

Water and sewer rates increase

Pg. 2



Celebrating a great Parrandón Navideño in Lowell are (front left to right) Carmen García, Marianela Rivera and Jonathan Guzmán. In back, Luz Frazier and Stacy Seward. See more pictures on page 6.

Navidad en el City Hall



Después de iluminar el Common, repartieron juguetes a todos los niños.

After lighting the Common, all the children received gifts. Pg. 7

Programa MA Repay - \$130 millones para trabajadores de salud

Pg. 8

ONLINE English Classes available!
Intermediate Levels and Higher!
Mornings Only - Classes Start In January!

Call or email for your Registration Appointment!
978-682-6441
frontdesk@ndeclawrence.com

 354 Merrimack St
Suite 210
Lawrence, MA 01843

Contact Us 978-682-6441 www.ndeclawrence.net

ESPERANZA ACADEMY

COMMUNITY

Mass

with our students and Pastor Jack!

Please Join Us
DEC. 15 @ 3 PM

Grace Church
(adjacent to Esperanza Academy)
35 Jackson Street
Lawrence, MA

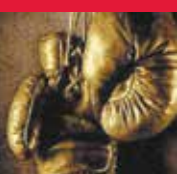
You're Invited!

On Thursday, December 15, from 3-4 p.m., please join fellow friends and family from the Esperanza Academy community for a Christmas-themed Mass at Grace Episcopal Church in Lawrence. With the support of Pastor Jack, Esperanza students will use their curiosity and creativity to tell the story of Mary and share fresh insights on the lessons it offers today.

For the safety of our community, especially given the upcoming season of travel and gathering, we are requesting that guests please wear masks inside Grace Church. Thank you and we hope to see you there.

Por/By Delia Diaz
rumbonews.com/blogs

Desde Mi Esquina



Aumentos salariales
Regalos de Navidad
Aumento del agua

Página 4

Por/By Delia Diaz
rumbonews.com/blogs

From My Corner



Salaries increase
Christmas gifts
Water rates go up

Page 16

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!

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!

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

"Debemos atrevernos a ser grandes, y debemos darnos cuenta de que la grandeza es el fruto del trabajo, el sacrificio y el gran coraje".

Theodore Roosevelt

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 - \$3.10 POR CIENTO CUBICO **TARIFA ACTUAL DE ALCANTARILLADO - \$3.35 POR CIENTO CUBICO.**

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

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.



New Home for the Holidays?

**30-YEAR FIXED RATE
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE**

5.999% INTEREST RATE **6.055%** APR*

Purchase or Refinance • Loans up to \$2 Million, No Points! **

APPLY ONLINE 24/7 at institutionforsavings.com

Call us at 978-358-8890 to learn more about our low to moderate income First-time Homebuyer programs in Essex County.



INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER SINCE 1820.

institutionforsavings.com



*APR denotes Annual Percentage Rate as of 12/5/22 and is based on a \$300,000 purchase loan or no-cash-out refinance loan with minimum credit score of 720 and maximum LTV of 80%. Rate is subject to change without notice. Unit cost per \$1,000 borrowed is \$5.99. Minimum loan amount is \$100,000, maximum loan amount is \$2 million. Owner-occupied single family primary residences only. Offer subject to credit approval. Property insurance required. Flood insurance required if the property is located in a FEMA Special Hazard Flood Zone. Monthly payment examples do not include escrow amounts for real estate taxes and/or insurance, if applicable. This may increase payment amount. Other terms and conditions may apply. Member FDIC • Member DIF • NMLS ID. #409410

**Points and/or additional fees may be assessed for borrowers with credit scores lower than 720 and/or cash-out refinance loans.

Rumbo

The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

DIRECTOR AND GRAPHIC DESIGN

Dalia Díaz

daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

SALES & CIRCULATION DIRECTOR

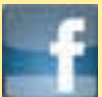
Alberto M. Surís

albertosuris@rumbonews.com

Publicación de SUDA, Inc.

315 Mt. Vernon Street Lawrence, MA 01843-3206

Tel: (978) 794-5360 | www.rumbonews.com



facebook.com/rumbonews
twitter.com/rumbonews

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

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

CARTAS AL EDITOR
RUMBO

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

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

Last Name	First Name	Job	Loc Description	Base Pay	Annual Stipend	Total Pay	FY'23 Budget
MICHEL	TOMAS	Administrative Aide - Special Projects	OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	40,001.78	24,998.22	65,000.00	75,000
HOYOS	CLAUDIA	Executive Assistant	OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	43,750.20	31,249.92	75,000.12	75,000
CASTILLO	NESTOR	Administrative Aide - Communications	OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	43,750.20	31,249.92	75,000.12	65,000
SPANNER	OCTAVIEN	Senior Advisor of Policy and External Affairs	OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	#####	30,000.10	150,000.24	150,000
GOMEZ	THELMA	Data Entry Clerk	OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	43,750.20	16,249.74	59,999.94	60,000
MARTES ROSARIO	JHOVANNY	Chief of Staff/Chief Administrative Officer	OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	65,000.00	55,000.14	120,000.14	120,000
VEGA	ALEXCY	Chief Assessor	OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR	75,390.90	19,999.98	95,390.88	72,375 +
D'AGATI	SUSAN	Confidential Secretary	OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY	55,000.14	14,999.92	70,000.06	70,000
HARB	NOLA	Confidential Secretary	OFFICE OF PERSONNEL	55,000.14	14,999.92	70,000.06	55,000
RODRIGUEZ CORONA	FRANCIA	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-GRANT	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	43,000.10	12,000.04	55,000.14	80,000
SURILLO	FRANCISCO	ASSET OFFICER	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING	55,000.14	10,000.12	65,000.26	50,192
GARCIA	ALFONSO	DIRECTOR OF INSPECTIONAL SVCS	INSPECTIONAL SERVICES - ADMIN.	75,000.12	19,999.98	95,000.10	79,560
DELROSARIO	ROSANNA	RECYCLING COORDINATOR	DPW SANITATION DIVISION	43,750.20	19,999.98	63,750.18	55,000

Aumento de sueldos en el Ayuntamiento

Históricamente, la Ciudad de Lawrence no ha pagado buenos salarios a los empleados de la ciudad y cuando el Alcalde Brian De Peña prometió que reajustaría la compensación de los empleados de la ciudad, fue una idea bien recibida. El alcalde dijo que si no pagamos los salarios adecuados a los buenos trabajadores, se van a ir a otros trabajos y se entiende.

Una forma de abordar lo que el alcalde consideraba un salario justo era combinándolo con un estipendio. Entonces comenzó la controversia porque algunas personas pensaron que los aumentos eran demasiado altos. De cualquier manera, no estoy juzgando si estaban justificados o no; solo quiero las cosas claras.

Hace unos días, Richard Russell publicó en Facebook una lista de estipendios que el alcalde había aprobado desde el año pasado. Solicitó esa información bajo la Ley de Libertad de Información, aunque no todas sus preguntas fueron respondidas, su queja fue sobre los estipendios que se pagan a ciertos empleados.

Eso fue un poco extraño porque el Concejo Municipal aprobó en junio pasado el nuevo presupuesto para el año fiscal 2023, que está publicado en el sitio web de la ciudad. Al comparar los números del presupuesto aprobado y el cuadro que publicó Russell, descubrí que no tenían sentido.

El cuadro se muestra aquí y la columna de la derecha es lo que aprobó el concejo municipal para el año fiscal 23. ¿Por qué esa discrepancia? ¿La lista de estipendios que se envió a Russell es un documento antiguo que data de antes de la aprobación del presupuesto? ¿Por qué el Tasador tiene un presupuesto de \$72,375 si ganaba \$95,390.88 con el estipendio?

Si el presupuesto es correcto al mostrar montos más bajos, ¿la ciudad

sigue compensando a los empleados con el dinero extra? Solo quiero entenderlo. Esa es la lista que quiero ver ahora: La lista actual de estipendios a partir del 1ro de julio del 2022.

Considere esto como una solicitud de la Ley de Libertad de Información para esa lista.

Regalos de Navidad

Si usted es como yo, regalar libros a los niños es mi regalo favorito en esta época del año. Los libros pueden ser divertidos, entretenidos y educativos, pero esta es una advertencia para usted.

Lascosashancambiadotremendamente en este país, particularmente en el alcance a los jóvenes.

Asegúrese de mirar las páginas de los libros que decida comprar. La literatura infantil se ha politizado y es posible que los mensajes no sean apropiados para su familia. Puede optar por comprarlos después de ver el tema sin importar cuál sea, pero imagínese si su regalo trata sobre temas sexuales como la homosexualidad. Ese podría ser el final de la amistad con esa familia.

