital continúa experimentando volúmenes muy altos de pacientes, especialmente en nuestro Centro de Emergencias. Tanto las camas de hospital para adultos como las pediátricas son extremadamente limitadas en toda la región, incluido el sur de NH.

Es más importante que nunca que las personas que necesitan atención médica accedan a la atención con su proveedor de atención primaria o atención de urgencia cuando la enfermedad aún es relativamente leve o moderada en lugar de esperar hasta que necesiten atención de emergencia, y que las personas con afecciones crónicas estén bien manejadas con visitas regulares a su PCP, medicamentos u otros tratamientos.

Para minimizar la propagación del RSV entre bebés y niños pequeños, es importante tener en cuenta la prevención de infecciones durante las próximas vacaciones y recordar "¡no beses a los bebés" a menos que sean suyos!

Atención Correcta, Lugar Correcto.

SALA DE EMERGENCIAS

- Dolor de pecho o dificultad para respirar
- Quemaduras, cortes o laceraciones graves
- Huesos rotos o articulaciones dislocadas
- Desmayo, cambios en el estado mental o hablar arrastrando las palabras
- Lesiones en la cabeza o los ojos
- Debilidad y/o entumecimiento en un lado del cuerpo

Lawrence advances in services for the disabled Pg. 8

Alcalde De Peña responde a quejas de Unión de Oficiales de Policía

El Alcalde Brian A De Peña está consciente de las quejas, desafíos, denuncias internas y externas que por años vienen haciéndose sobre el Departamento de Policía de la Ciudad de Lawrence.

En ocasiones, esto afecta la eficiencia de nuestro Departamento dejando en una situación difícil a la mayoría de nuestra fuerza del orden en desventaja y falta de oportunidad, así como liderazgo adecuado y oportuno. Esta es la razón que ha obligado a mi administración a ordenar investigaciones independientes que nos permitan tomar las decisiones correctas, oportunas y justas.

Esperamos que en lo adelante el buen nombre y el alto honor de nuestro Departamento de Policía no se vea manchado por rumores de indisciplinas, corrupción y malos tratos internos donde muy pocos se repartan privilegios ocultos y abuso de poder. Nuestros hombres y mujeres en uniforme merecen más de lo que les hemos dado por años y es parte íntegra de nuestro compromiso.

Atentamente,

Brian A. De Peña, Alcalde
Ciudad de Lawrence, MA

Mayor De Peña responds to complaints by Police Superior Officers Union

Mayor Brian A De Peña is aware of the complaints, challenges, internal and external complaints that have been made about the City of Lawrence Police Department for years.

At times, this affects the efficiency of our Department, leaving the majority of our law enforcement at a disadvantage and lacking opportunity, as well as adequate and timely leadership. This is the reason that has forced my administration to order independent investigations that allow us to make the correct, timely and fair decisions.

We hope that from now on, the

good name and high honor of our Police Department will not be stained by rumors of indiscipline, corruption and internal mistreatment where very few share hidden privileges and abuse of power. Our men and women in uniform deserve more than we have given them for years and it is an integral part of our commitment.

Sincerely,

Brian A. De Peña, Mayor
City of Lawrence, MA

Mayor advices on water and sewer rates increase

Please be advised of the following water and sewer rate increases effective January 1st 2023

CURRENT WATER RATE - \$3.10 PER HUNDRED CU. FT. CURRENT SEWER RATE - \$3.35 PER HUNDRED CU. FT.

NEW WATER RATE INCREASE	
Effect. Date	New Rates:
1/1/2023	+ \$0.22 per hundred cu. ft.
7/1/2023	+ \$0.23 per hundred cu. ft.
1/1/2024	+ \$0.11 per hundred cu. ft.
7/1/2024	+ \$0.11 per hundred cu. ft.

NEW SEWER RATE INCREASE	
Effect. Date	New Rates:
1/1/2023	+ \$0.23 per hundred cu. ft.
7/1/2023	+ \$0.26 per hundred cu. ft.
1/1/2024	+ \$0.11 per hundred cu. ft.
7/1/2024	+ \$0.12 per hundred cu. ft.

Tenga en cuenta los siguientes aumentos en las tarifas de Agua y Alcantarillado a partir del 1 de enero de 2023

TARIFA ACTUAL DEL AGUA - TARIFA ACTUAL DE ALCANTARILLADO - \$3.10 POR CIENTO PIE CÚBICO / \$3.35 POR CIENTO PIE CÚBICO.

AUMENTO DE TARIFA DE AGUA	
Desde:	Nuevas Tarifas:
Enero/1/2023	+ \$0.22 por cada cien pie cúbico
Julio/1/2023	+ \$0.23 por cada cien pie cúbico
Enero/1/2024	+ \$0.11 por cada cien pie cúbico
Julio/1/2024	+ \$0.11 por cada cien pie cúbico

AUMENTO DE TARIFA DE ALCANTARILLADO	
Desde:	Nuevas Tarifas:
Enero/1/2023	+ \$0.23 por cada cien pie cúbico
Julio/1/2023	+ \$0.26 por cada cien pie cúbico
Enero/1/2024	+ \$0.11 por cada cien pie cúbico
Julio/1/2024	+ \$0.12 por cada cien pie cúbico

"La precisión para un periódico es lo que la virtud es para una dama; pero un periódico siempre puede publicar una retractación".

- Adlai E. Stevenson

Rumbo

"The Bilingual Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley"

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Rumbo

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"What sweetness is left in life, if you take away friendship? Robbing life of friendship is like robbing the world of the sun. A true friend is more to be esteemed than kinsfolk."

CICERO

¡Personal de AtWork está contratando!

Tenemos varios puestos disponibles en Methuen, Lawrence, North Andover, Andover, Haverhill y las ciudades limítrofes de New Hampshire. Si está buscando compartir el automóvil, tenemos varios empleados en todos nuestros sitios de trabajo que aprovechan las ofertas de ahorro en el uso compartido del automóvil.

¡Ofrecemos salarios muy competitivos! Este es un buen momento para ganar dinero extra para las vacaciones o comenzar ese nuevo trabajo que está buscando.

@Work es una empresa familiar que opera desde hace más de 20 años en Merrimack Valley. Cuando trabaje para @work, encontrará reclutadores disponibles las 24 horas, los 7 días de la semana, horarios flexibles y el mayor aprecio por nuestros empleados.

Tenemos un gran grupo de empleados a bordo y estamos emocionados y agradecidos de que ahora estamos buscando agregar a ese grupo.

Llame o venga de lunes a viernes de 9:00 a.m. a 4:30 p.m.

AtWork Personnel
240 Pleasant Street
Methuen, Ma 01844
978-725-4700



EOE

BE READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Protect yourself, your family and your community this holiday season by getting your flu shot and COVID vaccine booster. At GLFHC, you can get both at the same time!

We are administering the Bivalent COVID Booster which targets both the original coronavirus strain and the Omicron strains. Health experts are again predicting a surge this fall and winter. Additionally, there are indications that the upcoming flu season will be severe, and the flu shot is recommended for everyone ages 6 months and older.



Adults may walk in to any one of our six pharmacies and receive both a flu shot and COVID booster.

Children ages 5-18 may receive COVID boosters and flu shots at one of our four vaccine clinics in Lawrence, Haverhill and Methuen. Call 978-686-6029, or schedule an appointment through our website.

For children under age 5, please call 978-686-6029 to schedule an appointment.

PREPÁRESE PARA LOS DÍAS FESTIVOS



En esta temporada festiva, protéjase a sí mismo, a su familia y a su comunidad vacunándose contra el flu (la gripe) y poniéndose la dosis de refuerzo de la vacuna contra el COVID. En GLFHC, puede recibir ambas al mismo tiempo.

Ahora estamos administrando dosis de refuerzo actualizadas contra el COVID que se centran tanto en la cepa del coronavirus original como en las cepas de Omicron. Los expertos en salud nuevamente predicen un aumento en los casos de COVID este otoño e invierno. Además, hay indicaciones de que la próxima temporada del flu (gripe) será grave y se recomienda la vacunación contra el flu para todas las personas



a partir de los 6 meses de edad.

Los adultos pueden ir a cualquiera de nuestras seis farmacias y recibir la vacuna contra el flu (gripe) y la dosis de refuerzo contra el COVID.

Los niños de 5 a 18 años pueden recibir dosis de refuerzo contra el COVID y la vacuna contra el flu/gripe en una de nuestras cuatro clínicas en Lawrence, Haverhill y Methuen. Llame al 978-686-6029, o programe una cita a través de nuestro sitio web.

Para niños menores de 5 años, llame al 978-686-6029 para programar una cita.

POR DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



“La Navidad es una época en la que los niños le dicen a Santa lo que quieren y los adultos pagan por ello. Los déficits son cuando los adultos le dicen al gobierno lo que quieren y sus hijos pagan por ello”.

Richard Lamm

Mientras la vida pasa...

Mis lectores saben que trato de cubrir temas locales en este espacio porque las preocupaciones locales tienen el impacto más inmediato en nuestras vidas. También debemos reconocer que los cambios culturales tardan en surtir efecto a nivel nacional pero, cuando se vuelven alarmantes, a muchas personas les han lavado el cerebro y se vuelve más difícil combatirlos.

Durante varios meses, he estado escribiendo sobre los cambios que se están produciendo en la educación y se ha hecho evidente que la mayoría de la gente no entiende lo que está pasando. Odio pensar que no les importa.

Este fin de semana leí algo de Ben Shapiro de The Daily Wire que no había escuchado antes y, francamente, me asustó pensar en cómo va este país. Este es solo un extracto de su artículo:

“La Federación Nacional de Minoristas pronosticó que durante las próximas semanas, los estadounidenses entregaremos a los minoristas casi 1 billón de dólares. Al hacerlo, debemos elegir sabiamente qué empresas reciben nuestro dinero ganado con tanto esfuerzo.

“Este año, Walmart usó nuestro dinero para forzar la teoría crítica de la raza en sus empleados, alentándolos a denunciar a los Estados Unidos como un 'sistema de supremacía blanca'. Target usó nuestro dinero para forjar una sociedad con una empresa que fabrica ropa interior trans para niños.

“Justo este fin de semana, Disney usó el dinero de los consumidores para lanzar una película animada llamada Strange World, en la que un padre despierto anima a su hijo de 16 años a coquetear con otro chico”.

Eso va más allá de la política y los partidos políticos. Esta es la mentalidad de las personas que enseñan a nuestros hijos en las escuelas, pero los padres no hablan y el lavado de cerebro continúa.

Estamos perdiendo alrededor de 100,000 jóvenes por las drogas cada año, y la próxima generación no tendrá ningún respeto por este país debido a la capacitación que reciben hoy de los medios y las escuelas.

Y, hablando de colegios...

Una de las mejores historias de primera plana que tuvimos fue anunciar los nuevos uniformes escolares que se convertirían en un requisito en todas las escuelas públicas con una hermosa foto de jóvenes modelos de nuestra ciudad. Era una nueva era bienvenida por los padres porque los uniformes representaban gastar una cantidad fija en la ropa escolar de sus hijos. Un beneficio adicional fue que eliminaría la competencia entre los estudiantes. Pero lo más importante, mejoró la autoestima y la disciplina entre los estudiantes.

No sé cuándo se levantaron esas restricciones, pero creo que sucedieron al mismo tiempo que comenzaron los problemas de disciplina, particularmente en el nivel secundario.

Algunos estudiantes están usando pijamas de franela para ir a la escuela. Tal vez sea uno de los muchos malos hábitos que aprendieron durante la pandemia, pero es hora de restringir sus libertades. Seguimos culpando a la pandemia de todo pero hay padres y maestros en sus vidas que deberían estar imponiendo disciplina y buenos modales en ellos.

La pandemia ha terminado. Acabemos con esa libertad errada. El uso de uniformes demostró que los estudiantes se sentían mejor consigo mismos y su comportamiento lo demostró. Los estudiantes necesitan toda la orientación que podamos brindarles; Comencemos por ahí y verá la mejora.

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CARTAS AL EDITOR RUMBO

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

La temporada festiva de invierno conlleva más muertes por ataques cardíacos que cualquier otra época del año

La American Heart Association ofrece información y recursos para prepararse a fin de tener una temporada festiva saludable para el corazón

La alegría de la temporada festiva de invierno a menudo se ve arruinada para muchas personas, ya que las investigaciones demuestran que más personas mueren debido a ataques cardíacos durante la última semana de diciembre que en cualquier otro momento del año. La American Heart Association, la principal organización voluntaria del mundo enfocada en la salud del corazón y del cerebro de todos, afirma que estar atentos a este fenómeno anual y seguir unos cuantos consejos importantes y saludables para el corazón puede ayudar a salvar vidas.

“La temporada festiva es un período ajetreado y, a menudo, estresante para la mayoría de nosotros. Las rutinas se interrumpen; es posible que comamos y bebamos más, y hagamos ejercicio y nos relajemos con menos frecuencia. Además, dormimos poco y estamos sometidos a mucho estrés. También es posible que no escuchemos a nuestros cuerpos ni prestemos atención a las señales de alerta, ya que pensamos que las visitas al médico pueden esperar hasta después del año nuevo”, afirmó el director de Ciencias Clínicas de la American Heart Association, Mitchell S.V. Elkind, M.D., M.S., FAHA. “Si bien no conocemos con exactitud el motivo por el cual se producen más ataques cardíacos mortales durante esta época del año, es importante saber que todos estos factores pueden agravar al aumento del riesgo de presentar un evento cardíaco mortal”.

