

Alcalde DePeña nombra al Dr. Vidal Primiterio a Junta de Salud de Lawrence



El Dr. Primiterio aporta a la junta una gran experiencia y conocimientos. Ha dedicado su carrera a la salud pública y está comprometido a crear impactos positivos en la comunidad. Como miembro de la Junta, el Dr. Primiterio trabajará diligentemente para abordar los problemas y desafíos de salud que afectan a los residentes de Lawrence, Pg. 6

GLTS Honors Marilyn Fitzgerald naming their pool for her



Marilyn Fitzgerald recognizes her family, former co-workers, and fellow swim coaches. (Photo Courtesy Greater Lawrence Technical School) Pg. 12

Proposed changes for the School Committee Pg. 15

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Emmaus to Hold Annual Spring Fundraising Event on May 16



Haverhill Mayor Melinda Barrett and Elaine Barker celebrate at "Sip, Sample & Support." This annual spring gala and fundraising event on Thursday, May 16. Pg. 12

Gira de escucha sobre pequeñas empresas del senador Payano



El evento tuvo lugar el lunes, 8 de abril y comenzó con un foro en el Lawrence Senior Center, seguido de un recorrido a pie por el distrito comercial. Este formato facilitó un diálogo abierto entre empresarios y legisladores estatales. George Ramirez de Lawrence Partnership moderó el foro, con contribuciones notables de Joe y Michael Bevilacqua de la Cámara de Comercio de Merrimack Valley y el Director de Desarrollo de Pequeñas Empresas de la Oficina Ejecutiva de Desarrollo Económico Deejo Jibril. Pg. 8

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“Operation May Flower” Mayo es el Mes de Concienciación sobre el Cuidado de Crianza

Apoyemos a los Niños en Cuidado de Crianza: Un Llamado a la Comunidad



El Departamento de Policía de Lawrence desea anunciar que una operación exitosa de varias agencias denominada “May Flower” tiene como objetivo infracciones de vehículos motorizados, narcóticos, actividad de pandillas, órdenes de arresto de individuos violentos y otros problemas de calidad de vida, incluida la operación legal de motocicletas, y vehículos todoterreno tuvo lugar el martes y jueves de esta semana.

Como parte de un esfuerzo continuo para abordar estos problemas de calidad de vida, el Departamento de Policía de Lawrence unió fuerzas con la Policía Estatal de Massachusetts, incluido el Ala Aérea de la Policía Estatal de Massachusetts, Massachusetts, y el Departamento del Sheriff del Condado de Essex. La operación de esta semana estuvo dirigida por el teniente de la policía de Lawrence, Jay Cerullo, y el teniente de la policía estatal de Massachusetts, Peter Morawiak.

Como resultado de esta colaboración, se emitieron 303 citaciones por infracciones de tránsito y deficiencias de equipo, se remolcaron y/o incautaron 34 vehículos, se citó a 9 personas ante el tribunal, se realizaron 39 arrestos y se incautaron 5 motos de cross ilegales.

El Jefe Provisional Bonilla agradece al Coronel de la Policía Estatal de Massachusetts James Mawn y al Mayor James Bazzinotti de la Tropa A, así como al Sheriff Kevin

Coppinger por unirse al Departamento de Policía de Lawrence para abordar estos graves problemas, que son una molestia para la gran mayoría de los residentes de Lawrence, que son ciudadanos respetuosos de la ley y que se preocupan mucho por la ciudad. Esta es la segunda de muchas operaciones de este tipo con la Policía Estatal de Massachusetts y otras agencias.

Se insta a los residentes que tengan información relacionada con la operación ilegal de estos vehículos recreativos en su vecindario a comunicarse con el Departamento enviando un correo electrónico a desorden@lawpd.com y haciendo clic aquí para acceder al sistema de sugerencias que se encuentra en <https://new.tipsubmit.com/en/formularios/lawpd.com/anonymous>. Esta es una línea de información completamente ANÓNIMA a través de la web. Proporcionar información sobre un delito que pueda ayudarnos en nuestras investigaciones y proteger su privacidad. NO se necesitan NOMBRES, DIRECCIONES ni NÚMEROS DE TELÉFONO del proveedor de propinas. Simplemente complete los detalles como tipo de delito, nombre del sospechoso(s), ubicación, fecha(s) y cualquier otra información que considere útil para resolver o prevenir un delito. Además, cualquier información que pueda ayudarnos a mejorar o abordar problemas actuales.

“Operation May Flower”

The Lawrence Police Department would like to announce that a successful multi-agency operation dubbed “May Flower” targeting motor vehicle infractions, narcotics, gang activity, warrant arrests of violent individuals, and other quality of life issues including the lawful operation of motorcycles and off-road vehicles took place Tuesday and Thursday of this week.

As part of an ongoing effort, to address these quality-of-life issues, the Lawrence Police Department joined forces with the Massachusetts State Police, including the Massachusetts State Police Air Wing, Massachusetts, and the Essex County Sheriff's Department. This week's operation was led by Lawrence Police Lieutenant Jay Cerullo and Massachusetts State Police Lieutenant Peter Morawiak.

As a result of this collaboration, 303 citations were issued for moving violations and equipment deficiencies, 34 vehicles were towed and/or seized, 9 individuals were summonsed into court, 39 arrests were made, and 5 illegal dirt bikes were seized.

Provisional Chief Bonilla is grateful to Massachusetts State Police Colonel James

Mawn and Major James Bazzinotti from Troop A, as well as Sheriff Kevin Coppinger for joining the Lawrence Police Department in addressing these serious issues, which are a nuisance to the vast majority of Lawrence residents, who are law-abiding citizens, and who care greatly for the city. This is the second of many such operations with the Massachusetts State Police and other agencies.

Residents with information relating to the illegal operation of these recreational vehicles in their neighborhood are urged to contact the Department by emailing disorder@lawpd.com as well as Click here to Tip System found at <https://new.tipsubmit.com/en/forms/lawpd.com/anonymous>. This is a completely ANONYMOUS tip line via the web. Provide information on a crime that may assist us in our investigations and protect your privacy. NO NAMES, ADDRESSES or PHONE NUMBERS of tip provider needed. Simply fill in the specifics such as type of crime, name of suspect(s), location, date(s) and any other information you feel may be useful in solving or preventing a crime. In addition, any information that may help us improve or address ongoing issues.

Cada año, miles de adolescentes salen del sistema de cuidado de crianza sin el apoyo de una familia. Se enfrentan a desafíos cotidianos sin tener a quién recurrir: desde situaciones tan simples como un neumático desinflado hasta tener a alguien con quien compartir sus alegrías y logros.

En Massachusetts, esta realidad se acentúa aún más. A pesar de que los latinos representan solo el 20 por ciento de todos los niños de 17 años o menos, alarmantemente constituyen el 34 por ciento de los niños en cuidado de crianza, según datos del Censo de los Estados Unidos y el Departamento de Niños y Familias. Esta disparidad es un llamado de atención urgente que nos insta a tomar medidas concretas para brindar un apoyo sólido a estos niños y adolescentes que enfrentan la realidad del cuidado de crianza.

Una opción para ayudar es considerar la adopción desde el cuidado de crianza. Para muchos niños y adolescentes, la adopción ofrece la oportunidad de encontrar un hogar permanente y amoroso después de haber pasado por períodos de incertidumbre y

transición.

Sin embargo, no es necesario adoptar a un niño para marcar la diferencia en su vida. Hay múltiples formas de contribuir y ofrecer un impacto positivo: desde ser voluntario en la Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange para ayudar a niños y familias de adopción, hasta convertirse en un CASA (Defensor Especial Designado por el Tribunal) y brindar apoyo a los niños en el sistema. Además, considerar la posibilidad de abrir tu hogar como padre de crianza o abogar por cambios sistémicos que mejoren el sistema de cuidado de crianza son acciones que pueden generar un impacto significativo y duradero.

En este mes de Concientización sobre el Cuidado de Crianza, es fundamental que cada miembro de nuestra comunidad considere cómo puede apoyar a estos niños y adolescentes en cuidado de crianza. Cada uno de nosotros tiene el poder de crear un entorno de apoyo y crianza donde estos jóvenes puedan crecer y prosperar. Juntos, podemos construir una comunidad más fuerte y compasiva para todos los niños.

May is Foster Care Awareness Month

Let's Support Children in Foster Care: A Call to the Community

Every year, thousands of teens leave the foster care system without the support of a family. They face everyday challenges with no one to turn to: from situations as simple as a flat tire to having someone to share their joys and achievements with.

In Massachusetts, this reality is even more accentuated. Although Latinos make up only 20 percent of all children ages 17 and younger, they make up an alarming 34 percent of children in foster care, according to data from the U.S. Census and the Department of Children and Adolescents. Families. This disparity is an urgent wake-up call urging us to take concrete steps to provide strong support to these children and teens facing the reality of foster care.

One option to help is to consider adoption from foster care. For many children and adolescents, adoption offers the opportunity to find a permanent, loving home after experiencing periods of uncertainty and transition.

However, you don't have to adopt a child to make a difference in her life. There are multiple ways to contribute and provide a positive impact: from volunteering at the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange to help adopted children and families, to becoming a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) and providing support to children in the system. Additionally, considering opening your home as a foster parent or advocating for systemic changes that improve the foster care system are actions that can make a significant and lasting impact.

This Foster Care Awareness month, it is critical that every member of our community consider how they can support these children and teens in foster care. Each of us has the power to create a supportive and nurturing environment where these young people can grow and thrive. Together, we can build a stronger, more compassionate community for all children.

“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

Rumbo

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“El talento gana partidos, pero el trabajo en equipo y la inteligencia ganan campeonatos.”

“Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships.”

– Michael Jordan.

Superintendent Finalists

Finalists announcement from the Superintendent Search Subcommittee of the Lawrence Alliance for Education

Ralph Carrero

Ralph Carrero is the director/superintendent of the Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund and the Lawrence Family Development Charter School in Lawrence. He is also the founding president of the school, which provides a dual language education development program to 860 students in grades K to 8. The organization has a deep commitment to the development of youth leadership, new immigrants, and adult educational and training programs. Prior to assuming this role, Ralph served as an education administrator for 18 years at the Greater Lawrence Technical



High School, where he was coordinator of student services. His professional career spans close to 40 years, providing services in counseling, social work, criminal justice, and education to residents in the City of Lawrence. In 1992, Mr. Carrero became the first Latino ever elected to serve in public office in the City of Lawrence. He went on to serve three consecutive terms (eleven

years) on the Lawrence School Committee.

He is past president of both the Lawrence Youth Commission and the Family and Education Fund. He has served on state boards and has worked with every level of governmental body advocating and recommending policy to serve residents in the Commonwealth.

Dr. Alma Gonzalez de Castillo

Dr. Alma Gonzalez de Castillo is a native of Laredo, Texas and is committed to serving communities in Texas and across the nation as a lifetime educator. Dr. Gonzalez de Castillo currently serves and leads a team of talented principals as assistant superintendent of schools in the Pflugerville Independent School District. Her educational career spans 20 years with experience in K-12 education as well as organizational leadership. In her current role, she contributed to the passing of the Teacher Incentive Allotment, which increased the earning power of teachers. Dr. Gonzalez de



Castillo also supported the implementation of the Newcomer Academy welcoming students from Central and South America. Additionally, she has led boundary alignment parent meetings and pioneered a mentoring program for high school male students. She consistently collaborates in the development of campus leadership, instructional support, and learning plans leading to student growth and excellence. Her experience and leadership with low-performing schools and bilingual education have led to the academic success of several Title 1 campuses in central Texas and along the Texas/Mexico border. Her proudest moment was in 2019, when she led a low-performing Title 1 campus

to become a National Blue Ribbon School.

Dr. Gonzalez de Castillo graduated from the University of Texas in San Antonio with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in bicultural studies. She earned a Master of Science in curriculum and instruction with a focus in leadership from Texas A&M International University. In December of 2023, she earned her Doctor of Education in learning and organizational change from Baylor University, where she was admitted to the Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society for her outstanding academic achievement and educational contributions.

Ligia Noriega-Murphy

Ligia Noriega-Murphy is an educational leader with a long-standing career of school and district improvement, always keeping students at the center of her work. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in art history from the University of Massachusetts, Boston; two Master's degrees (Education and Management) and a Certificate in Diversity from Cambridge College; a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study from the University of Massachusetts, Boston; and a Principalship Residency Network Certification from Northeastern University. She also completed the first Boston Public Schools' Principal Fellows program.



In 1995, Ms. Noriega-Murphy began work at the Boston Public Schools. In addition to being one of the Boston Arts Academy's founding faculty members, she also founded its International Program in Spain and Mexico. She served as assistant superintendent for Boston Public Schools for 11 years. She is well known for her work in skillfully leading Excel High School and English High School to high performance levels. In the 2016 Diplomas Now National Convention in Orlando, Fl., English High School and Ms. Noriega-Murphy received

the School and Headmaster of the Year Awards. In 2015 and 2016, she was invited by the White House to present best practices for the national My Brother's Keeper initiative. In 2017, Ms. Noriega-Murphy was inducted to the English High School Hall of Fame. She is fluent in several languages and has traveled to more than 36 countries. On July 1, 2021, Ms. Noriega-Murphy started her role as superintendent of the Malden Public Schools, where she built strong relationships with students, caregivers, and community members. She positioned the Malden Public Schools for current and future success.