Incluso peores son los libros en el mercado sobre personas transgénero. Comienzan diciéndole al niño de una manera muy sutil que está bien sentirse perteneciente al sexo opuesto e incluso lo alientan a comenzar un tratamiento para cambiar quirúrgicamente su género. No se sorprenda si su hijo un día revela que está bajo tratamiento médico porque le dicen que no se lo diga a sus padres. ¿Qué diablos está pasando en este país?

Un buen ejemplo de estos cambios es lo que le sucedió a un actor, Kirk Cameron, quien escribió un libro maravilloso, bellamente ilustrado por Juan Moreno. La descripción dice: “Esta divertida historia con arte brillante enseña las verdades bíblicas del Fruto del Espíritu. ¡Sigue el viaje de Sky Tree desde una pequeña

bellota hasta un poderoso árbol que brinda sombra, sustento y alojamiento!”

El Sr. Cameron ha tratado de hacer lecturas en vivo para niños de 4 a 12 años y ha sido rechazado en más de 50 bibliotecas. La razón por la que se lo negaron fue que no hacen promociones de puntos de vista religiosos porque son "amigables con los homosexuales".

Lawrence es una ciudad muy diferente debido a la gran cantidad de latinos que viven aquí; aunque sé que este lavado de cerebro está ocurriendo en Lawrence, los padres tienen miedo de enfrentarlo.

Por favor, pregunte a sus hijos sobre lo que se les enseña en la escuela y si es algo con lo que no está de acuerdo, tome medidas.

Suben las tarifas del agua

En la página 2 publicamos nuevamente el aumento en las tarifas de agua y alcantarillado. El alcalde De Peña explicó que los fondos en esa cuenta están extremadamente bajos y es necesario un aumento. Como sabemos, ese departamento es un Fondo Empresarial, lo que significa que se supone que deben trabajar y gastar el dinero recaudado de los residentes para sus propias necesidades.

En el pasado, esos fondos se agotaron porque se han utilizado para satisfacer otros gastos y ahora debemos pagar las consecuencias.

El Alcalde De Peña cree que debemos planificar pequeños aumentos dos veces al año para que no sea difícil de aceptar.

"Sé que mi franqueza de palabra hace que me odien, y ¿qué es su odio sino una prueba de que estoy diciendo la verdad?"

SÓCRATES

“Es espantoso que personas tan ignorantes tengan tanta influencia”.

— George Orwell

www.facebook.com/poets01

Lawrence Public Library
Rise to New Heights Through Knowledge

CONCURSO DE ESTRELLA DE ARBOL

NECESITAMOS UN ESTRELLA DE ÁRBOL QUE SE VEA ASÍ

EL TEMA DE NUESTRO ÁRBOL ESTE AÑO ES CIUDAD DE LAWRENCE Y QUEREMOS INCORPORAR UN DISEÑO HECHO POR UNO DE LOS MIEMBROS DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD. NUESTRO ESTRELLA DE ESTE AÑO SE PARECERÁ A NUESTRA AMADA TORRE DEL RELOJ.

¡POR FAVOR TRAIGA SU DISEÑO DE LA TORRE DEL RELOJ ANTES DEL 15 DE DICIEMBRE! ¡NUESTRO PERSONAL VOTARÁ POR EL GANADOR EL 17 DE DICIEMBRE Y EL GANADOR TENDRÁ EL HONOR DE COLOCAR SU DISEÑO EN NUESTRO ÁRBOL!

MAYOR BRIAN A. DE PEÑA



ESTRENAR A VIVIR

En Lujo y Estilo



RIVERWALK
LOFTS



- Las Mascotas son Bienvenidas
- Estacionamiento Disponible
- Gimnasio Abierto Las 24 Horas
- Acceso Controlado

- Loft En El Segundo Piso En Todas Las Unidades (ascensor opcional)
- Comedor y Cocina Comunitarios
- Espacios De Trabajo Privados y Sala De Juegos
- Pasos Para El Tren De Cercanías a Boston

LLAMAR PARA UN RECORRIDO
978.645.6302

250 MERRIMACK STREET
LAWRENCE, MA 01843



WWW.THERIVERWALKLOFTS.COM



Parrandón Navideño in Lowell

By Andres "DraMatik" Gonzalez

Saturday, December 3, 2022
UTEC - 35 Warren St., Lowell

"EL ENCUESTRO" Planning Committee is excited to deliver "Parrandón Navideño 2022" a Latino Christmas Gala. Expect to remember a formal evening prepared to offer a celebration of culture, tradition, live folk music, dancing, dinner & the gift of giving.

"EL ENCUESTRO" will recognize Latino leadership, provide cultural education & raise funds that will contribute to the advancement of Latino students mastering the arts or trade and that are in need of some financial freedom through scholarships.

El Parrandón Navideño - Noche De Gala is brought to you by dedicated volunteers & active community members.

We kindly request that each guest bring an unwrapped gift for the giving tree. All gifts collected will be forwarded to the "House of Hope."



Christmas at Lawrence City Hall

December 2, 2022



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



¿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 (MSPCC), una división de Eliot, 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)



“La excelencia moral surge como resultado del hábito. Nos volvemos justos al hacer actos justos, moderados al hacer actos moderados, valientes al hacer actos valientes”.

ARISTÓTELES

Programa de reembolso MA Repay de \$130 millones para trabajadores de salud ahora abierto para aplicaciones

El programa de pago de préstamos estudiantiles es una inversión histórica para apoyar y retener personal de atención primaria y salud del comportamiento

La Liga de Centros Comunitarios de Salud de Massachusetts, bajo contrato con la Oficina Ejecutiva de Salud y Servicios Humanos de Massachusetts (EOHHS), anunció que ya están abiertas las solicitudes para MA Repay. El programa de pago de préstamos estudiantiles es un paso histórico para apoyar a la fuerza laboral de salud conductual y atención primaria de Massachusetts y promover la salud pública en las comunidades más afectadas por la pandemia. Las solicitudes de los empleados calificados ahora pueden enviarse a la Liga de Centros Comunitarios de Salud de Massachusetts a través del sitio web del programa, ma-repay.massleague.org, hasta el 30 de enero de 2023.

“La escasez de mano de obra es un problema crítico a nivel nacional y local en todo el sistema de atención médica, lo que genera una tensión significativa en nuestro personal y proveedores de atención médica, y en nuestros residentes que buscan atención”, dijo Marylou Sudders, secretaria de Salud y Servicios Humanos. “Este programa de pago de préstamos es una forma tangible de demostrar que valoramos a quienes realizan este importante trabajo”.

Con fondos del American Rescue Plan y el Opioides Recovery and Remediation Trust Fund asignados por la legislatura, el programa ofrece entre \$12,500 y \$300,000 en reembolso de préstamos educativos a profesionales de la salud elegibles a cambio de un compromiso de 4 a 5 años para su institución actual u otra institución elegible. El programa podría resultar en hasta 2000 premios y será el primero en extender el pago de préstamos a empleados en funciones no clínicas más amplias en salud conductual y atención primaria.

La aplicación del sitio web del programa MA Repay ayuda a los participantes potenciales a determinar su elegibilidad al pedirles a las personas que:

- Elija entre tres campos ocupacionales: Salud del Comportamiento y Atención Primaria; Psiquiatría del Niño y del Adolescente; y Tratamiento por Uso de Sustancias
- Seleccione la institución para la que trabaja
- Seleccione su ocupación
- Compartir si cumplen con un número mínimo de horas trabajadas
- Aceptar comprometerse a trabajar durante al menos 4 a 5 años en su institución actual o en otra institución elegible

Los empleados que califican incluyen, entre otros, trabajadores sociales, médicos de atención primaria, psiquiatras, enfermeras, entrenadores de recuperación del uso de sustancias y administradores de casos que trabajan en Centros de Salud Comunitarios, Centros Comunitarios de Salud Mental, unidades psiquiátricas en hospitales de cuidados agudos, centros psiquiátricos para pacientes internados, hospitales o programas de tratamiento por uso de sustancias. Se dará prioridad a los solicitantes que hablen un segundo idioma, tengan experiencia trabajando con pacientes de escasos recursos, vivan o trabajen en una comunidad priorizada en la Iniciativa de Equidad de Vacunas COVID-19 del estado, o que trabajen o

tengan una oferta de trabajo en un área designada. Centro Comunitario de Salud del Comportamiento.

“Al dar prioridad a las comunidades más afectadas por la pandemia y apoyar a estos trabajadores esenciales, los líderes legislativos y la administración están invirtiendo en atención médica primaria y conductual que se asocia con un mayor valor y mejores resultados para los residentes de Massachusetts”, dijo Michael Curry, presidente y director ejecutivo de Massachusetts. Liga de Centros Comunitarios de Salud.

