

Mini pony hace visita de terapia a su antiguo propietario

Mini pony makes therapy visit to former owner Pg. 14

USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) celebrates the 20th anniversary of its commissioning



(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Natasha ChevalierLosada)

INDIAN OCEAN (July 30, 2023) Chief Boatswain's Mate Dennis Brown, from Lynn, Massachusetts, oversees Sailors climbing the stern dock of the U.S. Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), during a swim call in the Indian Ocean, July 30, 2023. Ronald Reagan, the flagship of Carrier Strike Group 5, provides a combat-ready force that protects and defends the United States, and supports alliances, partnerships and collective maritime interests in the Indo-Pacific region.

7th Annual Youth Basketball Tournament



The 7th Annual State Representative Frank A. Moran and Lawrence Police Department Youth Basketball Tournament took place on Saturday, August 5 at O'Neill Park. Here is Rep. Moran and Officer Jay Cerullo with two of the winners. Pg. 9

Massachusetts tiene el tercer peor sistema de educación temprana en Estados Unidos - estudio de WalletHub

Massachusetts Has the 3rd Worst Early Education System in America – WalletHub Study

An August hotter than most

Un Agosto más caluroso que la mayoría

By/Por Paul Montesino - Pg. 13

New women-owned business in North Andover



At the ribbon-cutting of Andover's Massage Cooperative Therapies were Senator Bruce Tarr, Andrew Shapiro, Assistant Town Manager, Debbie, Susan, Kerri, Rep. Adrienne Ramos, Rep. Tram Nguyen, Michael and Joseph Bevilacqua of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce. Pg. 2

Bagels, Blocks & Beyond

Congregation Shalom and Lappin Foundation invite Jewish and interfaith families with young children (0-6 years) to PJ Library's Bagels, Blocks & Beyond, a casual, fun, supportive playgroup. It is being held on Sunday, August 13, 2023, at Congregation Shalom, 87 Richardson Road, Chelmsford., from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Snacks and juice will be provided in a nut-free environment. This playgroup is free and open to all. Please register here. For questions, email rachell@lappinfoundation.org.

Por/By Della Diaz
rumbonews.com/blogs

Desde Mi Esquina

El derecho a la vivienda
Asistencia de
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Mi pedido por FOIA
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From My Corner

Right to shelter law
Councilors' meetings
attendance
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Welcoming new women-owned business in North Andover

By Dalia Díaz

Andovers Massage Cooperative Therapies celebrated a grand opening with the usual ribbon-cutting and lots of friends.

They provide various therapeutic services to offer our clients what they need. Are you suffering from lower back pain or neck and shoulder pain? The body work sessions are tailored to your specific needs and include deep tissue and cupping to really target those areas that need it most. They also offer other modalities like Reiki and Acupressure which are both healing energy work to help you achieve the utmost reset and relaxation.

Kerri is a certified coach who specializes in working with women in recovery from trauma, eating disorders, body image issues, substance abuse or addictive behaviors. If you are looking for support, accountability and action planning, coaching may be just the thing for you.

She is also a Spa Tech graduate and specializes in slow flow firm pressure techniques which allow her clients to get the relaxation and therapeutic benefits of massage therapy simultaneously.

Susan has been a Massage Therapist since 1998. Trained in the art of the Palmer Technique of massage and polarity



Kerri and Susan, co-owners of Andovers Massage Cooperative Therapies en el 451 451 Andover Street, Suite #210, North Andover, MA 01845 (978) 258-1541

therapy. The combination together with a deep understanding of what a client needs to resolve and working together to bring the best results.

If you are interested, you may request a Discovery call. This free 30 minute call is designed to get to know more about holistic wellness coaching and if you think this partnership would be a good fit for you. We spend 30 minutes getting to know each other and you decide if you feel that coaching will help you get to the goals you want to achieve.



Some of the guests in attendance were: Janice Phillips, District Director for Senator Barry Finegold's District Director and also Chair of the North Andover Selectmen Board; Michael Bevilacqua, Vice-President of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce; Rep. Adrienne Ramos, Senator Bruce Tarr, Susan, Kerri, Debbie, Rep. Tram Nguyen, and Andrew Shapiro, Assistant Town Manager. Also in attendance (not pictured) was Tobin Abraham, Legislative Director for Rep. Tram Nguyen, showing their respective citations.



Senator Bruce Tarr was eager to be a customer and Susan welcomed him with a smile.

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Rumbo
The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

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Publicación de SUDA, Inc.
315 Mt. Vernon Street Lawrence, MA 01843-3206
Tel: (978) 794-5360 | **www.rumbonews.com**

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

El Alcalde Fiorentini anuncia \$200,000 en subvenciones para alimentos frescos

La ciudad está buscando solicitudes de despensas de alimentos con sede en Haverhill, proveedores de comidas comunitarias sin fines de lucro y comedores de beneficencia para una parte de \$200,000 en fondos federales destinados a alimentos frescos, anunció el alcalde James J. Fiorentini.

El programa de subvenciones Fresh Food and Food Banks es parte de los esfuerzos de la Ciudad para distribuir los fondos locales recibidos de la Ley del Plan de Rescate Estadounidense (American Rescue Plan Act, ARPA) a los residentes de ingresos bajos y moderados. El programa tiene como objetivo mitigar el aumento de los precios de los alimentos causado por la inflación y la escasez de productos desde la pandemia de COVID.

Los solicitantes elegibles incluyen bancos de alimentos, comedores populares, organizaciones religiosas que sirven comidas gratis y organizaciones que distribuyen comidas y suministros de alimentos gratis al público, incluidos los niños en edad escolar. Los programas también pueden ofrecer asesoramiento nutricional, clases de cocina y elaboración de presupuestos para los electores. Las organizaciones deben demostrar que atienden a hogares de ingresos bajos y moderados para recibir financiamiento.

“La inseguridad alimentaria es un problema creciente que ha empeorado en los últimos años”, dijo el alcalde Fiorentini al alentar a todos los proveedores de alimentos sin fines de lucro de Haverhill a solicitar fondos. “En respuesta, hemos desarrollado este nuevo programa de subvenciones para apoyar suplementos de alimentos frescos para que nuestros residentes que dependen de estos servicios tengan más opciones”.

La Ciudad ha solicitado solicitudes de proveedores locales de alimentos sin fines de lucro, incluidos, entre otros, los siguientes:

- Despensa de alimentos de Todos los Santos, 120 Bellevue Ave.
- Despensa de alimentos comunes, 194 Winter St.
- Emaús, Calle How 127
- Despensa de mano abierta de Liz Murphy en la Iglesia Unitaria Universalista, 16 Ashland St.
- Corazones Abiertos en la Primera Iglesia Bautista, 217 Main St.
- Centro de atención del embarazo, 107 Merrimack St.
- Despensa de Alimentos de la Parroquia de los Sagrados Corazones, 6 Carleton Ave.
- Programa de Comidas Comunitarias del Ejército de Salvación; 395 calle principal
- Alguien se preocupa por Nueva Inglaterra, 358 Washington St.
- Despensa de alimentos del Veterans Northeast Outreach Center, 10 Reed St.
- YMCA, calle Winter 81
- YWCA, 107 Winter St.
- Iglesia Cristiana Changing Lives, 17 Newcomb St.
- Iglesia Congregacional Oeste, 767 Broadway
- Iglesia Ortodoxa Griega de los Santos Apóstoles, 154 Winter St.

Las solicitudes y la información detallada para el programa Fresh Food for Food Banks están disponibles en el sitio web de la ciudad de Haverhill en https://www.cityofhaverhill.com/news_detail_T30_R81.php

Cualquier persona que no tenga una

computadora puede solicitar una copia impresa enviando un correo electrónico a freshfoodfund@cityofhaverhill.com o en la Oficina del Alcalde en el Ayuntamiento, 4 Summer St., Sala 100, de 8 a. m. a 4 p. m. de lunes a viernes. Cuando estén completas, las solicitudes impresas deben devolverse a Shawn Regan en la Oficina del Alcalde.

Todas las solicitudes deben enviarse antes del viernes, 18 de agosto de 2023 a las 3:00 p. m. No se aceptarán presentaciones tardías. El paquete de solicitud debe incluir una planilla completa, incluida toda la documentación requerida.

La Ciudad establecerá un comité para revisar las solicitudes de subvenciones para verificar que estén completas, elegibles y recomendaciones de financiación. Comuníquese con freshfoodfund@cityofhaverhill.com para todas las consultas o llame al 978-241-7375 (ext. 3681) y deje el nombre, el número de teléfono, el correo electrónico y el motivo de la llamada.

El programa de subvenciones Fresh Food and Food Banks sigue de cerca la segunda ronda del programa de subvenciones para jóvenes y salud mental del Alcalde Fiorentini en el que la ciudad distribuyó \$750,000 en fondos de ARPA a residentes de bajos ingresos y proveedores de servicios para jóvenes para actividades de verano y servicios de salud mental. Ese dinero está pagando para que los niños y adolescentes vayan a campamentos de verano, asistan a programas en YMCA, YWCA, Boys and Girls Club, aprendan a nadar, jueguen en equipos deportivos, tomen clases de arte, reciban asesoramiento mental y mucho más.

Mayor Fiorentini Announces \$200K in Fresh Food Grants

The City is seeking applications from Haverhill-based food pantries, non-profit community meal providers and soup kitchens for a share of \$200,000 in federal funds earmarked for fresh food, Mayor James J. Fiorentini has announced.

The Fresh Food and Food Banks grant program is part of the City's efforts to distribute local funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to low- and moderate-income residents. The program is aimed at mitigating rising food price increases caused by inflation as well as product shortages since the COVID pandemic.

Eligible applicants include food banks, soup kitchens, faith-based organizations who serve free meals and organizations that distribute free meals and food supplies to the public, including school-aged children. Programs may also offer nutritional counseling, cooking and budgeting classes for constituents. Organizations must show that they serve low-income and moderate-income households to receive funding.

“Food insecurity is an increasing problem that has gotten worse in recent years,” Mayor Fiorentini said while encouraging all Haverhill non-profit food providers to apply for funding. “In response, we have developed this new grant program to support fresh food supplements so our residents who depend on these services have more choice.”

The City has solicited applications from local food nonprofit providers, including but not limited to the following:

- All Saints Food Pantry, 120 Bellevue Ave.
- Common Ground Food Pantry, 194 Winter St.
- Emmaus, 127 How Street
- Liz Murphy Open Hand Pantry at Universalist Unitarian Church, 16 Ashland St.
- Open Hearts at First Baptist Church, 217 Main St.
- Pregnancy Care Center, 107 Merrimack St.
- Sacred Hearts Parish Food Pantry, 6 Carleton Ave.
- Salvation Army Community Meals Program; 395 Main St.
- Somebody Cares New England, 358 Washington St.

- Veterans Northeast Outreach Center Food Pantry, 10 Reed St.
- YMCA, 81 Winter St.
- YWCA, 107 Winter St.
- Changing Lives Christian Church, 17 Newcomb St.
- West Congregational Church, 767 Broadway
- Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church, 154 Winter St.

Applications and detailed information for the Fresh Food for Food Banks program are available on the City of Haverhill website at https://www.cityofhaverhill.com/news_detail_T30_R81.php

Hard copy application can be requested to anyone who does not have a computer by sending an email to freshfoodfund@cityofhaverhill.com or from the Mayor's Office at City Hall, 4 Summer St., Room 100, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. When complete, hard copy applications must be returned to Shawn Regan in the Mayor's Office.

All applications must be submitted by Friday, August 18, 2023, by 3PM. Late submissions will not be accepted. The application packet must include a completed application, including all required documentation.

The City will establish a committee to review grant applications for completeness, eligibility and funding recommendations. Please contact freshfoodfund@cityofhaverhill.com for all inquiries or call 978-241-7375 (ext. 3681) and leave name, phone number, email, and reason for calling.

