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The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

Irish Heritage Month March 2024  
Lawrence, Massachusetts  
Preserving and Fostering our  
Heritage and Culture

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## New Accelerated Care Unit opens at Lawrence General Hospital Emergency Center

Charlie and Liz Dahir on hand to cut the ceremonial ribbon as their family's \$500,000 donation helped pave the way for construction of the innovative new unit



(Photo by Johnson Photography, Inc.)

Charlie Dahir (center, with scissors) cuts a ceremonial ribbon to open Lawrence General's Accelerated Care Unit that bears his family's name Friday, March 22, as hospital President and CEO Dr. Abha Agrawal, hospital staff, local leaders and donors look on. The Dahir family donated \$500,000 to build Lawrence General's new ACU, as it's known, to care for patients as an extension of Lawrence General Hospital's Emergency Center. LGH's Emergency Center is also a Level III Trauma Center.

### Artificial Intelligence- The new line on the sand?

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### Inteligencia Artificial: ¿la nueva línea en la arena?

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## Senator and Representatives Unveil Juan Pablo Duarte Bust



Mayor DePeña had the honor along with Governor Maura Healey, Senator Payano, State Representatives, City Councilors, and other Delegations to attend the unveiling of Juan Pablo Duarte Bust at the State House. This event marks a significant moment in recognizing the cultural diversity and contributions of the Dominican community in Massachusetts.

"It's great to hear that the unveiling of the Juan Pablo Duarte bust at the State House serves as a reminder of the lasting impact of his legacy on the Dominican Republic and its community. It was also heartening to see Governor Maura Healey attending the event and speaking on the importance of continuing to fight for freedom and democracy, just like Juan Pablo Duarte did for his country. Thank you to everyone who joined the event," said Mayor DePeña.

El Alcalde Brian A. DePeña tuvo el honor junto con la Gobernadora Maura Healey, el Senador Payano, Representantes Estatales, Concejales municipales y otras delegaciones de asistir al desvelo del busto de Juan Pablo Duarte en la Casa de Estado. Este evento marca un momento significativo en el reconocimiento de la diversidad cultural y las contribuciones de la comunidad dominicana en Massachusetts.

"Es commovedor escuchar que el desvelo del busto de Juan Pablo Duarte en la Casa de Gobierno sirve como recordatorio del impacto duradero de su legado en la República Dominicana y su comunidad. También fue emocionante ver a la Gob. Maura Healey asistir al evento y hablar sobre la importancia de seguir luchando por la libertad y la democracia, tal como lo hizo Juan Pablo Duarte por su país. Gracias a todos los que se unieron al evento", dijo el Alcalde DePeña.

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Por/By Dalia Diaz  
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# Happy first day of spring!!



Join us in celebrating the first day of spring by supporting our Cogswell ArtSpace Campaign and getting tickets to our upcoming fundraiser Spring Has Sprung, presented by Stephen Janavicus of Flowers by Steve!

The event will be held on Sunday, April 7th at 11:00 am at the Indian Ridge Country Club in Andover, MA. Immerse yourself in the beauty of this floral-themed brunch, featuring an array of delights such as plant sales, live floral arrangement designs, curated raffle baskets, and a floral-based art silent auction – all crafted to

support our Cogswell ArtSpace Campaign. We hope to see you there!

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## Temporary Changes to Lowell Commuter Rail Schedule Take Effect March 25

Will facilitate critical construction work on Winchester Station, High Line Bridge, as well as safety and maintenance projects

Boston (March 21, 2024) The MBTA and Keolis Commuter Services (Keolis), the operating partner for the MBTA Commuter Rail, have announced a temporary schedule change on the Lowell Line. Eight mid-day trains will temporarily be eliminated to accommodate several important construction projects taking place on the line. The change will take effect at the beginning of service on March 25 and conclude in May.

The temporary schedule adjustment will allow for replacement of rail ties, as well as facilitate ongoing construction work on Winchester Center station, the Fiber Resiliency Project, and the High Line Bridge work.

The following inbound trains will not operate: 314, 318, 322, and 326.

The following outbound trains are also suspended: 311, 315, 319, and 323.

Peak inbound and outbound service

will not be affected. An updated full schedule can be found at [www.mbta.com/schedules/commuter-rail](http://www.mbta.com/schedules/commuter-rail).

Passengers can stay connected with Commuter Rail by calling customer service at 617-222-3200, following @MBTA\_CR on X or signing up for T-Alerts at [www.mbta.com/alerts](http://www.mbta.com/alerts).

Keolis Commuter Services has operated and maintained the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's commuter rail system, the fifth largest commuter rail operation in North America, for ten years. KCS is a subsidiary of Keolis North America (KNA), both headquartered in Boston, and employs approximately 2,400 people throughout the region. KCS and KNA are part of Keolis Group, an innovative global leader in transit services with more than a century of passenger transportation experience and operations in 13 countries.

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- Session Schedule & Descriptions
- Speaker Bios
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The Lawrence History Center will be CLOSED FOR CONSTRUCTION, effective 2/7/2024 and until further notice. We expect to be closed for several weeks while new HVAC systems are installed in our main building and in two outer buildings.

## Rumbo

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\*APR denotes Annual Percentage Rate as of 3/20/24 and is based on a \$550,000 purchase loan with minimum credit score of 680 and maximum LTV of 95%. Unit cost per \$1,000 borrowed is \$5.84. Minimum loan amount is \$100,000, maximum loan amount is \$550,000 with a maximum purchase price of \$667,500. Owner-occupied condominiums or single-family primary residences in Essex County only. Offer subject to credit approval. Property insurance required. Flood insurance required if the property is located in a FEMA Special Hazard Flood Zone. Monthly payment examples do not include escrow amounts for real estate taxes, PMI and/or insurance, if applicable. This may increase payment amount. Other terms and conditions may apply. Rate is subject to change without notice. To qualify for this program, applicant must be a first-time homebuyer or have not owned a home for prior three years and must attend a first-time homebuyer course. Applicants must have an income no greater than 120% of the area median income (AMI) and a debt-to-income (DTI) ratio no greater than 35%. Applicants must also have a minimum credit score of 680 to qualify. A minimum down payment of 5% is also required with a 2% gift cap and a \$200,000 liquid/stock asset cap. The minimum down payment requirement does not include retirement accounts and down payment assistance (DPA) programs for LMI borrowers. PMI is waived for loans at 90% LTV or less. Applicants who qualify for this program and who have attended a CHAK certified FHBI course are eligible for a \$1,500 closing cost credit. Member FDIC • Member DIF • NMLS ID #478201

# El Centro de Emergencias de Lawrence General Hospital abre nueva Unidad de Cuidados Acelerados

Charlie y Liz Dáher presentes para cortar la cinta ceremonial. La donación de \$500.000 por parte de su familia contribuyó a la construcción de la nueva e innovadora unidad

22 de marzo de 2024, Lawrence, MA - Lawrence General Hospital se complace en anunciar la inauguración de su nueva Unidad de Cuidados Acelerados (Accelerated Care Unit, ACU) en el Centro de Emergencias de Lawrence General Hospital. Esta zona de tratamiento adicional es parte de la ampliación de un programa piloto a tres años de Lawrence General para hacer frente al aumento del número de pacientes que acuden al Centro de Emergencias de Lawrence General Hospital.

Los hospitales de Massachusetts, incluido Lawrence General, están afrontando a diario un alto volumen de casos de crisis. Esta situación afecta a todo el estado y es agravada por factores como falta de acceso a atención primaria, problemas con la dotación de personal y retrasos en el alta de pacientes, en parte por el menor número de camas en centros de atención especializada y de opciones de atención médica después del hospital y de salud del comportamiento. La presidenta y directora ejecutiva de Lawrence General Hospital, la Dra. Abha Agrawal, afirma que todos esos factores externos crean una tormenta perfecta para los hospitales de todo el estado.

"La nueva Unidad de Cuidados Acelerados del Lawrence General es otra forma innovadora de ayudarnos a afrontar esos desafíos", afirma la Dra. Abha Agrawal, presidenta y directora general de Lawrence General Hospital. "La creación de este eficiente espacio dedicado nos ayuda a mejorar nuestra excelente atención de emergencia y a seguir brindándoles el mejor servicio posible a las personas que servimos en todo el Valle del Merrimack y el sur de New Hampshire".

Con un equipo experto de más de 100 médicos, enfermeros y personal certificados de emergencias, el Centro de Emergencias del Lawrence General Hospital es un Centro de Traumatología de Nivel III acreditado que atiende a más de 60.000 pacientes cada año. La nueva Unidad de Cuidados Acelerados ayudará al Hospital a evaluar y tratar rápidamente a pacientes con problemas médicos de gravedad baja a media, y aumentará nuestra capacidad para atender a pacientes con problemas graves como accidente cerebrovascular, infarto de miocardio o traumatismos.

"Al utilizar nuestra Unidad de Cuidados Acelerados para pacientes que requieren cuidados y monitorización menos urgentes, como quienes reciben líquidos intravenosos o esperan resultados, podemos atender y monitorizar a los pacientes en el confort de sillones reclinables en vez de en camillas que ocupan un espacio valioso", afirma el Dr. George Kondylis, director médico del Lawrence General Hospital. "Los resultados de nuestro exitoso programa piloto demuestran que nuestra Unidad de Cuidados Acelerados permite tratar a hasta un 50 % más de personas, reduce los tiempos de espera, aumenta la satisfacción de nuestros pacientes y mantiene el excelente nivel de atención de Lawrence General Hospital".

La financiación de la construcción de la nueva Unidad de Cuidados Acelerados recibió un importante apoyo filantrópico gracias en gran parte a una donación de \$500.000 de Charlie y Liz Dáher, de Andover. La familia Dáher se unió a los miembros del

equipo del Lawrence General Hospital, a líderes locales y a miembros de la comunidad para la ceremonia de corte de cinta de la nueva Unidad el viernes 22 de marzo.