Los préstamos elegibles para reembolso en este proceso de solicitud incluyen préstamos gubernamentales hechos por agencias federales, estatales, del condado o de la ciudad y préstamos comerciales de bancos, cooperativas de

crédito, asociaciones de ahorro y préstamo, compañías de seguros, escuelas y otras instituciones financieras o de crédito.

“Estamos agradecidos con la legislatura por actuar rápidamente para abordar esta crisis de la fuerza laboral y asignar fondos tan significativos”, dijo Lydia Conley, presidenta y directora ejecutiva de la Asociación para la Atención de la Salud del Comportamiento. “Este es el tipo de respuesta audaz necesaria dada la magnitud de la pérdida de nuestra fuerza laboral”.

Obtenga más información sobre el programa y más detalles sobre las calificaciones necesarias para que un solicitante tenga prioridad para recibir un premio: ma-repay.massleague.org.

La Liga de Centros de Salud

\$130 Million MA Repay program for healthcare workers now open for applications

Student loan repayment program is historic investment to support and retain behavioral health and primary care workforce

The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, under contract with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), announced that applications are now open for MA Repay. The student loan repayment program is a historic step to support the Massachusetts’ behavioral health and primary care workforce and promote public health in communities hardest hit by the pandemic. Applications by qualifying employees can now be submitted to the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers via the program website, ma-repay.massleague.org, through January 30, 2023.

“Workforce shortages are a critical problem nationally and locally across the health care system, placing significant stress on our health care staff and providers, and our residents seeking care,” said Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders. “This loan repayment program is a tangible way to demonstrate that we value those doing this important work.”

With funding from the American Rescue Plan and the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Trust Fund allocated by the legislature, the program offers between \$12.5K and \$300K of educational loan repayment to eligible healthcare professionals in exchange for a 4-to-5-year commitment to their current or another eligible institution. The program could result in up to 2,000 awards and will be the first to extend loan repayment to employees in broader, non-clinical roles in behavioral health and primary care.

The MA Repay program website application helps potential participants determine their eligibility by asking individuals to:

- Choose from three occupational fields: Behavioral Health and Primary Care; Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; and Substance Use Treatment

- Select the institution for which they work
- Select their occupation
- Share if they meet a minimum number of hours worked
- Agree to commit to work for at least 4-to-5-years at their current or another eligible institution

Qualifying employees include but are not limited to social workers, primary care physicians, psychiatrists, nurses, substance use recovery coaches, and case managers who work at Community Health Centers, Community Mental Health Centers, psychiatric units in acute care hospitals, in-patient psychiatric hospitals, or substance use treatment programs. Priority consideration will be given to applicants who speak a second language, have experience working with under-resourced patients, live or work in a community prioritized in the state’s COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Initiative, or who work or have a job offer in a designated Community Behavioral Health Center.

“By prioritizing communities hardest hit by the pandemic and supporting these essential workers, legislative leaders and the administration are investing in primary and behavioral healthcare that is associated with higher value and better outcomes for Massachusetts residents,” said Michael Curry, President and CEO of Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers.

Loans eligible for repayment in this application process include government loans made by federal, state, county

Comunitarios de Massachusetts (la Liga) es una organización de membresía 501 (c) (3) que apoya y representa a los 52 centros de salud comunitarios del Commonwealth, que ofrecen atención primaria y preventiva a más de un millón de residentes. La Liga sirve como un recurso de información sobre atención primaria basada en la comunidad para los formuladores de políticas, los líderes de opinión y los medios de comunicación. Brinda una amplia gama de asistencia técnica a los miembros de su centro de salud, incluida la promoción de cuestiones de política de salud, apoyo para el desarrollo de la fuerza laboral, iniciativas de atención clínica y tecnología, y orientación para líderes estatales y organizaciones comunitarias que buscan abrir centros de salud.

or city agencies and commercial loans from banks, credit unions, savings and loan associations, insurance companies, schools, and other financial or credit institutions.

“We are grateful to the legislature for acting swiftly to address this workforce crisis and appropriate such significant funds,” said Lydia Conley, President and CEO of the Association for Behavioral Healthcare. “This is the kind of bold response necessary given the magnitude of our workforce loss.”

Learn more about the program and more details about the qualifications needed for an applicant to be prioritized for receiving an award: ma-repay.massleague.org.

The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers (the League) is a 501 (c)(3) membership organization supporting and representing the Commonwealth’s 52 community health centers, which offer primary and preventive care to more than one million residents. The League serves as an information resource on community-based primary care to policymakers, opinion leaders, and the media. It provides a wide range of technical assistance to its health center members, including advocacy on health policy issues, support for workforce development, clinical care and technology initiatives, and guidance to state leaders and community-based organizations seeking to open health centers.

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

“Debemos atrevernos a ser grandes, y debemos darnos cuenta de que la grandeza es el fruto del trabajo, el sacrificio y el gran coraje”.

Theodore Roosevelt

Four Pentucket Regional High School Students Selected for Northeastern District Music Festival

WEST NEWBURY — Superintendent Justin Bartholomew, Principal Jonathan Seymour and Fine & Performing Arts Department Chair David Schumacher are pleased to share that four Pentucket Regional High School students have been accepted into the 2023 Massachusetts Music Educators’ Association (MMEA) Northeastern Senior District Music Festival.

Senior Bella Higgins of West Newbury (percussion), and juniors Lily Friend of West Newbury (horn), Chaney Goldstein of Bradford (saxophone), and Adam Hannula of Groveland (tuba) were among more than 700 high school music students from across the District who auditioned at North Andover High School on Nov. 19. Goldstein was accepted into the Jazz Band, while Friend, Hannula, and Higgins were accepted into the Concert Band. Goldstein also will be invited to audition in January for a place in the All-State Jazz Band.

“Congratulations to Adam, Bella, Chaney, Lily, and all of our students who auditioned this year,” Chair Schumacher said. “This is our largest class of acceptances in recent memory, in what is always a highly competitive process. It is a wonderful accomplishment to celebrate as we emerge from the challenges of the pandemic.”

All four students will participate in the Senior Festival, which takes place on Jan. 7 at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

The Massachusetts Music Educators’ Association Northeastern District encompasses school districts north and west of Boston, in the Merrimack Valley and on Cape Ann. The District is a unit of the National Association for Music Education, among the world’s largest arts education organizations and the voice of music education in the United States.

Superintendent Bartholomew and Chair Schumacher also wish to invite the school community to attend public

concerts that showcase the skills and talents of Pentucket music students:

- Elementary Band and Strings Concert: Wednesday, Dec. 14 (snow date Dec. 15), Middle High School Auditorium. The strings concert begins at 6 p.m., with the band concert following at 7:30 p.m. The Pentucket Music Boosters will be running their envelope fundraiser.
- Cafe Jazz: Friday, Dec. 16 (snow date Dec. 17), 7 p.m., Middle High School Dining Commons. The event features the Pentucket Regional High School Big Band and Jazz Combo.
- PRMHS Ensembles Concert and Arts Reception: Wednesday, Dec. 21 (snow date Dec. 22), 6 p.m., Middle High School Auditorium and Dining Commons. Student visual art and video content will be on display in the Dining Commons, as part of a reimagined Arts Festival. The concert begins at 7 p.m., and will feature the Middle School and High School Choirs, Orchestras, Concert Bands, Percussion Ensembles, and Middle School Jazz Band. All groups will join for a special holiday sing-along grand finale.

For the past two years, Pentucket has been recognized as a Best Communities for Music Education award recipient by the NAMM Foundation, a nonprofit supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants. Superintendent Bartholomew, Principal Seymour, and Chair Schumacher wish to recognize the passion and dedication of music students, and the support of the District faculty and administration, Music Boosters, Pentucket Arts Foundation, Pentucket Education Foundation, and the Pentucket community at large.

Information on Pentucket Regional School District music programs and the Pentucket Music Boosters can be found at www.PentucketMusic.com.



Pentucket Regional High School students, from left, Bella Higgins, Adam Hannula, Chaney Goldstein, and Lily Friend have been accepted into the 2022 MMEA Northeastern Senior District Music Festival. (Photo Courtesy Pentucket Regional School District)



HELP YOUR TEEN QUIT VAPING

 **GET OUT RAGED!** GetOutRaged.org



**Dé el primer
paso hacia una
vida sin nicotina**

**TRAINING
OPPORTUNITY
FAIR**

DECEMBER 14, 1-3 PM



**Train
to
land
the job
you
want.**

There are courses available to prepare you for a great job in **Medical, IT, Business-Technology, CDL, HVAC, Plumbing, Welding, Automotive-Technology & more.**

**OVER 30
BOOTHS WITH
TRAINING-
PROGRAM
INFORMATION**

Learn about the many free training programs available to you, if eligible, enjoy a complimentary lunch and enter to win a raffle prize!

NECC Dimitry Building
45 Franklin Street
Lawrence, MA



Call the Career Center at **(978) 722-7000** for more information and to register today!