The Fresh Food and Food Banks grant program closely follows the second round of Mayor Fiorentini's Youth and Mental Health grant program in which the City distributed \$750,000 in ARPA funds to low-income residents and youth service providers for summer activities and mental health services. That money is paying for children and teens to go to summer camp, attend programming at the YMCA, YWCA, the Boys and Girls Club, learn to swim, play on sports teams, take art classes, receive mental counseling and much more.

Merrimack Valley Chamber

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POR DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



CARTAS AL EDITOR RUMBO

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

La ley del derecho a la vivienda

Sí, Massachusetts tiene una ley de este tipo que fue diseñada para proteger a las familias sin hogar. Ahora, se extendió a los inmigrantes recién llegados.

Según un comunicado de prensa de la oficina de la Gobernadora Maura Healy:

Más de 80 ciudades y pueblos en todo el estado albergan a estas familias, incluidas más de 1,800 familias que residen en hoteles y moteles, según la oficina de la Gobernadora.

"Estas cifras están siendo impulsadas por una oleada de recién llegados a nuestro país que han pasado por algunos de los viajes más difíciles imaginables. Son el rostro de la crisis migratoria internacional. Están aquí porque de donde vinieron es demasiado peligroso para ellos quedarse", dijo Healey. "Están aquí porque Massachusetts ha sido y siempre será un faro de esperanza, compasión, humanidad y oportunidad".

Massachusetts es el único estado del país con una ley de "derecho a la vivienda", que garantiza a las familias sin hogar el acceso a la vivienda de emergencia.

El martes por la noche, el Alcalde Brian DePeña tuvo una reunión de Zoom con la Gobernadora Healy y varias otras ciudades donde pidió ayuda. Aunque el Alcalde no se comprometió a cumplir con su pedido, no me sorprendería si hacen lo que hicieron en Nantucket Island. Una vez que estuvieron aquí, Massachusetts tuvo que hacerse cargo de ellos y hay un rumor de que Lawrence recibirá cuatro autobuses llenos de personas para alojarse aquí.

Mi solicitud de FOIA

Como mencioné la semana pasada, bajo la Ley de Libertad de Información, solicité copias de la hoja de asistencia de varios empleados de la ciudad que se fueron de vacaciones y descubrieron un sistema que está listo para fallar.

La hoja de Linette Pérez era confusa de leer y me dijeron que el Capitán Ariel Montas era la persona que firmaba su hoja. Como no tiene extensión (me dijeron), tenía que llamar a Teresa Mejía, la secretaria del jefe, y dejarle un mensaje para que me llamara. Mi mensaje fue claro, pero supongo que nunca llegó a él, incluso cuando dejé otro grabado en su teléfono.

Quería preguntarle por qué estuvo fuera durante 6 días y marcó el miércoles y

el lunes de la semana siguiente como días de baja por enfermedad. ¿Sabía ella antes de irse que iba a estar enferma en dos días separados?

No es gran cosa pero me permitió entender el sistema empleado por el Ayuntamiento como me lo explicó otra persona. Pueden usar su tiempo de vacaciones, días personales y días de enfermedad como deseen.

¿Qué sucede cuando usan todos sus días de enfermedad y se enferman o tienen un accidente? Puedo oler el engaño.

En el caso de Luis Almanzar, su supervisor Juan Tejada le escribió 8 horas diarias durante toda la semana como tiempo COMP. Estas son las horas extras trabajadas por las personas que no pueden cobrar horas extras y se les compensa con tiempo libre. La regla es que si trabajaron dos horas extras un día (por ejemplo), deben tomarse dos horas libres durante la misma semana, no acumularlas ni guardarlas para vacaciones.

Está el caso de alguien en el Ayuntamiento que trabaja dos horas extra una noche a la semana y luego el viernes se va a casa al mediodía; son cuatro horas libres. Totalmente un malentendido de la intención y se sale con la suya.

El Ayuntamiento es conocido por no realizar un seguimiento del tiempo de vacaciones de los empleados y cuando dejan el empleo de la ciudad, tenemos que pagarles todo de una vez por las vacaciones que afirman que nunca se tomaron.

Asistencia a la reunión de los concejales

Hace unos años conté la asistencia a las reuniones del Ayuntamiento de cada concejal durante un año entero y he estado dándole vueltas a la idea. No existe ningún requisito de que los concejales de la ciudad deban asistir a las reuniones periódicas o a los comités que se les asignan. No tienen miedo de que su cheque se corte dependiendo de cuántos se pierdan.

Entonces, el resultado es que programan vacaciones o eventos relacionados con la campaña en esas noches sin preocuparse por la agenda que se suponía que debían discutir. Incluso tienen la opción de quedarse en casa si están enfermos o no se sienten bien y aun así participar a través de Zoom y hacer el trabajo del pueblo.

Cuando la concejala por toda la ciudad, Ana Levy, se sometió a una cirugía

peligrosa, logró asistir a través de Zoom y fue muy criticada por ello. Pero ahora, María De La Cruz ha estado desaparecida durante meses, no asiste a las reuniones y nadie dice ni pío. Ella anunció hace un tiempo que no se postularía para la reelección por el Distrito A y ahora actúa como si hubiera renunciado para siempre. Sí, es por el bien de la ciudad pero su mandato no ha terminado.

Esperemos que su reemplazo venga preparado a las reuniones y sepa leer e interpretar lo que lee para tomar una decisión racional.

Con María, nunca supimos cuál era su posición en los temas porque a veces sus votos estaban en contra de lo que argumentaba.

No debería haber escrito todo eso; ella podría regresar para asistir a las reuniones solo por despecho.

Este comentario también puede aplicarse a la Representante Estatal Estela Reyes, quien se negó a ceder su puesto de concejal hasta las próximas elecciones para poder controlar las grandes decisiones de la ciudad. ¡A veces tiene que trabajar hasta tarde en la Casa de Estado y otras, está demasiado cansada para asistir a las reuniones y su asistencia es horrible!

Si bien el concejo municipal no realiza un seguimiento de la asistencia de sus miembros, tampoco realiza un seguimiento de sus propias reglas. He tenido cuidado de no escribir sobre por qué José Alfonso García renunció como director ejecutivo de Servicios de Inspección porque lo considero un amigo y no quería sonar prejuiciosa por eso.

Los miembros del concejo municipal hicieron imposible su permanencia al negarse a nombrarlo de forma permanente menospreciándolo y tratándolo de manera condescendiente, algo que nunca se le debe hacer a un empleado de la ciudad en público. Él perdió el respeto de su departamento y se vio obligado a dimitir.

El Alcalde Brian DePeña podría haber ignorado al concejo y permitirle quedarse indefinidamente (como lo han hecho otros alcaldes), pero decidió no luchar.

Otros empleados que trabajan para la ciudad que no han sido designados

permanentemente en sus trabajos y permanecen en una capacidad "interina" como Adderly González, coordinador de recreación que ha estado allí desde 2021. Fue designado por Kendrys Vásquez.

En el pasado reciente, la ex directora de personal Gina LaGreca nombró a Franklin Miguel, Pedro Soto, Pat Ruiz y Michael Armano, por nombrar algunos, todos en calidad de "interinos". Brian siempre ha enviado a sus candidatos al concejo para su aprobación y miren cómo lo tratan.

Y James Hurley había estado trabajando en el Departamento de Agua desde el 21 de diciembre de 2020 como trabajador temporal. Cuando el alcalde le dijo que tenía que ser nombrado empleado permanente, decidió renunciar.

¿Dos conjuntos de reglas o solo trato preferencial?

Hablando de saber leer...

La columna de la semana pasada sacó a relucir muchos malentendidos, por supuesto, nadie tuvo las agallas de llamarme para pedirme una aclaración, me enteré en las redes sociales.

Hace un par de semanas escribí sobre personas que no pueden entender lo que leen, particularmente si están predispuestas a una idea y quieren encajar el texto en sus pensamientos. Nunca lo entenderán porque aceptar lo que está leyendo es la forma de comprender. Luego, pueden decidir si están de acuerdo o no.

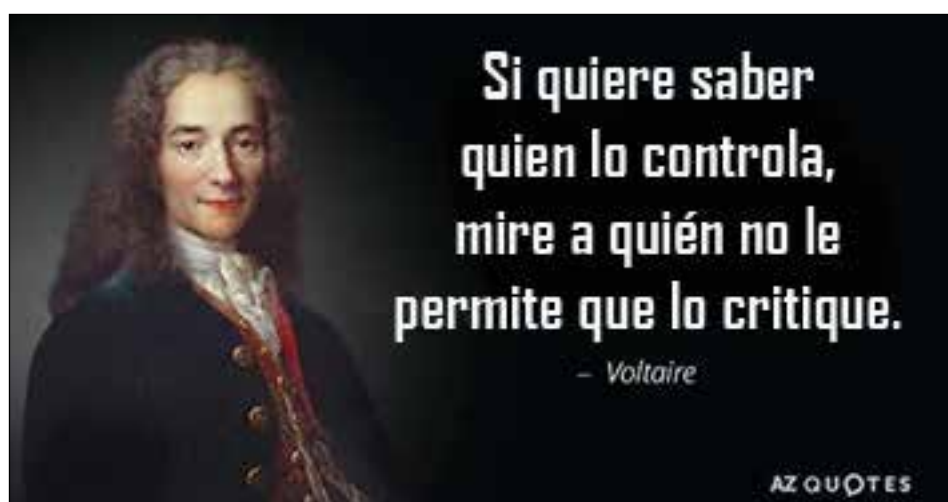
¡Pero hay esperanza!

Tenemos personas en esta comunidad a las que les importa, pero pasan por desapercibidas y no buscan fotografías ni reconocimientos.

Todos los sábados por la mañana, podemos ver a Les Bernal caminando unas cuadras por Mt. Vernon St. con un balde recogiendo basura del vecindario. Puede pensar que no es gran cosa, pero él inspira a las personas a sentir que también deberían hacerlo.

Todos somos responsables de la limpieza en esta ciudad y Les está haciendo su parte.

Gracias, Les.



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Me gustaría extender mi gratitud por ser un patrocinador tan generoso de nuestra organización en nombre de la Fundación Cambiando El Mundo de Personas Con Discapacidades (CEMDPCD). Estamos agradecidos por su apoyo inquebrantable y su obsequio extremadamente generoso; su contribución será de gran ayuda para nosotros a medida que continuamos creciendo y logrando el éxito en nuestras actividades.

Marque su calendario y considere compartir este evento con sus redes para ayudar a difundir las noticias sobre nuestra exposición de recursos, salud y discapacidad, que se llevará a cabo el 12 de agosto de 2023, de 10:00 a. m. a 2:00 p. m., en Campagnone Common, 200 Common St, Lawrence.

Este evento único tiene como objetivo aumentar la conciencia de la comunidad sobre las personas con discapacidad y, al mismo tiempo, brindar a las familias información sobre varios programas y servicios accesibles para familias e individuos con discapacidades de todas las edades.

Esperamos contar con su generoso apoyo y participación en este evento. Lo que es más importante, este evento es una oportunidad para brindar conciencia y recursos a las personas que ya viven con una discapacidad al enseñarles a los padres, familiares y amigos cómo navegar el sistema de servicios que a veces es

desconcertante.

Estamos solicitando \$ 50.00 para una o dos mesas, no se proporcionarán mesas y sillas, así que traiga la suya; sin embargo, le agradeceríamos si pudiera contribuir con una caja de agua y una canasta para la rifa. Habrá suficiente espacio para tiendas de campaña. Las donaciones son bienvenidas y usted puede patrocinar el evento por \$300.00. A cambio de su cooperación, incluiremos el nombre de su empresa u organización en los materiales promocionales. Por favor haga los pagos a nombre de CEMDPCD; nuestra identificación fiscal es #82-5030007.

Es de suma importancia que las familias continúen apreciando y celebrando a sus seres queridos que tienen impedimentos, y que no se sientan como si estuvieran pasando por su experiencia solos.

Le agradecemos su generoso apoyo, esperamos verlo en nuestro evento y disfrutar en familia de esta hermosa celebración.

Una vez más, muchas gracias por su continuo apoyo.

