



Feliz Navidad / Merry Christmas



Bomberos y Policías brindan desayuno en el Senior Center



Vea más fotos en la página 5.

See more pictures on page 5.

Haverhill City Hall Celebrates



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Niños discapacitados celebran

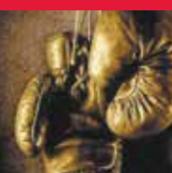
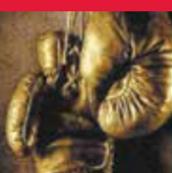


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Una visita al pueblo de Old Sturbridge "Navidad a la luz de las velas"

A visit to the Old Sturbridge Village "Christmas by Candlelight"

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El Rep. Estatal Frank A. Morán obtiene \$50,000 para la Iglesia Bautista de Andover en el presupuesto estatal del año fiscal 2023

El Representante Estatal Frank A. Morán (D – Lawrence) se unió al Reverendo Lyndon Myers y Denise Wynn para presentar a la Iglesia Bautista de Andover un cheque ceremonial por \$50,000 que fue asegurado por el representante en el presupuesto estatal del año fiscal 2023.

El Representante Morán presentó esta enmienda presupuestaria después de reunirse con Denise Wynn, quien se desempeña como presidenta de Difusión, Publicidad y Comunicaciones de la Iglesia Bautista de Andover, para obtener más información sobre los daños causados a la iglesia por las inundaciones durante la pandemia de COVID-19.

Las reparaciones estructurales de la iglesia tuvieron que retrasarse debido a la falta de servicios disponibles durante el cierre de la pandemia, lo que resultó en daños arquitectónicos y desarrollo de moho en todo el edificio.

Estos \$50,000 aliviarán algunos de los costos relacionados con este proyecto de limpieza para garantizar que los residentes de Andover cuenten con un lugar seguro para relacionarse con su comunidad en los años venideros.

“Me enorgulleció presentar esta enmienda en nombre de la Iglesia Bautista de Andover después de enterarme de los problemas de salud y seguridad pública que enfrentan la iglesia y sus feligreses”, dijo el Representante Morán. “Me gustaría agradecer a Denise por su continua defensa en nombre de nuestra comunidad y estoy agradecido del Senador Barry Finegold y la Representante Tram Nguyen

por su asociación para asegurar este financiamiento dentro de la Legislatura”.

“Estamos increíblemente agradecidos con el Representante Morán por su liderazgo para asegurar este financiamiento crítico para los miembros de nuestra iglesia y la comunidad en general”, dijo Denise Wynn. “El representante se apresuró a defender nuestro nombre en el presupuesto estatal y este financiamiento es una inversión significativa que permitirá que nuestra iglesia continúe sirviendo a los residentes de Andover en las generaciones venideras”.

“Deseo agradecer profundamente al representante estatal Frank Morán, la Representante Estatal Tram Nguyen y al Senador Estatal Barry Finegold por sus esfuerzos diligentes y exitosos para otorgar a nuestra iglesia una asignación muy necesaria”, dijo el Reverendo Lyndon Myers. “Esta financiación se utilizará para restaurar nuestras aulas de escuela dominical para jóvenes ubicadas en el sótano de nuestra iglesia que quedó completamente arruinado debido a una inundación y otros problemas durante la pandemia de Covid”.

El Representante Morán aseguró \$480,000 adicionales en el presupuesto estatal del año fiscal para las comunidades de Lawrence, Andover y Methuen para proporcionar fondos a organizaciones sin fines de lucro para apoyar iniciativas de seguridad pública para jóvenes en riesgo, asistencia para personas sin hogar para veteranos locales, oportunidades educativas para niños con discapacidades, y más.



El Representante Estatal Frank A. Morán (D – Lawrence) se unió al Reverendo Lyndon Myers y Denise Wynn para presentar a la Iglesia Bautista de Andover un cheque ceremonial por \$50,000 que fue asegurado por el representante en el presupuesto estatal del año fiscal 2023.

State Representative Frank A. Moran (D – Lawrence) joined Reverend Lyndon Myers and Denise Wynn to present the Andover Baptist Church with a ceremonial check for \$50,000 that was secured by the representative in the fiscal year 2023 state budget.

Baker-Polito Administration announces funding for Massachusetts Community Health Centers

\$45 million distributed for workforce recruitment and retention, Health Safety Net services, and to address deferred care

The Baker-Polito Administration announced a new round of funding for Community Health Centers (CHCs) as part of the Administration’s continued support for these critically important health care providers. This latest funding builds upon more than \$117 million in funding for CHCs throughout the past year.

“Community health centers provide essential primary, preventive, dental and behavioral health treatment to anyone regardless of their ability to pay. Maintaining the viability of our Massachusetts Community Health Centers in Massachusetts is important to address the whole health needs of their patients and to support the communities in which they work,” said Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders. “The Baker-Polito Administration has made community health centers a priority in our health care investments.”

\$15 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has been allocated to 24 CHCs to promote primary care workforce development, recruitment and retention. CHCs submitted proposals to maintain and recruit primary care workforce and expand the workforce pipeline through

incentives and increased funding.

In addition, the recent economic development bill signed by Governor Baker allocated another \$30 million for Community Health Centers. Of that, \$20 million is being distributed in directed payments based the CHC’s utilization of the Health Safety Net Trust Fund. The Health Safety Net Trust Fund provides funding for essential health care to both underinsured and uninsured residents of Massachusetts. \$10 million has been allocated for CHCs to address deferred care for chronic health and/or behavioral health conditions.

This latest round of funding for CHCs builds upon more than \$117 million in new investments CHCs this year. Earlier this year, the Baker-Polito administration announced \$12.5 million in funding from an earlier supplemental budget appropriation to CHCs for work on COVID-19 mitigation initiatives, including vaccine equity and testing Services. Additionally, \$5 million was awarded to 28 CHCs in October 2022 to update and improve their Electronic Health Records (EHR) systems.

These funds also build on \$100 million in annual rate increases that took effect for CHCs at the beginning of 2022.

State Rep. Frank A. Moran Secures \$50,000 for the Andover Baptist Church in the Fiscal Year 2023 State Budget

State Representative Frank A. Moran (D – Lawrence) joined Reverend Lyndon Myers and Denise Wynn to present the Andover Baptist Church with a ceremonial check for \$50,000 that was secured by the representative in the fiscal year 2023 state budget.

Representative Moran filed this budget amendment after meeting with Denise Wynn, who serves as the Chair of Outreach, Publicity, and Communications for the Andover Baptist Church, to learn more about damage caused to the church by flooding during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Structural repairs to the church had to be delayed due to a lack of services available during the pandemic’s shutdown, which resulted in architectural damage and mold developing throughout the building.

This \$50,000 will alleviate some of the costs related to this cleanup project to ensure that the residents of Andover are provided with a safe place to engage with their community for years to come.

“I was proud to file this amendment on behalf of the Andover Baptist Church after learning about the public health and safety issues faced by the church and its parishioners,” said Representative Moran. “I would like to thank Denise for her continued advocacy on behalf of our community and am grateful to Senator Barry Finegold and Representative Tram

Nguyen for their partnership in securing this funding within the Legislature.”

“We are incredibly grateful to Representative Moran for his leadership in securing this critical funding for the members of our church and community at-large,” said Denise Wynn. “The representative was quick to advocate on our behalf in the state budget and this funding is a significant investment that will allow our church to continue serving the residents of Andover for generations to come.”

“I wish to deeply thank State Representative Frank Moran, State Representative Tram Nguyen, and State Senator Barry Finegold for their diligent and successful efforts to award our church a much-needed earmark,” said Reverend Lyndon Myers. “This funding will be used to restore our youth Sunday school classrooms located in our church basement that was completely ruined due to a flood and other issues during the Covid pandemic.”

Representative Moran secured an additional \$480,000 in the fiscal year state budget for the communities of Lawrence, Andover, and Methuen to provide nonprofit organizations with funding to support public safety initiatives for at-risk youth, homelessness assistance for local veterans, educational opportunities for children with disabilities, and more.

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POR DALIA DÍAZ
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■ READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



Buenas noticias esta Navidad

Al menos para algunas personas en el sur de Lawrence.

Se nos ha informado que el segundo conjunto de pagos para los residentes que tengan un reclamo de Columbia Gas saldrá el 27 de diciembre. El número total de cheques que se emitirán es de \$11 millones. ¡No es una mala manera de comenzar el Año Nuevo!

Reuniones del Concejo Municipal

No debería sorprender a nadie cuando digo que casi nadie en Lawrence ve las reuniones del Concejo Municipal. Quizás soy un glotón de maltrato pero esa es la única forma de estar al tanto de lo que pasa en la ciudad y por qué. Todo se remonta a las decisiones del Concejo.

Puede pensar que es el alcalde; es la máxima autoridad de la ciudad pero es bastante limitado a la hora de tratar con la aprobación del cabildo. Al igual que en Washington D.C., la política tiene una forma de interferir en todo, se deben favores personales a los residentes y otros políticos.

¡Disfruto viéndolo! A veces me alegro de las decisiones tomadas, otras veces estoy furiosa, pero nunca regañaría a un concejal por una decisión tomada. Los elegimos para que voten su conciencia, no como yo lo veo las cosas y los respeto.