WWW.MASSHIREMVCC.COM 420 COMMON STREET, LAWRENCE, MA

READ PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF RUMBO ON OUR WEBSITE
RUMBONEWS.COM

MassDOT destaca la importancia de la semana de concienciación sobre la seguridad de los conductores mayores

Campaña anual busca crear conciencia y ayudar a mantener seguros a los conductores mayores

El Registro de Vehículos Motorizados (RMV, por sus siglas en inglés) subraya la responsabilidad de las familias y los amigos de iniciar conversaciones críticas con los conductores de 65 años o más sobre su comportamiento al volante. Es importante discutir y evaluar la capacidad de las personas mayores para operar con seguridad un vehículo motorizado.

Hay excelentes recursos disponibles para ayudar a informar las decisiones de conducción de los conductores mayores durante la Semana Anual de Concienciación sobre la Seguridad de los Conductores Mayores de la Administración Nacional de Seguridad del Tráfico en las Carreteras (NHTSA, por sus siglas en inglés), que comenzó el lunes, 5 de diciembre y continúa hasta el viernes, 9 de diciembre.

El propósito de esta campaña informativa es alentar a los conductores, proveedores, familias y amigos mayores a que se tomen el tiempo para analizar cualquier problema de seguridad relacionado con la conducción y cómo evaluar en colaboración el impacto que tiene el proceso de envejecimiento en las funciones mentales, físicas o sensoriales que pueden afectar la capacidad de conducir con seguridad. Según la NHTSA, la población estadounidense de personas mayores de 65 años aumentó en un 35% entre 2011 y 2020. Además, en 2020, la cantidad de personas mayores de 65 años que murieron en accidentes de tránsito representó el 17% de todas las muertes por accidentes de tránsito.

“LaSemanaNacionaldeConcienciación sobre la Seguridad de los Conductores Mayores es un momento importante para que las personas discutan y evalúen cuidadosamente los comportamientos de manejo de los familiares, amigos y vecinos mayores para garantizar su seguridad y la seguridad de los demás en las carreteras del Commonwealth”, dijo Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. “Alentamos a las personas a usar las herramientas informativas y los recursos educativos que están disponibles a través del RMV y

continuar teniendo estas conversaciones críticas para ayudar a prevenir accidentes”.

En Massachusetts, las estadísticas muestran que ha habido un aumento en las muertes que involucran a personas y conductores mayores de 65 años de la siguiente manera:

- En 2020, se informaron 84 muertes y 93 muertes en 2021, lo que resultó en un aumento del 10,7 por ciento en un año.

- Actualmente, aproximadamente 1'076,051 personas mayores de 65 años tienen licencias de conducir activas en Massachusetts.

El RMV ofrece los siguientes recursos y talleres para adultos mayores y proveedores:

- Visite <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/older-drivers> para acceder a recursos útiles y obtener más información sobre la seguridad de los conductores mayores.

- Asista a uno de los talleres gratuitos de conducción segura del RMV:

- Cambio de marchas: reglas de la carretera, conducción defensiva y consejos para una conducción segura.

- La decisión de conducir: consejos para familias y proveedores que están preocupados por la capacidad de una persona para conducir de manera segura.

- Vea el video de RMV, Shifting Gears, que destaca cómo los cambios relacionados con la edad pueden afectar la capacidad de una persona para conducir y cómo todos pueden apoyar la seguridad y la movilidad de los conductores mayores.

Puede encontrar información adicional y recomendaciones sobre cómo los conductores mayores pueden mantenerse seguros mientras conducen en el sitio web de la NHTSA en Keeping Our Older Drivers Safe on the Road | NHTSA.

MassDOT Stresses Importance of Older Driver Safety Awareness Week

Annual campaign seeks to raise awareness and help keep older drivers safe

The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is underscoring the responsibility of families and friends to initiate critical conversations with drivers who are 65 years of age and older regarding their driving behaviors. It is important to discuss and assess the ability of senior citizens to safely operate a motor vehicle.

Excellent resources are available to help inform driving decisions for older drivers during the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) annual Older Driver Safety Awareness Week which began on Monday, December 5, and continues through Friday, December 9.

The purpose of this informational campaign is to encourage older drivers, providers, families, and friends to take time to discuss any safety concerns of driving and discuss how to collaboratively evaluate the impact the aging process has on mental, physical, or sensory functions that may affect the ability to drive safely. According to NHTSA, the U.S. population of people 65 and older increased by 35 percent between 2011 and 2020. Additionally, in 2020 the number of people 65 and older killed in traffic crashes made up 17 percent of all traffic fatalities.

“National Older Driver Safety Awareness Week is an important time for individuals to thoughtfully discuss and evaluate the driving behaviors of elder family members, friends, and neighbors to ensure their safety and the safety of others on roadways across the Commonwealth,” said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. “We encourage individuals to use the informational tools and educational resources that are available through the RMV and continue to have these critical conversations to help prevent crashes.”

In Massachusetts, statistics show there has been an increase in fatalities involving individuals and drivers 65 years of age and older as follows:

- In 2020, there were 84 reported fatalities, and 93 fatalities in 2021, resulting in a 10.7 percent increase in one year.

- Currently, approximately 1,076,051 individuals 65 years of age and older have active driver's licenses in Massachusetts.

The RMV offers the following resources and workshops for older adults and providers:

- Visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/older-drivers> to access helpful resources and to learn more about older driver safety.

- Attend one of the RMV's free Safe Driving workshops:

- Shifting Gears – Rules of the road, defensive driving, and safe driving tips.

- The Driving Decision – Advice for families and providers who are concerned about a person's ability to drive safely.

- View RMV's video, Shifting Gears, which highlights how age-related changes can affect a person's ability to drive and how everyone can support older driver safety and mobility.

Additional information and recommendations on how older drivers can stay safe while driving can be found on the NHTSA website at Keeping Our Older Drivers Safe on the Road | NHTSA.

"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

¡La Fundación Big Brother Big Sister necesita tu ayuda!



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

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

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

¡Gracias por tu apoyo!

Notre Dame Education Center - Lawrence
354 Merrimack Street Suite 210, Entry C
Lawrence, MA 01843
978-682-6441

Are you looking for a meaningful career?

Become a Nursing Assistant & Home Health Aid

Start your Health Care career at NDEC Lawrence!

Info Sessions and Entrance Test
Wednesday 12/7, 12/14 - 10:30 AM
Monday 12/12, or 12/19 - 10:30 AM
Be sure to arrive on TIME. Plan to stay for 2 hours

Visit : <https://ndeclawrence.net/nursing-assistant-program.html>

Classes	Requirements	Cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday through Friday 9 am to 3 pm One week of clinical training from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm Mock Interviews & Direct Introduction to local employers who are HIRING now 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be age 18+ Picture ID Medical form signed by your Primary Doctor Proof of Flu & Covid Vaccine Proof of Health Insurance Coverage Negative TB Test Results Clear CORI Report English Language Aptitude, Level 3+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant to the NAP program will meet with an advisor to determine eligibility for scholarships No student pays more than \$650 Burgundy scrubs & non-skid shoes required

Call us now:
978-682-6441 ext. 15

For more info:
napcoordinator@ndeclawrence.com



Classes are now live!

Dear friends,

Our winter classes are open for registration! In addition to our array of courses in ceramics, digital art, and watercolor, this session we are featuring new courses in portfolio building, sticker making, and comic design. Remember, Lawrence youth receive a discount of 75% on all of our courses. And, if you are a Lawrence resident 18 or over, you receive a 30% discount. All seniors receive a discount of 10%.



Human Meteorite

It's also an ideal time to step into our galleries to check out Human Meteorite by Jemila MacEwan. In an exploration of what it means to be human and how we relate to the planet we inhabit, Jemila's thoughtful work features video, photography, performance, and sculpture, including her work Breathing Rock, a giant inflatable boulder that expands and contracts in rhythm with the sunrise and sunset.



We look forward to seeing you!

Support Essex Art Center

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



MCC Highlights Student Singers & Instrumentalists in Recital

Middlesex Community College will hold a Student Recital as part of the Fall 2022 “A World of Music” concert series at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, December 12 at MCC’s Concert Hall in Bedford. Middlesex student singers and instrumentalists will have the opportunity to showcase their talents in a live performance.

James Yu, from Taiwan and now living in Carlisle, is an MCC Performing Arts in Music major, expected to graduate in 2023. During the Student Recital, he will perform Brahms’ first sonata for piano and cello “Cello Sonata No. 1 in E minor, Op. 38.”

“It is important to have performance opportunities because it allows musicians – at any level – to experiment and find their voice,” Yu said. “It also helps to learn to cope with any anxieties that go along with performing and most importantly, to be able to express themselves unapologetically through music.”