Un cordial saludo,

Raquel Quezada
Fundadora CEMDPCD
Organización sin ánimo de lucro
Cambiandoelmundo04@gmail.com
Una calle Union, suite 205
Lawrence, MA 01840
Teléfono: 978-828-5339

Dear friends and allies

I would like to extend my gratitude to you for being such a generous sponsor to our organization on behalf of the Fundacion Cambiando El Mundo de Personas Con Discapacidades (CEMDPCD). We are grateful for your unwavering support and your extremely generous gift; your contribution will be of tremendous assistance to us as we continue to grow and achieve success in our activities.

Please mark your calendar and consider sharing this event with your networks to help spread the news about our resource, health, and disability expo, which will be place on August 12th, 2023, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, at Campagnone Common, 200 Common St, Lawrence.

This unique event is intended to raise community awareness of persons with disabilities while also providing families with information about various programs and services accessible to families and individuals with disabilities of all ages.

We look forward to your generous support and participation in this event. Most importantly, this event is a chance to provide awareness and resources to individuals who are already living with a disability by teaching parents, relatives, and friends on how to navigate the sometimes-perplexing system of services.

We are requesting \$50.00 for one

or two tables, tables and chairs will not be provided so please bring yours; however, we would appreciate it if you could contribute a case of water and one raffle basket. There will be plenty of room for tents. Donations are welcome, and you may sponsor the event for \$300.00. In exchange for your cooperation, we will include your business or organization's name on promotional materials. Please make payments payable to CEMDPCD; our tax ID is #82-5030007.

It is of the utmost importance that families continue to appreciate and celebrate their loved ones who have impairments, and that they do not feel as if they are going through their experience alone.

We thank you for your generous support, we look forward to seeing you at our event and enjoy we family this beautiful celebration.

Once again, many thanks for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Raquel Quezada
Founder CEMDPCD
Nonprofit Organization
Cambiandoelmundo04@gmail.com
One Union Street, suite 205
Lawrence, MA 01840
Tel: 978-828-5339

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

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

Dalai Lama



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The Community Advisory Board (CAB) is led by the DPH Office of Population Health, Special Analytic Projects Team, which manages the Public Health Data Warehouse, a collection of public health data used to inform state priorities. The CAB will be an essential link to our data partners and ensure that we are listening to the communities we serve. Learn more about this work at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/community-advisory-board>.



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- By Sus Lobo
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La herramienta gubernamental más poderosa hasta ahora

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Pero en lugar del mensaje normal "Su tarjeta ha sido rechazada, comuníquese con su banco o proveedor de tarjeta", la pantalla dice: "El gobierno está limitando sus compras de viajes por el momento".

¿Cómo se sentiría?

Supongo que se sentiría bastante molesto, porque no le corresponde al gobierno decirle en qué debe o no debe gastar SU dinero.

Pero eso es solo el comienzo... con una Moneda Digital del Banco Central, el Gobierno sabrá constantemente dónde se encuentra y en qué gasta su dinero.

Podrían castigarlo agregando un impuesto más alto a todas sus compras, o hacer que solo pueda gastar su dinero en un radio de 1 milla cuadrada de su hogar.

Peor aún, pueden impedirle usar SU dinero por completo.

Porque con una moneda digital, todo lo que tienen que hacer es hacer clic en un botón para apoderarse de toda su moneda.

Y dado que la moneda es un mandato del gobierno, pueden hacer que todas las demás formas de pago sean ilegales, lo que significa que TIENE que cumplir con el sistema.

Es esclavitud financiera, y por eso el Gobierno quiere crear este sistema.

Porque nos guste o no, el dinero es poder, y si el gobierno puede castigarlo financieramente por hablar en contra de ellos, la mayoría de la gente tendrá demasiado miedo para contraatacar.

Y si la gente tiene demasiado miedo de hablar, entonces el gobierno tendrá el control total.

Por eso hay que estar atento a las amenazas que existen hoy en día.

La verdad es que no mucha gente sabe acerca de las próximas monedas digitales del Banco Central. Y aún menos entienden por qué vienen.

Pero aún está a tiempo de protegerse y a sus seres queridos.

Mi amigo John Bush publicó un informe de video gratuito sobre los próximos CBDC y cómo puede "optar para no participar" antes de que se implemente la siguiente fase.

Realmente recomiendo que le eche un vistazo porque esto es una seria amenaza a su libertad.

Puede ver su video aquí: <https://livefree.academy/op/cbdc-threat-report/>.

Espero que lo disfruten y estén atentos, porque estamos constantemente hablando de formas en que pueden protegerse de este tipo de extralimitación del gobierno.



The most powerful government tool yet

Imagine trying to buy a plane ticket to see your family for the holidays.

But instead of the normal "Your card has been declined, please contact your bank or card carrier" message, the screen says: "The Government is limiting your travel purchases for the time being".

How would you feel?

My guess is that you would feel pretty upset, because it's not the Government's place to tell you what you should or should not spend YOUR money on.

But that's just the start... with a Central Bank Digital Currency in place, the Government will constantly know where you are, and what you spend your money on.

They could punish you by adding a higher tax to all of your purchases, or make it so you can only spend your money in a 1 square mile radius of your home.

Even worse, they can completely block you from using YOUR money all together.

Because with a digital currency, all they have to do is click one button to seize all of your currency.

And since the currency is Government mandated, they can make all other forms of payment illegal, meaning that you HAVE to comply with the system.

It's financial slavery, and that's why the Government wants to create this system.

Because like it or not, money is power, and if the Government can punish you financially for speaking out against them, most people will be too afraid to fight back.

And if people are too afraid to speak out, then the Government will have complete control.

That's why you have to be aware of the threats that exist today.

The truth is, not many people know about the coming Central Bank Digital Currencies. And even fewer understand why they are coming.

But you still have time to protect yourself and your loved ones.

My friend John Bush released a free video report all about the coming CBDCs and how you can "opt-out" before the next phase rolls out.

I really recommend that you check it out because this is a serious threat to your freedom.

You can watch his video here: <https://livefree.academy/op/cbdc-threat-report/>

I hope you enjoy it, and keep your eye out, because we are constantly talking about ways you can protect yourself from this type of Government overreach.

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El Representante Estatal Frank A. Morán celebra la séptima edición anual de baloncesto juvenil

Torneo en asociación con el Departamento de Policía de Lawrence

El 7° Torneo Anual de Baloncesto Juvenil del Representante Estatal Frank A. Morán y el Departamento de Policía de Lawrence se llevó a cabo el sábado, 5 de agosto en O'Neill Park.

El Representante Morán y el Departamento de Policía de Lawrence dieron la bienvenida a cientos de atletas jóvenes entre las edades de 7 a 18 años para participar en el torneo de este año, donde también recibieron mochilas escolares, comida gratis, rifas de regalos, música en vivo y otras actividades familiares.

Esta tradición anual fue iniciada por el Representante Morán hace siete años para promover los deportes recreativos para los jóvenes de Lawrence en coordinación con Sueños Basketball, al mismo tiempo que ayuda a fundar un sentido de comunidad, confianza y solidaridad entre los jóvenes y las fuerzas del orden.

"Este evento siempre ha sido lo más destacado de mi verano y se ha convertido en mucho más que un torneo de baloncesto", dijo el Representante Estatal Morán (D - Lawrence). "Es fundamental que nuestros jóvenes comprendan el papel que desempeñan los agentes del orden público en nuestra comunidad, al mismo tiempo que fomentan relaciones mutuas, saludables y respetuosas que durarán toda la vida".

Además de contar con varios oficiales que sirvieron como árbitros y voluntarios en el torneo, el Departamento de Policía de Lawrence también proporcionó varias bicicletas nuevas para rifar entre los jóvenes y donó alimentos y helados.

"El Departamento de Policía de Lawrence se enorgulleció de asociarse con el representante Morán para otro torneo de baloncesto increíblemente exitoso el sábado", dijo el Teniente Joseph Cerullo del Departamento de Policía de Lawrence. "Este torneo ha jugado un papel crucial para ayudar a nuestro departamento a involucrarse con los jóvenes de nuestra ciudad y estamos agradecidos por el apoyo continuo del Representante a nuestra comunidad".

"Fue un placer patrocinar una vez más al Representante Estatal Frank A. Morán y el Torneo Anual de Baloncesto Juvenil del Departamento de Policía de Lawrence este fin de semana", dijo Sal Lupoli de Lupoli Companies. "Este torneo continúa creciendo y mejorando cada año, y agradecí la oportunidad de ser un orador invitado en el evento de este año para compartir mi historia e infundir algunas palabras de inspiración a la juventud de Lawrence".

El torneo de este año fue posible gracias a la generosidad de decenas de voluntarios y los siguientes patrocinadores locales:

El Departamento de Policía de Lawrence, Sueños Basketball, Lupoli Companies, Commonwealth Motors, City of Lawrence, New Balance, Almanzar Insurance, SISU Center, Lawrence Vietnam Memorial, Shaws Supermarket, Union Supermarket, DJ Dinero, Bonanza Supermarket, Rumbo Newspaper, Carlos Nuñez, Lawrence Patrolmens Union y Gemline Lawrence.



State Representative Frank A. Morán Holds 7th Annual Youth Basketball

Tournament in Partnership with the Lawrence Police Department

The 7th Annual State Representative Frank A. Moran and Lawrence Police Department Youth Basketball Tournament took place on Saturday, August 5 at O'Neill Park.

Representative Moran and the Lawrence Police Department welcomed hundreds of youth athletes between the ages of 7 to 18 to participate in this year's tournament, where they were also provided with school backpacks, free food, raffle gifts, live music, and other family activities.

This annual tradition was started by Representative Moran seven years ago to promote recreational sports for the youth of Lawrence in coordination with Sueños Basketball, while also helping to build a sense of community, trust, and solidarity between young people and law enforcement.

"This event has always been the highlight of my summer and it has become so much more than a basketball tournament," said State Representative Moran (D - Lawrence). "It is crucial that our young people understand the role that law enforcement officials play in our community, while also fostering mutual, healthy and respectful relationships that will last a lifetime."

In addition to having multiple officers serve as referees and volunteers at the tournament, the Lawrence Police Department also provided several brand-new bicycles to be raffled off to the youth and donated food and ice cream.

"The Lawrence Police Department was proud to partner with Representative Moran for another incredibly successful basketball tournament on Saturday," said Lieutenant Joseph Cerullo of the Lawrence Police Department. "This tournament has played a crucial role in helping our department engage with the young people of our city and we are thankful for the representative's continued support of our community."

"It was a pleasure to once again sponsor the State Representative Frank A. Moran and the Lawrence Police Department's Annual Youth Basketball Tournament this weekend," said Sal Lupoli of Lupoli Companies. "This tournament continues to grow bigger and better every year, and I appreciated the opportunity to be a guest speaker at this year's event to share my story and instill some words of inspiration to the youth of Lawrence."

This year's tournament was made possible by the generosity of dozens of volunteers and the following local sponsors:

The Lawrence Police Department, Sueños Basketball, Lupoli Companies, Commonwealth Motors, the City of Lawrence, New Balance, Almanzar Insurance, the SISU Center, the Lawrence Vietnam Memorial, Shaws Supermarket, Union Supermarket, DJ Dinero, Bonanza Supermarket, Rumbo Newspaper, Carlos Nuñez, Lawrence Patrolmens Union, and Gemline Lawrence.



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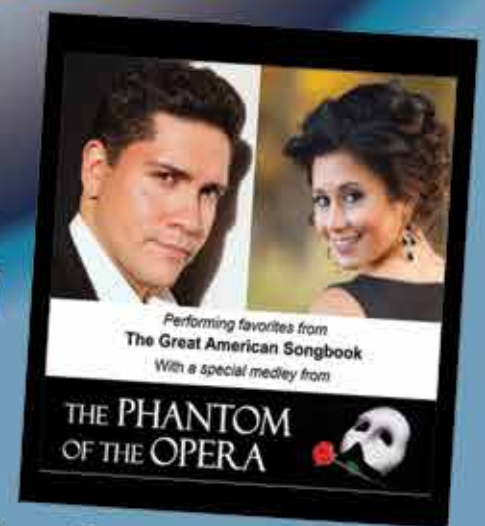
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Details at: www.ThreeSaintsInc.org



Lawrence State Delegation Secures \$26.54 Million Increase in FY24 Budget

The Massachusetts legislature enacted the FY24 Budget Conference Committee Report, representing a collaborative effort between the two branches to finalize the operating budget for this fiscal year.