La situación de esta semana fue sobre el cargo de Director en el Departamento de Servicios de Inspección, comenzando con el segmento de Participación Pública. Como de costumbre, Richard Russell cuestionó algo muy importante que me llamó la atención.

El nuevo director, José Alfonso García, también está a cargo del Departamento de Salud, sin embargo, el informe de COVID del Estado de MA del 15 de diciembre muestra que Lawrence tuvo un promedio de 33.7 casos de COVID por día, mientras que en septiembre promedió 21.6 casos por día. Incluso el Hospital General de Lawrence está alarmado por el aumento

de casos en Lawrence. El Sr. Russell tiene razón cuando pregunta por qué no conocemos los hechos.

Iban a votar por el nombramiento permanente del señor García y fallaron por no tener 5 votos a su favor. Ana Levy se enfermó repentinamente y tuvo que irse. Stephanie Infante votó "NO". Jeovanny Rodríguez votó "ausente". María De La Cruz votó "presente" y el presidente del Concejo, Marc Laplante, se recusó. Se desempeña como alcalde interino en ausencia de Brian y no puede votar.

José Alfonso seguirá trabajando en ese cargo de forma interina y será elevado al Concejo Municipal al cabo de un año.

Como dije, no critico cómo votan los concejales ni cuestiono por qué, pero creo que los ponemos allí para votar, no para retorcerse votando "presente" o "ausente". Lo que me enoja es que María De La Cruz casi siempre vota "presente" y hace preguntas fuera de lugar.

Esa noche, Octavien Spanner tuvo que interferir durante su cuestionamiento inapropiado al señor García. Ella se enojó con él sobre el salario que el alcalde le asignó y le preguntó: "¿Estaría dispuesto a aceptar el trabajo por \$80,000? A lo que respondió: "Si también se rebajan todos los demás puestos que se están aprobando, haré lo que la ciudad quiera".

Fue entonces cuando Octavien se acercó al micrófono y dijo: "Esta no es la plataforma adecuada para discutir eso". Ella sabe que los temas salariales se discuten en sesiones ejecutivas.

No puedo esperar a enero cuando Richard Russell se convierta en Concejal por toda la ciudad. Probablemente sepa más que la mayoría de ellos porque rara vez falta a una reunión. Argumenta sus puntos de vista con razonamientos y datos y hará que valga la pena ver las reuniones del concejo.

Entre otras cosas que se aprobaron está un aumento salarial de \$50,000 para el alcalde que entrará en vigencia en 2026 con el próximo alcalde electo. Además, los miembros del Concejo Municipal ganarán \$25,000 cada uno, a partir de 2024 después de las elecciones del próximo año.

Una petición del Hospital General de Lawrence en esta época agitada del año

Lawrence General está experimentando una vez más volúmenes de pacientes extremadamente altos y está pidiendo a nuestros socios comunitarios y funcionarios de salud pública que amplifiquen nuestros mensajes en las redes sociales (consulte los enlaces a continuación). Las tasas de positividad de COVID están aumentando, especialmente en Lawrence y Methuen, y el hospital está viendo un aumento en las hospitalizaciones por COVID junto con la gripe y otras enfermedades graves, lo que provoca tiempos de espera muy largos en nuestro servicio de emergencias.

Por favor considere lo siguiente:

Recomendamos obtener un refuerzo de COVID y una vacuna contra la gripe, ambas están ampliamente disponibles, son gratuitas y seguras para la mayoría de las personas.

Traslade las reuniones en persona a virtuales siempre que sea posible, temporalmente, para evitar una mayor propagación de la enfermedad; nosotros en el hospital también hemos dado este paso.

Use máscara en lugares concurridos y reuniones como supermercados, centros comerciales y fiestas navideñas.

Busque atención en el consultorio de su PCP o atención de urgencia local antes de que los síntomas se vuelvan severos, y no espere hasta el final del día o el fin de semana, ya que estos son los momentos más ocupados para la atención de urgencia y emergencia.

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asegurarse de que estén recibiendo el tratamiento adecuado para mantenerse saludables.

Lávese las manos con frecuencia; esta es una de las formas más efectivas de prevenir la propagación de enfermedades!

Estamos experimentando un alto volumen de pacientes en este momento, lo que conduce a tiempos de espera más largos para la atención que no es de emergencia. Es importante saber cuándo buscar atención de emergencia en un hospital y cuándo considerar alternativas, como visitar a su proveedor de atención primaria o un centro de atención de urgencia sin cita previa.

Aquí hay algunas cosas que puede hacer para ayudar a mantenerse seguro y saludable al mismo tiempo que apoya a quienes lo cuidan:

1. Practique la paciencia y el civismo con los trabajadores de la salud en primera línea
2. Manténgase al día con las citas regulares y no dude en buscar atención en situaciones de emergencia.
3. Busque atención de su médico o centro de atención de urgencia local cuando corresponda
4. Vacúnese contra la gripe y manténgase al día con sus refuerzos de COVID-19
5. Permanezca atento a los síntomas y la exposición al COVID-19.

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"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



"En los viejos tiempos, no se llamaba la temporada festiva; los cristianos la llamaban 'Navidad' e iban a la iglesia; los judíos la llamaban 'Hanukkah' y asistían a la sinagoga; los ateos iban a fiestas y bebían. La gente pasaba unos junto a otros en la calle diría '¡Feliz Navidad!' o '¡Feliz Hanukkah!' o (a los ateos) '¡Cuidado con el muro!'"

David Barry

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Pancake Breakfast for our Seniors

Lawrence Senior Center - December 20, 2022

The firefighters did the cooking while the police officers joined in by serving and greeting the guests.

Thanks to Manny Gonzalez for sharing these photos.



Wishing you and yours a safe and joyous holiday season.

Holiday Hours

Christmas

All Offices will be **CLOSED** Saturday, December 24th thru Monday, December 26th and reopen on Tuesday, December 27th at 8:00 am.

New Year's Day

All Offices will be **CLOSED** Saturday, December 31st thru Monday, January 2nd and reopen on Tuesday, January 3rd at 8:00 am.

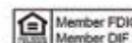
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Massachusetts agrega educación sobre el cannabis al plan de estudios de la escuela de manejo

El nuevo módulo de currículo en video "Cambiando de marcha: la verdad contundente sobre la marihuana y la conducción" entrará en vigencia el 1 de enero de 2023.

El plan de estudios incorpora Cannabis, cómo la marihuana afecta el cerebro, los efectos físicos, el tiempo de reacción físico y visual, y los peligros de conducir bajo los efectos del alcohol.

El Registro de Vehículos Motorizados de Massachusetts (RMV), en asociación con miembros de la Comisión de Control de Cannabis de Massachusetts y AAA

Northeast, anunció hoy que a partir de enero de 2023, Massachusetts será el primer estado de cannabis de uso recreativo en la nación en adoptar, "Shifting Gears: the Blunt Truth about Marijuana and Driving", un plan de estudios AAA que educa a los adolescentes sobre los riesgos de conducir bajo los efectos del cannabis. El plan de estudios se enseña a través de un video educativo informativo y fácil de seguir de 25 minutos que se puede encontrar en: <https://youtu.be/AcB6yJpMvqg>.

El módulo actual de educación vial que aborda la conducción bajo los efectos del alcohol se actualizará para incluir información basada en investigaciones sobre el cannabis, explicando cómo el tetrahidrocannabinol (THC), el químico activo en la marihuana, afecta la cognición, la visión, el tiempo de reacción y la percepción del tiempo y la

distancia. Esta es la primera generación de estudiantes de educación vial en obtener una licencia desde que el cannabis se legalizó en Massachusetts, y la investigación de la AAA muestra que los accidentes por conducción en estado de ebriedad pueden aumentar y continuar lesionando y matando a los automovilistas y sus pasajeros. Shifting Gears, el plan de estudios de conducción bajo los efectos del cannabis, se enseñará a aproximadamente cincuenta mil conductores jóvenes por año en más de 460 escuelas de conducción de Massachusetts.

"Agregar información sobre el cannabis a la clase de educación vial del Registro de Massachusetts es importante para la seguridad y el bienestar de los adolescentes que recién están aprendiendo a conducir", dijo el gobernador Charlie Baker. "La nueva instrucción sobre el cannabis ayudará a las personas a tomar decisiones informadas y me complace que Massachusetts lidere su inclusión en la educación vial".

"El nuevo plan de estudios sobre cannabis es una adición importante a la educación vial en el Estado Libre Asociado y ayudará a informar y educar a los nuevos conductores sobre los peligros inherentes de estar bajo los efectos del cannabis mientras conducen", dijo la vicegobernadora Karyn Polito. "El plan de estudios fue desarrollado y revisado en colaboración por partes interesadas públicas y privadas, académicos, estudiantes y sus pares para garantizar que la información crítica basada en la investigación y los mensajes de seguridad sobre el cannabis se incorporaran como

un componente clave de toda la educación vial para ayudar a reducir los accidentes y ayudar a mantener todos los usuarios de la vía seguros".

El módulo de educación vial anteriormente hacía referencia al alcohol y las drogas en general, pero en el futuro, el plan de estudios incluirá una sección, Conducir bajo los efectos del cannabis. Además, se definirá la Ley de Consentimiento Implícito y se mencionarán las sanciones.