Dr. Timothy Sippel

Dr. Timothy Sippel is a lifelong educator with over three decades of experience in urban public school districts. He currently serves as an executive director of schools in the Worcester Public Schools, where he oversees 13 elementary and secondary schools in a district that educates over 24,000 students. Dr. Sippel provides key leadership in the streamlining of central office support and the development of district policies to improve teaching and learning. He has also led the expansion of the Commonwealth's largest Early College program in partnership with Quinsigamond Community College and Worcester State University. From his early days as a student in Cincinnati, Ohio, attending racially integrated and under-resourced schools, and throughout his career, Dr. Sippel has developed an unwavering commitment to improving public education for all students. He entered the field of education through Teach for America as a bilingual Spanish elementary teacher and taught for 10 years in South Los Angeles. He later held key administrative positions such as English learner coordinator, school improvement facilitator, director of college and career pathways, and high school principal, in which he honed his expertise as an educational innovator. During his tenure in the Pasadena Unified School District,



he led the reconstitution and turnaround of the district's highest-needs high school, substantially boosting graduation rates. He also established cutting-edge career technical education programs and launched the first Early College partnership in Pasadena.

Dr. Sippel holds a Bachelor of Science in foreign service and Latin American studies from Georgetown University and La Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Additionally, he earned a Master of Education from the University of California, Los Angeles, and completed his Doctorate in Education Leadership at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2020.

Check information on superintendent candidates' interviews, see page 7)

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"The Bilingual Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley"

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POR DALIA DÍAZ
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■ READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



Prácticas de contratos de Lawrence

El pasado martes se reunió la Comisión de Personal del Concejo Municipal y el único punto en el orden del día fue el nombramiento de Carlos Matos como director de Planificación y Desarrollo. Se suponía que sería un “acuerdo cerrado” antes de enviarlo al pleno del concejo para su aprobación.

Lo apoyaron Ramón Quezada y Octavien Spanner.

La concejal del Distrito A, Fidelina Santiago, intentó hacer algunas preguntas, pero le resultó difícil leer las notas que tenía escritas mientras presionaba el botón del micrófono al mismo tiempo. Su dominio del inglés era tan pobre que me costó entender lo que decía y tuve que escuchar la grabación varias veces.

Se le preguntó al Sr. Spanner si este puesto se anunció públicamente, contestando que sí, y si había otros candidatos calificados, pero respondió que “no había ningún candidato que coincidiera con el Sr. Matos”.

No recordaba si Matos comenzó a trabajar como interino en febrero o marzo. Lo único que tenían que hacer era preguntarle a Carlos quién estaba presente, pero no lo hicieron. Era obvio que la presidenta Stephany Infante no estaba contenta con lo que estaba escuchando y se lo pasó a la concejala Wendy Luzón.

Luzón cuestionó por qué el currículum de Matos muestra sólo tres referencias: José Javier, Octavien Spanner y el alcalde Brian DePeña y ninguna de empleadores anteriores, lo que arroja dudas sobre sus credenciales.

Ella afirmó que su currículum estaba incompleto y que la ciudad no siguió el proceso adecuado y alzó la voz a un nivel innecesario.

Wendy regañó a Carlos mientras revisa su currículum porque, después de todo, sabe cómo detectar una falsificación cuando la ve. Durante años, trabajó para la ciudad pretendiendo tener un título universitario cuando lo único que tenía era un diploma de escuela secundaria. Ahora que tiene un poco de autoridad, no quiere que nadie haga lo mismo que ella.

Sólo confesó lo que había hecho durante una declaración mientras enfrentaba la posibilidad de ir a la cárcel por mentir bajo juramento.

Ella cuestionó sus credenciales y las fechas de su currículum y siguió revisando las páginas en busca de más. Cualquiera que presenciara esa reunión no querría someterse a tales abusos y desconfianzas injustificadas.

Aprobaron enviarlo al concejo e inmediatamente tuvieron reunión del Comité de Ordenanza. El abogado Tim Houten les pidió que aprobaran la descripción del trabajo del Sr. Matos con algunos cambios.

El presidente del comité Marc Laplante le dijo entonces que esto requiere una audiencia pública. Ahora es una cuestión de cuándo se podrá finalizar la nueva descripción del puesto para que el Sr. Matos pueda ser nombrado permanentemente.

El caso Carlos Matos es un buen ejemplo de cómo hacer todo al revés. Ha

estado allí durante varias semanas y ahora el fiscal de la ciudad ha descubierto que el concejo debe actualizar esta descripción de trabajo porque se han realizado algunos cambios en la versión anterior. Cada vez que se realizan cambios en la descripción de un puesto, se requiere la celebración de una audiencia pública y ese proceso llevará un tiempo. Mientras tanto, no le pagan.

Este episodio fue solo para mostrarles cuán mal concebidas están las cosas en Lawrence. Parece que siempre están trabajando al revés. Colocan a personas en puestos de trabajo, luego los publicitan y afirman que no hay nadie más calificado.

Recientemente, la ciudad envió un anuncio pago con 14 ofertas de trabajo y Rumbo se negó a publicarlo. La mayoría de esos puestos ya tenían dueño y no queríamos ser parte de ese engaño.

Hacia mucho tiempo, desde la época de Frank Bonet, que no tenemos un Departamento de Personal digno en la ciudad. Alguien que conozca las leyes y siga los procedimientos con la autoridad correspondiente.

Reunión del LRA del 24 de abril

Esta era una reunión que yo no debía dejar de asistir porque tenían una agenda enorme y varios de esos temas me interesaban. Todavía no entiendo mucho sobre la función de la Lawrence Redevelopment Authority (LRA) porque es una organización muy compleja, pero les traeré detalles de las que logro comprender.

El primer tema discutido fueron las renovaciones de Pacific Mills. Este es el edificio propiedad de Brady-Sullivan en 300 Canal St. pero el LRA es propietario de la planta hidroeléctrica y les está costando la factura de electricidad y el mantenimiento. Ahora quieren renovar un área y convertirla en espacios de almacenamiento de 9' x 15' que puedan alquilar a los inquilinos.

Pero hubo discusiones serias sobre Pemberton Park y los muchos camiones que estacionan allí todo el tiempo cuando ese parque va a sufrir grandes renovaciones. En ese momento estaba presente la concejal general Ana Levy, quien había hecho sus deberes preguntando al alcalde cuánto pagan esos camiones por el estacionamiento. Él le dijo que algunos no pagan nada en absoluto, pero que la ciudad recauda \$5,050 cada mes. DPW supervisará que se les envíen sus facturas de pago.

Fue alentador escuchar que algunos de los planes incluyen convertirlo en un lugar específico, aunque no hay estacionamiento en esa área. Quizás el lugar de preocupación podría ser el centro de la ciudad. Veamos qué se les ocurre.

Dado que Lawrence es una comunidad MBTA según la nueva ley estatal que exige la construcción de más viviendas en estas comunidades, se mencionó la idea de construir apartamentos a lo largo de Merrimack St.

Las reuniones del LRA parecen transcurrir sin estructura ni reglas, y adoptarán un período de participación pública como los 2.5 minutos utilizados en las reuniones del concejo municipal.

¿Recuerda cuánto luché contra la

construcción de un estudio de televisión en 255 Essex St.? Bueno, seguirán con esos planes aunque será un espacio público para reuniones, capacitación y presentaciones del LRA. Mientras tanto, el alcalde está trabajando con el abogado en el tema del estudio de televisión, y escuché que lo están instalando en la Biblioteca Pública.

Algo que me tomó por sorpresa fue la noticia de que la ciudad no puede desarrollar el sitio de Tombarello y Merrimack Paper y deben venderse. No hubo explicación sobre quién hizo el cambio o el motivo. Simplemente dijeron que serán limpiados por el Estado. Después pensé que Tombarello sería un buen lugar para mover el garaje y oficinas de DPW que se encuentran en medio de la ciudad (el City Yard) en un área residencial.

El LRA puede desarrollar propiedades municipales, pero necesita fuentes alternativas de financiación. Los bonos deberán estar firmados por la ciudad y también pueden solicitar créditos fiscales federales.

Dado que el LRA facilita los proyectos a los desarrolladores de la ciudad, Octavien Spanner dijo que la primera ciudad contactada fue Cambridge para obtener información sobre los últimos 50 años de progreso. También consultará con Lowell y Haverhill.

El 15 de abril escribí en esta columna que habían contratado a Andrea McCann porque el señor Spanner la había recomendado “porque la ha visto recaudar fondos y la ha visto trabajar en varias recaudaciones de fondos exitosas”. Esa noche querían saber sobre sus logros desde agosto pasado y el Sr. Spanner se apresuró a corregir a Sara Pérez cuando se refirió a ella como Directora de Desarrollo diciendo que el título correcto es Directora de Finanzas.

Había una gran diferencia entre el motivo por el cual la trajo aquí (ver arriba) y este nuevo título. Pero la mejor parte fueron las notas que leyó de su lista de “logros”.

Comenzó y terminó su breve diatriba refiriéndose a su cargo de Directora de Desarrollo (supongo que nadie le dijo que ese título se había cambiado) y dijo que organizó un montón de reuniones con desarrolladores potenciales, colaboró con Carras Investment Group, Stantec, TEC, etc., se involucró en relaciones públicas y comunicaciones y muchas reuniones con políticos. Mencionó la reunión con José Javier, gerente de proyectos del Plan de Mejoras Capitales para la ciudad y dueños de negocios locales. Había sujetos sin información específica sobre lo hecho o logrado.

Andrea dedicó más tiempo a hablar de sus raíces porque nació y creció aquí. Su hermana buscó comprar una casa aquí durante dos años y terminó mudándose a Haverhill. ¿A quién le importa eso, Andrea?

De alguna manera creo que esta agenda se inspiró en mi columna del 15 de abril porque muchas de las cosas que mencioné fueron discutidas esa noche. Como solicitudes de propuestas para un diseñador de sitios web y una empresa de relaciones públicas.

Volviendo a mi artículo del 15 de abril, ¿recuerda que escribí esto?:

“Octavien propuso pagar \$71,850 a

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Lawrence MA 01843
Email: Rumbo@rumbonews.com

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

Karyn Martin de Golden Thread Agency LLC, 26 Scenic View Drive, Pelham, NH, 03076. Su propuesta tenía fecha del 14 de agosto de 2023”.

La directiva lo discutió el verano pasado y saben que había estado negociando con esta empresa.

Lo mismo cuando decidieron sobre la necesidad de una agencia de relaciones públicas. Nuevamente escribí en ese momento lo siguiente:

“También hay otro contrato para DHARMA Consulting, una agencia creada el 11 de enero de 2023, ubicada en 60 Island St., #209W por Hem H. Vora. Enviaron un contrato al LRA el 14 de agosto de 2023 para proporcionar “servicios de consultoría al LRA” a partir del 1 de enero de 2024, por \$6,500 cada mes”.

Lo que más me molesta es que esta junta sea crédula. Votan “sí” sin analizar por qué votan y olvidan lo que se ha discutido en el pasado.

Antes de levantar la sesión, el presidente Eric Walker tuvo que volver a plantear el tema de las Pinturas del White Fund. Octavien concertará una reunión con el abogado Peter Caruso para él y el señor Walker.

¿Por qué es eso un asunto que debe manejar el LRA?

Operación ilegal de vehículos recreativos

Hay un artículo en la página 2 del Departamento de Policía de Lawrence sobre una redada realizada en cooperación con varios departamentos de policía que recomiendo a todos que lean. Ese fue el resultado de una ordenanza municipal presentada por la concejala general Ana Levy hace un par de años añadiendo vehículos recreativos.

“Vehículos motorizados recreativos” registrados y no registrados, capaces de ser propulsados por gasolina, electricidad/batería u otro tipo de combustible, incluidos los comúnmente conocidos como motos de nieve, vehículos todo terreno, minibicicletas, ciclomotores, motos de cross/scooters, karts, patinetas motorizadas u otros vehículos similares no podrán operarse en ninguna propiedad, privada o pública, sin el consentimiento expreso del propietario o supervisor de dicha propiedad. La evidencia del permiso por escrito estará en posesión del operador de dichos vehículos y se presentará previa solicitud de cualquier oficial de policía u otro oficial encargado de hacer cumplir la ley.

El Concejo Municipal de la Ciudad de Lawrence ordena que las Ordenanzas Revisadas de la Ciudad de Lawrence se modifiquen aún más agregando el siguiente subpárrafo a la Sección 10.45.010 del Código Municipal (Vehículos recreativos):

§10.45.010 Vehículos recreativos: registrados y no registrados

(a) Definiciones. A los efectos de esta ordenanza, la frase “vehículo recreativo” tendrá el siguiente significado (excepto en aquellos casos en los que el contexto indique

Cont. en la página 5)

Cambios propuestos para el Comité Escolar

Concejales rechazan propuesta del alcalde; aprueban la de Ana Levy y Comité Escolar

Por Dalia Díaz

El alcalde Brian DePeña envió una propuesta al Concejo Municipal para una Petición de Autonomía que haría cambios radicales en la composición del Comité Escolar que pueden ser contrarios a la Declaración de Derechos de Massachusetts con respecto a la gobernanza por parte de una "junta electa".

Algo que hay que considerar es el hecho de que la propuesta de reorganización de un órgano electo (el comité escolar) es redactada y adelantada por la Alcaldía, que es el Poder Ejecutivo, sin autoridad legal. La supervisión del Comité Escolar recae en el Poder Legislativo (Concejo Municipal) y NO en el Poder Ejecutivo. En ese sentido, no parece haber ninguna información o voto del Comité Escolar de Lawrence para realizar procedimientos públicos con respecto a una propuesta para reorganizar el Comité Escolar de la Ciudad. Además, el autor de la reorganización propuesta fue Carlos Matos, quien es empleado del Poder Ejecutivo y sin autorización legal para redactar, presentar o recomendar la legislación propuesta que se está avanzando.