Included in the report was crucial funding earmarked for various projects and initiatives in the city of Lawrence. These funds were secured through the dedicated efforts of the Lawrence state delegation, consisting of Senator Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence), Representative Frank Moran (D-Lawrence), Representative Francisco Paulino (D-Methuen), and Representative Estela Reyes (D-Lawrence). Together, the delegation successfully obtained a total of \$970,000 to support both public and nonprofit projects within the city.

"I am grateful for the Lawrence state delegation's unwavering commitment and hard work throughout the FY24 budget process" said Senator Payano. "The funding will significantly impact the lives of those in need within the community, as it supports essential initiatives such as an acute care clinic at the former Dyeworks building and crucial programs focused on housing and food security. These resources reflect our dedication to improving the well-being of the community we proudly serve."

"The FY24 state budget passed by the Legislature makes meaningful investments into Massachusetts' local economy that will significantly promote workforce development, support working class families, ensure continued access to high-quality, affordable healthcare, and so much more," stated State Representative Frank A. Moran. "I am also thankful for the partnership of the Lawrence State Delegation throughout this process and look forward to seeing how these historic investments will positively transform the lives of residents in Lawrence and throughout Massachusetts."

"As a City Councilor and State Representative, it has always been my dream to see the people, businesses, and organizations of the City of Lawrence flourish" said Representative Reyes. "The substantial funding that the State delegation was able to achieve in this year's budget is a crucial step towards this goal. I am incredibly proud of the commitments made in this report, which will benefit community health, financial literacy, and cultural celebration, among much, much more. Thank you to my colleagues in the Legislature for their hard work and to the people of this great City for putting their

faith in us to ensure Lawrence remains a safe, vibrant place to live and grow."

"As a part of the Lawrence state delegation, I'm excited to report that our collaborative efforts have resulted in significant funding for our beloved city," stated Representative Francisco Paulino. "The allocation of \$970,000 towards various public and nonprofit projects signifies our commitment to the people of Lawrence. From healthcare initiatives at the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center to vital community programs focusing on housing, food security, and education, these funds will bring transformative change. This budget boost not only underscores our dedication to the betterment of our community but also marks a major step forward in our relentless pursuit of creating a brighter future for Lawrence. I am proud to be a part of this victory and look forward to seeing the positive impact of these resources on our community."

The City of Lawrence is poised to receive a significant financial boost with \$266,144,831 in Chapter 70 funds, which is an impressive 10.5% increase compared to the previous fiscal year. Moreover, the city will benefit from a commendable 3.2% increase in unrestricted local aid. These substantial funding allocations are poised to have a transformative impact on our community, bolstering essential services and creating new opportunities for our residents. The Lawrence state delegation is eager to witness the positive outcomes these resources will bring as we continue to work tirelessly for the betterment of our beloved city.

The FY24 budget also included groundbreaking statewide initiatives. Certain undocumented students will receive in-state tuition at state universities, and Massachusetts will now permanently offer universal free school meals to all students. With these positive developments, the legislation now proceeds to the Governor's desk for final passage, marking a significant milestone in our efforts to strengthen our local infrastructure and support the welfare of our residents.

Local Budget Victories include:

- \$125,000 to the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center to address unmet acute patient health needs at a satellite clinic at the former DyeWorks mill building in partnership with Lawrence CommunityWorks.
- \$100,000 to ACT Lawrence for community development initiatives and

activities, including, but not limited to, affordable housing, foreclosure prevention, first-time homebuyer education, family financial literacy and business and youth development.

- \$50,000 for Lazarus House for its emergency shelter, housing, food and clothing service programs.
- \$50,000 for Olive in July for adult education, English as a second language, and citizenship courses.
- \$50,000 for the SISU Center to provide a safe space for structured education, health and recreational programming for at-risk youth.
- \$50,000 for the Lawrence Family Development for English as a second language and citizenship classes.
- \$50,000 to International Veterans Care Services in the city of Lawrence to mitigate food insecurity, provide housing relief and administer other essential services to members of the veteran community.
- \$50,000 for Ateneo Dominicano Del Merrimack Valley to promote Dominican culture in the Merrimack valley.
- \$50,000 for the Fundación CEMDPCD for support, education and advocacy for low-income parents of students with learning disabilities.
- \$50,000 for the Sueños Basketball summer league to support the recreational, social and health benefits the league provides to low-income youth in the city of Lawrence.
- \$50,000 for Casa Dominicana to assist in English as a second language and citizenship classes.
- \$40,000 for Debbie's Treasure Chest

to provide aid and support to disadvantaged and at-risk families.

- \$40,000 for Hispanic Image Smart Women's Biz Hub to empower and provide professional development services to underrepresented entrepreneurs.
- \$25,000 for El Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico to promote education and arts within the Puerto Rican and Latino Community.
- \$25,000 for Ministerio los Milagros de Jesus to alleviate hunger and malnutrition for low-income and moderate-income families and unhoused and elderly residents.
- \$25,000 for Beyond Soccer for health, athletic and leadership programming for low income youth.
- \$25,000 for Day Dreaming Organization to support baseball programming and youth mentoring.
- \$25,000 for HEAL Lawrence to support victims of fires or any other disaster.
- \$25,000 for Asociacion Carnavalesca de Massachusetts, Inc. to highlight Dominican Carnival in the Merrimack valley and for programming and after-school activities for at risk youth.
- \$25,000 for Three Saints, Inc. to support community services and promote Italian heritage
- \$20,000 for recreational activities for at-risk youth at the greater Lawrence boat house.
- \$20,000 for Semana Hispana to showcase Hispanic culture in the Merrimack valley and across the commonwealth.

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Cómo afecta la situación económica el voto de los latinos

Por **José López Zamorano**
Para La Red Hispana

En vísperas del primer aniversario de la Ley de Reducción Inflacionaria (IRA), el veredicto de su impacto real es objeto de opiniones encontradas.

Promulgada el 16 de agosto de 2022, la legislación ha sido correctamente aplaudida como la mayor inversión en la historia del país en materia de combate al cambio climático.

Aunque es discutible si la ley ha logrado reducir la inflación —o es más resultado de las políticas de la Reserva Federal— es claro que ha aliviado las presiones económicas para millones de personas —en especial de las minorías latina y afroamericana— con dificultades para pagar sus medicinas o contar con seguro de salud a través de la Ley de Salud Asequible.

Y es que la ley fijó un techo de 2,000 dólares al año en el costo de las medicinas a beneficiarios de Medicare, quienes ahora sólo pagarán 35 dólares al mes en la insulina. Y a partir de 2024 más personas serán elegibles bajo el programa de “Ayuda Adicional” de Medicare, Pharma, el organismo cúpula de la industria farmacéutica, sostiene por ejemplo que las disposiciones de la IRA que imponen precios establecidos por el gobierno para los medicamentos cubiertos por Medicare, tendrán “un impacto negativo en el acceso a los medicamentos cubiertos por la Parte B y la Parte D de Medicare”.

En cambio, las organizaciones ecologistas sostienen que la IRA ha potenciado la economía de Estados Unidos, creando empleos bien remunerados que ayudarán a familias en todo el país. El histórico plan de energía limpia del presidente Biden y los demócratas está ayudando a abordar la crisis climática

al reducir drásticamente las emisiones nocivas y abordar la injusticia ambiental al invertir en comunidades de primera línea”, de acuerdo con la organización Climate Power En Acción.

Es un hecho que la economía de Estados Unidos, de acuerdo con cifras oficiales, generó 4.5 millones de empleos en 2022 y que la inflación anualizada ha caído de manera sistemática desde el año pasado. En agosto del 2022 rondaba el 8% y actualmente se encuentra en 3%, como resultado de las agresivas políticas del banco central para frenar la espiral inflacionaria.

No es el único logro del que puede presumir el presidente Biden. También logró unir a demócratas y republicanos para aprobar la Ley Bipartidista de Comunidades Más Seguras, la más ambiciosa en los últimos 30 años para la seguridad de las armas de fuego.

Por si fuera poco, la economía estadounidense precia a una tasa anualizada 2.4% durante el segundo trimestre del año, superando cómodamente las expectativas de los economistas.

Y sin embargo, a pesar de esta cadena de logros indudables, la encuesta de The New York Times sugiere que el público estadounidense no aprecia las acciones de su presidente. Aunque su situación política es mejor que en el verano del año pasado, prácticamente se encuentra en empate con el rival, el expresidente Donald Trump.

Hace bien el presidente en iniciar una gira por Arizona, Nuevo México y Utah del 7 al 10 de agosto, para promover los logros de la Ley de Reducción Inflacionaria, porque claramente hay una desconexión entre sus avances y la percepción del público. Es un problema de comunicación que debe resolver con urgencia si desea recibir una segunda oportunidad en la Casa Blanca en 2024.



How the economic situation affects the Latino vote

On the eve of the first anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the verdict of its real impact is the subject of mixed opinions.

Enacted on August 16, 2022, the legislation has been rightly applauded as the largest investment in the country's history in combating climate change.

Although it is debatable whether the law has succeeded in reducing inflation —or is it more a result of the policies of the Federal Reserve— it is clear that it has relieved the economic pressures for millions of people —especially of the Latino and African-American minorities— with difficulties to pay for their medicines or have health insurance through the Affordable Health Act.

And it is that the law set a ceiling of 2,000 dollars a year in the cost of medicines for Medicare beneficiaries, who now will only pay 35 dollars a month for insulin. And starting in 2024, more people will be eligible under Medicare's “Extra Help” program. Pharma, the pharmaceutical industry's apex body, argues, for example, that IRA provisions that impose government-set prices for covered drugs by Medicare, will “negatively impact access to drugs covered by Medicare Part B and Part D.”

Instead, environmental organizations argue that the IRA has boosted the US economy, creating good-paying jobs that will help families across the country. President Biden and the Democrats' historic clean power plan is helping to address the climate crisis by dramatically reducing harmful emissions

and addressing environmental injustice by investing in frontline communities,” according to Climate Power In Action.

It is a fact that the United States economy, according to official figures, generated 4.5 million jobs in 2022 and that annualized inflation has fallen systematically since last year. In August 2022 it was around 8% and is currently at 3%, as a result of the central bank's aggressive policies to stop the inflationary spiral.

It is not the only achievement that President Biden can boast of. He also brought Democrats and Republicans together to pass the bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the most ambitious in 30 years for gun safety.

As if that were not enough, the US economy priced at an annualized rate of 2.4% during the second quarter of the year, comfortably exceeding economists' expectations.

And yet, despite this string of undoubted achievements, The New York Times poll suggests that the American public does not appreciate the actions of its president. Although his political situation is better than it was in the summer of last year, he is practically even with his rival, former President Donald Trump.

The president is right to start a tour of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah from August 7 to 10 to promote the achievements of the Inflation Reduction Act, because there is clearly a disconnect between his progress and public perception. It's a communication problem he urgently needs to address if he wants to get a second chance at the White House in 2024.

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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

Un Agosto más caluroso que la mayoría

Como escritor y editor de cincuenta y cuatro libros y cientos de artículos de ficción y no ficción, he descubierto que algunas de mis historias de no ficción podrían convertirse en excelentes creaciones de ficción. Esta es una de ellas.

Recientemente, los estadounidenses se han sentido atraídos a los cines para ver una nueva película titulada "Oppenheimer" que trata sobre Julius Robert Oppenheimer, un físico teórico estadounidense y director del Laboratorio de Los Álamos del Proyecto Manhattan durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial y a menudo acreditado como el "padre de la bomba atómica". El interés despertado por esa fascinación me recordó un período interesante de mi vida.