La educación vial de Massachusetts es administrada por el RMV y requiere que todos los conductores primerizos menores de 18 años completen 30 horas de instrucción en el salón de clases y 12 horas de instrucción real detrás del volante y 6 horas de observación mientras otro estudiante toma detrás del volante. -instrucción de ruedas antes de que puedan recibir una licencia completa, Clase D o Clase M. Para obtener más información, visite: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/drivers-education-programs>.

La Comisión de Control de Cannabis de Massachusetts se encarga de regular tanto el uso de adultos como las industrias de marihuana medicinal. La Comisión fue establecida por la iniciativa de votación aprobada por los votantes en noviembre de 2016 y en la legislación bipartidista firmada por el Gobernador Charlie Baker en julio de 2017, que consta de una persona designada por el Gobernador, el Tesorero y el Fiscal General, y dos miembros que serán acordados por el mayoría de esos tres funcionarios constitucionales. Para más información: <https://masscannabiscontrol.com/>.

Massachusetts Adding Cannabis Education to Driving School Curriculum

New video curriculum "Shifting Gears: the Blunt Truth about Marijuana and Driving" module to become effective January 1, 2023

Curriculum incorporates Cannabis, how marijuana affects the brain, physical affects, visual and physical reaction time, and dangers of impaired driving

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV), in partnership with members of the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission and AAA Northeast today announced that as of January 2023, Massachusetts will be the first recreational-use cannabis state in the nation to adopt, "Shifting Gears: the Blunt Truth about Marijuana and Driving," a AAA curriculum that educates teens on the risks of cannabis-impaired driving. The curriculum is taught through a 25-minute informative and easy to follow educational video that can be found at: <https://youtu.be/AcB6yJpMvqg>.

The current driver education module addressing impaired driving will be updated to include research-based information on cannabis, explaining how tetrahidrocannabinol (THC), the active chemical in marijuana, affects cognition, vision, reaction time, and perception of time and distance. This is the first generation of driver education students to be licensed since cannabis became legal in Massachusetts, and AAA research shows that impaired driving crashes may increase and continue to injure and kill motorists and their passengers. The Shifting Gears, cannabis-impaired driving curriculum, will be taught to approximately fifty-thousand young drivers per year in over 460 Massachusetts driving school locations.

"Adding information about cannabis to the Massachusetts's Registry's driver education class is important for the safety and wellbeing of teens that are just learning to drive," said Governor Charlie Baker. "The new cannabis instruction will help

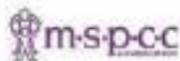
individuals make informed decisions and I am pleased that Massachusetts is leading in including it in driver education."

"The new cannabis curriculum is an important addition to driver's education in the Commonwealth and will help inform and educate new drivers of the inherent dangers of being cannabis-impaired while driving," said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. "The curriculum was collaboratively developed and reviewed by public and private stakeholders, academia, students and their peers to ensure that critical research-based information and safety messaging on cannabis was incorporated as a key component of all driver's education to help reduce crashes and help keep all roadway users safe."

The driver's education module previously referenced alcohol and drugs overall, but going forward, the curriculum will include a section, Cannabis Impaired driving. In addition, the Implied Consent Law will be defined, and sanctions mentioned.

Massachusetts drivers' education is managed by the RMV and requires all first-time drivers younger than 18 to complete 30 hours of classroom instruction and 12 hours of actual behind-the-wheel instruction and 6 hours of observation while another student is taking behind-the-wheel instruction before they can receive a full, Class D or Class M license. For more information, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/drivers-education-programs>.

The Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission is charged with regulating both the adult use and medical marijuana industries. The Commission was established by the ballot initiative approved by voters in November 2016 and in bipartisan legislation signed by Governor Charlie Baker in July 2017, consisting of one appointee each from the Governor, Treasurer and Attorney General, and two members to be agreed upon by the majority of those three constitutional officers. For more information: <https://masscannabiscontrol.com/>.






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Fiesta de Navidad para niños discapacitados



La fundación Cambiando el Mundo de Personas con Discapacidades CEMDPCD celebró el pasado domingo, 18 de diciembre, su gran fiesta de Navidad dedicada a niños, jóvenes y familiares con discapacidades.

Entre alegrías, comidas y juguetes se veía la felicidad de los padres y de los niños al ver cómo una organización sin fines de lucro le celebraba este día tan importante, estaba bajo la conducción de Yudith Alvarez, Víctor Betances y Yamilex Barranco.

Cada año, la fundación se encarga de hacer felices a cientos de niños en la Ciudad de Lawrence y todo el Valle de Merrimack.

La fundadora Raquel Quezada con su junta directiva y un gran equipo de voluntarios, fueron responsables de que muchos niños fueran a sus casas con juguetes entregados por Santas Claus.

Entre los invitados estaban el Representante Estatal Frank Morán, un grupo de Policías de Lawrence, la Representante Estatal-electa Estela Reyes, Omar Guzmán, y el Concejal Jeovanny Rodríguez, entre otras personalidades de la ciudad.

La fiesta tuvo lugar en la Biblioteca Pública de Lawrence.

Si necesita ponerse en contacto con la fundación CEMDPCD, puede hacerlo a través del 978-828-5339 or www.CEMDPCD.org

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MCC's Prepare to Attend College Furthers Student Growth

On Friday, December 9, Middlesex Community College's Prepare to Attend College (PAC) graduation ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of students who completed the Fall 2022 session. As they accepted their award, the students shared a feeling of triumph and gratitude for the opportunity to expand their knowledge and create great potential for their futures.

"PAC supports and guides students from different countries by giving them an opportunity to learn to speak and write English," said Audrey Nahabedian, MCC's Dean of Workforce Development. "Students who enroll in these free courses benefit. The knowledge and skills they learn help them if they want to attend college in the U.S. or gather high-quality opportunities for their careers and futures. It is also an opportunity for students to experience learning in a college setting and many graduates decide to continue their education by enrolling in an Associate degree."

In MCC's English Learner Institute (ELI), non-native English speakers have the chance to enroll in courses that assist them in building their English skills. Through the institute, students can join the PAC program. Free and flexible, the PAC Program can help students transition their English skills into the workforce and college. MCC offers the program three times a year with various times to choose from.

Before the graduates received their certificates, two student speakers shared their thoughts about their experiences. Both students showed how much they had progressed with their English skills.

Instructor of the classes Charles Zhang – who handed out the certificates – was proud of his students' work.

"PAC classes help students integrate all their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills," Zhang said. "We make sure students learn and practice certain aspects of American culture, such as being punctual, addressing people, and communicating by email. Students not only get to know the local history through extra reading assignments, but also relate themselves to the people they read about."

Xiomara Correa, from Venezuela, graduated from MCC's PAC One course. In her speech, she embraced Zhang's teaching abilities, good spirit and professionalism. "Thank you, Charles, you have been a wonderful teacher that teaches discipline, respect and understanding," Correa said. "You are a teacher with inexhaustible patience, and your smile gives us a lot of enjoyable and fun moments in our learning process. I hope we will be your students again sometime. Without a doubt you are a great teaching professional."

For Neng Zhang, from China, MCC's PAC Two course established a foundation for him to learn English and feel a part of society. "Charles taught us so much English knowledge not only from books but also from life, which is very helpful for our daily activities. He gave us many reading articles to learn about American culture, Lowell's history, and some of the influential figures in New England. We appreciate all the free benefits and perks MCC provided, they granted us a beautiful experience that money cannot buy."



On Friday, December 9, Middlesex Community College's Prepare to Attend College (PAC) graduation ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of students who completed the Fall 2022 session. As they accepted their award, the students shared a feeling of triumph and gratitude for the opportunity to expand their knowledge and create great potential for their futures.



Xiomara Correa, from Venezuela.



Neng Zhang, from China.

"Nosotros no somos periodistas para ser popular. Nuestro trabajo es escudriñar hasta hallar la verdad y poner presión constante en nuestros líderes hasta conseguir la verdad."

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

— Helen Thomas

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-Andover/North Andover Branch **open 7am to 1pm**

December 25th -All Branches closed

December 26th -All Branches closed

December 31st -Lawrence Branch and Methuen Branch closed
-Andover/North Andover Branch **open 7am to 1pm**

January 1st -Lawrence Branch and Methuen Branch closed
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Una visita al pueblo de Old Sturbridge "Navidad a la luz de las velas"

Por **Pablo D. Santiago**
Periódico Vocero Hispano

STURBRIDGE, MA - Los visitantes que ingresan al Village son recibidos con un letrero bilingüe que dice en parte "Bienvenidos", un agradable toque de bienvenida que sin duda es muy apreciado por los clientes hispanos. Al caminar hacia la entrada, los ujieres esperan para saludar a los visitantes y abrir la entrada. Recibidos por un amable personal, los visitantes son guiados a las puertas de acceso que conducen a la aldea de más de 200 acres. A lo largo de los pasillos hay pintorescas linternas a la luz de las velas que brindan una luz cálida que guía a los visitantes a lo largo de los acogedores caminos de la aldea.

Las linternas encendidas con velas guían suavemente a los visitantes a través del pueblo. Donde una colección de 40 hermosos edificios históricos bordean los caminos del pueblo. Los cálidos y acogedores espacios interiores recuerdan a tiempos pasados. A medida que los visitantes ingresan a los edificios históricos, se encuentran con actores vestidos con ropa histórica apropiada para el tiempo, dentro de un escenario que lo lleva a uno a un lugar que parece congelado en el tiempo. Los actores son agradables y hacen un trabajo maravilloso al explicar la historia de los edificios y demostrar las actividades que habrían tenido lugar durante ese período de tiempo.