All of MCC’s “A World of Music” concerts are free and open to the public.

The final performance of the Fall 2022 “A World of Music” concert series is Island of Peoples at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 17 at the Richard and Nancy Donahue and Family Academic Arts Center. Previous performances of



As part of the Fall 2022 “A World of Music” concert series, Middlesex Community College will feature a Student Recital at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, December 12 at MCC’s Concert Hall in Bedford.

the semester include the Lowell Chamber Orchestra, North Sea Gas, the 100th Anniversary of Nosferatu, and A Peruvian Sojourn.

MCC’s Concert Hall is located in Henderson Hall at 591 Springs Road in Bedford. Parking is available on-campus.

MCC Student’s Personal Story Inspired Him to Fight Addiction

Interested in helping fight against addiction, Ryan Dandaraw, of Chelmsford, is working toward a License in Alcohol and Drug Counseling (LADC) through Middlesex Community College’s Addictions Counselor Program (ACP). The college has provided an accessible and positive experience to help him reach his career goals.

“As someone who is personally in recovery, I have great sympathy for those still in active addiction,” said Dandaraw. “I want to do all in my power to fight one of the greatest epidemics of our time.”

For Dandaraw, the best parts about Middlesex are meeting classmates, using campus resources, and learning from professors. While he once struggled to find the motivation to go to college, MCC’s professors “have made the experience pragmatic and adaptable to my needs and reality.” In particular, Joseph Gardner, MCC’s Director of ACP, has provided him with guidance toward both his academic and career goals.

“Joseph Gardner has been a tremendous help during my time as an LADC student,” he said. “He is an individual who relentlessly advocates for his students, offers practical advice, and guides new students through the licensing process.”

MCC’s ACP celebrated its 30th graduation ceremony in September 2022. Through course- and fieldwork, the certificate program prepares students to be eligible for a Massachusetts certification as a substance abuse counselor. Over the course of one year, students have two field placements totaling 300 hours in a treatment facility.



Dandaraw is interning at The Frontline Initiative, a jail-diversion co-response program with the Tewksbury, Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut and Tyngsborough Police Departments. He believes the experience has been positive, and has helped him feel more qualified to work in the field.

Upon completing the certificate, Dandaraw plans to earn his LADC license and continue his education at a four-year institution. He is currently working in the Substance Use Treatment field, accumulating his hours for his license. MCC is helping to make his dream to help others possible.

“Middlesex’s staff members and professors have provided me with valuable academic and career guidance regarding how to navigate my future as a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor,” he said.

Knights make it seven straight with road win over CCRI

Warwick, RI (December 1, 2022) – The Northern Essex Community College men's basketball team, ranked #12 in the most recent NJCAA national poll picked up their seventh consecutive win on Thursday night as they picked up a 90-76 win on the road over the Community College of Rhode Island. With the win, NECC improves to 11-1 on the season and remain unbeaten in Region 21 action at 6-0.

After a back and forth first half NECC took a 46-42 lead to the locker room at halftime. The game remained close before the Knights opened up their double digit of the game with just over nine minutes remaining in the second half and CCRI

never got the game closer than eight points down the stretch.

Luis Reynoso (Lawrence) led the offense for the Knights as he was the games high scorer with 26 points. He was joined in double figures by Cristian Kinsley (Lawrence) who dropped 18 points and Edwin SamMbaka (Paris, FR) recorded 12 points.

Ryan Pacy (Salem, NH) added nine points in his return to the lineup after missing three games with illness.

NECC will remain on the road on Saturday when they travel to Springfield Technical Community College. Tip-off is set for 1:00pm.

Knights overcome season low point total for two-point road victory

Springfield, MA (December 3, 2022) – The Northern Essex Community College men's basketball team was held to their lowest point total of the season on Saturday afternoon and trailed at halftime for only the third time this season as they escaped with a 59-57 win on the road at Springfield Tech. With the win, the number 12 nationally ranked Knights improve to 12-1 on the season and 7-0 in Region 21 action.

Down the stretch, it was strong rebounding and a three-point basket from Metin Yavuz (Istanbul, TR) and a pair of clutch shots from Ryan Pacy (Salem, NH) that pushed to the Knights to their eighth

straight win.

Pacy was one of two Knights in double figures for the game as Luis Reynoso (Lawrence) led all scorers with 23 points.

NECC trailed 31-27 at the half, and was able to outscore STCC by six points in the second half (32-26) to prevail.

NECC will conclude a three-game road trip on Tuesday evening when they travel to Brockton to take on Massasoit Community College with opening tip off set for 6:30pm. The Knights return home on Thursday evening to host Roxbury Community College.

Kinsley three pushes Knights past Massasoit on the road

Brockton, MA (December 6, 2022) – After opening up a 12-point halftime lead, a Cristian Kinsley (Lawrence) three-point basket from the right corner in the games final minute was the difference as the Northern Essex Community College men's basketball picked up a 73-69 road victory over Massasoit Community College. With the win, NECC improved to 13-1 on the season and 8-0 in Region 21 conference action.

Taking a 49-37 lead into the locker room at halftime, NECC popped in a couple of quick baskets in the opening minutes of the second half and then went cold for a near six-minute stretch in which they only scored a pair of free throws. The stretch allowed the Warriors back into the game and take a late lead before the

Kinsley three.

Kinsley was the Knights leading scorer for the game with 19 points. Mehmet Asik (Istanbul, TR) also recorded double figures as he had 12 points to go with 10 rebounds for a double-double.

NEC's leading scorer on the season Luis Reynoso (Lawrence) found himself in early foul trouble and was held to a season low seven points in limited minutes. Edwin SamMbaka (Paris, FR) continued his strong defensive play and helped seal the win in the game's final moments.

NECC returns home on Thursday evening at 6:00 for a battle of nationally ranked conference unbeaten when they host Roxbury Community College with first place on the line.

READ PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF RUMBO ON OUR WEBSITE
RUMBONEWS.COM



Help Your Neighbors in December

**"What is the essence of life?
To serve others and to do good."
—Aristotle**



St. Michael's CCD Team Does It Again

Yesterday, CCD students from St. Michael's Church packed 300 grocery bags and 300 pounds of carrots! Each day, volunteers make the work of Neighbors In Need possible so that our community has access to healthy food and other basic needs.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Neighbors In Need relies on **over 50 volunteers** per week to address food and basic needs insecurity in our community.

Can you volunteer in December?

**** In addition to our usual Warehouse and Delivery work, we need a few volunteers at our food pantry locations in Greater Lawrence, Monday-Thursday from 8:30am-10:30am, and on Thursday from 3:30pm-5pm.**

If you are interested in one of these **special pantry volunteer opportunities**, please email Alisa at volunteer@needfood.org.**

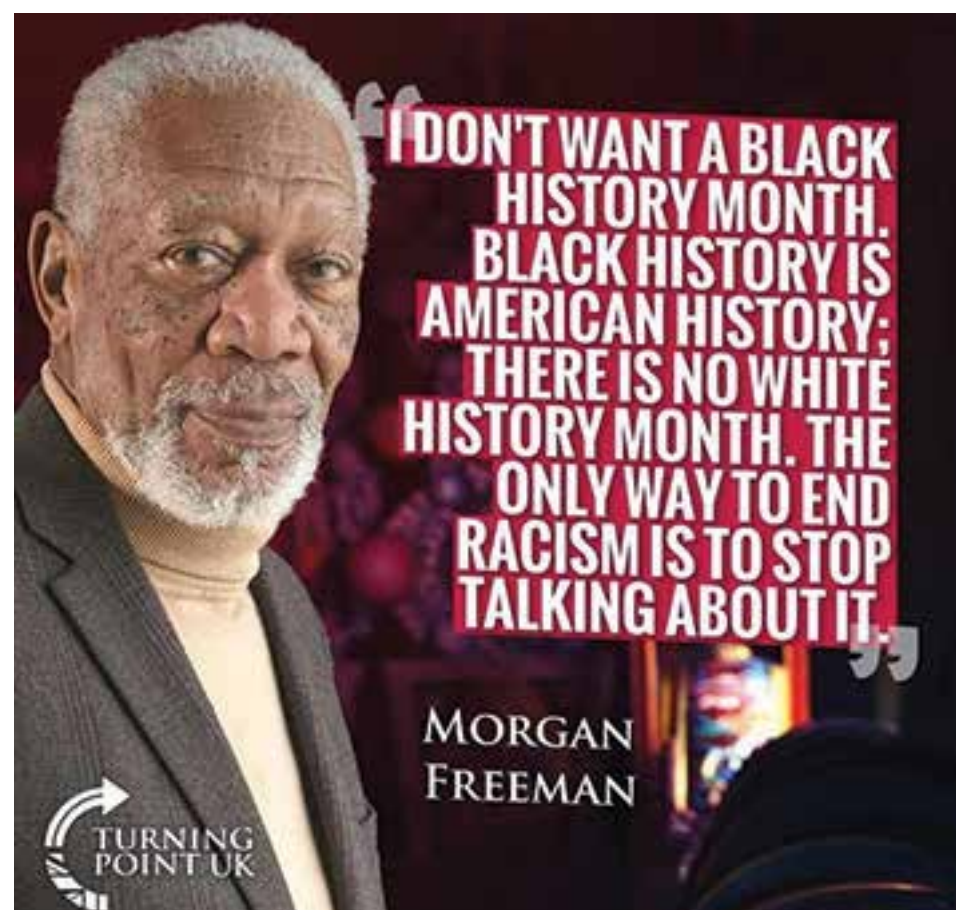
Don't have time to volunteer but want to support NIN?