Durante algunos años en mi carrera bancaria, mi condición bilingüe y minoritaria nos dio a mí y a mi organización la oportunidad de interactuar con organizaciones comunitarias que necesitaban servicios bancarios y sociales.

En 1977, el Gobierno Federal promulgó la Ley de Reinversión Comunitaria (CRA), en un contexto de decadencia urbana y falta de inversión bancaria en sus comunidades. El Congreso decidió que los bancos tenían la obligación continua y afirmativa de ayudar a satisfacer las necesidades crediticias de sus comunidades locales, incluidos los vecindarios de ingresos bajos y moderados (LMI) donde están constituidos, de acuerdo con las operaciones seguras y sólidas de las instituciones.

Los bancos reaccionaron nombrando a un oficial creíble de CRA que sería responsable del cumplimiento de la ley y, después de asistir a una reunión de Banqueros de Operaciones en Washington DC ese año, mi organización me dio esa responsabilidad.

Mis deberes incluían reunirme con empresarios minoritarios que necesitaban financiamiento, asistir a reuniones de grupos comunitarios, discutir la ley con nuestro propio personal de préstamos, ofrecer entrevistas en radio y televisión como el conocido programa De Todo Un Poco del canal 56, e informar nuestro nivel de desempeño a las Juntas Directivas de los varios bancos que formaban parte de nuestro Grupo Bancario.

Uno de esos bancos, nuestra subsidiaria de Quincy, Massachusetts, quería que les diera a sus directores un informe sobre los requisitos de la ley y mi impresión de la respuesta de sus funcionarios hasta la fecha. Una fresca tarde de verano, empaqué mi documentación y folletos y conduje hasta su sede para reunirme con los directores.

Mi recepción fue muy amable. Los directores estaban dispuestos a tener un impacto positivo en su comunidad, verla prosperar y crecer. Durante una pausa de la reunión, varios de los directores se excusaron para tomar un descanso. Fue en ese momento que el presidente del banco me preguntó si conocía a todos los directores.

"No creo que lo haga", respondí.

"Bueno, ¿conoces a Sweeney?", respondió. "Creo que me reuní con él un par de veces cuando tuvimos reuniones en la sede principal del Grupo Bancario, pero no

estoy seguro", me ofrecí voluntariamente.

"Bueno, si no lo conoces, trata de conocerlo mejor. Es un gran hombre. Su nombre es en realidad el Mayor General Retirado Charles W. Sweeney, tiene setenta y cuatro años, y fue el piloto de "Bockscar," el avión que lanzó la bomba atómica sobre Nagasaki que terminó la guerra con Japón".

Pensé que iba a caerme de la silla. No podía concebir que este amable anciano que había estado sentado bromeando a mi lado hubiera sido lo suficientemente frío como para volar sobre esa ciudad y, bajo las órdenes de nuestro presidente estadounidense Harry S. Truman, lanzara una de las dos bombas que mataron a 126,000 en Hiroshima y 250,000 en Nagasaki, en su mayoría civiles japoneses, y había sobrevivido para contarlo, o en realidad no contarlo. Nunca habló ni se jactó de ello.

Y no mejoró cuando me dijo que había estado en La Habana, Cuba. Él y otros aviadores fueron a Cuba para tomar el sol y relajarse durante los meses previos a que sus aviones B29 entraran en acción atómica. Solían aterrizar en La Cayuga, un aeródromo construido durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial por los Estados Unidos en San Antonio de los Baños junto a La Armonía, la granja donde vivían mis abuelos paternos. Recordé haber conocido a algunos de los militares estadounidenses cuando visité la granja de niño. Uno de ellos Harry, estuvo coqueteando por un tiempo con mi prima Sylvia, ahora difunta.

Que el mismo hombre ahora estuviera trabajando duro tratando de ayudar a los que vivían cerca de él a construir su comunidad le da una idea de la mente militar que va a la guerra y luego regresa a la vida civil y familiar.

Mis nietos estaban interesados en la película "Oppenheimer" mencionada anteriormente y la vieron. Conociendo mi antigua conexión con uno de los pilotos que fue responsable de entregar una de esas bombas, ordené "War's End" para nosotros, un libro que recomiendo y que el Mayor General Sweeney (1919-2004) escribió contando con todo detalle lo que pasó antes, durante y después de cumplir sus órdenes militares únicas.

Las acciones de bombardeo tuvieron lugar el 6 y 9 de agosto de 1945, setenta y ocho años atrás; Japón se rindió ese 15 de agosto y firmó el acuerdo para poner fin a todas las hostilidades el 2 de setiembre a bordo del USS Missouri, con el general estadounidense Douglas MacArthur presente.

Ese 15 de agosto, las calles alrededor del Parque Central José Martí en La Habana, no muy lejos de mi casa, se volvieron locas con manifestaciones masivas de alegría. Escuchando las noticias en la radio, mi madre me agarró y me llevó al parque, donde vimos a las multitudes cantando y la exhibición de luces intermitentes en una marquesina que anunciaban la rendición de Japón y el final de la guerra.

Este agosto ha sido caluroso, pero agosto de 1945 fue más caluroso por más de una razón.

Y ese es mi punto de vista hoy. Agur.



A POINT OF VIEW © 1996

By Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, CCP

An August hotter than most

As a writer and publisher of fifty-four fiction and non-fiction books and hundreds of articles, I have found that some of my non-fiction stories might make it excellent fictional creations. This is one of them.

Recently, Americans have been drawn to theatres to watch a new film entitled "Oppenheimer." It is about Julius Robert Oppenheimer, an American theoretical physicist and director of the Manhattan Project's Los Alamos Laboratory during World War II and often credited as the "father of the atomic bomb." The attraction awakened by that fascination reminded me of an interesting period of my life.

For several years in my banking career, my bilingual and minority status gave me and my organization an opportunity to interact with community organizations that needed banking and other social services.

In 1977, the Federal Government enacted the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), against a backdrop of urban decay and a lack of banking investment in their communities. Congress decided that banks had a continuing and affirmative obligation to help meet the credit needs of their local communities, including low- and moderate-income (LMI) neighborhoods where they are chartered, consistent with the safe operations of the institutions.

Banks reacted by appointing a credible CRA officer who would be responsible for compliance with the law and, after I attended a Washington DC meeting of Operation Bankers that year, my organization gave me that responsibility.

My duties were meeting minority businesspeople who needed financing, attending community groups meetings, discussing the law with our own lending staff, offering interviews on radio and television like the well-known Chanel 56 program De Todo Un Poco, and reporting our level of performance to the Boards of Directors of the banks that were part of our Bank Holding Company.

One such bank, our Quincy Massachusetts subsidiary, wanted me to give their directors a report on the requirements of the law and my impression of the response by their officers to date. One crisp late summer afternoon, I packed my documentation and brochures and drove to their headquarters to meet the directors.

My reception was friendly. The directors were willing to make a positive impact on their community and see it prosper and grow. During a pause of the meeting, several of the directors excused themselves to take a brief break. It was at that point that the President of the bank asked me if I knew all the directors.

"I don't think I do," I answered.

"Well, do you know Sweeney?" he replied.

"I think I met him a couple of times when we had meetings at the Holding Company headquarters, but I am not sure," I volunteered.

"If you don't know him, try to know him better. He is a great guy. His name is actually Retired Major General Charles W. Sweeney, he is seventy-four years old, and he was the pilot of Bockscar, the plane that dropped the atomic bomb in Nagasaki that ended the war with Japan."

I thought I was going to fall from my chair. I couldn't conceive that this friendly senior citizen who had been sitting next to me joking had been cool enough to fly over that city and, under orders from our US President Harry S. Truman, dropped one of the two bombs that killed 126,000 in Hiroshima and 250,000 in Nagasaki, mostly civilian Japanese, and had survived to tell it, or actually not tell it. He never spoke or bragged about it.

And it didn't get better when he told me that he had been to Havana, Cuba. He, and other flyers, went to Cuba for sun and relaxation during the months before their B29 planes got into atomic action. They used to land at La Cayuga, an airfield built during the Second World War by the USA at San Antonio de los Baños next to La Armonía, the farm where my paternal grandparents lived. I remembered meeting some of the American flyers when I visited the farm as a child. One of them Harry, was flirting for a while with my cousin Sylvia, now defunct.

That the same man was now working his butt off trying to help those who lived near him build their community gives you an idea of the dedicated military mind who goes to war and then returns to civilian and family life.

My grandsons were interested in the "Oppenheimer" movie mentioned above and saw it. Knowing about my old business connection with one of the pilots that were responsible for delivering one of the bombs, I ordered "War's End" for us, a book I recommend that Major General Sweeney (1919-2004) wrote telling in full detail what he went through before, during and after fulfilling his unique military mission.

The bombing actions took place on August 6 and 9, 1945, seventy-eight years ago; Japan surrendered that August 15, and signed their agreement to end all hostilities on September 2nd aboard the USS Missouri, with US General Douglas MacArthur in attendance.

On that, August 15, the streets around Jose Martí's Central Park in Havana, not too distant from my home, went wild with mass demonstrations of joy. Listening to the news on the radio, my mother grabbed me and took me to the park, where we saw the singing crowds and the display of marquee flashing lights announcing the surrender of Japan ending the war.

This August has been hot, but August of 1945 was hotter for more reasons than one.

And that is my Point of View today. So long.

"Nuestra libertad depende de la libertad de prensa y no puede ser limitada pues la perderemos."

"Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost."

- Thomas Jefferson

Una criatura de consuelo: Mini pony hace una visita de terapia a su antiguo propietario en High Pointe House

Durante más de una década, Dianne Thomes de Dracut acompañó a su mini pony, Jewel de 27 pulgadas de altura, a más de 25 visitas de terapia con mascotas en centros de enfermería en todo Greater Lowell. El 7 de julio, fue el turno de Jewel de consolar a Dianne en High Pointe House en Haverhill, la residencia de hospicio y cuidados paliativos de Tufts Medicine Care at Home.

Lamentablemente, resultaría ser la última vez de Dianne con Jewel, de 16 años, a quien adoptó con solo 4 meses. Dianne falleció luego de una larga enfermedad en High Pointe House el 11 de julio.

"Dianne estaba en un estado difícil, así que fue maravilloso ver la linda sonrisa en su rostro", dijo Fred Thomes, el esposo de Dianne. "Fue una buena experiencia. Realmente buena."

Dianne tuvo otros seis miniponis a lo largo de su vida, pero Jewel era especial. Reconociendo su temperamento equilibrado y otros dones, Dianne obtuvo la certificación de Jewel en Dog Talk LLC, un centro de entrenamiento de terapia con mascotas y santuario de bienestar para animales de compañía y sus humanos en Pelham, N.H.

Sin embargo, Dianne admitió que las visitas de terapia con mascotas de Jewel eran un "servicio de amor", ya que cualquier compensación nominal no se acercaba a cubrir los gastos de viaje y otros.

"Valió la pena ver lo mucho que Jewel y los residentes del hogar de ancianos disfrutaron de las visitas", dijo Dianne mientras Jewel bajaba suavemente la cabeza hacia la cama para acariciarla.

Jewel estuvo acompañada a High Pointe House por Michelle Lemay y su hija de 7 años, Sydney. La familia Lemay se hizo cargo del cuidado de Jewel y de otro minipony, Lacy, en su granja en Derry, N.H., cuando se volvió demasiado para Dianne hace cuatro años. Lacy murió a los 25 años en 2021.

"Jewel relincha como un caballo, pero mucho más suave. Además, le encantan las zanahorias", aconsejó Sydney. Si bien Jewel, que usa un pañal de caballo atado a su arnés durante las visitas de terapia, no suele entrar a la casa, lo hizo una vez para ser la estrella invitada en el show-and-tell

de la escuela de Sydney por Zoom.

Aunque Jewel no había ido a una visita de terapia en años, Michelle dijo que estaba gratamente sorprendida de lo rápido que se adaptó.