Entra en la tierra de las casas de pan de jengibre. El concurso Gingerbread de aspecto sabroso presenta una variedad de casas de pan de jengibre, que representaban lindas casas, cabañas, iglesias y más, una muestra de belleza única de la alegre creatividad de la temporada.

Definitivamente, uno de los favoritos de los visitantes son los caballos. De vez en cuando, el agradable sonido de los villancicos navideños llenaba el fresco aire invernal mientras la canción navideña se abría paso entre los que viajaban en los carros tirados por caballos mientras paseaban suavemente por los caminos del pueblo. Los majestuosos caballos caminaban con orgullo en forma

sincronizada, con un ritmo tranquilo y constante que se sumaba a la majestuosidad del pueblo mismo.

Pasear por el Village es una experiencia de paz y tranquilidad, con luces y adornos navideños en cada rincón. The Village ofrece tiendas, comida y varios espectáculos en los que los visitantes pueden participar. Como la lectura cultural puertorriqueña del libro en español "Un Coqui de Boriquén Canta Aquí y Allá" leído por Jasmin Rivas, Directora de Diversidad, Equidad, Inclusión, y Acceso en Old Sturbridge Village. Jasmin, que vestía un traje puertorriqueño tradicional, símbolo de la influencia africana de las islas, fue muy bien recibido, especialmente por los asistentes hispanos que participaron en hacer los sonidos únicos de Coqui ... "coqui coqui", un sonido del que todos los nativos puertorriqueños están seguros de reconocer.

"Fue agradable ver que se celebraba y compartía nuestra cultura, nos dio una sensación de bienvenida y disfrutamos de la lectura y la historia. Esperamos con ansias otras actuaciones hispanas en el futuro". – dijo el visitante hispano presente.

Terminando la noche con una visita especial al Sr. y la Sra. Santa Claus, una experiencia encantadora con la Sra. Claus cantándoles a los niños y Santa siendo su antiguo Yo alegre, dando un desenlace muy especial a la historia de la Navidad pasada, mejor contada en el Old Sturbridge Village Navidad a la luz de las velas.

Todavía estás a tiempo de visitar el Village antes de que finalice la temporada navideña. Para más información visite: www.OSV.org.

Vocero Hispano Newspaper, Inc., es un periódico semanal gratuito en idioma hispano en todo el estado. Establecido en 1990, ofrece contenido objetivo, informativo y de interés general para la comunidad hispana. Vocero Hispano se imprime todos los viernes, se distribuye en todo el estado y se publica en todo el mundo en una versión digital interactiva.



Photo courtesy of Pablo D. Santiago, Vocero Hispano Newspaper

A visit to the Old Sturbridge Village "Christmas by Candlelight"

By **Pablo D. Santiago**
Vocero Hispano Newspaper

STURBRIDGE, MA - Walking into the Village visitors are welcomed with a bilingual sign that reads in part "Bienvenidos", a nice welcoming touch that most certainly is greatly appreciated by Hispanic patrons. Walking towards the entrance ushers await to greet visitors and open the entrance doors. Welcomed by a friendly staff, visitors are guided to the access doors that lead to the 200+ acre village. Lining the walkways are quaint candlelit lanterns that provide a warming light leading the way for visitors along the cozy village roads.

The candle lit lanterns gently guide visitors thru the village. Where a collection of 40 beautiful Historic buildings line the village roads. The cozy warm spaces inside are reminiscent of a times past. As visitors enter the historic buildings, they encounter actors dressed in time appropriate historic clothing, within a setting that takes one to a place that seems frozen in time. The actors are pleasant and do a wonderful job at explaining the buildings history and demonstrating activities that would have taken place during that time-period.

Enter the land of Gingerbread houses. The tasty looking Gingerbread contest presents an array of gingerbread houses, which depicted cute homes, cabins, churches, and more, a uniquely beautiful display of the cheerful creativity of the season.

Most definitely a visitor favorite are the horses. Every so often the pleasant sound of Christmas Carolers filled the brisk winter air as Christmas song made its way from those upon the horse drawn wagons as they gently strolled down the village roads. The majestic Horses proudly walked in synchronizing fashion, with the calm steady pace adding to stateliness of

the village itself.

Walking thru the Village is an experience of peace and tranquility, with Christmas lights and decorations at every corner. The Village offers shops, food, and various performances that visitors can partake in. Such as the Puerto Rican cultural reading of the Spanish book "Un Coqui de Boriquén Canta Aquí y Allá" Read by Jasmin Rivas, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access at Old Sturbridge Village. Jasmin who was dressed in a tradition Puerto Rican dress symbolic of the islands African influence was very well received, especially by Hispanic patrons in attendance who participated in making the unique Coqui sounds... "coqui coqui", a sound that every Puerto Rican native is sure to recognize.

"It was nice to see our culture being celebrated and shared, it gave us welcoming feeling, and we enjoyed the reading and history. We are looking forward to other Hispanic performances in the future." – said Hispanic visitor in attendance.

Ending to the night with a special visit to Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, a delightful experience indeed with Mrs. Claus singing to children and Santa being his old jolly Self, giving a very special denouement to the story of Christmas past, told best at the Old Sturbridge Village Christmas by Candlelight.

There is still time to visit the Village before the Christmas season ends. For more information visit: www.OSV.org

Vocero Hispano Newspaper, Inc., is a free statewide weekly Hispanic-language newspaper. Established in 1990, it offers content that is objective, informative and of general interest to the Hispanic community. Vocero Hispano is printed every Friday, distributed statewide, and published worldwide in an interactive digital version.



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The Psychological Center, Inc. recibe una subvención de recuperación a través del conocimiento de \$5,000 del Greater Lawrence Community Fund

La Directora Ejecutiva Carina Pappalardo se complace en compartir que The Psychological Center, Inc., recibió una subvención de recuperación a través del conocimiento del Greater Lawrence Community Fund para financiar programas educativos.

La subvención de \$5,000 fue una de varias presentadas el lunes en un desayuno de premiación realizado en Groundwork Lawrence.

La subvención Recovery Through Knowledge financiará programas educativos continuos y en expansión en Pegasus House, Women's View y Daybreak Shelter.

Los programas educativos cubren temas como la prevención de la falta de vivienda, el abuso de sustancias, la prevención de recaídas, el acceso a los servicios públicos, el seguro médico y la crianza de los hijos y la reunificación familiar. Los programas de habilidades para la vida enseñan habilidades como la elaboración de presupuestos, la planificación de comidas, la compra de comestibles y habilidades de afrontamiento. "Estamos muy agradecidos por estos

fondos de subvención que nos permitirán continuar y expandir nuestras ofertas educativas en nuestros tres programas. La educación es un componente clave en el camino hacia la recuperación, y estos fondos de subvención nos ayudarán a promover eso en el terreno aquí en Lawrence", dijo la Directora Ejecutiva Carina Pappalardo. "Estamos agradecidos por todas nuestras asociaciones, que nos ayudan a continuar desarrollando nuestros programas, y a todos en la comunidad que marcan la diferencia con su apoyo. Las vidas de muchas personas se salvan directamente gracias a nuestras colaboraciones, como lo demuestran muchos resultados exitosos."

El Fondo Comunitario de Greater Lawrence brinda apoyo a organizaciones sin fines de lucro que satisfacen necesidades esenciales en cuatro comunidades en Greater Lawrence: Lawrence, Methuen, Andover y North Andover, con un enfoque en la Ciudad de Lawrence. Estas necesidades incluyen: hambre, ropas, vivienda y educación. Para obtener más información, visite Greater Lawrence Community Fund | Essex County Community Foundation (eccf.org)



La directora de desarrollo, Liz Bakinowski, el presidente de la junta del Greater Lawrence Community Fund, Rick Blain, y la directora ejecutiva, Carina Pappalardo, en un desayuno de premiación celebrado en Groundwork Lawrence. (Cortesía del Centro Psicológico, Inc.)

Director of Development Liz Bakinowski, Greater Lawrence Community Fund Chairman of the Board Rick Blain, and CEO Carina Pappalardo at an awards breakfast held at Groundwork Lawrence. (Courtesy The Psychological Center, Inc.)

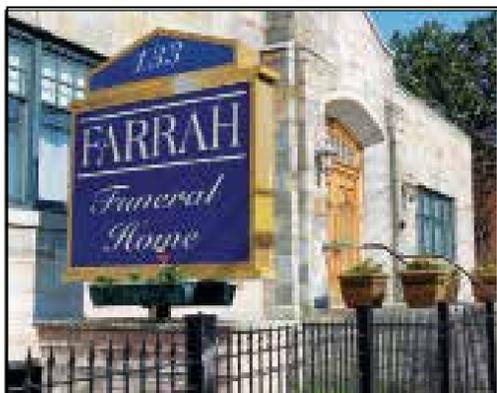


Una foto grupal de líderes locales sin fines de lucro a quienes el Greater Lawrence Community Fund entregó subvenciones en Groundwork Lawrence el lunes. (Cortesía del Centro Psicológico, Inc.)

A group photo of local non-profit leaders who were presented grants at Groundwork Lawrence by the Greater Lawrence Community Fund on Monday. (Courtesy The Psychological Center, Inc.)