En la investigación científica, se descubrió un aumento en los eventos cardíacos durante la temporada festiva de invierno. En un estudio publicado en Circulation, la revista insignia de la American Heart Association, se informó que se producen más muertes por motivos cardíacos el 25 de diciembre que en cualquier otra fecha del año; la segunda cifra más alta de muertes por motivos cardíacos se presenta el 26 de diciembre y la tercera cifra más alta se presenta el 1 de enero.

Se determinó que el clima invernal es un factor desencadenante del aumento en el riesgo de sufrir ataques cardíacos, ya que las temperaturas bajas hacen que los vasos sanguíneos se contraigan, lo que limita la circulación del flujo sanguíneo. Sin embargo, en otro estudio publicado en Circulation, se descubrió que, incluso en el clima templado del condado de Los Ángeles, se produce cerca de un tercio más de ataques cardíacos en diciembre y en enero en comparación con el período entre junio y septiembre. Estos hallazgos quedaron respaldados por un estudio publicado en la revista Journal of the American Heart Association por investigadores en Nueva Zelanda, donde las festividades de diciembre se celebran durante el verano de dicha zona.

“La investigación también demuestra que los mayores aumentos en estas muertes por ataques cardíacos durante la temporada festiva se producen en personas que no están hospitalizadas. Esto recalca la importancia de reconocer los síntomas y de buscar atención

médica de inmediato. No se deben ignorar las señales de alerta de un ataque al corazón por no querer arruinar las fiestas, ya que las consecuencias podrían ser mucho peores”, afirmó Elkind. “También se hace un llamado de atención con respecto a la necesidad de crear mayor conciencia sobre saber realizar la RCP solo con las manos. Usted podría estar haciendo las compras para las fiestas de fin de año, disfrutando una fiesta en la oficina o pasando tiempo en una reunión familiar y ver cómo un ser querido sufre un ataque cardíaco que se transforma en un paro cardíaco. Comenzar con la RCP de inmediato y llamar al 9-1-1 podría marcar la diferencia entre la vida y la muerte en estas situaciones. La RCP solo con las manos es una técnica que casi todos deberían aprender y realizar”.

Elkind destaca que, aunque es importante llevar una vida saludable para el corazón durante todo el año, existen algunos consejos que podría regalar a sus seres queridos, y a usted mismo, a medida que nos acercamos a la temporada festiva:

- Conozca los síntomas y tome medidas: Las señales de los ataques cardíacos varían en hombres y mujeres, y es importante identificarlas temprano y llamar al número de emergencias para obtener ayuda. Cuanto antes comience el tratamiento médico, más posibilidades habrá de sobrevivir y prevenir daños al corazón.
- Celebre con moderación: comer de forma saludable durante la temporada festiva no tiene que significar privarse de darse gustos, siempre hay formas de comer de forma inteligente. Trate de hacer cambios pequeños y saludables, y los que pueda hacer para seguir sintiéndose en óptimas condiciones mientras come y bebe con moderación, y no olvide cuidar su consumo de sodio.
- Planifique traer paz y ser amable consigo mismo: tómese el tiempo de cuidarse durante las ajetreteadas fiestas de fin de año.
- Reduzca el estrés de las interacciones familiares, los problemas financieros, los horarios ajetreteados y otros factores estresantes que son frecuentes en esta época del año, incluidos los viajes.

Manténgase en movimiento: la American Heart Association recomienda, al menos,

- 150 minutos de actividad física por semana, un número que suele descender durante el alboroto de la temporada festiva. Sea creativo en cuanto a las formas de mantenerse activo, incluso si decide caminar en familia o practicar otra actividad divertida que pueda hacer con sus seres queridos.
- No olvide sus medicamentos: los días festivos ajetreteados pueden hacer que se salte medicamentos, los olvide cuando esté lejos de casa o que no obtenga reposiciones de medicamentos de manera oportuna. Esta es una tabla de medicamentos para ayudarle a mantenerse al día y garantizar que mantenga su presión arterial bajo control.

La American Heart Association tiene más información acerca de cómo llevar una vida saludable para el corazón durante la temporada festiva y el resto del año en heart.org.

Celebrating National Adoption Day

By Dalia Diaz

After a setback due to the pandemic, this celebration is back and Friday, November 18, 2022, the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) made it possible that 101 children became real members of the families who love them.

Ten Massachusetts Courts had festive decorations to mark this occasion to the delight of their personnel. Here, at the Fenton Judicial Center the ambience was felt everywhere.

Sarah and Andrew Petrick were anxious having to wait so long to adopt

their son Sheamus, a bright, outgoing, and polite boy. When they approached the bench to formalize the process before Judge Karen Hennessey, asked him if he wanted to have his last name changed and he responded while paying attention to the many toys before him.

Being very talkative, he told her that he woke up at 3:30 in the morning and found \$20 from the tooth fairy, which brought laughter in the courtroom full of friends and relatives as well as Ana Eira and Ricardo Franco, Director Family Support Services, MARE.



Sheamus signing a document for Judge Hennessey.

Sheamus firmando un documento para la Jueza Hennessey.

Celebración del Día Nacional de la Adopción

Por Dalia Díaz

Después de un revés por la pandemia, esta celebración está de vuelta y el viernes, 18 de noviembre de 2022, el Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) hizo posible que 101 niños se convirtieran en miembros reales de las familias que los aman.

Diez tribunales de Massachusetts tenían decoraciones festivas para celebrar esta ocasión para deleite de su personal. Aquí, en el Centro Judicial de Fenton, el ambiente se sintió en todas partes.

Sarah y Andrew Petrick estaban ansiosos por tener que esperar tanto para adoptar a su hijo Sheamus, un niño

inteligente, extrovertido y educado. Cuando se acercaron al banquillo para formalizar el proceso ante la jueza Karen Hennessey, le preguntaron si quería que le cambiaran el apellido y él respondió prestando atención a los muchos juguetes que tenía delante.

Siendo muy hablador, le dijo que se despertó a las 3:30 de la mañana y encontró \$20 del hada de los dientes, lo que provocó risas en la sala llena de amigos y familiares, así como de Ana Eira y Ricardo Franco, Director de Servicios de Apoyo a la Familia, MARE.



Sheamus Petrick with his parents Andrew and Sarah and some immediate relatives.

Sheamus Petrick con sus padres Andrew y Sarah y otros familiares inmediatos.

"Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive."

“El amor y la compasión son necesidades, no lujos. Sin ellos, la humanidad no podrá sobrevivir.”

Dalai Lama

Methuen Police Department to Participate in ‘Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over’ Campaign

METHUEN — Chief Scott McNamara is pleased to announce that the Methuen Police Department has been awarded a grant to increase the number of impaired driving patrols during the holiday season as part of the national “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” enforcement campaign.

As part of the Municipal Road Safety Program, the Baker-Polito Administration recently awarded over \$5 million in road safety grant funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to local police departments for Fiscal Year 2023. Of this funding, the Methuen Police Department was awarded \$32,595.

The Gloucester Police Department will join other departments across the state and the Massachusetts State Police in the campaign. Police urge those who plan to drink or use marijuana or other drugs to plan ahead and designate a driver, use a ride-sharing service or take public

transportation.

The campaign runs from Dec. 1 to Dec. 31. During that time, the Methuen Police Department will have several officers on the lookout for impaired and reckless drivers on the roads. Everyone is reminded to never get behind the wheel if they have been drinking and to never get into a vehicle if the driver is impaired.

According to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, approximately one-third of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers. On average, more than 10,000 people have died each year from 2014 to 2018 in drunk-driving crashes.

For more information on the Office of Grants and Research’s Municipal Road Safety and impaired driving enforcement grant program, as well as the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign, click here.

¿Eres apasionado de hacer la diferencia?

¡Healthy Families es el lugar para usted!

¡Comience su futura carrera en la Primera Infancia o los Servicios Humanos!

La Sociedad de Massachusetts para la Prevención de la Crueldad hacia los Niños (MSPOC), una división de Elliot, está buscando candidatos apasionados, creativos y motivados para ser Visitadores del Hogar en nuestro programa Healthy Families.

¡Ayuda a los padres primerizos a crear un entorno estable y enriquecedor para sus hijos!

Pago competitivo

Beneficios de salud y vacaciones

Reembolso de matrícula

Entrenamiento Competitivo

Aplicar aquí

Jornada completa: de lunes a viernes (horario híbrido)

Diploma de escuela secundaria: \$ 17 / hora

Licenciatura: \$ 18.02 / hora

(Pago adicional para candidatos bilingües)

A nostalgic good-bye to the F. M. Leahy School

Saturday, November 19, 2022, was the last chance to walk through the 101-year-old building bringing back memories to former teachers as well as students.

Some of the former students identified themselves to the teachers discovering that they were in their classrooms except that now they brought their children.

It was nostalgic because, among the good memories, there was the realization that they won't be able to look at that building and tell their children stories.

Just like the Rocky Club where so many of their graduations, meetings and other events were held. That all adds to the remembrances of their childhoods.

A teacher that was a fixture each year in Rumbo's pages was Leslie Donovan Quinlan. She worked extra hard to have the students participate in community events which were always recognized by local organizations.

Visitors were invited to write a message for future generations about what the Leahy School meant to them.

Upon leaving, Patricia Mariano handed bookmarks to everyone as a memento.

By Dalia Díaz, text, photos and memories



In recognition of 40 years serving the children of this city, Pat Mariano was honored by naming the Library at the new F. M. Leahy School after her. District 1 Councilor Maria De La Cruz was the proponent of this motion which was accepted unanimously by the City Council.

It was a very emotional day for former Principal Patricia Mariano reminiscing with teachers and former students on this last day after spending 12 years here.

El sábado, 19 de noviembre de 2022, fue la última oportunidad de caminar por el edificio de 101 años de antigüedad y traer recuerdos tanto a antiguos maestros como a estudiantes.

Algunos de los exalumnos se identificaron ante los profesores al descubrir que estaban en sus aulas excepto que ahora traían a sus hijos.

Era nostálgico porque, entre los buenos recuerdos, estaba el darse cuenta de que no podrán mirar ese edificio y contarles historias a sus hijos.

Al igual que el Rocky Club, donde se llevaron a cabo muchas de sus graduaciones, reuniones y otros eventos. Todo eso se suma a los recuerdos.

Una profesora que era un fijo cada año en las páginas de Rumbo era Leslie Donovan Quinlan. Trabajó muy duro para que los estudiantes participaran en eventos comunitarios que siempre fueron reconocidos por las organizaciones locales.

Los visitantes fueron invitados a escribir un mensaje para las generaciones futuras sobre lo que significaba para ellos la Escuela Leahy.

Al salir, Patricia Mariano entregó marcapáginas a todos como recuerdo.

"The way to get things done is not to mind who gets the credit for doing them."
Benjamin Jowett



Tarde de pizzas en Lazarus House con Sal Lupoli



Lawrence Mayor Brian A. DePeña enjoying a slice of pizza.

Sal Lupoli, director ejecutivo de Lupoli Companies, dijo que su empresa también organizó una colecta de alimentos para las fiestas la semana anterior y donó un camión lleno de alimentos a la despensa de alimentos de Lazarus House.

Carmen Vega, Directora Ejecutiva de Lazarus House Ministries, se mostró verdaderamente agradecida y dijo: “Este es un ejemplo asombroso de ‘Lawrence cuidando a Lawrence’. Estamos muy agradecidos por los líderes empresariales, como Sal Lupoli, que no solo invierten en la ciudad, sino también en las personas de nuestra comunidad”.

Justo antes del Día de Acción de Gracias, Sal Lupoli y su familia invitaron a los huéspedes de Lazarus House al comedor de beneficencia de Lazarus House en Lawrence a una tarde de Sal's Pizza.

Sal sirvió la pizza él mismo a los invitados, junto con su esposa Kati, su hijo Sal Jr. y su hija Mary. El Alcalde de Lawrence, Brian De Peña, también se detuvo para conversar con los miembros de la comunidad y disfrutar de una porción de Sal's Pizza.

“Cuando escuché sobre el nuevo comedor de beneficencia, quise involucrarme”, comentó Lupoli, “pensé qué mejor momento que la semana de Acción de Gracias. ¡Mi familia y yo realmente nos divertimos mucho! Todos fueron muy agradecidos y amables”.

Lupoli Companies es una organización galardonada con más de dos décadas de crecimiento y desarrollo en Nueva Inglaterra. Nuestro enfoque es crear oportunidades en Gateway Cities en todo Massachusetts que transformen las comunidades a través de la creación de empleo y el desarrollo económico. Lo que comenzó como una pequeña empresa familiar en la industria hotelera creció para incluir más de 5 millones de pies cuadrados de marcas innovadoras en bienes raíces comerciales y residenciales. Estas industrias centrales, aunque independientes, están unidas por el deseo de seguir mejorando los productos y servicios en las comunidades a las que servimos.



Sal Lupoli serves pizzas at Lazarus House

Just before Thanksgiving, Sal Lupoli and his family treated guests at the Lazarus House Soup Kitchen in Lawrence to an afternoon of Sal's Pizza.

Sal served the pizza himself to the guests, alongside his wife Kati, son Sal Jr. and daughter Mary. Lawrence Mayor Brian De Peña also stopped in to chat with community members and enjoy a slice of Sal's Pizza.

“When I heard about the new soup kitchen, I wanted to be involved,” remarked Lupoli, “I thought what better time than Thanksgiving week. My family and I really had a lot of fun! Sal Lupoli serves pizzas at Lazarus House! Everyone was so thankful and kind.”