"En casa, Jewel puede ser malhumorada y mandona, por lo que fue genial verla en su elemento. Era tan tranquila y encantadora con todos; se notaba que realmente lo disfrutó", dijo Michelle, emocionándose al contar cómo Dianne las animó a ella y a Sydney a "llevar a Jewel a tantas visitas como quisieran".

"Fue un momento tan especial y de círculo completo, sabiendo cuánta alegría Dianne y Jewel habían brindado a las personas en una situación similar todos esos años", agregó Michelle. "Ser capaz de hacer esto por Dianne fue bastante espectacular, eso es seguro".

Según la trabajadora social clínica Danica Grillo, LCSW, ACHP-SW, fue la primera, pero espero que no la última, visita de terapia con mascotas de un mini pony en High Pointe House.

"Jewel disfrutó tanto de volver a ponerse las 'herraduras' de su terapia con mascotas que también visitó a otros pacientes ese día", dijo Danica, y señaló que los animales de terapia, así como las mascotas de los pacientes, son bienvenidos en High Pointe House. "Siempre es inspirador presenciar el apoyo emocional y la variedad de beneficios terapéuticos que las mascotas y los animales de terapia brindan a los pacientes. Después de todo, no hay mejor ejemplo de amor incondicional".

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



Jewel visitando a Dianne Thomes en High Pointe House en Haverhill.

A Creature comfort: Mini pony makes therapy visit to former owner at High Pointe House

For more than a decade, Dianne Thomes of Dracut accompanied her mini pony, 27-inch tall Jewel, to over 25 pet therapy visits at nursing facilities throughout Greater Lowell. On July 7, it was Jewel's turn to comfort Dianne at High Pointe House in Haverhill, the hospice and palliative care residence of Tufts Medicine Care at Home.

Sadly, it would prove to be Dianne's last time with 16-year-old Jewel, whom she adopted at just 4 months old. Dianne passed away following a lengthy illness at High Pointe House on July 11.

"Dianne was in tough shape, so it was wonderful to see the nice smile on her face," said Fred Thomes, Dianne's husband. "It was a good experience. Really good."

Dianne owned six other mini ponies throughout her lifetime, but Jewel was special. Recognizing her even temperament and other gifts, Dianne had Jewel certified at Dog Talk LLC, a pet therapy training center and wellness sanctuary for companion animals and their humans in Pelham, N.H.

Yet Dianne admitted that Jewel's pet therapy visits were a "service of love," since any nominal compensation didn't come close to covering travel and other expenses.

"It was worth it to see how much Jewel and the nursing home residents all enjoyed the visits," Dianne said as Jewel gently lowered her head to the bedside for a nuzzle.

Jewel was accompanied to High Pointe House by Michelle Lemay and her 7-year-old daughter, Sydney. The Lemay family took over caring for Jewel and another mini pony, Lacy, at their farm in Derry, N.H. when it became too much for Dianne four years ago. Lacy died at age 25 in 2021.

"Jewel whinnies like a horse, but much softer. Also, she loves carrots," advised Sydney. While Jewel – who wears a horse diaper attached to her harness during therapy visits – doesn't typically

come inside the house, she did so once to guest-star in Sydney's Zoom school show-and-tell.

Even though Jewel hadn't gone on a therapy visit in years, Michelle said she was pleasantly surprised at how quickly she adapted.

"At home, Jewel can be cranky and bossy, so it was neat to see her in her element. She was so calm and lovely with everyone; you could tell she really enjoyed it," said Michelle, becoming emotional as she recounted how Dianne encouraged her and Sydney to "take Jewel on as many visits as you like."

"It was such a special and full-circle moment, knowing how much joy Dianne and Jewel had brought to people in a similar situation all those years," Michelle added. "Being able to do this for Dianne was pretty spectacular, that's for sure."

According to clinical social worker Danica Grillo, LCSW, ACHP-SW, it was the first but hopefully not last pet therapy visit by a mini pony at High Pointe House.

"Jewel enjoyed stepping back into her pet therapy 'horseshoes' so much that she visited other patients that day as well," said Danica, noting that therapy animals as well as patients' pets are welcome at High Pointe House. "It's always inspiring to witness the emotional support and range of therapeutic benefits that pets and therapy animals provide to patients. After all, there is no better example of unconditional love."

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

"Friendship... is not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything."

MUHAMMAD ALI

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>

Merrimack Valley Credit Union Celebrates Winners of the James A. Burley Jr. Scholarship

The credit union honored the scholastic achievements of three local students

On Tuesday, August 1, Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) awarded a total of \$10,000 in scholarships to three local high school and college students. The students were honored with a special ceremony at the credit union's Waltham office, followed by a lunch with the students, their families and members of MVCU's senior management team.

The James A. Burley Jr. Scholarship was founded in 2007 by the former RTN Federal Credit Union. Burley Jr. was a passionate member of the credit union community who served on RTN's board of directors for 39 years and held the position of board chair for 33 years.

To be eligible for the award, students had to be either a current member or a dependent of a current MVCU member. All full-time students are eligible to apply for this scholarship, regardless of their year in school. To complete their application, students responded to the essay question: What's the best advice you've ever received and how did you apply it to your life? The award is given to three students, with the first-place winner receiving a \$5,000 scholarship, second-place winner receiving a \$3,000 scholarship and the third-place winner receiving a \$2,000 scholarship. This year's winners are:

- First Place: Madison Lucchesi of Revere, Mass. Lucchesi will be attending Emerson College this fall.
- Second Place: Rachel Junta of Wakefield, Mass. Junta will be a junior at the University of Massachusetts Amherst this fall.
- Third Place: Kaitlin Rattray of

Gloucester, Mass. Rattray will be attending Northeastern University this fall.

"This transition is so exciting for all of you," said MVCU President & CEO John J. Howard during the reception ceremony. "As you embark on this new chapter, remember that you are building your own legacy and laying the foundation of the rest of your life. We are so proud to be able to support you on this incredible journey."

To learn more about MVCU's scholarship program, please visit <https://www.mvcu.com/scholarship>.

<http://cd3.campaigndispatch.com/admin/temp/newsletters/5653/rtn-scholarship-awards-08-02-2023.jpg>

Founded in 1955, Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) is a state-chartered community and employer-based credit union with more than \$2.3 billion in assets. The corporate office is located in Lawrence, Massachusetts. MVCU currently serves more than 115,000 members in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. MVCU also serves more than 1,100 employer groups, including two major Massachusetts employers, Raytheon Technologies and Brigham and Women's Hospital, and operates 19 retail branches located in Amesbury, Bridgewater, Brookline, Danvers, Dorchester, Fairhaven, Haverhill, Hanover (coming soon), Lawrence, Marlboro, Methuen, North Andover, Plymouth, Quincy, Tewksbury, Waltham and Worcester, Mass., plus Plaistow and Seabrook, N.H. MVCU offers a wide range of savings and loan products, commercial services and digital banking to meet the financial needs of a growing member base.



MVCU President & CEO John J. Howard (left) smiles with the second and third place winners of the James A. Burley Scholarship, Rachel Junta (center, left) and Kaitlin Rattray (center, right) and their families at MVCU's Waltham office.

El presidente y director ejecutivo de MVCU, John J. Howard (izquierda), sonríe con los ganadores del segundo y tercer lugar de la Beca James A. Burley, Rachel Junta (centro, izquierda) y Kaitlin Rattray (centro, derecha) y sus familias en MVCU. Oficina Waltham.

Merrimack Valley Credit Union celebra a los ganadores de la beca James A. Burley Jr.

La cooperativa de ahorro y crédito honró los logros académicos de tres estudiantes locales.

Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) otorgó un total de \$ 10,000 en becas a tres estudiantes locales de secundaria y universidad. Los estudiantes fueron honrados con una ceremonia especial en la oficina de Waltham de la cooperativa de ahorro y crédito, seguida de un almuerzo con los estudiantes, sus familias y miembros del equipo directivo superior de MVCU.

La beca James A. Burley Jr. fue fundada en 2007 por la antigua RTN Federal Credit Union. Burley Jr. fue un miembro apasionado de la comunidad de cooperativas de ahorro y crédito que sirvió en la junta directiva de RTN durante 39 años y ocupó el cargo de presidente de la junta durante 33 años.

Para ser elegible para el premio, los estudiantes tenían que ser miembros actuales o dependientes de un miembro actual de MVCU. Todos los estudiantes de tiempo completo son elegibles para solicitar esta beca, independientemente de su año en la escuela. Para completar su solicitud, los estudiantes respondieron a la pregunta de ensayo: ¿Cuál es el mejor consejo que ha recibido y cómo lo aplicó a su vida? El premio se otorga a tres estudiantes, el ganador del primer lugar recibe una beca de \$5,000, el ganador del segundo lugar recibe una beca de \$3,000 y el ganador del tercer lugar recibe una beca de \$2,000. Los ganadores de este año son:

- Primer lugar: Madison Lucchesi de Revere, Massachusetts. Lucchesi asistirá a Emerson College este otoño.
- Segundo lugar: Rachel Junta de Wakefield, Massachusetts. Junta será estudiante de tercer año en la Universidad de Massachusetts Amherst este otoño.
- Tercer lugar: Kaitlin Rattray de

Gloucester, Mass. Rattray asistirá a la Universidad Northeastern este otoño.

"Esta transición es muy emocionante para todos ustedes", dijo el presidente y director ejecutivo de MVCU, John J. Howard, durante la ceremonia de recepción. "Al embarcarse en este nuevo capítulo, recuerde que está construyendo su propio legado y sentando las bases del resto de su vida. Estamos muy orgullosos de poder apoyarlos en este increíble viaje".

Para obtener más información sobre el programa de becas de MVCU, visite <https://www.mvcu.com/scholarship>.

<http://cd3.campaigndispatch.com/admin/temp/newsletters/5653/rtn-scholarship-awards-08-02-2023.jpg>

Fundada en 1955, Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) es una cooperativa de ahorro y crédito comunitaria autorizada por el estado y basada en el empleador con más de \$2.3 mil millones en activos. La oficina corporativa está ubicada en Lawrence, Massachusetts. MVCU actualmente atiende a más de 115,000 miembros en Massachusetts, New Hampshire y Rhode Island. MVCU también atiende a más de 1100 grupos de empleadores, incluidos dos importantes empleadores de Massachusetts, Raytheon Technologies y Brigham and Women's Hospital, y opera 19 sucursales minoristas ubicadas en Amesbury, Bridgewater, Brookline, Danvers, Dorchester, Fairhaven, Haverhill, Hanover (próximamente), Lawrence, Marlboro, Methuen, North Andover, Plymouth, Quincy, Tewksbury, Waltham y Worcester, Mass., además de Plaistow y Seabrook, N.H. MVCU ofrece una amplia gama de productos de ahorro y préstamo, servicios comerciales y banca digital para satisfacer las necesidades financieras de una creciente base de miembros.

Foster MA
Cada padre crea una diferencia

Sea la diferencia en la vida de un niño

Un hogar estable y cariñoso es importante para todos los niños, especialmente los que podrían haber enfrentado la negligencia o el trauma. En cualquier momento, hay entre 6,000 y 9,000 niños en el cuidado de crianza en Massachusetts, que representan todas las edades, grupos étnicos y niveles económicos. Los padres de crianza en todo Massachusetts brindan hogares seguros y cariñosos en un momento crítico en la vida de los niños.

Usted podría mejorar la vida de un niño. Solicite más información sobre ser un padre de crianza.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF Children & Families
1-800-KIDS-508 | mass.gov/dcf

BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



The Right-to-Shelter law

Yes, Massachusetts has such a law which was designed to protect homeless families. Now, it was extended to newly arrived migrants.

According to a press release from Governor Maura Healy's office:

More than 80 cities and towns across the state are hosting these families, including more than 1,800 families who are residing in hotels and motels, according to the governor's office.