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

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



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



Plan • Innovate • Promote

160 Main Street, Haverhill, Massachusetts 01830 | P: 978.374.0519 | F: 978.372.4890 | mvpc.org

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 Lavalley at nlavalley@mvpc.org

Call for Entries: First Newburyport Public and Community Service Awards

Mayor Sean R. Reardon is proud to open the call for entries for the City of Newburyport's first Public and Community Service Awards, which will recognize some of the city's most dedicated, selfless and generous residents.

"Newburyport is fortunate to have such a giving population that is generous with its time, talents and wallets," Mayor Reardon said. "The Newburyport Public and Community Service Awards is a step toward providing the proper gratitude and recognition for these fine volunteers and public servants."

The city intends to hold the new awards program annually, at the January State of the City gatherings. There are four award categories:

1. **Public Service Award:** Intended to honor a city employee, board/commission member or elected official who has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to serving the citizens of Newburyport. The award seeks to honor an individual who has gone above and beyond, made a profound difference in improving public services, fostered a more democratic society and served as a champion for equity.
2. **Individual Community Service Award:** All Newburyport residents are eligible. This award is given to an individual whose volunteer efforts have touched the lives of others and brightened the city. The award seeks to recognize individuals for the longevity of their work, the impact it has had on the city, and the additional giving it has inspired in others. This award could go to those who have worked on issues of housing and food insecurity; those

- who have served as mentors, coaches, or leaders for youth sports or activities; those who have organized important volunteer initiatives; and much more.
3. **Business Service Award:** Recognizing local businesses that have supported community events, groups or activities. Newburyport is extremely fortunate to have a number of engaged and supportive businesses, and this gives the city a chance to honor their generosity and commitment.
 4. **Youth Community Service Award:** Intended to recognize the positive contributions of a young (under 18) member of the community who has altruistically pursued efforts to improve the world.

Mayor Reardon is actively seeking nominations from residents, city employees, and any other Newburyport community members for those who best fit the values of the awards. The recipient will be chosen by a selection committee formed by the Mayor's Office.

Three finalists will be chosen for each award, and the winner will be chosen from the group of finalists. All 12 finalists for the four awards will receive recognition. To nominate an individual, business, or youth community service award candidate, please submit the application form no later than January 5 at 5 p.m.

Nomination forms can be returned to the Mayor's Office at City Hall, 60 Pleasant Street, or emailed to mayor@cityofnewburyport.com.

Stratton named HoopDirt.com JUCO Coach of the Week

Haverhill, MA (December 5, 2022) – Northern Essex Community College head men's basketball coach Darren Stratton has been named the JUCO Coach of the Week by HoopDirt.com presented by Just Play Solutions as announced this morning by the website.

For the week, the Knights, currently ranked 12th in the latest NJCAA national poll, were a perfect 3-0, while extending their win streak to eight games and currently sit as 12-1 on the season. NECC picked up a win at home over Bristol Community College and road wins over defending region champion Community College of Rhode Island and Springfield Tech.

In the third year (including 2020-21 shortened COVID season) of his second stint leading the Knights and 20th overall season, he has the team off to their best start in nearly a quarter century and currently

sits with a career record of 269-202.

HoopDirt.com is currently in its eighth year of naming Coach of the Week award winners. As the week four winner, Stratton is now eligible for HoopDirt.com JUCO Coach of the Year consideration at the conclusion of the season.

Four other weekly winners representing all three NCAA divisions and the NAIA were also selected and include NCAA D1 Craig Smith (Utah), NCAA D2 Vinay Patel (Angelo State) NCAA D3 Matt McLaughlin (Bridgewater State) and NAIA Chris Wright (Langston).

Stratton and the Knights will return to the court tomorrow when they travel to take on Massasoit Community College in Brockton with opening tip set for 6:30pm. NECC returns home on Thursday for a battle of conference unbeaten when they host Roxbury at 6:00pm

Rolling Ridge Community of Generosity

Celebrating transformation through Rolling Ridge



Sandra LaPerche

As part of our "Community of Generosity" campaign, every Tuesday during the month of December, we'll be sharing stories of people whose lives were blessed by the ministry of Rolling Ridge.

"I'm lucky to be alive," says Sandra LaPerche. "Just before this all happened, I had been practicing gratitude and receptivity. So when I laid there in the van, looking at dying, I just kept focusing really hard on gratitude and receptivity." Sandra cracks a smile, then adds, "Although I did tell God I thought it was a rather extreme way to get me to practice."

This past September, Sandra and her husband were in a camper van in rural Maine, when she began to have a near-fatal heart attack. With a gentle sense of humor and a distinct Massachusetts accent, she credits being alive today to a few things: first, that her husband leapt into action, racing the van to the nearest hospital, and second, the spiritual preparation she gained at Rolling Ridge. "It helped me survive the heart attack," she says. "I said to myself, 'My job is to breathe and stay calm and connected and not be afraid.'"

Sandra LaPerche

Sandra came to the Ridge on a life-long quest to understand the teachings of Jesus. "I am a person with tons of regret," said Sandra. "A lot of times in church, people tell you, 'Don't feel guilt, don't feel regret.' They kind of brush that all away." But at Rolling Ridge, Sandra found a community of people on the same spiritual wavelength as herself—people who accept her experiences without dismissing them. "That's what I love about Rolling Ridge," she said. "They value being a community of contemplation. The leaders are very generous in affirming people where they are."

One such leader is Mike Clark, who led a Day Apart event that Sandra attended at Rolling Ridge earlier this year. The retreat focus: the person of Jesus. As the day began, Mike played a song about

the pain of regret. Sandra immediately felt she was with people who would recognize and value what she was going through. This helped as some of the ideas Mike presented were outside her normal frame of reference. Mike encouraged the group to look for 'twins' of Christ everywhere—to see embodiments of the universal Christ wherever they go.

During her heart attack—in the critical moments in the hospital, with the doctor hovering above her, and the nurses all around her operating table—Sandra believes she saw the face of Jesus. Extending beyond mere metaphor, Sandra says that Christ was present in the room with her. "It was very real to me," said Sandra. "Whenever I start to explain it, it sounds crazy. Jesus had a job and the surgeon had a job."

Thinking back to her time in the hospital, "I wasn't afraid," she said. The surgery saved her life, and her vision of Christ forever changed it.

Sandra's story embodies a Richard Rohr phrase we like here at Rolling Ridge: "A Christian sees Christ in everything and everyone else." Even in moments of great physical pain and emotional turmoil, Sandra put into practice the habits she had learned from our programs: deep breathing and a contemplative focus upon gratitude, with a quiet trust that Christ would go with her into the unknown. As Sandra continues to participate in the programs and emerging community here at the Ridge, she is learning to let go of lingering regrets, and to receive every day as a gift.

Just like Sandra, we at Rolling Ridge focus on gratitude and receptivity. With gratitude for you, our supporters, and receptive to what God can do, we're launching our year-end "Community of Generosity" campaign. This month, we celebrate the moments of transformation, big and small, that take place in people's lives through the ministries of the Ridge.

By giving a generous year-end donation to Rolling Ridge, you are making moments of transformation possible. You are investing in our future. Through financial gifts from people like you, we are expanding our ministries to meet the spiritual and personal needs of people like Sandra.

You can donate by sending your tax-deductible gift to 660 Great Pond Rd, North Andover, MA, 01845.

Thank you for your prayers, your gifts, and your stories.

And if you have a personal story of transformation, please send it to me. I love to hear the difference that Rolling Ridge is making in the lives of people.

Peace and all good,
Rev. Dr. Lawrence Jay
Executive Director

Rumbo
"The Bilingual Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley"
WWW.rumbonews.com

It's easy finding **Rumbo**
(978) 794-5360

Big Brothers Big Sisters necesita mentores para niños que hablan español

Hace tres años, cuando Rosela Moreta, que entonces tenía 7 años y vivía en Dorchester, perdió a su padre, era tímida y le costaba expresar sus sentimientos mientras estaba de duelo. No fue hasta que conoció a su hermana mayor, Karen Rodríguez, de 29 años, de Weymouth, voluntaria del programa de tutoría individual para jóvenes de Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts, que recientemente había experimentado su propia pérdida, que la encontró. confianza y sensación de paz. El vínculo traumático del dúo se convirtió en una relación familiar que los ayudó a superar los desafíos en curso asociados con la pandemia.