Sal Lupoli, CEO of Lupoli Companies, said his company also set up a holiday food drive the week prior and donated a truckload of food to the Lazarus House Food Pantry.

Carmen Vega, Executive Director

of Lazarus House Ministries, was truly grateful, saying, “This is an amazing example of ‘Lawrence taking care of Lawrence’. We are so very grateful for business leaders, like Sal Lupoli, who not only invest in the city, but also in the people in our community.”

Lupoli Companies is an award-winning organization with over two decades of growth and development throughout New England. Our focus is on creating opportunities in Gateway Cities across Massachusetts that transform communities through job creation and economic development. What started as a small family run business in the hospitality industry grew to include more than 5 million square feet of innovative brands in commercial and residential real estate. These core industries, although independent, are bound by a desire to keep improving the products and services in the communities we serve.

“Resolvamos ser dueños, no víctimas, de nuestra historia, controlando nuestro propio destino sin dar paso a sospechas y emociones ciegas”.

"Let us resolve to be masters, not the victims, of our history, controlling our own destiny without giving way to blind suspicions and emotions."

— John F. Kennedy

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Lawrence avanza en servicios para discapacitados

La ciudad de Lawrence se está reuniendo con un grupo de agencias estatales y organizaciones sin fines de lucro que brindan servicios a personas con discapacidades.

El Alcalde Brian De Peña y el Coordinador de ADA, Richard Rodríguez, se reunieron con un grupo de agencias estatales y organizaciones sin fines de lucro que brindan servicios a personas con discapacidades. La reunión se llevó a cabo en la sala de conferencias de la Oficina Ejecutiva de Salud y Servicios Humanos de Massachusetts en Lawrence, MA.

El propósito de la reunión es que el Alcalde De Peña agradezca a esas organizaciones por participar en el Mes de la Discapacidad de Lawrence. El propósito también implica reforzar la asociación formada entre la Ciudad de Lawrence y esas organizaciones para brindar los servicios necesarios a las personas con discapacidades.

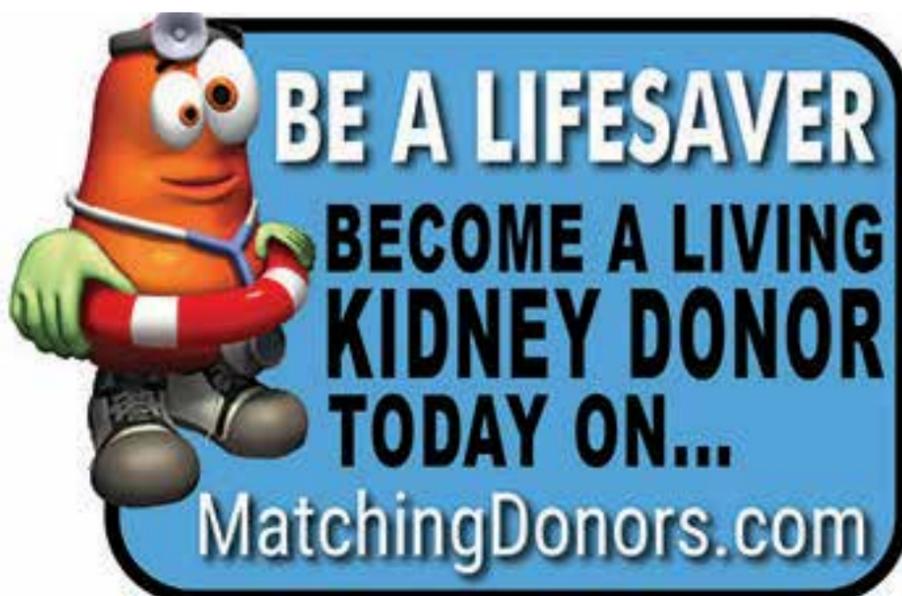
En una sala repleta, Rodríguez también agradeció a esas organizaciones y al Alcalde De Peña. Dijo: "Estoy agradecido con el Alcalde De Peña que demostró ser amigo de las personas con discapacidad". Dijo que recibió por correo una Citación de la Oficina del Gobernador presentada a la Ciudad de Lawrence. La Mención establece: "En nombre de los ciudadanos de la Mancomunidad de Massachusetts, me complace otorgarles esta Mención del Gobernador en reconocimiento de los esfuerzos de la ciudad de Lawrence para promover y celebrar el Mes de la Concientización sobre la Discapacidad".



Recibiendo elogios por su trabajo de parte de la multitud, Rodríguez respondió que quien también merece crédito es el Alcalde De Peña. Rodríguez leyó la Mención y se la presentó al Alcalde De Peña por su apoyo para mejorar la calidad de vida de las personas con discapacidades: contratando el primer Coordinador de ADA de tiempo completo, apoyar al primer Mes Oficial de la Discapacidad en Lawrence, renovar el evaluador del ayuntamiento que es Cumplir con ADA, entre otros.



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Lawrence advances in services for the disabled

The City of Lawrence is meeting with a group of both state agencies and nonprofits that provide services to people with disabilities

Mayor Brian De Peña and ADA Coordinator Richard Rodríguez met a group of both state agencies and nonprofits that provide services to people with disabilities. The meeting was held at the conference room of the Massachusetts Executive Office for Health and Human Service in Lawrence, MA.

The purpose of the meeting involves Mayor De Peña thanking those organizations for participating in Lawrence Disability Month. The purpose also involves reinforcing the partnership formed between the City of Lawrence and those organizations to provide needed services to people with disabilities.

In a packed room, Rodríguez also thanked those organizations and thanked Mayor De Peña. He said, "I am grateful

to Mayor De Peña who demonstrated to be a friend of people with disabilities." He said he received through the mail a Citation from the Governor's Office presented to the City of Lawrence. The Citation states: "On behalf of the Citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am pleased to confer you this Governor's Citation in Recognition of the City of Lawrence's Efforts to Promote and Celebrate Disability Awareness Month."

Receiving compliments for his work from the crowd, Rodríguez responded the one who also deserves credit is Mayor De Peña. Rodríguez read the Citation and presented it to Mayor De Peña for his support in improving the quality of life for people with disabilities: hiring the first full-time ADA Coordinator, supporting the first official Disability Month in Lawrence, renovating the City Hall evaluator that is ADA compliant, among others.

La Directora Ejecutiva de Groundwork USA, Heather McMann, Asistirá a la 2da Entrega Anual del Premio Earthshot del Príncipe William

Esta semana, el Príncipe y la Princesa de Gales, William y Catherine, realizarán su primera visita a los Estados Unidos en casi una década para anunciar a los ganadores del Premio Earthshot de este año. La directora ejecutiva de Groundwork USA, Heather McMann, tiene el honor de ser incluida en la lista de invitados junto con los campeones de la justicia climática y la energía limpia para celebrar las organizaciones innovadoras que allanan el camino para un futuro resistente al clima.

La década de 2020 es la década decisiva para combatir el cambio climático, y las acciones que tomemos ahora marcarán el rumbo para el futuro de nuestro planeta. Inspirándose en el aparentemente imposible desafío 'moonshot' del presidente John F. Kennedy, su visión de poner a un hombre en la luna en menos de una década, el Príncipe William y The Royal Foundation lanzaron el Premio Earthshot en 2020 "para descubrir y escalar las mejores soluciones para ayudar a reparar nuestro planeta en la próxima década"

Heather McMann, de Groundwork USA, e Iliana Panameño, de GreenRoots Chelsea, asistirán al evento por invitación del miembro del Comité Anfitrión de Boston, Dr. Max Holmes, presidente y director ejecutivo de The Woodwell Climate Research Center. Groundwork Lawrence y GreenRoots Chelsea se han asociado con Woodwell para evaluar el riesgo local que plantea el cambio climático en Lawrence y Chelsea, Massachusetts. Estas organización son parte de los esfuerzos de Woodwell para ampliar el

acceso a conocimientos prácticos sobre el riesgo climático que pueden informar soluciones efectivas impulsadas por la comunidad que fomentan la resiliencia climática y garantizan que las políticas climáticas municipales se desarrollen a través de una visión de justicia climática.

"Me siento honrada de poder unirme a la celebración de los finalistas de Earthshot de este año gracias a nuestros socios en el Woodwell Climate Research Center", comparte la directora ejecutiva de Groundwork USA, Heather McMann, y la ex directora ejecutiva de Groundwork Lawrence. "Es un privilegio tener esta oportunidad de aprender sobre soluciones climáticas innovadoras que están ocurriendo en todo el mundo para ayudar a informar los esfuerzos de justicia ambiental y resiliencia climática de Groundwork en todo el país".

La ceremonia, que se llevará a cabo el viernes 2 de diciembre en el MGM Music Hall en Boston, celebrará la cohorte de este año de 15 finalistas mundiales y otorgará a cinco ganadores el Premio Earthshot. Se otorgará un ganador en cada una de las áreas prioritarias del Premio 2030: protección y restauración de la naturaleza; limpiando nuestro aire; reviviendo nuestros océanos; construyendo un mundo libre de desechos y arreglando nuestro clima. Los premios estarán disponibles en PBS.org a las 2:00 el domingo 4 de diciembre y se transmitirán en PBS el miércoles 14 de diciembre (consulte los horarios locales). ¡Échale un vistazo para ver si puedes ver a Heather en la alfombra verde!



GroundworkUSA Executive Director, Heather McMann, to Attend Prince William's 2nd Annual Earthshot Prize Awards

This week the Prince and Princess of Wales, William and Catherine, are making their first visit to the United States in nearly a decade to announce the winners of this year's Earthshot Prize. Groundwork USA's Executive Director, Heather McMann, is honored to be included on the guest list alongside climate justice and clean energy champions to celebrate the innovative organizations paving the way for a climate resilient future.

The 2020s are the defining decade for combating climate change, and the actions we take now will set the course for the future of our planet. Inspired by President John F. Kennedy's seemingly impossible 'moonshot' challenge – his vision for putting a man on the moon in less than a decade – Prince William and The Royal Foundation launched the Earthshot Prize in 2020 "to discover and scale the best solutions to help repair our planet within the next decade"

Heather McMann, of Groundwork USA, and Iliana Panameño, of GreenRoots Chelsea, will be attending the event at the invitation of Boston Host Committee member, Dr. Max Holmes, President and CEO of The Woodwell Climate Research Center. Groundwork Lawrence and GreenRoots Chelsea have been partnering with Woodwell to assess the local risk that climate change poses Lawrence and Chelsea, Massachusetts. These partnerships are part of Woodwell's

efforts to broaden access to actionable climate risk insights that can inform effective, community-driven solutions that foster climate resilience and ensure that municipal climate policies are developed through a climate justice lens.

"I'm honored to be able to join the celebration of this year's Earthshot finalist thanks to our partners at the Woodwell Climate Research Center," shares Groundwork USA's Executive Director, Heather McMann and former Executive Director of Groundwork Lawrence. "It's a privilege to have this opportunity to learn about innovative climate solutions happening around the globe to help inform Groundwork's environmental justice and climate resilience efforts across the country."

The ceremony, held on Friday, December 2nd at the MGM Music Hall in Boston will celebrate this year's cohort of 15 global finalists and will award five winners The Earthshot Prize. One winner will be awarded in each of Prize's 2030 priority areas: protecting and restoring nature; cleaning our air; reviving our oceans; building a waste-free world and fixing our climate. The Awards will be available on PBS.org at 2:00 on Sunday, December 4th, and will be broadcast on PBS on Wednesday, December 14th (check local listings for times). Check it out to see if you can spot Heather on the green carpet!

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Todos los Autobuses de MVRTA en Massachusetts Tendrán Tarifa Gratuita Esta Temporada Navideña

Los fondos adicionales de MassDOT permitirán que MeVa permanezca sin tarifa durante seis semanas adicionales, o hasta el Día de los Patriotas de 2024

Inspirados por el éxito desenfrenado de la iniciativa de tarifa gratuita de MeVa Transit, todas las autoridades regionales de tránsito de Massachusetts tendrán tarifa gratuita durante la temporada navideña desde el día posterior al Día de Acción de Gracias hasta la víspera de Año Nuevo. La iniciativa está financiada a través de una subvención de \$2,5 millones otorgada por el Departamento de Transporte de Massachusetts a las 15 RTA del estado. El programa está diseñado para motivar a los nuevos clientes a "Probar Transit" mediante viajes sin costo para ir de compras o cenar en negocios locales, visitar a amigos y familiares y viajar al trabajo durante la temporada navideña. Como resultado, además de los autobuses MeVa, que no tienen tarifa desde marzo pasado, todo el transporte público en Massachusetts estará sin tarifa hasta fin de año, excepto MBTA.

"El anuncio de la tarifa gratuita para esta temporada navideña significa mucho para las familias de bajos ingresos que dependen en gran medida de los autobuses de la MVRTA", dijo el alcalde Brian A. DePeña. "Definitivamente motivará a muchas personas a visitar a sus familias para disfrutar juntos de la temporada".

"MassDOT se complace en haber trabajado en estrecha colaboración con las 15 autoridades regionales de tránsito de Massachusetts para utilizar los fondos otorgados en el presupuesto estatal del año fiscal 23 para el programa "Try Transit". "Esta iniciativa es otro ejemplo de los muchos esfuerzos en los que MassDOT y los MVRTA colaboran para mejorar las opciones de movilidad para los clientes del transporte público de Massachusetts", comentó Meredith Slesinger, administradora de MassDOT Rail & Transit.