"These numbers are being driven by a surge of new arrivals in our country who've been through some of the hardest journeys imaginable. They are the face of the international migrant crisis. They're here because where they came from is too dangerous to stay," Healey said. "They're here because Massachusetts has and will always be a beacon of hope, compassion, humanity and opportunity."

Massachusetts is the only state in the country with a "right to shelter" law, which guarantees homeless families access to emergency shelter.

On Tuesday night, Mayor Brian DePeña had a Zoom meeting with Governor Healy and several other cities where she asked for help. Although the mayor did not commit to complying with her request, I will not be surprised if they do what they did in Nantucket Island. Once they were here, Massachusetts had to take care of them and there's a rumor that Lawrence will be receiving four busses full of people to be housed here.

My FOIA request

As mentioned last week, I requested under the Freedom of Information Act copies of the time sheet for several city employees that went on vacation and discovered a system that is ripe for failure.

Linette Perez's timesheet was confusing to read and I was told that Captain Ariel Montas was the person who signs her timesheet. Since he doesn't have an extension (I was told), I had to call Teresa Mejía, the chief's secretary, and leave a message for him to call me. My message was clear but I guess it never got to him, even when I left another one recorded on her phone.

I wanted to ask him how come she was out for 6 days and marked Wednesday and Monday of the following week as sick days. Did she know before she left that she was going to be sick on two separate days?

It's not a big deal but it allowed me to understand the system employed by City Hall as someone else explained to me. They can use their vacation time, personal days, and sick days as they wish.

What happens when they use up all of their sick days and they get sick or have an accident? I can smell cheating.

In the case of Luis Almanzar, su supervisor Juan Tejada, wrote 8 hours each day for the entire week as COMP time. These are the extra hours worked for people who cannot get overtime pay and they are compensated with time off. The rule is that if they worked two extra hours (as an example) one day, they should take two hours off during the same week, not accumulate them or save them for vacations.

There's the case of someone at City Hall who works two extra hours one night of the week and then on Friday goes home at midday; that's four hours off. Totally misunderstood the premise and gets away with it.

City Hall is known for not keeping track of vacation time of employees and when they leave city employment, we have to pay them all at once for the vacations they claim were never taken.

Councilors' meeting attendance

A few years ago I counted the attendance to City Council meetings by each councilor for an entire year and I have been toying with the idea again. There's no requirement that city councilors must attend regular meetings or the committees assigned to them. They have no fear that their check will be cut depending on how many they miss.

So, the result is that they schedule vacations or campaign-related events on those nights without concern for the agenda they were supposed to discuss. They even have the option of staying home if they are sick or don't feel well and still participate via Zoom and do the people's work.

When City Councilor at-Large Ana Levy underwent a dangerous surgery, she managed to attend via Zoom and she was wildly criticized for it. But now, María De La Cruz has been missing for months, no meetings at all and not a peep from anyone. She announced a while back that she was not running for reelection for District A and is now acting as if she's done for good. Yes, it is for the good of the city but her term has not ended.

Let's hope that her replacement comes prepared to meetings and knows how to

read and interpret what he or she reads in order to make a rational decision.

With María, we never knew where she stood on issues because sometimes her votes were in opposition to what she argued.

I shouldn't have written all of that; she might come back to attend the meetings just for spite.

This comment may apply as well to State Representative Estela Reyes who refused to give up her councilor seat until the next election in order to keep her finger on big decisions in the city. Sometimes she has to work late in the State House and others, she's too tired to attend meetings and her attendance is awful!

While the city council doesn't keep track of attendance of its members, they also don't keep track of their own rules. I have been careful not to write about why José Alfonso García resigned as executive director of Inspectional Services because I consider him a friend and didn't want to sound prejudiced by that.

The members of the city council made his stay impossible by refusing to appoint him permanently belittling him and treating him in a condescending way, something that should never be done to a city employee in public. He lost the respect of his department and was forced to resign.

Mayor Brian DePeña could have ignored the council and allowed him to stay indefinitely (as other mayors have done) but decided not to fight it.

Other employees working for the city who have not been appointed permanently on their jobs and remain in an "acting" capacity like Adderly Gonzalez, recreation coordinator who has been there since 2021. He was appointed by Kendrys Vásquez.

In the recent past, the former Personnel Director Gina LaGreca appointed Franklin

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.

Miguel, Pedro Soto, Pat Ruiz, and Michael Armano, to name a few, all on an "acting" basis. Brian has always sent his nominees to the council for approval and this is what he gets.

And James Hurley had been working in the Water Department since December 21, 2020, as a temporary worker. When the mayor told him that he had to be appointed as a permanent employee, he decided to quit.

Two sets of rules or just preferential treatment?

Speaking of being able to read...

Last week's column brought out lots of misunderstandings – of course, nobody had the guts to call me to ask for clarification – I found out on social media.

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote about people who can't understand what they read, particularly if they are predisposed to an idea and want to fit the text into their thoughts. They'll never understand it because being accepting of what you are reading is the way to comprehend. Then, you may decide if you agree with it or not.

But, there's hope!

We have people in this community who care yet they go unnoticed not looking for photo ops or recognition.

Every Saturday morning, we can see Les Bernal walking a few blocks along Mt. Vernon St. with a bucket picking up trash from the neighborhood. You may think it's not a big deal but he inspires people to feel that they should be doing it as well.

We all are responsible for the cleanliness in this city and Les is doing his part.

Thank you, Les.

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In addition to being an NFL Agent, Sean is also the author of *No Backing Down*. Working as an agent for NFL stars, Sean is no stranger to strength. Off the field, it's his daughter who's inspired him. Gianna recently achieved remission with an auto-immune disease and to spread the message of the disease, goal setting and motivation, Sean and Gianna wrote the book *Football Magic*. The Book provides valuable lessons about perseverance and standing tall against adversity that are valuable to any Next Generation Leader! *Football Magic* has endorsements from Patriots Coach *Bill Belichick*, legendary NFL Player *Doug Flutie* and dozens of others.

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Estados de 2023 con los mejores y peores sistemas de educación temprana

Adam McCann, escritor financiero de WalletHub 1 de agosto de 2023

Si bien las buenas escuelas primarias, secundarias y universidades son factores importantes que los padres deben considerar al elegir dónde establecerse, la disponibilidad de educación preescolar de calidad es igualmente crucial. Los niños inscritos en programas de educación temprana tienen más probabilidades de estar académicamente preparados para los grados futuros, así como también tienen tasas de graduación más altas y un mayor potencial de ingresos que aquellos que no están inscritos, según la Asociación Nacional de Educación. Además, se ha demostrado que quienes asisten a programas de prekínder tienen menos riesgo de cometer delitos en el futuro que quienes no lo hacen. Además, una estimación muestra que cada dólar invertido en programas de educación temprana para

familias desfavorecidas puede generar \$7.30 en beneficios económicos debido a su impacto en ayudar a los niños a crecer y convertirse en adultos más sanos y con mayores ingresos.

A pesar de los beneficios de la educación temprana, solo 11 estados ofrecen programas universales de prekínder, aunque un número creciente podría implementarlos en el futuro.

Para ayudar a los padres a encontrar los estados con los mejores sistemas de educación temprana, WalletHub comparó los 50 estados y el Distrito de Columbia en 12 métricas clave, incluida la proporción de distritos escolares que ofrecen un programa estatal de prekínder, la cantidad de puntos de referencia de calidad de prekínder alcanzados y gasto total informado por niño matriculado en prekínder.

Massachusetts tiene el tercer peor sistema de educación temprana en Estados Unidos: estudio de WalletHub

Con solo 11 estados que actualmente ofrecen educación preescolar universal, el sitio web de finanzas personales WalletHub publicó hoy su informe sobre los estados de 2023 con los mejores y peores sistemas de educación temprana, así como comentarios de expertos.

Para determinar los mejores sistemas de educación temprana en Estados Unidos, WalletHub comparó los 50 estados y el Distrito de Columbia en 12 métricas clave. El conjunto de datos varía desde la proporción de distritos escolares que ofrecen un programa estatal de prekínder hasta la cantidad de puntos de referencia de calidad de prekínder cumplidos y el gasto total informado por niño inscrito en prekínder.

Calidad de la educación temprana en Massachusetts (1=mejor; 25=promedio):

- 23: Porcentaje de niños de 3 y 4 años inscritos en prekínder, educación especial de prekínder y Head Start
- 30: Requisito de ingresos para la elegibilidad estatal para prekínder
- 38: Gasto total informado por niño matriculado en preescolar
- 29: Crecimiento del programa de prekínder
- 22: Cambio en el gasto estatal por niño inscrito en preescolar

Para ver el informe completo, visite: <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-the-best-and-worst-early-education-systems/62668>

2023's States with the Best & Worst Early Education Systems

Adam McCann, WalletHub Financial Writer Aug 1, 2023

While good elementary schools, high schools and colleges are important factors for parents to consider when choosing where to settle down, the availability of quality pre-K education is just as crucial. Children enrolled in early education programs are more likely to be academically prepared for future grades, as well as have higher graduation rates and higher earning potential than those who are not enrolled, according to the National Education Association. In addition, those who attend pre-K programs have been shown to have less risk of future crime than those who do not. Plus, one estimate shows that every dollar invested in early education

programs for disadvantaged families may generate \$7.30 in economic benefits due to its impact on helping children grow up to be healthier, higher-earning adults.

Despite the benefits of early education, only 11 states offer universal pre-K programs, though a growing number may implement it in the future.

To help parents find the states with the best early education systems, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 12 key metrics, including share of school districts that offer a state pre-K program, number of pre-K quality benchmarks met and total reported spending per child enrolled in pre-K.

Massachusetts Has the 3rd Worst Early Education System in America – WalletHub Study

With only 11 states currently offering universal pre-K education, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2023's States with the Best & Worst Early Education Systems, as well as expert commentary.

In order to determine the best early education systems in America, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 12 key metrics. The data set ranges from share of school districts that offer a state pre-K program to number of pre-K quality benchmarks met and total reported spending per child enrolled in pre-K.

Quality of Early Education in Massachusetts (1=Best; 25=Avg.):

- 23rd – Share of 3- and 4-year-olds Enrolled in pre-K, pre-K Special Education and Head Start
- 30th – Income Requirement for State Pre-K Eligibility
- 38th – Total Reported Spending per Child Enrolled in Preschool
- 29th – Pre-K Program Growth
- 22nd – Change in State Spending per Child Enrolled in Preschool

For the full report, please visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-the-best-and-worst-early-education-systems/62668>

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NECC Athletics Golf Tournament

The Northern Essex Community College Department of Athletics in conjunction with the NECC Foundation, Inc. is proud to host an our 6th annual golf tournament on Monday, August 28th at the Renaissance Golf Club located in Haverhill, MA. Due to popular demand and to improve pace of play and your time, we are offering both a morning and afternoon tournament this year.


We hope that you would consider supporting this event and join us as a participant, sponsor or both! Proceeds from the event will benefit the college's growing athletic department as we strive to provide enhanced intercollegiate athletic opportunities for students throughout the Merrimack Valley, North Shore and beyond.

The NECC Athletic Program had a record setting 2022-23 year as every team sport qualified for post-season

play, while the men's basketball and baseball teams both won regional and district championships to advance to the national stage. Basketball finished 5th in country while baseball claimed a 3rd place finish. As a department, NECC claimed its first ever top 30 finish in the NATYCAA/Daktronics Cup based on overall department success. The year also saw six student-athletes earn All-America status, an additional seven students earned NJCAA Academic All-America for their work in the classroom.

Please find details on sponsorship and participation opportunities that are available and the benefits associated with them on the attached document.

For additional information or sign up to play, you may also visit our website at: www.necc.mass.edu/golf or contact Dan Blair, Director of Athletics at dblair@necc.mass.edu or at 978-556-3820.



NECC Athletics Golf Tournament

Monday, August 28, 2023

Haverhill, MA | 2 Flights to choose from

Join Northern Essex Community College alumni and friends for our Golf Tournament with your choice of a 7:30 AM Morning Flight or a 1:30 PM Afternoon Flight. Proceeds benefit the NECC Athletic Program. The tournament will be held at the award-winning Renaissance Golf Club.