No he visto nada que permita un comité escolar mixto "designado y elegido" y no existe ninguna disposición constitucional de Massachusetts que lo establezca, lo que significa que es contrario a la Constitución de Massachusetts y no puede lograrse mediante una Petición de Autonomía (es requiere que las Peticiones de Autonomía cumplan con los estándares constitucionales).

Al crear una junta pública que represente al "público" (como un comité escolar), se requiere que todos los miembros sean "elegidos". Una junta electa, como el comité escolar o el Concejo Municipal, puede "contratar" asesores de diversos orígenes que al alcalde le gustaría recibir recomendaciones: se puede crear una junta asesora y recurrir al concejo de padres, la coalición educativa, las necesidades especiales, concejo asesor, un maestro, un administrador escolar, un miembro de la Junta de Inversión en la Fuerza Laboral, un miembro del cuerpo docente de las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence, un concejal de la ciudad y otras cuatro personas que serán designadas por el alcalde para actuar como panel de recomendaciones.

Es "crítico" para la Administración tener a los "miembros designados" sentados y votando en el comité escolar para mantener

el "control directo" que muestra la medida propuesta por el alcalde. Sólo hay un problema: un comité escolar compuesto por 7 miembros designados por el alcalde con 3 miembros elegidos "en general" es probablemente "inconstitucional" en violación del Artículo IX de la Declaración de Derechos de Massachusetts y G.L. c. 43.

Además, tenga en cuenta que cualquier reunión de cualquier organismo público de varios miembros DEBE ser pública con una agenda y un aviso publicado 48 horas antes de todas dichas reuniones; dichas reuniones deben tener lugar en el Concejo Municipal o en un Subcomité del Concejo Municipal.

El martes por la noche, el Concejo Municipal se reunió con los miembros del Comité Escolar para discutir su versión de la Petición de Autonomía, la propuesta original del alcalde y otra proporcionada por la concejala general Ana Levy. Después de una breve discusión, el concejo votó por unanimidad rechazar la versión del alcalde.

Se decidió que la propuesta de la concejala Levy era mucho mejor que la propuesta presentada por el alcalde.

Noté que la enmienda #1 del concejal Levy propone retener seis (6) miembros electos del comité escolar (uno de cada distrito político, lo mismo que lo dispuesto actualmente en la sección 5.1(a) de los Estatutos de la Ciudad). Sin embargo, retener la disposición para tres (3) los miembros designados del nuevo "comité escolar" aún pueden violar el Artículo IX de la Declaración de Derechos de Massachusetts.

Los tres (3) miembros electos que sean elegidos para un mandato de cuatro años según la Sección 4 propuesta pueden estar sujetos a una "petición de destitución" según la Sección 9.7 de los Estatutos de la Ciudad. Según los Estatutos de la Ciudad, los funcionarios electos elegidos para desempeñar un mandato de cuatro años con "más de doce meses restantes del mandato pueden ser destituidos de su cargo" por los votantes. Este "aspecto" de la reorganización propuesta de la composición del comité escolar parece NO haber sido considerado por la reorganización legislativa propuesta.

Ciertamente, aumentar el número de funcionarios electos que pueden ser "revocados" según los Estatutos de la Ciudad aumenta la "posibilidad" de acción administrativa por parte de la División Electoral de la Ciudad y la Junta de Registradores. Actualmente, y desde hace algún tiempo, la División Electoral de la Ciudad carece de personal suficiente para administrar los deberes y responsabilidades del Estatuto que se le asignan. La provisión de deberes adicionales por esta o cualquier otra legislación solo servirá para disminuir la capacidad de la División Electoral para realizar de manera precisa y competente todos los deberes que le exigen los Estatutos de la Ciudad.

Actualmente, la Oficina del Alcalde es el único otro puesto electivo que puede estar sujeto a una "revocatoria". Si la Ciudad adopta disposiciones que afectan una mayor responsabilidad administrativa de la División Electoral, debe haber un aumento del personal profesional de la División Electoral para garantizar que la Ciudad de Lawrence pueda brindar de manera competente los servicios administrativos dirigidos por los Estatutos de la Ciudad.

La legislación propuesta podría proporcionar una disposición que elimine

a los tres (3) funcionarios electos de los comités escolares de estar sujetos a una "petición de destitución" (a recall). No parece que la reorganización propuesta resultante del Comité Escolar de Lawrence considere o prevea una "revocatoria electoral" de sus miembros.

Estadísticamente, el comité escolar actual de seis miembros proporciona una "representación proporcional" de los aproximadamente 89,143 residentes según el censo de EE. UU. de 2020 al proporcionar un (1) representante electo por cada 14,857 residentes de la ciudad de Lawrence. El "comité escolar designado/ elegido propuesto" proporciona un (1) representante electo para aproximadamente 29,714 residentes, lo que reduce a la mitad la representación elegida democráticamente.

El "nuevo comité escolar" propuesto elimina la capacidad de los votantes y residentes de cualquier distrito de brindar acceso y representación con respecto a cuestiones que puedan ser particulares del distrito. Aunque se puede argumentar que cualquiera de los 11 miembros puede brindar acceso y representación a los residentes de Lawrence interesados, el resultado práctico de cualquier asunto presentado por un residente o un votante no puede ser considerado ni abordado seriamente por un miembro del comité escolar cuya membresía en el comité escolar depende de la lealtad a la "autoridad nominadora" (el "panel de nominaciones o el alcalde) y NO a los votantes. Sólo por esta razón, la esencia de una forma de gobierno de "República Democrática" queda derrotada si se aprueba e implementa la "legislación propuesta".

En definitiva, los electores ya no tendrán una voz "viable" ni "directa" en el "nuevo comité escolar" donde ocho (8) de los once (11) miembros responden a una "autoridad" que es "nombrada" y no directamente. "elegida" para el comité escolar. Proporcionar nombramientos de alcaldes para los miembros del "comité escolar propuesto" tiene poco o ningún valor en comparación con un comité escolar que responda directamente ante los votantes.

La legislación propuesta crea un "amortiguador" impermeable entre los electores y el alcalde que puede ser fácilmente activado cuando la junta debe considerar posiciones impugnadas o contradictorias. Se exacerbará y empleará un terreno "fértil" para el juego y las maniobras políticas en los temas más controvertidos presentados a la "nueva junta", donde

tendremos menos efectividad cuando el comité escolar responda ante el electorado.

Mi punto es que SE REQUIERE una AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA para todos los actos legislativos municipales, incluidas las Peticiones de Autonomía, a menos que exista una Legislación Estatal o Local que elimine el requisito como se establece en la Sección 3.8(d) de los Estatutos. Como me dijo el presidente del Concejo, Jeovanny Rodríguez, "Tenemos que publicar un aviso para una audiencia pública incluso para una señal de PARE".

Si recuerda, a finales de 2020, los concejales, el alcalde y los legisladores estatales estaban discutiendo la eliminación de los requisitos de publicación, aviso y audiencia pública para las medidas legislativas municipales, incluidas las peticiones de autonomía, que establecieron que las disposiciones de gobernanza de "EMERGENCIA" que permitieron durante COVID. En ese momento, los requisitos de notificación mediante publicación y audiencia pública de los Estatutos Municipales y la Ley Estatal para todos los actos legislativos del Concejo Municipal no tenían nada que ver con la pandemia, ya que las disposiciones de publicación y notificación eran "acciones administrativas" que resultaban en una audiencia pública ante el Concejo, el cual estaba celebrando sus reuniones únicamente por Zoom y los avisos publicados todavía se publicaban oportunamente en cumplimiento de la "Ley de Reuniones Abiertas".

No estoy segura de si el Concejo ha eliminado los requisitos de "Publicación y Audiencia Pública" que deben seguirse para todas las Ordenanzas propuestas, disposiciones de los Estatutos, Enmiendas Legislativas y Peticiones de Autonomía. Si el Concejo aprueba actos legislativos municipales sin una audiencia pública, es una violación de los Estatutos de la Ciudad y de la Ley Estatal a menos que exista una medida que elimine efectivamente este requisito.

Cabe señalar que la concejala Levy fue la única concejala que presentó su versión de la propuesta y era obvio que la mayoría de los concejales no se molestaron en leer ninguna de ellas.

Espero que nuestros representantes lleguen a comprender lo que implica una "República Democrática". El gobierno no existe para gobernar al pueblo; el gobierno solo existe POR el pueblo y SIEMPRE debe ser cuestionado y controlado.

Desde mi Esquina

(Cont. de la página 4)

claramente un significado diferente):

(b) cualquier dispositivo con ruedas utilizado para transportar personas o propiedades impulsado por cualquier medio que no sea solo fuerza muscular y que está diseñado o modificado para su uso en terreno no mejorado con fines recreativos o de placer, incluidos, entre otros, vehículos todo terreno, vehículos todo terreno motocicletas, motos de cross y vehículos utilitarios recreativos.

Cualquier persona interesada en leer sobre esta ordenanza puede preguntarle a la Secretaria Municipal Eileen O'Connor Bernal en el Ayuntamiento o comunicarse conmigo por teléfono o correo electrónico y le enviaré una copia.

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Alcalde DePeña nombra al Dr. Vidal Primiterio como nuevo miembro de la Junta de Salud de Lawrence



La Escribana de la Ciudad Eileen O'Connor Bernal le tomó juramento al Dr. Vidal Primiterio después de ser nombrado miembro de la Junta de Salud de Lawrence.

The City Clerk Eileen O'Connor Bernal during the swearing in ceremony of Dr. Vidal Primiterio once he was appointed as a member of the Board of Health.

El alcalde Brian A. DePeña y la ciudad de Lawrence dieron la bienvenida al Dr. Vidal Primiterio a la Junta de Salud como miembro recién designado. Mientras que la secretaria municipal, Eileen Bernal, le tomó juramento en la cámara del concejo municipal. En su nuevo cargo, el Dr. Primiterio colaborará con otros miembros de la junta para desarrollar e implementar políticas que tengan como objetivo mejorar el bienestar de la comunidad.

El Dr. Primiterio aporta a la junta una gran experiencia y conocimientos. Ha dedicado su carrera a la salud pública y está comprometido a crear impactos positivos en la comunidad. Como miembro de la Junta, el Dr. Primiterio trabajará diligentemente para abordar los problemas y desafíos de salud que afectan a los residentes de Lawrence, como promover estilos de vida saludables, prevenir enfermedades y mejorar un mejor acceso a los servicios de atención médica.

La ciudad de Lawrence tiene la suerte de contar con el Dr. Primiterio como miembro de la Junta de Salud y tiene la esperanza de que sus contribuciones marquen una diferencia positiva en los resultados de salud de la comunidad.

Biografía del Dr. Vidal Primiterio:

El Dr. Vidal Primiterio nació en Santo Domingo, República Dominicana. Desde pequeño supo que su vocación era la medicina. Realizó sus estudios universitarios en Santo Domingo, egresando de la Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD) a la edad de 24 años, obteniendo el Doctorado en Medicina General.

Desde el inicio de su carrera médica, el Dr. Vidal Primiterio se destacó por su dedicación como líder estudiantil y activista, siendo así reconocido por todos sus compañeros. Durante su etapa como estudiante ocupó el cargo de presidente de la Unión Nacional de Internos de Médicos (UNAIME). Además, adquirió una valiosa experiencia trabajando durante varios años

en el Hospital Dr. Francisco Moscoso Puello en Santo Domingo, República Dominicana.

En abril de 1992, el Dr. Primiterio emigró a los Estados Unidos, radicándose en la Ciudad de Lawrence. Tuvo la oportunidad de involucrarse en la práctica de la medicina en el Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos (Oficina Federal de Prisiones), donde trabajó como Asistente Médico (no certificado) en el sistema penitenciario federal en el estado de Pensilvania durante aproximadamente un año y medio.

Posteriormente, regresó a Lawrence y se matriculó en la Facultad de Farmacia y Ciencias de la Salud de Massachusetts, donde obtuvo una maestría como asistente médico. Una vez graduado, comenzó a ejercer medicina en varios hospitales locales. Inicialmente, trabajó en el Departamento de Emergencias del Hospital Merrimack Valley en Haverhill, Massachusetts. Luego se mudó al Hospital Holy Family, donde también trabajó en el Departamento de Emergencias durante aproximadamente 20 años.

Además, el doctor Primiterio acumuló experiencia laboral en otros hospitales. Trabajó en el Lawrence General Hospital, nuevamente en el Departamento de Emergencias, así como en el Winchester City Hospital, en el mismo área, durante aproximadamente 5 años.

Paralelamente a su carrera médica, el Dr. Primiterio también se dedicó a la docencia. Entre 2005 y 2007, se desempeñó como profesor en Cambridge College en el Campus Lawrence, impartiendo clases de terminología médica en Anatomía y Patología. Actualmente, el Dr. Vidal Primiterio forma parte del equipo médico del Lawrence General Hospital, y también continúa siendo miembro activo del Departamento de Emergencias del Holy Family Hospital.

El Dr. Primiterio fue nominado como Gran Mariscal de la ciudad de Lawrence en las festividades de la Semana Hispana 2022, donde fue premiado por el Estado de Massachusetts, representado por el Sr.