Por supuesto, cuando llegue enero, cuando otros autobuses de la MVRTA vuelvan a cobrar tarifas, el servicio MeVa seguirá siendo gratuito para todos los pasajeros. La Junta Asesora de MeVa autorizó que todos los autobuses MeVa y el servicio de paratransito quedarán sin tarifa en diciembre pasado durante al menos dos años a partir de marzo de 2022, cuando se retiraron todas las cajas de tarifas de los autobuses MeVa. Los fondos adicionales de MassDOT permitirán que

MeVa permanezca sin tarifa durante seis semanas adicionales, o hasta el Día de los Patriotas de 2024, antes de tener que tomar determinaciones de ingresos a largo plazo.

El éxito de la iniciativa de MeVa es incuestionable. Desde que pasó a ser sin tarifa, el número de pasajeros de MeVa ha aumentado un 121,3 % para el servicio de ruta fija y un 50,4 % para el servicio de paratransito, según datos de octubre de 2022. Si bien los números de pasajeros constituyen un argumento tremendo sobre el valor de la tarifa gratuita en sí mismos, solo cuentan una parte de la historia. Al eliminar las tarifas como una barrera para usar el transporte público, más pasajeros se traducen en una mayor movilidad, mayor acceso a trabajos, citas médicas, capacitación, salidas sociales y más gastos en tiendas y restaurantes locales, lo que será aún más importante durante la próxima temporada navideña.

Desde el punto de vista operativo, al ser gratuitos, los autobuses viajan más rápido ya que no tienen que esperar a que los pasajeros hagan fila para pagar sus tarifas. Incluso ha mejorado la relación conductor-pasajero, ya que los conductores no tienen que controlar el cobro de tarifas. De manera reveladora, incluso cuando el número de pasajeros ha aumentado significativamente, la cantidad de quejas recibidas ha disminuido un 31,4 % desde que MeVa dejó de cobrar tarifas.

MeVa forma parte de un esfuerzo mayor para brindar una experiencia de tránsito más acogedora, con mayores frecuencias de servicio en Lawrence, rutas más directas, un nuevo nombre y autobuses nuevos y más coloridos que han estado recorriendo las calles de Merrimack Valley desde octubre con excelentes críticas. La directora de comunicaciones, Niorka Méndez, señaló que "la iniciativa de tarifas gratuitas de MeVa ha sido de gran ayuda para todo el Valle de Merrimack y no podríamos estar más orgullosos de que MassDOT busque emular nuestro éxito en esta temporada navideña en todo Massachusetts; sabemos que difundirá los beneficios de nuestros pasajeros y así lo disfruten en todo el estado, "tal vez", agregó con una sonrisa, "¡Los próximos autobuses de colores brillantes!" ¡Felices vacaciones!



All MVRTA's Buses in Massachusetts will be fare free this Holiday Season

The additional MassDOT funding will allow MeVa to remain fare-free for an additional six weeks or until Patriots Day 2024

Inspired by the unbridled success of MeVa Transit's Fare Free initiative, all Regional Transit Authorities in Massachusetts will be fare-free during the holiday season from the day after Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve. The initiative is funded through a \$2.5 million grant awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to all 15 RTAs in the state. The program is designed to encourage new customers to "Try Transit" by off fare-freeing no cost trips to shop or dine at local businesses, visiting with friends and family, and commuting to work during the holiday season. As a result, in addition to MeVa buses, which have been fare-free since last March, all public transit in Massachusetts will be fare-free through the end of the year except for the MBTA.

"The announcement of fare-free for this holiday season means a lot for low-income families that rely largely on the MVRTA's buses," said Mayor Brian A. DePeña. "It will definitely motivate many people to visit their families to enjoy the season together."

"MassDOT is pleased to have worked closely with the Commonwealth's 15 Regional Transit Authorities to utilize the funding awarded in the FY23 state budget for the "Try Transit" program. "This initiative is another example of the many efforts where MassDOT and the RTAs collaborate to improve mobility options for Massachusetts transit customers," commented MassDOT Rail & Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger.

Of course, come January, when other RTAs go back to collecting fares, MeVa service will remain free to all riders. The MeVa Advisory Board authorized all MeVa buses and paratransit service to go fare-free last December for at least two years starting in March 2022, when all fareboxes were removed from MeVa buses. The additional MassDOT funding will allow MeVa to remain fare-free for an additional

six weeks, or until Patriots Day 2024, before having to make long-term revenue determinations.

The success of MeVa's fare initiative is unassailable. Since going fare-free, MeVa's ridership has gone up a whopping 121.3% for fixed route service and 50.4% for paratransit service, based on October 2022 data. While the ridership numbers make a tremendous case for the value of going fare-free in and of themselves, they only tell part of the story. By removing fares as a barrier to using transit, more riders translate into increased mobility, greater access to jobs, medical appointments, training, social outings, and more spending at local shops and restaurants, which will be even more important during the upcoming holiday season.

Operationally, by going fare-free, buses travel faster as they no longer have to wait for passengers to line up to pay their fares. It has even improved the driver-passenger relationship, as drivers no longer have to police fare collection. Tellingly, even as ridership has gone up significantly, the number of complaints received has gone down 31.4% since MeVa stopped collecting fares.

MeVa's fare-free initiative is part of a larger effort to provide a more welcoming transit experience, with increased service frequencies in Lawrence, more direct routings, a new name, and new, more colorful buses that have been plying the streets of the Merrimack Valley since October to rave reviews. Communications Director Niorka Mendez noted that "MeVa's fare-free initiative has been a boon to the entire Merrimack Valley and we couldn't be prouder that MassDOT is seeking to emulate our success this holiday season across Massachusetts—we know it will spread the benefits our passengers enjoy to the entire state. Perhaps," she added with a smile, "brightly colored buses are next!" Happy Holidays!

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Mayor Announces Promotion of Bob Ward to Permanent DPW Director



Robert E. "Bob" Ward, Haverhill's deputy Public Works director in charge of water and wastewater operations since 2004, has been promoted by Mayor James J. Fiorentini and will now head the department.

Ward, a University of Lowell graduate who has worked for Haverhill's DPW since 1995, replaces former DPW chief Michael Stankovich, who retired in January 2022 but still advises the city as an outside consultant on a variety of grants and big projects. Ward, who lives in Haverhill and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering, has been acting DPW director since Stankovich left. Prior to 1995, Ward worked as an engineer in the private sector.

The DPW's top position works under the authority of the city's mayor and is responsible for "organizing and directing all activities of the Public Works department including Highway, Parks, Solid Waste & Recycling, Water, Wastewater, Water Purification and Engineering," according to the city's job posting. The position comes with an annual salary between

\$125,000 and \$150,000.

"I am honored to be appointed by Mayor Fiorentini as Haverhill's next DPW Director and look forward to serving the residents and businesses of the City of Haverhill," Ward said.

The DPW head oversees the administration and management of sewer and storm drain utilities, water utilities, vehicle fleet operations, facilities maintenance, snow removal, recreation facilities including park and play areas, street sweeping, tree planting, recycling, fuel and composting operations, and the department's budgeting and long- and short-term planning.

The DPW director appointment is the latest in a string of recent high-profile hires by Mayor Fiorentini. So far this year, the mayor has hired a new chief of staff, Health Department director, new CFO, new treasurer/tax collector, and an assistance city solicitor. In 2021, the mayor appointed a new fire chief, police chief, deputy police chief, and Highway superintendent.

"Resolvamos ser dueños, no víctimas, de nuestra historia, controlando nuestro propio destino sin dar paso a sospechas y emociones ciegas".

"Let us resolve to be masters, not the victims, of our history, controlling our own destiny without giving way to blind suspicions and emotions."

— John F. Kennedy

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

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

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



St. Michael's Teens help Neighbors In Need

"Thanksgiving Day is a good day to recommit our energies to giving thanks and just giving."
—Amy Grant




Special Thanks to St. Michael's CCD Program
This past Saturday, 10 CCD students from St. Michael's Church of Andover packed groceries and produce, and reinforced Thanksgiving meal boxes. This team was ready for action, super organized, and fabulous to work with! Thank you to Eric Imparato for helping to organize this opportunity.

We rely on over 50 volunteers each week for our Food Warehouse and Delivery Service our Neighbors In Need.

Thank you to all of you who have volunteered this month and throughout the year!

Can you Volunteer in November or December!

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MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Greater Commonwealth Virtual School Host Successful In-Person Meet-Ups

(Photos courtesy of Greater Commonwealth Virtual School)



Barstow's Dairy Store and Bakery, located at Barstow's Longview Farm in Hadley, was a site of an October meet-up for GCVS students and staff.

Family Engagement Coordinator Sue Powers and Student Outreach Coordinator Chris Dillion are pleased to announce the successful hosting of Greater Commonwealth Virtual School's in-person meet-ups.

The in-person meet-ups have been a staple of GCVS ever since Powers began working with the school nine years ago. The in-person meetings took a pause as a result of the pandemic, so this is the first year GCVS is resuming the program.

These in-person meet-ups give students the chance to get to know each other and form relationships outside of their virtual classroom.

The meet-up activities vary and offer the students a different experience each time a meeting is held. Many of the meetings are an extension of the students' curriculum, so students can connect what they are learning in the classroom to the outside world. This year alone, GCVS has organized a back-to-school picnic for returning students, a high school hike and a trip to a dairy farm, apple orchard and pumpkin patch.

These meetings are often organized by grade level but are other times a

whole school activity. Location varies depending on the topic of the meet-up, and for some events, there are multiple location sites. GCVS tries to hold these meetings in different parts of the state so that families can attend the meeting that is most convenient for them. The majority of staff and students attend the meet-ups. For a single event, there could be several hundred participants across locations.

Families have expressed how thrilled they are that these meetings have resumed and how thankful they are that there is almost always at least one meet-up close to their home. Forming connections outside of the classroom is vital for students, and these events are an excellent way to facilitate opportunities for students to meet peers in their area and form connections with them.

"When students feel connected to their peers and the school's staff, they feel like they are a valuable part of our community," said Family Engagement Coordinator Sue Powers. "That is really our goal with these meet-ups — to remind students that they are the most important part of our school and that they are valued."



Arts and crafts was one of the activities for students at the September meet-up at Endicott Park in Danvers.



Skinner State Park in Hadley was one of the locations for an October meet-up.



Dunn State Park in Gardner was one of the locations for a September meet-up.

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Haverhill –Thursday, December 15, 2022 VIRTUAL Meeting (public)

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission will hold its monthly virtual meeting on Thursday, December 15 at 11:00 a.m. The agenda includes updates on the commission's activities and is available at the MVPC website www.mvpc.org. For questions or details of this meeting contact Nancy Lavallee at nlavallee@mvpc.org

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Dos eventos recientes de MCC celebran la diversidad y la inclusión



Antes del Día de Acción de Gracias, Middlesex Community College organizó dos eventos para que los estudiantes internacionales se reunieran y compartieran sus experiencias de obtener una educación superior en Massachusetts. Los eventos fueron una oportunidad para reunir a la comunidad de MCC fuera del salón de clases, mientras se celebraban las numerosas y diversas culturas que conforman Middlesex.

“Nuestros estudiantes diversos, talentosos y trabajadores son la parte más importante de lo que hace que MCC sea tan especial y nuestra comunidad tan fuerte”, dijo Phil Sisson, presidente de MCC. “Estamos agradecidos de poder reunirnos una vez más en persona y ofrecer un espacio seguro para que nuestros estudiantes compartan una comida, reflexionen sobre sus culturas y celebren los diferentes orígenes y experiencias que cada individuo aporta a la comunidad universitaria. Disfruté ambas oportunidades de visitar a los estudiantes y escuchar más sobre sus historias en MCC y más allá”.

Cada año, la Oficina de Asuntos Multiculturales e Internacionales de MCC organiza una cena para que los estudiantes internacionales aprendan sobre la tradición de la Cena de Acción de Gracias estadounidense y compartan una comida entre ellos.

“Los estudiantes hicieron un trabajo fantástico”, dijo Noreen McGinness Olson, Vicedecana de Éxito Estudiantil de MCC. “El evento fue diferente a los años anteriores en que la mesa se preparó como una larga comida familiar, lo que creó una sensación más íntima similar a la que

tendría alguien en casa”.

La celebración de este año estuvo a cargo de Vanessa Heinen, de Brasil, y Scarlet Ly, de Camboya. Los asistentes tuvieron la oportunidad de probar nuevos alimentos y hacer nuevas conexiones.

“Vanessa y yo planeamos el evento y queríamos que todos los estudiantes internacionales se conectaran entre sí”, dijo Ly. “La mayoría están en clase y luego se van a casa. Nuestro plan era que conocieran a alguien y luego involucrarlos en el campus”.

“Fue un evento social realmente bueno para los estudiantes internacionales”, dijo Ritta Kuong, de Camboya. “Pude conectarme con otras personas en la misma situación en la que me encuentro. Disfruté la comida, y nunca antes había comido pavo y realmente lo disfruté. ¡Sin embargo, lo que más me gustó fue el puré de papas!”

Los clubes African Cultural, Asian Students in Alliance (ASIA) y Latinos Unidos también realizaron una celebración compartida para el International Club en celebración de la diversidad e inclusión de los clubes de estudiantes en MCC. Más de 50 estudiantes y empleados se reunieron para compartir platos representativos de sus culturas y celebrar diferentes países y tradiciones.