Charlie Dáher, que nació en el Lawrence General, da crédito al experto equipo del Centro de Emergencias de Lawrence General por salvarle la vida cuando sufrió un infarto hace varios años. Para él, la donación es una forma de ayudar a su comunidad y de apoyar la atención médica que Lawrence General.

"Me salvaron la vida y queremos ayudar a que el Lawrence General atienda al mayor número posible de personas tal como ellos me atendieron a mí", dice Charlie Dáher. "Elizabeth y yo decidimos hacer una donación tan importante porque sabemos que tendrá un impacto profundo y positivo tanto para el Hospital como para la gente de nuestra comunidad. Para mí, no hay nada más gratificante que retribuir y ayudar a la gente de Lawrence".

La Dra. Agrawal dice que toda la familia de Lawrence General agradece la recuperación de Dáher, así como el apoyo de su familia y el de otras personas y empresas.

"La historia de Charlie captura la esencia de por qué nosotros, como proveedores de cuidados, hacemos lo que hacemos día tras día", afirma la Dra. Agrawal. "La generosidad de la familia Dáher es admirable e ilustra cómo el apoyo a Lawrence General, un hospital confiado, independiente, impulsado por su misión y sin fines de lucro, es una forma significativa de invertir en la salud y la fortaleza de las comunidades a las que servimos en todo el Valle del Merrimack".

## Acerca de Lawrence General Hospital

Como hospital independiente sin fines de lucro al servicio del Valle del Merrimack y el sur de New Hampshire, Lawrence General Hospital ofrece acceso a una atención de alta calidad y a una red creciente de profesionales de la salud locales que incluye atención primaria y muchas especialidades. Como centro designado de traumatismos de nivel III, Lawrence General tiene uno de los Departamentos de Emergencia más concurridos de Massachusetts. Lawrence General Hospital ha recibido el sello de oro de la Comisión Conjunta (The Joint Commission) y de la Asociación Americana del Corazón y de la Asociación Americana de Accidentes Cerebrovasculares en su certificación como Centro Primario para Accidentes Cerebrovasculares. En su Centro Santagati, Lawrence General ofrece una amplia variedad de cirugías y servicios especializados. Es líder de la región en atención cardíaca y su centro cardiovascular es el más altamente acreditado de Massachusetts. Con más de 11.000 altas hospitalarias por año, 1.400 partos y un equipo dedicado de alrededor de 2.000 empleados, Lawrence General sirve con orgullo a la región desde 1875 y es uno de los principales proveedores de atención crítica y de servicios de emergencia, cirugía, atención médica, maternidad y atención neonatal en el Valle del Merrimack y el sur de New Hampshire. Para mayor información, visite [www.LawrenceGeneral.org](http://www.LawrenceGeneral.org).



## New Accelerated Care Unit opens at Lawrence General Hospital Emergency Center

"By using our Accelerated Care Unit for patients requiring less emergent care and monitoring, including those receiving intravenous fluids or awaiting lab results, care and monitoring can be provided to patients in the comfort of reclining chairs rather than sitting on stretchers which take up more valuable space," says Dr. George Kondylis, chief medical officer at Lawrence General Hospital. "The results from our successful pilot program show that our ACU allows caregivers to treat up to 50% more patients, reduce emergency wait times and increase patient satisfaction—all while maintaining Lawrence General Hospital's high standard of providing excellent care."

Funding for the construction of the hospital's new Accelerated Care Unit was given a major philanthropic boost thanks in large part to a \$500,000 gift by Charlie and Liz Dáher of Andover. The Dáher family joined members of Lawrence General Hospital team, local leaders and members of the community for a ceremonial ribbon cutting for the new ACU on Friday, March 22.

Charlie Dáher, who was born at Lawrence General, credits the expert team at Lawrence General Hospital's Emergency Center for saving his life when he experienced a heart attack several years ago. He views the donation as a way to both help his community and support the care team at Lawrence General.

"They saved my life, and we want to help Lawrence General care for as many people as possible in the same way they cared for me," says Charlie Dáher. "Elizabeth and I chose to make such a major gift because I know this donation will have an equally profound and positive impact for Lawrence General Hospital and the people of our community. For me, there's nothing more rewarding than giving back and helping the people in our community."

Dr. Agrawal says the entire Lawrence

General family is grateful for Dáher's recovery, as well as the Dáher family's support and that of other individuals and businesses.

"Charlie's story captures the essence of why we, as caregivers, do what we do day in and day out," says Dr. Agrawal. "The Dáher family's generosity is admirable and illustrates how supporting Lawrence General, a trusted, independent, mission-driven, nonprofit hospital, is a meaningful way to invest in the health and strength of the communities we serve across the Merrimack Valley."

## About Lawrence General Hospital

As an independent, not-for-profit hospital serving the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire, Lawrence General Hospital provides access to high-quality care and a growing network of local providers, including primary care and many specialties. A designated Level III Trauma Center, Lawrence General has one of the busiest Emergency Departments in Massachusetts. Lawrence General Hospital has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval and both the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association's Heart-Check mark for Primary Stroke Center Certification. Lawrence General offers a broad range of services and specialty surgeries in its Santagati Center for surgery and leads the region in cardiac care with Massachusetts' most highly accredited cardiovascular center. With more than 11,000 inpatient discharges per year, 1,400 births, and a dedicated team of nearly 2,000 employees, Lawrence General has proudly served the region since 1875 and is a major acute care provider of emergency, surgical, medical, maternity and newborn care for the Merrimack Valley and southern New Hampshire. For more information, visit [www.LawrenceGeneral.org](http://www.LawrenceGeneral.org).

POR DALIA DÍAZ  
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

# Desde Mi Esquina

## Próxima reunión del LRA

Antes de ocuparme de escribir sobre otros temas, déjenme decirles que la próxima reunión de la Autoridad de Reurbanización de Lawrence (LRA) se llevará a cabo el miércoles, 27 de marzo en la Oficina de Planificación y Desarrollo ubicada en 360 Merrimack Street, Entrada K, Suite 270, a las 6:00 PM.

Estas reuniones son muy importantes porque están tratando con mucho dinero y el público debería estar más consciente de lo que está pasando. Por eso insisto en que estas reuniones se celebren en el Salón del Ayuntamiento como tantas otras reuniones donde la gente pueda verlas por televisión o Facebook y quedar grabadas. Ahora mismo, el único registro son las actas de las reuniones.

Si hay algún cambio en esto, intentaré hacérselo saber a todos a través de Facebook.

## Reunión del Concejo Municipal de 3/19/24

¡Esto es un circo! Esto es lo peor que he visto. Duró 6 horas y no hace falta decir que no lo vi todo. El presidente del Concejo, Jeovanny Rodríguez, parece incapaz de mantener el decoro de los miembros y, en ocasiones, se olvidó de seguir las Reglas de Orden de Robert.

Un mal ejemplo fue cuando se tomaron un descanso de cinco minutos para tomar fotografías con los tres estudiantes homenajeados esa noche. Esto siempre ha sido costumbre y es otra forma de mostrarles el agradecimiento del concilio. Pues bien, la concejala Wendy Luzón empezó a quejarse de que “tenemos la agenda llena y no podemos tomarnos el tiempo para eso”, generando confusión y caos.

Ella no entiende que existe un protocolo para eso.

Hubo una presentación vía Zoom del Grupo Alma de Chicago sobre la búsqueda de un superintendente escolar. Se extendieron demasiado y entraron

en muchos detalles que eran fáciles de olvidar, pero el comportamiento explosivo del concejal Gregory Delrosario fue innecesario.

Delrosario les gritó a los presentadores “Por el dinero que les estamos pagando, deberían estar aquí en persona en lugar de Zoom”. ¡Hablando de decoro con un invitado! Luego continuó quejándose de hacer esta presentación cuando el concejo municipal no tendrá voz sobre la contratación del superintendente. ¡Pura vergüenza!

Tenía razón, pero hay maneras de decir lo que piensa sin ser irrespetuoso. Nuevamente, ¿qué pasó con el decoro de la reunión?

Luego, pudimos escuchar a los miembros del consejo hablar fuera de su turno o hacer sugerencias durante el turno de otra persona.

### La Junta de Salud

El Dr. Joel Gorn, presidente de la Junta de Salud, explicó la situación actual de ese departamento y me tomó por sorpresa. No tenía idea de que la ley estatal requiere que esta junta tenga tres miembros y solo tiene dos. Junto a él participó en la presentación Stephen Gil, el otro miembro de la junta directiva. Eso me llevó a creer que esas reuniones eran ilegales.

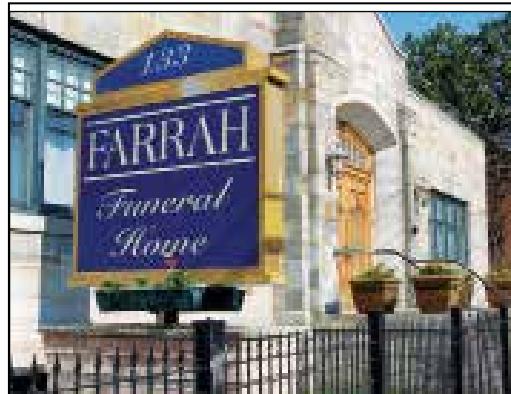
Y pensar que esto ha estado sucediendo durante los últimos nueve o diez años, bajo otras administraciones. Mientras que la ciudad de Methuen tiene un presupuesto de \$1,34 millones para su Junta de Salud, Lawrence tiene sólo \$130,000.

Lo peor es que, debido a la mala gestión de la ciudad al no tener tres miembros en la junta, Lawrence perdió valiosas subvenciones (unos 3 millones de dólares, según mi rápido recuento mientras miraba la reunión). Se perdió una subvención porque el dinero recibido se desperdició al contratar a tres inspectores de Servicios de Inspección.