Morning Flight: SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- 6:30 AM - Registration
- 7:30 AM - Shotgun Start; Scramble
- 12:00 PM - Lunch

Afternoon Flight: SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- 12:00 PM - Registration
- 1:30 PM - Shotgun Start; Scramble
- 6:00 PM - Dinner

REGISTRATION INFORMATION (increases on August 1:

Morning Flight - Individual Golfer \$185/Foursome \$740

Afternoon Flight - Individual Golfer \$200/Foursome \$800

Fees include:

- Green fees
- Golfer gift bag
- Round of 18 holes with a cart
- Under Armour top
- Awards lunch morning flight or dinner afternoon flight

For more information, visit www.necc.mass.edu/golf or contact Dan Blair at dblair@necc.mass.edu or 978-556-3820.



Cecropia Strong Doubles the Number of Grants to Windrush Farm!

North Andover, Windrush Farm and Cecropia Strong are proud to announce new grants for therapeutic riding in North Andover. Now, thanks to the generosity of Cecropia Strong, more adults with disabilities can experience the joy of horseback riding.

“Riding at Windrush Farm is a remarkable experience,” Julie Hahnke, Cecropia Strong’s President, attests. “And we’ve made it even more accessible,” she adds. “We’ve doubled the number of grants and we’ve increased the value of each one. Twelve weeks of lessons would normally cost \$840, but we’ve reduced that to \$120! Tell your friends that financially challenged folks can enjoy the wonder of riding!”

At Windrush Farm, riders can explore the woods and fields around the farm on the back of a well-trained horse under the guidance of certified instructors and volunteers. It is an activity like no other which increases physical strength and provides the opportunity to bond with your therapy horse.

Windrush Farm is accepting applications for a need-based grant from adults with a physical disability who would like to participate in the fall session of therapeutic riding lessons at Windrush Farm.

For further information please email programs@windrushfarm.org.

Julie Hahnke founded Cecropia Strong after a stroke upended her life. She wanted to give back, and those with disabilities are an under-represented group. Cecropia Strong’s funded programs include Amy’s Gifts of Hope, which delivers over \$1,000 of gifts each month to the newly disabled at Spaulding Rehab Hospital; Assistive Technology Hackathons, which create tools to allow folks with disabilities to do

something they can’t otherwise do on their own; Driver Rehabilitation Grants that are given with the Central MASS Safety Council to aid in adaptive-equipment training and driver rehabilitation; The Phillips Family Aphasia Program Grants, which support Boston-area universities and hospitals with patient programs that treat aphasia; and the Therapeutic Riding Grants. These are programs that address real needs and offer hope and progress for those with physical disabilities. Please visit <https://www.cecropiastrong.org> to learn more about our work.

For more information on Cecropia Strong contact:

Julie Hahnke
 Founder and President, Cecropia Strong
 781-771-8721
jhahnke@comcast.net

About Windrush Farm

Windrush Farm in North Andover provides quality equine-assisted services for children and adults facing physical, cognitive and emotional challenges. Services include therapeutic riding, unmounted programs, and other horse-related activities. Founded in 1964, Windrush is one of the oldest and largest therapeutic riding centers in the United States and a Premier Center accredited by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl). Visit <https://www.windrushfarm.org> to learn more about the farm’s activities and mission.

For more information on Windrush Farm contact:

Janet Nittmann
 CEO, Windrush Farm 978-844-1947
janet.nittmann@windrushfarm.org



Julie Hahnke, President of Cecropia Strong, at Windrush Farm.

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Stop the Current Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance in Lowell

Started by Christina Mehan
August 1, 2023

Why this petition matters

PLEASE ACT NOW!! STOP THE NEW ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU) ORDINANCE IN LOWELL

On July 17, 2023, the City of Lowell Planning Board unanimously voted a **NEGATIVE RECOMMENDATION** to the City Council in regards to this ordinance as it is written. The Chairman of the Lowell Planning Board stated that if this passes "as is" it will eradicate single-family zoning. In addition, the Planning Board gave the Vice Chairman of the Planning Board permission to speak officially on behalf of the Planning Board at the Lowell City Council meeting held on July 25, 2023 to reiterate the Board's opposition of this ordinance as written.

The current proposed Accessory Dwelling Unit Draft ordinance will negatively impact our entire city by increasing the density of the city while lacking:

- Language that requires applicants to obtain a special permit via the Planning Board. The current "by right" language means that if ADU applicants meet the building code criteria and obtain the required permits, they can bypass the land-use or zoning board process; they can bypass the existing gatekeepers of land-use bodies within the city including the Planning Board.
- The ability to enforce: The design review process, the inspection requirements, the number of occupants or the homeowner occupancy requirement. The city of Lowell is behind on inspection of approximately 20,000 rental units and currently approximately 68% of rental properties in Lowell are owned by nonresidents.
- Requirements in regards to minimum lot size, maximum number of bedrooms, maximum number of occupants.
- Long-term studies as to the impact such an ordinance would have on our neighborhoods and the city as a whole in regards to necessity, enforcement, regulation, density, parking, safety or environmental impacts.
- A study or supporting documentation that this ordinance would actually create more affordable housing. Although proponents of the ordinance argue it will provide "affordable housing," the terms are never used in the wording of the ordinance and there are no stipulations regarding rental caps.
- Data in regards to how many single-family homes would be allowed to build these units.
- Requirements addressing ADA compliance.
- Maximum limit for the number of vehicles allowed. Although the ordinance stipulates one off-street parking spot, most households have more than one vehicle which will only add to the on-street parking.
- Exemption for historical districts.
- Input from residents and neighborhood groups.

This ordinance is essentially an attempt to override existing zoning laws that are in place to prevent this EXACT scenario. Single-family zones would be eradicated in Lowell based on the definition of a 2-family home by Fannie Mae. Fannie Mae states that 2-family units vs a 1-unit ADU is based

on the characteristics of the property. It is more likely to be a 2 family if:

- The unit has its own mailing address. This is not stipulated in the ordinance.
- If the unit has more than 2 bedrooms it is a 2 family. This ordinance allows for that because there is no maximum number of bedrooms.
- If the unit has its own private entrance and has no access to the primary dwelling area, it is a 2-family unit.
- If a 2-family unit is legal under the current zoning.
- If zoning allows the unit to be rented. This will be true.
- If the unit is currently and legally used as a rental unit. This will be true.
- If the property generates additional revenues or income from its occupants. This will also be true.
- If the property has been marketed as a rental. This will be true.

By definition, this draft has 5 of the 8 (if not more) characteristics that define a 2-family residence. This confirms that the city is creating a change in zoning.

The ordinance sites surrounding towns that allow ADUs. However, it fails to mention that these towns have less than one-third the population of Lowell. It fails to point out that these towns have larger lot size requirements. It also fails to mention that, despite their very strict and specific requirements, these towns require special permits via the Planning Board in order to build attached in-law units meant for family members, not for units that can be rented to the public.

Here are the Planning Board's reasons for the negative recommendation:

1. The Board expressed concerns about the potential increases to density that the proposed ADU ordinance may create.
2. The Board expressed concern about allowing ADUs, particularly detached ADUs, 'by-right' rather than by special permit (bypass the existing gatekeepers of land-use bodies within the city including the Planning Board).
3. The Board suggested revisiting the minimum parking requirement created in the ordinance and investigating maximum parking requirements.
4. The Board recommended further research into the lot sizes in each zoning district in the city as they relate to the proposed ordinance.
5. The Board recommended further research into detached dwelling units and their effects on neighborhood character as well as a design review process for detached ADUs.
6. The Board expressed concern regarding the monitoring and administration of the owner occupancy requirement.
7. The Board requested to add a definition of "short-term rental" to the proposed zoning amendment package.

THERE IS ALREADY A SOLUTION IN THE WORKS!

- As stated at the Planning Board July 17, 2023 meeting, Lowell ALREADY HAS the minimal low-income housing required by Massachusetts General Laws.
- The city of Lowell ALREADY HAS policies regarding ADUs.
- Lowell has currently contracted to develop the Lowell Forward Master Plan and Housing Production that is costing \$447,975 (\$250,000 in the form of grant money and \$197,000 paid for by the city)



to study and make recommendations about housing in the city. The city is not waiting for the results of these studies before implementing what is essentially a change in zoning. Why is this being funded if the city is not going to wait for the recommendations???

In conclusion, this ordinance will completely change the character of all of our Lowell neighborhoods by erasing all the single-family zones of the city. Our city is far too dense as it is! With SO MUCH confusion during the last City Council meeting it is clear that THIS ORDINANCE NEEDS TO GO BACK TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE to be rewritten to include, at the bare minimum, the recommendations of the Planning Board.

Lowell is currently the 7th most dense community in Massachusetts.

We have already witnessed the consequences of this type of action. Lowell residents have stated that they have experienced neighborhoods where multifamily units were allowed and over the years this immensely degraded the character of the neighborhood resulting in these residents having to move to other areas of the city. If this ordinance passes 'as is' we will see this happen city wide. Residents will not be able to relocate to another area of the city, they will simply move to a surrounding town. And with no ability to enforce any portion of this process, absentee landlords will increase.

The Senior Planner in the city of Lowell stated at the July 25 City Council meeting that the "vast majority of lots in the city of Lowell are non-confirming in terms of size with the underlying zoning district." If lot sizes are already non-confirming, wouldn't it be reasonable to conclude that we should not be making it easier to build ADUs?

Additional affordable housing (again, not mentioned in the ordinance) should be created in the appropriate areas with access to public transportation, shopping and services. There are plenty of abandoned/unused properties within the city of Lowell that would be very well suited to fill these needs if refurbished/repurposed.

These zoning changes should not be done to promote individual political gain and it should not be done in order to obtain federal funding.

If not done correctly this will have horrible consequences that cannot be undone. We should not let our city become an experiment.

The Planning Board are the professionals in this area, let them perform their duties.

Please sign this petition to show your support to have this ordinance sent back to the subcommittee to be rewritten inclusive of the Planning Board recommendations!! We are not saying 'no,' we are saying 'not as it is written.'

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!!!

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Cómo convertirse en un PADRE DE CRIANZA

Estas preparaciones para ser un padre de crianza permiten que usted y su niño de crianza tengan una experiencia exitosa. Se ofrecen apoyo y recursos antes y durante el cuidado.

El DCF no garantiza que el niño de crianza que usted adopta sea seguro, saludable o que el niño de crianza que usted adopta sea seguro, saludable o que el niño de crianza que usted adopta sea seguro, saludable.

PASO 1
COMUNIQUESE CON EL DCF PARA HACER PREGUNTAS Y EXPRESAR SU INTERÉS
Teléfono: (800) 832-5068
Web: mass.gov/DCF

PASO 2
COMPLETE UN FORMULARIO DE SOLICITUD
El DCF le brindará el formulario de solicitud del cuidado de crianza, que debe completar y devolver.

PASO 3
APRUEBE UNA VERIFICACIÓN DE SEGURIDAD
El DCF visitará su vivienda y realizará una verificación de normas básicas sobre el espacio y la seguridad y una verificación de antecedentes de todas las personas que viven en su casa.

PASO 4
PARTICIPE EN EL MÉTODO DE MASSACHUSETTS EN LAS ASOCIACIONES PARA LA PATERIDAD (MAPP POR SUS SIGLAS EN INGLÉS)
Los padres de crianza elegibles quedarán registrados para recibir 30 horas de entrenamientos. Hay varios entrenamientos que se ofrecen en todo el estado.

PASO 5
UNA TRABAJADORA SOCIAL COMPLETA UN ESTUDIO DE LICENCIA
Una trabajadora social visitará su hogar y lo entrevistará a usted y a los miembros de su familia, así como verificará sus referencias personales.

PASO 6
EL DCF APRUEBA SU HOGAR PARA LA COLOCACIÓN
¡Felicidades, está listo para ser padre de crianza! El DCF se ocupará de encontrar el mejor niño de crianza para su familia.