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The Psychological Center, Inc. Receives \$5,000 Recovery Through Knowledge Grant from Greater Lawrence Community Fund

Chief Executive Officer Carina Pappalardo is pleased to share that the The Psychological Center, Inc., has received a Recovery Through Knowledge Grant from the Greater Lawrence Community Fund to fund educational programs.

The \$5,000 grant was one of several presented Monday at an awards breakfast held at Groundwork Lawrence.

The Recovery Through Knowledge grant will fund ongoing and expanding educational programs at Pegasus House, Women's View, and the Daybreak Shelter. Educational programs cover topics such as homelessness prevention, substance misuse, relapse prevention, access to public services, health insurance, and parenting and family reunification. Life skills programs teach skills like budgeting, meal planning, grocery shopping, and coping skills.

"We are very grateful for these grant funds which will enable us to continue and expand our educational offerings at

all three of our programs. Education is a key component in the road to recovery, and these grant funds will help us further that on the ground here in Lawrence.," said CEO Carina Pappalardo. "We are thankful for all of our partnerships, which help us continue building our programs, and to everyone in the community who makes a difference with their support. The lives of many people are being saved directly by our collaborations, as evidenced by many successful outcomes."

The Greater Lawrence Community Fund provides support for nonprofit organizations providing essential needs in four communities in Greater Lawrence: Lawrence, Methuen, Andover and North Andover with a focus on the city of Lawrence. These needs include: hunger, clothing, shelter and education. For more information, visit Greater Lawrence Community Fund | Essex County Community Foundation (eccf.org)

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>

Mayor Fiorentini celebrates Christmas at City Hall

By Carmen García

The Mayor of Haverhill James Fiorentini celebrated in his office inviting the public to share some goodies. The Mayor and his assistant Lisa Yarid welcomed the guests while the Haverhill High School Choir performed some holiday music.



Anna Ruth (Abate) Sullivan

January 1, 1925 - December 15, 2022



Mayor Brian A. De Peña shares his condolences with the family of former Mayors Michael Sullivan and his brother Kevin Sullivan, "She was also the mother of Mark and Thomas. With this death, Lawrence has lost a great mother, a good friend, and a humble woman. Rest in peace."

Anna Ruth (Abate) Sullivan, age 97, of Methuen, formerly of Lawrence. Born in Winchester, MA on January 1, 1925, "Ma" passed peacefully into eternal rest on Thursday, December 15, 2022, surrounded by her family. Cherished widow of the late Thomas Augustine Sullivan. Co-founder of the award-winning T. A. Sullivan Insurance and Real Estate Agency of the Merrimack Valley in 1963, and esteemed legend in the Merrimack Valley business community. An active member of the Massachusetts Association of Insurance Agents, Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, Northeast Association of Realtors and actively volunteered and served on several Boards of many local charities.

Her most cherished role was that of mother and grandmother. Anna is survived by Thomas and his wife Elaine of Portsmouth, NH, The Honorable Michael J. Sullivan and his wife Kristyn of Lawrence, The Honorable Kevin J. Sullivan of Merrimack and Mary Ellen, and Mark D. Sullivan, Esq. and his wife Diane of Andover. Loving grandmother of Bridget Sullivan of Portsmouth, and her husband John Akar, Casey Sullivan of California, Michael Sullivan, Jr. of Lawrence, Jeana Donovan of Vermont and her husband Remington, Anna Sullivan of California and her partner Davyd Nereo, Timothy Sullivan of Haverhill and his wife Karen, Annie Sullivan of Merrimack, Samantha Sullivan of Andover and her partner Cameron Viger and Thomas A. Sullivan of Andover. Great Grandmother of Isaiah Donovan of Vermont, and Baby Sullivan of Newton, NH due in Spring 2023.

Daughter of the late Antonio and Antonia Abate and beloved sister, aunt and daughter-in-law. One of 10 children, Anna was a proud graduate of Lawrence High School Class of 1943 and the McIntosh School of Business. When so many young women were unable to graduate because they needed to work in the factories, Anna did both and cared for her siblings as well. Anna stressed that education and commitment to family and community are the crucial underpinnings to a successful life. She ensured that her four sons excelled in college with Tom achieving advanced

degrees in insurance and Mark his Juris Doctor, as well as having Kevin and then Michael serving as Mayors of the Great City of Lawrence.

Anna met the love of her life, Tom, at Canobie Lake Park shortly after he returned from his Purple Heart awarded service in the Italian theater of World War II. Anna took care of both her and her husband's mother while inventing the work from home model, as their insurance office was on the first floor of their home on South Union Street in Lawrence. The Sullivan home was a magnet for all of her boys' friends, for whom Anna always had ample food to accommodate extra seats at their dinner table.

A lifelong devoted Catholic, Anna relied upon her faith throughout many times in her life when tragedy struck, including the loss of teenage older brother, the loss of her husband at age 47 and the loss of her eight remaining brothers and sisters.

Anna will be remembered for her optimistic attitude, unparalleled work ethic and ability to pave new paths forward. She loved life, had a great sense of humor and boundless energy. She was a genius at throwing countless birthday parties and always choosing the perfect Christmas gifts. Her love and sacrifices for her sons and grandchildren were unbounded. She was most proud that her generosity of heart and kindness to others is being carried forward by them all.

Anna was a ray of light to all whom she touched, including her many friends that she considered family. She met her best friend of 92 years, Ruth Moore of Lawrence, in kindergarten. Anna loved children above all and embraced her role as honorary Grammy to the Kryzanski and McGuire children.

The Funeral Mass was held at St. Patrick's Church in Lawrence with burial in St. Mary's Cemetery in Lawrence. Donations to the Lawrence Catholic Academy would be gratefully accepted: www.lawrencecatholicacademy.net.

Great thanks to the compassionate caregivers of Methuen Village, Lawrence General Hospital, Beacon Hospice and Mary Immaculate Rehabilitation Services in Lawrence.

Pair of individuals, 2012 baseball team selected as 2023 NECC Hall of Fame Class

The Northern Essex Community College Athletic Department has announced its Hall of Fame Class of 2023. The 2023 class will be formally inducted in a ceremony on March 2nd. The Class will include former All-American track and cross-country standout Laura Rudd and the 2012 baseball team. The class will also include Eagle-Tribune sports writer Dave Dyer who will be the first inductee to the Hall of Fame in the Contributor category.

Rudd, a native of Amesbury and 2007 graduate of NECC was a four-time All-American in track and field and cross country while doubling as a two-time Academic All-American. On the track she earned a pair of All-America awards in 2006 in the 5,000m and 10,000m, and repeated the feat in the 10,000m in 2007 by virtue of top three finishes in each race at the national championship. On the trails she earned All-America status in 2007 with an 11th place finish in the national meet. During her time with the Knights Rudd held three different school records and today still ranks as the record holder in the 5,000- and 10,000-meter events.

The 2012 baseball team was the first team in the programs history to reach the 30-win plateau as they finished with an overall record of 30-9 and finished with a third-place finish at the 2012 NJCAA World Series. Coached by Chris Shanahan, the team set the standard for the college as it would reel off five straight trips to the World Series. Ranked in every weekly

national poll except for the first ranking of the season, the Knights ranked as high as third in the polls. The team included national batting champion Pat Parker who batted .507 and the team finished third in national batting average at .378. 14 members of the team went on to continue their careers at four-year institutions throughout the northeast.

No local sportswriter in the Merrimack Valley has provided more coverage and exposure to the Knights athletics program than longtime Eagle-Tribune sports writer Dave Dyer over his near four-decade tenure at the newspaper. Known nationally for his high school wrestling coverage, Dyer has spent countless hours in the Knights gymnasium and on the fields providing individual game coverage and feature stories on student-athletes from throughout the region and beyond.

The 2023 Hall of Fame class will be the fourth class inducted into the Hall of Fame since its inception in 2019 and bring the total hall to nine members including three teams and six individuals. The ceremony set for March 2nd will be held in the Hartleb Technology Center on the Haverhill campus at 6:00pm. The event will feature a buffet dinner and cash bar. Tickets are available for \$35 by clicking here. For additional information on the Northern Essex Community College Athletic Hall of Fame please contact NECC Director of Athletics Dan Blair dblair@necc.mass.edu

Baker-Polito Administration awards \$9 million for 156 housing units for individuals who are homeless

Funding to provide low-threshold housing and support services for adults who are experiencing homelessness, substance use disorder, medical, or mental health conditions

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) and its constituent agency, the Department of Public Health (DPH) announced \$9 million to expand access for temporary low-threshold permanent housing and support services for adults experiencing homelessness, substance use disorder, co-occurring illness, mental health conditions or are at risk for or living with HIV.

The funding, awarded to six nonprofit organizations, will increase the supply of low-threshold housing by 125 new units, and allow for continued funding for 31 existing units to provide services for up to 355 individuals per year. The organizations have extensive experience providing low-threshold and Housing First models, for which sobriety is not a requirement for accessing or maintaining housing.

"Safe and stable housing for individuals with behavioral health conditions and who are vulnerable to chronic health issues is a crucial step toward recovery," said Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders. "The Housing First model removes what is a significant barrier for individuals with

complex health needs to receive much-needed supports and services."