Espero traer detalles específicos la próxima semana porque hay mucho que investigar. Sólo sé que es un desastre y que nadie le presta atención al Dr. Gorn ni a Stephen Gil.

“Lucha por las cosas que te importan, pero hazlo de una manera que lleve a otros a unirse a ti”.

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comisión considere suficiente de que el agente del orden público: estuvo involucrado en una lesión o muerte involucrada por un oficial; cometió un delito grave o un delito menor, ya sea que el oficial haya sido arrestado, acusado, acusado o condenado o no;

(ii) participó en conductas prohibidas de conformidad con la sección 14; (iii) participó en conductas prohibidas de conformidad con la sección 15;

(iv) o (v) la comisión recibe una recomendación afirmativa del jefe de una agencia nominadora para que la comisión tome medidas disciplinarias, incluyendo reentrenamiento o suspensión o revocación de la certificación del funcionario.

## La situación con el jefe Castro

Encuentre en esta página el comunicado de prensa enviado por la oficina del alcalde Brian DePeña sobre la colocación del Jefe de Policía Provisional William Castro en licencia remunerada mientras se investiga el asunto. He hablado con el alcalde y el jefe Castro y les traeré una historia completa para nuestra próxima edición.

Mientras tanto, aquí hay una definición de G.L. c. 6E, sec. 8 de la siguiente manera:

(c)(1) La división de normas policiales iniciará una investigación preliminar sobre la conducta de un agente del orden público si la comisión recibe una queja, informe u otra evidencia creíble que la

## Aviso del alcalde sobre decisión respecto al Jefe Castro

Lawrence (21 de marzo de 2024): el alcalde Brian A. DePeña ha colocado al jefe provisional del Departamento de Policía de Lawrence, William Castro, en licencia administrativa remunerada hasta nuevo aviso, en espera de una revisión del asunto relacionado con M.G.L.c,6E,s 9(a) (4). :555CMR 1.06.

Con efecto inmediato, el alcalde DePeña ha asignado al teniente Melix Bonilla a cargo del Departamento de Policía de Lawrence como jefe de policía provisional hasta nuevo aviso.

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# Senator and Representatives Unveil Juan Pablo Duarte Bust

BOSTON - On Monday, March 18, members of the Massachusetts General Court gathered to unveil a bust of Juan Pablo Duarte, paying tribute to the founding father of the Dominican Republic. The Duartiano Institute of Massachusetts loaned the intricately crafted bust, originating from the Dominican Republic, to commemorate the emergence of Dominican elected officials across Massachusetts.

Senator Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence) hosted the event, along with State Representatives Frank Moran (D-Lawrence), Manny Cruz (D-Salem), Francisco Paulino (D-Methuen), Estela Reyes (D-Lawrence), Andy Vargas (D-Haverhill) and Dr. Berta Isabel Jimenez President of the Duartiano Institute of Massachusetts. The elected officials presented citations to members of the Dominican community who embodied the revolutionary spirit of Juan Pablo Duarte through their acts of public and community service.

"Today, as we unveiled the bust of Juan Pablo Duarte at the State House, my colleagues and I paid tribute to the enduring spirit of liberty he embodied and celebrated the vibrant culture and contributions of the Dominican community in the Commonwealth," said Senator Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence). "It was a true honor to be part of this celebration, and I'm grateful to Governor Maura Healey, my colleagues, the Duartiano Institute, and everyone else who supported this event."

Senator Payano presented his colleague and Second Assistant Majority Leader Representative Frank A. Moran with the Juan Pablo Duarte Legacy Award. Representative Moran has served the communities of Lawrence and Andover on Beacon Hill for over eleven years and has been a staunch ally for working-class families and the district he represents. The Representative spoke to the crowd on the emergence of Dominican leaders across the country and on the importance of preserving and cultivating the unique cultural heritage of the Dominican Republic.

"It was a great pleasure to co-host an event commemorating Dominican Independence Day with an unveiling of a bust of Juan Pablo Duarte at the State House" said Representative Frank A. Moran (D-Lawrence). "I was honored that Governor Maura Healey was able to join myself and my fellow Dominican legislators on this special day as we celebrated the social, economic, and cultural impact of Dominican Americans in Massachusetts."

"Today we held a beautiful remembrance of the great Juan Pablo Duarte at the State House. Said State Representative Estela Reyes (D-Lawrence) The chance to share Dominican culture and the value of freedom with colleagues, staff, and constituents is so meaningful and important still today."

This unveiling marks a significant

"La mayoría de nosotros probablemente sentimos que no podríamos ser libres sin los periódicos, y esa es la verdadera razón por la que queremos que los periódicos sean libres."

"Most of us probably feel we couldn't be free without newspapers, and that is the real reason we want newspapers to be free."

Edward R. Murrow



moment in recognizing the cultural diversity and contributions of the Dominican community in Massachusetts. The presence of the Duarte bust in the State House serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring impact of Juan Pablo Duarte's legacy on the Dominican Republic and its diaspora. Governor Maura Healey attended the event and spoke on the importance of continuing to fight for freedom and democracy like Juan Pablo Duarte did for his country.

As part of the event the legislators recognized several individuals that have contributed to the Dominican community across the Commonwealth. Awarded on that day were Cesar Checo, a small business owner; Socrates De La Cruz, Chair of the Lawrence Partnership; Fermin De La Cruz, co-founder of the Haverhill Latino Coalition; Jenny Garcia, founder of Ateneo Dominicano; Nestor & Johnny Grullon, founder of Voces Inc., Stelvyn Mirabel, founder of Asociacion Carnavalesca de Massachusetts; and Dr. Berta Jimenez, founder of The Duarte Institute of Massachusetts.

"Nestor and Johnny Grullon are the Dominican American founders of Voces Inc and have been pillars of hope and transformation for immigrants and their fellow Dominican Americans in Salem," said Representative Manny Cruz (D-Salem). "The Grullon brothers over the last 20 years, through their relentless dedication to empowering the community, echoes the profound legacy of Juan Pablo Duarte the founder of the Dominican Republic. I am proud to nominate them for recognition at the unveiling of the Juan Pablo Duarte Bust, as they are my role models, and they are the epitome of the significant contributions of Dominican Americans in Salem and our Commonwealth".

This unveiling marks a significant



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# Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division Eight Ancient Order of Hibernians Lawrence, Massachusetts

*"153 Years of Dedication to Religion, Heritage, Charity and Community"*

## Irish Heritage Month March 2024 Lawrence, Massachusetts

Preserving and Fostering our Heritage and Culture

Sunday, March 24, 2024 - JOIN PIANIST TERRI KELLEY AND VOCALIST BILL DONELAN FOR AN ALL-NEW PROGRAM OF CELTIC MELODIES - FROM ANCIENT GAELIC AIRES TO CURRENT SONGS - at the Lawrence Public Library, Sargent Auditorium, 51 Lawrence St., Lawrence, MA @ 2 pm Presented by Division 8 (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Sunday, March 24, 2024 - EXHIBIT CLOSES "1916: A Year that Changed Irish History" at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

The Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division Eight AOH was founded on November 5, 1871. The Division yearly hosts numerous social events and activities, and has scholarship opportunities for members, the children, and grandchildren of members on the high school and college level, including a scholarship for study in Ireland. Division 8 meets at the Lawrence Lodge of Elks, 652 Andover Street, Lawrence, MA on the second Wednesday of the month. For information on AOH Membership please write to: Division 8 AOH Organizer, PO Box 1407, Lawrence, MA

IRISH HERITAGE MONTH IS SPONSORED BY THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS DIVISION 8



Irish Heritage Month 2024 is supported in part by a grant from the Lawrence Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Alcalde Brian A. DePeña

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Grupo de Trabajo de Iniciativa de Investigación

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- Establezca contactos con otros investigadores dentro de la comunidad.

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**EL CENTRO**

**6**

11 A.M. - 2 P.M.  
ABRIL DEL 2024

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Obtén más información sobre nuestro plan Future Grid en [nationalgridus.com](http://nationalgridus.com)

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# Sergeant Charles M. Saindon Exchange Club Officer of the Year

Sergeant Charles M. "Charlie" Saindon was appointed a police officer for the Lawrence Police Department in May of 2003. He completed his police academy training at the Lowell Police Academy graduating in October of 2003. This was the foundation for a life full of achievements and service. Charlie was immediately recognized as a gifted and talented police officer by his peers, as well as the command staff. He received the Department's Patrol Division Officer of the Year in 2005 and later the Department's Community Policing Division Officer of the Year in 2007. In 2020, he, along with his partner Sergeant Angel Lopez of the Auto Theft Unit, was awarded Exchange Club of Lawrence 2019 Policeman of the Year.

As a result of his hard work and dedication in addition to his time in the patrol division, he served in varied assignments within the department including Community Policing, K-9, Auto-Theft Detective, Marine Unit, and Motorcycle Unit. His most rewarding responsibility was the role of Field Training Officer (FTO). He took this role as a personal responsibility to countless emerging police officers to ensure they

were equipped and prepared to serve and protect, their safety being paramount. Watching others grow, better themselves, and succeed gave him such joy. Upon being promoted to Sergeant in October of 2021, he returned to the patrol division on Platoon 1 the "midnight shift" "night watch". He immediately became a trusted advisor and mentor to so many of the young officers with whom he led, shaping them both professionally and personally.

In addition to his law enforcement career in Lawrence, Charlie was assigned to the Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC) Motor Unit. He was also a staff instructor at Northern Essex Community College Police Academy.

On February 26, 2024, Sergeant Saindon sadly passed away after a brief illness. Charlie will be remembered as a loving husband, father, son, brother, uncle, grandson, cousin, friend, Police officer and Sergeant. And he will be terribly missed by all who knew and loved him. For way Charlie lived his professional and personal life Chief Castro and the Members of the LPD are honored and proud to name Sergeant Charles M. Saindon, as the 2023 Exchange Club Officer of the Year.