“Excelente comida cultural, música y baile: todo esto se representó en el exitoso evento organizado por African Cultural Club en colaboración con Latinos Unidos y ASIA”, dijo Juliet Ndegwa, estudiante de MCC. “Los estudiantes de los grupos de afinidad trajeron comidas y bebidas apetitosas de sus diversas culturas y compartieron las recetas y la herencia detrás de sus platos. Fue un espacio maravilloso donde los estudiantes pudieron establecer contactos y sentir el sentido de comunidad entre ellos. No puedo esperar a eventos futuros”.

Antes del Día de Acción de Gracias, Middlesex Community College organizó dos eventos para que los estudiantes internacionales se reunieran y compartieran sus experiencias en la búsqueda de una educación superior en Massachusetts. Los eventos fueron una oportunidad para reunir a la comunidad de MCC fuera del salón de clases, mientras se celebraban las numerosas y diversas culturas que conforman Middlesex.



Two Recent MCC Events Celebrate Diversity & Inclusivity

Ahead of Thanksgiving, Middlesex Community College hosted two events for international students to gather and share their experiences of pursuing higher education in Massachusetts. The events were an opportunity to bring the MCC community together outside of the classroom, while celebrating the numerous and diverse cultures that make up Middlesex.

“Our diverse, talented and hard-working students are the biggest part of what makes MCC so special and our community so strong,” said Phil Sisson, MCC’s President. “We are grateful to once again be able to gather in person and offer a safe space for our students to share a meal, reflect on their cultures, and celebrate the different backgrounds and experiences every individual brings to the college community. I enjoyed both opportunities to visit with students and hear more about their stories at MCC and beyond.”

Every year, MCC’s Office of Multicultural and International Affairs hosts a dinner for international students to learn about the American Thanksgiving Dinner tradition and share a meal with each other.

“The students did a fantastic job,” said Noreen McGinness Olson, MCC’s Assistant Dean of Student Success. “The event was different from previous years in that the table was set up as a long family style meal, which created a more intimate feeling similar to what someone would have at home.”

This year’s celebration was run by Vanessa Heinen, from Brazil, and Scarlet Ly, from Cambodia. Those in attendance had the chance to try new foods and make new connections.

“Vanessa and I planned the event and we wanted to get all the international students connected with each other,” Ly

said. “They are mostly in class and then they go home. Our plan was for them to get to know someone and then get them involved on campus.”

“It was a really good social event for international students,” said Ritta Kuong, from Cambodia. “I was able to connect to other people in the same situation as I am in. I enjoyed the food, and I never had turkey before and really enjoyed it. However, I loved the mashed potatoes the most!”

The African Cultural, Asian Students in Alliance (ASIA), and Latinos Unidos Clubs, also held a potluck celebration for the International Club in celebration of the diversity and inclusivity of student clubs at MCC. More than 50 students and employees came together to share dishes representative of their cultures and to celebrate a number of different countries and traditions.

“Great cultural food, music and dance – all this was represented at the successful potluck event hosted by the African Cultural Club in collaboration with Latinos Unidos and ASIA,” said Juliet Ndegwa, an MCC student. “Students from the affinity groups brought appetizing foods and drinks from their various cultures, and shared the recipes and heritage behind their dishes. It was a wonderful space where students were able to network and feel the sense of community amongst each other. I cannot wait for future events.”

Ahead of Thanksgiving, Middlesex Community College hosted two events for international students to gather and share their experiences pursuing higher education in Massachusetts. The events were an opportunity to bring the MCC community together outside of the classroom, while celebrating the numerous, diverse cultures that make up Middlesex.



Unitex Healthcare Laundry Services celebra la gran inauguración de la segunda instalación en Lawrence, Massachusetts

Unitex, el mayor proveedor familiar de servicios de lavandería para el cuidado de la salud en los EE. UU., inauguró formalmente su segunda instalación en Lawrence, Massachusetts, y la 13 a nivel regional. La gran celebración de inauguración incluyó comentarios del presidente de Unitex, David Potack, dignatarios locales, refrigerios, una celebración festiva de inauguración y un recorrido por las instalaciones.

El concurrido evento contó con discursos de la congresista Lori Trahan, del 3er distrito de MA; el Senador Barry R. Finegold de los distritos 2nd Essex y Middlesex; y el alcalde Brian A. DePena y los concejales de la ciudad de Lawrence. El presidente de Unitex, David Potack, recibió proclamaciones de bienvenida a Unitex a Lawrence, incluida una de Joe Bevilacqua, presidente de la Cámara de Comercio de Merrimack Valley.

Los invitados incluyeron colegas de la industria Joe Ricci y Kevin Schwalb de TRSA, miembros de la representante estatal Christina A. Minicucci, oficina 14 de Essex; así como clientes regionales de atención médica de Boston Medical, Tufts Healthcare, St. Elizabeth Crothall, Lowell General, Bedford Ambulatory Surgical Center y más. Después del corte de cinta, los invitados fueron conducidos a las instalaciones de última generación y se les dio un breve recorrido, así como la oportunidad de hacer preguntas.

Joe Bevilacqua, presidente de la Cámara de Comercio de Merrimack Valley, dijo: “Este solía ser un edificio abandonado y ahora tienes una empresa como Unitex que está creando 400 puestos de trabajo en la economía actual. En nombre de la Cámara de Comercio de Merrimack Valley, felicitamos a Unitex por su gran inauguración y queremos darle las gracias por su buen trabajo continuo. Y sabemos que los trabajos aquí van a crecer y crecer, y estamos aquí para ayudarlo”.

La congresista Lori Trahan dijo: “Lo que realmente me emociona de hoy es la oportunidad para cada nuevo trabajador que será contratado en los próximos meses, no solo de tener un trabajo bien remunerado que los empodere y apoye a su familia, sino también la oportunidad de poner abajo o fortalecer las raíces aquí mismo en el valle de Merrimack. Voy a llevar su historia de éxito a Washington conmigo para que mis colegas sepan lo que ha construido aquí”.

El Senador Barry R. Finegold dijo: “Mi bisabuelo vino aquí, no podía hablar inglés y no conocía a mucha gente, pero tuvo una oportunidad. Y me imagino que en Unitex va a haber tanta gente que este podría ser su primer trabajo, la primera generación que también está teniendo una oportunidad. Y eso es una gran cosa. Unitex podría haber ido a cualquier parte, pero eligieron Lawrence, Massachusetts, y estamos agradecidos por eso”.

El Alcalde Brian A. DePena y los concejales Ana Levy, Gregory Delrosario y Stephany Infante dijeron: “Hace cuatro años, Unitex se presentó ante el Concejo Municipal con sus planes y una solicitud de incentivos fiscales para invertir y construir sus instalaciones. Vinieron a trabajar en colaboración con la ciudad y estamos emocionados de ver el crecimiento que sigue teniendo esta empresa y de ver los 400 puestos ocupados por residentes



locales”.

David Potack, presidente de Unitex, dijo: “A pesar de este momento desafiante en el mundo, estamos agradecidos y emocionados de haber puesto las piezas en su lugar para abrir nuestras puertas en Lawrence. La dedicación y resiliencia demostradas por nuestro equipo, con el apoyo de innumerables socios proveedores, hicieron posible este ambicioso proyecto. Mientras celebramos nuestro aniversario de 100 años este año, estamos entusiasmados de trabajar con nuestros nuevos clientes en el mercado y desempeñar un papel importante en la comunidad de Lawrence de muchas maneras diferentes”.

Ubicada en 155 Shepard Street, Lawrence es la primera instalación de Unitex ubicada en el mercado de Massachusetts y con esta expansión podrá atender las necesidades de ropa blanca y uniformes de las instalaciones médicas ambulatorias y de atención ambulatoria en Massachusetts, así como en partes de Maine, New Hampshire y Vermont. La nueva instalación operará junto con la instalación de procesamiento de atención médica que se inauguró en 2020, agregando 97,000 pies cuadrados de espacio de producción, empleando a más de 400 personas locales y produciendo más de 85 millones de libras de ropa blanca y uniformes limpios al año.

Con sede en Elmsford, Nueva York, Unitex Healthcare Laundry Services ahora opera trece instalaciones de procesamiento de lavandería y un almacén de prendas en todo el noreste. Con ubicaciones en Newburgh y Mount Vernon, NY, Hartford, South Windsor y Middlebury, CT, así como en New Brunswick, Perth Amboy y Linden NJ, Unitex puede brindar un servicio eficiente a todos los hospitales, centros de atención a largo plazo y centros de cirugía ambulatoria, centros de imágenes, consultorios profesionales, así como las necesidades operativas especializadas de sus instalaciones de cuidados intensivos. Durante 100 años, Unitex se ha centrado únicamente en su negocio principal: proporcionar y lavar ropa y ropa de cama cómoda y de alta calidad para el cuidado de pacientes y médicos. Visite: <http://www.unitex.com>

Unitex Healthcare Laundry Services Holds Grand Opening for 2nd Facility in Lawrence, Massachusetts

Unitex, the largest family-owned healthcare laundry service provider in the U.S., formally opened its second facility in Lawrence, Massachusetts and 13th regionally. The grand opening celebration included remarks from Unitex President, David Potack, local dignitaries, refreshments, a festive ribbon-cutting celebration, and a facility tour.

The well-attended event featured speeches by Congresswoman Lori Trahan, from the 3rd district of MA; Senator Barry R. Finegold from the 2nd Essex and Middlesex districts; and Mayor Brian A. DePena and council people of the City of Lawrence. Unitex president, David Potack, was presented with proclamations welcoming Unitex to Lawrence, including one from Joe Bevilacqua, President of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Guests included industry colleagues Joe Ricci and Kevin Schwalb from TRSA, members of State Representative Christina A. Minicucci, 14th Essex office; as well as regional healthcare customers from Boston Medical, Tufts Healthcare, St. Elizabeth Crothall, Lowell General, Bedford Ambulatory Surgical Center and more. Post ribbon-cutting, guests were ushered into the state-of-the-art facility and given a short tour as well as the opportunity to ask questions.

Joe Bevilacqua, President, of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce said, “This used to be an abandoned building and now you’ve got a company like Unitex that’s creating 400 jobs in today’s economy. On behalf of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, we commend Unitex on their grand opening and we want to say thank you for your continued good work. And we know that jobs here are going to grow and grow, and we’re here to help you.”

Congresswoman Lori Trahan said, “What really excites me about today is the opportunity for every new worker who will be hired in the coming months, to not only have a good paying job that empowers

them and supports their family, but also the chance to put down or strengthen roots right here in the Merrimack Valley. I’m going to be bringing your success story back to Washington with me so that my colleagues know what you’ve built here.”

Senator Barry R. Finegold said, “My great grandfather came here, couldn’t speak English, and didn’t know too many people, but he got an opportunity. And I imagine at Unitex, there’s going to be so many people that this could be their first job, the first generation that is also getting opportunity. And that is a great thing. Unitex could have gone anywhere, but they chose Lawrence, Massachusetts and we’re grateful for that.” Mayor Brian A. DePena and council members, Ana Levy, Gregory Delrosario, and Stephany Infante said, “Four years ago Unitex came in front of City Council with their plans and a request for tax incentives to invest and build their facility. They came to work in collaboration with the city and we are excited to see the growth that this company continues to have and to see all 400 positions filled with local residents.”

David Potack, President of Unitex said, “Despite this challenging time in the world, we are thankful and excited to have put the pieces in place to open our doors in Lawrence. The dedication and resiliency demonstrated by our team, with the support of countless supplier partners, made this ambitious project possible. As we celebrate our 100-year anniversary this year, we are excited to work with our new customers in the market and play an important role in the Lawrence community in many different ways.”

Located at 155 Shepard Street, Lawrence is Unitex’s first facilities located in the Massachusetts market and with this expansion will be able to serve the linen and uniform needs of ambulatory care and outpatient medical facilities in Massachusetts as well as parts of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. The

(Cont. on page 15)

Sal Lupoli dona remolque lleno de suministros a Puerto Rico

El mes pasado, un desarrollador y empresario local, Sal Lupoli, donó un camión con remolque lleno de suministros a Puerto Rico. La donación incluyó 24 paletas de pañales, agua embotellada y otros suministros.

Lupoli hizo la donación en nombre de su familia y Riverwalk Properties, con sede en Lawrence, a pedido de “un amigo muy querido”. Dijo que cuando escuchó que las familias no tenían pañales o agua limpia para sus bebés, se alegró de hacer la donación.

“Mi familia y yo somos muy

bendecidos de tener más de lo que podríamos necesitar”, dijo Lupoli, “Ojalá esta donación haga una diferencia para las muchas familias en Puerto Rico que están luchando”.

La donación se entregó a un grupo local de puertorriqueños, conocido como Borinqueños Unidos, en 440 North Canal Street en Lawrence. Los bomberos de Lawrence, Juan “Manny” González y William Pagán, junto con el Alcalde Brian A. De Peña, el Jefe de Bomberos Brian Moriarty, el Jefe de Policía Roy Vasque y muchos miembros

de la comunidad asistieron para aceptar las donaciones.

El plan es colaborar con los departamentos de bomberos locales de Puerto Rico para determinar dónde podrían tener más éxito sus esfuerzos. “Durante los últimos meses, cada voluntario y miembro de esta comunidad ha trabajado incansablemente para generar conciencia sobre lo que hermano y hermana están experimentando en la isla”, dijo William Pagán, director de Borinqueños Unidos. “Enviamos no uno, sino dos contenedores de envío llenos de artículos de ayuda para los de la isla gracias a miembros de esta comunidad como Sal Lupoli”.