Ronald Marino, Portavoz de la Cámara, y el Sr. Frank Morán, Representante Estatal. Recientemente el 25 de marzo de 2023, en el VII Congreso Anual de Medicina en la Ciudad de Boston Massachusetts, recibió el reconocimiento a la Trayectoria Profesional, por su arduo trabajo, dedicación y servicios prestados en su trayectoria profesional en el campo de la Medicina. En el mismo evento, el alcalde Brian A. DePeña le otorgó una resolución del Ayuntamiento de Boston, así como una proclamación de la ciudad de Lawrence.

Como inmigrante dominicano en los

Estados Unidos, el Dr. Vidal Primiterio ha logrado establecer su consultorio médico, actualmente ubicado en 25 Marston St, Suite 105, Lawrence, Massachusetts. Su dedicación a la comunidad hispana ha resultado en la atención de más de 6,000 pacientes, brindando servicios médicos cinco días a la semana a ciudadanos del Valle de Merrimack y áreas circundantes, sin importar su origen o estatus migratorio. Su incansable compromiso y éxito profesional son testimonio de su valiosa contribución a la sociedad y a la salud de quienes dependen de su cuidado.

Mayor DePeña appoints Dr. Vidal Primiterio as a new Lawrence Health Board member

Mayor Brian A. DePeña and the City of Lawrence welcomed Dr. Vidal Primiterio to the Board of Health as a newly appointed member. Whereas, City Clerk Eileen Bernal swore him in the city council chambers. In his new role, Dr. Primiterio will collaborate with other board members to develop and implement policies that aim to improve the well-being of the community.

Dr. Primiterio brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the board. He has dedicated his career to public health and is committed to creating positive impacts in the community. As a Board member, Dr. Primiterio will work diligently to address health issues and challenges affecting Lawrence residents, such as promoting healthy lifestyles, preventing disease, and improving better access to healthcare services.

The City of Lawrence is blessed to have Dr. Primiterio as a Member of the Board of Health and is hopeful that his contributions will make a positive difference in health outcomes in the community.

Dr. Vidal Primiterio's Biography:

Dr. Vidal Primiterio was born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. From an early age, he knew that his calling was medicine. He completed his university studies in Santo Domingo, graduating from the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD) at the age of 24, obtaining a Doctorate in General Medicine.

From the beginning of his medical career, Dr. Vidal Primiterio stood out for his dedication as a student leader and activist, thus being recognized by all of his classmates. During his time as a student, he held the position of president of the National Union of Medical Interns (UNAIME). Additionally, he gained valuable experience working for several years at the Dr. Francisco Moscoso Puello Hospital in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

In April 1992, Dr. Primiterio emigrated to the United States, settling in the City of Lawrence. He had the opportunity to become involved in the practice of medicine at the United States Department of Justice (Federal Bureau of Prisons), where he worked as a Physician Assistant (non-certified) in the federal prison system in the state of Pennsylvania for approximately one year and a half.

Subsequently, he returned to Lawrence and enrolled at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, where

he earned a master's degree as a Physician Assistant. Once graduated, he began to practice medicine at several local hospitals. Initially, she worked in the Emergency Department at Merrimack Valley Hospital in Haverhill, Massachusetts. He then moved to Holy Family Hospital, where he also served in the Emergency Department for approximately 20 years.

In addition, Dr. Primiterio accumulated work experience in other hospitals. He worked at Lawrence General Hospital, again in the Emergency Department, as well as Winchester City Hospital, in the same area, for approximately 5 years.

Parallel to his medical career, Dr. Primiterio also dedicated himself to teaching. Between 2005 and 2007, he served as a professor at Cambridge College on the Lawrence Campus, teaching medical terminology classes in Anatomy and Pathology. Currently, Dr. Vidal Primiterio is part of the medical team at Lawrence General Hospital, and also continues to be an active member in the Emergency Department at Holy Family Hospital.

Dr. Primiterio was nominated as Grand Marshal of the city of Lawrence in the 2022 Hispanic Week festivities, where he was awarded by the State of Massachusetts, represented by Mr. Ronald Marino, Speaker of the House, and Mr. Frank Morán, State Representative. Recently on March 25, 2023, at the VII Annual Congress of Medicine in the City of Boston Massachusetts, he received recognition for Lifetime Professional Career, for his hard work, dedication and services provided in his professional career in the field of Medicine. At the same event, he was awarded a Boston City Council resolution, as well as a proclamation from the City of Lawrence by Mayor Brian A. DePeña.

As a Dominican immigrant to the United States, Dr. Vidal Primiterio has managed to establish his medical office, currently located at 25 Marston St, Suite 105, Lawrence, Massachusetts. His dedication to the Hispanic community has resulted in the care of more than 6,000 patients, providing medical services five days a week to citizens of the Merrimack Valley and surrounding areas, regardless of their origin or immigration status. His tireless commitment and professional success are a testament to his valuable contribution to society and to the health of those who rely on his care.

Workforce Development expande oportunidades



El Alcalde DePeña tuvo el placer de unirse a la Oficina Ejecutiva de Trabajo, El departamento de Desarrollo de la Fuerza Laboral (EOLWD), el Senador Pavel Payano y el Representante Estatal Frank Morán para el anuncio de la expansión del aprendizaje y las subvenciones de oportunidades para 25 organizaciones en todo Massachusetts.

Felicitaciones al Community Day Care Center de Lawrence y al Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Consortium por recibir premios (por más de \$225,000 y \$890,000, respectivamente) para apoyar el desarrollo del lugar de trabajo y la movilidad económica.

El Alcalde DePeña también agradece



el apoyo continuo en nuestra comunidad por parte de la secretaria Lauren Jones y el subsecretario Josh Cutler de la Oficina Ejecutiva de Trabajo y Desarrollo Laboral.

Mayor DePeña was pleased to join with The Executive Office of Labor, The Workforce Development (EOLWD), Senator Pavel Payano, and the State Representative Frank Morán for the announcement of the Apprenticeship Expansion and Opportunity Grants to 25 organizations across Massachusetts.

Congratulations to the Community Day Care Center of Lawrence and Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Consortium for receiving awards—more than \$225,000 and \$890,000, respectively—to support workplace development and economic mobility.

Mayor DePeña is grateful for the



ongoing support of our community by Secretary Lauren Jones and Undersecretary Josh Cutler from the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.



Superintendent Finalists

Finalist Interview Days:

The LAE continues to include the community in the superintendent hiring process. In addition to the LAE interviews, each finalist will also be interviewed by six community panels on May 7 and 8. The interview panels will include:

- teachers/licensed staff,
- school leaders and district administrators,
- parents/caregivers,
- students,
- support staff, and
- elected officials and community partners.

In March, members of the Lawrence community were invited to nominate themselves and others to participate in the panels, over 170 community members were nominated and nearly 70 were selected through a lottery process to participate. Each panel was created to ensure diverse perspectives and representation of our diverse community.

"I'm overwhelmed with gratitude to the entire Lawrence Public Schools community for its support of and participation in this process over the past several months," said LAE Chair Patricia Mariano. "Nothing is more important in this process than the voices of our students, families, staff and

partners, and I'm excited for them to meet the finalists next week."

"I am grateful to all the community members and committee members who have been participating in this process, and I look forward to meeting the finalists," said Mayor DePeña.

In order for the community to fully participate in this process, three of the interviews will be livestreamed and recorded on May 7 and 8- the parent panel, the student panel, and the LAE panel interview. We invite members of the community to tune in, watch, and provide feedback on each finalist using the form provided in the superintendent search page using the link below.

The LAE will review interview notes and feedback from the community as well as the interview panels to inform their decision. Following this review, the LAE will vote on a candidate to recommend to Russell D. Johnston, Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The live-streamed interview schedule and a link to provide feedback are posted on the Lawrence Superintendent Search page, along with the details and timeline of the superintendent search process.

Please see <https://www.lawrence.k12.ma.us/about/district/superintendent-search>.

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- Audrey Hepburn

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Senator Payano's Small Business Listening Tour

The Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses, chaired by Senator Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence) and Representative Paul McMurtry (D-Dedham), began their first stop of the Small Business Listening Tour in Lawrence, MA. The event, part of a series aimed at engaging with small business owners across the Commonwealth, focused on addressing the needs and challenges of businesses in the Merrimack Valley.

The event took place on Monday, April 8th, starting with a forum at the Lawrence Senior Center, followed by a walking tour of the business district. This format facilitated an open dialogue between business

owners and state legislators. George Ramirez of the Lawrence Partnership moderated the forum, with notable contributions from Joe and Michael Bevilacqua of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Director of Small Business Development at the Executive Office of Economic Development Deeqo Jibril.

During the forum, participants highlighted several pressing issues, including access to capital, navigating the complexities of licensing and permits, and the need for proper training and mentorship. Entrepreneurs spoke about the obstacles in obtaining grants comparable to those offered in other cities, and the challenge of accessing certifications and technical assistance for grant applications.

Senator Payano highlighted the entrepreneurial spirit of the First Essex community, stating, "Today's forum highlighted the challenges and resilience within our small business community. It's clear that navigating access to capital and the costs of regulatory requirements is a significant hurdle for many. These



insights help us be better equipped to consider how state support can be most effective, focusing on realistic steps to aid our small business community."

The event was also attended by Senator Nick Collins (D-Boston) Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses, Representative Estela Reyes (D-Lawrence), Representative Francisco Paulino (D-Methuen), Lawrence Mayor Brian DePeña, Lawrence City Councilor Stephany Infante, Councilor Wendy Luzon, and Councilor Celina Reyes, signifying the state and local government's interest and support for the business community's concerns and aspirations.

With the tour set to continue in Chicopee and Worcester, the feedback from business owners from Haverhill, Methuen, and the Greater Lawrence area will inform the committee's approach to future engagements and legislative considerations aimed at bolstering the small business sector in Massachusetts.



Gira de escucha sobre pequeñas empresas del senador Payano

El Comité Conjunto sobre Desarrollo Comunitario y Pequeñas Empresas, presidido por el Senador Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence) y el Representante Paul McMurtry (D-Dedham), comenzó su primera parada de la Gira de Escucha sobre Pequeñas Empresas en Lawrence, MA. El evento, parte de una serie destinada a interactuar con propietarios de pequeñas empresas en todo el Commonwealth, se centró en abordar las necesidades y desafíos de las empresas en Merrimack Valley.

El evento tuvo lugar el lunes, 8 de abril y comenzó con un foro en el Lawrence Senior Center, seguido de un recorrido a pie por el distrito comercial. Este formato facilitó un diálogo abierto entre empresarios y legisladores estatales. George Ramírez de Lawrence Partnership moderó el foro, con contribuciones notables de Joe y Michael Bevilacqua de la Cámara de Comercio de Merrimack Valley y el Director de Desarrollo de Pequeñas Empresas de la Oficina Ejecutiva de Desarrollo Económico Deeqo Jibril.

Durante el foro, los participantes destacaron varias cuestiones apremiantes, incluido el acceso al capital, cómo afrontar las complejidades de las licencias y permisos, y la necesidad de una formación y tutoría adecuadas. Los empresarios hablaron sobre los obstáculos para obtener subvenciones comparables a las que se ofrecen en otras ciudades, y el desafío de acceder a certificaciones y asistencia técnica para las solicitudes de subvenciones.

El Senador Payano destacó el espíritu empresarial de la comunidad de First Essex y afirmó: "El foro de hoy destacó los desafíos y la resiliencia dentro de nuestra comunidad de pequeñas empresas. Está claro que navegar por el acceso al capital y los costos de los requisitos regulatorios es un obstáculo importante para muchos. Estos conocimientos nos ayudan a estar mejor equipados para considerar cómo el apoyo estatal puede ser más efectivo, centrándonos en pasos realistas para ayudar a nuestra comunidad de pequeñas empresas".

Al evento también asistieron el Senador Nick Collins (D-Boston), Vicepresidente del Comité Conjunto sobre Desarrollo Comunitario y Pequeñas Empresas, la Representante Estela Reyes (D-Lawrence), el Representante Francisco Paulino (D-Methuen), el Alcalde de Lawrence, Brian DePeña, La concejal de la ciudad de Lawrence, Stephany Infante, la concejal Wendy Luzón y la concejala Celina Reyes, expresando el interés y apoyo del gobierno estatal y local a las inquietudes y aspiraciones de la comunidad empresarial.

Dado que la gira continuará en Chicopee y Worcester, los comentarios de los propietarios de empresas de Haverhill, Methuen y el área metropolitana de Lawrence informarán el enfoque del comité sobre compromisos futuros y consideraciones legislativas destinadas a reforzar el sector de las pequeñas empresas en Massachusetts.



ASIAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION

An Asian Heritage Celebration will take place on Tuesday, May 7, 2023, from 11 AM to 2 PM at The Center (Lawrence Senior Center) at 155 Haverhill St., Lawrence. The City of Lawrence Council on Aging and the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center are sponsoring this event.

They are inviting the general public to experience an Asian Heritage Month Celebration with Asian cultural talks,

artifacts, music, food, games, Tai Chi, and a Lotus Flower Lantern Craft workshop.

Entertainment will be provided by the Andover Senior Center Umbrella Dance Troupe.

The program is supported in part by a grant from the Lawrence Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

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Esperanza Academy

HOPE RISING SPRING GALA | MAY 15, 2024



Introducing our Keynote Speaker, Wanda M. Holland Greene

We are thrilled to announce our Hope Rising Keynote Speaker is Wanda M. Holland Greene, Head of School at The Hamlin School in San Francisco

"I am humbled and honored by the opportunity to speak at the Esperanza Academy gala this year; as a Brooklyn native, first-generation college graduate, girls' school alumna, former New England resident, and head of a girls' school, Esperanza's mission resonates deeply with my life experience and my values. I look forward to joining the community celebration!"