## Evite errores en declaración de impuestos, reduzca demoras en procesamiento y ajustes en reembolso al seguir estas directrices

WASHINGTON — A medida que se acerca la fecha límite de presentación de impuestos del 15 de abril, el Servicio de Impuestos Internos emitió un recordatorio a los contribuyentes acerca de las maneras de evitar errores típicos en sus declaraciones federales de impuestos, con el objetivo de acelerar posibles reembolsos.

### Recopile toda la documentación relacionada con los impuestos

Los contribuyentes deben reunir todos los documentos clave, incluidos los formularios W-2 y 1099, así como cualquier documentación justificativa de deducciones o créditos tributarios, como créditos educativos o pagos de intereses hipotecarios. Además, es aconsejable tener a mano la declaración de impuestos del año anterior, ya que puede ser necesaria.

### Use la presentación electrónica

El IRS aconseja a los contribuyentes y a sus asesores de impuestos que usen métodos de presentación electrónica como Free File del IRS o proveedores alternativos de servicios de presentación electrónica. El programa piloto de Direct File (en inglés) está disponible para algunos contribuyentes en 12 estados. La presentación electrónica minimiza los errores matemáticos e identifica posibles créditos o deducciones tributarias para los cuales califica el contribuyente.

Es esencial que los contribuyentes revisen cuidadosamente sus declaraciones de impuestos para garantizar su exactitud. Optar por la presentación electrónica y seleccionar el depósito directo es la manera más rápida y segura de recibir un reembolso.

### Asegúrese de que el estado civil tributario sea correcto

El software de impuestos sirve para evitar errores al seleccionar el estado civil tributario. Para los contribuyentes que no están seguros de su estado civil tributario, el Asistente tributario interactivo en IRS.gov puede ayudarle a elegir el estado correcto, particularmente cuando pueden aplicarse varios estados tributarios.

### Asegúrese de que los nombres, fechas de nacimiento y números de Seguro Social sean correctos

Los contribuyentes deben proporcionar con precisión el nombre,

la fecha de nacimiento y el número de Seguro Social (SSN) de cada dependiente que figura en su declaración de impuestos individual. El SSN y el nombre del individuo deben ingresarse exactamente como se indica en la tarjeta de Seguro Social.

En los casos en que un dependiente o cónyuge no tenga un SSN y no sea elegible para obtenerlo, se debe incluir un Número de identificación personal del contribuyente (ITIN) asignado en lugar de un SSN.

### Responda la pregunta acerca de activos digitales

Todos los que presenten los Formularios 1040, 1040-SR, 1040-NR, 1041, 1065, 1120 y 1120S deben marcar una casilla y responder "Sí" o "No" a la pregunta sobre activos digitales. La pregunta debe ser respondida por todos los contribuyentes, no solo por aquellos que participaron en una transacción que involucra activos digitales en 2023. Los contribuyentes deben declarar todos los ingresos relacionados con las transacciones de activos digitales.

Consulte Activos digitales de IRS.gov para obtener detalles acerca de cuándo marcar "sí" y cómo declarar los ingresos.

### Reporte todos los ingresos sujetos a impuestos

Tenga en cuenta que la mayoría de los ingresos son tributables (en inglés). No reportar con precisión los ingresos puede resultar en intereses acumulados y multas. Esto incluye diversas fuentes de ingresos, como ganancias por intereses, compensación por desempleo e ingresos derivados de la industria de servicios, la economía compartida y los activos digitales. Para obtener más detalles, consulte la Publicación 525, Ingresos sujetos a impuestos y no sujetos a impuestos (en inglés).

### Asegúrese de que los números de ruta y de cuenta bancaria sean correctos

Los contribuyentes tienen la opción de solicitar el depósito directo de un reembolso federal en una, dos o incluso tres cuentas. Proporcione información bancaria correcta: si espera un reembolso, asegúrese de que los números de ruta y de cuenta proporcionados para el depósito directo sean correctos para evitar demoras o reembolsos mal dirigidos.



‘¿Qué dulzura queda en la vida, si le quitas la amistad? Robar la vida a la amistad es como robarle al mundo el sol. Un verdadero amigo es más digno de estima que un pariente’.

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

CICERO

# Search for a New Superintendent at Lawrence Public Schools

By Jonathan Guzmán

The Lawrence Public Schools are actively seeking a new superintendent, and the ideal candidate will possess a proven track record of success in school improvement and turnaround. Here are a few key qualifications I believe our next leader should have:

- The superintendent must strongly believe in all students' abilities to attain their educational achievement and understand the significance of holding yourself as well as others accountable for student progress.
- The candidate must comprehend and have a track record of applying encouraging, innovative, and effective methods of instruction.
- The candidate must have experience with school turnarounds and a track record of improvement.
- The superintendent must understand the importance of identifying effective teaching practices and improvement techniques that benefit not only student outcomes but also the school leader's competency and longevity.

The candidate must have a successful track record of collaboration with labor unions and collective bargaining units. Effective communication and bargaining skills are vital for building positive connections.

The superintendent must join us with the experience of working with a state-appointed school board and school committee to develop priorities, set goals, track progress, and achieve positive student outcomes.

Lawrence Public Schools urgently requires a visionary leader who combines educational competence, collaboration abilities, and a dedication to student success. We can accomplish this by working together to get the best candidate across the finish line that will build a better future for our students and families. Please check out the job description the Lawrence Alliance for Education adopted below and share it with your networks.

Job description: <https://apply.workable.com/almaadvisorygroup/j/46BD81D97B/>

Learn about the process: <https://www.lawrence.k12.ma.us/about/district/superintendent-search>

## Búsqueda de un nuevo superintendente en las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence

Por Jonathan Guzmán

Las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence están buscando activamente un nuevo superintendente, y el candidato ideal poseerá un historial comprobado de éxito en la mejora y recuperación de las escuelas. Aquí hay algunas calificaciones clave que creo que debería tener nuestro próximo líder:

- El superintendente debe creer firmemente en las capacidades de todos los estudiantes para lograr sus logros educativos y comprender la importancia de responsabilizarse a sí mismo y a los demás por el progreso del estudiante.
- El candidato debe comprender y tener un historial de aplicación de métodos de instrucción alentadores, innovadores y eficaces.
- El candidato debe tener experiencia en cambios escolares y un historial de mejora.
- El superintendente debe comprender la importancia de identificar prácticas de enseñanza efectivas y técnicas de mejora que beneficien no solo los resultados de los estudiantes sino también la competencia y longevidad del líder escolar.
- El candidato debe tener un historial exitoso de colaboración con sindicatos y unidades de negociación colectiva.

Las habilidades de comunicación y negociación efectivas son vitales para construir conexiones positivas.

El superintendente debe unirse a nosotros con la experiencia de trabajar con una junta escolar y un comité escolar designados por el estado para desarrollar prioridades, establecer metas, realizar un seguimiento del progreso y lograr resultados positivos para los estudiantes.

Las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence necesitan urgentemente un líder visionario que combine competencia educativa, habilidades de colaboración y dedicación al éxito de los estudiantes. Podemos lograr esto trabajando juntos para lograr que el mejor candidato cruce la línea de meta y construya un futuro mejor para nuestros estudiantes y familias. Consulte la descripción del trabajo que la Alianza de Lawrence para la Educación adoptó a continuación y compártala con sus redes.

Descripción del puesto: <https://apply.workable.com/almaadvisorygroup/j/46BD81D97B/>

Conozca el proceso: <https://www.lawrence.k12.ma.us/about/district/superintendent-search>



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## LHSAA 2024 Scholarship Applications



The 2024 LHSAA Scholarship for Lawrence High School seniors is currently open for applications until April 5th. To successfully apply for this scholarship opportunity, interested students can visit the website [www.app.lhsaa.com](http://www.app.lhsaa.com). It is essential to work closely with a guidance counselor to ensure all required documentation is submitted promptly to be considered for the scholarship. Additional information about the association can be found on the website [www.lawrencehs.org/lhsaa](http://www.lawrencehs.org/lhsaa), providing a comprehensive overview of the organization and its offerings.

Collaborating with a guidance counselor is crucial as they can provide valuable insights and guidance throughout the application process. They can assist in gathering and organizing all the necessary paperwork to strengthen the application. The LHSAA Scholarship aims to support and recognize the academic excellence and achievements of Lawrence High School seniors.

With this scholarship, students have the opportunity to alleviate some of the financial burdens associated with pursuing higher education. By applying for this scholarship, students not only demonstrate their commitment to their education but also their dedication to achieving their academic goals.

It is essential for students to take advantage of this scholarship opportunity as it can significantly impact their future educational endeavors. The LHSAA Scholarship provides financial assistance that can help students pursue their dreams and aspirations without the added stress of financial constraints.

The Annual Scholarship Banquet will be held at LHS on May 23rd at 6 PM. All applicants are welcome to attend and will receive additional information directly. Any alumni or community leader who wishes to assist should contact the board at [alumniboard@lhsaa.com](mailto:alumniboard@lhsaa.com) and await confirmation of attendance.

"La mayoría de nosotros probablemente sentimos que no podríamos ser libres sin los periódicos, y esa es la verdadera razón por la que queremos que los periódicos sean libres."

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Edward R. Murrow

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# GLCF Launches "Arts Elevate" with the Barr Foundation

Lowell, MA – The Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) announced the launch of "Arts Elevate" which is part of the Barr Foundation's "Creative Commonwealth Initiative." This partnership is designed to enhance and sustain arts and culture in 20 of the 21 communities in GLCF's catchment area. The Barr Foundation, established in 1987, is a Boston-based foundation with a focus on Arts & Creativity, Climate and Education. GLCF will receive a three-year, \$575,000 grant.

"Barr is thrilled to partner with the Greater Lowell Community Foundation team as it takes important steps to better understand the region's arts ecosystem and forms strategies that can bring greater resources for artists and arts organizations throughout the diverse communities that make up Greater Lowell," said San San Wong, Director of Arts and Culture for the Barr Foundation.