La pandemia cambió la forma en que los niños viven, aprenden y juegan, impactando de manera desproporcionada en los hogares hispanos y latinos. Actualmente, más de 200 aprendices, denominados Little Brothers y Little Sisters, que tienen preferencia por el idioma español, están inscritos en los programas de la agencia. Sin embargo, todavía hay docenas de posibles Littles esperando ser emparejados con un Big de habla hispana. Para satisfacer la mayor demanda de familias para las que el inglés es un segundo idioma, el presidente y director ejecutivo de Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts (BBBSEM), Mark O'Donnell, hace un llamado a adultos que hablan idiomas más diversos para que se ofrezcan como mentores para niños en toda la región. .

Enero es el Mes Nacional de la Mentoría, lo que hace que este sea un buen momento para hablar con O'Donnell sobre el valor y la necesidad de mentores adultos solidarios en la vida de los niños y el efecto dominó que estas relaciones tienen en las comunidades, así como por qué, específicamente, hay voluntarios que hablan idiomas más diversos. necesario.

Rodríguez y Moreta también están disponibles para entrevistas en inglés y español y pueden compartir más sobre su experiencia como mentores.

Rodríguez, patóloga bilingüe del habla y el lenguaje en el sistema de escuelas públicas de Boston donde asiste Moreta, emigró a los EE. UU. desde Colombia cuando tenía 7 años. Ella acredita poder hablar español con su hermana pequeña, cuya familia es oriunda de la República Dominicana, por ayudar a generar confianza entre ellos. Aunque sus culturas varían, por ejemplo, cada uno celebra la Navidad de manera un poco diferente, se entienden entre sí de una manera que los demás no. Desde que fueron emparejados, el dúo ha explorado la vida marina en Boston, ha cenado fuera y todo lo demás. Bromean que Moreta es el mini-yo de Rodríguez.

“Cuando conocí a Rosela por primera vez, era callada y hablaba muy poco, pero luego de un par de salidas, poco a poco comenzó a hablar sobre la pérdida de su padre al hacer varias preguntas sobre la muerte y su significado”, dice Rodríguez, cuyo primo La experiencia con su propia hermana mayor la inspiró a convertirse en una. “Poder brindarle un espacio seguro y cómodo, pero divertido, uno a uno para que ella procesara sus emociones y atravesara el proceso de duelo, permitió a Rosela salir de su caparazón. Hoy es feliz, extrovertida y considerada con los demás. Ha sido increíble ver su crecimiento”.

En 2022, la agencia realizó 800 nuevos emparejamientos de mentores, atendiendo a más de 3300 jóvenes, el 82 por ciento de los cuales provienen de hogares BIPOC. Los voluntarios, conocidos como Big Brothers y Big Sisters, dedicaron más de 170 000 horas de servicio a sus aprendices, denominados Little Brothers y Little

Sisters. Y más de 800 empresas, escuelas y socios comunitarios ayudan a facilitar, apoyar o promover los programas de tutoría juvenil uno a uno durante todo el año de la organización sin fines de lucro.

“Las familias tienen suficiente de qué preocuparse a medida que continuamos reconstruyéndonos de la pandemia durante las históricas tasas de inflación”, dice O'Donnell, quien predica su discurso como ex dos veces Gran Hermano. “Queremos asegurarnos de que nuestros mentores adultos, como Karen, sigan siendo un recurso constante y accesible para los jóvenes, como Rosela, que pueden sentir una mayor inestabilidad en este momento”.

Cualquiera puede convertirse en mentor ya que la agencia da la bienvenida a

jóvenes y adultos de todas las razas, etnias, culturas, niveles socioeconómicos, géneros, orientaciones sexuales y capacidades físicas. Los voluntarios deben tener 18 años o más y poder dedicar algunas horas varias veces al mes durante al menos un año y tener pasión por impactar positivamente la vida de una persona joven.

En su año 74 en 2023, la filial más grande de Big Brothers Big Sisters en Nueva Inglaterra ha creado y servido más de 20,000 coincidencias. Este año escolar, la organización sin fines de lucro tiene como objetivo servir a casi 4,000 jóvenes. Para obtener más información, convertirse en voluntario o registrar a sus hijos, su audiencia puede visitar: www.emassbig.org.

Big Brother Big Sister needs Spanish Speaking Mentors for Youth

Three years ago, when Rosela Moreta, then 7-years-old, of Dorchester, lost her father, she was shy and had a difficult time expressing her feelings as she was grieving. It wasn't until she met her Big Sister, Karen Rodriguez, 29, of Weymouth, a volunteer for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts' one-to-one youth mentoring program, who had recently experienced her own loss that she found her confidence and sense of peace. The duo's trauma bond blossomed into a familial relationship that helped them each navigate ongoing challenges associated with the pandemic.

The pandemic changed the way kids live, learn and play, disproportionately impacting Hispanic and Latinx households. Currently, more than 200 mentees, referred to as Little Brothers and Little Sisters, who have a Spanish language preference are enrolled in the agency's programs. However, there still are dozens of prospective Littles waiting to be matched with a Spanish speaking Big. To meet the increased demand from families for whom English is a second language, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts (BBBSEM) President & CEO Mark O'Donnell is calling on more diverse language-speaking adults to volunteer as mentors for children across the region.

January is National Mentoring Month which makes this a great time to speak with O'Donnell about the value and need for caring adult mentors in children's lives and the ripple effect these relationships have on communities as well as why specifically more diverse language-speaking volunteers are needed. Rodriguez and Moreta are also available for interviews in English and Spanish and can share more about their mentoring experience.

Rodriguez, a bilingual speech language pathologist in the Boston Public School system where Moreta attends, immigrated to the U.S. from Colombia when she was 7-years-old. She credits being able to speak Spanish with her Little Sister, whose family hails from the Dominican Republic, for helping to build trust between them. Although their cultures vary – for example they each celebrate Christmas a little differently – they understand each other in a way that others don't. Since being matched, the duo has explored marine life

in Boston, gone roller blading and bowling, dined out and everything in between. They joke Moreta is Rodriguez's mini-me.

“When I first met Rosela, she was quiet and talked very little, but following a couple of outings, she slowly began to open up about the loss of her father by asking various questions about death and its meaning,” says Rodriguez, whose cousin's experience with her own Big Sister inspired her to become one. “Being able to provide a safe and comfortable, yet fun, one-to-one space for her to process her emotions and go through the grieving process enabled Rosela to break out of her shell. Today, she is happy, outgoing, and considerate of others. It's been incredible to see her growth.”

In 2022, the agency made 800 new mentoring matches, serving more than 3,300 youth, 82 percent of whom hail from BIPOC households. Volunteers referred to as Big Brothers and Big Sisters, dedicated more than 170,000 service hours to their mentees, referred to as Little Brothers and Little Sisters. And more than 800 companies, schools and community partners help to facilitate, support or further the nonprofit's year-round one-to-one youth mentoring programs.

“Families have enough to worry about as we continue to rebuild from the pandemic during historic inflation rates,” says O'Donnell, who walks his talk as a former two-time Big Brother. “We want to ensure our adult mentors, like Karen, remain a constant and accessible resource for youth, like Rosela, who may feel a greater sense of instability right now.”

Anyone can become a mentor as the agency welcomes youth and adults of all races, ethnicities, cultures, socio-economic backgrounds, genders, sexual orientations, and physical abilities. Volunteers must be 18 years old or older and be able to commit a few hours a few times a month for at least a year and have a passion for positively impacting a young person's life.

In its 74th year in 2023, the largest Big Brothers Big Sisters affiliate in New England has created and served more than 20,000 matches. This school year, the nonprofit aims to serve nearly 4,000 youth. For more information, to become a volunteer or to register their children, your audience can visit: www.emassbig.org.

Mattresses Recycling

To Schedule a Mattress Pick up
Please Call Department of
Public Works (DPW) 978-620-3090

Reciclaje de Colchones

Para agendar la recogida de colchones
por favor llamar
al Departamento de Obras Publicas
(DPW) 978-620-3090





Stratton named HoopDirt.com JUCO Coach of the Week

Haverhill, MA (December 5, 2022) – Northern Essex Community College head men’s basketball coach Darren Stratton has been named the JUCO Coach of the Week by HoopDirt.com presented by Just Play Solutions as announced this morning by the website.