Ambos contenedores viajan actualmente a Puerto Rico, según Juan “Manny” González, bombero de Lawrence y nativo de Puerto Rico. “Es un verdadero honor poder colaborar con líderes comunitarios en nombre de nuestra amada

isla Puerto Rico”, dijo Manny González, miembro de Borinqueños Unidos. “Cuando descolgué el teléfono y llamé a Sal Lupoli, se comprometió sin dudar a ayudar a los necesitados de la isla, y para eso es un ángel enviado por Dios”.

Borinqueños Unidos todavía está buscando contribuciones para ayudar con los costos operativos y de distribución. Los cheques pueden hacerse a nombre de “ICDPR-Borinqueños Unidos” y enviarse a P.O. BOX 712, Lawrence, MA 01842. Digital Federal Credit Union ha asignado a Borinqueños Unidos el número de cuenta bancaria #47358460. Puede enviar una donación a Borinqueños Unidos para apoyar a nuestra amada Isla del Encanto en línea a través de GoFundMe o en la sede del departamento de bomberos en 60 Lowell St., y en las estaciones de bomberos de toda la ciudad.

Sal Lupoli donates tractor trailer full of supplies to Puerto Rico

Last month, a local developer and entrepreneur Sal Lupoli donated a tractor-trailer full of supplies to Puerto Rico. The donation included 24 pallets of diapers, bottled water, and other supplies.

Lupoli made the donation on behalf of his family and Riverwalk Properties, headquartered in Lawrence, at the request of “a very dear friend”. He said when he heard that families did not have diapers or clean water for their babies, he was happy to make the donation.

“My family and I are so blessed to have more than we could ever need,” said Lupoli, “Hopefully this donation will make a difference for the many families in Puerto Rico who are struggling.”

The donation was dropped off to a local group of Puerto Ricans, known as Borinqueños Unidos, on 440 North Canal Street in Lawrence. Lawrence firefighters Juan “Manny” Gonzalez and William Pagán, along with Mayor Brian A. DePeña, Fire Chief Brian Moriarty, Police Chief Roy Vasque, and many members of the community, were in attendance to accept the donations. The plan is to collaborate with Puerto Rico's local fire departments to determine where their efforts could be most successful. “For the past few months, every volunteer and member of this community has worked tirelessly to raise awareness of

what brother and sister are experiencing on the island,” said William Pagan, director of Borinqueños Unidos “We sent not one, but two shipping containers filled with relief items for those on the island because of members of this community like Sal Lupoli.”

Both of the containers are currently traveling to Puerto Rico, according to Juan “Manny” Gonzalez, a Lawrence firefighter and native of Puerto Rico. “It is a true honor to be able to collaborate with community leaders on behalf of our beloved island Puerto Rico,” said Manny Gonzalez, a member of Borinqueños Unidos “When I picked up the phone and called Sal Lupoli, he committed without hesitation to helping those in need on the island, and for that, he is an angel sent by God.”

Borinqueños Unidos is still looking for contributions to help with the operational and distribution costs. Checks can be made out to “ICDPR-Borinqueños Unidos” and sent to P.O. BOX 712, Lawrence, MA 01842. Digital Federal Credit Union has assigned Borinqueños Unidos bank account number #47358460. You can submit a donation to Borinqueños Unidos to support our beloved Isla del Encanto online through GoFundMe or at the fire department headquarters at 60 Lowell St., and at firehouses throughout the city.

“Moral excellence comes about as a result of habit. We become just by doing just acts, temperate by doing temperate acts, brave by doing brave acts.”
ARISTOTLE

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

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

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

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

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Unitex Healthcare

(Cont. from page 14)

new facility will operate alongside the healthcare processing facility that opened in 2020 adding 97,000 sq. ft. of production space, employing over 400 local people, and producing over 85 million pounds of clean linens and uniforms annually.

Headquartered in Elmsford, NY, Unitex Healthcare Laundry Services now operates thirteen laundry processing facilities and one garment warehouse throughout the Northeast. With locations in Newburgh and Mount Vernon, NY, Hartford, South Windsor and Middlebury, CT, as well as New Brunswick, Perth Amboy and Linden NJ, Unitex is able to efficiently service all of the hospitals, long-term care facilities outpatient surgery centers, imaging centers, professional offices as well as specialized operating needs of their acute care facilities. For 100 years, Unitex has focused solely on their core business – providing and laundering comfortable, high-quality medical/patient care apparel and linen. Visit: <http://www.unitex.com>

BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



"Christmas is a time when kids tell Santa what they want and adults pay for it. Deficits are when adults tell the government what they want and their kids pay for it."

Richard Lamm

As we go on living...

My readers are aware that I try to cover local issues in this space because local concerns have the most immediate impact on our lives.

We must also recognize that cultural changes are slow to take effect nationally but, by the time they become alarming, lots of people have been brainwashed, and becomes more difficult to fight them.

For several months, I've been writing about changes taking place in education and it has become apparent that most people don't understand what's going on. I hate to think that they don't care.

This weekend I read something by Ben Shapiro of The Daily Wire that I had not heard before and frankly, it scared me to think about the way this country is going. This is just an excerpt from his article:

"The National Retail Federation forecasted that over the next few weeks, we Americans will hand retailers nearly 1 trillion dollars. In doing so, we must choose wisely which companies receive our hard-earned money.

"This year, Walmart used our money to force critical race theory on their employees, encouraging them to denounce the United States as a 'white-supremacy system.' Target used our dollars to forge a partnership with a company that manufactures trans underwear for children.

"Just this weekend, Disney used consumers' money to release an animated film called Strange World, in which a woke father encourages his 16-year-old son to flirt with another boy."

That goes beyond politics and

political parties. This is the mentality of the people teaching our children in schools yet, parents fail to speak out and the brainwashing continues.

We are losing about 100,000 young people to drugs each year, and the next generation won't have any respect for this country due to the training they are receiving today from the media and schools.

And, speaking of schools...

One of the best front page stories we ever had was announcing the new school uniforms that were to become a requirement at all public schools with a beautiful picture of young models from our city. It was a new era welcome by parents because uniforms represented spending a set amount for their children's school clothing. An added benefit was that it would eliminate competition among students. But most importantly, it improved self-esteem and discipline among students.

I don't know when those restrictions were lifted but I believe that they happened at the same time the discipline problems began, particularly at the high school level.

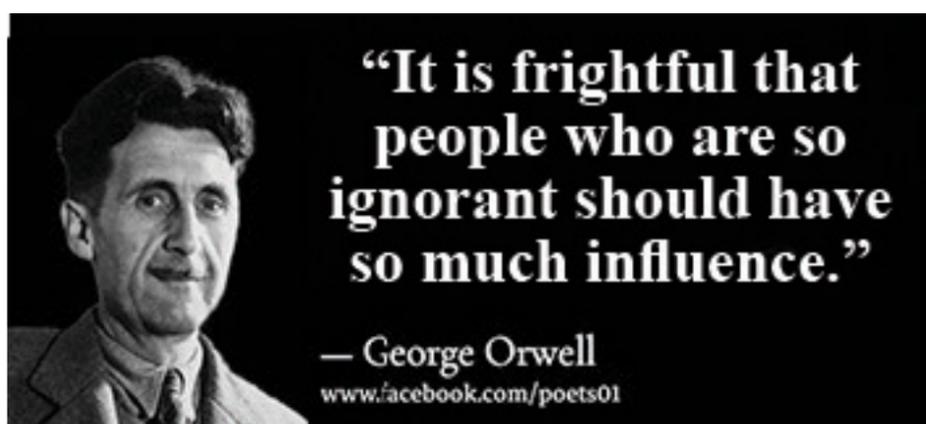
Some students are wearing flannel pajamas going to school. Perhaps it's one of the many bad habits they learned during the pandemic but it is time to put some restraint on their liberties. We keep blaming the pandemic for everything but the parents and teachers in their lives should be imposing discipline and good manners on them.

The pandemic is over. Let's end the free-for-all. The use of uniforms proved that students felt better about themselves and their behavior showed it. Students need all the guidance we can give them; let's begin there and you'll see the improvement.

"Resolvamos ser dueños, no víctimas, de nuestra historia, controlando nuestro propio destino sin dar paso a sospechas y emociones ciegas".

"Let us resolve to be masters, not the victims, of our history, controlling our own destiny without giving way to blind suspicions and emotions."

— John F. Kennedy



"It is frightful that people who are so ignorant should have so much influence."

— George Orwell
www.facebook.com/poets01

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR RUMBO

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

Greater Commonwealth Virtual School Appoints Andrew Costa as New Principal

Andrew Costa is in his first year as principal of the Greater Commonwealth Virtual School. He comes to GCVS from the Wachusett Regional School District. (Photo courtesy Greater Commonwealth Virtual School)

Executive Director Salah Khelifaoui is pleased to announce that Andrew Costa has been appointed as the new principal of the Greater Commonwealth Virtual School.

Principal Costa has served as the Assistant Principal of Wachusett Regional High School since 2011. He was previously Wachusett Regional High School's freshman seminar teacher and a seventh-grade teacher at First Lutheran School.

While Assistant Principal of Wachusett Regional High School, he gained important experience managing the freshman and sophomore classes, overseeing student discipline, carrying out parental communication and collaborating with teachers.

Principal Costa's first experience with GCVS was two years ago when his son enrolled as a sixth grader. At that time he saw the benefits of the school through the lens of a parent. Now, as an administrator, he gets to see firsthand the value of the educational model GCVS uses.

"If someone had told me five years ago that I would be helping to run a virtual school I would've been very doubtful, but the mindset over what a virtual school is and can be has shifted in recent years," Principal Costa said. "I am thrilled to be able to be at a school that is leading the way in this field."

While recognizing that a virtual school such as GCVS has many challenges, Principal Costa believes it is also the most rewarding work he has been a part of during his career. Because the school is still growing and expanding there is tremendous room for growth, and administrators are working together to figure out what works best.

While he admits there has been a huge learning curve so far, staff is fully on board and works together to build relationships that put teachers in a position to best educate students.

"All families come to GCVS knowing that it will be a different learning environment, and that is one of the things that makes the school so successful," he said. "Never before have I seen a school where all of the students bring their own unique stories and perspectives, and that results in a school where students and



teachers alike can share common themes and needs. Everyone works together for a common goal."

Principal Costa has been working to get to know each staff member at the school since starting in July. He has been holding brief meetings to get to know everyone involved and hear more about their roles. The common theme among all of the meetings has been that everyone shares the same mission about the values of virtual education, and he will work with staff to refine the goals of the school and improve communication and promote teamwork moving forward.

"Principal Costa has been a perfect choice to lead our school and move us forward with enthusiasm and a passion for education," Superintendent Khelifaoui said. "We are constantly trying to grow and improve as a school, and it is important to have a principal and administrators who are all on the same page. We feel Principal Costa has set the stage for us to continue to refine our goals and approach to education in the best interest of our students and families."

Principal Costa holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and a master's degree in education from Lesley University. Additionally, he holds various licenses including Post Baccalaureate Initial Teacher License for middle and secondary school, as well as a Massachusetts School Administrators' Association license.

"We must dare to be great; and we must realize that greatness is the fruit of toil and sacrifice and high courage."

Theodore Roosevelt

Plastics engineering educator receives top honor for UMass Lowell faculty



UMass Lowell's Ramaswamy Nagarajan, professor of plastics engineering, has been named the institution's 2022 Distinguished University Professor. (Photo credit: Tory Wesnofske for UMass Lowell)

An innovator in developing more sustainable and resilient materials, plastics engineering educator Ramaswamy Nagarajan has been named UMass Lowell's 2022 Distinguished University Professor.

The annual award honors selected professors for exemplary teaching, research and service to the university.

It is the highest accolade bestowed on a UMass Lowell faculty member.

"I am honored and humbled by this recognition," Nagarajan said. "The UMass Lowell community has inspired me and provided me the chance to work collaboratively with our students, faculty and staff in research, education and developing innovations that make an impact in many ways. I will be eternally grateful to the university for this opportunity and to my family for their support."

A Dracut resident, Nagarajan joined the university's internationally acclaimed plastics engineering department, which is housed within the Francis College of Engineering, in 2006. Today, as a tenured professor, he serves as the senior director of strategic defense research projects and co-director of the university's HEROES initiative. In this role, he works with U.S. Army scientists and engineers to develop lighter, stronger and more protective uniforms, equipment and portable energy sources for soldiers.

Nagarajan also co-directs UMass Lowell's Fabric Discovery Center and the university's Center for Advanced Materials, and partners with the Toxics Use Reduction Institute at UMass Lowell. In these roles, he is pioneering the development of more sustainable, multifaceted substances, including environmentally friendly flame retardants, solar-powered plastics, inks that conduct electricity, flexible electronics, "smart" clothing and more.

Known for his team-building skills, Nagarajan calls on the talents of a wide variety of other UMass Lowell researchers and students in his work, enhancing opportunities for scientific discovery and experiential learning. He has been awarded 77 research grants totaling more than \$22 million and holds 20 patents on technology he has developed. In 2011, the UMass Lowell Graduate Student Association honored him with its Faculty Member of

the Year award.

Endorsed by 22 faculty members across UMass Lowell's colleges, Nagarajan's nomination for the Distinguished University Professor honor was led by his colleague, Professor Pradeep Kurup, chair of UMass Lowell's civil and environmental engineering department.