Barr invests in community foundations as cornerstone institutions in their regions. These place-based philanthropies hold unique potential as civic leaders and catalysts for positive change. They have knowledge, relationships, and credibility to help infuse arts and creativity into civic life. They can convene organizations across sectors, bring new information and insights to decision makers, raise public awareness of key issues and opportunities, attract donors to generate new funding, and spur collaborations that center arts and culture in community.

"We are honored to join the Barr Foundation's 'Creative Commonwealth Initiative' as art has enormous power to enrich lives, bridge divides, spur innovation, and fuel economic growth," said Jay Linnehan, GLCF's President and CEO. "Art brings vibrancy to our community, and we look forward to elevating this vibrancy in Greater Lowell with the support of the Barr Foundation."

This is the second grant GLCF has received from the Barr Foundation. In 2020, with lead support from the Barr Foundation, the Greater Lowell Community Foundation, in partnership with the City of Lowell, the Lowell Plan, and a wide range of organizations across the city, Mosaic Lowell was created. Mosaic Lowell is an arts, cultural and creative economy plan for the City of Lowell.

To learn more about GLCF's "Arts

Elevate" initiative, participation in the "Creative Commonwealth Initiative" and our commitment to promoting arts and culture in Greater Lowell, please visit: [www.glcfoundation.org/arts-elevate/](http://www.glcfoundation.org/arts-elevate/).

## About Greater Lowell Community Foundation

Established in 1997, the Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) is a philanthropic organization comprised of more than 400 funds dedicated to improving the quality of life in 21 neighboring cities and towns. With financial assets of almost \$60 million, GLCF annually awards grants and scholarships to hundreds of worthy nonprofits and students. It is powered by the winning combination of donor-directed giving, personal attention from Foundation staff, and an in-depth understanding of local needs. The generosity of our donors has enabled the Community Foundation to award more than \$35 million to the Greater Lowell community.



## Reemplazos del puente I-495 Andover-Lawrence

### ¿Lo que está sucediendo?

MassDOT en el reemplazo de seis puentes en la I-495 donde la interestatal corre entre Andover y Lawrence. Cuatro de los puentes llevan la I-495 sobre los carriles norte y sur de la Ruta 28, los otros dos llevan la interestatal sobre la línea MBTA Haverhill Commuter Rail. MassDOT llevará a cabo dos reuniones de información pública para brindarle a la comunidad la oportunidad de conocer los reemplazos, cómo mantenerse informado durante la construcción y formas de comunicarse con el proyecto si tiene preguntas o inquietudes.

### ¿Cómo te afectará esto?

Se prevé que la construcción comience en la primavera de 2024 y dure aproximadamente cuatro años. La construcción incluye cierres temporales de carriles, cierres de rampas y desvíos. Esta reunión brinda a MassDOT la oportunidad de informar al público sobre los plazos de construcción, las rutas de desvío y las medidas que se están tomando para ayudar al proyecto a ser un buen vecino.

#### Cuando

LUNES 8 De Abril DE 2024  
6:00-8:00 p.m.

#### Dónde

SOUTH LAWRENCE EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
165 CRAWFORD STREET  
LAWRENCE MA 01843

#### Cuando

MARTES 23 De Abril DE 2024  
6:00-8:00 p.m.

#### Dónde

CENTRO PARA MAYORES ROBB  
30 CORTE WHITTER  
ANDOVER, MA 01810



Tenga en cuenta que se generará un conjunto de actas para esta reunión.

Visite <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events> para más información.



Para garantizar que sus reuniones sean accesibles, MassDOT razonablemente proporciona: traducción, interpretación, modificaciones, alojamientos, formatos alternativos, y ayudas y servicios auxiliares. Para solicitar dichos servicios, comuníquese con el Director de Diversidad y Derechos Civiles de MassDOT, al 857-368-8580 o [MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Para adecuado tiempo para procesar semejante pedido, por favor hazlos lo antes posible, idealmente entre 10 y 15 días antes del evento.

Las consultas acerca del proyecto también pueden enviarse por correo electrónico a [I495AndoverLawrence@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:I495AndoverLawrence@dot.state.ma.us). Por favor, envíe cualquier declaración escrita sobre el proyecto propuesto a: Carrie A. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, Carrie A. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Atención : BRIDGE SECTION, NRO. DE ARCHIVO DE PROYECTO 606522

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# Se insta a los legisladores a apoyar la financiación de los programas GLCAC en el presupuesto estatal

El Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. dio la bienvenida a los legisladores locales a su oficina principal en el centro de Lawrence, en un recorrido reciente, para conocer la programación y el papel de la agencia en la comunidad.

GLCAC invitó a los miembros de la delegación a ver cómo la organización trabaja para estabilizar y empoderar a personas y familias a través de su Centro de Servicios Comunitarios, desarrollo de la fuerza laboral y empoderamiento financiero, estabilización de vivienda y programas de inmigración.

"GLCAC depende de fondos de una variedad de fuentes, incluido el presupuesto estatal, para respaldar nuestros programas, por lo que estamos encantados de darle la bienvenida a la delegación legislativa para ver de primera mano el impacto que nuestros programas tienen en la comunidad", dijo la Directora Ejecutiva, Vilma Martínez-Domínguez. "Estamos agradecidos de que hayan tomado el tiempo para aprender más sobre el importante trabajo que se lleva a cabo aquí".

Entre los asistentes el Viernes 8 de Marzo se encontraban el Representante Estatal Francisco Paulino, el Representante Estatal Frank Morán, Vladimir Díaz, Director de Distrito del Representante Morán; y Marina Acosta, Directora de Distrito del Senador estatal Pavel Payano.

Se unieron al liderazgo y al personal de GLCAC, el Vicepresidente de la junta de GLCAC, Sócrates De La Cruz, y Miembro de la Junta de GLCAC y ex Representante Estatal Christina Minicucci.

"Tuve el honor de participar en una importante discusión sobre el trabajo vital y el liderazgo del Greater Lawrence Community Action Council junto con mis colegas de Beacon Hill la semana pasada", dijo Moran. "GLCAC ha cambiado las vidas de innumerables residentes de Lawrence al potenciar los servicios y programas sociales desde su creación en la década de 1960. Estoy dedicado a continuar apoyando a GLCAC y defender su misión en la Cámara de Representantes de Massachusetts en los años venideros".

Los líderes de GLCAC instaron a los legisladores a apoyar la financiación de la agencia a través de la partida estatal de la Agencia de Acción Comunitaria (CAA) y la partida de Asistencia Voluntaria para Preparar los impuestos (VITA), en el presupuesto del año fiscal 2025 del estado. El presupuesto propuesto por la gobernadora Maura Healey no incluye la partida CAA y la financiación de VITA se ha reducido significativamente. A GLCAC se une toda la red de Agencias de Acción Comunitaria de Massachusetts, encabezadas por MASSCAP, para abogar por la inversión continua del estado en estos programas vitales.

"La financiación reducida tendría un impacto significativo en nuestra capacidad de ayudar a los residentes de bajos ingresos que están trabajando para ser más estables financieramente", dijo De La Cruz. "Estamos extremadamente agradecidos por el apoyo de la delegación en el pasado y tenemos la esperanza de que continúen abogando por esta financiación crítica".

GLCAC ha utilizado tradicionalmente los fondos de la CAA estatal para sus programas de Centro de Servicios Comunitarios, Desarrollo de la Fuerza Laboral, Inmigración,

Seguridad Alimentaria y Empoderamiento Financiero. El año pasado, la agencia prestó servicios a más de 11,000 miembros de la comunidad de bajos ingresos a través de fondos de la CAA estatal, generando beneficios para la salud socioeconómica de la comunidad, así como grandes ahorros dentro del presupuesto estatal.

Los fondos de VITA respaldan servicios gratuitos de preparación de impuestos para contribuyentes de bajos ingresos en Agencias de Acción Comunitaria y otras organizaciones en todo Massachusetts. El programa ayuda a las familias a ahorrar dinero y aprovechar reembolsos y créditos fiscales que utilizan para pagar facturas, cubrir gastos esenciales y ahorrar para el futuro.

GLCAC proyecta presentar 432 declaraciones este año, lo que generará \$750,000 en reembolsos a los residentes del Greater Lawrence. El programa VITA es un punto de entrada clave a otros servicios de GLCAC, incluida la programación de empoderamiento financiero y desarrollo de la fuerza laboral.

GLCAC es una agencia de servicios sociales multifacética que ayuda a 36,000 personas a través de una variedad de programas que incluyen educación infantil temprana, asistencia de combustible,



asistencia nutricional de WIC, servicios de inmigración, prevención del envenenamiento por plomo, prevención del abuso infantil, lecciones de inglés y capacitación laboral.

## Legislators Urged to Support Funding for GLCAC Programs in State Budget



The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. welcomed local legislators to its main office in downtown Lawrence on a recent tour to learn about the agency's programming and role in the community.

GLCAC invited members of the delegation to see how the organization works to stabilize and empower individuals and families through its Community Services Center, workforce development, and financial empowerment, housing stabilization, and immigration programs.

"GLCAC relies on funding from a variety of sources, including the state budget, to support our programs so we were thrilled to welcome the legislative delegation to see firsthand the impact our programs have on the community," said Executive Director Vilma Martinez-Dominguez. "We are grateful they took time to learn more about the important work taking place here."

Those in attendance on Friday, March 8, included State Rep. Francisco Paulino, State Rep. Frank Moran, Vladimir Diaz, District Director for Rep. Moran; and

Marina Acosta, District Director for State Sen. Pavel Payano.

Joining GLCAC leadership and staff were GLCAC Board Vice President Socrates De La Cruz and GLCAC Board Member and former state Rep. Christina Minicucci.

"I was honored to take part in an important discussion about the vital work and leadership of the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council alongside my Beacon Hill colleagues last week," said Moran. "GLCAC has changed the lives of countless Lawrence residents through empowering social services and programs since its inception in the 1960s. I am dedicated to continuing to support GLCAC and champion its mission in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in the years ahead."