Prior to Holland Greene's tenure at Hamlin, which began in 2008, she served

for eleven years as a senior administrator at The Park School in Brookline, MA. She began her career in education in New York City at The Columbia Greenhouse Nursery School and continued thereafter at The Chaplin School, where she was a teacher and the school's first Director of Student Life.

At present, Holland Greene is a Vice-Chair of the Columbia University Board of Trustees, a member of the Board of Regents for Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland, a Pahara-Aspen Education Fellow at The Aspen Institute, and a former trustee of Head-Royce School, Concord Academy, The Chapin School, and Lick-Wilmerding High School.

Reserve Your Seat Today!

Freedom Trail® Foundation Expands Tours in May

As the weather warms, the Freedom Trail Foundation's 18th-century costumed guides are out on the Trail in full force offering an expanded menu of fun and educational tours.

Starting May 1, the Freedom Trail Foundation's current spring tour schedule offers Walk Into History Tours from the Boston Common Visitor Information Center on the hour every hour, daily, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. as well as 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Additionally, the Foundation offers tours departing from the ArtsBoston booth including Walk Into History Tours on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and Sundays at 10:30 a.m., as well as North End Tours on Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. and Sundays at 1:30 p.m.

"Boston's iconic Freedom Trail and the Foundation offer an array of activities to experience and visit historic this spring and year-round," said the Foundation's Executive Director Suzanne Segura Taylor. "The expanded tour schedule gives residents and visitors more opportunities to enjoy learning about 250 years of history on the Freedom Trail as our Commonwealth and City plans for the sestercentennial."

Walk Into History Tours are the official 90-minute walking tour of the Freedom Trail featuring tales of high treason, mob agitations, revolutionary actions, and partisan fights, walking to 11 of Boston's historic Freedom Trail sites to and from Boston Common and Faneuil Hall. The North End Tour features stops along the Trail including the Paul Revere House, Old

North Church, Copp's Hill Burying Ground, and other historic places in Boston's oldest neighborhood.

Led by 18th-century costumed guides, Freedom Trail Foundation walking tours are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors/students, and \$8 for children, and include a \$1 donation to the Freedom Trail Foundation's Preservation Fund. Tickets may be purchased at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center and The BOS Traveling Mobile Visitor Center (various locations), Artists for Humanity and Crabby Jack's shops inside historic Faneuil Hall, Samuel Adams Downton Boston Taproom next to historic Faneuil Hall, Old Town Trolley locations and ticket booths, and online at TheFreedomTrail.org.

All walking tours are available for group tours year-round by appointment and are perfect for tourist groups, family outings, birthday parties, company parties, corporate activities, team building, and more, and may be booked via phone reservation at (617) 357-8300.

The Foundation and City of Boston also celebrates Preservation Month in May with an array of tours, events, exhibits, and activities along the Freedom Trail for adults and children, history buffs and curious visitors. For more Preservation Month information, please visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/landmarks-commission/boston-preservation-month>

For more information about the Freedom Trail and Freedom Trail sites, please visit TheFreedomTrail.org or call (617) 357-8300.

Nissan donates Nissan Frontier to Essex County Habitat for Humanity to support construction efforts



Essex County Habitat for Humanity is excited to announce it received a Nissan Frontier pickup truck from Nissan. The donation is part of Nissan's \$800K national partnership renewal with Habitat for Humanity International to support local Habitat affiliates across the U.S.

With the donation this year, Essex County Habitat will be able to transport material needed to rehabilitate homes through their Critical Home Repair program. The Critical Home Repair program is an extension of Habitat's core construction services and uses volunteers, donated product and flexible sources of funding to make repairs affordable, helping low-income and elderly homeowners continue to live independently and safely in their own residences.

"The donation of this truck will allow us to be more efficient with our time and resources and enable us to help even more families. We're thankful to Nissan for their generous support," expressed Kevin Hudson, Director of Charitable Giving for Essex County Habitat.

Nissan has contributed more than \$21 million to Habitat nationally since the partnership began in 2005 when Nissan donated 50 trucks and mobilized employees to assist in home building following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Gulf Coast region. Nissan has continued its support through the years by donating an additional 160 vehicles to support construction activities and disaster recovery efforts. Furthermore, Nissan's employees have contributed more than 112,400 volunteer hours working alongside future homeowners in communities across the U.S.

"Habitat for Humanity is committed to direct and meaningful contributions to communities across the country and these shared values form the foundation of our longstanding and successful partnership," said Chandra Vassar, chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer at Nissan Americas and president of the Nissan Foundation.

"For more than 18 years, they've been one of Nissan's most trusted and valued partners. We hope our continued support will help Habitat further their own mission, drive giving, and encourage the public to get involved with their own local Habitat affiliate."

About Essex County Habitat for Humanity

Essex County Habitat for Humanity is the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, the largest nonprofit homebuilder in the world. Essex County Habitat builds and repairs decent, safe, and affordable homes in partnership with the families who need them. Each partner family works at least 240 sweat equity hours alongside volunteers to build their home and then carries an affordable 30-year mortgage. Since it was established in 1985, the affiliate has delivered on their mission for over 170 families in Essex County. To help fund their work, Essex County Habitat operates a ReStore, located in Lawrence, where they sell quality new and previously owned furniture, appliances, building materials, and home goods at greatly reduced prices. To donate, volunteer, or learn more, please visit EssexCountyHabitat.org.

About Nissan North America

In North America, Nissan's operations include automotive styling, engineering, consumer and corporate financing, sales and marketing, distribution and manufacturing. Nissan is dedicated to improving the environment under the Nissan Green Program and has been recognized annually by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year since 2010. More information on Nissan in North America and the complete line of Nissan and INFINITI vehicles can be found online at www.nissanusa.com and www.infinitiusa.com, or visit the U.S. media sites nissannews.com and infinitinews.com.

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El cerebro del psicópata

Por **Dr. Tomas Nuñez**

La psicopatía es un trastorno de la personalidad que tiene componentes genéticos, los psicópatas son un 4.5% de la población mundial.

Los rasgos del Psicópata

Se caracteriza por una carencia de empatía y conciencia, los psicópatas no tienen remordimientos ni toman en consideración si sus acciones causan daños a otros.

Son egoístas y egocéntricos, solo importan ellos. Para los psicópatas el fin justifica los medios, si el matar les procura placer lo harán.

Los psicópatas tienen dificultades para mantener el control, muestran comportamientos compulsivos, su naturaleza les lleva a obsesionarse y cometer determinados delitos muchas veces, violar, matar, torturar...



Los psicópatas representan un 50% de los violadores en serie. Los psicópatas tienen del doble de probabilidad de reincidir como delincuentes.

Lo que sí está comprobado es que los psicópatas tienen una mayor impulsividad, tendencia a la agresividad y a la delincuencia, aunque si pueden tener comportamientos que causen daño a otras personas si con esto ellos se benefician.

No todos comenten delitos

En realidad no todos los psicópatas comenten delitos, algunas personas pueden no cometer delitos y sin embargo tienen un amplio historial de crueldad, son capaces de engañar, manipular y dañar a quien sea con tal de lograr sus fines.

Entre la población de delincuente si hay mayor probabilidad de encontrar psicópatas.

The psychopath's brain

By **Dr. Tomas Nuñez**

Psychopathy is a personality disorder that has genetic components; psychopaths make up 4.5% of the world's population.

Psychopath traits

Characterized by a lack of empathy and conscience, psychopaths do not have remorse or take into consideration whether their actions cause harm to others.

They are selfish and self-centered, only they matter. For psychopaths the end justifies the means, if killing gives them pleasure they will do it.

Psychopaths have difficulty maintaining control, they show compulsive behaviors, their nature leads them to become obsessed and commit certain crimes many times, rape, kill, torture...

Not everyone commits crimes

In reality, not all psychopaths commit crimes, some people may not commit crimes and yet have a long history of cruelty, they are capable of deceiving, manipulating and harming anyone in order to achieve their goals.

Among the criminal population there is a greater probability of finding psychopaths. Psychopaths represent 50% of serial rapists. Psychopaths are twice as likely to reoffend as criminals.

What is proven is that psychopaths have greater impulsivity, a tendency to aggressiveness and crime, although they can have behaviors that cause harm to other people if they benefit from it.

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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!

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Submitted by Falon Mansfield (Division Director at The Jason Foundation)

Written by Scott Knight (Education Specialist and Division Director at The Jason Foundation)

Since 1949, Mental Health America and its affiliates across the country have led the observance of May as Mental Health Awareness Month by reaching millions through the media, local events, and screenings. It raises awareness of trauma and the impact it can have on the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of children, families, and communities. Cities and businesses across the country hold various events to support mental health and open up the lines of communication. Many websites provide ideas for businesses to support their employees during May and beyond.

According to the CDC, suicide rates in our country increased by 36% between 2000-2021. Suicide was responsible for 48,183 deaths in 2021 alone, which is about one death every 11 minutes. We know that many mental health disorders-including depression, bipolar disorder, borderline personality disorder, and PTSD-come with heightened risk of suicidal thoughts or attempts. While seeking help for suicidal thoughts or behaviors is critical regardless of the cause, securing a specific diagnosis

may help the individual receive treatment-especially ongoing treatment -that is best suited to their mental health needs.

Mental Health America says that up to 60% of people who die by suicide have major depression, and research suggests that the majority of suicides are related to a psychiatric condition. If you or someone you know is depressed, there are effective treatments available. Talking to your doctor is a fantastic first step, and you can also visit the National Alliance on Mental Illness to learn more about support groups that you might find helpful.

The Jason Foundation is another valuable resource. JFI is dedicated to the prevention of the "Silent Epidemic" of suicide through educational and awareness programs. On its website, you will learn about warning signs and risk factors associated with people who may be struggling with mental health issues and suicidal ideation. JFI's website also has more information about finding a Jason Foundation location near you. We know that four out of five individuals considering suicide give some sign of their intentions, either verbally or behaviorally. In 80% of those considering suicide, we have an opportunity to recognize the warning signs and intervene. Take the time to educate yourselves on the warning signs and risk factors associated with suicide. This knowledge may help you save the life of a friend or loved one.

Mayo es el Mes de Prevención de Salud Mental

Presentado por Falon Mansfield (Director de División de la Fundación Jason)

Escrito por Scott Knight (especialista en educación y director de división de la Fundación Jason)

Desde 1949, Mental Health America y sus afiliados en todo el país han liderado la celebración de mayo como el Mes de Concienciación sobre la Salud Mental al llegar a millones a través de los medios de comunicación, eventos locales y proyecciones. Crea conciencia sobre el trauma y el impacto que puede tener en el bienestar físico, emocional y mental de los niños, las familias y las comunidades. Ciudades y empresas de todo el país organizan diversos eventos para apoyar la salud mental y abrir líneas de comunicación. Muchos sitios web ofrecen ideas para que las empresas apoyen a sus empleados durante mayo y más allá.

Según los CDC, las tasas de suicidio en nuestro país aumentaron un 36% entre 2000-2021. El suicidio fue responsable de 48.183 muertes solo en 2021, lo que supone aproximadamente una muerte cada 11 minutos. Sabemos que muchos trastornos de salud mental, incluidos la depresión, el trastorno bipolar, el trastorno límite de la personalidad y el trastorno de estrés postraumático, conllevan un mayor riesgo de pensamientos o intentos suicidas. Si bien buscar ayuda para pensamientos o comportamientos suicidas es fundamental independientemente de la causa, obtener un diagnóstico específico puede ayudar

al individuo a recibir el tratamiento, especialmente el tratamiento continuo, que mejor se adapte a sus necesidades de salud mental.

Mental Health America dice que hasta el 60% de las personas que mueren por suicidio tienen depresión grave, y las investigaciones sugieren que la mayoría de los suicidios están relacionados con una condición psiquiátrica. Si usted o alguien que conoce está deprimido, existen tratamientos eficaces disponibles. Hablar con su médico es un primer paso fantástico y también puede visitar la Alianza Nacional de Enfermedades Mentales para obtener más información sobre los grupos de apoyo que pueden resultarle útiles.

La Fundación Jason es otro recurso valioso. JFI se dedica a la prevención de la "epidemia silenciosa" del suicidio a través de programas educativos y de concienciación. En su sitio web, aprenderá sobre las señales de advertencia y los factores de riesgo asociados con personas que pueden estar luchando contra problemas de salud mental e ideas suicidas. El sitio web de JFI también tiene más información sobre cómo encontrar una ubicación de Jason Foundation cerca de usted. Sabemos que cuatro de cada cinco personas que están pensando en suicidarse dan alguna señal de sus intenciones, ya sea verbal o conductualmente. En el 80% de quienes consideran el suicidio, tenemos la oportunidad de reconocer las señales de advertencia e intervenir. Tómese el tiempo para informarse sobre las señales de advertencia y los factores de riesgo asociados con el suicidio. Este conocimiento puede ayudarle a salvar la vida de un amigo o un ser querido.



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

Del Impulso Inicial y el Movimiento Perpetuo

Durante los últimos veintisiete años, he estado escribiendo artículos en inglés y español para este periódico. Este es un buen ejemplo de la versión en Español.

Además, he estado escribiendo y publicando libros de ficción y no ficción, cincuenta y ocho hasta ahora, en Amazon.com.