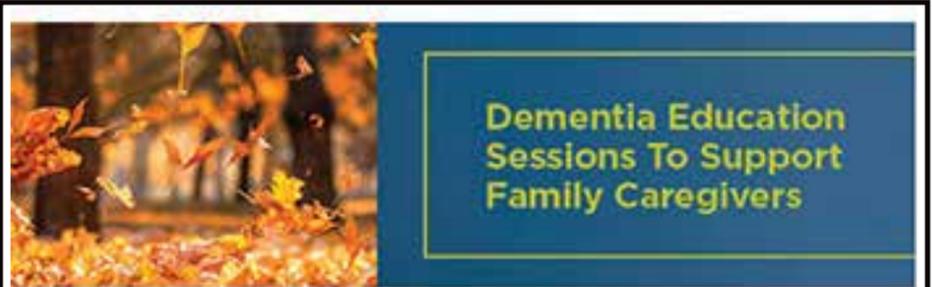
"Professor Nagarajan is an exceptional candidate for this recognition," Kurup wrote in the nomination form. "He continually demonstrates visionary approaches in his professional endeavors, having made outstanding contributions – both within his field of plastics engineering and across the larger community – by engaging in highly acclaimed interdisciplinary research, teaching and service activities."

Nagarajan received his master's and doctoral degrees in plastics engineering from UMass Lowell, along with a bachelor's of technology from Anna University and a bachelor's of science degree from Loyola College, both in India.

Nagarajan will serve as Distinguished University Professor until 2025 and deliver a keynote address about his field of study to the campus and community next spring. He is the 15th professor to be recognized since the honor was established at UMass Lowell in 2008.

UMass Lowell is a world leader in plastics engineering education. Founded in 1954, the university's department offers the first and largest plastics engineering program in the U.S. to be accredited by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET). Today, more than 3,000 UMass Lowell graduates work in fields that develop and use plastics, helping to advance and improve the sustainability of these materials to meet the needs of the future.

UMass Lowell is a national research university located on a high-energy campus in the heart of a global community. The university offers its students bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in business, education, engineering, fine arts, health, humanities, sciences and social sciences. UMass Lowell delivers high-quality educational programs, vigorous hands-on learning and personal attention from leading faculty and staff, all of which prepare graduates to be leaders in their communities and around the globe. www.uml.edu



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

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

Caring Through the Holidays
Thursday, December 15 | 11 a.m.

Hustling, bustling holidays can be particularly difficult for families caring for someone with memory loss. Learn how to ease stress and make your celebrations, travels and traditions merry and bright for your whole family.



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Northern Essex Community College sports and news

Kinsley, Knights roll over MassBay

Dan Blair
NECC Director of Athletics

Haverhill, MA (November 19, 2022) – The Northern Essex Community College men's basketball jumped out to a big lead early and never trailed on their way to a 109-79 win over MassBay Community College on Saturday afternoon at the Sport and Fitness Center. With the win, the Knights improve to 7-1 overall and 4-0 in conference play.

The hot shooting of Cristian Kinsley (Lawrence) who scored a career high 22 points on six of eight shooting from behind the arc led five NECC players in double figures.

Mehmet Asik (Istanbul, TR) and Phillip Cunningham (Haverhill) both recorded double-double performances with 16 and 15 points respectively, while each added 11 rebounds.

Luis Reynoso (Lawrence) and Edwin SamMbaka (Paris, FR) added 11 and 10 points respectively. Reynoso also added a eight assists and four steals.

The Knights will be idle until next Saturday when they host the inaugural NECC/TD Bank Turkey Classic at the Sport and Fitness Center on November 26th and 27th. NECC will kick off the tournament when they play host to SUNY-Adirondack at 2:00pm.

Knights jump into national poll at #14

Haverhill, MA (November 21, 2022) – After a 2-0 week and running their season record to 7-1 overall, the Northern Essex Community College men's basketball team has been ranked number 14 in this week's NJCAA national poll. The ranking comes after the Knights were receiving votes in last week's poll.

This past week NECC picked up victories over Quincy College and MassBay Community College. On Thursday evening, NECC trailed by as many as 17 points in the second half before a Ryan Pacy (Salem, NH) three-pointer with just over a minute left in the game put NECC in front for the first time since the opening minutes of action.

The Knights followed with another

win on Saturday afternoon as they routed MassBay by 30 points and led from wire to wire as Cristian Kinsley (Lawrence) scored 23 points on 6 of 8 shooting from behind the three-point arc.

As a team, NECC is averaging 82.8 points per game, while shooting 41.9% from the floor and grabbing 48.6 rebounds per game, which ranks third nationally.

Northern Essex will return to the court at home this weekend as they host the inaugural NECC/TD Bank Turkey Classic on Saturday and Sunday in the Sport and Fitness Center on the Haverhill campus. The tournament will tipoff on Saturday afternoon at 2:00pm when the Knights will play host to the Timberwolves of SUNY-Adirondack.

Knights win fifth straight to sweep NECC/TD Bank Turkey Classic

Haverhill, MA (November 27, 2022) – The #14 nationally ranked Northern Essex Community College men's basketball team picked up their fifth straight win on Sunday afternoon by a final score of 82-64 over the Sharks of Suffolk County (NY) Community College. With the win, NECC improves to 9-1 on the season and turned the tables on SCCC who handed the Knights their lone defeat of the season back on November 12th.

NECC won the opening tip and immediately jumped out to an early 7-0 lead and never trailed for the games 40 minutes as they took a 41-32 lead to the locker room at halftime. The Knights outscored the visitors in the second half by the same score to result in the game's final score.

Luis Reynoso (Lawrence) led the NECC offense for the second consecutive game as he dropped a game high 22 points

to go along with 14 rebounds for his sixth double-double of the season.

Tre Fite (Washington, OH) joined Reynoso in double figures as he tossed in 10 points as a total of 11 different Knights found the scoresheet.

Making his second start of the season Kevin Monteiro (Somerville) narrowly missed a double-double of his own as he contributed nine points to go along with 11 rebounds.

Reynoso and Monteiro were selected to the All-Tournament at the conclusion of Sunday's game.

The Knights will return to conference action on Tuesday as they conclude a five-game home stand when they play host to the Bayhawks of Bristol Community College. Tip-off is set for 6:00pm with a pre-game "Fan Fest" set to get underway at 5:00pm sponsored by the Office of Student Life.



Northern Essex Community College is excited to announce a new curriculum addition. The cannabis industry is booming, and the need for trained professionals continues to rise. NECC has taken note of this rising interest and wants alumni interested in joining this emerging and exciting industry to be prepared.



**Advanced
Dispensary Associate**



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We are now offering three cannabis certificates: **Advanced Dispensary Associate, Advanced Manufacturing Agent, and Advanced Cultivation Technician**, to prepare individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the cannabis industry. The programs can be completed in just 8 weeks, and because they are 100% online, you can study when it's most convenient for you.

Ready to get started? Contact us at 978-556-3060 to learn more or register today to start your cannabis education journey!

Northern Essex Community College
Center for Corporate & Community Education
100 Elliott Street, Haverhill, MA 01830
978-556-3060 | www.necc.mass.edu/community-education

Knights up two spots to #12 in NJCAA national poll

Haverhill, MA (November 28, 2022) – Following a sweep of their two games in the inaugural NECC/TD Bank Turkey Classic this past weekend the Northern Essex Community College men's basketball has moved up two spots to #12 in the most recent NJCAA rankings announced today.

NECC received 25 points in the weekly poll to move up two spots after receiving six points in the previous week's poll. With a 9-1 record heading into a three-game week starting tomorrow evening, the Knights defeated both SUNY-Adirondack and Suffolk County Community College over the weekend.

The Knights are being led by the Lawrence duo of Luis Reynoso who is

currently averaging a double-double per game with 20.3 points and 13.2 rebounds and Cristian Kinsley who is averaging 11.8 points per game and shooting 47.7% from behind the three-point line. Reynoso's rebounds per game and 183 total points scored both currently rank second nationally.

As a team, NECC is currently averaging 83 points per game and is second in the nation in team rebounding at 49.4 rebounds per game.

Northern Essex will conclude a five-game homestand on Tuesday evening at 6:00pm when they play host to Bristol Community College.

Soccer's DeAmorim named NJCAA 2nd Team All-American

Charlotte, NC (November 30, 2022) – Sam DeAmorim of the Northern Essex Community College men's soccer team has been selected to the NJCAA Men's Soccer All-America 2nd Team as announced today by the NJCAA Men's Soccer Committee. He was one of 22 student-athletes selected to the All-America teams.

DeAmorim, who was a Region 21 First Team selection led the region in scoring as he recorded 11 goals and six assists to finish with 28 points on the season. He recorded a pair of multi goals games including a hat trick against Springfield Tech on October 20th. He also recorded four game winning goals over the course of the season.

DeAmorim becomes the first soccer

All-American since the program was reestablished prior to the start of the 2019 season following a 25-year hiatus. He joins 45 other student-athletes at the college who have previously earned All-America honors.

DeAmorim was joined by CCRI's Roy Barrios from Region 21 on the second team.

The Knights finished the season with a 7-5-1 record falling in the quarterfinal round of the Region 21 tournament in penalty kicks to Holyoke. NECC had its best season since the program returned earning the fourth seed in the region tournament after concluding the regular season tied in for third.

The Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

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

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

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



Únase a la Concejala Stephany Infante,
Miembro del Comité Escolar Patricia Mariano,
Zona Sur de Lawrence Oeste
Asociación y Carleen's Para Una

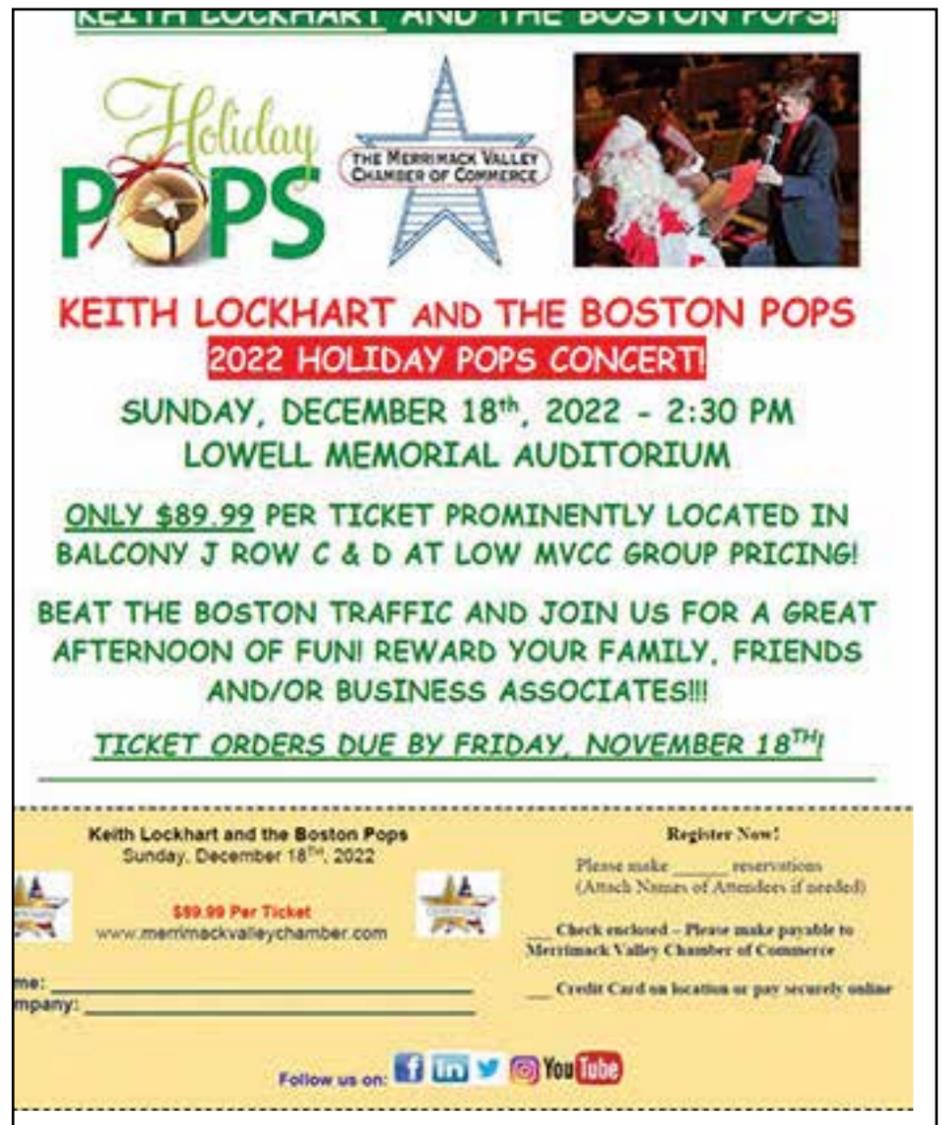
Christmas Celebracion

Lunes
5 de Diciembre de 2022
6:00 P.M.

Carleen's
209 South Broadway
Lawrence, MA 01843

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SANTA CLAUS**

Coanfitriones:
Alcalde Brian A. DePeña
Concejales Pavel Payano,
Celina Reyes y Ana Levy



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Sunday, December 18th, 2022

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-  Join our info-session to learn how to apply
-  Become DCAMM certified
-  BID to work with the city on an array of projects including the construction of our new Police Headquarters!