GLCAC leaders urged the legislators to support funding for the agency through the Community Action Agency (CAA) State Line Item and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Line Item in the state's fiscal year 2025 budget. Gov. Maura Healey's proposed budget does not include the CAA Line Item and the VITA funding has been significantly scaled back. GLCAC is joined by the entire network of Massachusetts Community Action Agencies, spearheaded by MASSCAP, in advocating for the state's continued investment of these vital programs.

"The reduced funding would have a significant impact on our ability to help low-income residents who are working to become more financially stable," said De

Cruz. "We are extremely grateful for the delegation's support in the past and are hopeful they will continue to advocate for this critical funding."

GLCAC has traditionally used the State CAA funding for its Community Services Center, Workforce Development, Immigration, Food Security and Financial Empowerment programs. Last year, the agency served over 11,000 low-income community members via State CAA funding, yielding benefits to the socioeconomic health of the community as well as deep savings within the State's budget.

The VITA funding supports free tax preparation services for low-income taxpayers at Community Action Agencies and other organizations across Massachusetts. The program helps families save money and take advantage of refunds and tax credits that they use to pay bills, cover essential expenses, and save for the future.

GLCAC projects to file 432 returns this year, yielding \$750,000 in refunds to Greater Lawrence residents. The VITA program is a key entry point to other GLCAC services, including Financial Empowerment and Workforce Development programming.

GLCAC is a multi-faceted social services agency that assists 36,000 individuals through a range of programs including early childhood education, fuel assistance, WIC nutrition assistance, immigration services, lead poisoning prevention, child abuse prevention, English-language lessons, and workforce training.

# Badminton Fundraiser to Support Services to Salem Families

Salem Family Resources is hosting its first annual Birdie Blast on April 7th 2024!! This fundraising event encourages families and community members to come together to play badminton in a fun and inclusive tournament.

The Birdie Blast is an intergenerational family fun indoor event involving two distinct "tournaments", lots of door prizes, music, spontaneous dancing, and "wild card" trophies for young and old who distinguish themselves on the birdie court, through costuming, enthusiasm, team cheers, heroic effort, dance moves, generosity, and anything else we can think of that celebrates the day and the agency.

There will be trophies awarded by the Master Blaster (aka Master of Ceremonies) for Champion, NBT (Next Best Team), and Awards of Excellence for the following: TeamSpirit, Costuming, Dancing, Effort, Enthusiasm and more! The Charging of the Courts is a spirited rush to the designated court as your team is announced. Clapping and cheering by all players is encouraged. The charging players are expected to demonstrate great enthusiasm (which could include running, jumping, "hoot'n and holler'n" and cartwheels)!

The Birdie Blast has free registration for all participants and encourages teams to procure pledges to help support Salem Family Resources' ongoing programs

in the community. David Voegele, the executive director of the program, shared that he hopes the event will raise anywhere from \$2,500 to \$10,000. He added that he is hopeful that this will be the first of many to come in the years ahead. His goal is that this unique activity becomes an annual signature event for Salem Family Resources.

Salem Family Resources began in 1994 when the United Way came to Cindy Jury and other Salem community leaders with their Success By 6 initiative. The collaborative efforts of parents, educators, elected officials, business leaders, and nonprofit partners resulted in the development of programs and services designed to meet the needs of families with young children. Salem Family Resources (SFR) is a New Hampshire incorporated non-profit and 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. The volunteer Board of Directors represents the greater Salem area, and includes parents, community leaders, and education/social service professionals.

In order to register a team for this exciting event please contact David Voegele at [david@salemfamilyresources.org](mailto:david@salemfamilyresources.org).

Further information about the Birdie Bash is available at [www.salemfamilyresources.org](http://www.salemfamilyresources.org) or by contacting Mr. Voegele by email.

## Apply to join the HC Media Board of Directors!

**HC Media**  
Board Member Applications  
Are Now Being Accepted



The application period ends March 31, 2024.

The governance committee of HC Media is currently accepting applications of persons interested in serving on the HC Media Board of Directors. Nominees for seats on the Board of Directors shall be Members of the Corporation whose application for nomination is made no later than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting.

If you wish to be considered, please complete the [Board of Directors Application Google Form](#) here. You can also pick up a paper application copy at our 60 Elm Street location. All applications must be completed and returned to HC Media, 60 Elm Street, Haverhill, MA 01830 by Friday, March 31, 2024 no later than 4 pm.

[Click here for the HC Media Board Application Google Form](#)



## A POINT OF VIEW © 1996

By Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, CCP

### Artificial Intelligence- The new line on the sand?

We have been there before. People faced with the advent of technologies feel their livelihoods and egos threatened. The list is long.

#### The invention of the printing press

(1) by Johannes Gutenberg in Germany, around the year 1440, made the Bible available to the masses. Preachers who depended on their skilled speeches for their sermons and scribes of documents depending on their handwriting abilities felt threatened. The sharp increase in literacy broke the monopoly of the literate elite on education and learning and bolstered the emerging middle class. The history of the world would break into two big periods, before and after the Reformation.

#### The Invention of the internal combustion engine (1)

Invented around 1860 by Ettiene Renoir, a Belgian-French engineer. The internal combustion engine is an engine in which the combustion of fuel with air creates hot gasses that do work, such as moving a piston while they expand. They are the type of engine used for transportation, such as in automobiles, where the piston turns a crankshaft attached to the car's wheels. Even jet engines and rocket engines are a type of internal combustion engine called continuous combustion system engines.

Drivers of horse carriages and the raisers and feeders of the horses who pulled the carts were not too happy. Neither were those who hated the noise of the automobile engines on our streets. But, of course, transportation wouldn't be what it is today without the internal combustion engine.

#### The invention of the airplane (1)

Wilbur and Orville Wright, two brothers who lived in Ohio, after years filled with trials, successes, and failures, made great strides in producing a glider that could stay in the air longer than any other in the early nineteen-hundreds, even the models used by some researchers. The brothers eventually turned their attention to creating a flying machine that would house a motor.

Of course, some naysayers believed that humans were not meant to fly like birds.

#### The invention of the computer (1)

Without Charles Babbage around 1821, we wouldn't be in the digital era, as we are today. Charles Babbage was the inventor of an original mechanical computer, called the Difference Engine, which has led subsequent inventors to create more complex electronic designs.

The Difference Engine made for impressive technology, despite it not meeting his own vision. Today, computers are all over the place. Just check your smartphone.

#### Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the latest line on the technology sand (1)

We hear many opinions about the pluses and minuses of AI. We even hear from politicians on both sides of the political spectrum and authority who want to put the break on the technology because they are afraid that it might substitute our own human intelligence. What is worse, the substitution might not even be noticeable to most of us.

Artificial intelligence started as a

field of study. Created at a Dartmouth Conference where a group of researchers first coined the term "artificial intelligence." They envisioned creating machines that could simulate human intelligence.

Although AI was really noticeable in the nineteen fifties when some physicists used the term to describe their own inventions, AI started in an evolutionary way. I remember the required AI course in my Computer Technology Doctoral program. It was not a course where we could use it widely. I also recall our interest in using it to help the blind move about without much risk. I don't have to add, but will, that many of my courses were at the time long distance virtual classes, only a few requiring presential.

Applications like IBM's Deep Blue defeated chess champion Garry Kasparov in 1997 and further demonstrated the potential of AI in specific domains.

#### **How Does AI Impact Work? (1)**

The integration of AI into various industries has been a significant trend, as well. In healthcare, companies like LG have developed AI for medical imaging analysis. In the finance industry, AI techniques are familiar in applications like fraud detection, algorithmic trading, and risk assessment.

In creative fields, generative AI has started helping designers, project managers, and marketers work more efficiently. We've already seen it used in advertising campaigns. Using AI in business means that teams have new mediums to brainstorm and collaborate with.

They can also use it to create added content, and use said content for commercial purposes.

**The History of AI Continues.** (1) But it's important to note that the future of AI is dynamic and subject to both technological advancements and societal considerations. The trajectory of AI will depend on the ethical, legal, and social frameworks that guide its development and deployment.

**AI will change the world for good... if we develop it ethically** (1). It is in the hands of industries to do so, and it is in the hands of consumers to demand ethical AI products.

I have left out another line, an older line, that obviously has had an effect bigger than **Artificial Intelligence**, and no one has rejected it: Natural Intelligence. That's the one that has created every marvel we have seen, including the lines I mentioned or quoted above, and makes us proud. And, sad to say, has created every damage we have imposed on each other and nature. Discriminations, wars, abuses, sexual or otherwise, and let's not forget how we look at each other's colors of the skins and accents of our speech. We have not finished crossing that line, but we should be careful before we do. Sometimes vehicles come from the other side and hit us.

And that's my Point of View today. So Long.

**(1) Information quoted from the Internet.**

(Lea la versión en español en la página 12)



## 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

# Inteligencia Artificial: ¿la nueva línea en la arena?

Ya hemos pasado por eso antes. Las personas que se enfrentan a la llegada de las tecnologías sienten amenazados sus medios de vida y sus egos. La lista es larga.

**La invención de la imprenta (1)** por Johannes Gutenberg en Alemania, alrededor del año 1440, puso la Biblia al alcance de las masas. Los predicadores que dependían de sus hábiles discursos para sus sermones y los escribas de documentos que dependían de sus habilidades de escritura se sentían amenazados. El fuerte aumento de la alfabetización rompió el monopolio de la élite alfabetizada sobre la educación y el aprendizaje y reforzó a la clase media emergente. La historia del mundo se dividiría en dos grandes períodos, antes y después de la Reforma.