Hay una serie de libros, ocho hasta ahora, titulada "A Point of View-Un Punto de Vista", donde publico mis artículos de Rumbo usando un formato bilingüe particular que llamo "El Formato Montesino" y consisten en verdaderos artículos bilingües donde los párrafos de ambas versiones se imprimen indistintamente, uno tras otro, en un artículo fusionado. Son verdaderamente bilingües.

Hoy empiezo este artículo con un par de principios de Física. Pero no se aleje asustado de mí todavía. No estoy planeando llevar a cabo uno de mis complicados cursos universitarios enseñados anteriormente. Es sólo una introducción a mis puntos de vista tradicionales sobre la conducta humana. De vez en cuando doy la impresión de que estoy divergiendo para... divergir.

Comencemos con el "Impulso inicial". Definimos el momento inicial como la cantidad de movimiento de un cuerpo en medida como el producto (multiplicación) de la masa y la velocidad de ese cuerpo. Inicial se refiere a ese producto (multiplicación) cuando un objeto comienza a moverse. Piense en su coche después de arrancarlo. Piense en el comienzo de su carrera del Maratón de Boston.

En cuanto al "movimiento perpetuo", es la acción de un dispositivo que, una vez puesto en movimiento inicial, continuaría en movimiento para siempre sin necesidad de energía adicional para mantenerlo. Tales dispositivos son imposibles por razones establecidas por las leyes conocidas de la termodinámica en Física. Eventualmente, la energía se agota y el objeto se detiene. De nuevo, piense en correr el maratón.

Introduzcamos al Comportamiento Humano en nuestra conversación, nuestro objetivo declarado.

Siempre hay un momento en el que un ser humano comienza a comportarse de una manera que no se practicaba anteriormente. Podemos ser positivos, negativos o neutrales, y luego comenzamos a comportarnos en una nueva dirección que nos definirá por un tiempo, incluso para siempre. Cualquiera que sea la fuerza que apliquemos a ese nuevo comportamiento es "impulso inicial". El mejor ejemplo son los niños que nunca expresaron ningún comportamiento, positivo o no, y de repente comienzan a hacerlo.

En cuanto al "movimiento perpetuo", usar el concepto se vuelve un poco más complicado. Aquí utilizo ejemplos de comportamientos que decidimos continuar después de experimentar con ellos. En la mayoría de los casos, hay una recompensa asociada con el comportamiento. El cerebro humano obtiene una recompensa por las exposiciones más inconcebibles a impresiones externas. Ya sea el efecto de la nicotina en los cigarrillos, el alcohol en las bebidas o el embrutecimiento en la cocaína, el abuso físico en nosotros o en otros, el impacto en el cerebro puede ser "naturalmente" gratificante, aunque eventualmente lo dañe moral o físicamente como ser humano.

No podemos usar esos acertijos para siempre, su efecto "perpetuo" en nuestros cerebros es destructivo y a partir de ahí el impacto dañino en el resto del cuerpo humano directa o indirectamente se hace igualmente destructivo.

Así que aquí termino, debemos tener cuidado con la forma en que nos educamos desde el principio para evitar comenzar un nuevo hábito destructivo de movimiento perpetuo utilizando las armas de la educación, ejemplos vivos y recompensas positivas para protegernos. Las nociones de "momento inicial" y "movimiento perpetuo" no son ejemplos simples utilizados en los cursos de Física que gobiernan nuestras vidas. También son principios que sustentan quiénes seremos o somos como seres humanos.

Y ese es mi punto de vista hoy. Agur.



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

Of Initial momentum and Perpetual motion

For the past twenty-seven years, I've been writing articles in English and Spanish for this newspaper. This is a good example of the English version.

Additionally, I've been writing and publishing fiction and non-fiction books, fifty-eight so far, at Amazon.com.

There is a series of books, eight so far, entitled "Point of View-Un Punto de Vista," where I publish my Rumbo articles using a particular bilingual format I call "The Montesino Format" and consist of true bilingual articles where the paragraphs of both versions are printed interchangeably, one behind the other, in one merged article. They are truly bilingual.

Today I am starting my article with a couple of Physics principles. But don't get scared from me yet. I am not planning to conduct one of the complicated college courses I used to teach. It is only an introduction to my traditional points of view about human conduct. Occasionally I give the impression I am diverging in order to... diverge.

Let's start with the "Initial momentum." We define Momentum as the quantity of motion of a moving body measured as the product (multiplication) of that body's mass and velocity. Initial refers to that product (multiplication) when an object starts moving. Think of your car after you start it. Think of your beginning the Boston Marathon race.

As for "perpetual motion," it's the action of a device that, once set in initial motion, would continue in motion forever with no additional energy required to maintain it. Such devices are impossible on grounds stated by familiar laws of thermodynamics in Physics. Eventually, energy runs out and the object stops. Again, think of running the Marathon.

Enter Human Behavior in our

conversation, our stated goal.

There is always a moment when a human being starts behaving in a manner not previously practiced. We can be positive, negative, or neutral, and then we begin to behave in a new direction that will define us for a while, even forever. Whatever force we apply to that new behavior is "initial momentum." The best example is children who never express any behavior, positive or not, and suddenly begin anew.

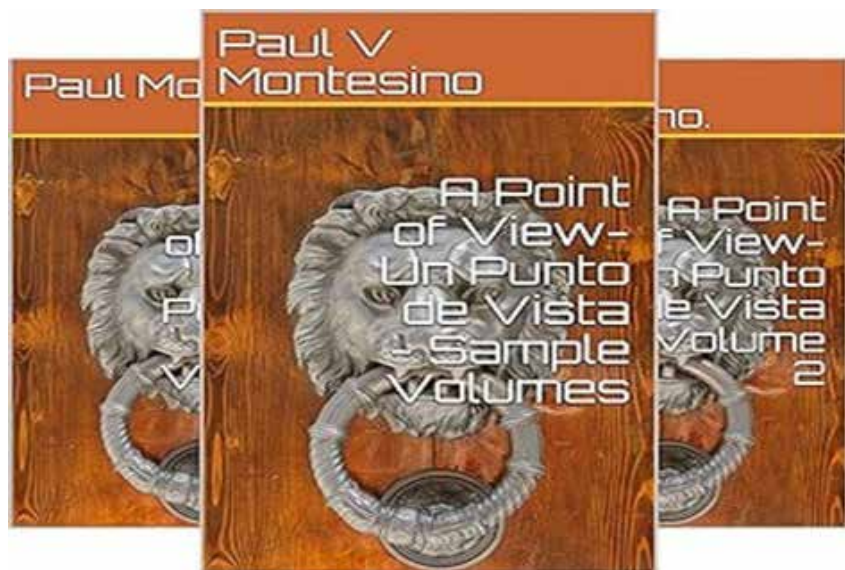
As for "perpetual motion," using the concept gets a bit more complicated. Here I use examples of behaviors that we decide to continue after we experiment with them. In most cases, there is a reward associated with the behavior. The human brain gets a reward from the most inconceivable exposures to outside impressions. Whether it is the effect of nicotine in cigarettes, alcohol in drinks, or dumbing in cocaine, physical abuse on us or others, the impact on the brain may be "naturally" rewarding even though morally or physically damaging it eventually as human beings.

We cannot use those brain teasers forever, their "perpetual" effect on our brains is destructive and from there, the hurtful impact on the rest of the human body directly or indirectly is equally destructive.

So here we are, we must be careful how we educate ourselves from the get-go to avoid starting a new destructive perpetual motion habit using tools like education, living examples, and positive rewards to protect us. The notions of "initial momentum" and "perpetual motion" are not simple examples used in courses of Physics that govern our lives. They are also principles that support who we will be or are as human beings as well.

And That is my Point of View Today. So Long.

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Sip, Sample & Support Emmaus

Emmaus to Hold Annual Spring Fundraising Event on May 16



City Councilor Tim Jordan with Tim and Rebecca Gilbert at "Sip, Sample & Support." Jordan will again serve as the event's auctioneer.



MWUR's Katherine Underwood as Gala Emcee at "Sip, Sample & Support." Underwood will return to carry out Emcee duties.

HAVERHILL | Emmaus hopes you'll join in the fun and attend "Sip, Sample and Support," the organization's annual spring gala and fundraising event on Thursday, May 16.

"Sip, Sample & Support, An Affair to Benefit Emmaus," will be held at Bradford Country Club in Haverhill, MA. This year, Emmaus is traveling the world on a sipping and sampling culinary adventure. The sips will be from several sensational countries—Greece, Italy, Japan and Portugal, and the samples will include food pairings from those regions.

A cocktail reception is included with each gala ticket during which guests will be able to vote for the "Best Cocktail in Haverhill." While enjoying hors d'oeuvres, guests can sample craft cocktail creations from several of Haverhill's best restaurants: Bradford Country Club, Butch's Uptown, Casa Blanca, Essex Street Grille and G's. Votes will decide which restaurant will receive the honor of Best Cocktail.

Guests will also be given the opportunity to support Emmaus' mission during the evening through an incredible live auction. For the third year in a row, City Councilor Tim Jordan will serve as the night's auctioneer and Katherine Underwood from WMUR will serve as the event emcee.

Live auction items include an African Safari Adventure, Custom Dinner Party for eight by renowned personal chef, Travis Brown, Celtics and Patriots tickets, Fenway Park concert tickets to Hootie & the Blowfish and an amazing three-band concert featuring Journey, Def Leppard and Heart, as well as an incredible week-long Vermont getaway.

All proceeds benefit Emmaus and its many programs designed to help families and single adults defeat homelessness, secure homes and become self-sufficient.

"Emmaus is well known for hosting fabulous galas that sparkle and shine! This year's Sip, Sample and Support will include a few surprises that are guaranteed to delight our attendees. Most importantly, all the proceeds will help adults and children experiencing homelessness in our community," said Gretchen Arntz, Chief Development Officer.

Tickets are still available and can be purchased at: <https://emmausinc.ejoinme.org/sipsample24>.

Emmaus is also holding a related online auction from May 9-17. Visit the same link to bid on incredible items including vacation getaways, rounds of golf, theater tickets, restaurant dining, jewelry, unique adventures, family experiences, and much more, starting at noon on May 9. The auction site will highlight fine bottles of wine featured as the "Wine of the Day." Each morning the online auction is live, Emmaus will open bidding on that day's "Wine of the Day." Bidding for that day's wine will close each night at 8:00 p.m.

Emmaus extends sincere thanks to its Presenting Sponsor, Merrimack Valley Credit Union, and its Premiere Sponsors: Cedar's Mediterranean Foods, Haverhill Bank, Honda North and Pentucket Bank. A full list of sponsors can be found on the event's website.

Founded in 1985, Emmaus, Inc. is a non-profit organization devoted to helping families and individuals rebuild their lives. Located in Haverhill, MA, it is the largest provider of emergency shelter in Essex County. For nearly 40 years, Emmaus has helped more than 40,000 children and adults out of homelessness and toward self-sufficiency. This past year alone, Emmaus has helped 1,259 people, including 559 children through its shelters and housing programs. On any given night, 300 adults and children will call Emmaus "home."

Greater Lawrence Technical School Dedicates Pool in Honor of Long- Time Aquatics Director, School Committee Member Marilyn Fitzgerald



Marilyn Fitzgerald, for whom the Greater Lawrence Technical School pool has been named, poses with current GLTS swim team members. (Photo Courtesy Greater Lawrence Technical School)

ANDOVER -- Greater Lawrence Technical School's pool was about to close in the 1980s.

There was discussion about creating a wrestling training room, replacing what was seen as a poorly maintained, underutilized area. Marilyn Fitzgerald, an aquatics volunteer at the Merrimack Valley YWCA, reached out to the then-Superintendent.

"I knew that once you get rid of a pool, it never comes back," she says.

Fitzgerald convinced the school to keep the pool, and later became GLTS's aquatics director. She retired from GLTS in 2008, then joined School Committee, serving as an Andover representative until earlier this month. Fitzgerald also coached Andover High's swim teams to 18 state

championships.

On Tuesday, April 23, the school formally dedicated the Marilyn Fitzgerald Natatorium to honor her commitment to the school and to swimming.

Though it was not part of her job, Fitzgerald mentored many GLTS students who were struggling or were facing challenges.

"She never gave up on one kid," Superintendent John Lavoie said.

At a post-dedication ceremony, Fitzgerald thanked her family and former co-workers, and recognized other swim coaches in attendance.

"These people impacted lives just like I did, all because we maintained that pool," Fitzgerald said. "It is a gem."