December 6th, 2022 @ 4:30pm
Lawrence Public Library
51 Lawrence St
Lawrence, MA 01841

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¡La Ciudad de Lawrence se está asociando con la División de Administración y Mantenimiento de Activos de Capital para ayudarlo a obtener las certificaciones DCAMM y Proveedores & Diversidad!

-  ¡Únase a nuestra sesión de información para aprender cómo presentar una solicitud!
-  Obtenga la certificación DCAMM
-  BID para trabajar con la ciudad en una variedad de proyectos, incluida la construcción de nuestro nuevo Cuartel General de Policía!

6 de diciembre de 2022 @ 4:30pm
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51 Lawrence St
Lawrence, MA 01841

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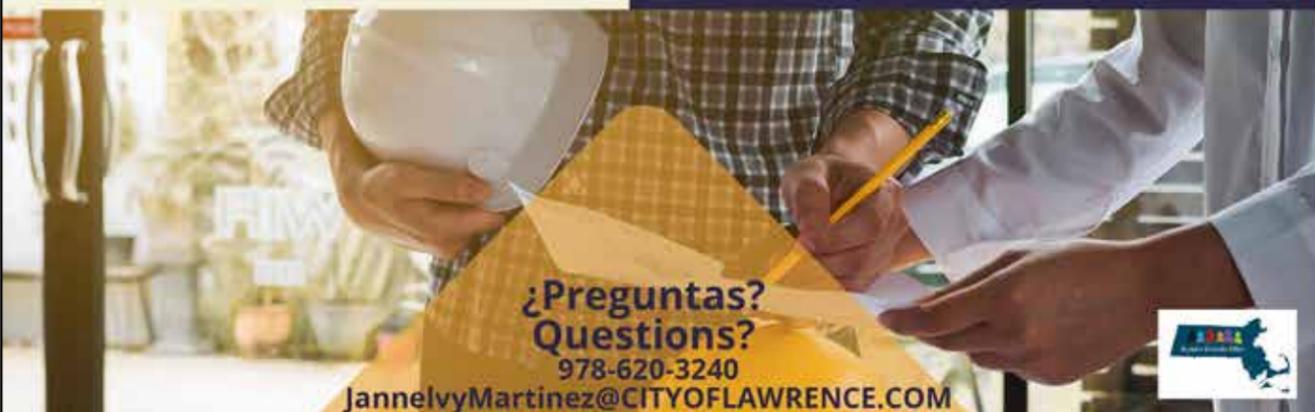





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Tufts Medicine Care at Home invita a la comunidad a honrar la memoria de sus seres queridos en persona y virtualmente

Es la temporada para ver hermosas exhibiciones de luces navideñas. Para algunos, las luces significan el comienzo de la temporada navideña y las festividades compartidas con sus seres queridos. Para otros, las luces pueden evocar recuerdos de familiares o amigos que ya no están con nosotros para celebrar.

El miércoles, 7 de diciembre a las 6 p. m., Tufts Medicine Care at Home invita al público a encender una luz en memoria de un ser querido en la ceremonia Candles of Remembrance que se lleva a cabo en Methuen Memorial Music Hall, 192 Broadway en Methuen. Una ceremonia virtual se llevará a cabo el jueves 8 de diciembre a las 6 p.m. a través de un enlace de Zoom que se publicará en careathome.org/candles.

La reunión gratuita contará con música instrumental de la musicoterapeuta Emily Higgins y comentarios de Susan Toleos, gerente de servicios de duelo de hospicio y educación comunitaria en Tufts Medicine Care at Home.

Se invita a los asistentes a honrar la memoria de un ser querido en el muro de recuerdo virtual en careathome.org/candles. Además, cualquier donación deducible de impuestos se reconocerá con una inscripción en el Libro de tributos de 2022, que estará disponible en línea y se exhibirá en High Pointe House, la residencia de cuidados paliativos y cuidados paliativos ubicada en 360 North Avenue en Haverhill. Los obsequios de tributo permiten a Tufts Medicine Care at Home continuar brindando atención de comodidad integral y compasiva a los pacientes en el viaje hacia el final de la

vida, independientemente de su capacidad de pago, así como servicios gratuitos de duelo para cualquier miembro de la comunidad.

Según Toleos, el evento está diseñado para cualquier persona que haya sufrido una pérdida, ya sea reciente o en años pasados. Las luces iluminadas servirán como símbolos de calidez, esperanza, celebración y apoyo mutuo.

“Estamos entrando en la estación más oscura y fría del año y, sin embargo, nuestro coraje, nuestro amor, nuestros recuerdos, nuestra esperanza e incluso nuestro dolor nos brindan luz y calor”, dijo Toleos. “Al participar en esta ceremonia, está creando un ritual positivo que otorga un significado poderoso a una pérdida y genera una sanación que nos ayuda en nuestro proceso de duelo”.

Para obtener más información sobre Candles of Remembrance o para acceder a la reunión de Zoom, visite careathome.org/candles.

Tufts Medicine Care at Home, parte del sistema de salud de Tufts Medicine, brinda una continuidad completa de cuidados de salud en el hogar, paliativos y de hospicio en entornos domésticos y comunitarios. Nuestros proveedores de atención médica altamente calificados son reconocidos por su experiencia en una amplia gama de servicios clínicos y de apoyo de vanguardia para bebés, niños, adultos y ancianos. La organización sin fines de lucro con sede en Lawrence brinda atención experta y compasiva en más de 100 comunidades en todo Merrimack Valley, el noreste de Massachusetts y el sur de New Hampshire. Para obtener más información, visite www.careathome.org.



Tufts Medicine Care at Home Invites the Community to Honor the Memory of Loved Ones In-Person and Virtually

‘Tis the season to view beautiful displays of holiday lights. For some, the lights signify the start of the holiday season and festivities shared with loved ones. For others, the lights may evoke memories of family or friends who are no longer with us to gather in celebration.

On Wednesday, December 7 at 6 p.m., Tufts Medicine Care at Home invites the public to illuminate a light in memory of a loved one at the Candles of Remembrance ceremony taking place at Methuen Memorial Music Hall, 192 Broadway in Methuen. A virtual ceremony will be held on Thursday, December 8 at 6 p.m. via a Zoom link to be posted at careathome.org/candles.

The free gathering will feature instrumental music by music therapist Emily Higgins and remarks by Susan Toleos, manager of hospice bereavement services and community education at Tufts Medicine Care at Home.

Attendees are invited to honor a loved one’s memory on the virtual remembrance wall at careathome.org/candles. In addition, any tax-deductible donation will be recognized with an inscription in the 2022 Tribute Book, which will be available online as well as displayed at High Pointe House, the hospice and palliative care residence located at 360 North Avenue in Haverhill. Tribute gifts enable Tufts Medicine Care at Home to continue delivering comprehensive, compassionate comfort care to patients on the journey to life’s

end, regardless of their ability to pay, as well as free bereavement services to any member of the community.

According to Toleos, the event is designed for anyone who has suffered a loss, whether recent or in years past. The illuminated lights will serve as symbols of warmth, hope, celebration, and support for one another.

“We are entering the darkest and coldest season of the year and yet our courage, our love, our memories, our hope, and even our grief provide us with light and warmth,” Toleos said. “By participating in this ceremony, you are creating a positive ritual that bestows a loss with powerful meaning and generates healing that aids us in our grief journey.”

For more information about Candles of Remembrance, or to access the Zoom gathering, visit careathome.org/candles.

Tufts Medicine Care at Home, part of the Tufts Medicine health system, provides a full continuum of home health, palliative, and hospice care in home and community settings. Our highly skilled healthcare providers are renowned for their expertise in a wide range of cutting-edge clinical and supportive services for infants, children, adults, and elders. The Lawrence-based nonprofit organization delivers expert, compassionate care in more than 100 communities throughout the Merrimack Valley, northeastern Massachusetts, and southern New Hampshire. For more information, visit www.careathome.org.

Join City Councilor Stephany Infante,
School Committeewoman Patricia Mariano,
South Lawrence West Neighborhood
Association and Carleen's For A
Christmas
Celebration

Monday
December 5, 2022
6:00 P.M.

Carleen's
209 South Broadway
Lawrence, MA 01843

**SPECIAL GUEST:
SANTA CLAUS**

Co-Hosts:
Mayor Brian A. DePeña
City Councilors At-Large
Pavel Payano
Celina Reyes
Ana Levy

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

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

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

<http://heallawrence.org/>

heallawrence@aol.com

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



Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley Issues Call For Santa's Helpers

Seeking Santa's Helpers To Support a Foster Child During the Christmas Season

Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley (FKMV), a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the needs of foster children in the Merrimack Valley, issues a call for Santa's Helpers to support the Annual Foster Kids Christmas Party. The Santa's Helpers is a volunteer program designed to anonymously match up individuals or groups from the local community with one or more foster children to help fulfill their Christmas wish lists. This program is part of the Annual Foster Kids Christmas Party organized by the FKMV, whereby age appropriate toys & clothing are distributed to local foster children. The Santa's Helpers program provides a personalized, unique kind of gift-giving and creates a memorable holiday season for foster children. The Annual Christmas Event is scheduled in early December each year.

"The Annual Christmas Party has been a mainstay of the organization. I'm always amazed at how our community participation continues to grow. Last year, with the help of our Santa's Helpers, we provided toys and gifts for more than 250 children and their respective foster parents." stated Larry Giordano, President and Founder of the Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley. "The holidays are always difficult times for foster children, they often feel alone and disconnected from their families.

This year more than ever, with everyone's finances being affected we have high hopes that our community will step forward again and help support our local foster children and bring a smile to their faces again."

What is a Santa's Helper?

We are looking for volunteers including businesses and/or individuals to volunteer to be a Santa's Helper and bring joy to a foster child this holiday season. Each Santa's Helper will be anonymously assigned a child and will receive a personal wish list for that child that includes personal items like clothing as well as toys.

The foster children participating in this program are ages birth to 12 years of age, and are currently under the care of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in the Merrimack Valley, including Lawrence, Methuen, Andover, North Andover and the greater Haverhill region. Individuals, groups, or businesses may sign up to sponsor one child or more. Cash donations are accepted in lieu of receiving a Christmas wish list.

Sign Up Information:

To register as a Santa's Helper, please contact

Our Website: www.fosterkidsmv.org
Email: fkmsantashelper@gmail.com – Wrapping Party:

Our Wrapping Party will be by reservation only. It is being held on Thursday, December 8 at St. Lucy Church Hall, 254 Merrimack St., Methuen - Please go to our website – www.fosterkidsmv.org to sign up for the time slot best for you.

Other Donations Needed:

In addition to being a Santa's Helper, the FKMV is accepting in-kind donations for the Wrapping Party, Gift Boxes, Gift Bags, Wrapping Paper, Tape, Tissue, Ribbons, Scissors and more.

Cash donations may be sent directly to:

Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley, Inc.
Larry Giordano
P.O. Box 2166
Methuen, MA 01844

About Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley

We are a certified 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to serving the needs of foster children in the Merrimack Valley, including Lawrence, Methuen, Andover, North Andover and the greater Haverhill region. With hundreds of foster children in our local area, they need role models who can make a difference in their lives. Through the efforts of the organization, our goal is to bring a positive influence into the lives of these children and support them as they grow. We offer a range of programs for local foster children of all ages. We work closely with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to make sure our programs are complementary and needed, and do not overlap with state and federally funded programs. For more information, please visit our website at: <http://www.fosterkidsmv.org>.



Dear Friends,

Did you know that Essex Art Center has been fostering creativity through opportunities to make, see, and learn about art since 1993? That's right! We are coming up on our 30th year of service.

Since the beginning, we have been working to create accessible arts experiences for people of all ages in Greater Lawrence. And over the past year, we strived to make our classes and public programs richer and more engaging for everyone.

There's still a lot to be done! In the coming year, Essex Art Center aims to:

- Continue providing people from all backgrounds the means to participate, create, and benefit from the dynamic programs we offer
- Curate ambitious new exhibitions and public art projects that spark conversations that are relevant to our community
- Advance racial equity through programs that support BIPOC Artists/Curators
- Support opportunities for regional

artists through exhibitions and our newly envisioned community-based artist residency

- Increase support for our teaching artists
- Contribute to Lawrence's economic development by inspiring visitors to our neighborhood and growing Lawrence's reputation as a destination for contemporary art

We invite you to read this year's Impact Report and to engage with our work. If you feel inspired, we'd be grateful if you consider making a gift to Essex Art Center.

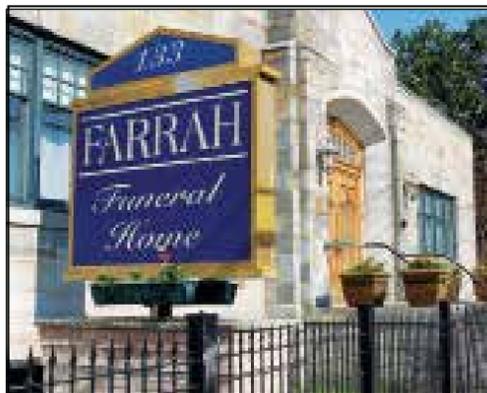
Thank you for being a valued member of our community!

Monica + the Staff + Board of Essex Art Center

Support Essex Art Center

Checks can be mailed to:
 Essex Art Center
 56 Island Street
 Lawrence, MA 01840

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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 necesitados de todo. Favor de ponerse en contacto con Heal Lawrence si desea hacer una contribución a las víctimas. El sitio en la internet tiene una lista de artículos que 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.

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