"Stable housing is integral for public health and a critical component in the path to recovery from substance use disorder," said Public Health Commissioner Margret Cooke. "Increasing access to low-threshold housing and support services can improve the quality of life of individuals struggling with addiction, mental health needs, or chronic illness, and encourage them to pursue treatment."

Award recipients:

- Center for Human Development (Holyoke)
- Living in Freedom Together (Worcester)
- Open Sky (Worcester)
- Pine Street Inn (Boston)
- South Middlesex Opportunity Council (Leominster)
- Square One Medical (Quincy)

The awards are for an initial period of 18 months with the option to extend for four additional years.

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Renovación de contrato de la Asociación de Personal de Apoyo Administrativo de Lawrence (LASSA)

LASSA llega a un acuerdo de contrato con las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence



Lawrence, Massachusetts, 19 de diciembre de 2022, el personal de apoyo administrativo de Lawrence se complace en anunciar la ratificación exitosa de un nuevo contrato de tres años con Lawrence Public School (LPS), resolviendo todos los problemas pendientes relacionados con la reestructuración de la escala salarial y aumentos y ajustes salariales.

El nuevo pacto logra ganancias financieras significativas al reclasificar a los empleados administrativos en escalas

salariales más altas y al agregar cuatro (4) escalones adicionales a la tabla salarial. El rango de escala de empleados aumentó de \$15,70 - \$24,92 a \$19,50 - \$30,04, un aumento de más del veinte por ciento (20%) para muchos trabajadores.

La presidenta del sindicato, Vivian Bonet, declaró: “Después de diez (10) meses extensos de negociaciones, creemos que este acuerdo brinda a nuestros empleados del sindicato un salario justo basado en los aumentos del costo de vida”.

El presidente Bonet indicó que a pesar de la plétora de recursos financieros adicionales disponibles para LPS a través de la ayuda estatal y el estímulo federal de COVID, el sindicato tuvo negociaciones de consenso sobre los aumentos salariales. “Ahora que nuestro contrato está cerrado”, continuó el presidente Bonet, “nuestros miembros pueden concentrarse en las necesidades de nuestros estudiantes y escuelas”.

El sindicato votó a favor con

aprobación unánime el 5 de diciembre de 2022, y Lawrence Educational Alliance (LAE) aprobó el contrato y la financiación el 14 de diciembre de 2022.

“Quiero agradecer a todos los que participaron en el proceso de negociación por todo su arduo trabajo y contribuciones para llegar a este acuerdo”, dijo el presidente Bonet. “En particular, la adjudicación de este contrato fue el resultado del apoyo comunitario de líderes como el representante estatal Frank Moran, el senador electo Pavel Payano, la representante estatal electa Estela Reyes, el Concejo Municipal de Lawrence y el Comité Escolar de Lawrence. Esperamos continuar nuestra asociación mientras miramos hacia nuestro próximo proyecto: devolver nuestras escuelas al control local”.

La Asociación de Personal de Apoyo Administrativo de Lawrence es un sindicato de más de 70 profesionales que brinda apoyo administrativo y financiero a las operaciones de las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence, trabajando en casi todas las oficinas y edificios del distrito escolar. El sindicato cuenta con el apoyo de la Federación Estadounidense de Maestros de Massachusetts.

Lawrence Administrative Support Staff Association (LASSA) Contract Renewal

LASSA reaches contract agreement with Lawrence Public Schools

Lawrence, Massachusetts, December 19, 2022, the Lawrence Administrative Support Staff is happy to announce the successful ratification of a new three-year contract with the Lawrence Public School (LPS), resolving all remaining issues related to the restructuring of the pay scale, and salary increases and adjustments.

The new pact makes significant financial gains by reclassifying clerical employees onto higher wage grids and adding four (4) additional steps to the salary table. The Clerk Scale range increased from \$15.70 - \$24.92 to \$19.50 — \$30.04, an over twenty percent (20%) increase for many workers.

Union President Vivian Bonet stated, “After an extensive ten (10) month of negotiations, we believe this agreement provides our Union employees with a fair wage based on cost-of-living increases.”

President Bonet indicated that despite the plethora of additional financial resources available to LPS through state aid and federal COVID stimulus, the union had consensus negotiations over wage increases. “Now that our contract is settled,” President Bonet continued, “our members can focus on the needs of our

students and schools.”

The union voted in favor with unanimous approval on December 5, 2022, with the Lawrence Educational Alliance (LAE) approving the contract and funding on December 14, 2022.

“I want to thank everyone who participated in the bargaining process for all their hard work and contributions to get us to this agreement,” President Bonet said. “In particular, this contract win resulted from community support from leaders like State Representative Frank Moran, Senator-elect Pavel Payano, State Representative-elect Estela Reyes, the Lawrence City Council, and the Lawrence School Committee. We look forward to our continued partnership as we look to our next project: returning our schools to local control.”

The Lawrence Administrative Support Staff Association is a 70+ union of professionals that provide administrative and financial support to operations of the Lawrence Public Schools, working in nearly every office and building of the school district. The union is supported by the American Federation of Teachers — Massachusetts.

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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.

Baker-Polito Administration Announces \$28.5 Million in Available Funding for FY24 Food Security Infrastructure Grants

Administration Also Awards \$7 Million in Food Assistance Grants

Working to combat against food insecurity throughout the Commonwealth, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the availability of \$28.5 million in funding for the FY24 Food Security Infrastructure Grant (FSIG) Program. This funding will allow the Commonwealth to ensure equitable access to healthy, locally-produced food for individuals and families throughout the state.

In order to best support applicants within the state's local food production and distribution system, the FSIG Program administrators will be hosting two virtual question and answer sessions on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, from 1:00PM to 3:00PM and Thursday, January 5, 2023, from 4:00PM to 6:00PM to answer potential applicant questions related to project ideas, as well as hear any feedback in response to previous rounds. Following these sessions, a Request for Responses (RFR) will be issued, seeking proposals from stakeholders.

Additionally, the Baker-Polito Administration is awarding \$7,260,000 in Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) grants to 16 organizations across the Commonwealth. The grants, which are funded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), seek to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency through the purchase of domestic food from local and regional producers, by targeting purchases from socially disadvantaged farmers and producers, and the distribution to underserved communities.

"While the Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program was created as part of our Administration's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, through this next \$28.5 million, we will be able to continue to utilize this important initiative to ensure access to healthy, locally produced food for all residents throughout the state," said Governor Charlie Baker. "The \$7.2 million that we are awarding through the Local Food Purchase Assistance Program will further our efforts to invest



Francis J. Kenneally, CEO of the Merrimack Valley YMCA discussed the impact of FSIG funds on the Y's ability to reach out to people in the Greater Lawrence community who need access to healthy food. The Y received Funding in FY21 to purchase two food trucks. The Y collected and distributed over 250,000 pounds of food this past year.

in the Commonwealth's food supply chain, creating a stronger and more resilient food system."

"Food insecurity continues to be a significant issue throughout the Commonwealth and it is important that we continue to ensure programs across the state are being provided the resources they need to meet the demand that they are receiving," said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. "Our Administration is proud to announce this new funding to further the critical work of ensuring greater access to healthy, locally produced food for all residents."

The FSIG Program was created to provide grants for capital infrastructure investments that increase access to locally produced food for families and individuals throughout the state who may be facing food insecurity, live in gateway cities or food deserts, or who otherwise face unequal access to food. Additionally, FSIG works to mitigate future supply and distribution issues by partnering with local fishermen, farmers, and other producers to create a strong and resilient food system. The Administration initially announced the program in May 2020 and has since awarded \$63 million to 507 organizations throughout Massachusetts.

Consejos para el Mes Nacional de Acción contra el Radón (enero)

Enero se designa como el "Mes Nacional de Acción contra el Radón" para alentar a los estadounidenses a probar sus hogares para detectar radón, un gas invisible, inodoro e insípido. A pesar de este llamado nacional a la acción, muchas personas todavía desconocen la presencia del radón y los peligros de dejarlo sin ser detectado.

El radón es la segunda causa de cáncer de pulmón después del tabaquismo y se estima que es responsable de más de 21,000 muertes por cáncer de pulmón cada año en los Estados Unidos, según la Agencia de Protección Ambiental (EPA, por sus siglas en inglés) y la Oficina del Cirujano General.

Para ayudar a proteger a su familia, amigos y hogar del peligro oculto, First Alert ha proporcionado los siguientes consejos:

- La mayoría del radón proviene del suelo, por lo que este gas venenoso puede filtrarse a través de grietas o aberturas en los cimientos de una casa, causando que se acumulen en el aire cantidades nocivas para la salud. El radón es casi imposible de detectar solo a través de los sentidos humanos, pero la exposición se puede prevenir con las herramientas y la conciencia adecuadas.

- La única manera de detectar niveles de radón peligrosos dentro del hogar es con un kit de prueba. El kit de prueba de radón de First Alert ofrece a los propietarios una tranquilidad sin complicaciones. Simplemente coloque el kit durante 24 horas y luego envíelo por correo a la dirección especificada para obtener los resultados. Los kits están disponibles por menos de \$20 y se venden por Internet línea y en varios tiendas locales y nacionales.