For the week, the Knights, currently ranked 12th in the latest NJCAA national poll, were a perfect 3-0, while extending their win streak to eight games and currently sit as 12-1 on the season. NECC picked up a win at home over Bristol Community College and road wins over defending region champion Community College of Rhode Island and Springfield Tech.

In the third year (including 2020-21 shortened COVID season) of his second stint leading the Knights and 20th overall season, he has the team off to their best start in nearly a quarter century and currently sits with a career record of 269-202.

HoopDirt.com is currently in its eighth year of naming Coach of the Week award winners. As the week four winner, Stratton is now eligible for HoopDirt.com JUCO Coach of the Year consideration at the conclusion of the season.


Four other weekly winners representing all three NCAA divisions and the NAIA were also selected and include NCAA D1 Craig Smith (Utah), NCAA D2 Vinay Patel (Angelo State) NCAA D3 Matt McLaughlin (Bridgewater State) and NAIA Chris Wright (Langston).

Stratton and the Knights will return to the court tomorrow when they travel to take on Massasoit Community College in Brockton with opening tip set for 6:30pm. NECC returns home on Thursday for a battle of conference unbeaten when they host Roxbury at 6:00pm

Get help to quit.



mass.gov/vaping @GetTheVapeFacts



Guidance and Educational Tips for Family Caregivers

Join us on Zoom with Alicia Seaver, Certified Memory Impairment Specialist, for the expert insight and guidance you need when caring for your loved one.


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.

Winter Woes
Thursday, January 19 | 11 a.m. or 7 p.m.

Sundowning, isolation, seasonal affective disorder, and winter weather conditions can present unique challenges for family caregivers. Join us for tips and strategies to keep your loved one with memory loss – and yourself – safe and happy throughout the winter months.

Bridges® by EPOCH communities are characterized by beautiful residential designs that have been meticulously planned to support the needs of those with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. With around-the-clock specialized care, delicious dining, and life-enriching programs that adapt to changing needs, residents can comfortably age in place with familiar people who know and care about them.



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

BridgesbyEPOCH.com

www.rumbonews.com

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.

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

PARA **TODO** TIPO DE **SEGURO**



Yomari, Elizabeth, Nini, Joan y Carla

Personales
Automóviles
Casas
Negocios

* Tarifas bajas para
seguro de AUTOS y CASAS

SE HABLA
ESPAÑOL

DEGNAN INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

85 Salem Street., Lawrence MA 01843
TEL. (978) 688-4474 . FAX (978) 327-6558
WWW.DEGNANINSURANCE.COM

BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
RUMBO
315 Mt. Vernon St.
Lawrence MA 01843
Email: Rumbo@rumbonews.com

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

Last Name	First Name	Job	Loc Description	Base Pay	Annual Stipend	Total Pay	FY'23 Budget
MICHEL	TOMAS	Administrative Aide - Special Projects	OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	40,001.78	24,998.22	65,000.00	75,000
HOYOS	CLAUDIA	Executive Assistant	OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	43,750.20	31,249.92	75,000.12	75,000
CASTILLO	NESTOR	Administrative Aide - Communications	OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	43,750.20	31,249.92	75,000.12	65,000
SPANNER	OCTAVIEN	Senior Advisor of Policy and External Affairs	OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	#####	30,000.10	150,000.24	150,000
GOMEZ	THELMA	Data Entry Clerk	OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	43,750.20	16,249.74	59,999.94	60,000
MARTES ROSARIO	JHOVANNY	Chief of Staff/Chief Administrative Officer	OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	65,000.00	55,000.14	120,000.14	120,000
VEGA	ALEXCY	Chief Assessor	OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR	75,390.90	19,999.98	95,390.88	72,375 +
D'AGATI	SUSAN	Confidential Secretary	OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY	55,000.14	14,999.92	70,000.06	70,000
HARB	NOLA	Confidential Secretary	OFFICE OF PERSONNEL	55,000.14	14,999.92	70,000.06	55,000
RODRIGUEZ CORONA	FRANCIA	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-GRANT	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	43,000.10	12,000.04	55,000.14	80,000
SURILLO	FRANCISCO	ASSET OFFICER	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING	55,000.14	10,000.12	65,000.26	50,192
GARCIA	ALFONSO	DIRECTOR OF INSPECTIONAL SVCS	INSPECTIONAL SERVICES - ADMIN.	75,000.12	19,999.98	95,000.10	79,560
DELROSARIO	ROSANNA	RECYCLING COORDINATOR	DPW SANITATION DIVISION	43,750.20	19,999.98	63,750.18	55,000

Salaries increases at Christmas gifts City Hall

Historically, the City of Lawrence has not paid good salaries to city employees and when Mayor Brian De Peña promised that he would readjust the compensation for city employees, it was a welcomed idea. The mayor said that if we don't pay appropriate salaries to good workers, they'll end up leaving for other jobs which are understood.

One way to approach what the mayor considered to be a fair salary was by combining it with a stipend. Then the controversy began because some people thought the increases were too high. Either way, I'm not judging whether or not they were justified; I just want things clear.

A few days ago, Richard Russell posted on Facebook a list of stipends that the mayor had approved since last year. He petitioned that information under the Freedom of Information Act request although not all of his questions were answered his complaint was about the stipends being paid to certain employees.

That was a bit strange because the City Council approved last June the new budget for the Fiscal Year 2023, which is posted on the city's website. Upon comparing the numbers on the approved budget and the chart Russell posted, I discovered they didn't make sense.

The chart is shown here and the column to the right is what the city council approved for FY23. Why that discrepancy? Is the list of stipends that was sent to Russell an old document from before the approval of the budget? Why the Assessor is budgeted for \$72,375 if he was earning \$95,390.88 with the stipend?

If the budget is correct by showing lower amounts, is the city still compensating employees with the extra money? I just want to understand it. That's the list I want to see now: The actual list of stipends issued since July 1st, 2022.

Please consider this a Freedom of Information Act request for that list.

If you are like me, gifting books to children is my favorite at this time of the year. Books can be fun, entertaining, and educational but this is a warning for you.

Things have changed tremendously in this country, particularly in the outreach to young people.

Make sure that you glance at the pages of the books you decide to purchase. Children's literature has been politicized and the messages may not be appropriate for your family. You may choose to buy them after you see the theme or subject no matter what it is but just imagine if your gift deals with sexual issues like homosexuality. That could be the end of the friendship with that family.

Even worst are the books on the market about transgender. They begin telling the child in a very subtle way that it's OK to feel as belonging to the opposite sex and even encourage them to begin treatment to surgically change their gender. Don't be surprised if your child one day reveals that he/she is under medical treatment because they are told not to tell their parents. What the Hell is happening in this country?

A good example of these changes is what happened to an actor, Kirk Cameron who wrote a wonderful book, beautifully illustrated by Juan Moreno. The description reads, "This fun story with brilliant art teaches the Biblical truths of the Fruit of the Spirit. Follow Sky Tree's journey from a small acorn to a mighty tree that provides shade, sustenance, and lodging!"

Mr. Cameron has tried to do live readings for children ages 4 to 12 and he has been rejected from more than 50 libraries. The reason they stated was that they don't do promotions of religious views because they are "queer-friendly."

Lawrence is a very different city because of the high number of Latinos living here; although I know this brainwashing is going on in Lawrence parents are afraid to face it.

Please, question your children about what they are being taught at school and if it's something you disagree with, take action.

Water rates going up

On page 2 we published again the increase in the water and sewer rates. Mayor De Peña explained that the funds in that account are extremely low and an increase is necessary. As we know, that department is an Enterprise Fund which means that they are supposed to work and spend the monies collected from residents for their own needs.

In the past, those funds were depleted because they have been used to satisfy other expenses and now we must pay the consequences.

Mayor De Peña believes that we should plan on small increases twice a year so that it won't be hard to take.

Public Review of Proposed Draft Amendment of the FFY 2023 UPWP

Notice is hereby given of the Availability of the following Amendment for public review and comment:

- Proposed Amendment to the Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MVMPO) FFY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Two (2) VIRTUAL Public Hearings on this document will be held, one in the early afternoon, and one in the evening:

Public Hearings (Virtual)

Date: Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Hearing #1)
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Hearing #2)

Location: On-line through VIRTUAL access Only

Check www.mvpc.org/news/ for instructions about how to join the meeting virtually.

The Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

"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

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

— George Orwell

www.facebook.com/poets01

137 Lawrence Street
Lawrence, MA 01841

(978)682.4060

Somos expertos en precios módicos y servicio de alta calidad.

La Primera Funeraria hispana sirviendo con esmero y satisfacción a la comunidad latinoamericana.

Brindamos servicio de asistencia social y enviamos el cuerpo a cualquier lugar incluyendo a Puerto Rico, la República Dominicana, Centro y Suramérica. También ofrecemos planes pagados con anticipación y estampas de recordatorios.