**La invención del motor de combustión interna (1).** Inventado alrededor de 1860 por Ettiene Renoir, un ingeniero belga-francés. El motor de combustión interna es un motor en el que la combustión de combustible con aire crea gases calientes que funcionan moviendo un pistón mientras se expanden. Son el tipo

de motor utilizado para el transporte, como en los automóviles, donde el pistón hace girar un cigüeñal unido a las ruedas del automóvil. Incluso los motores a reacción y los motores de cohetes son un tipo de motor de combustión interna llamado motor de sistema de combustión continua.

Los conductores de carrajes de caballos y los criadores y alimentadores de los caballos que tiraban de los carros, no estaban muy contentos. Tampoco los que odiaban el ruido de los motores de los automóviles en nuestras calles. Pero, por supuesto, el transporte no sería lo que es hoy sin el motor de combustión interna.

**La invención del avión (1).** Wilbur y Orville Wright, dos hermanos que vivían en Ohio, después de años llenos de pruebas, éxitos y fracasos, hicieron grandes avances en la producción de un planeador que podía permanecer en el aire más tiempo que cualquier otro a principios de los años mil novecientos, incluso los modelos utilizados por algunos investigadores. Con el tiempo, los hermanos centraron su atención en la creación de una máquina voladora que

albergaría un motor.

Por supuesto, había detractores que creían que los humanos no estaban destinados a volar como los pájaros.

**La invención del ordenador (1).** Sin Charles Babbage alrededor de 1821, no estaríamos en la era digital, como lo estamos hoy. Charles Babbage fue el inventor de una computadora mecánica original, llamada Difference Engine, que ha llevado a los inventores posteriores a crear diseños electrónicos más complejos.

La Máquina Diferencial era una tecnología impresionante, a pesar de que no cumplía con su propia visión. Hoy en día, las computadoras están por todas partes. Solo tiene que revisar su teléfono inteligente.

**La Inteligencia Artificial (IA) es la última línea en la arena de la tecnología (1).**

Escuchamos muchas opiniones sobre las ventajas y desventajas de la IA. E incluso escuchamos a políticos de ambos lados del espectro político y de la autoridad que quieren poner fin a la tecnología porque temen que pueda sustituir nuestra propia inteligencia humana. Lo que es peor, es posible que la sustitución ni siquiera sea perceptible para la mayoría de nosotros.

La inteligencia artificial comenzó como un campo de estudio creado en una conferencia de Dartmouth donde un grupo de investigadores acuñó por primera vez el término "inteligencia artificial". Imaginaron la creación de máquinas que pudieran simular la inteligencia humana.

Aunque la IA se notó realmente en los años cincuenta, cuando algunos físicos utilizaron el término para describir sus propios inventos, la IA comenzó de forma evolutiva. Recuerdo el curso obligatorio de IA en mi programa de doctorado en Tecnología Informática. No era un curso en el que pudieramos usarlo ampliamente. También recuerdo nuestro interés en usarlo para ayudar a los ciegos a moverse sin mucho riesgo. No tengo que agregar, pero lo haré, que muchos de mis cursos eran en su momento clases virtuales a distancia, solo unos pocos requerían clases presenciales.

Aplicaciones como Deep Blue de IBM derrotaron al campeón de ajedrez Garry Kasparov en 1997 y demostraron aún más el potencial de la IA en dominios específicos.

### ¿Cómo impacta la IA en el trabajo? (1)

La integración de la IA en varias industrias también ha sido una tendencia importante. En el sector de la salud, empresas como LG han desarrollado IA para el análisis de imágenes médicas. En el sector financiero, las técnicas de IA son familiares en aplicaciones como la detección de fraudes, el comercio algorítmico y la evaluación de riesgos.

En los campos creativos, la IA generativa ha comenzado a ayudar a los diseñadores, gerentes de proyectos y especialistas en marketing a trabajar de manera más eficiente. Ya lo hemos visto utilizado en campañas publicitarias. El uso de la IA en los negocios significa que los equipos tienen nuevos medios para intercambiar ideas y colaborar.

También pueden usarlo para crear contenido agregado y luego usar dicho contenido con fines comerciales.

La historia de la IA continúa. (1) Pero es importante tener en cuenta que el futuro de la IA es dinámico y está sujeto tanto a los avances tecnológicos como a las consideraciones sociales. La trayectoria de la IA dependerá de los marcos éticos, legales y sociales que guíen su desarrollo y despliegue.

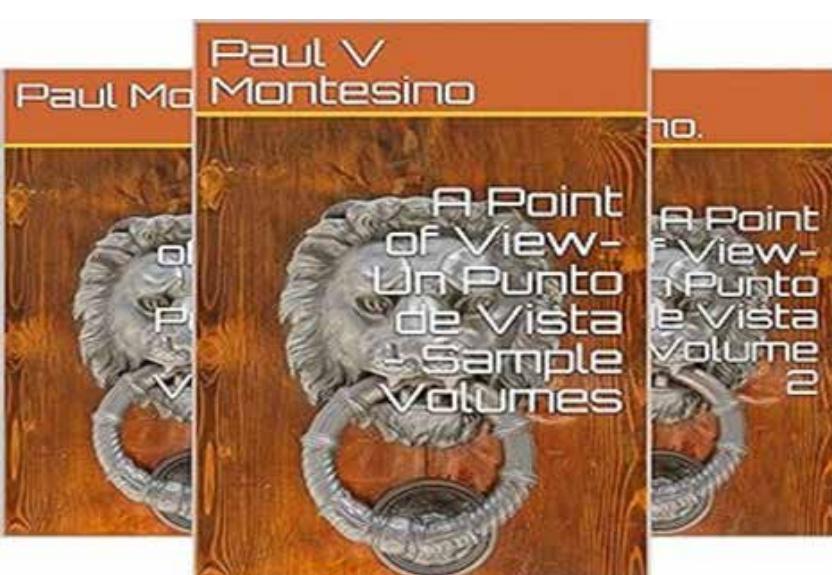
### La IA cambiará el mundo para siempre... si lo desarrollamos éticamente (1)

Está en manos de las industrias hacerlo, y está en manos de los consumidores exigir productos de IA éticos.

He dejado fuera otra línea más antigua, que obviamente ha tenido un efecto mayor que la Inteligencia Artificial, y que nadie ha rechazado: la **Inteligencia Natural**. Esa es la que ha creado todas las maravillas que hemos visto, incluidas las líneas que mencioné o cité anteriormente y nos enorgullece. Y, es triste decirlo, ha creado todos los daños que nos hemos impuesto a nosotros mismos y a la naturaleza. Discriminaciones, guerras, abusos, sexuales o de otro tipo, y no olvidemos cómo nos miramos los colores de las pieles y los acentos de nuestro habla. No hemos terminado de cruzar esa línea, pero debemos tener cuidado antes de hacerlo. A veces los vehículos vienen del otro lado y nos pueden golpear.

Y ese es mi punto de vista hoy. Agur.

(1) Información citada de Internet.



A Point of View-Un Punto de Vista: Volume Seven-Volumen Siete. (A Point of View-Un Punto de Vista Bilingual books) (Spanish Edition)  
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Lo que nos entregues ayudará a los niños locales que participan en nuestro programa de tutoría. Debes saber que tu donación es deducible de impuestos.

¡Gracias por tu apoyo!

# CLASIFICADOS | CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by Sheehan's Towing L.L.C. of 26 Lawrence St Methuen, MA, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell or junk the following vehicles on or after April 2, 2024 beginning at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keeper's lien for towing, storage, and lien fees. Vehicles are being stored at Sheehan's Towing and may be viewed by appointment only.

1. 2016 GMC Sierra VIN 1GTV2MEC0GZ110384
2. 2018 Toyota Camry VIN JTNB11HK8J3007324
3. 2017 Honda Pilot VIN 5FNYF6H00HB003325
4. 2019 Ford Transit VIN NM0GE9F24K1406970
5. 2023 RAM ProMaster 2500 VIN 3C6LRVDG9PE603237

Robert Sheehan  
Owner, Sheehan's Towing L.L.C.  
3/15, 3/22, 4/1

## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by Coady's Towing Service 139 Marston Street, Lawrence, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell or junk the following vehicles on or after April 9, 2024 starting at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

1. 2010 Honda Civic VIN 2HGFA1F56AH570342
2. 2013 Freightliner M2 VIN 3ALACWDT5DDFG4133
3. 2004 Toyota Prius VIN JTDKB20U540039481
4. 2007 Nissan Versa VIN 3N1BC13E67L367661
5. 2001 International 4700 VIN 1HTSCAAM01H363914
6. 2003 Toyota Celica VIN JTDDR32T430162119
7. 2009 Saturn Aura VIN 1G8ZX57739F201348

Vehicles are being stored at Coady's Towing Service and may be viewed by appointment only.

Signed  
Frank Coady  
Coady's Towing Service  
3/22, 4/1, 4/8

## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by Stuart's Automotive, Inc. 97 Tanner Street, Lowell, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after April 2, 2024 starting at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

1. 2011 Honda Accord VIN 1HGCP2F36BA153325
2. 2002 Kymco Moped VIN RFBCAASB29102490
3. 2019 Honda HR-V VIN 3CZRU6H11KM736967
4. 2017 Ford Escape VIN 1FMCU9GD9HUC92083
5. 2002 Suzuki VL800 VIN JS1VS54AX22104397

Vehicles are being stored at Stuart's Automotive and may be viewed by appointment only.

Signed  
Kevin Stuart  
Stuart's Automotive  
3/15, 3/22, 4/1

## 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>



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- Taller de fotografía

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| <b>CUÁNDO:</b><br>Abril 15-Abril 19<br>8:00am- 4:00pm | <b>MATRÍCULA:</b><br><b>\$500</b><br>No Reembolsable | <b>LUGAR:</b><br>60 Island Street,<br>Lawrence, MA |
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**INSCRÍBETE ANTES DEL 5 DE ABRIL**  
**ESPACIOS LIMITADOS**  
Escanee el código para inscribirse



Para más información : nairdamodelingagency@gmail.com

# Broadway Tire Pros 45 Year Anniversary



Congratulations to Broadway Tire Pros who celebrated their 45th anniversary in business in Lawrence!