Tips for National Radon Action Month (January)

January is designated as "National Radon Action Month" to encourage Americans to test their homes for radon – an invisible, odorless and tasteless gas. Despite this national call to action, many people are still unaware of radon's presence and the dangers of leaving it undetected.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking and is estimated to be responsible for more than 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Surgeon General's office. To help protect your family, friends and home from the hidden danger, First Alert has provided the below tips:

- The majority of radon comes from the soil, so this poisonous gas can seep through cracks or openings in a home's foundation, causing unhealthy amounts to accumulate in the air. Radon is nearly impossible to detect through human senses alone, but exposure is preventable with the right tools and awareness.

- The only way to detect hazardous radon levels inside the home is with a testing kit. The First Alert Home Radon Test Kit offers homeowners hassle-free peace of mind. Simply set the kit out for 24 hours and then mail it to the specified address for results. Kits are available for less than \$20 and are sold online and at several local and national retailers.

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

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**ONLINE SUPPORT
FOR FAMILY
CAREGIVERS**

Family Caregiver Support Group

Wednesday, December 28 | 11 a.m.

Take this time to connect with other families in similar situations, ask questions about your loved one's symptoms, voice your concerns, and learn strategies to make caring for your loved one at home a less stressful and more fulfilling experience for you both.

Early-Stage Support Group
Wednesday, December 28 | 4:30 p.m.

Know someone recently diagnosed with early-stage memory loss? This session is designed specifically to provide helpful insight and guided conversation for those with early-stage memory loss. It's an opportunity for them to ask questions, share concerns, and connect with others who are on a similar journey.

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

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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!

UN PUNTO DE VISTA © 1996
Por Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, CCP



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

Ser uno es ser muchos

La Navidad es una temporada para ser feliz y esperanzado, no para estar ansioso. Traer un bebé al mundo, ya sea el hijo de Dios o el hijo de la humanidad, es un signo de optimismo. Pero, por supuesto, sabemos que estos son tiempos de ansiedad. Los problemas, políticos o de otro tipo, parecen florecer en el mundo. Y en caso de que lo olvide, los silbidos de las notificaciones de nuestros teléfonos celulares nos recordarán y nos pondrán al día con la última ansiedad. No es un espíritu agradable para disfrutar de una Feliz Navidad.

Parte del problema es que hemos olvidado nuestra humanidad. Aristóteles dijo: "Conócete a ti mismo." Dijo que "conocernos a nosotros mismos es el principio de toda sabiduría". Pero la historia es más complicada que eso. Para conocerte a ti mismo debes saber quién es ese "tú mismo". Tiene que lidiar con los momentos "yo" y "nosotros" que nos hacen humanos.

Imagina un momento en el que has vivido toda tu vida sin saber lo que significa "yo", el pronombre en primera persona. Imagina también que estás aislado y nunca has visto a otro ser humano ni sabes lo que significan los pronombres "Tú" o "Nosotros". Si ese fuera el caso, tu mundo consistiría solo en lo que puedes ver o tocar, objetos, animales, incluso otros "Yos", pero no en ti mismo. Vas sobre tu existencia sin cuestionar quién eres

realmente, qué significan tus pensamientos.

Pero entonces un día hay una furiosa tormenta y en sus secuelas debes moverte evitando innumerables charcos de agua creados por la lluvia para evitar ahogarte. Mientras te preguntas qué significan todos, te acercas a uno de los charcos más grandes y ves un reflejo de tu cara en el charco. Es la primera vez que te encuentras a ti mismo, tu "yo". ¿Qué significa eso?, te preguntas.

Y entonces, de la nada, inesperadamente, aparece otro ser humano tan ignorante como tú y se acerca al mismo charco de agua con una curiosidad similar. Y tú también. Cuando ves tus dos reflejos en el charco, ambos se dan cuenta de que la imagen de tu criatura recién encontrada debe significar que la otra imagen desconocida en el charco debe ser la tuya, tu "yo". Sí, se necesitó la reflexión de un otro para encontrarte a ti mismo. En ese momento te das cuenta de que antes de que puedas ser una persona completa del "yo", debes unirte a otros en una relación de "nosotros".

Esa es la pieza que falta en nuestro deseo de deshacernos de todas las causas de nuestra ansiedad. Eso es lo que la Navidad trae a la mesa.

Así que adelante, acércate a los charcos de tu vida, pero no lo intentes solo. Y que tengas una Feliz Navidad en el proceso.

Y ese es mi punto de vista hoy. Abur.

A POINT OF VIEW © 1996
By Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, CCP



To be one is to be many

Christmas is a season to be merry and happy, hopeful, and not to be anxious. Bringing a baby into the world, whether the son of God or the son of humankind is a sign of optimism. But, of course, we know that these are anxious times. Trouble, political or otherwise, seems to flourish in the world. And in case you forget, the pings of the notifications from our smartphones will remind us of and bring us to date with the latest anxiety. Not a nice spirit to enjoy a Merry Christmas.

Part of the problem is that we have forgotten our humanity. Aristotle said, "Know Thyself." He said that "Knowing ourselves is the beginning of all wisdom." But the story is more complicated than that. To know yourself you must know who that "yourself" is. It has to do with the "I" and "We" moments that make us humans.

Imagine for a moment that you've lived your entire life without knowing what "I", the first-person pronoun, means. Imagine as well that you are isolated and have never seen another human being and know what the "You" or "We" pronouns mean. If that were the case, your world would consist only of what you can see or touch, objects, animals, and even other "Is", but not yourself. You go about your existence never questioning who you are,

and what your thoughts mean.

But then one day there is a furious rainstorm and in its aftermath, you must move about avoiding countless water puddles created by the rain to avoid being drowned. As you wonder what they all mean, you approach one of the largest puddles and see a reflection of your face in that puddle. It is the first time you encounter yourself, your "I". What does that mean, you wonder?

And then, out of nowhere, unexpectedly, appears another human being as ignorant as you are and approaches the same water puddle with a similar curiosity. And so do you. When you see both of your reflections on the puddle, both realize that the image of your newly met creature must mean that the other image on the puddle must be yours, your "I" and "Me". Yes, it took the reflection of another to find yourself. At that point, you realize that before you can be a full "I" person, you must join others in a "We" relationship.

That's the missing piece in our desire to get rid of all the causes of our anxiety. That's what Christmas brings to the table.

So go forth, and approach the puddles of your life, but don't try it alone. And have a Merry Christmas in the process.

And that's my Point of View Today. So long.

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.

Good news this Christmas

At least for some people in South Lawrence.

We have been informed that the second set of payments for residents having a Columbia Gas claim will go out on December 27. The total number of checks to be issued is \$11 million. Not a bad way to begin the New Year!

City Council meetings

It should not be a surprise for anyone when I say that hardly anyone in Lawrence watches the City Council meetings. Perhaps I am a glutton for punishment but that's the only way to be abreast of what's happening in the city and why. It all goes back to the city council's decisions.

You may think it's the mayor; is the maximum authority in the city but he's quite limited when it comes to dealing with the council's approval. Just like in Washington D.C., politics has a way of interfering with everything, there are personal favors owed to residents and other politicians.

I do enjoy watching it! Sometimes I am glad of the decisions made, at others I'm furious but I would never chastise a city councilor for a decision made. We elect them to vote their conscience not the way I see it and I respect that.

The situation this week was regarding the position of Director in the Inspectional Services Department, beginning with the Public Participation segment. As usual, Richard Russell questioned something very important that caught my attention.

The new Director, José Alfonso García, is also in charge of the Health Department yet, the Commonwealth of MA's COVID report of December 15 shows that Lawrence averaged 33.7 cases of COVID per day, while in September it was averaging 21.6 cases per day. Even Lawrence General Hospital is alarmed due to the increase of cases in Lawrence. Mr.

Russell is right when he asks why we don't know the facts.

They were to vote for Mr. García's permanent appointment and failed for not having 5 votes in his favor. Ana Levy suddenly became sick and had to leave. Stephanie Infante voted "NO". Jeovanny Rodríguez voted "absent." María De La Cruz voted "present," and Council President Marc Laplante recused himself. He is serving as Interim Mayor in Brian's absence and cannot vote.

José Alfonso will continue working on that capacity in an interim basis and it will be brought up before the City Council after a year has passed.

As I said, I don't criticize how the councilors vote or question why but I think that we put them there to vote, not to squirm their way by voting "present" or "absent." What angers me is María De La Cruz almost always votes "present" and asks questions out of place.

That night, Octavien Spanner had to interfere during an inappropriate questioning of Mr. García. She antagonized him about the salary the mayor assigned to him asking, "Would you be willing to take the job for \$80,000? To which he responded, "If all the other positions being approved are also lowered, I'll do what the city desires."

That's when Octavien approached the microphone and said, "This is not the proper platform to discuss that." She knows that salary issues are discussed in executive sessions.

I can't wait for January when Richard Russell becomes a Councilor at-Large. He probably knows more than most of them because seldom misses a meeting. He argues his points of view with reasoning and data and will make the council meetings worth watching.

Among other things that were approved is a \$50,000 salary increase for the mayor which will take effect in 2026 with the next mayor elected. Also, the members of the City Council will earn \$25,000 each, taking effect in 2024 after next year's elections.

A request from Lawrence General Hospital at this busy time of the year

Lawrence General is once again experiencing extremely high patient volumes and is asking our community partners and public health officials to amplify our messaging on social media (see links below). COVID positivity rates are on the rise, especially in Lawrence and Methuen, and the hospital is seeing an increase in COVID hospitalizations along with flu and other serious illnesses, causing very long wait times in our ED.