Marilyn Fitzgerald recognizes her family, former co-workers, and fellow swim coaches. (Photo Courtesy Greater Lawrence Technical School)

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

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

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

<http://heallawrence.org/>

heallawrence@aol.com

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

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

— John F. Kennedy

CLASIFICADOS | CLASSIFIEDS

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 May 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. 2013 Volkswagen Touareg VIN WVGEF9BP0DD002182
2. 2014 Nissan Rogue VIN 5N1AT2MVXEC866240
3. 2010 Toyota Corolla VIN 2T1BU4EE5AC329499
4. 2014 Mazda CX5 VIN JM3KE4CY9E0395376
5. 2011 Chevrolet Equinox VIN 2CNALDEC6B6237846
6. 2015 Ducati Monster Motorcycle VIN ZDM1RBSV1FB011203
7. 2008 Hyundai Santa Fe VIN 5NMSH13EX8H133939
8. 2016 Subaru WRX VIN JF1VA2M6XG9802032
9. 2015 Honda Civic VIN 19XFB2F88FE265228

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

Signed
Frank Coady
Coady's Towing Service
4/15, 4/22, 5/1

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 may 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. 2013 Acura TSX VIN JH4CW2H6XDC000882
2. 2004 Saturn Vue VIN 5GZCZ63424S833523
3. 2004 Honda Civic VIN 2HGES25744H560723
4. 2013 Volkswagen Passat VIN 1VWAP7A37DC047139
5. 2012 Ford Focus VIN 1FAHP3F22CL132002
6. 2004 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD VIN 1GCHK29U64E392568
7. 2011 Volkswagen Jetta VIN 3VWDZ7AJ4BM315159
8. 2008 Honda CR-V VIN 5J6RE48798L043113
9. 2014 Chevrolet Traverse VIN 1GNKRGKD4EJ157322
10. 2007 Honda Pilot VIN 5FNYP187X7B027761
11. 2013 Chrysler 300 VIN 2C3CCABG6DH658688
12. 2019 Ford Escape VIN 1FMCU9GD1KUC43080
13. 2013 Chevrolet Equinox VIN 2GNFLNEK1D6202200
14. 2011 Chevrolet Traverse VIN 1GNKVGED5BJ141391

Robert Sheehan
Owner, Sheehan's Towing L.L.C.
4/15, 4/22, 5/1

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 vehicle on or after May 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. 2010 Toyota Camry VIN 4T4BF3EK8AR047324

Vehicle is being stored at Stuart's Automotive and may be viewed by appointment only.

Signed
Kevin Stuart
Stuart's Automotive
4/15, 4/22, 5/1

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by Christopher's Towing 76 Riverneck Road, Chelmsford, MA, and 91 Maple Street Unit 11, Lowell, 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 May 2, 2024 beginning at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale. Vehicles are being stored at Christopher's Towing and may be viewed by appointment only.

1. 2010 Pontiac G6 VIN 1G2ZA5E09A4161195
2. 2010 Nissan Altima VIN 1N4AL2AP7AN498730
3. 2006 BMW 325i VIN WBAVB13506KX36332
4. 2008 Honda Civic VIN 2HGFA16538H313021
5. 2002 Acura RSX VIN JH4DC54802C011182
6. 2012 Toyota RAV-4 VIN 2T3BF4DV1CW255387
7. 2016 Ford F-150 VIN 1FTFW1EG9GFC21673
8. 2007 Honda Accord VIN 1HGCM66497A072089
9. 2008 Mercury Mountaineer VIN 4M2EU48858UJ03554
10. 2008 Honda CR-V VIN 5J6RE48378L049571
11. 2010 Nissan Versa VIN 3N1BC1AP3AL410655
12. 2004 Honda Accord VIN 1HGCM665X4A071053
13. 2018 Chevrolet Equinox VIN 3GNAXSEV9JL119564
14. 1996 GMC Sierra VIN 1GTHK39F3TE519041
15. 2007 Infiniti N35 VIN JNKAY01F67M454433
16. 2010 Car Trailer
17. 2003 Toyota Sequoia VIN 5TDBT44A43S154139
18. 2001 Mercedes Benz E430 VIN WDBJF70J21X060910
19. 2015 Chevrolet Express VIN 1GCWGF4F1276883
20. 2011 Nissan Sentra VIN 3N1AB6AP8BL702492
21. 2009 Honda Civic VIN 2HGFA163X9H325862
22. 2020 Nissan Altima VIN 1N4BL4BW5LC139509
23. 1999 Oldsmobile 88 VIN 1G3HN52K4X4819385
24. 2007 Honda Accord VIN 1HGCM66427A013997
25. 2007 Mini Cooper VIN WMWFMF33567TT51252
26. 2000 Utility trailer
27. 2008 Honda Civic VIN 2HGFA16918H333111
28. 2005 GMC Yukon VIN 1GKEK13T35J254464
29. 2007 Cadillac DTS VIN 1G6KD57Y27U203404
30. 2003 Subaru Legacy VIN 4S3BH675037660024

Signed
Christopher Ferreira
Owner
4/15, 4/22, 5/1

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 vehicle on or after May 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. 2017 Ford Escape VIN 1FMCU9G90HUB84737

Vehicle is being stored at Stuart's Automotive and may be viewed by appointment only.

Signed
Kevin Stuart
Stuart's Automotive
4/22, 5/1, 5/8



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Greater Lowell Community Foundation hosts Groton Event



The Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) held a Meet GLCF event on Thursday, April 25 at the Groton Inn. GLCF is Presenting Sponsor for the 2024 Groton Greenway River Festival set for Sunday, June 9. From left: Groton residents Chris and Kirsta Davey, Groton Greenway River Festival committee member David Pitkin, Founder and first president of the Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA) and activist Marion Stoddart, NRWA's Water Programs Director Martha Morgan, GLCF's VP Jennifer Aradhya and NRWA's Executive Director Jennifer Keegan.

On Thursday, April 25, the Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) hosted its first Meet GLCF event at the Groton Inn where local attendees were introduced to the number of ways GLCF supports neighboring towns in the Greater Lowell area. At this event, GLCF awarded funding in support of the 2024 Groton Greenway River Festival set for Sunday, June 9. GLCF is the Presenting Sponsor for this year's festival.


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 GLCF to award more than \$35 million to the Greater Lowell community.

Mi abuelo me dijo una vez que hay dos tipos de personas: los que hacen todo el trabajo y los que se llevan el mérito. También me dijo que debo estar en el primer grupo; hay menos competencia.

My grandfather once told me that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition.

— Indira Gandhi



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Proposed changes for the School Committee

Councilors disregarded the mayor's proposal; approved Ana Levy's and the School Committee's

By **Dalia Díaz**

Mayor Brian DePeña sent a proposal to the City Council for a Home Rule Petition that would make radical changes to the composition of the School Committee which may be contrary to the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights regarding governance by an "elected board".

Something that must be considered is the fact that the proposed reorganization of an elected body (the school committee) is drafted and advanced by the Office of the Mayor, which is the Executive Branch, without lawful authority. Supervision over the School Committee rests with the Legislative Branch (City Council) and NOT the Executive Branch. In that light, there does not appear to be any information or vote of the Lawrence School Committee to conduct public proceedings regarding a proposal to reorganize the City School Committee. Moreover, the author of the proposed reorganization was Carlos Matos who is employed by the Executive Branch and without a lawful grant of authority to draft, submit, or recommend the proposed legislation being advanced.

I haven't seen anything that allows for a mixed "appointed and elected" school committee and there is no Massachusetts Constitutional provision that provides for it – which means it is contrary to the Massachusetts Constitution and cannot be accomplished by Home Rule Petition (it is required that Home Rule Petitions meet Constitutional standards).

When creating a public board that represents "the public" (like a school committee) it requires that all members be "elected". An elected board like the school committee or the City Council can "hire" advisors that are from the various backgrounds that the Mayor would like to draw recommendations – an advisory board can be created and draw from the parents council, the educational coalition, special needs advisory council, a teacher, a school administrator, a Workforce Investment Board member, a Lawrence Public School faculty member, a city councilor, and four others to be appointed by the Mayor to serve

as the recommending panel.

It is "critical" to the Administration to have the "appointed members" seated and voting on the school committee to maintain "direct control" which the proposed measure presented by the mayor does. Only one problem – a school committee that is composed of 7 members appointed by the mayor with 3 elected "at large" members is likely "unconstitutional" in violation of Article IX of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights and G.L. c. 43.

Keep in mind that any meetings of any multiple-member public body MUST be in public with an agenda and notice posted 48 hours before all such meetings – such meetings should take place either at the City Council or at a City Council Subcommittee.

Tuesday night, the City Council met with the School Committee members to discuss their version of the Home Rule Petition, the Mayor's original proposal, and another one provided by Councilor at-Large Ana Levy. After a brief discussion, the council voted unanimously to reject the mayor's version.

It was decided that Councilor Levy's proposal was much better than the proposal submitted by the mayor.

I noticed that Councilor Levy's amendment #1 proposes to retain six (6) elected school committee members (one from each political district – the same as currently provided by the City Charter section 5.1(a). However, retaining the provision for three (3) appointed members of the new "school committee" may still violate Article IX of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights.

The three (3) elected members who are elected to a four-year term under Proposed Section 4 may be subjected to a "recall petition" under Section 9.7 of the City Charter. According to the City Charter, elected officials elected to serve a four-year term with "more than twelve months remaining of the term of office may, may be recalled from the office." by the voters This "aspect" of the proposed reorganization of the school committee composition appears NOT to have been

considered by the proposed legislative reorganization. Certainly, increasing the number of elected officers who may be "recalled" according to the City Charter increases the "possibility" of administrative action by the City Election Division and the Board of Registrars. Presently, and for some time now, the City Election Division lacks sufficient personnel to administer the Charter duties and responsibilities to which it is assigned. Provision of additional duties by this or any other legislation will only serve to decrease the ability of the Election Division to accurately and competently perform all its duties required of it by the City Charter.

Currently, the Office of the Mayor is the only other elective position that may be subject to a "recall". If the City adopts provisions that affect an increased administrative responsibility of the Election Division there must be an increase of Election Division professional staff to assure the City of Lawrence can competently provide administrative services directed by the City Charter. Certainly, the proposed legislation could provide a provision that removes the three (3) elected school committees elected officials from being subject to a "petition to recall". It does not appear that the resulting proposed reorganization of the Lawrence School Committee either considers or provides for "election recall" of its members.

Statistically, the current six-member school committee provides "proportional representation" of the approximate 89,143 residents [per the 2020 US Census] by providing one (1) elected representative for every 14, 857 residents of the City of Lawrence. The "proposed appointed/ elected school committee" provides one (1) elected representative for approximately 29,714 residents – which cuts democratically elected representation in half.

The proposed "new school committee" eliminates the ability of voters and residents of any district to provide access and representation concerning issues that may be particular to the district. Although it may be argued that any of the 11 members may provide access and representation to concerned Lawrence residents, the practical outcome of any matter presented by a resident or a voter may not be seriously considered or addressed by a school committee member whose membership on the school committee is dependent and reliant upon allegiance to the "appointing authority" (the "nominating panel or the Mayor) and NOT the voters. For this reason alone, the essence of a "Democratic Republic" form of governance is defeated if the "proposed legislation" is approved and implemented.

In short, voters will no longer have a "viable" or "direct" voice on the "new school committee" where eight (8) of the eleven (11) members answer to an "authority" that

is "appointed" and not directly "elected" to the school committee. Providing mayoral appointments for members of the "proposed school committee" is of little or no value in comparison to a school committee that is directly answerable to the voters.

The proposed legislation creates an impermeable "buffer" between the constituents and the mayor that can easily be engaged when contested or adversarial positions are to be considered by the board. A "fertile" ground for political gamesmanship and maneuvering will be exacerbated and employed on the most controversial issues presented to the "new board" where less of the same would be available when the school committee answers to the electorate.

My point is that a PUBLIC HEARING IS REQUIRED for all municipal legislative acts including Home Rule Petitions – unless there is State or Local Legislation that eliminates the requirement as stated in Charter Section 3.8(d). As Council President Jeovanny Rodríguez told me, "We have to publish a notice for a public hearing even for a STOP sign."

If you remember, in late 2020 the Council Members, Mayor, and State Legislators were discussing the elimination of the publication, notice, and public hearing requirements for municipal legislative measures including Home Rule Petitions stating that the "EMERGENCY" provisions of governance during COVID allows it. At that time the notice by publication and public hearing requirements of the City Charter and State Law for all legislative acts of the City Council had nothing to do with the pandemic since publication and notice provisions were "administrative actions" resulting in a public hearing before the City Council – which was holding its meetings by Zoom only and the published notices were still being advertised timely in compliance with the "Open Meeting Law".

I am not sure if the Council has eliminated the "Publication and Public Hearing" requirements that must be followed for all proposed Ordinances, Charter provisions, Legislative Amendments and Home Rule Petitions. If the Council approves municipal legislative acts without a public hearing it is a violation of the City Charter and State Law unless there is a measure that effectively removes this requirement.

It must be noted that Councilor Levy was the only councilor who came up with her version of the proposal and it was obvious that most councilors didn't bother to read any of them.

I hope that our representatives come to understand what a "Democratic Republic" entails. The government doesn't exist to rule over the people; the government only exists BECAUSE of the people and must ALWAYS be questioned and contained.



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

BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LEÁLO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



Lawrence hiring practices

Last Tuesday, the Personnel Committee of the City Council met and the only item on the agenda was the appointment of Carlos Matos as Director of Planning and Development. It was supposed to be a “done deal” before sending it to the full council for approval.

He was supported by Ramón Quezada and Octavien Spanner.

District A Councilor Fidelina Santiago tried asking a few questions, but she had a difficult time reading from the papers while pressing the microphone button at the same time. Her English proficiency was so poor that I had a hard time understanding what she was saying and had to listen to the recording a few times.

Mr. Spanner was asked if this position was advertised publicly, which he said it was, and if there were other qualified candidates but he responded that “there was not one candidate that matched Mr. Matos.”

He didn’t recall if Mr. Matos started working in an Acting capacity in February or March. All they had to do was ask Carlos who was present, but they did not. It was obvious that Chair Stephany Infante was not pleased with what she was hearing so she turned it to Councilor Wendy Luzón.

Ms. Luzón questioned why Matos’ resume shows only three references: José Javier, Octavien Spanner, and Mayor Brian DePeña and none from previous employers, casting doubt on his credentials.