The Merrimack Valley Chamber was joined by Representative Frank Moran and a representative from Mayor DePena's

office to present a citation honoring their years in business and service to our community.

Congratulations again to Owner Joseph Pauta and their entire staff!

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We strive to provide you with valuable information to help your clients avoid unnecessary financial burden, such as overpayments. Overpayments occur when your clients receive more money than they are due. By law, we are required to adjust benefits or recover debts when that happens. Your clients can avoid overpayments by reporting changes in income, resources, work, earnings, and living arrangements that could affect their benefits, as soon as possible.

If your client receives an overpayment notice, they can:

- Repay the Overpayment – If they agree with the overpayment and are currently receiving benefits, they can make a payment in full, through monthly benefit withholding, or through a repayment plan by check, money order, or credit card. If they are not currently receiving benefits, they can make a full or partial repayment using Pay.gov or their bank's online bill pay option. We offer flexible repayment plans, including payments as low as \$10 per month.
- Request an Appeal – If they disagree with the overpayment or believe the overpayment amount is incorrect, they can request a review of the decision by completing form SSA-561-U2, Request for Reconsideration. The appeal must be filed within 60 days of receiving the overpayment notice.

- Request a Waiver – If they believe they did not cause the overpayment, the overpayment is unfair, or cannot afford to repay the overpayment, they can request to relieve some or all the amount due by completing form SSA-632-BK, Request for Waiver of Overpayment Recovery.

We simplified our waiver request form to make it easier to understand and less burdensome for people to request a waiver.

If they believe they are not at fault and the overpayment is \$1,000 or less, they may request a waiver by calling 1-800-772-1213 or their local Social Security office. We may be able to process their request quickly by phone without having to submit a paper form.

- Request a Different Repayment Amount – We offer flexible repayment plans, including payments as low as \$10 per month. If they are unable to meet their necessary living expenses due to the current repayment amount, or are unable to repay the debt within 60 months\*, they can request a change in the recovery rate by completing form SSA-634, Request for Change in Overpayment Recovery Rate.

\*This is a recent policy change. Previous policy required the completion of the SSA-634 if the overpayment could not be repaid within 36 months.

For more information, please read the Overpayments Fact Sheet.

## Invitation to participate in HEALTHCARE ACCESS STUDY March 26th 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Please take a moment to learn about this access study and promote. Participants will be entered into a raffle for the chance to win a \$75 gift certificate. English and Spanish.

• Lawrence General Hospital is conducting an assessment to gain a greater understanding of what makes it easier or harder for people to access primary care and how they can work with the community to make it easier to get care. The goal of this assessment is to gain a greater understanding of the issues that community members face, how those issues are currently being addressed, and where there are opportunities for improvement. The findings from the assessment will be used to inform decisions around future

investments to improve the community.

- Lawrence General Hospital has hired Health Resources in Action (HRiA) as a partner in this process. As part of their work, HRiA is gathering and analyzing data, including interviews with key community leaders and focus groups with community members.

- We are reaching out to ask if you would be interested in participating in a focus group to have your voice heard. The focus groups will be around 60-90 minutes.

- The focus group will be on Tuesday March 26th 4:30pm - 6:00pm at the Lawrence Public Library. Light refreshments will be provided

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ASL, CART & Spanish  
Interpretation provided

**Legislative  
Forum**

Questions?  
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[esoares@nilp.org](mailto:esoares@nilp.org)



## Sports with Northern Essex Community College

By Dan Blair, Director of Athletics

### Strong Second Half Gives Northern Essex 5th Place National Finish

Herkimer, NY (March 16, 2024) – For the second consecutive day the Northern Essex Community College men's basketball team went into the locker room at halftime facing a deficit and for the second consecutive day, the Knights rallied to come out on top. On Saturday, Northern Essex trailed Montgomery County (PA) 36-26 at the break before outscoring the Mustangs by a 36-23 margin in the second stanza to secure the 62-59 victory. With the win the Knights finish the season with an overall record of 32-2 and for the second consecutive year pick up a fifth place national finish.

With the game tied at 57 apiece, a three point basket from Ben Nkwantah (Methuen) with 1:32 remaining in the contest put the Knights in front for the remainder of the game 60-57, before a pair of free throws from Luis Reynoso

(Lawrence) with 28 seconds remaining sealed the final score.

NECC opened the games second half on a 9-0 run, but it wasn't until just seven minutes remained in the contest that the Knights tied the game up at 53 and took a lead they would relinquish with 5:05 remaining in the game on a layup from Reynoso.

For the second day in a row Reynoso was the games high scorer with 26 points. He was lone Knight in double figures, Nkwantah finished with nine points. Darlin Santiago (Salem) added seven points as the Knights bench outscored the Mustangs by a 22-14 margin.

Kyoya Sasaki (Tokyo, Japan) was a workhorse for the Knights on both ends of the court as he picked up four steals and seven rebounds to go along with six points.



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It has also never been a better time to give to the Greater Lawrence Summer Fund! Thanks to a generous donor, your gift today will help even more young people in Greater Lawrence have the best summer ever. When you make a gift by June 1, 2024 you will help GLSF access a dollar-for-dollar match, up to \$30,000!

We all recognize that fostering connection, engagement and self-confidence has never been more important to young people's well-being. Summer programs, like those funded in partnership with the GLSF, make a real and lasting difference. For more information, click here [GLSF | Essex County Community Foundation \(eccc.org\)](#).

Join us in creating even more opportunities for young people in 2024 by making a gift to the Greater Lawrence Summer Fund today.

#### Volunteer Committee Members

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Essex County Community Foundation  
175 Andover Street  
Danvers, MA 01923  
[eccc.org](http://eccc.org)



"When you are courting a nice girl an hour seems like a second. When you sit on a red-hot cinder a second seems like an hour. That's relativity."

Albert Einstein

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BY DALIA DÍAZ  
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LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

# From My Corner

## Next LRA meeting

Before I get busy writing about other things, let me tell you that the next meeting of the Lawrence Redevelopment Authority (LRA) will be held on Wednesday, March 27th at the Office of Planning and Development located at 360 Merrimack Street, Entrance K, Suite 270, at 6:00 PM.

These meetings are very important because plenty of money is moving through, and the public should be more aware of what's going on. That's why I insist that these meetings should be held in the City Council Chambers like many other meetings where people can watch them on Television or Facebook and be recorded. Right now, the only record is the minutes of the meetings.

If there is any change to this, I will try to let everyone know via Facebook.

## City Council meeting of 3/19/24

Talk about a circus! This is the worst I've seen. It lasted 6 hours and there's no need to say I didn't watch it all. Council President Jeovanny Rodríguez seems unable to keep the members' decorum and, at times, forgot to follow Robert's Rules of Order.

One poor example was when they took a five-minute break to take pictures with the three students being honored that night. This has always been customary and it's another way to show them the council's appreciation. Well, Councilor Wendy Luzón started complaining that "We have a full agenda, and we cannot take time for that," creating confusion and chaos.

She doesn't understand that there's a protocol for that.

There was a presentation via Zoom by the Alma Group from Chicago regarding the search for a school superintendent. They went too long and into many details

that were easy to forget but the explosive behavior from Councilor Gregory Delrosario was uncalled for.

Delrosario yelled at the presenters "For the money we are paying you, you should be here in person instead of Zoom." Talk about decorum with a guest! He then went on complaining about doing this presentation when the city council will not have a say on the superintendent's hiring. Pure embarrassment!

He was right but there are ways to say what you think without being disrespectful. Again, what happened to the meeting's decorum?

Then, we could hear council members speaking out of turn or making suggestions during someone else's turn speaking. Board of Health

Dr. Joel Gorn, Chairman of the Board of Health explained the current situation with that department took me by surprise. I had no idea that state law requires this board to have three members and it has only two. Stephen Gil, the other board member, was taking part in the presentation along with him. That led me to believe that those meetings were illegal.

And, to think that this has been going on for the past nine or ten years, under other administrations. While the City of Methuen has a budget of \$1.34 million for its Board of Health, Lawrence has just \$130,000.

The worst part is that, due to the city's mismanagement by not having three board members, Lawrence lost valuable grants (some \$3 million by my quick count while watching the meeting). One grant was lost because the money received was wasted hiring three Inspectional Services inspectors.

I hope to bring specifics next week because there's a lot to research. I only know that it is a mess, and nobody is paying attention to Dr. Gorn or Stephen Gil.

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

— Helen Thomas



## The situation with Chief Castro

Please find on this page the press release sent by Mayor Brian DePeña's office regarding placing Provisional Police Chief William Castro on paid leave while the issue is investigated. I have spoken to the mayor and Chief Castro and will bring you a complete story for our next edition.

Meanwhile, here is a definition of G.L. c. 6E, Sec. 8 as follows:

- (c)(1) The division of police standards shall initiate a preliminary inquiry into the conduct of a law enforcement officer if the commission receives a complaint, report or other credible evidence that is deemed sufficient
- (i) was involved an officer-involved injury or death;
- (ii) committed a felony or misdemeanor, whether or not the officer has been arrested, indicted, charged or convicted;
- (iii) engaged in conduct prohibited pursuant to section 14;
- (iv) engaged in conduct prohibited pursuant to section 15; or
- (v) the commission receives an affirmative recommendation by the head of an appointing agency for disciplinary action by the commission, including retraining or suspension or revocation of the officer's certification.

## Mayor's Office Announcement re. decision on William Castro

Lawrence (March 21, 2024) – Mayor Brian A. DePeña has placed Lawrence Police Department Provisional Chief William Castro on administrative paid leave until further notice, pending a review of the matter related to M.G.L.c,6E,s 9(a)(4):555CMR 1.06.

Effective immediately, Mayor DePeña has assigned Lt. Melix Bonilla in charge of the Lawrence Police Department as the Provisional Police Chief until further notice.

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