Please consider the following:

We recommend getting a COVID booster and flu vaccine, both are widely available, free and safe for most people.

Move in-person meetings to virtual whenever possible, temporarily, to prevent further spread of illness – we at the hospital have taken this step as well.

Mask up in crowded places and gatherings like grocery stores, the mall, and holiday parties.

Seek care at your PCP's office or local urgent care before symptoms become severe, and don't wait until late in the day or the weekend as these are the busiest times for urgent and emergency care.

Check on your clients and loved ones with chronic illnesses to make sure that they are receiving appropriate treatment to

stay healthy.

Wash your hands frequently – this is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of illness!

We are experiencing high patient volume at this time, which leads to longer wait times for non-emergent care. It's important to know when to seek emergency care at a hospital and when to consider alternatives, like visiting your primary care provider or a walk-in urgent care.

Here are some things you can do to help keep yourself safe and healthy while also supporting those caring for you:

1. Practice patience and civility for the healthcare workers on the front lines
2. Keep up with regular appointments and do not hesitate to seek care in emergency situations.
3. Seek care from your doctor or local urgent care center when appropriate
4. Get your flu shot and keep up with your COVID-19 boosters
5. Remain vigilant about COVID-19 symptoms and exposure.

West Newbury Fire Department Awarded Over \$12,000 in Grant Funding for Safety Equipment

WEST NEWBURY —Chief Michael Dwyer is pleased to announce that the West Newbury Fire Department is one of over 300 fire departments across the state to have been awarded a grant as part of the Department of Fire Services Fiscal Year 2023 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program.

The \$12,500 grant awarded to the Newbury Fire Department will be used to purchase protective ballistic safety equipment for first responders.

The program provides local fire departments with a variety of equipment that makes the dangerous job of firefighting safer. This is the third year that funding has been awarded for this purpose as part of a five-year, \$25 million bond bill filed by the Administration to support firefighter safety and health in the coming years.

Fire departments in Massachusetts

were able to apply to this program for 121 different types of eligible equipment, including ballistic protective clothing, thermal protective clothing, gear washers and dryers, thermal imaging cameras, assorted hand tools and extrication equipment, communications resources, hazardous gas meters, fitness equipment and more.

"Every time a firefighter goes to work, they could be asked to rescue a child from a burning building, clean up a spill of hazardous materials, treat a patient with a contagious medical condition, or rush into a hostile event to rescue and treat victims," said State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey. "This program is absolutely vital to helping fire departments prepare for the vast array of hazards they face today and making sure that firefighters go home safe after every call."

"In the old days, it was not called the Holiday Season; the Christians called it 'Christmas' and went to church; the Jews called it 'Hanukkah' and went to synagogue; the atheists went to parties and drank. People passing each other on the street would say 'Merry Christmas!' or 'Happy Hanukkah!' or (to the atheists) 'Look out for the wall!'"

Dave Barry

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.



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

— George Orwell
www.facebook.com/poets01

Baker-Polito Administration Brings Coding Program, The Last Mile, to the Massachusetts Department of Correction

Pilot Program Offers Intensive Web Development Curricula to Incarcerated Individuals, Preparing Returning Citizens for High-Demand Jobs in Technology

The Baker-Polito Administration announced the launch of an innovative partnership with The Last Mile (TLM), a leading provider of technology training programs and transitional support for incarcerated people. In close coordination with TLM, the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) will soon implement a pilot program at MCI-Shirley to expand educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals. The program supports successful reentry by providing students professional skills training aligned with modern and high-demand job opportunities in web development and software engineering.

“Meaningful and sustainable employment is vital to successful re-entry of returning residents. TLM’s program will equip students with in-demand skills that create pathways for graduates and position individuals for sustained, positive outcomes upon release,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “This innovative program is one of the many

initiatives the Commonwealth and its partners have put forward to reduce recidivism and help returning citizens succeed.”

“Our administration has prioritized supporting individuals with the tools and resources needed to successfully transition back to the community. Computer coding and technology skills will open doors for returning citizens and pave the way to success,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “I am proud of this collaboration and our commitment to successful reintegration through modern education and job readiness.”

TLM’s computer coding and technology education program provides students with marketable coding skills and other web development fundamentals to help participants prepare for in-demand and well-paying employment opportunities upon release. TLM’s Web Development Program teaches students to create websites and full stack web applications using modern technologies, including HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React,

Node, Express, and MongoDB.

The in-prison education is provided through the innovative TLM Platform as a Service (PaaS), allowing for asynchronous learning and remote instruction. The program allows enrolled students to use laptops beyond the classroom and in their housing units to expand education opportunities, coding interactions, and studying time.

“At TLM, we continuously push the boundaries of what is possible for in-prison education. Through technology such as live video instruction in our classrooms and laptops, our program participants can take back to their housing units to an empathetic curriculum built and delivered by our program’s alums. TLM constantly strives to make the best program possible for our community,” said TLM’s Executive Director Sydney Heller. “The process to bring our program to Massachusetts has been smooth, efficient, and highly collaborative. The Baker-Polito Administration and the DOC

are shining examples of truly collaborative public partners.”

“This industry-specific training prepares students for a successful career post-release in today’s high-tech environment,” said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy. “Providing returning citizens with highly marketable job skills facilitates successful reintegration into the community and breaks down barriers to re-entry following incarceration.”

“Programs like The Last Mile provide opportunities for justice-impacted people to build skills while incarcerated to secure meaningful, well-paying opportunities post-release, reducing the likelihood of recidivism,” said Undersecretary of Criminal Justice Andrew Peck. “We remain committed to aligning our educational offerings and skills training to meet the demands of the current workforce and position returning citizens for success.”

“This program will help prepare the participants to enter a 21st century workforce with skills and knowledge that meet economic job demands now and, in the future,” said DOC Commissioner Carol Mici. “Employment post incarceration is key to reducing recidivism. This program also places an emphasis on peer collaboration and teamwork, which will help participants transition to workplaces that demand that of their employees.”

After returning to their communities, program alums are supported by TLM’s Reentry Department, and a nationwide alumni community founded on shared lived experiences.

TLM currently operates in seven states, 18 facilities and 26 classrooms. TLM has served over 1000 students and 400 returned citizens. According to TLM, 85% of its alums have achieved gainful employment post-incarceration. Massachusetts becomes the seventh state to adopt this successful program.

Turn 2 U Inc. dba The Last Mile (TLM) is an Oakland, CA based 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to provide opportunities for personal and professional growth for justice-impacted individuals through education and technology training. Through prison education, transitional support and workforce reentry, TLM is disrupting the system of mass incarceration across the United States. In-classroom curricula and course material prepare students for meaningful employment in modern job roles including web development, software engineering and audio and video production. Students cultivate personal and professional development in alignment with the technical education and with the support of TLM reentry staff, volunteers, and a community founded on shared lived experience.

The Last Mile is celebrating more than a decade as an organization, originating with its first program in San Quentin State Prison in California. The Last Mile has continued to leverage the power of public-private partnerships with Departments of Corrections and industry leading companies. Programs are currently operating in 7 states and 18 facilities across the United States. TLM has been able to expand its purpose, To Imagine, Build and Open Doors, into other facilities through these partnerships as well as funding and employment opportunities from the technology sector, including Google.org, Slack, GitLab, Stand Together, Bank of America, Apple and more.



End-of-Year Thoughts from the Director

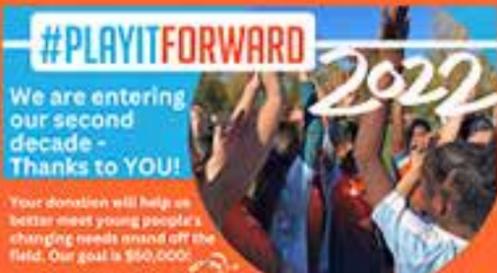
It is a historic moment in youth sports and sport-based youth development. We are only starting to fully understand the impact of the pandemic on the mounting physical, physiological, and psychological struggles that young people are experiencing. ***Our work is more crucial than ever!***

Gaps in access due to the pandemic make the physical and mental health benefits associated with kids playing, moving, and connecting with mentors through our sports programs of even greater significance. In response to this gap in Lawrence, we undertook a six-month strategic planning process designed to strengthen the scope and impact of Beyond Soccer. As a result, our short-term support strategies of the past two years are giving way to a focus on youth development programming that better engages our community of older players, program alumni, and parents. Underneath the fun and camaraderie, sport can be used as a vehicle to provide creative and accessible solutions to some of an inner city’s most significant issues.

Brittany Ramirez, a former player I coached, affirmed this focus for me in a recent conversation. She said her role as a Coach Mentor has been life-altering. She could not believe how much influence she had, developing positive relationships and helping her Grade 3 players gain confidence. Ten years later, she is passing along valuable lessons she learned through sports to the next generation. ***Our mission in action - there is nothing more motivating!***

I am very grateful for you and all you make possible for our program, and once again, I ask you to consider a year-end, tax-deductible gift to *Beyond Soccer*. Your support will enable us to continue making a critical difference in the lives of many children and their families.

Thank you, and warm regards,
Stephanie McArdle
stephanie@beyondsoccerlawrence.org



We are entering our second decade - thanks to YOU!

--Please consider making a year-end gift.
--Your donation will help us better meet young people’s changing needs on and off the field.