She claimed that his resume was incomplete and that the city didn’t follow the proper process while raising her voice to an unnecessary level.

Wendy chastises Carlos while reviewing his resume because, after all, she knows how to spot a fake when she sees one. For years, she worked for the city pretending to have a college degree when all she had was a high school diploma. Now that she has a bit of authority, she doesn’t want anyone pulling the same things she did.

She only confessed to what she had done while facing the possibility of going to jail for lying under oath, during a deposition.

She questioned his credentials, and the dates on his resume and kept going back and forth through the pages looking for more. Anyone watching that meeting would not want to submit him or herself to such unjustified abuse and mistrust.

They approved sending it to the council and immediately they had the Ordinance Committee meeting. Attorney Tim Houten asked them to approve the job description for Mr. Matos with some changes.

Chair Marc Laplante then told him that this requires a public hearing. It is now a question of how soon that new job description can be finalized so that Mr. Matos can be appointed permanently.

The Carlos Matos case is a good example of doing everything in reverse. He has been there for several weeks and now the city attorney has discovered that the council must update this job description because there have been some changes made to the old version. Whenever any changes are made to a job description, it calls for a public hearing to be held and that process will take

a while. Meantime, he’s not getting paid.

This episode was just to show you how ill-conceived are things in Lawrence. Seems they are always working backward. They place individuals in jobs, then advertise them and claim there is no one else who is qualified.

Recently, the city sent a paid ad listing 14 job openings and Rumbo refused to publish it. Most of those positions had an owner already and we didn’t want to be part of that deception.

It’s been a long time, since the Frank Bonet days, that we have not had a decent Personnel Department in the city. Someone who knows the laws and follows procedures with the appropriate authority.

LRA meeting of April 24

This was a meeting not to be missed because they had a huge agenda and several of those items interested me. I still don’t understand much about the function of the Lawrence Redevelopment Authority (LRA) because it is a very complex organization, but I will bring you details of those I manage to comprehend.

The first item discussed was the Pacific Mills renovations. This is the building owned by Brady-Sullivan at 300 Canal St. but the LRA owns the hydro plant and it is costing them in the electric bill and maintenance. Now, they want to renovate an area and convert it into 9’ x 15’ storage spaces they can rent to the tenants.

But there were serious discussions like Pemberton Park and the many trucks parking there all the time when that park is going to see big renovations. At this point, Councilor at-Large Ana Levy was in attendance and had done her homework by asking the mayor how much those trucks pay for parking. He told her that some don’t pay anything at all, but the city collects \$5,050 each month from them. DPW will oversee that they get charged.

It was encouraging to hear that some of the plans include turning it into a concerned venue although there’s no parking in that area. Perhaps the concern venue could be downtown. Let’s see what they can come up with.

Since Lawrence is an MBTA community according to the new State law requiring building more housing in these communities, the thought of constructing apartments along Merrimack St. was mentioned.

The LRA meetings seem to run without structure or rules, and they will be adopting a public participation period like the 2.5 minutes used in the city council meetings.

Remember how I fought the building of a television studio at 255 Essex St.? Well, they will continue with those plans although it will be a public space for LRA meetings training, and presentations. Meanwhile, the mayor is working with the attorney on the television studio subject, and I heard that it’s being set up at the Public Library.

Something that took me by surprise was the news that the Tombarello site and Merrimack Paper cannot be developed by the city and must be sold. There was no explanation as to who made the change or the reason. They just said they will be cleaned up by the State. Then I thought that Tombarello would be a good place to move the DPW garage and offices that are

in the middle of the city (the City Yard) into a residential area.

The LRA can develop municipal properties, but they need alternate sources of financing. Bonds will have to be undersigned by the city and they can also apply for Federal tax credits.

Since the LRA facilitates the projects to developers for the city, Octavien Spanner said that the first city contacted was Cambridge for information on the last 50 years of progress. He will also check with Lowell and Haverhill.

On April 15, I wrote in this column that Andrea McCann had been hired because Mr. Spanner had recommended her “because he has seen her raise funds and has seen her work on several successful fundraisings.” On this night, they wanted to know about her accomplishments since last August and Mr. Spanner was quick to correct Sara Pérez when she referred to her as Director of Development by saying that the correct title is Finance Director.

There was a big difference between the reason for which he brought her here (see above) and this new title. But the best part was the couple of minutes she read from her list of “accomplishments”.

She began and ended her brief diatribe referring to her position as Development Director, (I guess no one told her that her title had been changed) and spilled out a bunch of meetings with potential developers, collaborated with Carras Investment Group, Stantec, TEC, etc., got involved in public relations and communications and lots of meetings with politicians. She mentioned meeting with José Javier, Capital Improvement Plan project manager for the city and local business owners. There were subjects with no specific information about what was done or achieved.

Andrea spent more time talking about her roots because she was born and raised here. Her sister looked to buy a house here for two years and ended up moving to Haverhill. Who cares, Andrea?

Somehow, I believe that this agenda was inspired by my column of April 15 because many of the things I mentioned were discussed that night. Like RFPs for a website designer and a public relations firm.

Back to my April 15 piece, do you remember that I wrote this?

“Octavien proposed paying \$71,850 to Karyn Martin of Golden Thread Agency LLC, 26 Scenic View Drive, Pelham, NH, 03076. Her proposal was dated August 14, 2023.”

The board discussed it last summer and they know that he had been negotiating with this company.

The same when they decided on the need for a public relations agency. Again, I wrote at that time the following:

“There’s also another contract to DHARMA Consulting, an agency created on January 11, 2023, located at 60 Island St., #209W by Hem H. Vora. They sent a contract to the LRA on August 14, 2023, to provide ‘Consulting services to the LRA’

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR RUMBO

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beginning January 1, 2024, at \$6,500 each month.”

What bothers me the most is that this board is gullible. They vote “yes” without analyzing what they are voting for and forget what has been discussed in the past.

Before adjourning the meeting, the Chair Eric Walker had to bring up again the issue of the White Fund Paintings. Octavien will set up a meeting with Attorney Peter Caruso for himself and Mr. Walker.

Why is that an issue for the LRA to handle?

Illegal operation of recreational vehicles

There’s an article on page 2 from the Lawrence Police Department about a raid conducted in cooperation with several police departments that I recommend everyone reads. That was the result of a city ordinance put forth by Councilor at-Large Ana Levy a couple of years ago adding Recreational Vehicles.

Registered and unregistered “recreational motorized vehicles,” capable of being propelled either by gasoline, electric/battery, or other fuel type, including those commonly referred to as snow mobiles, all-terrain vehicles, mini-bikes, mopeds, dirt bikes/scooters, go-carts, motorized skateboards, or other like vehicles, shall not be operated on any property, private or public, without the expressed consent of the owner or overseer of said property. Evidence of written permission shall be in the possession of the operator of said vehicles and shall be presented upon demand of any police officer or other law enforcement officer.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Lawrence that the Revised Ordinances of the City of Lawrence are hereby further amended by adding the following subparagraph to Section 10.45.010 of the Municipal Code (Recreational vehicles):

§10.45.010 Recreational Vehicles – Registered and unregistered

(a) Definitions. For the purpose of this ordinance, the phrase “recreational vehicle” shall have the following meaning (except in those instances where the context clearly indicates a different meaning):

(b) any wheeled device used to carry persons or property which is powered by any means other than muscular power alone and which is designed or modified for use over unimproved terrain for recreation or pleasure including, but not limited to, all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, dirt bikes, and recreation utility vehicles.

Anyone interested in reading about this ordinance could ask the City Clerk Eileen O’Connor Bernal at City Hall or contact me by telephone or email and I will send you a copy.

“Journalism can never be silent: that is its greatest virtue and its greatest fault. It must speak, and speak immediately, while the echoes of wonder, the claims of triumph and the signs of horror are still in the air.”

- Henry Anatole Grunwald

Women in Business Networking Reception



MVCC Women in Business April 2024 – L to R Cat Stevens; Vanessa Gonzalez; Gia Page; Adele Faso; Xiomara Ortega; Yanelis Cid; Catherine Chang

The Merrimack Valley Chamber hosted a Women in Business Networking Reception at Renaissance Golf Club in Haverhill on April 23rd. Nearly 50 attendees had the opportunity to network and make new business connections with other Women in Business throughout the Merrimack Valley.



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Member Interview and Speaker Series!



MVCC Business Networking Mixer
at The Savings Bank in Andover!

What a fantastic night networking at the Merrimack Valley Chamber Business Networking Mixer hosted by The Savings Bank in Andover! Delicious food, great connections, and endless opportunities. Huge thanks to our gracious host, The Savings Bank!

MVCC hosted their Monthly Networking Breakfast



From the left are Bruce Dickey; Jeff Bezer; Kiley Jackson; and Barry James.

The Merrimack Valley Chamber hosted their Monthly Networking Breakfast in April at Cedar View Health & Rehab in Methuen Mass. Members and guests packed the room and enjoyed a great morning with great business connections, breakfast and awesome prizes!

MVCC Networking at Noon at BuenoMalo Restaurant, Andover

Sponsored by: Michaud Insurance Agency



We had a fantastic afternoon at the recent Merrimack Valley Chamber Networking at Noon luncheon held at BuenoMalo restaurant in Andover!

Huge thanks to everyone who attended! Attendees enjoyed a great taco bar and made new business connections over lunch. Special Thank you to our Host BuenoMalo and to our sponsor Michaud Insurance Agency.

Merrimack Valley Chamber Making Connections

**MVCC MEMBER ADVERTISEMENT
YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!**

**CONTACT US TODAY TO HAVE YOUR AD SEEN HERE
IN NEXT WEEK'S E-NEWSLETTER FOR ONLY \$125!**

MVCC Networking Breakfast at 505 Sutton Sponsored by Benefit Advisors Group



A huge thank you to everyone who joined us bright and early for the Merrimack Valley Chamber Networking Breakfast at 505 Sutton in North Andover!

Members kicked off their Friday with coffee and fantastic networking opportunities, all thanks to our wonderful host, 505 Sutton, and our generous sponsor, Benefit Advisors Group, LLC!

MONEY MASTERY FOR WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Hosted By



Sophan Smith



Susu Wong



Lisa Armstrong

Women are the fastest growing entrepreneurs in the country and while it is a challenge to build a business, funding the venture still proves to be one of the top challenges for entrepreneurs and business owners. In a collaborative effort to empower women entrepreneurs, Tomo360, EforAll Merrimack Valley and the UMass Lowell Innovation Hub, invite you to the Money Mastery for Women mini conference.

- Gain insights into locating funding sources.
- Develop skills in effectively requesting funding.
- Understand the criteria for qualifying for funding.
- Familiarize yourselves with various local lending institutions



MAY 07
9 AM - 12 NOON
 UMASS Lowell Innovation Hub
 110 Canal St, 3rd FL, Lowell, MA 01852
 Breakfast included
 Space is limited, purchase tickets by 5/01/24

SCAN HERE



*Mayor Brian A. DePeña
invites you*

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

*Monday,
May 27, 2024*



REMEMBER AND HONOR



Keynote Speaker: Capt. Connor D. Flynn



*9:00 AM
Bellevue Cemetery
100 Reservoir Street
Lawrence, MA 01841*

Jaime L. Melendez Jr., Director Veterans' Services

Bosa Coastal Italian Restaurant Grand Opening!

160 Merrimack Street, Haverhill



North of Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau Marketing Ceremony!



Merrimack Valley Chamber Means Business Member Interview and Speaker Series!

Merrimack Valley Chamber Making Connections

MVCC Masters Themed Networking Mixer and Virtual Golf at X-Golf, Methuen!
Sponsored by: Norwood Insurance Agency



Thank you to everyone who attended and packed the Merrimack Valley Chamber Masters themed Business Networking Mixer with Norwood Insurance at X-Golf Methuen!

From golf contests, to free virtual golf and themed treats, it was a hole-in-one evening of networking. Huge thanks to our sponsor Norwood Insurance Agency - Groveland/Merrimack Valley and X-Golf Methuen for the hospitality!

* Don't miss your next chance to Network with the Merrimack Valley Chamber on Friday, May 3rd from 8 AM - 9:15 AM at Battle Grounds Coffee Co. in Haverhill!

EforAll | EparaTodos

MERRIMACK VALLEY

Want to start or pivot a business?

¿Quieres lanzar o impulsar tu negocio?

Participate in EforAll's Business Accelerator

Participa en el Acelerador de Negocios EparaTodos



Jesenia Morales - Romeos Smoothies. Winter 2019 graduate

Classes with Specialists
Dedicated Mentor Team
Access to Seed Funding

Clases con Especialistas
Equipo de Mentores
Acceso a Fondos Semilla

Program is free for entrepreneurs!

¡El programa es gratuito!

Winter & Summer cycles
All business ideas welcome

Ciclos en Invierno y Verano
Todas las ideas bienvenidas

The deadline to apply is **May 9, 2024**
Classes start in **July 2024**

El plazo para presentar solicitudes es el **9 de mayo de 2024**
Las clases comienzan en **julio 2024**



Questions?
Contact: Isis Ormaza
isis.ormaza@eforall.org

APPLY NOW



Preguntas?
Contacto: Mitchell Carey
mitchell.carey@eforall.org

SOLICITE YA



Celebra junto al Alcade Brian A. DePeña

DÍA DE LAS MADRES

VIERNES **10** MAYO

11:00AM-1:00PM

¡Únase a nosotras para una mañana especial de deliciosa comida, música y rifas!

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